

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

The road to power  
in South Africa

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Iraq moves missiles, protests ultimatum

BY DEREK BRACEY

The White House announced January 9 that it was satisfied that Baghdad complied with an ultimatum demanding it move several anti-aircraft missile batteries in southern Iraq by January 8. Washington had issued the threat three days earlier, saying military strikes would occur if Iraq did not move the missiles within 48 hours.

The ultimatum, cosigned by Britain, France, and Russia, was issued after the U.S. government declared that Iraq had deployed more than half a dozen missile batteries near the town of Al Amarah, just south of the 32nd parallel that defines the U.S.-imposed no-fly zone. The Bush administration claimed the missiles were placed there to target U.S. planes enforcing the no-fly zone.

The Iraqi government denounced the ultimatum, saying the demands infringed on the country's sovereignty. Deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz said Baghdad had a right to "deploy air defenses throughout the country." He said any military action to force their removal would violate international law.

The Iraqi delegate to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, called a meeting January 7 of United Nations envoys linked to the ultimatum. He pointed out that the southern no-fly zone and a similar one that exists above the 36th parallel infringed on Iraqi sovereignty. He also handed the envoys a statement that invited a U.S. congressional delegation to go to Baghdad to discuss peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Before the decision by the U.S. government  
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## South Korea frees two jailed for visiting the North

BY NAOMI CRAINE

A significant victory in the fight for democratic rights in South Korea was registered when the government in Seoul released student activist Rim Su Gyeong and Catholic priest Moon Gyo Hyon from prison December 24. Both were arrested and jailed in 1989 after returning from North Korea. Organizations fighting for democratic rights and the reunification of the Korean peninsula had been campaigning for the release of the two since their conviction.

In defiance of South Korean laws banning travel to the North, Rim attended the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang, North Korea, in July 1989. She was representing the National Council of College Student Representatives, a South Korean organization of more than a million students.

While in the North, Rim joined in calling on students from both parts of the country to work together for peaceful reunification. She helped lead an International March for

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## U.S. forces clamp down on Somalis' weaponry

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the biggest military attack of the U.S. invasion of Somalia in early December, 400 marines attacked a compound of buildings in northwest Mogadishu January 7 that stored weapons belonging to supporters of Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid.

As marines pounded the camp with tank and artillery fire, Huey and heavily armed Cobra helicopter gunships flew overhead launching a barrage of anti-tank missiles. The four metal warehouse buildings were virtually obliterated.

In keeping with current U.S. military practice, no information was released concerning the number of Somalis killed or wounded. However, U.S. television reporters in Mogadishu reported at least seven Somalis killed, a larger number wounded, and about 15 taken prisoner. One U.S. marine was apparently wounded by "friendly fire."

"We hit them with a firestorm," stated Maj. Gen. Charles Wilhelm, commander of the First Marine Division.

The attack is being described as a new phase of the U.S. military's "relief operation" in Somalia. Gen. Robert Johnston, overall commander of the U.S. invasion force, said more military clashes are expected, with several thousand U.S. marines currently patrolling the streets of Mogadishu. This now includes armed foot patrols and the setting up of roadblocks to stop and search Somali cars for weapons.

Prior to this attack, Aidid, who claims military control throughout most of the southern half of Somalia, had been permitted by U.S. forces to retain control of this weapons depot.

The day after the attack on Aidid's warehouses, a convoy of 450 marines in armored vehicles and amphibious assault vehicles escorted by attack helicopters swept into the streets of the northern part of Mogadishu, breaking into locked storehouses and closing down what they claimed was an arms market.

The assault against Aidid's power base was designed to send a strong message to the general that he should stop obstructing the UN-sponsored conference on Somalia, which was taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the time. This meeting, which brought together heads of 14 warring Somali groups, was aimed at creating a framework for imposing a political solution in Somalia, and laying the basis for a strong ongoing UN occupation force that would



U.S. marine kicks Somali youth. Cuban president Fidel Castro condemned UN-sponsored invasion. "The aircraft carriers arrived, along with the battleships, helicopters, tanks, all kinds of things, and the boots, which in some pictures could be seen on the backs of Somali citizens," Castro said. (See article on page 14.)

eventually replace the U.S. troops.

On the second day of the conference, General Aidid issued a statement objecting to the reconciliation conference and calling

on the United States to take over the United Nations role as mediator among the warring Somali gangs. However, after the U.S.

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## High Bosnian official killed as Geneva peace talks stall

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As peace talks in Geneva over the fate of Bosnia recessed after reaching an impasse, Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic paid a visit to Washington. At the same time one of Bosnia's deputy prime ministers was shot dead by Serbian forces while traveling under United Nations guard in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

The Geneva talks are being organized under the auspices of former U.S. secretary of state Cyrus Vance, representing the United Nations, and Lord Owen of Britain, representing the European Community. The two put forward a proposal January 2 to split

Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 autonomous provinces linked together in a single decentralized state.

According to this plan, the Serb-based forces that currently control about 70 percent of Bosnia would keep half of the republic. Croatian forces would gain possession of western Herzegovina, where they have set up a mini-state called Herzeg-Bosnia that is already virtually annexed to Croatia. The biggest losers would be the Bosnian Muslims, who prior to the war were the largest nationality, comprising 44 percent of the 4.4 million people living in Bosnia.

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban promptly signed the proposals. Izetbegovic said he accepted the plan's basic premise but wanted the boundaries of the proposed 10 new provinces altered. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic rejected the 10-province plan, demanding instead recognition of the self-proclaimed independent Serbian state within the boundaries of Bosnia.

The current round of negotiations has been described by UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali as "the last chance for peace." It takes place as 10,000 mostly Muslim troops have gathered on Mount Igman, southwest of Sarajevo, in preparation for a possible offensive designed to break the nine-month siege by Serbian forces of the Bosnian capital city.

Meanwhile, U.S., British, and French government officials have been seeking to resolve their disagreements over the use of imperialist military force in Bosnia. U.S. president George Bush and French president François Mitterrand announced January 3 that they now agree on the need for military measures to enforce the UN-proclaimed no-

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### Militant Labor Forum

#### The Clinton presidency: Challenges facing youth and trade unionists

These forums will take place in conjunction with national meetings of socialist trade unionists in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union; United Food and Commercial Workers; United Steelworkers of America; and United Transportation Union.

All programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

\$4 donation requested  
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. \$5

Sat., January 23

Chicago

Philadelphia

Sat., January 30

Newark

St. Louis

See p. 12 for details





## IN BRIEF

### Homeless shelter demand is up

Since 1990 all U.S. states, as well as Washington, D.C., have reported an increase in demand by homeless people for shelter. Many reported that the largest increase came from families with children.

Many shelters turned away large numbers of people.

The federal government's Emergency Shelter Grants program has been cut from \$73 million to \$50 million for the current fiscal year. The Emergency Food and Shelter program has been trimmed from \$134 million to \$129 million.

### Cuba receives bikes from China

Over the past two years, Cuba has bought more than 1.2 million bicycles from China to help overcome the transportation crisis due to lack of fuel in the island.

Genaro Ruiz, a Cuban official at the Ministry of Domestic Trade in Havana, said 600,000 bicycles had been distributed in the capital and 460,000 throughout the rest of the country. The rest are waiting in the country's ports or being assembled.

### Salvadoran army not purged

The Salvadoran government of President Alfredo Cristiani has failed to comply with aspects of a United Nations-mediated peace accord reached with the opposition Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front that called for completion of an armed forces purge by the end of 1992. Under the agreement, which ended that country's 12-year civil war, more than 100 officers of the Salvadoran army accused of human rights abuses were to be dismissed by December 31. Only 23 of these had been removed by that date.

### Bad year for the stock markets

Excluding the exchanges in the United States, prices on world stock markets fell by more than 15 percent in dollar terms last year, according to the *Financial Times* of London. The world's most highly capitalized stock market in 1989, the Tokyo exchange, has had a disastrous performance ever since. Japanese stocks fell 22 percent last year in dollar terms, the third



Homeless shelter in the Bronx, New York. In past two years, every state in United States reported increased demand for shelter, especially for families with children.

straight year of decline.

Stock markets in some other countries fared even worse. South African shares were the biggest losers, dropping by more than 40 percent. Share prices in Denmark fell 30 percent.

### FMLN registers as political party

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front presented its request for registration as a new party to the Salvadoran Supreme Electoral Tribunal December 22. Shafik Handal, one of the FMLN founders and the central leader of the Salvadoran Communist Party, was appointed the general coordinator of the party.

### Abortion curbed in Poland

The lower house of the Polish parliament has approved a bill that strictly limits access to abortion. The bill, which exempts pregnancies involving rape, incest, genetic abnormalities, or threats to the life of the pregnant woman, is expected to be approved in the Senate.

The Catholic Church hierarchy in Poland had been pushing to ban abortion altogether. Piotr Nowina-Konopka, a leader of the Democratic Union Party, expressed

relief that this position had been defeated, explaining, "the result would have been nothing but social unrest." He said that his group wanted to "cut off abortion in 98 percent of cases."

### Polish coal strike settled

An agreement has been reached between the Polish government and 300,000 coal miners to end a three-week strike. The miners struck to demand pay increases and protest plans for closing dozens of mines and firing 180,000 workers.

The accord calls for a bailout of debt-ridden mines, more subsidies, pursuit of international credits to restructure the industry, and reversal of a planned coal export ban. The government denied the wage demands.

### St. Louis adopts gay rights law

St. Louis has adopted a gay rights law that bars discrimination in housing, credit, employment, education, and public access on grounds of sexual orientation. The law also bars such discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability, race, religion, or family status.

### 600,000 jobs cut in France

The elimination of almost 2,600 jobs at Peugeot, the French carmaker, announced at the beginning of this month, is only the most recent in a series of industrial job cuts expected to reach a record 600,000 when the final toll for 1992 is counted. In the first 10 months of last year, the total had reached 436,000, 12 percent more than the same period in 1991.

Most of the large French corporations have recently cut down their work force, including the aerospace group Aérospatiale, the truckmaker Renault Véhicules Industriels, the computer companies Bull and IBM France, and the steel group Usinor Sacilor. The official unemployment rate in France stands at 10.4 percent.

### Beijing lays off thousands

The Chinese government has laid off

100,000 coal workers and will lay off 300,000 more by 1995 as part of a plan to modernize its energy industry.

The official *China Daily* said the China National Coal Corporation, a state-owned conglomerate that employs 3 million people, would close 30 inefficient mines in 1993 alone and lay off 30,000 miners and 70,000 workers in related jobs. Each laid-off coal worker will be eligible for a loan of up to \$1,700 to help start a business or find work elsewhere.

### Brazil puts ban on ex-president

The Brazilian Senate has voted to ban Fernando Collor de Mello from holding public office for the next eight years. Ex-president Collor resigned his post the day before the ban, facing impeachment charges after being convicted of corruption.

### Israel's unemployment grows

The unemployment rate in Israel has reached a record level of 11.1 percent. Unemployment among immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who continue to arrive in Israel at a rate of 6,000 to 7,000 each month, stands at 30 percent.

Recent government figures reveal that 562,000 Israelis, or 11 percent of the population, lived below the official poverty line in 1991. This represents a 4 percent increase from the previous year.

### Hanging in Washington state

Less than 12 hours after the Washington State Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of hanging, the state of Washington hanged Westley Allan Dodd January 5. He was the first person hanged in that state in 30 years and the 189th to be executed in the United States since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

Last year 31 people were put to death, the most for any year since capital punishment has been resumed. Washington, Montana, and Delaware are the only states that still allow hanging. All of the 73 executions in Washington state's history have been by hanging.

### No drop in U.S. unemployment

The unemployment rate in the United States remained at 7.3 percent in December. This is still higher than the 6.8 percent registered in March 1991, the month considered the bottom of the recession.

"Companies are just reluctant to hire in this period of increased global competition," said Stephen Roach, a senior economist for Morgan Stanley and Co. While the overall average workweek dropped slightly in December, in factories it rose to what the U.S. Labor Department called a "very high" 41.3 hours. The average length of unemployment rose to 19.2 weeks, up from 18.4 in November.

— SELVA NEBBIA

## THE MILITANT

### The South African masses prepare to bury apartheid

The fight to build a nonracial, nonsexist South Africa involves millions of people who have stepped forward to shape their own destiny. The next issue of the 'Militant' will carry the statement of the African National Congress leadership on the occasion of its 81st anniversary. Don't miss a single issue!



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# Socialist auto worker launches campaign for St. Louis mayor

BY KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — The Socialist Workers election campaign announced it will be running James Garrison in the April 6 mayoral race. Garrison spoke January 6 at a city hall press conference covered by KPLR-TV, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and WGNU and KMOX radio stations.

"I have witnessed and been a part of the resistance of workers to the bosses' offensive, from the Caterpillar strikers last year to the lead smelter workers at Doe Run, who have earned the support and respect of their community in their continuing fight for justice," said Garrison, 41, who works at Chrysler and is a member of United Auto Workers Local 110.

He urged working people, youth, and "all who want to fight the reactionary course of the Democratic and Republican parties to join us in our efforts to promote a perspective of struggle and resistance."

Supporters of the socialist campaign launched a drive January 3 to put Garrison on the ballot. The city requires 1,440 signatures as well as a \$920 filing fee for candidates not running on the Democratic or Republican ticket.

"The signature and fee requirements are thoroughly undemocratic," said Richard Sorrentino, director of the petitioning drive. "Such laws are aimed at limiting the ability

of working-class candidates to run for office. But we plan to take full advantage of the petitioning requirement by explaining politics to the thousands we reach. More importantly, our campaign will present a fighting perspective for working people, not only in St. Louis but around the world."

Garrison explained, "In the first days of our petitioning effort we have spoken to hundreds of working people about the U.S. invasion of Somalia. We have found interest in discussing the socialist stance of complete opposition to the imperialist occupation taking place in Somalia today."

Campaigners plan to collect more than 4,000 signatures in four weeks. Volunteers for the effort have adopted weekly goals of selling 60 *Militants* and 10 copies of the *New Internationalist* magazine entitled "The Opening Guns of World War III." They have also adopted a goal of signing up five new members of the Pathfinder Readers Club each week.

"I look forward to the next couple of months," Garrison said. "I will use my candidacy to make a contribution to the discussion about how we can confront the attacks on our rights and living standards and the drive toward war, which will deepen under the Clinton administration. Also, I will join in any struggle that advances the confidence and unity of working people worldwide."



Militant/Kim Kleinman

Socialist campaigners launched petition drive to put Jim Garrison, above, on ballot.

## Communist League in New Zealand wraps up successful election effort

BY JANET ROTH

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — "Felicity Coggan, a Wellington meatworker, is the Communist League candidate, opposed to United States forces entering Somalia, and to the economic crisis of capitalism and growing world depression."

This was how a reporter introduced Coggan on the national television news show *Holmes* December 10 during coverage of the by-election for the parliamentary seat of Wellington Central. The interview was filmed inside the meat-packing plant where Coggan works, leading to a number of discussions among coworkers about why she was running as a candidate.

Coggan explained during the campaign that the U.S.-led forces in Somalia, including a contingent sent by the New Zealand government, were not there for humanitarian reasons but to establish a subservient, pro-imperialist regime and to set a precedent for future military intervention in other parts of the world.

Coggan and supporters began her month-long campaign with a trip to extend support to fellow unionists on strike at a meat-packing plant in Morrinsville, several hundred miles from Wellington. While voting was taking place December 12, Coggan was in India, participating in a conference sponsored by the Asian Students Association around the theme "Challenging the New World Order."

In contrast, the candidates of the capitalist parties pointed working people toward reliance on parliament and faith in an economic recovery.

One feature of the campaign for Wellington Central was a third party, the Alliance, becoming a contender and challenging the traditional dominance of National and Labour, which have been the ruling parties for over 50 years. The Alliance is a coalition of several smaller parties, and includes former Labour and National members of parliament. Its main campaign theme was to look back to previous decades of relative economic growth and stability, and to call for raised taxes as a way to restore this.

In opposition to this, the Communist League campaign pointed to a number of concrete demands that working people can fight around that address the effects of the crisis — the fight for a shorter workweek with no loss of pay to create more jobs; actions to defend and broaden the social welfare system; affirmative action to help counter the race and sex discrimination used to divide working people; cancellation of the debt owed to the imperialist banks by countries of the Third World; and special measures to protect the livelihoods of working farmers.

Janet Roth is a member of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union in Wellington.

## South Korea frees two activists jailed for visiting the North

Continued from front page

Peace and Reunification from Pyongyang to the border between the North and South, and announced her intention to return across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two areas.

Moon, representing the Korean Association of Catholic Priests for the Realization of Social Justice, crossed with her. Both were immediately arrested and handed over to South Korean authorities by U.S. troops, who continue to patrol the DMZ in the name of the United Nations decades after the Korean War.

