

# THE MILITANT

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Canadian government  
expands military forces

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Stop the bombing of Iraq!

### Washington unleashes three strikes in five days

BY DEREK BRACEY

The United States launched three major attacks on Iraq in five days starting January 13. In the most significant attack, U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea fired 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles January 17 at an industrial complex eight miles from downtown Baghdad, Iraq's capital.

The missile attack came four days after U.S., British, and French warplanes bombed sites in southern Iraq. Another group of planes bombed the same site on the morning of January 18.

The cruise missiles caused damage in

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Baghdad itself. The Associated Press news agency reported three known deaths and accounts of injuries in several parts of the city. One of the Tomahawks struck the Rashid Hotel, often used by international journalists, leaving a crater 10 feet deep and 20 feet across in front of the hotel. The hotel's power was knocked out and several inches of water flooded the floor. Two of the hotel's workers were killed.

The Pentagon initially denied that the missiles hit anything except the intended target and said the hotel was probably hit by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire. Reporters from the television news channel CNN, however, filmed a piece of metal pulled from the



Wreckage at Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, struck by U.S. missile. Three people were killed and several injured in Baghdad as result of attack on nearby industrial plant.

wreckage. Viewers could read the marking "Williams International, Jacksonville, Florida," as well as its serial number. Williams International Corp. makes the turbofan engine for Tomahawk missiles. The Pentagon later admitted that some of the missiles were routed over Baghdad and that one may have hit the hotel.

The targeted industrial complex, the multibillion-dollar Zaafaraniya industrial park, had two dozen buildings which housed advanced machinery. Bush administration officials claim that the complex was part of a nuclear weapons development program.

Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Arms Control, said attacking the complex had more political than military significance. Milhollin said the equipment in the complex could be used for civilian or military purposes.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the United Nations commission that is overseeing demolition of Iraqi weapons, said that inspectors had visited the plant four times. Ekeus added

that seals had been placed on some of the machines to prevent them from being used without detection.

The Bush administration had been preparing the missile attack for several days. It was initially intended to happen on January 15 but was called off after hesitations by British prime minister John Major. Major and others in the United Nations Security Council wanted to give Iraq another chance to follow their dictates.

In a previous attack January 13, U.S., French, and British planes carried out a 30-minute bombing raid in southern Iraq. More than 80 strike aircraft and 30 support planes participated in the attack on four missile batteries and four communication and radar centers. Initially the Pentagon claimed that all targets were hit. Two days later it announced that only one of four targeted surface-to-air missile units was hit.

Iraq reported that the January 13 raids hit mostly nonmilitary targets and that 19 people were killed.

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### Clinton reneges on Haitians, will forcibly return refugees

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Backtracking on a promise made during his campaign for U.S. president, Bill Clinton stated January 14 that he will continue, and in fact reinforce, the policy begun by President George Bush of forcibly returning all Haitians fleeing military repression in their country.

The U.S. military is planning to surround Haiti with an armada of Navy and Coast Guard vessels in what amounts to a virtual blockade aimed at halting what is expected to be a surge in the number of refugees fleeing the island. U.S. forces will continue to seize Haitians in international waters,

destroy their boats, and return them to Haiti.

Twelve Coast Guard cutters, five smaller patrol boats and at least five Navy ships along with airplanes are expected to be in place off the shores of Haiti by January 20. This amounts to a dramatic increase from the three U.S. cutters that have been stationed off Haiti for the past several months.

'A barricade around Haiti'

"They're putting a barricade around Haiti," stated Daniella Henry, director of the Haitian American Community Council in Del Ray, Florida. "For what? So that people

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### Protest at White House hours after first bombs

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One hundred people assembled outside the White House here within several hours of the January 13 bombing of Iraq by U.S. warplanes.

Sponsored by the Washington Peace Center, the demonstration called on the Bush administration to end its attacks and threats of further military assaults on the Iraqi people, demanded an end to the sanctions against Iraq, and called for the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from the region.

Youth from several area campuses turned out and helped lead spirited chants of, "Stop the war, we want peace, U.S. out of the Middle East," and "Bill and George — bring 'em back, stop the bombing of Iraq."

The protesters marched from the White House to the headquarters of President-elect Bill Clinton's transition team where chanting continued followed by brief remarks by demonstration organizers.

In addition to calling on "U.S. and Allied military forces [to] immediately halt the air strike against Iraq," a statement issued by local groups called for an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to "review the validity of the U.S.-French-British 'no fly zones' in Northern and Southern Iraq."

### Mounting deaths of Somalis from U.S. shootings

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. military is continuing its campaign of harassment of Somalis, while worrying about the ability of a United Nations force to replace the nearly 24,000 U.S. troops on the ground in Somalia.

Meanwhile, the heads of Somalia's feuding armed gangs have finally signed a "peace agreement" designed to promote imperialist-style law and order.

With many of their forces concentrated in the capital city of Mogadishu, U.S. marines have been carrying out raids on market areas in search of weapons. Nearly 1,000 U.S. troops backed by helicopter gunships conducted a day-long assault January 11, sealing off an extensive area of market stalls that sell a wide variety of items from guns to cherry tomatoes.

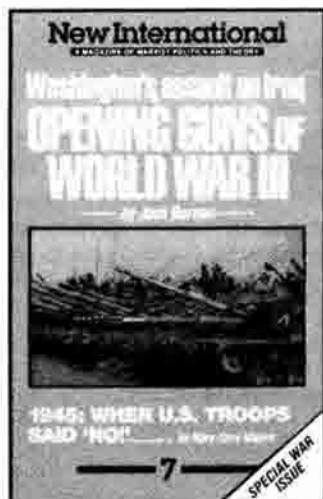
Several days earlier 450 marines carried out a similar attack on a market area in northern Mogadishu.

Some of the items of equipment seized were obsolete or broken weapons. These arms are a legacy of the vast arsenal shipped to Somalia by the Soviet Union in the 1970s and by the U.S. government from 1977-90, to support the corrupt dictatorship of Mohammed Siad Barre who ruled the country from 1969 until January 1991.

"Many Somalis appeared to welcome the operation," the *Washington Post* reported.

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South Africa 'stands at gateway to future' — pages 8-9





## IN BRIEF

### Over 100 killed in S. Africa jails

At least 117 South Africans died while in police custody in 1992, according to the Human Rights Commission. Tsepo Lengwani, a 27-year-old man, was "shot dead by unknown gunmen while handcuffed and alone" in jail. John Cele, a trade union official, "allegedly shot himself during interrogation." In many cases the police have not released the name or cause of death.

After pathologist Jonathan Gluckman spoke out against the many deaths occurring in prison, the South African minister of law and order in July 1992 promised a report on the causes of all deaths in police custody in the previous two years. That report has not yet been published.

### Honduras banana workers strike

More than 6,000 workers employed by Chiquita Brands International Inc. went on strike in Honduras January 8, paralyzing production. The banana workers are protesting company plans to close four plantations it claims are unproductive. Some 800 workers at the plantations slated for closure had been idled for almost a month before the strike began.

### Mexico adopts new currency

The Mexican government began the new year by issuing a new currency. The "new peso" now going into circulation is equivalent to 1,000 pesos under the old monetary system. The value of the Mexican currency had dropped to just \$.00032, which meant even small items cost thousands of pesos.

In 1987, with annual inflation close to 160 percent, the Mexican government began an austerity drive with the stated aim of lowering inflation. In the five years since, inflation has slowed, but conditions have continued to deteriorate drastically for working people.

Since 1987 prices officially rose 210 percent, but the minimum wage went up only 120 percent. By conservative estimates, the purchasing power of most workers has dropped by a third. A scheduled 7.5 percent raise in the minimum wage for 1993 will be enough to pay for a small pack of chewing gum a day.

### Slovakia to increase arms exports

The government of Slovakia has announced plans to increase its production and



Guatemalans at refugee camp in Mexico pack in hopes of returning to their homes

export of arms in an attempt to boost the economy. New legislation is being prepared that would lift restrictions imposed on the weapons industry in 1989 by the federal government of the former Czechoslovakia.

Slovak prime minister Vladimir Meciar stated that the drop in arms production over the past three years had devastated the country's economy and contributed to an unemployment rate of 12 percent.

### Moscow plans more reactors

The Russian government plans to build at least 30 new nuclear power plants by 2010, doubling the country's nuclear energy capacity. At least one of the new plants would be of similar design to the Chernobyl plant that exploded in 1986, causing thousands of deaths and illnesses in Ukraine and Belarus.

The plan was approved without publicity at a December 24 cabinet meeting, despite objections from Russian president Boris Yeltsin's ecology advisor, Alexei Yablokov, who called it "unacceptable from the legal,

ecological, economic, and political points of view."

### Refugees return to Guatemala

Several thousand Guatemalans prepared to return home from refugee camps in Mexico January 13 under an agreement reached in October between their representatives and the governments of Mexico and Guatemala. On at least two occasions the Guatemalan government has pulled out of similar commitments to allow back into the country the 43,000 refugees in Mexico, most of whom are Indians.

Despite the repatriation accord the Guatemalan defense minister, Brig. Gen. José García Samayoa, has threatened to arrest the returnees, charging them with supporting the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union, which has waged a guerrilla war against the regime for the past decade.

### German economy weakens

New data shows Germany's economic slide accelerated in the latter part of 1992. New orders to western German manufacturers fell in November for the eighth consecutive month. Unemployment in the west rose to more than 2 million in December, increasing the jobless rate to 7.4 percent. In the eastern portion of the country, unemployment stands at 13.5 percent. The auto giant Volkswagen confirmed January 13 its plans to cut 30,000 jobs at plants throughout the world.

### Harm from gov't WWII gas tests was worse than admitted

A new National Academy of Sciences study adds four respiratory cancers; skin cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and acute nonlymphocytic leukemia to a list of seven other illnesses recognized in

1991 as linked to toxic chemical exposure tests to which U.S. soldiers were subjected during World War II.

More than 60,000 soldiers and sailors were exposed to chlorinated mustard gas and an arsenic-laden chemical called Lewisite at military research facilities in the United States, and then sworn to secrecy. An estimated 4,000 were exposed to as much gas as they would have encountered in a full-scale chemical attack. The tests were not publicly acknowledged until June 1991.

### Domestic partner rights extended

A new executive order by New York City mayor David Dinkins allows unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples in that city to register as "domestic partners," becoming eligible for some of the rights extended to married couples. These include hospital and jail visitation rights and some benefits for partners of city employees, but not health insurance.

In December the University of Chicago and Stanford University adopted policies extending health and other benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees.

### Accord reached on Quebec dam

The Hydro-Quebec utility company has signed an agreement with the Grand Council of the Cree and two Cree Native communities to pay \$50 million in compensation for environmental damage. The agreement allows the company to complete two dams that will be able to generate 1,152 megawatts of electricity on the La Grande River, 600 miles north of Montreal.

The Cree will drop lawsuits that sought to block the construction. The money is supposed to be used "for various community and economic activities" including recreational centers and public works.

### Bush frees convicted INS cop

In one of his last acts as president, George Bush on January 15 freed a federal immigration agent who had been convicted of violating the civil rights of neighborhood store owners in the predominantly Dominican area of Washington Heights in New York City.

The agent, Joseph Occhipinti, had served eight months of a 37-month prison sentence. His case had become a cause célèbre among police officers. After being released from a prison camp in Florida, he was greeted at the airport by dozens of cops; Guy Molinari, the Staten Island Borough president; and a group of Guardian Angels, the vigilante group.

At Occhipinti's trial, 36 witnesses — nearly all residents and merchants from Washington Heights — testified that he had ransacked their businesses and then coerced the store owners to sign false statements. Occhipinti, an Immigration and Naturalization Service agent for 22 years, justified these actions claiming he had been rooting out drug dealers and "illegal aliens."

Occhipinti has vowed to return to Washington Heights, assertedly to seek out evidence proving he had been framed.

— NAOMI CRAINE

## THE MILITANT

### Mounting assault on entitlements

*The labor movement fought hard for social security and unemployment pay. Now capitalist politicians from Ross Perot to U.S. president Clinton seek cuts in entitlements in the name of fighting the deficit. The 'Militant' stands for defending these important rights and will cover this topic as it develops. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# Clinton prepares for austerity and war

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a series of preinaugural press conferences and congressional hearings, President-elect Bill Clinton and his top government appointees sought to dispel hopes among working people and youth that there will be a break in the bipartisan offensive against their livelihoods and rights.

"Clinton could end up looking a lot like Ross Perot," a *Washington Post* article noted after incoming administration officials raised the "budget deficit" scare as a reason to call for austerity. Among other things they expressed support for taking an ax to entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; backing away from campaign promises for social spending to create jobs; and enacting some sort of consumption tax or large increase in the federal gasoline tax.

The president-elect had plenty of opportunities in the final days of the Bush administration to support Washington's military assaults on peoples around the world as well, from the bombing of Iraq to the indefinite occupation of Somalia and threats of military action in the former Yugoslavia.

Clinton also announced he will continue Bush's policy of forced repatriation of Haitians fleeing that country's military-backed dictatorship. (See article on page 1.)

These moves indicate the harsh reality of what the new Democratic administration has in store for working people and youth around the world: austerity at home and war abroad.

## 'Everything is on the table'

Following the release of new government figures raising the estimated federal spending deficit in 1996 by \$60 billion to \$254 billion, Clinton's budget director, Leon Panetta, told a January 11 congressional hearing, "Our first priority is to develop that deficit reduction plan."

"Everything is on the table," Panetta said, including Social Security. He added that he did not rule out a steep hike in gasoline taxes.

Taking aim at entitlements — programs with an automatic budget allowance that is not reviewed in yearly budgets — has become a growing theme of the Democrats, Republicans, and other politicians such as Ross Perot.

Bush pressed this assault during the presidential debates last October. "I believe we need to control the growth of mandatory spending," he said. "That's the main growing thing in this budget... Two-thirds of the budget, I as President never get to look at, never get to touch."

During the election campaign Perot demagogically attacked Social Security pay-

ments for the wealthy as an example of why entitlement programs should be cut back. Perot uses his argument for "saving" Social Security as a wedge to gain acceptance for transforming it from a universal pension system into a "means-tested" one, that is, accessible only to certain sections of the population according to income level or other criteria.

Harry Figgie, corporate executive and author of *Bankruptcy 1995: The Coming Collapse of America and How to Stop It*, advised Clinton in a recent opinion column that he must "mobilize the American people to support the debt-fighting initiative, to stop demanding more than our country can afford, and to accept the shared sacrifice this battle will require. There must be no sacred cows," he wrote, "especially in entitlements, which consume so much of our budget."

Writing in the conservative monthly *The American Spectator*, Karl O'Leasker cautioned against "Demagoguing the Deficit." Urging that some action be taken to cut Aid to Families with Dependent Children or other programs, O'Leasker says these will be "tough decisions" because "Social Security and other entitlements incontestably enjoy the support of the American people.... Changing from entitlement funding to an-



Mass struggles won right to workmen's compensation, social security, and other "entitlements." Above, 1932 protest for unemployment compensation in New York.

nual appropriation will not lead to lower spending for any program that enjoys broad political support."

Putting such hesitations aside, the governors of both Maryland and Virginia put so-called welfare reform at the center of their respective "State of the State" messages in the days before Clinton's inauguration.

Democratic governor William Schaefer of Maryland announced he had created a Welfare Policy Commission with the explicit purpose of looking "at how we can reduce the welfare rolls," which he described as part of "a runaway welfare system in this state."

Saying it might be labeled "radical" or "racist," Schaefer went a step further with a proposal to "require women to get Norplant" — an implanted birth control device — "or require men to have a vasectomy if they're on welfare and have a certain number of illegitimate children."

Virginia's Democratic governor, Douglas Wilder, advocated a "workfare" program with his own twist: recipients would be forced to sign contracts to "keep their children in school, maintain current immunization schedules and to do their best to provide a livable environment for their children."

The largely bipartisan agreement on this

Continued on Page 14

## Clinton cabinet nominees: 'Nothing for Wall Street to worry about'

BY DEREK BRACEY

In interviews and statements before confirmation hearings in the Senate, the members of President-elect Bill Clinton's new cabinet have made clear the administration's intention to maintain the course set by Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

This course has been notable for its aggressive defense of U.S. ruling-class interests abroad as depression conditions begin to grip the world. It also includes sharp attacks on working people in the United States, as the bosses attempt to bolster their declining rates of profit by extracting more wealth from workers and farmers.

Texas senator Lloyd Bentsen, Clinton's pick for treasury secretary; Leon Panetta, the budget director; Roger Altman, nominee for deputy treasury secretary; and Robert Rubin, appointed senior economic adviser, have all raised similar themes of cutting the government's deficit as top priority and raising revenue through new regressive taxes, such as a value-added tax or a major hike in gasoline taxes (see article above.)

Altman said he thought "one form or another of a new tax on consumption is necessary," including a possible gasoline tax.

Bentsen placed the reduction of the deficit ahead of any other concern, saying the Clinton administration has "a strong commitment to cut [that] deficit and to do it in a major way." Along with Panetta and Altman, Bentsen acknowledged that the administration would seek cuts in entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

Discussing these appointments, a Clinton adviser underlined: "The message to Wall Street was steady as she goes, nothing different or innovative to worry about here. This is the establishment here, all people very concerned about the deficit."

Robert Reich, in line to be labor secretary, has won praise from the top union bureaucracy for his statements that the two-decade decline in union membership "isn't healthy. Workers need a voice."

Reich emphasizes that unions should be "very creative" in working with management to help "make [the work] environment more friendly." These are code words for giving up hard-won union rights.

In his confirmation hearings, secretary of state nominee Warren Christopher, called for tougher measures against Serbia. He also insisted that Clinton stands "shoulder to shoulder" with Bush on his anti-Iraq policy.

Clinton's choice pick for attorney general, Zoë Baird, has such a right-wing record that a *Wall Street Journal* columnist compared her to Supreme Court Justice Clarence

Thomas. For example, during the Reagan administration, Baird assisted in a controversial case that reversed the denial of tax-exempt status to racially discriminatory schools, a denial that was established under President Richard Nixon.

Baird also assisted the legal representation of public transit agencies fighting Congress's application of minimum wage and overtime compensation provisions of the Fair Labor Standard Act to state and local employees.

Ronald Brown, who is to be secretary of commerce, is a longtime lobbyist and deal-maker. He is a partner at Patton, Boggs and Blow, one of the most powerful law firms in Washington with 1,500 clients, which include major corporations and governments. The firm represented the emirate of Abu Dhabi during legal proceedings on corruption in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Among Brown's most notorious clients was the brutal Duvalier government in Haiti. His firm received \$12,500 a month from Haiti until the Duvalier family fled the country in 1986. Brown maintains that the firm represented the government of Haiti, not the family, despite the fact that the firm intervened to secure the release of a brother-in-law of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier who had pleaded guilty to drug charges in a U.S. court.