The two were charged under the National Security Law, which prohibits any ties to, contact with, or travel to North Korea. The law also makes it illegal to advocate ideas or activities construed by the government to benefit the "enemy." Rim was sentenced to 10 years in prison and Moon to eight years.

The release of the activists comes after three years of pressure from democratic forces in the Korean peninsula and internationally. Groups that have campaigned around the case of Rim and other political prisoners include the International Committee for Peace and Reunification of Korea and the National Democratic Front of South Korea.

"My steps are heavy because many other political prisoners are still behind bars," stated Rim after her release. Families of hundreds of other prisoners and their supporters have pledged to continue their work until the more than 900 political prisoners in South Korea are freed. They are also fighting to end the National Security Law and repressive labor laws used to continuously arrest activists.

A representative of Young Koreans United in Washington, D.C., said in a phone interview that they "hope more prisoners will be released, including the ones who have been in jail for 30-40 years."

There are 51 prisoners serving life sentences in Dezon jail who have been incarcerated for more than 30 years for their opposition to the U.S.-backed regime in South Korea and their support for reunification of the country. Some of these prisoners recently started a hunger strike to demand the end of the National Security Law.

One of the long-term prisoners, Ri In Mo, a news correspondent for the Korean People's Army during the Korean War has recently been released but is being denied permission to leave the country. He and his family are demanding that he be allowed to return to the North.



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Student activist Rim Su Gyong at 1989 World Youth Festival in North Korea

## Virginia mine explosion injures five

BY ROBERT DEES

AMONATE, Virginia — Eugene Dawson was standing next to his coal shuttle car December 29 when a blast of hot air knocked him to the ground. He was 300-400 feet from the coal face, in Consolidation Coal's Amonate No. 31 mine. "All of a sudden I started feeling heat all over. I lost my hat, light, and battery" in the blast, he said, so "I rolled and crawled 100 feet on my hands and knees" in pitch darkness to the rib line. "There I found Joe. He was shook up, and didn't know which way to go."

"Then we saw lights coming out," Dawson said. It was the three miners who had been working at the coal face. "That was the awfulest sight I've ever seen. Their clothes were burned off them. They were burned all over their bodies. One guy had rubber gloves on. It just melted them on his hands."

The five miners then "walked 1,000-1,500 feet to the man buses, which took us out," Dawson explained.

Dawson and Joe Curry suffered serious burns on their hands and faces. Curry was released from the hospital January 2. Dawson was in stable condition in a nearby hospital. The other three miners were evacuated to the University of Virginia Medical Center burn unit in Charlottesville. Wayne

Dean and Clifford Payne were in critical condition, and Jackie Whittaker was in fair condition as of January 2.

The blast was apparently caused by methane gas igniting. This mine releases high amounts of methane every day, according to federal officials.

The miners here are organized by United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2322. Local president Jim Altheizer explained that "they had trouble that morning with gas." But he thought that the problem had been solved.

Several people in the town, including some miners, believe that Consolidation Coal is safety conscious and attributed the accident to weather conditions and chance. However, a retiree who worked in the mine 30 years said, "It's obvious that if they had ventilated adequately, there wouldn't have been an explosion. Everyone knows how dangerous it [gas] is in the wintertime. They should have known how to ventilate it."

The December 29 mine explosion was the fifth in the area in the last two winters. Fourteen miners have been killed in these blasts. Three have been at Consolidation Coal-operated mines.

Consolidation Coal resumed production at Amonate No. 31 mine less than 24 hours after the fire.



# Somalia invasion spurs greater 'Militant' sales

*Militant* supporters around the world are building on the successes of the recently completed international circulation drive. As a result, there are now 3,300 new subscribers to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. During the September-December sales effort, *Militant* supporters also sold

in Louisville, Kentucky, on major articles appearing in the *Militant*. This was a result of the success in subscription sales by supporters in Cincinnati and Louisville.

Will Wilkin from New Haven, Connecticut, reports: "A team of three *Militant* supporters sold 13 sin-

tion in Somalia and their war moves against Iraq and the former Yugoslavia, supporters of the socialist publications in New York have launched a special two-week campaign to sell 175 copies of the *Militant* each week.

From London, England, Martin Marriott reports: "A team of *Militant* sellers took a literature table to Bethnal Green in East London and campaigned against the U.S. invasion of Somalia. We sold nine papers, mainly to immigrant workers. Two people filled in subscription cards, to be called back next week."

Last month, *Militant* readers from Birmingham, Alabama set up a sales and literature table at the Southern Community/Labor Conference for Environmental Justice at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. They sold 17 copies of the *Militant* along with several subscriptions and \$100 worth

of Pathfinder literature.

With the start of the new year we welcome four new distributors of the *Militant* in San Bernardino, California; Westminster, Colorado; Columbus, Ohio; and Mahwah, New Jersey, all of whom have signed on to circulate bundles of the paper on a weekly basis. After reading the *Militant* for just a month, a supporter in Colorado became excited about its unique political coverage and decided to spread the word by ordering a bundle to circulate to others in the Denver area. Bundles of five or more *Militants* can be ordered for \$1.05 per paper.

Newsstand owners in the United States who want to sell the *Militant* can place orders for \$0.75 per paper and receive credit for unsold copies. Contact the *Militant* business office to place your bundle orders.

This past week a special bundle was sent to Peoria, Illinois, where

a sales team plans to introduce the paper to members of the United Auto Workers union at Caterpillar plants in Peoria and Decatur, Illinois.

*Militant* supporters in the Midwest have also organized teams to visit members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union at packinghouses in Austin, Minnesota, and Sioux City, Iowa.

The newly published 1992 *Militant* index was mailed out to all subscribers last week. Additional copies are available for \$1.50 from the *Militant* business office. In addition, orders can now be placed for the 1992 *Militant* bound volume, which includes all 47 issues published during the year along with the index. Send \$50 to order your bound volume.

Keep sending the reports on sales and subscription experiences in your area.

—BRIAN WILLIAMS

## The 'Militant' gets around

1,265 copies of *New Internationalist*, a Marxist magazine of politics and theory.

This column will now become a regular feature of the *Militant*, reporting on the circulation of the socialist papers and magazines.

"It's the sub drive that won't stop—this is great," writes Val Libby from Cincinnati, Ohio, where supporters continue to send in new subscriptions. *Militant* readers there also report that they plan to set at least one day a month to hold classes

gle issues December 31 at a street table in only one and a quarter hour's time! Many people were wide open to the *Militant*'s explanation of the U.S. invasion of Somalia, and particularly interested in the article reviewing [the Pathfinder book] *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, which points to a popular, revolutionary solution to the problems in underdeveloped countries."

As part of a campaign to answer the U.S. rulers' military interven-

# Workers in Britain discuss bombings by IRA

BY CELIA PUGH

MANCHESTER, England — In response to a call by Patrick Mayhew, the British government's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, that Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) "renounce violence," Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams demanded peace talks on Ireland.

This follows a pre-Christmas bombing campaign in Ireland and in Britain by the IRA. In Britain the IRA exploded bombs in London's busy Oxford Street and Wood Green shopping areas, as well as in the center of Manchester, the country's second-largest city. The IRA has continued this campaign into the new year, setting off four incendiary devices in London shops.

The Manchester bombs caused the greatest casualties, injuring 67 office workers and shoppers. As news spread, working people throughout the city expressed outrage at the attack and concern for friends, relatives, and others who might have been injured.

"There should be a demilitarization of the situation," Adams said in his January 4 statement. "Sinn Fein has an electoral mandate which should be respected by the government. Mayhew should start peace talks. It's as simple as that. . . . Sinn Fein is prepared for talks now. Today. If Patrick Mayhew is serious he should be prepared for talks now." The nationalist party Sinn Fein, which supports the IRA, has won seats in local elections in Northern Ireland and has stood in elections in the Republic of Ireland.

The exchange between Adams and Mayhew occurred in the context of the stalemate

in Northern Ireland, where British troops have been on the streets since 1969. Talks involving the British and Irish governments and all political parties in Northern Ireland, with the exclusion of Sinn Fein, have been going on for two years. The talks broke down at the end of 1992 but the British government has announced they may resume following the formation of a new government in Ireland.

Mayhew said in December that if the Irish Republican Army renounced violence, British troops would return to a "garrison" role in Northern Ireland.

Workers here are debating the bombing campaign and the role of British troops in Ireland.

A big discussion broke out at the GEC engineering factory here. Many workers rushed to the telephones for news. One woman summed up the feeling of many when she asked, "What's the point of the IRA picking on ordinary people like us?"

### Police roadblocks in Manchester

The government seized on the bombing campaign to go on the offensive. For days leading up to the Christmas holidays, police vans forced traffic entering the city center to file slowly in single file. Cops carrying semiautomatic weapons and wearing bullet-proof vests randomly stopped and searched vehicles, pointing their guns into cars as they questioned motorists.

The roadblocks here have continued on a less frequent basis since the holidays. They are part of a long-term operation

code-named Rolling Rock, which was set up almost two years ago after an IRA mortar attack on the prime minister's Downing Street residence. Since then armed police have stopped more than 100,000 vehicles. The *Daily Mirror* newspaper noted, "Instead of catching terrorists, the random roadblock checks have netted 2,000 other offenders."

The civil liberties organization Liberty condemned the roadblock searches as arbitrary and illegal. The British government has long used its low-intensity war in Ireland to crack down on democratic rights in Britain. It has enacted measures such as the Prevention of Terrorism and Special Powers laws under which thousands of people have been held without trial for up to a week and tens of thousands stopped and questioned. Frame-ups and show trials—like those of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, and Maguire Seven, as well as the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein—have been used to scapegoat Irish people as the supposed problem facing workers in Britain.

The Manchester roadblocks were backed up by a propaganda barrage. The police regularly broadcast radio and TV warnings to holiday shoppers to be vigilant. In a number of buildings in the center of Manchester, office workers were instructed to wear identification labels "in view of the

security situation."

Many workers expressed support for the police deployment and roadblocks, despite the delays they caused. One person quoted in the local press said, "It doesn't bother me if it makes the place safer."

But despite the media hype there is not a hysterical atmosphere. In discussions at factories around the city, workers have listened seriously to those arguing a different point of view.

Working people in Britain are war-weary in the face of the seemingly intractable situation in Ireland. An opinion poll in October found 61 percent of those surveyed in favor of withdrawing British forces.

The new year started in Northern Ireland with news that two Catholics were murdered by the Ulster Volunteer Force. The UVF, Ulster Defence Association, and other pro-British terror squads have carried out 800 such murders since 1968, including 80 in the last two years. They are emboldened by the British military occupation and have been directly aided by the British security forces, a number of whose agents have joined their ranks and carried out atrocities.

Celia Pugh is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union at the GEC plant in Manchester.

## Cardiff Three, frame-up victims, freed by London appeals court

BY HELEN WILKINS

CARDIFF, Wales — Amid jubilation by their supporters, three men framed up nearly five years ago, known as the Cardiff Three, were freed December 10 by the Court of Appeal in London. The three — Tony Paris, Yusef Abdullahi, and Stephen Miller — had been sentenced to life for the murder of Lynette White in Butetown, Cardiff, after the longest trial in British legal history. The judicial appeal, held before Chief Justice Taylor, was supposed to last 10 days. On the fourth day the court pronounced the convictions "unsafe and unsatisfactory." The three men were immediately released from prison.

Announcing his verdict Taylor said he was horrified at the tactics used by police to question Miller at the original interrogation in order to extract a confession, which had implicated not only him but Paris and Abdullahi. The judge denounced such police questioning as "oppressive." Copies of the tape-recorded interrogation are to be passed to the director of public prosecutions for investigation.

The South Wales police are already being investigated over the wrongful imprisonment of Paul and Wayne Darvell who served seven years for the murder of Sandra Phil-

lips in 1985. After the Cardiff Three were released, however, Robert Lawrence, the chief constable of South Wales, issued a statement defending his police force. A police force press officer said no officers were to be suspended and no internal inquiry would be carried out.

The release of the Cardiff Three follows several other miscarriages of justice that have been overturned by the Court of Appeal. In 1989 the Guilford Four, wrongfully convicted for a pub bombing in 1974, were freed after spending 14 years in prison. In 1991 the Birmingham six, who had been framed up for the murders of 21 people, were released. The same year the Tottenham Three were released after being wrongfully convicted for the murder of police constable Blakelock in the Broadwater Farm riots of 1985. Last year Judith Ward was freed after spending 18 years in jail. She had been framed up in connection with an army coach bombing.

Paris, Miller, and Abdullahi all testify to other cases they have come across in prison where defendants are fighting cases yet to be heard at the Court of Appeal.

The Law Reform group Liberty says it is investigating 160 other convictions because of serious legal doubts.

### 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 Gaige. 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.



# Strikebreaker shoots Steelworker picket in Alabama strike

BY DENISE MCINERNEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — Two members of United Steelworkers of America Local 9226 on strike against Trinity Industries were injured when they were attacked by a scab outside the plant here January 4. At approximately 6:30 a.m., James Skinner, a strikebreaker employed by Trinity, stopped at a gate where union members Donald Harvey and Giles Blackwell were on picket duty. Skinner got out of his car, pointed a gun at the strikers, and threatened to kill them. He then pistol-whipped Blackwell and shot Harvey. The bullet grazed the side of Harvey's head near his eye.

Both unionists were treated at local hospitals and released. Skinner, who went into the plant after the attack, was arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree assault and one count of carrying a pistol without a permit.

The union has been on strike since September 19. Key issues in the dispute are wages and the high cost of health insurance for workers at the railcar plant. Since early in the strike the company has been on a campaign to smear the unionists and has engaged in actions designed to provoke the pickets into violence. Private investigators working for Trinity have followed strikers and pointed guns at them. On numerous occasions scabs have waved guns at pickets on the line. The company has made dozens of allegations of violence by strikers but has offered no proof.

Nine unionists have been arrested on

frame-up charges and face trials and potential jail sentences. Dozens of union members have been fired for so-called strike violations.

## Trying to provoke strikers

"Trinity is trying to intimidate us," Local 9226 recording secretary Pat Wallace said. "They are trying to provoke the strikers into violence. They want to make the court injunction against us worse." Wallace was referring to the court injunction that limits the number of pickets at each gate and prohibits anyone from carrying weapons in the vicinity of the picket line.

On the day of the shooting Trinity released a statement to the press accusing the union of numerous acts of violence and declaring that it was taking the union back to court to get tighter restrictions on the strikers.

Trinity is also challenging a National Labor Relations Board ruling that declared that the company committed an unfair labor practice when its hired goons teargassed strikers.

Strikers and their supporters had an expanded presence on the picket line on the day of the shooting. Despite being outraged by the attack on their union brothers, pickets maintained a strong and disciplined line as the scabs left for the day.

Strikers hold the company responsible for the attack on Harvey and Blackwell. "All the violence has been on Trinity's side," Wallace stated. "The company



Militant/Denise McInerney  
Steelworkers picket at Trinity Industries. Company has been on campaign to provoke violence. Two unionists were assaulted January 4 by strikebreaker with pistol.

knows that the scabs have been carrying weapons and they have allowed them to do so." The company's safety director was in his van, parked across the street from the gate, when the shooting occurred. Although he was using a video camera at the time, he claimed he was not able to tape the incident.

In the 15 weeks since the unionists

walked out, the company has not produced a single railcar. The number of scabs going into the plant remains low and only a handful of union members have crossed the picket line. Skinner is one of these. He had been a union member prior to the strike and had walked the picket line for nine weeks before crossing.

## Solidarity for strike continues

Other unionists, church groups, students, and local residents continue to offer solidarity to the strikers. This support has come in the form of financial and food donations, visits to the picket line, and pressure on the company and city administration to resolve the strike.

No contract negotiations have taken place since early November. In addition to demands around wages and benefits, the union has insisted that all strikers fired during the strike be reinstated.

The union has issued a new appeal for solidarity. It says in part, "The members of Local 9226 made a choice — we could either fight a brutal exploiter like Trinity or be its victim and the victim of economic hard times. We could either stand together in solidarity or let the company divide us by the threat of poverty, by race, or age or sex. But the only way working people get ahead is when we stand together."

Denise McInerney is a member of USWA Local 9226 on strike against Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama.

# Canada miners resist union busting

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Royal Oak Mines has rejected a federal mediator's report that calls for the company and the union at the gold mine in Yellowknife, North West Territories to settle its dispute through arbitration. The company's action further exposes its determination to break the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Union (CASAW) Local 4 whose 240 members have been on strike since May 23, 1992. CASAW gold miners have been waging a resolute struggle in defense of health and safety standards and against concession demands by the company.

On September 18 an explosion at the mine killed nine strike breakers. Since that time the bosses, cops, and big-business media have tried — without a shred of evidence — to frame up the strikers for the explosion.

On December 1, CASAW Local 4 members unanimously accepted a federal mediator's recommendation to allow binding arbitration to settle outstanding matters in the contract dispute and to accept expedited investigation and arbitration to resolve the firings of 45 union members. According to Harry Seeton, president of Local 4, "We made it clear to the mediators that we accepted these recommendations within the framework of a back-to-work protocol."