Brown has stayed on at the law firm despite being chairman of the Democratic Party since 1989. He will resign to take his cabinet post.

## Miami protest targets treatment of Haitian refugees held in detention

BY LAURA GARZA

MIAMI — About 150 people marched on the road leading to the Krome Detention Center January 15 to demand the immediate release of the more than 100 Haitian refugees being held there. The protesters were also demanding an end to the U.S. policy of stopping the boatloads of Haitians fleeing the military government in their homeland and forcing them to return. The protest took place the day after Bill Clinton announced his intention to continue this policy.

The police placed barricades, including parked buses, across the road to prevent the protesters from coming within sight of the detention center. The Immigration and Naturalization Service wanted to be sure that the Haitians inside were not aware of the demonstration.

Several of the Haitians have continued a hunger strike to protest the unequal treatment given to Haitian refugees compared to those from Cuba. The hunger strike was launched after a group of Cubans who had hijacked a plane to come to the United States were released after only a day at the detention center. The protests and discussion sparked by the hunger strike have had an impact on the Cuban community in Miami. Several groups have issued statements sup-

porting the right of the Haitians to receive political asylum and to be treated in the same way as Cubans who arrive in Miami.

The discussion has also drawn attention to the vastly different treatment that Haitians who have ended up in Cuba receive compared to those in the United States. An article in the *Miami Herald*, which appeared the same day as Clinton's announcement, noted the "respect and generosity" with which Cuba treated the Haitians. "They treated us well," said Jean Mercera, who chose to return to Haiti. "They gave us whatever we needed." The Haitians were provided with clothing, toiletries, and ample food, including fish and chicken, despite the severe shortages faced in Cuba.

At a well attended Militant Labor Forum held the night of the protest, one participant who had arrived from Haiti during the past year spoke of his determination to keep fighting. He said that after visiting many Caribbean countries and seeing the same problems of poverty and unemployment all over, he believes the United States fears the fight for democracy in Haiti. If the Haitian people were to succeed in running their own country, he said, it would set an example for people throughout the Caribbean.

### 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.

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See p. 12 for details



# Canada's rulers take steps to increase military role abroad

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — Canadian defense minister Marcel Masse announced January 1 his government's willingness to use its military forces to help enforce the United Nations-imposed no-fly zone over Bosnia in the former Yugoslavia. The announcement is another in a series of decisions by Canada's capitalist rulers to step up the use of Canadian troops abroad since their participation in the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq two years ago.

"If the political decision is to enforce [the no-fly zone], we'll be ready to do it," Masse said following a four-day visit to Canadian troops stationed in Croatia. Canada, along with other members of the NATO military alliance, agreed to enforce the no-fly zone — if asked by the United Nations — at a NATO foreign ministers' meeting last month.

Last August, Canadian troops were among the first to take up combat positions at the Sarajevo airport. Currently 2,400 Canadian troops are deployed in the former Yugoslavia as part of the 20,000-strong UN operation consisting of troops from 30 countries.

A detachment of 150 Canadian soldiers arrived in Macedonia January 6, near the Serbia-Macedonia border. More than 700 UN-organized troops are being sent to the area, which risks being drawn into the widening arena of the war among the bureaucratic regimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Three hundred Canadian troops along with hundreds of U.S. soldiers captured the Somali town of Belet Huen near the Somalia-Ethiopia border December 29. Belet Huen, which has a population of about 150,000, was the last major town designated for takeover by the U.S.-led force in Somalia.

"We passed the word yesterday that anybody who has a weapon parallel to the ground is a threat and will be dealt with," said Canadian lieutenant colonel Carol Mathieu, the commander of the Belet Huen forces.

By the end of January, 1,250 Canadian troops will be on the ground in Somalia as part of the occupying force of 24,000.

In Cambodia, several hundred Canadian troops are currently deployed together with thousands of UN troops. A small number of Canadian troops are also stationed along the Kuwait-Iraq border along with other military personnel from the coalition that waged the war against Iraq.

## Campaigning for peace-making

During the Persian Gulf war the Canadian government sent warships to help enforce

the naval blockade against Iraq and Canadian fighter jets participated in bombing raids against the Iraqi population. Since then the Ottawa government has been campaigning for increased imperialist military intervention in the former Yugoslavia and for a more open shift of the United Nations from "peacekeeping" to "peace-making."

In a speech last December Prime Minister Brian Mulroney called on the United States, France, and Venezuela to take joint military action with Canada in Haiti.

"We shouldn't be sitting idly by worrying about Bosnia and Cambodia and Somalia alone," Mulroney said. "We should also be trying to help the Haitians recapture their own democracy in this hemisphere."

As a result of Ottawa's military initiatives a discussion has developed among Canada's capitalist politicians on the goals and costs of this government's military intervention abroad.

The federal government recently ended Canada's 28-year UN "peacekeeping" operation in Cyprus, arguing it would save \$14 million dollars a year and free up 600 troops for "more productive" missions. At present Canada provides almost 10 percent of the 45,000 troops operating in the world under the UN flag.

A January 7 editorial in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* argued for training the United Nations to function as a "world cop." The editors state that in carrying out this role the United Nations would simply be "exercising powers [in the UN Charter] that it has possessed since its birth" to "take action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to restore international peace and security."

The *Globe* points out that under the UN Charter "any domestic matter that might be construed as a threat to international peace and security — Yugoslavia's death throes, Angola's civil war or even Somalia's famine — can trigger action by the Security Council under the Charter."

The *Globe* calls for the establishment of a UN standing army composed of elements of the armies of member countries so that the Security Council would be able to act in a crisis "without going begging for Washington's help."

Gen. Lewis MacKenzie has called for more money and troops to maintain Canada's so-called peacekeeping role in the world. "Our infantry force is 1,200 members smaller than the Metro Toronto Police force. Yet we're policing the world," he complained.

Newly appointed defense minister Kim Campbell stated at her January 4 swearing-in ceremony that "there's no question that



Canadian troops in Yugoslavia. Canada has more than 4,000 troops stationed abroad, nearly 10 percent of UN troops on "peacekeeping" missions around the world.

we face a very serious challenge in Canada about our armed forces in light of whole new geopolitical realities." She stressed, "I believe it's highly premature to beat our swords into ploughshares."

"The demands on our military, whether it is participating in international peacekeeping and peace-making operations, or even encountering future peril in areas of instability, is a real challenge for us," she said.

Canada has become the 11th-largest military spender in the world. The federal government has more than doubled its military spending in the past decade. The 1992 war budget was \$12.5 billion compared to \$5.6 billion in 1981-82.

Over the past 15 years military spending has grown faster than almost any other government program. The Defense Department is the biggest landlord in Canada, owning more than 33,000 buildings — almost half a building for each of its 80,000 military personnel.

## Against workers' interests

In year-end interviews on CBC television both Liberal Party federal opposition leader Jean Chretien and Audrey McLaughlin, federal leader of the New Democratic Party, endorsed the sending of Canadian troops to Somalia and raised no serious questions about the use of Canadian troops in the former Yugoslavia and Cambodia. The trade union officialdom also endorses Ottawa's so-called peacekeeping role in the world.

John Steele, Communist League candidate in the upcoming provincial by-election in the Toronto riding of St. David-St. George, spoke out against this widening use of Canada's armed forces.

"Ottawa's announcement that it is ready to help enforce the UN no-fly zone over Bosnia, its participation in the imperialist occupation of Somalia, and the UN military operation in Cambodia are not in the interests of working people," he said.

"Ottawa's military budget and the use of

Canadian troops abroad serve one purpose only — to defend the commercial and political interests of the handful of multimillionaire and billionaire families that the federal government serves. The rulers are trying to use their limited military weight as a small imperialist power to increase their influence in the context of the depression and sharpening trade wars between the imperialist countries.

"From the Korean War to the invasion of Somalia, Canadian troops have participated in every so-called peacekeeping operation by the United Nations, at the expense of workers and farmers everywhere," Steele noted. "As the depression of the world capitalist market system worsens, our answer to the drive toward a new inter-imperialist slaughter of working people should be to make efforts to reach out to workers fighting imperialist domination around the world."

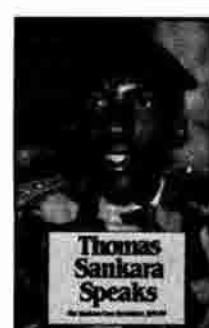
"This means demanding the withdrawal of Canadian troops from all UN operations. It means canceling the debt of Third World countries to Canadian banks. And it means demanding an end to the renewed military threats and attacks against Iraq and the barbaric economic embargo that is causing misery and death to the Iraqi people," the Communist League candidate said.

## FROM PATHFINDER

### Thomas Sankara Speaks

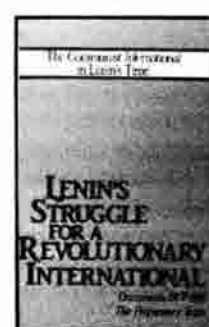
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# Israel refuses to allow return of Palestinians

BY SARA LOBMAN

While 413 Palestinians deported by Israel December 17 remain stranded on a strip of Israeli-occupied land in southern Lebanon, the Israeli government now acknowledges that 16 of the men were wrongly deported. Earlier the Israeli army had announced that 10 had been deported by mistake.

So far only one person, a 16-year-old youth from the West Bank, has been allowed to return home. He and a seriously ill deportee were airlifted out of Lebanon January 9. The sick man was moved to a hospital in Israeli-controlled territory. The airlift was necessary because the Israeli army has mined the road that the Palestinians traveled into southern Lebanon to prevent their return.

Because of the Israeli refusal to allow the Palestinians to return home by land, the remaining 15 deportees that can legally return are unable to do so. Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri has said that the January 9 airlift was a "one-time mission" and that anyone else returning to Israel will have to leave the way they came.

Lebanon argues that the Palestinians are Israel's problem. "We have closed the door to the deportees," said Lebanon's president, Elias Hrawi, in a speech to Lebanese ex-

triate. "For the first time in 20 years, Lebanon has taken a stand."

According to the *New York Times*, Lebanese commentators have said that Lebanon, which is home to 400,000 Palestinian refugees, plans not only to block the door to more Palestinians but to try to get many already in Lebanon out of the country, if and when an independent Palestinian entity is created.

The Israeli army has also reported that if those deported "by mistake" do reenter Israel, they will return "to their previous status before the deportation." In almost all cases this means jail, since most have been convicted of security offenses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli revision of the number of Palestinians it says were deported by mistake follows accusations by a human rights monitoring group, Middle East Watch, that Israel had made more errors than it was admitting. "These people seem to have been deported because they were the easiest ones to deport," said the group's executive director, Andrew Whitely.

Whitely explained that the expelled Palestinians include some who, while supporting anti-Israeli fundamentalist groups, were not personally responsible for violence. "We

don't believe that expressing sympathy for a banned organization is a crime," he said.

Some international pressure against Israel continues. Foreign ministers of the 21-nation Arab League recommended January 12 that the United Nations Security Council impose sanctions on Israel. Citing a double standard, the League's secretary general pointed to the harsh treatment being meted out to Iraq for violating UN Security Council resolutions.

The United Nations passed a resolution December 17 demanding that Israel allow the Palestinians to return home. The U.S. government has said it will resist any moves to apply sanctions to enforce the resolution.

While warning that Israel's refusal to allow the deportees back threatens the Middle East peace negotiations, the ministers rejected a call by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to suspend the peace talks scheduled to reopen in Washington on February 20.

Most of the Arab League ministers indicated they will continue the bilateral and multilateral talks with Israel in preparation for the Washington meetings. The PLO said it will not participate in the February talks if the issue of the deportations has not been resolved.



# What is road for Somali working people?

## Lessons from Thomas Sankara, leader of Burkina Faso revolution of 1983-87

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS  
AND GEORGE FYSON

The U.S. invasion of Somalia, launched under the guise of a humanitarian aid mission, has raised a number of questions about how to resolve the tremendous economic and social problems plaguing that country and many others throughout Africa.

Is Somalia a "failed nation" whose only hope for survival is to be taken over and run as a United Nations trusteeship? Are large detachments of foreign troops needed to distribute food and restore order? Is the answer simply to flood the country with food, thereby making military action unnecessary?

The answer to these questions begins with understanding that the actions of imperialist powers — the United States, Italy, Britain, France, and others — over many decades are responsible for the current plight of the Somali people. To believe that those governments can now be "saviors" flies in the face of what they have done until now.

Although lack of food remains a major problem in some areas of Somalia, simply calling on imperialist governments to provide food rather than troops — as the *Militant* itself has done in editorial articles — is not the solution to what peasants and workers in Somalia face. In fact, Washington's argument for sending troops is based, with a considerable degree of logic, on the need to police distribution and make sure food gets to the people who need it.

The problem confronting the toilers of Somalia is a social question — in whose interests is the country going to be governed. Only a revolution that organizes and mobilizes working people in the towns and the countryside can solve the social crisis wracking Somalia.

### Lessons from Burkina Faso revolution

The revolution that unfolded in the West African country of Burkina Faso under the leadership of Thomas Sankara from 1983-87 offers some lessons very relevant to the road forward in Somalia today.

Burkina Faso was colonized, like Somalia, by European imperialist powers. The British and Italians divided up what comprises the current state of Somalia, and the French ruled over Upper Volta. Both nations succeeded in winning political independence in 1960, and both continued to suffer under neocolonialism in which economic domination by the imperialist powers stunted the prospects for social development and progress.

In 1981 Upper Volta, as Burkina Faso was then called, was one of the poorest countries in the world. With a population of 7 million, the infant mortality rate was 208 for every 1,000 births; the average life expectancy was only 40 years; up to 98 percent of the population was illiterate; the average yearly income was \$150; and there was one doctor for every 50,000 people. With the continual southward advance of the Sahara desert — a phenomenon aggravated by imperialist-imposed patterns of agriculture and trade — drought and famine had plagued the country since at least 1970.

Sankara, a low-ranking officer in the Upper Volta army, was a popular public figure. In January 1983, Sankara was appointed prime minister in a military government formed a short time before. He proceeded to use his post to issue strong anti-imperialist statements and to urge the people of Upper Volta to organize themselves to defend their rights against both domestic and foreign monied interests.

Along with other radical-minded junior officers, Sankara came into increasing conflict with proimperialist forces in the government. On May 17, 1983, he was deposed as prime minister and placed under house arrest. Thousands of young people took to the streets demanding Sankara's release.

On August 4, 250 soldiers and other opponents of the regime freed Sankara and overthrew the ruling military regime. Sankara became president of the new National Council of the Revolution (CNR).

The revolution brought gains for the country's peasants and workers, particularly in the areas of health care, education, and popular organization.

In October 1983, two months after winning government power, Sankara, speaking



Militant/Ernest Harsch  
Thomas Sankara speaking in New York City in October 1984.

on behalf of the CNR, frankly explained the challenges confronting the revolutionary regime. "The legacy bequeathed to us by 23 years of imperialist exploitation and domination is a heavy one," stated Sankara. "The task of constructing a new society cleansed of all the ills that keep our country in a state of poverty and economic and cultural backwardness will be long and hard."

### Neocolonial legacy

Sankara explained, "neocolonial society and colonial society differed not at all. The colonial administration was replaced by a neocolonial administration identical to it in every respect. The colonial army was replaced by a neocolonial army with the same

characteristics, the same function, and the same role of safeguarding the interests of imperialism and its national allies."

Sankara spoke with confidence about the prospects for revolutionary change. He pointed to the need of the Voltaic people to "take charge of their own development and destiny."

"The revolution aims to transform all economic, social, and cultural relations in society," he said. "It aims to create a new Voltaic man, with an exemplary morality and social behavior that inspires the admiration and confidence of the masses. Neocolonial domination reduced our society to such degradation that it will take us years to cleanse it."

From day one of the revolutionary government assuming power, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) were organized in all neighborhoods, workplaces, and military units. The CDRs strove to democratize power by becoming organs through which the people could exercise real decision-making power on a local level.

### Food self-sufficiency

The CDRs helped carry out a national literacy drive in the three main indigenous languages. In addition, a national immunization campaign succeeded in vaccinating 2.5 million Burkinabè children against meningitis, yellow fever, and measles. The construction of schools, roads, and public housing was begun. In 1985 a campaign was launched to plant 10 million trees in order to slow down the southern advance of the Sahara desert. Organizations of youth, women, elders, and a national peasants union were formed.

One of the major goals prioritized by the revolution was the fight for self-sufficiency in food production. This question is a pressing necessity in Somalia today as it was

posed in Burkina Faso a decade earlier.

In an October 21, 1983, speech broadcast on national radio and TV on behalf of the National Council of the Revolution, Sankara explained that this would involve a struggle "against those who starve the people, the agricultural speculators and capitalists of all types," and it would provide "protection against imperialist domination of our agriculture in terms of orientation, imperialism's plunder of our resources, and the unfair competition of its imports with our local products."

### Problems of foreign aid

At an August 1984 news conference celebrating the one-year anniversary of the revolution, Sankara addressed questions he would come back to many times — problems created as a result of the massive foreign aid that had been provided to his country.

"Aid to Burkina Faso must serve to strengthen, not undermine our sovereignty," Sankara declared. "It should help to destroy the need for further aid. All aid that puts further aid to death is welcome in Burkina Faso. But all aid that creates a beggar mentality, we will have to do without. . . . You cannot make a revolution or gain your independence without a certain amount of stoicism and sacrifice. This is what the people of Burkina impose on ourselves."

Two months later, on October 4, 1984, Sankara spoke before the 39th session of the UN General Assembly where he solidarized with the struggles of oppressed peoples throughout the world — from the Palestinians to antiapartheid fighters in South Africa — and spoke about the challenges facing the revolution in Burkina.

"My country is the quintessence of all the misfortunes of the peoples," said Sankara.  
Continued on Page 11

## A valuable early debate on colonialism

BY SARA LOBMAN

In the above article Brian Williams and George Fyson make the point that simply calling on imperialist governments to provide food rather than troops is not the solution to what peasants and workers in Somalia face. They explain that the only road forward is the mobilization of working people to transform the production and distribution of food and all other goods on the basis of human needs, not profit.

Instructive lessons on this question can be gained from a debate on colonialism in the early years of this century. Before World War I, leaders of the Second International, which was the international organization of the communist movement at that time, discussed and debated questions of colonialism and the solution to the crisis facing the toilers of the economically backward countries. Two counterposed viewpoints were put forward.

A record of the discussion is contained in volume 1 of the Pathfinder series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*, entitled *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*.

Under the pressure of the impending war, a growing section of the International's leadership began to reflect the interests of "their own" imperialist ruling classes as opposed to the international working class. Arguments in favor of a benevolent and humanitarian colonialism began to fill the International's discussions. "If the representatives of civilized countries come as liberators to the alien peoples in order to bring them the benefits of culture and civilization," Eduard David, delegate from Germany, said in the debate on the Draft Resolution on Colonialism at the 1907 Stuttgart Congress of the international, "then we Social Democrats will be the first to support such colonization as a civilizing mission."