The company said it turned down the mediator's proposal out of concern for the safety of the replacement workers, should the fired miners return to work. One hundred seventy scabs currently work in the mine.

"The company's response is absolute hogwash and hypocrisy," explained Seeton in an interview with the *Militant*. "Since when are they concerned with safety. It's because they were attacking safety standards that we went on strike in the first place. From January to March of 1992 there were over 80 lost time accidents and the company was stepping up its harassment of safety committee members. The company is not seriously interested in getting a collective agreement with us. They're out to break our union. Royal Oak's rejection of the mediator's report is just a stalling tactic."

In response to the company's refusal to accept the mediators' report, the federal labor minister, Marcel Danis, has appointed a

commission of inquiry with the power to impose a settlement. The commission is not scheduled to meet until January 25.

## Continued harassment of strikers

Meanwhile, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is continuing its harassment of union members. Over 500 interviews have been held in an attempt to pin the blame for the September 18 explosion on union members. Many CASAW members have been interviewed more than once about the explosion. Wives and children of the miners have also been targets of the investigation. "An RCMP officer phoned recently to harass me into taking a polygraph test," explained Seeton. "I told her to either charge me or get lost. This is total intimidation. The RCMP now says they have evidence on seven people and will soon lay charges. It's psychological warfare on their part. They know they have no evi-

dence but they want to scapegoat the union." The RCMP has put out a Canada-wide poster offering a \$297,000 reward for information leading to a conviction for the explosion.

Solidarity from working people and unionists across the country continues to grow. This has bolstered the spirit of striking miners and their families. In October, 18 families of striking miners were adopted by union locals across the country. In November, that number grew to 73 families. And by December, 93 families had been adopted by supporting union locals and were receiving \$500 per month, and an additional \$100 per child. At the end of December, Independent Canadian Transit Union locals from British Columbia sent in \$29,000.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 213 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

# TWA freezes workers' pension benefits

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — The pension plan for workers at Trans World Airlines (TWA) was frozen December 31. The action was the result of a recent agreement reached between the International Association of Machinists (IAM), the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA), creditors, TWA owner Carl Icahn, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

TWA, the seventh-largest U.S. airline, has been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since January 1992.

According to the plan, no more money will be accumulated by employees into their pension plan. Previously the company contributed a monthly amount to an employee's pension, which the employee would receive at retirement. Workers hired in the future will not be covered by any pension plan at all. The action means that some older workers will be forced to retire earlier than they had wanted.

Freezing pensions follows two other major concession agreements concluded in the past year since TWA filed for bankruptcy. As part of the original bankruptcy plan submitted on Jan. 31, 1992, a new contract with the IAM was reached.

The agreement introduced a lower wage scale for new employees called the "C-scale." Workers hired on the ramp, for example, start at \$2 per hour less than before. For the first time part-time workers were hired on the ramp. In addition, the deductible for medical insurance for each family doubled from \$200 to \$400. Workers also received modest wage increases.

Just six months later, under the threat of immediate liquidation of the airline, IAM, IFFA, and the Airline Pilots Association officials agreed to a major deal to "save" the airline, which was reportedly losing \$1 million a day. The company was granted sweeping concessions in exchange for 45 percent "employee ownership" in the so-called new TWA. Wages were immediately cut by 11 percent, two paid holidays were eliminated, and the medical deductible for a family was raised to \$1,000.

## Pension board also in jeopardy

According to *Barron's*, wages at TWA now rank near the bottom in the airline industry. Only Continental Airlines workers, who were the victims of a union-busting drive in the early 1980s, are paid less.

The PBGC, a self-financed government

body that insures 85,000 privately run pension plans, claims the TWA fund is underfunded by \$1.2 billion. The agency has been holding up the bankruptcy proceedings, not wanting to be left with yet another underfunded pension.

The PBGC itself is in trouble as a result of underfunding of pensions by companies like TWA. The PBGC's liabilities grew 70 percent in the last two years alone. The chairman of a congressional oversight committee that has been investigating the pension crisis, Representative J.J. Pickle from Texas, said, "If three or four companies go under, so could the PBGC."

According to his agreement with the PBGC, Icahn will provide \$20 million a year for four years to the pension plan. In the event of the failure of TWA, he is obligated to pay \$240 million over eight years to support the existing pension plans. This is far short of the \$1.2 billion that the pension plan is estimated to be underfunded.

Nancy Rosenstock is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1056 and works for TWA at JFK International Airport.



# Capitalism: hunger amid 'overproduction' of food

BY NAOMI CRAINE

There is a food crisis in the world today — not a crisis of too little food, but of too much.

In 1991 more than 1.7 billion metric tons of rice, wheat, corn, and other grains were grown worldwide — an increase of 260 million tons over the 1981 harvest. Production of basic cereals has more than doubled since 1960, disproving predictions that population growth would outstrip the world's capacity to grow food. Countries like China, India, and Brazil have vastly increased their agricultural output.

While 2 billion of the earth's 5.5 billion inhabitants face hunger or malnutrition, the capitalist market faces a crisis of overproduction that will lead to more trade wars and conflicts in the coming years.

Increasing supplies have sharpened the competition among capitalist merchants who deal in grain and other foodstuffs. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* in early December bemoaned the fact that in the past decade U.S. grain exports dropped 24 percent, contributing to a decline in the share of world agricultural trade controlled by U.S. capital from 28 percent to 21 percent. Much of that share has been taken over by the 12-nation European Community (EC), but some underdeveloped countries have also jumped into the export market. China, for example, is now the world's second-largest corn exporter, and Brazil has become a "soybean power," with 12 percent of the export market.

There is still plenty of room for expansion: 40 percent of the world's corn acreage hasn't been converted to higher-yield hybrids, nor has 75 percent of sorghum land.

## Competition leads to trade wars

Washington has long protected the profit margins of big grain companies such as Continental Grain Co. and Cargill Inc. by controlling supply. When large grain stocks threaten to drive prices too low, the government takes crops off the market and orders farmers to take land out of cultivation. But these tactics no longer work to bring up the market price because grain production has risen in so many other countries.

In the 1970s the EC imported a billion bushels of grain and soybeans a year. Now it exports as much. This shift fueled the trade war over oilseeds that Washington launched in November against the EC.

The dispute over oilseed production arose in the latest round of General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) talks. Washington

demanding that European governments cut back on the production of oilseeds and reduce subsidized grain exports, actions that would benefit U.S. agribusiness at the expense of European concerns.

Subsidies are government payments to agricultural producers that allow goods to be sold on the world market at a lower price. They make it possible for the big grain merchants of a particular country to corner a larger share of the market. The governments of the United States, France, and many other countries pay such supports.

The U.S. rulers backed up their demands with a threat to impose a 200 percent tax on \$300 million worth of European exports. Most governments belonging to the EC gave in to Washington, over the objections of Paris, and agreed to reduce land used to grow oilseeds by 15 percent and cut subsidized grain exports by 21 percent over six years. While an all-out trade war was averted, the underlying conflicts between the competing capitalist powers remain the same. As the *Wall Street Journal* noted, "The EC isn't willing to go back to its 1970s dependence on imports from the U.S.," and competition will continue to sharpen between the different powers.

In the wake of Washington's victory over the EC, the U.S. rice industry is now demanding that Japan end its protectionist ban on cheap rice imports.

## Food increase does not solve hunger

The dramatic increase in world food production stands in sharp contrast to the situation of the hundreds of millions suffering from acute and chronic hunger in the world today. While the number suffering this fate has fallen since 1970, 20 percent of the world's population is still chronically undernourished, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

Brazil is one of the world's top three agricultural exporters, yet the World Health Organization says that two-thirds of the population have an inadequate daily calorie intake. Peasants in the northeastern region of the South American country suffer from periodic droughts, because basic irrigation projects have only been provided for large capitalist farmers producing for export. Half of Brazil's inhabitants try to survive on a minimum wage that does not meet the subsistence level. This

situation is not exceptional; it is the norm throughout Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

One might suggest simply turning over surplus stocks of grain and other food supplies to those who are hungry in the world. But the current situation in Somalia illustrates why that seemingly logical solution does not work in a capitalist economy.

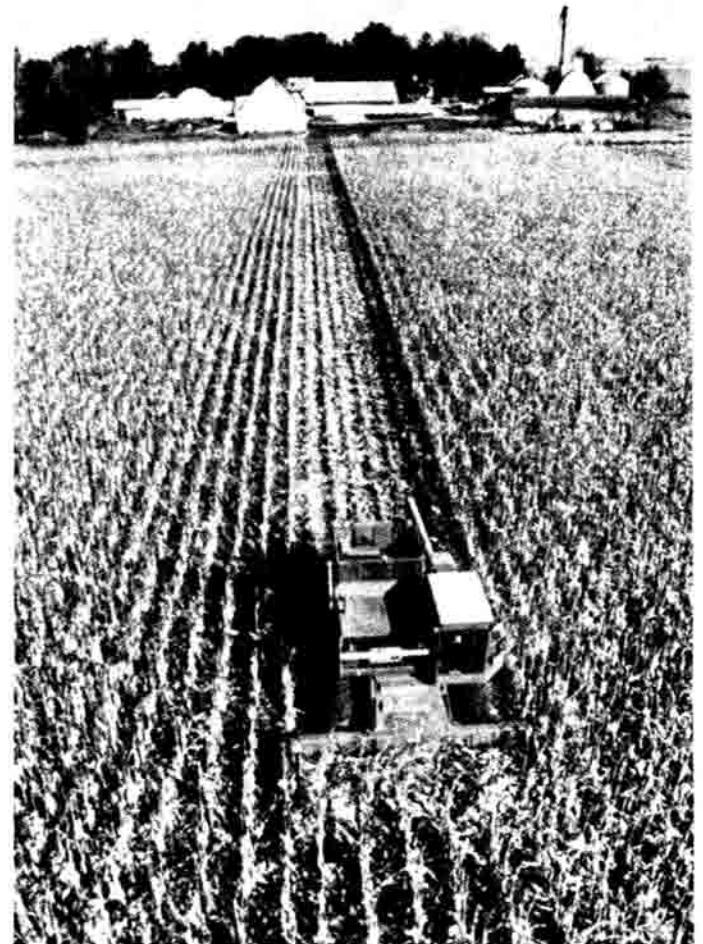
Much of the grain donated by governments and relief agencies to ease the famine in Somalia has been put on the market. With so much food suddenly available, the price for a 110-pound bag of rice has dropped to less than \$7. While that sounds good for the starving, it causes problems for peasants who have begun to grow

crops again and cannot compete with the low price. This works to force more off the land, and makes it harder for those who had left during the famine to go back to farming. Later, when supplies on the market go down, the prices of grain will rise, out of reach of the poor.

The giant food monopolies of the United States and other imperialist countries engage in dumping around the world even when there is no famine. This has the same effects as cheap food has on the market in Somalia. With the help of export subsidies, they dump food in Third World countries at a price below the local cost of production. This drives small farmers out of business and then opens the market for products from the imperialist country.

## No solution for working farmers either

Another side of the natural workings of the capitalist market is that small farmers lose, regardless of agricultural productivity. The "overproduction" crisis has intensified the price squeeze felt by farmers, who face rising prices on inputs like fertilizer



Corn harvest in United States. Worldwide application of modern crop technologies has vastly expanded food production in recent decades.

and machinery and falling prices on the commodities they grow. For example, in the United States the price of corn dropped 20 percent between July and December, to break-even levels for many farmers, in anticipation of a record U.S. harvest of 9.3 billion bushels.

The ruling class tries to convince working farmers in countries like the United States and France that they have a stake in the conflicts over export subsidies, dumping, and market shares. But these various schemes have nothing to do with the interests of small farmers, who are producers, not international traders and speculators. The same food monopolies that try to pit farmers against each other internationally also keep down the prices farmers receive for their commodities.

The only real solution to the problems facing farmers and the crime of hunger in the midst of plenty is for a government of workers and farmers to wrest control of these resources out of the hands of the capitalist monopolies, and take the profit motive out of food production.

# U.S. clampdown on Somalis' weaponry

Continued from front page

bombing of his compound. General Aidid changed his tune, deciding to now back proposals that he had previously been opposing.

According to the *Financial Times*, "The points accepted include an immediate nationwide cease-fire and the convening of a national political reconciliation conference either in Mogadishu or Addis Ababa in late April." On January 8 it was announced that the conference would occur March 15 in Addis Ababa.

The first two days of the UN-sponsored conference ended in deadlock. The meeting degenerated into a shouting match with all sides trading insults and accusations. "The level of tensions was at the maximum level. People were shouting and offending each other, calling each other murderers," stated a Somali in attendance to a *Washington Post* reporter.

With no solution in sight, the conference, which was originally scheduled to run January 4-5, was extended two additional days. "What we have achieved is not enough but it is a positive step," stated UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "The glass is half-full."

## Pro-U.S. demonstration

In making his case for U.S. intervention rather than a UN force, Aidid also organized a demonstration against Boutros-Ghali when he visited Mogadishu January 3. Some 500 demonstrators pelted the UN headquarters with rocks and grapefruit skins and tore down UN flags and sign-boards.

Literature distributed by Aidid supporters in both Somali and English and tossed into the UN compound said, "We the people of

Somalia want the United States armed forces to stay in our country and help us rebuild our nation." After the protest action went on for awhile, U.S. marines finally stepped in and escorted the UN delegation to the airport.

On the one hand U.S. officials were quite pleased by the pro-U.S. military thrust of the demonstration. This fits right in with what the U.S. rulers are seeking to accomplish through their invasion of Somalia — to reassert and gain acceptance for Washington's "right" to militarily intervene abroad into world "trouble spots" regardless of any considerations of a country's national sovereignty.

"I've got a Congressional delegation coming next week," stated Marine Col. Robert Agro. "Perhaps I'll arrange a real demonstration for them. They would like that. It would make them feel like heroes."

On the other hand, the U.S. rulers' plan is to withdraw the vast majority of U.S. troops as soon as a strong UN force can effectively replace them. U.S. military commanders decided to move against Aidid because his anti-UN campaign was getting in the way of carrying out this perspective.

## Long-term UN occupation planned

UN secretary general Boutros-Ghali recently met with U.S. Gen. Robert Johnston and reached agreement on a timetable for U.S. troops to withdraw in favor of a UN-led force. According to Boutros-Ghali, the transition "could take a month, but should take no longer than three months."

The plan is for U.S. combat troops to begin leaving Somalia when forces from other countries that will compose the UN force reach about 10,000. At present, France

and Italy each have about 2,500 troops in Somalia. India and Pakistan also are building up sizable contingents, and Canada, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and some African countries including Morocco, have smaller units or plans to send some troops.

The UN occupation force, which according to Boutros-Ghali would have a long stay in Somalia, is expected to reach a full strength of between 15,000 and 20,000 troops.

"We have had peacekeepers now in Cyprus for 28 years," stated Boutros-Ghali. However, the UN force being planned for Somalia is expected to continue the strong-arm military tactics currently being employed by the U.S. forces there. A special UN Security Council resolution is being prepared to clear the way for this mandate.

The January 8 *Washington Post* reported that the U.S. government is now prepared to contribute up to 5,000 U.S. logistical, transportation, and engineering soldiers to the UN multinational force. If this happens it will be the first time ever that U.S. troops will be operating under UN command. However, according to the *Post*, "there still is opposition in the Pentagon to setting such a precedent of UN command."

Speaking on the January 3 "Meet the Press" TV show, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) said, "Things go best in terms of the UN operations right now if we are in charge." "I would agree with that," chimed in Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) in bipartisan accord.

Washington has also stated that it is willing to provide the UN force with rapid-reaction combat support from U.S. troops stationed outside of Somalia.

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*The Burkina Faso Revolution, 1983-1987*  
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# Arms treaty won't end nuclear war threat

BY DEREK BRACEY

United States president George Bush and Russian president Boris Yeltsin signed the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) in Moscow January 3. The legislatures of both countries are expected to ratify it.

The accord, which Yeltsin dubbed the "treaty of hope," calls for the two countries to reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals by almost 75 percent during the next decade. Multiple-warhead land-based missiles are to be eliminated and cuts in plane- and sea-based warheads will take place according to the terms of the treaty. The number of U.S. warheads is scheduled to fall from 9,800 to 3,500; Russia's are earmarked to drop from 10,900 to 3,000.

The co-signers hailed the treaty as an important advance in reducing the nuclear threat hanging over the world. Yeltsin said the new document "gives mankind hope for a nuclear-free world" and will stand as a testament to the end of the Cold War. Bush made the same claim, speaking of "a future far more free from fear... for parents and for their children."

These statements, however, are not true. The treaty will not reduce the threat of nuclear war. The danger of nuclear weapons being used is higher today than ever and continues to rise.

This is true for two important reasons. First, the United States and Russia are not the only countries with major nuclear hardware. Britain, France, and China have long been nuclear powers. In addition, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan have emerged from the former Soviet Union with the ability to launch nuclear-tipped missiles over a vast range.