Henrick van Kol, from the Netherlands, added, "We Dutch are one of the oldest colonizing peoples. But we have reached the point where murder, torture, burning, and plundering are no longer everyday occurrences in the Dutch colonies."

Most of the arguments were motivated by references to the need to help "the millions



Vladimir Lenin

of unfortunate peoples in the colonies." Eduard Bernstein declared that the socialists should recognize "the need for civilized people to act somewhat like guardians of the uncivilized." The draft resolution submitted to the Congress by the majority of the colonial commission, while deploring the "current methods of colonization," warned that the "proletariat in the capitalist countries must bear increasing burdens. . . . The deputies of the Socialist parties should propose to their governments that they conclude a treaty and create a colonial law that would protect the rights of the native peoples."

The congress defeated the commission resolution by a vote of 127 to 108. "The civilizing mission that capitalist society claims to serve is no more than a veil for its lust for conquest and exploitation," the final resolution said.

V.I. Lenin, was a leader of the Russian Bolshevik Party that in 1917 would lead the workers and farmers of the tsarist empire to power. He sharply opposed any concessions to colonialism, and denounced those who equated the "improvement of the conditions

of the slaves to fight against wage slavery" with "the sale by the slaves of their right to liberty for a few pence." Lenin pointed to the importance of seeing the toilers of the oppressed countries not as victims, but as potential fighters.

In an article written just after the Stuttgart conference ended, Lenin explained that it was not a question of rejecting the struggle for reforms, but of "whether we should make concessions to the modern regime of bourgeois plunder and violence."

Most importantly, Lenin pointed to the revolutionary struggles of the toilers in the colonial world. In 1905, massive demonstrations in Persia had forced the Shah to grant a constitution. In Turkey, a revolutionary movement in the army won an agreement from the monarchy to restore the constitution. Ferment in China led to the 1911 national revolution that overthrew the Manchu dynasty and proclaimed a republic. India and Egypt were witnessing growing struggles against British rule. The "awakening of Asia," Lenin said, opened up a new stage in the struggle of the world proletariat.

"The Asiatic revolutions have again shown us the spinelessness and baseness of liberalism," Lenin wrote in a 1913. "After the experience both of Europe and Asia, anyone who speaks of non-class politics and non-class socialism, ought simply to be put in a cage and exhibited alongside the Australian kangaroo or something like that."

These questions were not academic. In the summer of 1914 the long expected imperialist world war began. On August 4, the deputies of the Social Democratic Party in the German parliament sided with their own rulers in voting for the war effort. The Second International was dead.

The victory of the Russian revolution in October 1917, however, inspired millions of oppressed peoples across Asia who could now count on a powerful ally in their struggle for national and democratic rights. For the first time, Lenin explained, the workers and the oppressed peoples of the world could be part of a truly international movement.



# Steelworker officials discuss upcoming contract negotiations

BY DON MACKLE  
AND JOSEFINA OTERO

PITTSBURGH — The Basic Steel Industry Conference of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), involving presidents of local unions in that industry, met here January 5 to discuss upcoming contract negotiations with major steel producers and iron ore mining companies. Agreements with five major corporations — Bethlehem, National, Armco, Inland, and LTV — expire July 31. Some 48,000 union members work at the five companies.

Several major steel corporations have been pressing for early contract negotiations in order to gain immediate concessions from the union. Steel companies have combined this effort with actions to press the U.S. government to curtail imports from other countries and get a further advantage over their competitors. USWA officials recently joined six specialty steel companies in filing charges against Brazil, France, and India to cut imports.

Rather than prepare the union for a fight, the USWA conference concentrated

on proposals that would help employers be more competitive in exchange for certain supposed job guarantees. "The industry has needs and the American economy has needs," USWA president Lynn Williams stated. He announced that the union would offer early contract negotiations with steel companies in hopes of signing long-term agreements.

"We are willing to recognize significantly longer agreements," said Williams. "We could foresee, say, a nine-year contract with ENA [Experimental Negotiating Agreements]." USWA officials labeled such negotiations guidelines the "new directions course."

In exchange for aiding the companies, USWA officials said the union would demand "no concessions" on wages and benefits. They would also seek no-layoff policies and greater worker involvement in decision-making, including a possible spot for union officials on corporate boards of directors.

The ENA, which Williams described in positive terms, was a special agreement signed by 10 basic steel companies and top union officers in 1973 that prohibited a na-

tional steel strike and forced compulsory arbitration on union contracts until 1980. The ENA was finally torn up by the steel industry because the companies were unwilling to pay even the minimal wage increases stipulated in the agreements in exchange for the no-strike pledge.

## Big-business press encouraged

A January 6 article in the *Wall Street Journal* reported favorably on the outcome of the January 5 union conference. Entitled "USW Relaxes Its Hard Stance On Labor Pacts," the big-business paper took special note of the fact that union officials had made suggestions on "ways to cut work forces and relax stringent work rules."

"It sounds like a more head-out-of-the-sand approach," said John Jacobson, a steel industry consultant. He was delighted that the union gathering signaled that "the tough guy approach seems to be giving way to a kinder, gentler approach."

As a result of technological advances, extensive work rule changes, and productivity drives — already implemented throughout the industry — USWA union membership involved in steel production has dropped from 380,000 in 1980 to the current 140,000. USX, the country's major steel producer, has chopped its work force dramatically. USX now has 18,000 employees producing 9.5 million tons of steel a year. In 1982 the company employed 120,000 steelworkers, who produced 10.3 million tons.

The perspective adopted at the Basic Steel Industry Conference meeting, based on appeals to enforce protectionist measures against foreign competitors and other forms



Militant/Tom Nichols

Steelworker from Ravenswood, West Virginia. USWA members there won jobs back after 20-month company lockout that ended last June. Large U.S. steel corporations are seeking major concessions from union.

of collaboration with the bosses, follows the course union officials have been on for years. This course has done little to ward off the drastic lowering of the standard of living of working people and massive job losses that have resulted from the steel companies' scramble for profits.

Don Mackle is a member USWA Local 1170 in Cleveland. Josefina Otero is a member of USWA Local 1141 in Washington, Pennsylvania.

## Illinois steelworkers irate at news of possible concessions

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

GRANITE CITY, Illinois — A recent *Wall Street Journal* article on negotiations perspectives for the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) sparked a wide-ranging discussion and some angry comments from steelworkers here at National Steel. The article was entitled "USW Relaxes Its Hard Stance On Labor Pacts; Steel Union Says It Plans to Seek Ways to Trim Work Force, Ease Rules." It was xeroxed and posted on bulletin boards around the plant.

"I was irate," exclaimed Ken Polo, a laborer on the galvanizing line who read the article. He thought helping employers to cut the work force was "falling right into the companies' hands."

The article explains that union officials would agree to help reduce the work force and health costs through a "managed-care" plan in exchange for alleged job security and no wage or benefit concessions.

"The idea that we should agree to cut jobs in exchange for maintaining our own wages and benefits is against unionism," one furnace operator explained. "We're supposed to be fighting for more jobs, not helping to cut them."

Many workers also expressed outrage at union officials giving in to company demands before a fight. "To come out before contract negotiations even begin and announce they're going to lay down and play dead makes me furious," said Kathy Loepker, a millwright in the continuous caster department.

The article explained that union officials "will consider long-term agreements, mentioning a nine-year accord as one possibility." Joe, an oiler in the basic oxygen furnace department, pointed out, "That's a nine-year no-strike pledge. We need to have that strike threat to hold over the company's head. Look what they do to us now in three years — with nine years they'd really stick it to us."

Local union officials who attended the Basic Steel Industry Conference meeting,

which was the subject of the article, said the *Wall Street Journal* account of the meeting was inaccurate.

Ellen Haywood works at National Steel and is a member of USWA Local 16.

## Trial of Palestinians resumes in Los Angeles

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The deportation hearing against two Palestinian solidarity activists resumed here with a frontal attack by the defense on the constitutionality of the hearsay nature of the government's case.

The defendants, Khader Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, are among the "Los Angeles 8" who were arrested six years ago. The seven Palestinians and the Kenyan wife of one were charged with "abetting" the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The PFLP is an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Washington brands both the PLO and the PFLP as "terrorist."

Shehadeh and Hamide are permanent legal U.S. residents. To be deported, they must be stripped of that status. The remaining six face deportation on charges of technical visa violations.

In a two-segment hearing before Immigration Judge Bruce Einhorn, the government is seeking a legal ruling that the PFLP is terrorist and that the defendants should be deported for aiding it.

A 1990 revision of immigration statutes provides that support to "terrorists" by non citizens is a deportable offense. However, as yet there is no legal definition of terrorism.

The reluctance of the lawmakers to define the term may well stem from a concern that it would fit the many assassin squads in other countries that are armed and financed by Washington.

If judge Einhorn rules that the PFLP is terrorist, and is upheld by the federal courts, his ruling will have the force of law. This would mean that any immigrant who has given support to the PFLP could be subject to deportation.

To establish its claim that the PFLP is terrorist, the government is relying solely on the testimony of two "expert" witnesses — Ariel Merari, an Israeli professor, and Paul Wilkinson, British professor.

Both are hirelings of their governments and both are purported experts on "international terrorism."

Thus far, their testimony has been exclusively of a hearsay nature — a reshuffle of voluminous newspaper clippings and material from the various secret government dossiers to which they have access.

Such hearsay evidence — which can't be confronted or cross-examined — is generally barred in criminal cases but is considered admissible in civil cases.