While all have signed agreements to turn their weapons over to Russia, none have yet done so. The government of Ukraine especially has balked, indicating it may never give up the weapons. Ukraine, with 176 missiles and 40 nuclear-armed bombers, is the third-largest nuclear power in the world.

Ukrainian bureaucrats have stated bluntly that the missiles give them political weight in the world. "Our deputies don't care where these things are aimed," said Serhiy Holovaty of the Ukrainian parliament's commission for foreign affairs. "They know that they must get something for them." A January 7 *New York Times* article was headlined, "Ukraine Finds Nuclear Arms Bring a Measure of Respect."

More importantly, the fact remains that intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons have never been the main nuclear threat. The most likely nuclear weapons to be used have always been "tactical" nuclear devices. These weapons, including nuclear shells, bombs, and torpedoes, are designed to be used on battlefields and are highly prized by military officers who command such equipment.

The Pentagon continues to develop war

plans that incorporate such devices. The U.S. government has weighed their use in every major war since World War II, when Washington detonated two nuclear bombs on Japanese cities. Since then, fear of the negative political consequences of using nuclear bombs to win wars has on more than one occasion caused Washington to refrain.

The number of governments that have acquired the capacity to build and use tactical nuclear weapons has risen significantly in the last two decades. Israel, Pakistan, India, and South Africa are all known to have tested nuclear arms. More countries will seek nuclear weapons capabilities and more will get them.

Knowledge about nuclear technology is widespread and military establishments in many countries have the capacity to build them with much less effort than even 20

years ago. It requires only a few pounds of plutonium to make a very powerful bomb. As plutonium can be produced from spent uranium fuel, any country with a nuclear power plant can reprocess the waste into bomb-grade material.

The freighter *Akatsuki Maru* arrived in Japan in early January carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium from France to be used in nuclear power reactors. The two-month voyage gave rise to complaints from governments around the world, many expressing concern that the extremely toxic material would come near their borders. Exposure to a tiny speck of plutonium can be fatal.

Tokyo is planning 29 more of these shipments during the next 18 years. Japan, with its highly developed missile and rocket technology, could rapidly produce a nuclear arsenal whenever the government so decided.

## Cincinnati protesters condemn Klan

BY MARK GILSDORF  
AND BOBBI SACK

CINCINNATI — Nearly 500 people demonstrated here December 20 in three different actions against plans by a Ku Klux Klan group to erect a cross on Fountain Square. The Klan had been issued a permit by the city to display a cross from December 20–30. This evoked a great deal of public outrage and debate.

The largest action was an evening "Vigil of 100 Flashlights," which drew 300 people. It was called by city council member Tyrone Yates and endorsed by the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of the Greater New Light Baptist Church and a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was the keynote speaker.

Another action took place that morning, at the same time the Klan was scheduled to put up their cross. A flyer for the demonstration called on people to "shut down the fascists' rallies and meetings." The main demands were "Smash the Klan!" and "No Free Speech for Fascists!" This action drew more than 100 people, many coming from area campuses. The Klan members did not show, but several people who said they agreed with the Klan were chased from the square by the demonstrators.

A third protest, called by Mayor Dwight

Tillery, was a prayer vigil at St. Peter in Chains cathedral. Tillery opposed demonstrating at Fountain Square. He told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "Ignore [the Klan] and they may not come back. But give them a big reaction and they'll be back."

### Many protest Klan action

The Klan delayed putting up their cross until the early hours of December 21. Several protesters quickly knocked it down. During the course of the 10-day period the KKK cross was toppled or damaged at least six times. Pie pans of whipped cream were thrown on it and silly string was sprayed over it. A total of 13 people were arrested, mostly on charges of disorderly conduct.

The Klan's cross became a center for discussion and protest, with many people displaying signs opposing the Klan's racism, anti-Semitism, and violence. At one point, while Stephen Anderson, a Klan supporter, was repairing the toppled cross, onlookers began asking questions about his beliefs. A crowd of 50 or 60 people gathered, and began shouting angry responses to Anderson's racist statements.

The Klan's request for a permit to erect the cross followed a ruling by U.S. district court judge Carl Rubin ordering the city to allow a Jewish Hanukkah menorah to be placed on the square. Rabbi Shalom Kal-

manson began demanding to put up the menorah in 1987, but the city denied his request for a permit. He sued, and Senior Judge David Porter upheld the city's decision, saying the Fountain Square menorah would violate church-state separation.

In 1990 Kalmanson sued again. This time judge Rubin ordered the city to grant the permit. In 1991, the city rewrote its ordinance regulating use of the square in order to deny the permit. Kalmanson sued once again, and on September 16 judge Rubin declared the ordinance, which prohibited displays from being left up overnight, to be a breach of First Amendment rights.

In addition to the menorah and the Klan's cross, permits were issued for a nativity scene and another cross, sponsored by the Cincinnati Concerned Citizens Association. Each year the city erects and decorates a large Christmas tree and holiday light display.

James Rogers, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, stated in a December 29 letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "The cross was placed on the square as a religious symbol in response to the menorah, which in turn was planted in response to a semi-religious holiday display placed by the city. This war of symbols would not have started if the government kept clearly out of the religious holiday business."

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## Minnesotans rally against racism in sports

BY TOM O'BRIEN

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — As the Minnesota Vikings played Washington, D.C., in the National Football Conference play-off here January 2, 125 people rallied in the freezing rain outside the stadium to protest the racist name — "Redskins" — used by the Washington team.

The demonstrators cheered when Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media, announced that the Vikings organization had decided not to use the term "Redskins" in any promotions of the game. "We love football," said Bellecourt, "we love athletics, but we do not love racism."

The Vikings' decision is an indication of the breadth of popular support for the demand that sports teams stop using Native American names and mascots to promote themselves. At the Super Bowl football championship in Minneapolis last year, 3,000 people protested the Washington team's name. During the 1991 and 1992 World Series baseball play-offs, there were protests against the Atlanta Braves because of the so-called "tomahawk chop" cheer used by fans.

Bellecourt announced that the struggle against the "tomahawk chop" would be carried to Atlanta this year. The third annual National Conference on Racism in Sports and Media will be held there April 8–10 to coincide with the opening of Atlanta's baseball season. The 1996 summer Olympics are also scheduled to be held in Atlanta. Bellecourt vowed there will be no Olympics if Atlanta does not address the issue of racism in sports.

The January 2 rally began with a march from the Minneapolis American Indian Cen-



January 2 march outside Minnesota Vikings football stadium

Militant/Jon Hillson

ter to the stadium. A wide range of speakers addressed the crowd. Dave Tilsen, president of the Minneapolis School Board, said 100 schools in Minnesota had stopped using Native American team names in the past five years.

Terry Gips, president of the International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, read a letter of protest sent by the Twin Cities branch of the American Jewish Committee to the National Football League commissioner. The letter pointed to increased anti-

Semitic incidents in Minnesota. "When one of us is targeted, it's a struggle for all of us," Gips said.

Other speakers included Ellen Somekawa of United Asian Americans, Kari Sachs from the Socialist Workers Party, Minnesota state senator Linda Berglund, and U.S. senator Paul Wellstone.

The reaction of football fans was for the most part polite. A few yelled insults at the rally, and an equal number stopped to listen and participate.



# Socialist leader speaks on debate in ANC over struggle for power in South Africa

BY SARA LOBMAN

PITTSBURGH — "South Africa: The African National Congress and the struggle for power," was the topic of a talk by Greg McCartan, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee, at a three-day socialist educational conference over New Year's weekend here. McCartan spoke on a debate unfolding in the African National Congress (ANC) and among other forces in the national democratic movement.

The current debate in the ANC was set off by an article, "Negotiations: What room for compromise?" by Joe Slovo. Slovo is chairman of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and a member of the ANC National Executive Committee. Many of Slovo's points were incorporated into a paper produced by the ANC's negotiations committee.

An article by Pallo Jordan, "Political suicide on the agenda," then appeared, criticizing this paper. Jordan is head of the ANC's Department of Information and Publicity and a member of the ANC's National Working Committee. This committee rejected the negotiations committee draft and prepared a revised statement. After further changes, the ANC National Executive Committee ap-

proved the Working Committee document.

The *Militant* recently printed the NEC document along with the articles by Slovo and Jordan. [See December 25 *Militant*. Copies are available for \$1.50 each from addresses on page 2.]

## A democratic revolution

"The NEC document registers another step forward for the toilers of South Africa," McCartan said. These toilers are "leading the entire people in a mighty social revolution, one of the great revolutions of the modern era. In their millions — workers, youth, peasants, and rural toilers are pressing forward a revolution driven by the desire for land and the right to farm for the dispossessed, for democratic rights historically associated with modern capitalist states, and to forge a nation for the first time."

"In order to achieve these goals they must overthrow the apartheid state and establish a democratic republic in its place. This means not only displacing the National Party of F.W. de Klerk in government, but tearing down the entire state machinery — police, army, civil service, and Bantustan administration — that drove forward, entrenched, and defended apartheid." In doing

this, McCartan said, "the toilers will open the door to the socialist revolution. It is from among those at the head of the revolutionary movement today, who are in the front ranks of the ANC, that the forces will come who will forge a communist party on South African soil."

The revolutionary democratic movement in South Africa has been fighting to overcome the obstacle of Stalinism, McCartan explained. This "counter-revolutionary, anti-working-class, political current that seeks, by any means necessary, to enforce class collaboration, rather than class struggle" is the greatest political obstacle in the fight for political power. This fight is carried out not only with words, but in the streets of South Africa.

Turning to the discussion within the ANC, McCartan explained that the heart of Slovo's proposal, with which Jordan and the NEC disagree, is that the ANC should agree to leave the basic structure of the apartheid state in place for a period of time after becoming the governing party. The exchange on this question follows a series of sharp conflicts in the class struggle in South Africa. These conflicts helped clarify the goals of the national democratic revolution and the methods needed to

achieve these goals.

Jordan explains, as does the NEC document, that through "unprecedented mass action" the anti-apartheid forces have been able to win substantial victories from the apartheid regime. Slovo and the Negotiations Committee, on the other hand, says Jordan, "exude a desperation" to discover common ground with the apartheid regime, "rather than discovering ways of enhancing the growing confidence of the mass of the oppressed as the agency of their own liberation."

## Bisho massacre

"The sharpest lessons," McCartan said, "were drawn in the wake of the Bisho massacre, where troops of the Ciskei Bantustan killed some 30 protesters and wounded many more." Ciskei ruler Brig. Oupa Gqozo, backed by a local magistrate, had forbidden the September 7 march of 50,000 to enter the capital, Bisho. Instead, the organizers were to hold a rally in a stadium just outside of town.

After the march found its way to the stadium blocked, Ronnie Kasrils, a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and a central leader of the SACP, led a group of protesters through the stadium and headed for the center of Bisho. When Kasrils's group stepped outside the stadium, Gqozo's troops opened fire.

Afterwards, Kasrils spoke frankly to reporters. He said, "We had been providing the army with leaflets and people had been speaking to soldiers. We felt that we had been softening them up. But the main point is that the assessment was that a peaceful protest march would not be shot at in full view of the international press. . . . One cannot regret whatever one does in good faith and to the best ability of the judgement of a collective leadership. Casualties take place all the time. People are dying in the struggle."

"To make a tactical decision based on whether Gqozo troops would shoot and then be 100 percent wrong," McCartan commented, "is typical of Stalinists who either cannot read, or who misread, the mood of working people. It is also the opposite approach of real leadership that aims to minimize casualties in pursuit of political goals."

McCartan noted that Cuban leader Fidel Castro had explained this often when speaking of the many military and political decisions that were made by Cuban forces in Angola. In 1988, troops from Cuba, Angola, and the South West African People's Organization of Namibia won a historic victory against the South African army at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

Castro stressed in a 1988 speech following this victory that "achieving the objective with no bloody battles was already an extraordinary success. To do so from so far away and with a minimum of casualties was a real feat politically and militarily."

Mandela's comments following the massacre, McCartan said, while placing the blame squarely on the shoulders of the apartheid regime, "summarize the leadership judgment that the conduct at the Bisho march was adventurist."

Nelson Mandela contrasted the ultra-left action at Bisho to an earlier, disciplined march, which he had led on Pretoria. "Remember," Mandela said, "we occupied the Union Buildings, actually hoisted our flag. There was no interference from Mr. de Klerk or his police. He was completely relaxed."

## Allegations of torture

"Concurrent with these developments," McCartan explained, "the ANC released the findings of an investigation into allegations of torture and murder within its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK)."

According to reports, McCartan said, ANC members suspected of being South African government spies had been subjected to severe torture in ANC camps in southern Africa. This treatment extended even to some who are today elected officials of the ANC, including Pallo Jordan.

## Youth and unionists attend socialist educational conference in Pittsburgh

Trade unionists and students from 15 cities in the United States and Canada came together January 1-3 for a socialist educational conference in Pittsburgh. The 160 activists were members of 10 industrial unions including the United Steelworkers of America, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and United Auto Workers.

Youth from a half dozen campuses in the region organized their vacation plans to include the three-day conference. A student at the University of Pennsylvania at Edinboro brought four friends to the educational weekend. A freshman at the University of Indiana in Bloomington came with a friend who attends Wayne State University in Detroit. Two high school students participated.

The socialist conference was organized by the Socialist Workers Party branch in Pittsburgh. From August to November, young people had joined with members of the party in campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president of the United States, James Warren and Estelle DeBates. Several high school and college students had then participated in the international drive to win new readers of the *Militant*.

The conference provided an opportunity for these young fighters to join with communist workers to discuss the many questions the world working class is confronting in 1993, to study the lessons of previous working-class struggles, and to organize to carry out common political activity in the coming months.

## Discussion on Somalia

The discussion that followed a presentation by Matilde Zimmermann on "Somalia: The 'right' to intervene, from the Horn of Africa to Yugoslavia" addressed questions surrounding the imperialist invasion of that African country.

Speaking in the discussion, DeBates pointed out that while many working people and youth are open to discussing the character of the U.S. and UN intervention in Somalia, virtually everyone outside of the communist movement believes this is a humanitarian mission. This includes the working people of Somalia who, after years of abuse at the hands of both imperialism and Stalinism, are hoping the U.S. government will resolve the country's problems, said DeBates.

"The fight for women's rights today" was the title of a class given by Roni McCann. She explained that the oppression of women can only be overcome through the struggles

of working people. The fact that the percentage of women in the work force has continued to grow in the decades since World War II puts workers in a stronger position to fight for women's rights.

In the lively discussion that followed the class, participants discussed the role of the family under capitalism, the question of child-support payments, affirmative action, and why women shouldn't fight for the "right" to participate in combat in the imperialist army.

Two major presentations were given at the conference, one by Greg McCartan on "South Africa: the African National Congress and the struggle for power" and another by Mary-Alice Waters on "Che Guevara and the fight for socialism today." An article on McCartan's talk appears above.

Waters, who recently spent several weeks in Cuba, took up the challenges and opportunities confronting the Cuban revolution in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the worldwide crisis of Stalinism.

The conference drew on several international trips that participants had been involved in. Brian Taylor, who in November had joined other youth from the United States, Canada, and Mexico at a conference on the North American Free Trade Agreement in Guadalajara, Mexico, gave a class on free trade and protectionism. John Cox, who had participated in an antiracist conference in Germany, gave a class on the situation there.

## Pathfinder books

The final presentation of the weekend was on "Malcolm X: his relevance for today."

Conference participants found plenty of time for informal discussion between the classes. A cabaret and dance was organized each night. The big tables loaded with books published by Pathfinder were a favorite hangout for many of the younger conference



Militant/Betsy Meyers  
Participants in socialist conference check out display of Pathfinder books and discuss politics.

participants looking for ways to learn more about socialism. The presenters of each class, workers and youth themselves, helped direct people to the material they had found useful in preparing their presentations.

The Pathfinder bookstore in Pittsburgh offered discounts on these books and pamphlets to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club. Forty-three titles were sold. Three people joined the Pathfinder Readers Club. One subscription to the *Militant* was sold along with 30 single copies and one copy of *Perspectiva Mundial*. A student at Ohio State University in Columbus decided to start selling a bundle of five *Militants* each week.

A lunchtime meeting of activists from around the region began mapping out plans to reach out broadly to youth and union activists to help make the upcoming U.S. tour of four members of the African National Congress Youth League a success. Students in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, and Columbus, Ohio, decided to try to add their schools to the list of tour stops. Conference participants will be joining with others to secure letters of invitations and honoraria for the South African youth. — S.L.



"Mandela condemned the attacks in the strongest terms," McCartan said. "He explained that 'one of the lessons of our struggle indicated very clearly that human rights form the cornerstone of freedom.... We accept full responsibility for what happened.'"