From the outset of this hearing, Einhorn has insisted that since it is not a criminal trial — the defendants face deportation, not prison — hearsay evidence is admissible.

However, at a recent session, the defense confronted him with a key Supreme Court decision to the contrary.

In the 1930s, after a series of Immigration hearings, the government ordered the deportation of Harry Bridges, then the top official in the west coast Longshore union.

The basis for the deportation order was the government allegation that Bridges was a member of the Communist Party.

In 1945, the Supreme Court reversed that deportation order.

Defense attorney David Cole explained that the court based its reversal on the fact that the case against Bridges was based exclusively on hearsay evidence.

Cole, a law professor at Georgetown University, said the high court had agreed that a deportation proceeding is a civil matter. But the court added that the deprivation of rights involved in a deportation is so great that the due-process rules that apply in criminal cases must also be maintained in deportation proceedings.

Cole granted that the Supreme Court did not specifically bar all hearsay evidence, but it was unambiguous in declaring that such evidence alone was not sufficient to deport someone.

Cole said that the Immigration courts have consistently ignored that decision.

The defense also argued that, contrary to court rulings, the government employs a double standard in its use of the term terrorism.

Einhorn conceded that might well be. But, he asserted, that's not relevant to whether or not the PFLP is terrorist.

Referring to the comment made by George Bush, when he was vice president, that one man's terrorist may be another man's freedom fighter, the judge said that the government defines the issue politically and, perhaps, sometimes hypocritically. But, Einhorn said, he intends to define it legally.

"This is a case of 'first impression,'" he declared. "There is no precedent."

A former government prosecutor, Einhorn added that, like everyone, he had his political views.

But, he asserted, "When I enter this courtroom, I check my politics at the door."

In the courtroom audience, there were smiles of disbelief.

Because the lawyers on both sides are all from outside Los Angeles, the court sessions are scheduled to meet their various commitments. The hearing is now recessed until February 22.

## Washington, D.C.

### U.S.-Cuba Relations Torricelli, Clinton and Beyond

Speakers: Dr. Wayne Smith, former chief, U.S. Interests Section, Havana, Center for International Policy, author of *The Closest of Enemies*; William Worthy, journalist, prosecuted for travel to Cuba in 1961; Alfonso Praga, Chief, Cuban Interests Section, Fri., Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m. Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW (at Decatur Pl.). Donation: \$3. For more information: (202) 234-2000.

## Schedule of Carlos Tablada's Canada Tour

Below is the schedule for the Ontario and Quebec legs of Cuban economist Carlos Tablada's tour of Canada. (See article on page 16.)

### ONTARIO

**Toronto:** University of Toronto, Fri., Jan. 22, 1 p.m. • Citywide meeting, 252 Bloor St. W., Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. • York University, Mon., Jan. 25, 1 p.m. **Hamilton:** McMaster University, Mon., Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. **Ottawa:** Carleton University, Tu., Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

### QUEBEC

**Montreal:** University of Montreal, Wed., Jan. 27, 11 a.m. • McGill University, Wed., Jan. 25, 4:30 p.m. • Cégep du Vieux Montreal, Fri., Jan. 29, 2 p.m. • Citywide meeting, Centre St.-Pierre, 1205 Visitation, Sat., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. **Quebec City:** Laval University, Thurs., Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m. • Citywide meeting, 155 boulevard Charest, Thurs., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.

For details call: (416) 533-4324 in Toronto or (514) 273-2503 in Montreal.



# Frame-up victim in France wins acquittal

BY DEREK JEFFERS

PARIS — In a trial that received banner headlines in papers throughout France, Richard Roman, accused of raping and murdering six-year-old Céline Jourdan in 1988, was acquitted by jury trial in Grenoble on December 17 after the police frame-up against him unraveled. His codefendant, Didier Gentil, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The death penalty was abolished in France in 1981.

When Céline Jourdan was found to have been raped and killed on July 26, 1988, in la Motte-du-Caire, a small village in southern France, local police quickly focused on Richard Roman. An engineering student who had given up his studies to become a shepherd near la Motte-du-Caire, Roman wore long hair, went barefoot, and had long been in the bad graces of the local head of police.

He was arrested soon after the murder, detained hours for a brutal interrogation at police headquarters, and badgered into confessing to the crime. Didier Gentil also confessed to the rape of the child and accused Roman of killing her. Physical evidence of sperm and hair found on the victim's body backed up Gentil's confession. No such evidence was found in the case of Roman.

Branded as a child-molester and killer,

Roman was kept in prison four and a half years until his acquittal. Shortly after having made his forced confession he repudiated it, explaining it had been extracted from him under extraordinary police pressure.

Witnesses gave contradictory accounts of Roman's comings and goings on the fateful evening of July 26, 1988. One of the several judges in charge of pretrial proceedings, Judge Bonnet, moved to dismiss charges against Roman at one point, citing the lack of evidence. Higher judicial authorities, however, refused the motion.

A defense committee for Roman was organized, mainly by family and friends. The growing defense campaign provoked a violent reaction from other forces, among them Céline Jourdan's family, encouraged by the cops who organized the frame-up. These forces claim to have gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures on petitions calling for re-establishment of the death penalty for Roman and Gentil. At one of the judicial reenactments of the crime in the village, Roman's lawyer was stripped half-naked by a hostile crowd and repeatedly hit until cops finally moved to protect him.

## Pressure on witnesses

At the beginning of the spectacular De-

cember trial against Roman and Gentil, little doubt was aired in the media as to the guilt of both men. Roman's confession, even though it had been quickly retracted, was the main evidence used against him.

A turning point, however, was reached in the trial when one of the witnesses, named Célerier, who had been vacationing at La Motte-du-Caire with his family at the time of the murder, testified that police had applied considerable pressure to get him to falsify his testimony. In fact, this witness, his wife, and their teenage daughter said they saw Roman come down to the village from his house at 9:30 p.m. on July 26, 1988, making it impossible for him to have killed the child. Police made this witness move up this time to 8:30 p.m., explaining he should not help out a "monster" who had already confessed. When Célerier later told cops he intended to tell the truth in court, they threatened to arrest him for perjury.

During the trial it was shown that no less than eight witnesses had changed their testimony to make it fit the case against Roman. Finally, Didier Gentil took the stand and apologized to Roman for having named him, implicitly withdrawing his accusation that Roman had been present during the rape and had murdered Céline Jourdan. Faced with the collapse of his

case against Roman, the prosecutor himself called on the jury to acquit Roman in his final plea, which it did.

The Jourdan family, completely disoriented by four and a half years of cop assurances that both Gentil and Roman were responsible for Céline's death, was dumbfounded and furious over the jury verdict. One of the victim's uncles swore to Roman he would kill him.

The trial has highlighted methods commonly employed by the police — and not only in cases against immigrants, unionists, or political activists — to obtain false confessions and railroad innocent people to prison.

Derek Jeffers works at the General Electric Company-Alsthom transformer plant in Saint Ouen, near Paris. He is a member of the Metalworkers Union Federation, which is affiliated to the General Confederation of Labor (CGT).

## Iowa cops try to pin murder charge on youth

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Joseph White was arrested and charged with murder December 5. The police have produced no evidence connecting White to the crime he is charged with — a November 29 robbery and double murder at Drake Diner, a local restaurant.

White, who is 17, has maintained his innocence. Meanwhile, Des Moines cops have engineered a series of slanderous stories filled with speculation to back up their charges against him.

White's cousin, Alfred Clark, also 17, was arrested with him and is being held at a youth facility on a parole violation. No charges have been filed against Clark, although police allege he drove a getaway car.

Drake Diner employees Cara McGrane, 25, and Tim Burnett, 28, were shot to death at point-blank range at the restaurant. According to witnesses the assailant used an automatic handgun and fired only two shots in the slayings before he fled out the front door. Both victims died instantly.

The execution-style killings prompted Des Moines cops to launch an all-out manhunt to arrest a suspect. "It's not common for a robber to go into any business that has a lot of witnesses," Sgt. Ray Rexroat told the *Des Moines Register*. Thirty-five to 40 people were eating or working in the diner at the time of the shootings. No one else was injured.

After the arrests, police produced a tape of the 911 emergency call from someone at the restaurant the night of the murders. The cops asked the caller, "Is he Black?"

So far police have not found the murder weapon. Three days after the murders, they

had speculated that the murder weapon was an extraordinarily powerful .44-caliber Magnum "Desert Eagle," an Israeli-made, semiautomatic firearm. But they later said the gun was the same as one that they accused White of having in his possession before the murders.

The cops have not been able to produce any physical evidence to arrest anyone. But the pressure began to mount after a few days for them to arrest a Black male.

Many Black youths were searched and eyed with suspicion. Some Black workers in Marshalltown, an hour's drive north of here, were stopped and questioned. So many Black men were stopped and searched without cause that several dozen Black youths protested outside the police station against the blatant infringement on their rights.

Even the *Des Moines Register* felt obliged to respond to the racist character of this campaign, making reference to the "notorious Charles Stuart murder case in Boston, in which a rich white man coolly murdered his pregnant wife and then blamed it on a mythical Black assailant."

At the same time, article after article have appeared in the *Register* about gun control and crime in Des Moines neighborhoods. The cops say the worst crime rates are in predominantly Black and working-class areas of the city.

Some politicians, including Iowa governor Terry Branstad, have seen this as an opportunity to drum up support for the death penalty. Iowa abolished the death penalty in 1965. One cop advocating the death penalty, Lt. W. L. Johnson, told the *Register*, "We need the common sense to shoot our mad dogs."