A report to a conference of MK in mid-1992 assessed some of these same issues, McCartan said. It said that the fact that the ANC was never able to integrate the armed wing into the mass upsurge and organizations that arose in the early- and mid-1980s was a result not only of military actions by the regime, but also the tendency of the MK leadership to turn on the ranks with agent-baiting and accusations that individuals were spies for the regime.

The inability of the armed actions of the 1980s to overthrow the regime is a prominent consideration in Slovo's proposal for leaving large parts of the apartheid state in place. McCartan pointed out that such a narrow focus on armed actions ignores the real victories that the antiapartheid movement won in the 1980s. These victories, which included the defeat of the South African invasion of Angola, the rise of the trade union movement culminating in the formation of a nonracial union federation, and the deepening of the struggle in the urban centers, forced the apartheid regime back on many fronts and opened up the international solidarity movement.

It was these victories that forced the regime to accept Mandela's proposal from prison to begin talks. The negotiations, McCartan said, are simply a way for the liberation movement to focus its demands, tie the regime to a successive series of agreements, and register the relationship of forces in the country.

#### Capitalist class in crisis

"The capitalist class in South Africa is suffering a crisis of leadership," McCartan said. The de Klerk regime is unable to project a political course that can hold the allegiance of those coming into struggle today. This, along with the deep economic crisis and the constant violence are three of the central roadblocks in the battle for a constituent assembly.

The demoralization that results from the absence of any ruling class leadership em-



March during 1992 Broadcasting Corp. strike. McCartan said debate among revolutionary forces is basically over the question whether working people should seek to overthrow the apartheid state or capture the state structure and reform it.

boldens people like Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, Brigadier Gqozo, elements in the security forces, and the organized right-wing. It gives them more space to function and carry on their counter-revolutionary activity.

Delays in the implementation of agreements between the government and the ANC that result from this crisis allow forces such as the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and Azanian People's Organization (Azapo) to cast their rightist politics as a radical rejection of the ANC, McCartan said. The attacks on whites over the past months are a direct result of the regime's foot-dragging.

McCartan pointed out special conditions that create new difficulties for the democratic movement. The economic crisis not only poses physical hardship for millions in South Africa, he explained. More importantly, it means the ANC "does not have a

rising labor movement from which to draw political energies and momentum, nor are there big breakthroughs in the organization of women and youth." Cosatu (Congress of South African Trade Unions) has not grown in several years and no big sector of the working class has been newly organized.

The resolution of these problems — and the defense of the basic economic needs of the working class — are now completely intertwined with the fight for a constituent assembly, McCartan said. "The toilers need their own government as a tool to defend their most basic interests."

#### Apartheid state must be overthrown

The debate among the revolutionary forces in South Africa is essentially over whether the toilers should seek to overthrow the apartheid state or capture the state structure whole and reform it. Jordan, McCartan

said, is correct when he explains that the revolutionary movement seeks not only "the creation of a democratic state," but also the "dismemberment of the racist state, its coercive arms — the army, police, the law courts, the prisons and its persuasive arm — the civil administration, civil service, the state ideological apparatus." Keeping the state structure of apartheid intact, Jordan explains, will only give the counter-revolution a base from within the state to cripple the ability of the toilers to use their new government to carry the struggle forward.

A democratic government, the NEC states, will need to restructure the civil service and security forces to ensure that they are professional, competent, and accountable; representative of society as a whole; and that they serve the interests of democracy.

None of these, McCartan pointed out, are things the current civil service and security forces are capable of becoming.

McCartan also contrasted Slovo's unconditional guarantee to members of the South African Defense Force that their jobs will remain intact, with Mandela's invitation to all South Africans to join in the struggle for a democratic republic.

"The revolutionary perspective," McCartan said, "advanced in the NEC document and advocated by Jordan combines the line of march of the toilers in South Africa with important political and tactical decisions based on the concrete situation in South Africa." The ANC can today confidently say that it speaks not only in the interests of the majority, but for the majority.

With such a leadership, McCartan concluded, "working people in South Africa can continue to advance the fight for a democratic republic. They will then struggle to make that government a revolutionary dictatorship of the workers and peasants — the only kind of government that can tear down apartheid brick by brick, and stone by stone."

## ANC to host international solidarity meeting

BY GREG MCCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An international conference in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, February 19-21.

Sponsored by the African National Congress (ANC), the conference will begin a year in which the revolutionary democratic movement is fighting to win the first democratic elections in the country's history.

ANC chief representative to the United States Lindiwe Mabuzza said in an interview here that "the occasion marks the first time in our long history of struggle that the ANC will host such a conference on South African soil. It will be a singular honor for the ANC to present to the people of our country representatives of organizations, institutions, and personalities that have been an indispensable pillar in the struggle against apartheid."

Mabuzza said the conference is open to all who solidarize with the continued struggle for a democratic country. Unionists, students, cultural workers, sports personalities, religious officials, public officials, and others from around the globe are expected to attend.

The ANC leader said conference participants will discuss the current situation in South Africa in preparation for garnering solidarity around "a new agenda of building for a new South Africa." She noted that international support is needed now because the "violence in the country is a big obstacle to the process of negotiations." Such support is also necessary to ensure a "climate conducive to free political activity," she said, pointing to assassinations of ANC leaders and the massacre of protesters and township residents as examples of moves by the regime to force antiapartheid fighters "into submission, into nonaction, and into thinking that it is too dangerous to be involved."

The ANC is demanding that elections for



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
ANC representative Lindiwe Mabuzza

a constituent assembly — based on one person, one vote — be held before the end of 1993.

"Realizing this objective and seeing to it that the elections are free and fair will demand absolute vigilance, and funding, by the international community," Mabuzza said. "The South African regime is well rehearsed in distorting the meaning of democracy and subverting these processes," she added, pointing to intervention into elections in Namibia and Angola as recent examples.

Elections will "open the door so we can begin to move out of apartheid into a democratic South Africa," the ANC leader said. "But apartheid will leave a legacy for a long time. It is deeply ingrained in South African society. We aim to put in its place a real antithesis, something that has never existed before."

The need for Blacks to gain access to land to farm, health care, housing, education,

sports, and arts emphasizes the need for "those in solidarity with the struggle to know that drastic changes are needed in South Africa. Our allies need to know and see this reality and be a part of the discussions on where to go from here," she said.

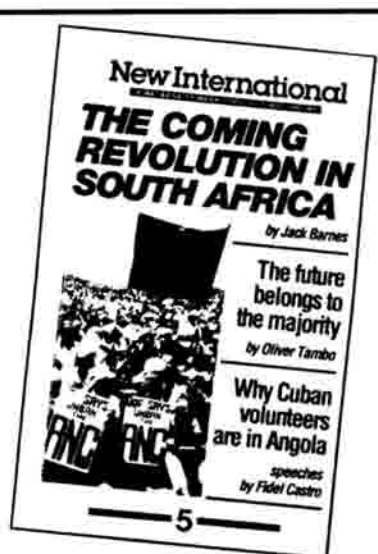
Mabuzza emphasized that the conference will present an opportunity for organizations and individuals to "address the need for a structure" in countries where one does not exist and "to continue the work on a new basis. Everyone can be a part of an overall structure without undercutting the solidarity work each union or organization can do."

The foreign relations of a democratic South Africa will also be a topic of the conference. "We owe it to all to say, 'This is what we are thinking,' and to get their opinions," Mabuzza said. "We want to discuss international cooperation with southern Africa, and Africa as a whole, and we also want to discuss future state-to-state relations."

"The lack of development in southern Africa is due to apartheid. We feel a strong sense of responsibility to see this solidarity in terms of the whole region. International cooperation must be based on respect and interdependence, not the diktat or bully tactics we've been acquainted with in the past," she said.

The conference, the ANC leader noted, will be a place "for all the people we've met from every corner of the globe to claim victory and to say together, 'We did it and we pledge to go all the way!' It is an example of the power of humanity when we are fighting for principles which will give the people of South Africa freedom and justice."

Mabuzza encouraged any individual or organization interested in finding out more about the conference to contact the ANC's Mission to the United States at (202) 543-9433.



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# Bosnian assassinated as Balkan talks stall

Continued from front page  
fly zone against Serbian flights over Bosnia. They are holding off, however, any decision on going ahead with armed intervention until the Geneva talks are concluded.

## Bosnian president visit U.S.

As talks recessed January 4-9, Izetbegovic paid a visit to the United States as the guest of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Worried that Izetbegovic might abandon his tentative support for the so-called peace plan being discussed in Ge-

neva, Vance telephoned Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger urging him not to hold any meetings with the Bosnian president.

The January 7 *New York Times* reported that "Eagleburger said he would not receive Mr. Izetbegovic in Washington, [and] would make sure that he was not received at the White House." Vance also reportedly contacted incoming secretary of state Warren Christopher, asking him not to permit anyone from Clinton's transition team to meet with Izetbegovic either.

After Vance's request was publicly disclosed in the *Times*, the State Department felt pressured to abandon this position. Izetbegovic then met with national security adviser Brent Scowcroft at the White House after a scheduled meeting with the secretary of state was canceled when Eagleburger reportedly became ill. Izetbegovic also ended up having discussions with Vice-president-elect Al Gore and two other Clinton aides.

Izetbegovic urged U.S. officials to undertake large-scale military intervention in Bosnia. The January 8 *Washington Post* reported that the Bosnian president "would be willing to forgo UN assistance to his beleaguered people if UN or Western forces would enforce a no-fly zone in his country, by shooting down Serbian planes or hitting Serbian airfields in Bosnia or Serbia."

## Bosnia minister assassinated

Meanwhile, Bosnian deputy prime minister Hakiya Turajlic was assassinated Janu-



United Nations troops in Sarajevo. Major capitalist powers continue to disagree over use of military force in former Yugoslavia.

ary 8 at a roadblock set up by right-wing Serbian forces near the Sarajevo airport. The killing occurred as Turajlic was sitting inside an armored personnel carrier belonging to the French marine battalion operating with the UN forces.

A force of 30 to 40 Serbian soldiers stopped the UN convoy and demanded that Turajlic be turned over to them. A Serbian soldier then thrust his automatic weapon over the shoulder of the French officer who commands the airport and fired at Turajlic through the open rear door of the vehicle. He was killed instantly.

Turajlic was one of three deputy prime

ministers of the Muslim-led Bosnian government. He had gone to the airport for a meeting with a Turkish government delegation that had flown into Sarajevo but had not been permitted by the United Nations to enter the city.

As word of the murder became known, crowds of angry Bosnians demonstrated in the streets of Sarajevo to express their anger at the UN troops. Some carried placards saying, "Morillon, you are guilty for everything," and "Unprofor, we don't want you here." Philippe Morillon is the French UN military commander; Unprofor stands for United Nations Protection Force.

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# Iraq moves missiles, protests UN ultimatum

Continued from front page  
ment that Iraq was complying with its ultimatum, the U.S. military had geared up to strike targets in the country. Navy officials said that before the deadline, 33 fully armed warplanes flew over southern Iraq from the aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk*, which was recently diverted to the Persian Gulf from Somalia.

This was more than twice the normal number of flights. In addition, six British Tornado bombers in the region were put on alert. "We wanted to get everyone in the air, just in case," one Navy official said.

As he has with the other war moves made by President George Bush in the past few weeks, President-elect Bill Clinton

backed the ultimatum and the preparation for military strikes.

These events were the most recent actions in the tug-of-war between Iraq and Washington since the end of the Gulf war in 1991. Washington continues its aggressive pressure on Iraq in the hopes of achieving what it failed to accomplish in that war. The U.S. rulers want an Iraqi government that it can work with to defend their interests in the region, particularly against Iran, which Washington sees as its main enemy in that part of the world.

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein served the U.S. government in this capacity for many years prior to his invasion of Kuwait. Baghdad threw massive forces into the 1980-88 war against Iran, seeking to overturn the gains the Iranian people had made when they threw out the shah in the revolution of 1979.

When Hussein overstepped the mark in other directions, Washington began looking to replace him with someone more reliable for its interests. This was the goal of the bloody assault on Iraq following Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

Imperialism suffered a major setback when Hussein was able to remain in power after U.S. troops cut short their ground invasion. In pursuit of its goal of a compliant regime, Washington continues to organize a blockade of Iraq that is causing untold suffering. The U.S. government makes full use of UN resolutions on Iraq in an attempt to tighten the restrictions on that country, quickly mobilizing its military at every alleged infraction.

Saddam Hussein for his part sees it in his interest to mount repeated challenges to Washington. In the last two years his government repeatedly asserted its sovereignty in the face of U.S. demands, only to back down when U.S. planes and ships reached Iraqi territory.

Despite the Iraqi ruler's bluffing, however, each new confrontation carries the threat of exploding into a bigger conflict than was intended.

Baghdad announced January 8 that it was banning flights in Iraq by all UN aircraft carrying weapons inspectors, saying the inspectors must now travel in chartered Iraqi planes. The UN Security Council said the ban is a "material breach" of its obligations under the UN resolutions imposed at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

A Bush administration official has indicated that military force may be used in response to the ban if Iraq persists.



U.S. jets in Saudi Arabia. Washington has escalated military threats against Iraq.



## CALENDAR

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Defend Washington-Area Clinics Against Operation Rescue.** Fri., Jan. 22 and Sat., Jan. 23, 5:30 a.m. Clinic defense training also available. Sponsored by Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force. Call (202) 728-7563 for more information and defense sites (Washington, D.C., site is 1000 16th St. NW.)

### CORRECTION

The article "Cuban economist to tour Cuba," which appeared in the January 15 issue, contained an error. The article stated that the Jesuit Center in Toronto was an organizer of the Tablada tour. This is not the case.

## Carlos Tablada tour schedule

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

305 York Lanes

**Nanaimo**  
Mon., Jan. 18  
12:15 p.m.

Malaspina College  
College Theatre

**Hamilton**  
Mon., Jan. 25  
7:30 p.m.

McMaster University  
Health Sciences, Room 1A6

**Victoria**  
Mon., Jan. 18  
7:30 p.m.

University of Victoria  
Begbie Building, Room 159

**Ottawa**  
Tues., Jan. 26

Carleton University

**Vancouver**  
Tues., Jan. 19  
1:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

Simon Fraser University  
Vancouver and District  
Labor Council meeting

**Montreal**  
Wed., Jan. 27  
11:00 a.m.

University of Montreal  
Jean-Brillant Building,  
Room B-045  
McGill University,  
Leacock 26

Wed., Jan. 20  
12:00  
8:00 p.m.

University of British  
Columbia Woodwards  
Vancouver City College,  
King Edwards Campus

Fri., Jan. 29  
2:00 p.m.

Cégep du Vieux-Montréal  
Room A-4.82

### ONTARIO

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

University of Toronto  
252 Bloor St. W.  
(St. Georges subway)

Sat., Jan. 30  
7:00 p.m.

Centre St-Pierre

Mon., Jan. 25  
1:00 p.m.

York University

**Quebec City**  
Thurs., Jan. 28  
11:30 a.m.  
7:30 p.m.

Laval University, De Sève  
Hall  
Confederation of National  
Trade Unions



# Paper deliverers in Sweden strike for wage raise

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

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

Five thousand morning paper deliverers organized in the Transport Workers Union began a two-day-a-week strike December 11, stopping deliveries on Friday and Saturday mornings.

The union rejected mediators' demands for ending the strike. The employers' organization then announced a four-day lockout on "paper-free days" during Christmas weekends. The companies' actions mean the deliverers will not be paid for four holidays.

The unions are demanding a

chinery on her.

Alvarez Ríos, a native of Mexico, had worked at Monfort just two months. Union supporters in the plant reported that an extra meat hook hanging from a moving overhead conveyor toppled the wall.

This marks the third on-the-job fatality in as many years at this plant. In March 1989, maintenance worker Lyle Hill was killed, and another maintenance worker, Richard Skala, died in October 1990 as a result of injuries received on the job.

In March 1991 the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited Monfort for 197 safety violations and proposed fines of \$1.1 million. Monfort contested those findings and has appealed the fines.

According to OSHA the Grand Island Monfort plant's injury rate is four to eight times the average for all U.S. industry. Recent complaints of safety and health hazards



Newspaper Guild rally at New York Daily News. New owner announced dismissal of 170 employees.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

raise of two kronor an hour (1 krona = US\$0.14) for 1992 starting October 1; another two-krona raise is being demanded beginning Feb. 1, 1993. The employers are offering a 1.68-krona increase for 1992 and no raise for 1993. This meager offer is in line with the proposal of the main employer organization, SAF, for the upcoming national wage negotiations for 1993.

The employers also want the paper-deliverers' contract to last 18 months, which would cover a totally different period from most other union contracts.

When the strike started, the owners of the two major national morning papers organized distribution of 400,000 copies of the paper to 186 different locations for subscribers to pick up. But only 40 distribution centers were staffed. Thousands of papers ended up blowing around the streets and soaked by the rain.

In the city of Västerås at the *Västmanlands Läns Tidning*, one of the bigger local papers, strikers blocked truck distribution to deliverers attempting to break the strike.

After three days of strike action, the employers granted some temporary wage raises and postponed further negotiations until later in 1993.

### Monfort workers face deadly job injuries

Lydia Alvarez Ríos, a 26-year-old worker at the Monfort packing plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, was killed November 21 when a 15-foot-long brick wall collapsed and pushed conveyor-belt ma-

by workers in the Grand Island plant prompted OSHA to subpoena all of the plant's injury records going back to 1990.

The United Food and Commercial Workers union has been involved in a long-term effort to organize the Monfort plant. In September the Immigration and Naturalization Service staged a military-style raid and arrested 300 immigrant workers. The raid seriously set back the union-organizing drive.

### Western Canada coal miners end strike

The United Steelworkers of America has ended a seven-month-long strike at Fording Coal, located in the coal-rich Elk Valley of southeastern British Columbia. Members of USWA Local 7884, which represents the 780 production and maintenance workers at the mine, voted 56 percent in favor of a mediator's proposal to end the strike. USWA Local 9702, which represents the 115 technical and supervisory personnel, voted 71 percent in favor. The company also accepted the agreement.

The contract includes a modest pay increase over three years, a cost-of-living clause, an additional 15-minute break for each 12-hour shift, (workers previously had only two 20-minute breaks for the entire shift), and a joint union-management committee to advise the company on matters pertaining to contracting out work in operations and maintenance.

Fording has over the past 10

years resorted increasingly to outside contractors. This policy, combined with technological changes and speed-up, has led to a reduction in the unionized work force from 1,400 a decade ago to 700 today. The job losses, safety issues, and hours of work led the open-pit miners to wage a determined battle over the past seven months.

The Local 7884 bargaining committee recommended rejection of the proposal to the membership. "These proposals didn't adequately address the central concerns, as well as others, like the fact that pensions will not be adjusted to the cost of living under the new contract," Don Takala, vice-president of Local 7884, said in an interview. On the other hand, the USWA business agent recommended acceptance.

According to Randy Panagopka, president of Local 7884, the length of the strike played a role in the local's acceptance of the deal.

The miners received considerable solidarity throughout the strike. The East Kootenay Steelworkers Council put on a big Christmas party for the 900 strikers and their families. About \$40,000 worth of gifts were distributed to the strikers' children.

The settlement came just after Fording Coal, a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific, one of Canada's largest corporations, bought the bankrupt Greenhills mine, where 650 members of the Greenhills Workers Association (GWA) had been working until it shut down last November.

Fording decided to start hiring a new work force at Greenhills, which provoked a response from some of the 3,000 miners and their unions in the Elk Valley. On December 17 a joint informational picket line by 50 members of the USWA and the GWA convinced truckers to stop hauling coal out of the Greenhills mine for Fording.

Fording announced December 30 that it would employ only 150 miners at the Greenhills mine in the first year of operations and that it would not recognize the GWA or the contract previously in place.

Greenhills miners set up a picket line January 7 across the access road leading to both mines. Steelworkers from the Fording coal mine honored the picket for two days. As a result the government of British Columbia agreed to hold a meeting with Greenhills workers to discuss their demands.

### N. Y. 'Daily News' dismisses 170 workers

One hundred members and supporters of the New York Newspaper Guild held a picket line January 8 outside the offices of the *Daily News* to protest impending layoffs. Union members carried signs demanding "No more union busting" and chanted "What do we want? Contract! When do we want it? Now!"

Newspaper Guild union leaders from the *Daily News* called on the labor movement to launch a boycott of the paper to reduce its circulation

by 150,000. They also called for a "work-to-rule" slowdown by the drivers and pressmen in support of the Guild. These workers, who have separate unions, have already signed new agreements and were not at the picket line.

Later that day multimillionaire Mortimer Zuckerman, the new owner of the *News*, handed dismissal notices to 170 members of the Newspaper Guild. The existing Guild contract with the *Daily News* is not binding on Zuckerman because of the company's bankruptcy, which allows him to reject previous contracts. Those workers not dismissed were offered new jobs at reduced salaries and benefits.

Contributors to this column include: Erik Dahlrot, member of Metal Workers Union Local 30 in Södertälje, Sweden; Mike Galati, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa; Paul Kouri, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 3495 in Vancouver, British Columbia; and Dennis Richter, member of the United Transportation Union in New York.

### 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 of this issue for subscription rates.

# Hundreds decry racist attacks at Iowa high school

BY ANGEL LARISCY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Eight hundred and fifty students, parents, and community activists crowded into the Lincoln High School auditorium here to get the facts and speak out against recent racist attacks at the school. The meeting was called by the high school administration and school board within days after a gang of white students chased and verbally assaulted two separate groups of Black students.

Lincoln High School has the smallest percentage of Blacks of any of the five regular high schools in Des Moines. Only 60 Blacks attend the school out of more than 1,900 students.

A fight broke out following a school pep rally December 15 in which one Black student was pushed through a glass display case and then knocked to the ground, breaking his front tooth.

The next day the majority of Black students wore black clothing as a form of protest.

Two days later, as a group of Black students were leaving school to go to a restaurant across the street for lunch, a gang of thirty whites on the other side of the street, described by school administration officials as "students and non-students" began yelling racist slurs. The students immediately came back to school to report the incident.

Later in the day, another group of Black students attempted to cross the street. They were confronted by the group of whites who yelled "nigger" and physically forced them back to school property. The following day, the last of the semester, only 700 students reported for school because of fear of further attacks and violence.

In the wake of the attacks, Lincoln High School principal Tom Drake reported that "The District has assigned two more minorities to the campus."

Currently Lincoln has only one Black staff member — the night custodian.

Following Drake's remarks there was an

open discussion. A number of parents argued that each family needed to individually take responsibility for teaching children respect, tolerance, and love.

Jennifer, a Black senior who was a part of the group of students chased back to campus said the experience shocked her. "Maybe this didn't start out as racial but it ended up as racial. I can get sold on the idea of love, but we need justice too."

Jenni, a white freshman at Lincoln, explained the problems she had encountered because she is dating another student who is Black. "I have been slammed into my locker, and I'm called a 'nigger lover.' It's not right."

One woman who is white disagreed that it was just a case of one or two isolated incidents. She said her daughter, who was a junior, had come home a number of times during the semester disturbed by remarks she heard in the hall. "Lincoln doesn't exist separate from society," she said.

Maurice Williams of the Socialist Workers Party demanded the prosecution of those involved in the attacks and said, "We hold the city and the cops responsible for helping create a climate of racial hatred by framing up a Black youth for the murder of two whites at the Drake Diner and by condoning the racist beating of Larry Milton by the cops earlier this year. If you're Black, you're considered guilty. These events are what have inspired the racists at Lincoln to act on their ideas."

The racist attacks have been linked by some to a white gang in Des Moines called the Young and the Wasted. There have also been reports of involvement by members of a group called NGOK, "New Generation of Klan."

Participants in the meeting were encouraged by the turnout and overwhelming denunciation of the racist attacks. Community meetings will continue to take place to discuss how to combat racism and specific steps that can be taken at Lincoln.



# Miami Haitians win support for hunger strike

Continued from back page

tact relatives. Dorancy of the Haitian Refugee Center was not allowed to see them and attempts by lawyers to find out where they were taken have met resistance from the INS.

This treatment at the hands of U.S. authorities has led to broad sympathy here for the Haitian refugees, including in the Cuban-American community. Last week Francisco Aruca explained on his radio show "Ayer in Miami" that he views the treatment of Haitians as unfair.

Support for the demands of the hunger strikers and for the rights of the Haitian refugees in general has increased over the course of the strike. Olden Polynice, a Haitian-American basketball player for the Detroit Pistons, attempted to visit the hunger strikers January 5 but was prevented by the INS. He spoke to the press outside Krome wearing a baseball cap that read, "No excuses — just results." Polynice told the *Miami Herald*, "I wore it on purpose. That's what the government has to do. Haitians are tired of excuses."

The strikers have received support and encouragement from many others. Katherine Dunham, the famed dancer who fasted for 47 days last year to protest U.S. government policies toward Haitian refugees, sent a message of support.

One hundred protesters, mostly Haitians, picketed the district offices of the INS in Miami January 7. They demanded justice for Haitian refugees and the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected president of Haiti who was deposed by the military in that country last year.

## Wide sympathy for strikers

Several hundred people, mainly Haitians, demonstrated outside Krome Detention Center January 9 in solidarity with the hunger strikers. The cops closed off the access road to the center for one mile, forcing demonstrators to walk the distance in pouring rain through lines of cops dressed in black and carrying gas masks, nightsticks, and riot shields.

Police used a minor incident to arrest two demonstrators. Because of the intimidation and the chance of further police attacks, the organizers cut the protest short.

The local press has had to acknowledge the wide sympathy that exists for the refugees. For example, *Miami Herald* columnist Robert Steinback reported that Wayne Joy, the acting deputy administrator at Krome, had said there was no truth to the stories of harassment by INS guards. Steinback added that Joy's statements cannot be confirmed since the press is not allowed into Krome. According to Steinback, "Joy did confirm that strikers were denied access to vending machines . . . and were taken to the cafeteria each mealtime, where they could smell and watch food being consumed."

Steinback stated: "I have a hard time believing that the hunger strikers — who Joy himself observed weren't well organized — could have concocted such a well-orchestrated series of lies just to build sympathy and make the INS look bad."

Meanwhile the U.S. rulers and their Democratic and Republican party representatives in the government are scurrying to find a way to keep more Haitian refugees from coming here. The day after the boatload came into the port of Miami, Florida governor Lawton Chiles urged President-elect Bill Clinton to send an "unmistakable signal" to halt the flow of Haitians.

During the presidential election campaign, Clinton criticized George Bush's policies toward the Haitian refugees and intimated that he might favor temporary asylum for them. This has led to fears in ruling circles that an influx of Haitians can be expected after inauguration day. Press reports indicate that Clinton is not considering granting temporary asylum but rather extending the Bush administration's policy of forcing Haitian refugees back to Haiti.

A statement issued by the Socialist Workers Party here called for the release of all Haitian refugees and opening the border to those Haitians who wish to come to the United States. It adds, "The courage and determination of the Krome hunger strikers is an example for all working people. All supporters of democratic rights and immigrant rights should join any and all actions in support of these fighters."

# MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

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

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Israel's War Against the Palestinians.** Speakers: Ahmad Nassef, activist in Palestinian solidarity movement; Samad Yerevani, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2546-C W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

### San Francisco

**Israel: Stop the Deportations! Return Palestinians Home Now!** Speaker: Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 1781. Sat., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

**Open U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees: Eyewitness Report from Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.** Speaker: Harvey McArthur, *Militant* reporter. Sat., Jan. 23, 7 p.m. Photo exhibit at 4 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$5. 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

**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

**Stop the Expulsions! A Speak-Out in Defense of the Palestinian People.** Speakers: Dalal M. Jarad, Union of Palestinian Women's Association; Siham Rashid, General Union of Palestinian Students; others. Sat., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815. Translation to Spanish.

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** Speaker: member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 23, dinner 5:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4 program, \$5 dinner. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

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

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

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**MISSOURI: St. Louis:** 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement.** Speaker: Mike Galati, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**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

**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.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** Speaker: member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 30, dinner 5:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 1622 S. Broadway. Donation: \$4 program, \$5 dinner. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** Speaker: member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 30, dinner 5:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$4 program, \$5 dinner. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Cop of the World? Role of U.S. Military Today.** Speakers: John Elliston, Student Peace Initiative at University of North Carolina; representative, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**The Fight Against Racism in Germany.** Speaker: John Cox, recently returned from *Militant* reporting trip to Germany. Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It.** Sun., Jan. 24, 11 a.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$1. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**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.

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** Speaker: member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 23, dinner 5:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$4 program, \$5 dinner. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## Pittsburgh

**The Civil Rights Movement: Its Accomplishments and Lessons for Today.** Speaker: Lorraine Starsky, Socialist Workers Party. Video excerpt from documentary "Eyes on the Prize." Sat., Jan. 16, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**What's Behind U.S. War Moves Abroad?** Speaker: Steve Penner, Central Committee, Communist League of Canada, contributing editor of *New Internationalist* magazine. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua and El Salvador: What Way Forward for Working People?** Speaker: Aaron Ruby, recently returned from both countries, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 547-7557. Translation to Spanish.

**20th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: The Fight for Abortion Rights Today.** Panel of speakers. Sat., Jan. 23, 5 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 547-7557. Translation to Spanish.

## BRITAIN

### London

**Why Imperialism's War on Cuba Doesn't End.** Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-401-2409.

## CANADA

### Toronto

**Stop Police Killings.** Panel discussion with representatives from Black Action Defense Center, Communist League, others. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

## SWEDEN

### Stockholm

**Charity or Social Rights?** Speaker: Carl-Eric Isacson, Communist League, metal worker. Sat., Jan. 16, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Tel: 071-928-7993.

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

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**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

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

## SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.



**Outer space (I)** — The Vatican Observatory is erecting a powerful telescope atop Mt. Graham in Arizona.



Harry Ring

Chris Corbally, an astronomer/priest, said the church will certainly be interested in the search for life on other planets, but the Vatican has no immediate plans to convert beings from other worlds.

**Outer space (II)** — A somewhat different note was struck by

Rev. George Coyne, director of the Vatican Observatory: "The church would be obliged to address the questions of whether extraterrestrials might be brought into the fold and baptized. One would need to put some questions to him [an alien], such as 'Have you ever experienced something similar to Adam and Eve, in other words, original sin? Do you people also know a Jesus who has redeemed you?'"

**Capitalist road to equality** — In 1991, women earned 70 cents for every dollar paid to men. But in the first nine months of last year, the gap was narrowed, with women's wages 75 percent of men's. Does that mean women's pay went up?

Nope. The gap was lessened because men's pay went down faster than women's.

**Inside dope?** — Regarding that recent report that the recession ended a year and a half ago: At a recent West Coast business seminar, the chief economist for California's Pacific Gas and Electric asked the audience of 140 how many thought the slump was over. Three raised their hands.

**News of the week** — "Uncertainty about employment causes stress." — Headline in Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*.

**Vox populi** — Chuck Hayes feels Clinton is reaching down to

the grass roots. "He should be doing that," he says. "When you forget to be humble, by jeebers, you forget who you are." Chuck is chairman of Guilford Mills, one of the biggest textile manufacturers in North Carolina.

**We'll drink to that** — While the cost of living increased an alleged 3.2 percent last year, the *Forbes* magazine Cost of Living Extremely Well Index actually dropped 0.2 percent. For instance, you can pick up a case of Dom Perignon champagne for \$859, which is 9 percent less than a year ago.

**Long and short of it** — "One can wear short and long. . . . It depends on your ambitions, on your

boyfriend's ambitions or your husband's ambitions. It depends on the kind of person you want to impress. The key is be yourself." — Designer Karl Lagerfeld on hemlines.

**They sound nervous** — "How to Survive a Recession. . . . Recessions are normal. . . . Recessions create opportunities." — From a full-page ad in and by the *Miami Herald*.

**A deal** — The Rolls Royce company's new, lowest price Bentley is \$138,500, which is but \$10,000 more than a mass-produced Mercedes 600 SEL. The head man at Rolls says it will appeal to buyers "ready to move into a more exclusive range."

## Pastors for Peace fights U.S. embargo on Cuba

BY DOUG JENNESS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — "We must say no to the U.S. government's embargo of Cuba," said Tom Hansen in a recent interview here. "This is the centerpiece of a policy that increases hunger and worsens health care for the Cuban people."

Hansen is the National Co-coordinator of Pastors for Peace, which organized a truck caravan of medicine, food, and other aid to Cuba at the end of November.

Since 1988 Pastors for Peace, nationally centered in Minneapolis, has organized five caravans of aid to Nicaragua and five to El Salvador. The recent U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan was the first such one to Cuba and "our largest and most challenging project to date," Hansen said. He reported that at least two more aid shipments to Cuba are planned this year in addition to continuing projects for Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The target of the Pastors for Peace projects for Cuba is the economic embargo imposed by Washington more than 30 years ago. "Our goal," Hansen explained, "is to help with material aid, and also to break through the information blockade and help educate people about the cruelty of Washington's policy toward the Cuban people."

### Caravan aid to Cuba

The embargo presented special difficulties to the caravan organizers. "The 100 drivers all knew they might face the prospect of stiff jail terms and fines of \$250,000 each when we attempted to cross the U.S.-Mexico border," Hansen pointed out.

When the 43 trucks arrived November 20

at the border in Laredo, Texas, customs officials held up the caravan and confiscated \$1,500 worth of prescription medicines that had been donated by people throughout the United States. Four participants face charges stemming from the confrontation on the bridge across the Rio Grande — two for federal charges and two for local statutes related to obstructing traffic.

The incident at the border received nationwide publicity in both Mexico and the United States. The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* editors stated November 29, "By giving only grudging approval to the [Pastors for Peace] delivery of such supplies, the United States displays bullying pettiness. The way to end that should be clear to Bush, Clinton and Congress: End the embargo."