When White was arrested, the *Register* printed his criminal record, which consisted only of petty crimes. As a juvenile his record would be inadmissible in court.

The paper also printed an article about his father, who was involved in a 1976 shootout with Des Moines police that resulted in his death. Joseph White was two years old at the time.

The smear campaign has not gone unchallenged. Herbert Rogers Sr., a Des Moines lawyer who attended the police interview of the youths, said, "I don't believe [the police] have the right suspect or witness. The way the interview went, I didn't think the information provided would incriminate anyone. . . . The only question I had was, when are they going to be released?"

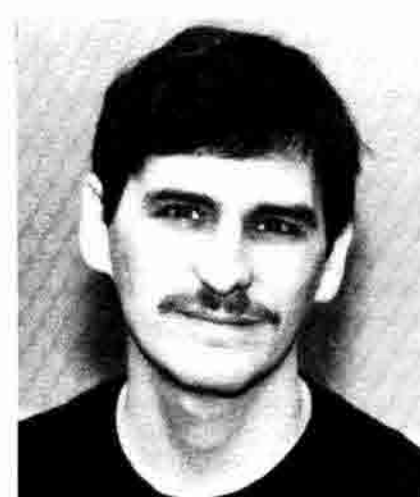
The relatives of the two youths held a news conference and said the teenagers are being unfairly treated. "I think the kids are being railroaded," said Dora James, White's grandmother.

Polk County attorney John Sarcone, who filed the criminal charges, has won his request to have White's case moved to adult court. No date has been set for the trial.

A legal defense fund has been established for the two youths.

Maurice Williams is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 and works at the Monfort packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa.

## Framed activist in jail over four years



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Mark Curtis

Mark Curtis, a union and political activist, was arrested and framed by the Des Moines, Iowa, police on rape and burglary charges in March 1988. At the time of his arrest, Curtis, a meat-packer, was involved in a fight to defend 17 immigrant coworkers who were facing deportation.

The young unionist did not receive a fair trial. No direct evidence that he committed a crime was presented and key facts were withheld from the jury. He has now served more than four years of a 25-year sentence.

Curtis has won support in his fight for justice from workers, students, and democratic rights activists around the world. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee can be contacted for more information about his case at the address listed in the advertisement below.

## 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.

## Supreme Court rules civil rights law does not apply to clinic blockades

BY SARA LOBMAN

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled January 13 that a long-standing federal civil rights law cannot be used to stop antiabortion activists from blockading clinics. In a 6-3 decision the court said the Civil Rights Act of 1871, also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, does not provide abortion clinic patients with protection from blockades and intimidation by antiabortion groups such as Operation Rescue.

The 1871 law was originally enacted to protect freed slaves from harassment by the Ku Klux Klan. The law makes it illegal for two or more people to conspire "for the purpose of depriving any person or class of persons" from exercising rights guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. Later court rulings, however, restricted application of the law to situations involving racial or other "class-based" hostility.

The Ku Klux Klan Act has been invoked dozens of times in the last few years by abortion clinics seeking federal court protection from disruptive protests organized by Operation Rescue and other antiabortion groups.

In the summer of 1991 federal judge Patrick Kelly used the civil rights law as the basis for ordering federal marshals to protect three clinics in Wichita, Kansas, when local authorities were reluctant to move against the rightist forces that were blockading the facilities.

The current ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by women's clinics and abortion rights activists in the Washington, D.C., area that sought to prevent right-wing protesters from closing abortion clinics in late 1989. In response to this lawsuit, a federal district judge, and later the U.S. Court of Appeals

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# South Africa 'stands at gateway to future'

## African National Congress calls for end of white minority's political power

The African National Congress's National Executive Committee issued the following statement January 8, on the occasion of the ANC's 81st anniversary. Subheadings have been added by the *Militant*.

Fellow South Africans, Comrades and Com-patriots,

Today, January 8th, marks the 81st anniversary of the African National Congress.

We observe this important date at a moment when our country stands at its gateway to the future. 1993 is destined to be the year when we bring to an end the exclusive exercise of political power by the white minority. At last we shall together set ourselves on the path to democratic rule.

This historic moment in the transition to people's power will express itself through a general election which must be held before the end of 1993. The elections will be the first in our country when all the people,

of the oppressed, including the ANC, should be representative of all the people of our country, including those in the white community.

Today we are proud to see the concept and practice of non-racialism increasingly accepted as the perspective of most political formations of our country. We are inspired by the widespread acceptance of the mutually dependent principles of democracy, equality, justice, peace and reconciliation.

When the people of our country stated in the Freedom Charter in 1955 that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white . . ." they summed up our common yearning for democracy, non-racialism and national unity. In the Freedom Charter our people put together a vision of the future based on prosperity for all. The Charter expresses a goal which the ANC and all other democrats in our country have been striving for in opposition to the policies of successive apartheid regimes.

“There are those political formations which fear change and are totally opposed to democratic elections. But they are part of a dying order . . .”

black and white, the privileged and the deprived, will vote together as equals in an undivided South Africa. As we move into this phase let us ensure that this vote leads to the systematic empowerment of all and especially South African women.

Through the exercise of this inalienable right of all people to determine their future, will be born a sovereign Constituent Assembly which will also function as a democratic and non-racial Interim Parliament and an Interim Government of National Unity, representative of and accountable to the people as a whole. Through this democratic vote the people shall determine the shape of our country for decades to come. It is within our power, as a country and a nation, to secure this year a decisive victory which will place us on the road to resolving the centuries-old struggle against brutal oppression and exploitation, on one hand, and the quest for genuine emancipation of all our people, on the other.

This history of conflict created a deeply divided country. As we strive to create the new, we will have to start from the heritage of a society torn apart and driven by hatred and division; a society which imprisoned both the oppressed and the oppressor. The future cannot be built by ignoring or denying the past. Nor can there be reconciliation without acknowledgement by the architects of apartheid and by all other South Africans of the wrongs they have committed.

### Divided society

Those who usurped power in our country did everything possible to divide our society so that they could continue to rule. They used their deadly instruments, which included racism, tribalism, ethnicity, sexism, corruption in all its forms and a particular and sectarian theological outlook — all of which sought to rob our people of the bond which derives from the understanding that all human beings are equal. Today all of us, both culprit and victim, are reaping the whirlwind of the destructive seeds Apartheid sowed.

Those South Africans who have had the wisdom to stop and think have always known that the day of reckoning would come. They recognised that in the end many of our people would coalesce into distinct, belligerent camps. We, for our part, as an organisation have known that there could be no peace among the people until all of us acknowledge that we are one people who share a common patriotism and a common destiny.

It is for these reasons that at its inception in 1912 the ANC spoke out against "the demon of tribalism". It is for these reasons that, in actual struggle, we constantly sought to forge the unity of the oppressed and exploited. To secure genuine emancipation we struggled to ensure that the organisations

All sectors of our society yearn for the urgent realisation of a system in which they can realise their full potential. It is crucial that workers and the rural masses, and particularly the unemployed youth, continue to strive for better conditions, jobs and land in the context of a growing economy. Families have all reason to unite in the search for affordable prices on shop shelves.

Students, teachers and parents deserve a better deal in education, a system based on non-racial and democratic principles — not on the wealth they command. A better health system which caters for all is not a privilege, but a right which must be guaranteed. It is abominable that senior citizens should continue to be subjected to racial discrimination and inhuman treatment.

Professionals merit an environment in which they can exercise their creativity without the confining ideology of racism. Business-people deserve secure investments in conditions of social harmony.

All communities have a right to housing and living conditions free of crime and social disintegration.

All South Africans, be they African, Coloured, Indian or White — men and women, young and old — deserve a better deal. They deserve lasting security and a stable environment. And the problems of the past and the present cannot be resolved by means of modified apartheid, no matter how sweet-sounding the phrases of representatives of this heinous system. The time has come to translate this vision into reality as a united people, through genuine democracy, justice and good government.

As we strive to achieve these objectives, we must also break down and abolish the divisions and antagonisms which were used to deny all our people democracy, peace and prosperity. This year must therefore be the year which opens up ever-widening scope for democratic participation and empowerment.

### Building a nation

We are in the midst of the process of building a nation. To achieve this we must ensure that the diversity of cultures, languages and religions of our people flourish. Overcoming the divisive heritage of the past will require a conscious effort to promote institutions and practices which will — formally and informally — create the conditions in which we all learn to treat our languages, cultures and religions with equal respect and dignity based on a common patriotism.

In this nation-building effort the ANC also recognises that we shall have to make provision which will restore to a place of dignity and respect the institution of chieftainship. Our traditional leaders were reduced to the status of paid servants of the apartheid state and cut off from the service

of the people. But this can only be achieved if they break with the apartheid past. In this way, they will be able to play a constructive role in enhancing the unity of our people and help restore themselves to the respect they deserve.

National unity, non-racialism and a common patriotism are the cement which will bind a nation at peace with itself and in harmony with the natural world we inhabit.

Events since early 1990 have made the country swing between moments of high expectations and of despair. There have been those who have sought to postpone and delay the process of transition. Today all South Africans realise that we need to move forward decisively and with the utmost speed. Each day that passes is a day of deprivation, of hunger, of rising unemployment, of violence, increasing crime and insecurity for all.

The transition to democracy is the key to resolving the deep-seated social and economic crisis. We are under no illusion that this transition to democracy will be plain sailing. We are faced with a regime which seeks to preserve its privileges and assure its power. It has often failed to adhere to agreements it has reached with the ANC.