The trucks were driven to Tampico, Mexico, where the supplies were transferred to boats to Cuba. The participants flew to Cuba and spent 10 days there helping distribute the food. Pastors for Peace distributed the food through the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Havana, which is operated by Cuban religious groups.

Hansen, who had been to Cuba before, said his biggest surprise was the response of the Cuban people. "It was incredible," he remarked. "Cubans feel so threatened by the U.S. government that the example of just 100 of us facing arrest to bring them aid and solidarity really meant something."

### Public meetings

On their return to the United States in early December, the participants stopped in more than 30 cities for press conferences

and receptions. In San Francisco, where Pastors for Peace works closely with the International Peace for Cuba Appeal, 600 people turned out. At a December 8 meeting in Minneapolis, Hansen and other participants reported back to 60 people.

Pastors for Peace is a project of the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO). According to Hansen, IFCO was established 25 years ago following the momentous victories of the civil rights movement. It has funded various projects related to the Black community, the South African struggle against apartheid, and Grenada.

Hansen said Pastors for Peace was started following a trip by Rev. Lucius Walker, IFCO's executive director, to the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua in 1988. Walker was wounded when contras attacked a civilian boat he was on.

The first shipment of aid to Nicaragua was sent Christmas Eve of 1988.

Hansen, who had previously helped organize the Veterans Convoy of aid to Nicaragua, was a founding organizer of Pastors for Peace.

Hansen estimates that altogether 138 trucks and \$7 million worth of medicine, school supplies, bicycles, seeds, and farm

equipment have been shipped to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Eighteen months ago, Hansen said, Pastors for Peace began organizing study groups to Cuba. Six groups involving 100 people were organized. It was out of this project that the idea came for the caravans.

On January 29, two dozen people from up to 20 cities are planning to carry medical supplies to Cuba. They will be flying on commercial flights via Cancun, Mexico, and returning February 5. The aid will include syringes, microsutures, and medicines estimated at a value of \$20,000.

In April, Pastors for Peace plans to send a group of Black clergy with medical supplies to Cuba. This project, Hansen said, is being organized out of the group's New York office.

The biggest project in relation to Cuba will occur in July when another national caravan of trucks will carry supplies from across the United States to Cuba. The aid to be sent — medicine, powdered milk, and bicycles, as well as Bibles — is similar to the November shipment. But the July trip is projected to be larger.

More information on these activities is available from: Pastors for Peace, 331 15th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

## 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

Published in the interest of the Working People  
January 22, 1968 Price 10c

NEW YORK — A mass meeting to protest the indictment of Dr. Benjamin Spock and four others for their antiwar and anti-draft stands will be held here Jan. 29. The new government attack on the right of dissent and the right of free speech is being met by a united defense by the whole anti-war movement.

Accused of "conspiring to counsel, aid and abet" young men who refuse to serve in the armed forces, Dr. Spock and his co-defendants face up to five years in prison and \$10,000 fines if they are convicted under the unconstitutional law. The others indicted were the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., chaplain of Yale University; Michael Ferber, a Harvard graduate student; Mitchell Goodman, an author; and Marcus Raskin, co-director of the Institute for Policy Studies.

Another meeting held here Jan. 14 drew 1,500 people to hear Michael Ferber and Mitchell Goodman. It was sponsored by Resist, and Support-in-Action. Four draft resisters were also on the platform. About 500 people from the audience signed a scroll pledging to "aid and abet" the draft refusers.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

January 23, 1943

The Franco regime in Spain was given categorical promises of support by the United States government last week when on Jan. 15, U.S. ambassador Carlton J.H. Hayes addressed a meeting of fascist leaders in Madrid

and said, "If the political and social institutions of this country undergo changes or modifications in future years it will be . . . not (the work) of the United States or of Spanish émigrés."

This is the third promise of American administration support received by Franco in recent months. Last fall Roosevelt sent a letter to Franco in which he offered to put the Spanish fascist regime "on its feet economically" after the war.

This winter when American troops landed in North Africa the administration hastened to assure Franco that "these moves are in no shape, manner or form directed against the government . . . of Spain."

Ambassador Hayes's remarks about "Spanish émigrés," coupled with the failure of the North African allied administration to release loyalist prisoners, can be interpreted as a promise that the United States will even suppress pro-democratic agitation by the Spanish anti-fascist workers who fled Spain when Franco defeated the Republic.

It appears that the American capitalists, having originally aided Franco in crushing the Spanish workers and peasants through the maneuver of the non-intervention committee, do not intend to undermine his regime as long as he maintains neutrality in the present struggle with Hitler.

These developments serve to drive home the fact that the struggle against fascism cannot be entrusted to men like Hayes and the forces they represent. The working class is the principal victim of fascism and only the working class can be depended upon to wage uncompromising war against it.

This is one of the principal reasons why we call for a Workers' and Farmers' Government in the United States. Such a government would fight not only against Hitler and Mussolini and Franco but would give wholehearted aid to the revolutionary masses in the fascist countries in overthrowing capitalism — the breeder of fascism.



Militant/Dan Fein

Miami demonstration last October against new U.S. law that tightens embargo against Cuba. The group Pastors for Peace organized a truck caravan of medicine, food, and other aid that reached Cuba in November.



## Somalia: Food is not the issue

One month into the U.S. invasion of Somalia — with 32,000 troops under U.S. military command occupying the southern part of the country — it has become still clearer that Washington's self-proclaimed "humanitarian mission" is no more than a pretext to carry out more far-reaching political and military goals.

Washington's intervention in Somalia is not really about feeding hungry Somalis. Thousands of U.S. marines are now raiding local marketplaces, breaking into locked storefronts, and forcibly searching Somali cars, as part of a stepped-up drive to confiscate weapons. Increasing numbers of Somalis are being killed, wounded, threatened, and harassed at the hands of U.S. military authorities.

A central purpose of the U.S. rulers' operation in Somalia is to reassert what they claim is their "right" to intervene militarily in countries around the world. They seek to openly override an independent nation's right to sovereignty through the use of massive military firepower.

In Iraq as in Somalia, the U.S. rulers are also trampling on a people's sovereign rights. Through the imposition of a no-fly zone over that country's airspace and the continuation of a tight economic embargo, they want to rein in Iraq's rulers and re-establish a regime there that will do Washington's bidding.

The U.S. government continues to state that military intervention in Somalia is necessary in order to combat famine. However, for months as the Somalia famine developed, Washington provided next to nothing in food aid. By the time they sent the troops, the worst of the famine

was over. Their eyes have been more on Somalia's strategic location in the region than on hungry Somalis.

Famines that continue to occur in Africa and throughout much of the underdeveloped world are not natural disasters but are rooted in the social crisis of capitalism. They stem from patterns of agriculture and trade, imposed by imperialism, that distort the economies of these countries.

In the world today more than 2 billion human beings suffer from hunger or malnutrition while the capitalist market faces a crisis of worldwide overproduction of food and other commodities from cars to chemicals. This is not overproduction of food in terms of what people need, but in terms of what can be profitably sold on the market.

This is the case in Somalia today as well. The markets in Mogadishu are flooded with sacks of wheat and rice.

"Crops are being destroyed while the world suffers from hunger," Fidel Castro states in a speech excerpted on this page. The Cuban revolutionary leader accurately points to the hypocrisy of the U.S. rulers who use "hunger as a pretext — hunger that is a consequence of colonialism and neocolonialism, hunger that is a consequence of exploitation of people. And now they want to solve hunger through gunfire."

The solution to the devastation that capitalism wreaks on Somalia and other countries of Africa is not imperialist "aid." The only way forward is the political mobilization of the workers and peasants, whose interests lie in creating a government that can break with imperialist domination and begin to advance society.

## Significant victory in S. Korea

The December 24 release by the Seoul regime of two prominent fighters for Korean reunification is an important victory for the workers and youth of Korea. Rim Su Gyong and Moon Gyo Hyon won broad support internationally during their three-and-a-half year imprisonment under South Korea's notorious National Security Law. Rim, a student leader, became well known throughout the world as a symbol of the struggle for reunification of the Korean peninsula and against U.S. military occupation of South Korea.

The division of Korea was imposed on the country by the victors in World War II — the United States and the Soviet Union. This division has been maintained by Washington ever since. Almost 40,000 U.S. troops, along with a huge arsenal, are stationed in South Korea. Nuclear armed submarines patrol the waters around the peninsula. A heavily fortified concrete wall runs the length of the Demilitarized Zone dividing north and south. This barrier was built by the South Korean government in 1977 with Washington's assistance and is patrolled by U.S. soldiers under the same United Nations banner that presided over the bloody Korean War. These U.S. troops were the ones who first arrested Rim and Moon in 1989 as they returned from a conference and march demanding reunification held in the North.

The release of these activists further exposes the illegitimacy of the National Security Law under which they were charged. This undemocratic statute denies South Koreans their rights to travel, express ideas, and associate with others in the North. It has been used, along with restrictive labor laws and other measures, to victimize thousands of workers, students, and fighters for democratic rights over the years.

South Korean workers and students have resisted the various U.S.-backed regimes foisted on them since the end of the second World War. Numerous uprisings against the successive governments, labor struggles, and actions demanding peace and reunification have occurred since the 1950s. The dozens of political prisoners who have been in South Korean jails for more than 30 years are testimony to the long history of struggle in that country. The past 12 months in South Korea have seen actions ranging from the occupation of an auto plant by thousands of workers to a student protest numbering 50,000.

The release of Rim and Moon shows that the regime in Seoul is feeling the pressure of popular demands for democratic rights and reunification. Fighters in Korea and their supporters internationally can build on this victory to move forward in advancing these goals.

U.S. troops out of Korea!

## Keep church and state separate

Cincinnati was recently thrust into the news spotlight after a federal judge ordered the city to allow religious symbols to be set up on city-owned Fountain Square. This reactionary decision resulted from the efforts of a Jewish rabbi who filed suit against the city over the right to put up a Hanukkah menorah in the square, the site of a Christmas tree and holiday lights display.

Then came the Ku Klux Klan. After the judge approved the Jewish display, it asked for a permit to erect a cross on the square in order to put on display its "Christian" values. As a result of the judge's ruling, the Klan was given a 10-day permit to put up a cross in the square. This racist, anti-Semitic outfit attempted to portray its actions as having something to do with religious freedom.

In the first place the courts should never have allowed religious organizations to put up displays on public property. The menorah was followed by the Klan cross, then by a nativity scene, then by another cross. The separation of church and state is a progressive gain for working people won through long struggle. It helps to guard against religious persecution of particular groups that would certainly result from state-encouraged or -sponsored religion.

Klan members are not out to express a religious point of view or to convince people to lead a more "Christian" way of life. They are organizing, getting prepared, and

trying to win adherents, in order to commit acts of violence against others whom they scapegoat for society's ills, particularly Blacks and other oppressed nationalities, but also Jews, Catholics, and adherents of other religions.

Nearly 500 people turned out to protest the Klan on the first day it raised its cross. Working people in Cincinnati justifiably abhor this group and its long history of racist violence. Those in the city, such as the mayor, who cautioned against demonstrating, saying "Ignore them and they may not come back," are dead wrong.

Racist elements like the Klan use provocation to advance their aims. Small actions that attempt to "shut them down" only play into their hands and make them look like the victims of attacks on democratic rights. Through their provocations the Klan hopes to draw working people and others into actions that will curtail democratic rights. The police, while claiming they have to defend the rights of groups such as the Klan to exercise freedom of speech, actually spend most of their time arresting those who protest the actions of the Klan.

Working people need to continue protesting the Klan whenever it raises its ugly head. Actions that involve broad numbers of people most effectively help to demonstrate that the Klan's violent activities will not be tolerated, and such actions help to demoralize those racist elements who look to groups like the Klan.

## Castro: U.S. 'wants to solve hunger through gunfire'

The following is an excerpt from a December 16 speech given by Cuban president Fidel Castro. He was addressing participants at the 1992 Forum on Spare Parts, Equipment, and Advanced Technology in Havana, attended by workers, farmers, technicians, and scientists who have helped develop technology and innovations designed to save Cuba energy and other scarce resources.

Just look at what [Washington] does at the United Nations, just look at what it has done with the entire Security Council to make it pretty up and even support any adventure anywhere in the world under different pretexts. In some places it uses hunger as a pretext — hunger that is caused by imperialism, hunger that is a consequence of colonialism and neocolonialism, hunger that is a consequence of exploitation of people. And now they want to solve hunger through gunfire.

Today it's one country, but then it may be another and another. And tomorrow it could be all of Africa, because we know that in Africa droughts are becoming more and more severe. We know that in Africa the desert is expanding, the population is increasing, disease and poverty are multiplying.



Cuban president Fidel Castro

Militant/Seth Galinsky

And how can imperialism claim it is going to solve the problems of this era through gunfire? It would have to occupy and invade the whole world some day to try to solve these problems. But what is certain is that the world has never lived through a period like this, a period of this kind.

People are responding, and they are responding within the means that are possible, and they are going to respond, because they cannot accept this, they cannot resign themselves to this.

And in the United Nations, all 15 members of the Security Council without exception voted for the intervention in Somalia, since it was a solid pretext — the pictures of emaciated people, of people starving to death. And so the aircraft carriers arrived, along with the battleships, helicopters, tanks, all kinds of things, and the boots, which in some pictures could be seen on the backs of Somali citizens.

In other words, they went in to take food through gunfire, to take food there through gunfire. And, in another part of the world, they have a blockade against a country like Cuba, trying to make Cuba die of starvation and disease. That's the logic, those are the morals of the empire.

However, of the 15 who approved this — the United States and the other 14 — 14 at least noted that it was an exceptional case, and the only one who didn't refer to it as something exceptional but rather as commonplace was the United States itself.

Very serious and grave problems have been building up in the world, and statistics from around the world indicate truly catastrophic conditions, not only in Africa but in Latin America and many Third World countries. Voices are being raised to protest the fact that crops are being destroyed while the world suffers from hunger, while hundreds of millions, more than 1 billion human beings suffer from hunger.

And the question we can ask is whether capitalism can solve this problem, whether the disease can turn into the cure, whether the very bacteria that caused this catastrophe — this insane situation that exists — are going to make the world healthy.

It was capitalism that brought the world colonialism, slavery, underdevelopment, poverty, hunger, lack of minimal economic resources, even a lack of natural resources — because capitalism is destroying the planet's natural resources, it's destroying them through its consumer society, its incredible waste. And we ask ourselves if it's capitalism that can solve these problems.



# Bookstore rises from the ashes

The following article appeared in the December 23 issue of the *Wilshire Independent*, a free weekly newspaper in the Los Angeles area with a circulation of 200,000.

BY BRIAN LEWIS

When the Pathfinder Bookstore went up in flames during the riots, there was never any question that it would rise from the ashes. The only real mystery was how long the rebuilding process would take.

Three days after the fires and looting that laid waste to much of the surrounding Pico-Union community, the all-volunteer staff of the bilingual political bookstore got down to work. With about 30 books culled from their personal libraries, the Pathfinder staff set up a table on the curb outside the rubble of their store and began selling books and collecting donations.

Thanks to the generous support of the neighborhood, along with donations of books by publishing houses and other bookstores, Pathfinder moved into a temporary location just down Pico Boulevard a few weeks later and got back to business.

And last Saturday night, they celebrated the completion of the rebuilding process with a party at the new Pathfinder Book-

store, now back in its old location at 2546C Pico Blvd.

"It's unbelievable, really," says Gale Shangold, a recently laid-off meat packer who volunteers about 25 hours a week at the store. "This place was ashes."

The fire took Shangold by surprise, although the riots didn't.

"We were concerned about what was happening [in South-Central L.A.]. We were never really thinking that this would be a center for things," she says. "We were more concerned with Rodney King. We weren't thinking about ourselves."

But Shangold can still recall the feeling that came over her on April 30 as she was driving back from a Cal State L.A. book fair. She saw smoke coming from the general direction of the Pico-Union and wondered if Pathfinder was in the line of fire. When she got there, she discovered it was.

Instead of feeling despair, however, Shangold and her comrades felt determination.

"It wasn't like a depressed type of atmosphere," she says, "we just felt this is what we've got to do."

While the landlord took care of the building, the Pathfinder volunteers got to work raising money. The store suffered an esti-

mated \$20,000 in damage in addition to losing a number of historical items, says Shangold, and didn't have insurance to make up the losses.

But the book selling community quickly rallied to Pathfinder's support, raising money at the American Booksellers Association convention that was held in Anaheim in May and at benefits at bookstores across the country.

The New York City-based Pathfinder Press, the publisher of Malcolm X's speeches, also lent a great deal of support, donating both money and books to its Pico-Union retail outlet.

"We're extremely gratified by the response," says Norton Sandler, business director for Pathfinder Press, which licenses 25 other bookstores in the United States and another dozen around the world to carry its titles. "It's been quite an effort in the book trade. Literally dozens of booksellers and those in the trade responded to the appeal. And they made an enormous difference."

Shangold agrees. "We were surprised by the extent of [the support]," she says. "We just hope we can reciprocate."

But it was the community that most helped Pathfinder rebuild, says Shangold.

Although it needed \$20,000 to re-open in its old location, the store succeeded in raising \$25,000, she says.

"We do well here," says Shangold. "That's the only way we could have gotten up in three days."

And the result of the rebuilding is that Pathfinder can now better serve the community and its patrons in its goal of making books by revolutionary, working class leaders throughout history as easily accessible to as many people as possible, says Shangold.

"We're better able to serve the community than ever," she says. "[As a result of the riots], I think it's going to become a better neighborhood for what we have to offer. Now's a very good time to be around."

## LETTERS

### 'Selling' the Iraq war

The invasion of Somalia, with its staged landing of camouflaged soldiers and tanks to a bank of TV cameras at prime time, is beginning to smell like the Gulf War. The real objectives have to be clouded by appealing to public emotions.

Recently the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation aired the International Emmy Award-winning "To Sell a War." This documentary shows how "Citizens for a Free Kuwait" and the Bush administration worked together to inflame public opinion against Saddam Hussein in order to set the stage for intervention in Iraq.

The public relations firm Hill and Knowlton (paid \$10.7 million by "Citizens for a Free Kuwait") got into the media business and prepared daily news clips for the White House. They also began a daily polling of a hired audience who were given hand-held devices with which to record their reactions to TV appearances of President Bush and the director of "Citizens for a Free Kuwait," Al-Sabah, who was also the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States and Canada. The results were fed back daily.

They found that the most emotionally effective story was that of a young Kuwaiti "refugee" who sobbingly testified to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus that she had witnessed Iraqi soldiers take away incubators and leave 22 children "to die on the cold floor." Bush repeated the story six times.

According to the documentary, a group of witnesses, carefully coached by Hill and Knowlton, repeated the same story, with added mass burials for premature babies, to a later session of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

After the war these stories were investigated by WHO, Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, and by Middle East Watch, and all declared them a complete hoax. The young "refugee" turned out to be the daughter of the same Al-Sabah. The documentary also notes that Bush's chief of staff, Craig Fuller, handled the account for Hill and Knowlton.

This war, which caused death and misery for tens of thousands of Iraqis and other peoples of the Gulf area, was systematically sold to us much like toothpaste or soft drinks.

With what contempt and cynicism our ruling classes treat us and other working people of the world!  
Bea Bryant  
Ontario, Canada

### Twenty years in prison

Militant readers and supporters of Mark Curtis will be happy to hear of the long-overdue release from the Michigan prison system of Ahmad Abur-Rahman.

Rahman was sentenced to life without parole in 1971 for his participation in a Black Panther Party raid on a suspected drug house in Detroit in which a resident of the house was killed. He got the maximum sentence under Michigan law because he refused to plead guilty.

Other participants in the raid were paroled years ago. The man who actually shot one of the residents of the house has been out of prison for nine years.

As in the case of Mark Curtis, the state reserves its harshest punishments for those who stand up for their innocence. The judicial system is designed to break its victims, getting them to admit to their "guilt." Rahman's co-defendants were broken before the trial was completed in exchange for shorter sentences. Curtis is told he might be considered for parole if he admits to a crime he did not commit.

Rahman's sentence was commuted just before Thanksgiving by Governor John Engler, after a years-long campaign of letters and a delegation of 75 supporters at a parole board hearing in June 1992.

Steve Craine  
Detroit, Michigan

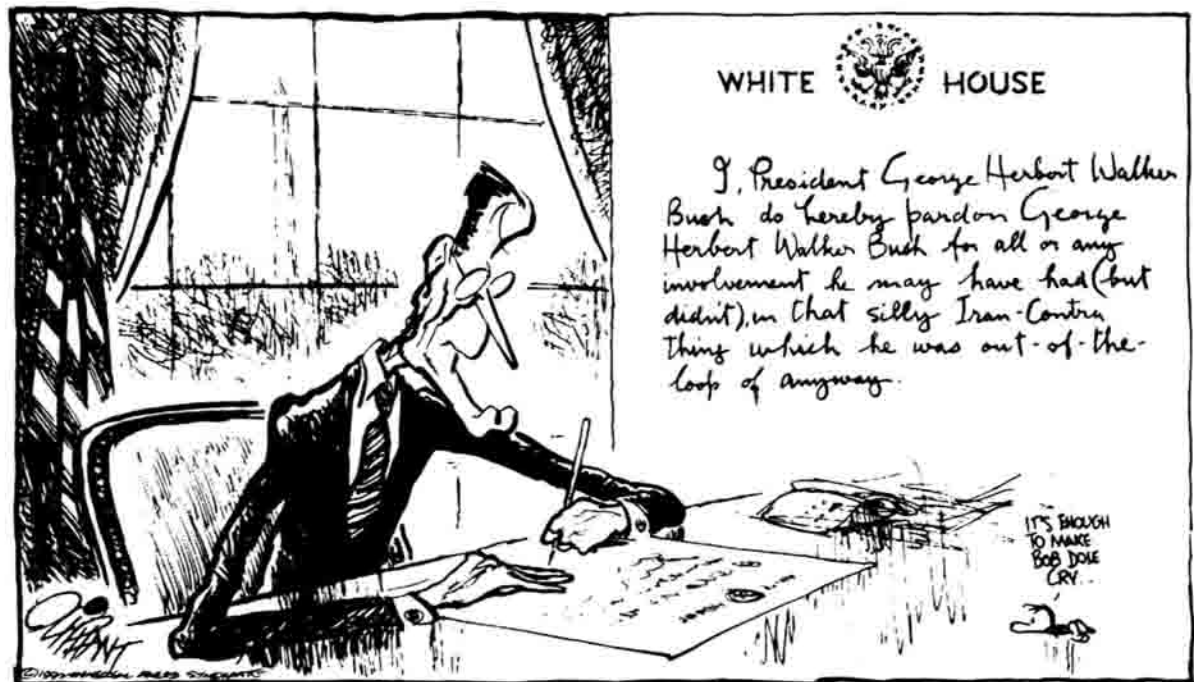
### Kidnapped Mexican

This is a postscript to a letter I wrote recently about how the Immigration and Naturalization Service tried unsuccessfully to prevent Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain from returning to Mexico.

Alvarez was the Mexican doctor kidnapped by U.S.-hired thugs and brought to stand trial in Los Angeles in the slaying of a U.S. drug agent in Mexico.

When a federal judge ruled there was no case against Alvarez, the prosecutor ordered him turned over to Immigration on the ground that he had entered the country "illegally."

Responding to the stink that this caused, the Los Angeles district Im-



migration director wrote a letter to the *Los Angeles Times*, giving the "real" reason they held Alvarez.

Why? Because they wanted to be sure that he would have the opportunity, if he so desired, to request to remain in this country.

Apparently, Alvarez declined the offer.

Harry Ring  
Los Angeles, California

### Women in the military

I believe we should speak out boldly and clearly against the military for both women and men. They are only tools of the capitalist ruling class of pigs, beasts, and warmongers. The most honorable thing they could do is 1) refuse to fight, murder and be murdered for the greedy war class 2) get out 3) fight back from within 4) refuse the round-the-clock feet-kissing rituals and 5) set this good example. The class struggle starts with each of us acting strongly, with confidence, and refusing their chains. Courageous examples are worth more than much talk. Altogether about 1,000 people in the military refused the Gulf War. Many are in prison. I wrote Christmas cards to nine whose names I obtained. Praise and highest honors to those courageous resisters.

Equality, rights, racism are really not relevant — only band-aid measures vs. courage and enlightenment. These band-aids give the hint of accepting the disease. Let us

workers stop making concessions and kissing feet. Workers unite and fight pigdom. We have nothing to lose but our chains, our band-aids, our oppressors.

Rev. Lloyd Shank  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

### U.S. hypocrisy in Somalia

I have never witnessed a more cynical, hypocritical, and disgusting charade as that being perpetrated by the big-business mass media and the United States government in attempting to portray the sending of United States troops to Somalia as a "humanitarian mission."

Here we have a government which has the power to alleviate the suffering of millions of people in this country; from Los Angeles to New York; from El Paso to Detroit and all the ghettos and shacks in between; so terribly concerned with the "suffering of millions in Somalia."

Here we have a government which has the power to pressure the government in the Dominican Republic to raise the wages of Haitian cane cutters but refuses to do so because this would infringe on the profit margins of United States-based sugar conglomerates.

The government of the United States turns its back upon the crimes perpetrated by the current Haitian dictatorship and continues to turn back thousands of Haitian refugees fleeing that dictatorship in violation of international law; but

this same government is so concerned with "millions of starving Somalians."

The United States government, which is so concerned with building freedom and democracy in Somalia and vented such rage and wrath against Iraq for the violation of the sovereignty of Kuwait, is itself attempting to strangle the economy, the people, and thus the government of the sovereign nation of Cuba.

But the ultimate blame for the current situation in Somalia must be laid solely and squarely on the doorstep of the United States and the west European "democracies" which used Somalia for 20 years as a pawn in the Cold War game of destabilization against Ethiopia. And let it be known that it is Somalia's geographic location on the Gulf of Aden, at the "gates" of the Red Sea, and not its "millions of starving people," which is the real reason why United States troops are being sent to occupy this country today.

Ed Meredith  
Caneyville, Kentucky

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.



## Haitian hunger strikers win support

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — "I was especially moved by the women. They have the will but are very weak. One was in isolation but still holding on. I'm proud of my people." This was the response of Marie St. Fort, a Haitian-American law student from Wisconsin who visited 10 Haitian hunger strikers at the Krome Detention Center here.

The 10 are part of a group of Haitian refugees on hunger strike to demand equal treatment with several Cubans who, after hijacking a commercial plane to Miami from Cuba, were released from Krome after a few hours of detention.

St. Fort participated in a press conference called to answer reports by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and local media claiming the hunger strike was over. The headline of the January 8 *Miami Herald* exclaimed: "Haitians' fast for freedom collapses at Krome."

Others at the press conference included Rolande Dorancy, executive director of the Haitian Refugee Center; Johnnie McMillian, president of the local NAACP; David Honig of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and other law students and a law professor who had just visited Krome that day.

### Guards harass strikers

They explained that 45 Haitians — 39 women and 6 men — remain on hunger strike. While this is a big drop from the 160 on strike earlier, it is significant that this many have stayed on strike despite more than a week without food, and with constant



Demonstration in support of Haitian hunger strikers in Miami January 7

Militant/Joo Peterson

physical and psychological intimidation by the INS.

Richard Tallini, a law student who met with some of the hunger strikers, said in an interview that INS officials had demanded the strikers eat, threatening them with deportation or being sent to prisons far from their families, translators, and lawyers. On January 7 INS guards forced all the male hunger strikers into a dining area where they demanded that the prisoners eat. The guards

wore black leather gloves to threaten the detainees with beatings. In the face of this intimidation, in which some of the hunger strikers were kept in isolation, many of them felt compelled to end their participation in the strike. A day earlier medical personnel at Krome had threatened to force-feed the hunger strikers.

Professor Neil Afran from Touro Law School in New York explained that Krome does not have legal standing as a prison and

therefore does not even have the rules that govern U.S. prisons. "One detainee I spoke to six months ago had been in isolation for 53 days and now about 20 are in isolation," said Afran. He said the 20 were in isolation for having exposed conditions at Krome to the press or their lawyers.

David Honig from the ACLU described as "shocking" the behavior of government officials at Krome. "I've never seen anything like it," he said.

The strike at Krome began on New Year's Eve after 44 Cubans who had been part of a commercial plane hijacking from Cuba were released from Krome within hours of having been taken there. Some of the Haitians have been at Krome for more than a year awaiting asylum hearings.

### Protest double standard

While the press here continually refers to the hunger strike as a protest against the quick release of the Cubans, the strikers have always explained that they are protesting the double standard in the treatment accorded them as opposed to the Cubans.

Further evidence of this double standard was seen January 5 when a small freighter came into the port of Miami carrying 352 Haitian refugees. This is believed to be the largest number ever to arrive on one boat. Unlike the Cubans who arrived on the hijacked plane or those who come on rafts and are treated as heroes, the 352 were herded into a holding area and immediately shipped to detention centers far from Miami. They were not allowed to talk to the press or con-

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## Shetland oil spill causes environmental disaster

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SHEFFIELD, England — The oil spill resulting from the January 5 shipwreck of the tanker *Braer* on the southern tip of the Shetland Islands threatens an ecological and economic disaster for the islands, which lie north of Scotland. Gale force winds, which drove the tanker onto the rocks following an engine failure, are forcing oil slicks from the 85,000-ton cargo northward along the coast and carrying an oily spray miles inland.

The seabirds that inhabit the mudflats, sand dunes, and sea cliffs in the area of the wreck, including many that migrate to the Shetlands to breed, face an immediate threat. Species in danger include the eider duck, northern diver, shag, and black guillemot. Seals and sea otters also live around the islands. A longer-term fear is that a lethal mixture of toxic chemicals from the oil and the dispersants used in pollution control will settle in the seabed, poisoning invertebrates and plankton.

The Shetlands' 120 salmon farms — net pens located in the many inlets of the islands' coastline — are also threatened by the slicks and chemical dispersants. These farms account for a quarter of British production of farmed salmon, worth an annual £35 million (US\$54 million). Fishing, fish farming, and fish processing account for more jobs than the Sullom Voe oil terminal, the Shetlands' main industrial facility.

### Small farms threatened

Many small farmers who depend on the fishing industry for a second income are also facing possible loss of their farms. Sheep-grazing pastures and vegetable crops are being coated with oil blown inland. "We have worked long and hard to establish the Shetlands' reputation for pollution-free, organic products like Shetland lamb and salmon," stated Drew Ratter, secretary of the Shetland branch of the Scottish crofters (farmers) union, to the *Scotsman* newspaper. "The world's attention is on Shetland at the moment, but in



Long-tailed duck on Shetlands shore, covered with oil and unable to move.

three weeks everyone will go home and we will be left to deal with the problems."

The disaster has sparked debate in the Shetlands and elsewhere about the causes of the accident. A major factor is the unseaworthiness of vessels like the 17-year-old *Braer*, which is similar to many aging tankers utilized by international shipping fleets. United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) spokesperson Roger Kohn said, "There is some concern that the existing tanker fleet is getting older and there is a big gap between pollution control standards on old and new vessels." IMO rules require that all existing tankers be brought up to the same standards as newly built vessels with double hulls. The cost to the oil and shipping companies of such improvements is estimated at \$80 million per vessel.

Shipping companies exploit loopholes in safety regulations by registering in other

countries under "flags of convenience." The *Braer*, although owned by Bergval and Hudner Ship Management in the United States, was registered in Liberia. Thirty percent of the world's merchant ships sail under the Liberian flag. According to the General Council of British Shipping, the average payroll on a British registered ship is \$3,100 per day, whereas crews on ships flying flags of other countries are paid as little as \$925 per day.

Campaigns being waged by unions such as the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) against flagged-out ships, however, promote the rights of British workers ahead of those sailing under flags of convenience. This approach deepens divisions among shipping works. RMT official George Simpson told the *Aberdeen Evening Express* that a factor in the Shetlands disaster was the lack of communication among the *Braer's* captain, who is Greek; the Filipino crew; the

Portuguese crew of the ship that came to assist; and the rescue, which was coordinated in English.

### Discussion on who's to blame

The principal of the North Atlantic Fisheries College, Robert Sinclair, told the *Evening Express*, "I doubt if this would have happened if the crew had come from a country with a long maritime tradition." One shop displayed a sign saying it would not serve sailors from ships with flags of convenience, but most Shetlanders directed their fire at the management of the shipping company.

Many islanders argue that the ship, which was traveling from Norway to Canada, should have taken a different route from the 22-mile-wide channel. An estimated 1,000 tankers a year use this route, thereby avoiding potentially harsher weather north of the Shetlands and the increased cost of the longer English Channel route to the Atlantic.

Islanders question why the ship's engines failed, allowing it to drift 10 miles in the gale before running aground. Many also believe the captain and coast guard took the crew off the ship too early and valuable time was lost when four people had to be put back on to try to secure a tow rope.

Many questions will also be asked of the Shetland Islands Council, whose emergency procedures centered on using floating booms to protect inlets and chemical dispersants to break up the slicks. These methods proved ineffective in the gale, which continued to blow for days after the ship ran aground. Some islanders have expressed concern about precautions supposedly taken to avoid such a disaster since the Sullom Voe oil terminal was established in 1975.

In 1979 the tanker *Esso Bernica* ran into a terminal there. The relatively small oil spill resulted in the death of 3,700 birds and a 25 percent decline in the eider duck population over the following five years.

"This was the disaster that was not supposed to happen," said Shetlands wildlife expert Jonathan Wills, commenting on the shipwreck of the *Braer*.