### Corruption of security forces

It is a regime which still refuses to acknowledge the crime of apartheid. Even when the De Klerk regime has been forced to acknowledge that senior SADF [South African Defence Force] officers are involved in the violence and in efforts to destabilise the negotiation process and the ANC, it continues to deny that there is a Third Force. It persists in shrouding in secrecy the corruption and the role of its security forces.

The only way to secure the future is for the De Klerk regime to come clean and out into the open. Along this path, we shall ensure that the defence of the country is placed correctly into the hands of the people. It is the people who have fashioned the gains we have registered. It is the people who are the defenders of the progress we have made. It is the people who are the force who will carry our country into the future.

Our optimism for 1993 rests on the fact that mass action, public exposures, international pressure and the consistent espousal of democratic rule are the basis for the advances that we have been making. Through these instruments we must ensure that the regime abandons its bankrupt strategy of negotiating with whilst simultaneously seeking to undermine the ANC.

The key steps that have to be taken during this year are:

“Our country cries out for the creation of space to enable people to fashion a vision of our country through the process of free and energetic debate . . .”

- Resumption of multilateral talks in Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa].

- Ensuring a climate of free political activity in all parts of our country.

- Establishment of the Transitional Executive Council and its sub-structures as well as an Independent Elections Commission and Independent Media Commission so as to ensure free and fair elections.

- Elections for a Constituent Assembly and an Interim Government of National Unity before the end of 1993.

- Reincorporation of the so-called independent bantustans.

### Prepare ourselves to govern

The challenge facing the ANC is twofold. On the one hand, we have to pursue the struggle strenuously on all fronts to ensure that negotiations are successfully concluded to bring about democratic rule. On the other hand, we need to face the challenge of forthcoming Constituent Assembly elections and prepare ourselves to govern.

The policy conference of the ANC, through a thoroughgoing process of discus-

sions and debate both inside the ANC and in the broader public arena, provided us with the framework of policies for a truly democratic, humane and just society. We need to carry this to all our formations, which must ensure that it becomes the property of the people as a whole. This must involve reinvigorating and expanding the organisation of the ANC at regional and local levels and its links with the people. The momentum for change is gathering force. We must make it unstoppable.

There are those political formations which fear change and are totally opposed to democratic elections. They are products of apartheid thinking. They fear the will of the people. They cling to ethnic fiefdoms and racism. But, they are part of a dying order. Unless they are able to place the national interest above their party political and personal agendas they will confine themselves to the role of spoilers and will be judged accordingly.

The ANC maintains that the negotiations process should be as inclusive as possible. Our call to all formations to join Codesa is open-ended. But, we insist that no one should be allowed to hold the transition to democracy to ransom. The elections cannot be delayed beyond 1993. To arrive at this point we have to address two related questions effectively. These are curbing the violence that continues to blight our country and the creation of a climate conducive to free political activity.

### ANC stands for peace

The ANC stands for peace. To end the violence, during the course of 1992, the ANC has:

- called for an urgent meeting of all signatories to the National Peace Accord to strengthen the accord and publicly renew their joint commitment to peace;

- secured international involvement, through the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity [OAU] and the [British] Commonwealth, which has resulted in the stationing of monitors in South Africa;

- actively engaged in local and national peace initiatives as part of a determined effort to bring people together at grassroots level.

Yet the carnage continues. The terrorism, destabilisation and repression that emanates from within the security forces, and State agencies, including the various Administrations in different parts of South Africa, must be rooted out without any equivocation and delay.

Free political activity and a culture of political tolerance must be created. The violent conflict between members of different

political organisations must be brought to an end.

The National Peace Accord must be fully implemented and strengthened. Codesa agreed that all armed formations and police forces be placed under the control of a statutory Transitional Executive Council. This must be effected as soon as this Council is established. This will lay the basis for the creation of a truly representative South African army in which Umkhonto we Sizwe shall have a crucial role to play.

No more lives must be lost! Let us develop the most powerful public campaign for peace that our country has ever seen! Such a campaign should unite all our people in action, regardless of race, gender, class, political affiliation, age, religion or geographic location. This would be the best way to pay tribute to thousands who lost their lives in the carnage ravaging our country.

### International monitors

We count on the international community to increase its presence and to play an even more vigorous role in its intervention for peace. The stationing of interna-



tional monitors has been an important achievement of our movement. It has reinforced the efforts of our people against those who have no regard for human life. It has strengthened the forces for democracy and peace in our country.

In this regard, we would like to pay tribute to the OAU for responding to the appeal of the ANC and ensuring that the intervention of the United Nations and other international bodies became possible.

Our country cries out for the creation of space to enable people to associate without let or hindrance; to propagate and discuss views without fear or favour; to fashion a vision of our country through the process of free and energetic debate.

Those who are committed to democracy and peace cannot allow a situation to persist whereby anybody, whoever they might be, denies the people their right to a climate conducive to free political activity. In all parts of the country, including the so-called homelands, whether "independent" or not, all organisations and individuals must enjoy the same rights and the same opportunities to organise, to assemble and to propagate their views.

As soon as it is elected, the Constituent Assembly will commence its work of drafting and adopting the new constitution for which millions of our people are waiting. We are committed to ensuring that this constitution, the supreme law of the land, enshrines and expresses the perspective contained in the Codesa Declaration of Intent of multi-party democracy in a united, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

A critical element of this constitution must be an entrenched and enforceable Bill of Rights which would protect fundamental human rights and limit the power of any parliament to take away these rights. This will also require that the judiciary be reconstituted to ensure that it is independent, non-racial and non-sexist and therefore capable of enjoying the support and trust of all South Africans.

#### Rule of, and equality before, the law

Provision will have to be made to ensure that the entire system of the administration of justice is not subject to political manipulation. In this way it will become possible to guarantee the application of the two fundamental principles of the rule of, and equality before, the law.

Our perspectives are governed by the ideal expressed in the Freedom Charter: The people shall govern! We are therefore determined to ensure that government is as close to the people as possible. Our constitutional proposals, therefore, include the essential element that, in addition to effective central government, manifesting the reality of one South African nation, there should also be strong, meaningful and representative regional and local government capable of expressing the will of the people in the conduct of their daily lives.

Attachment to labels, such as "federalism", will not take the discussion anywhere — least of all if the insertion of such concepts is aimed at emasculating central government, seeking to maintain the status quo of a South Africa fragmented into racial and ethnic compartments and promoting the partisan interests of particular political organisations.

The constructing of a constitutional framework for a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist society should unite all genuine democratic forces in our country, regardless of other differences that they otherwise might have. Therefore we believe that it will be one of our central tasks during this year to enhance the degree of unity and raise the level of united action of these forces in the pursuit of common goals.

Central to this exercise is the urgent need to build the organisation of the ANC at every level. We dare not rest on our record of struggle which has brought our country to this crucial moment. We must take our policies to the grassroots, organise our people



Workers march in Pretoria. ANC statement explains, "Our perspectives are governed by the ideal expressed in the Freedom Charter: The people shall govern!"

and show the way forward in all areas of life. This is the only way to ensure that they re-affirm, through the vote, that the ANC represents their true aspirations.

#### Mobilize and organize the people

Every effort has to be made to strengthen the ANC/SACP/South African Communist Party/COSATU/Congress of South African Trade Unions alliance so that we carry the country to effective democracy. In the Campaign for Peace and Democracy during 1992, our Alliance reached new heights and demonstrated its immense capacity to mobilise and organise the people. Alliance structures at the local and grassroots levels were created. These functioned with single-minded purpose and provided the critical element which helped remove blockages in negotiations and ensured forward movement.

The Patriotic Front, made up of both political formations and organisations of civil society, and representative of the overwhelming majority of the citizens of our country, is a vital instrument for the achievement of these objectives.

What are the tasks of the Patriotic Front during this historic year? Put simply and directly, they are:

- to ensure the successful conclusion of the negotiations taking place in Codesa;
- to develop common positions with regard to the fundamental constitutional positions that will be put to the electorate at large and to the Constituent Assembly. These would include provisions relating to workers', women's and children's rights as well as the role of civil society and the place of traditional institutions of government;

- to develop common positions relating to the principal elements of the policies that should be implemented when the Interim Government of National Unity is established;

- to engage the general public in discussion of these constitutional and government policy positions, so as to develop a national consensus around the key pillars of the process of transformation;

- to mobilise the nation as a whole to join in the struggle to curb and end the violence;

- to mobilise the nation as a whole to act together to ensure the existence of a climate conducive to free political activity in all parts of our country;

- to elaborate and implement a programme of work directed at voter education and ensuring that the people exercise their hard-won democratic right to vote; and

- to win these voters over to support the policies put forward by the ANC and its allies.

Together, at national, regional and local levels, let us speak with one voice, explaining honestly what we want for our country and what we want its future to be. At the same time, let us act as a united force for peace, tolerance and a new life of freedom and prosperity for all South Africans.

#### Against political intolerance

These objectives must instruct the conduct of all our members and formations, prohibiting any activity on our part which leads to violence, political intolerance and provides excuses for those who wish to delay the process of democratic transformation.

We appeal to all those of our compatriots who fear the prospect of democratic change. What they should fear are the consequences of the absence of change. Any continuation of the past would mean that our country sinks further, with all its people, into the depths of a general crisis which would benefit no one and from which it would be impossible to extricate itself in the foreseeable future. Such a disaster we must avoid at all costs.

Those who entertain the delusion that the process of change can be stopped or postponed through violence and subversion should abandon this hopeless project. Similarly, no one who claims to uphold the true interest of the freedom of our people should act in a way that enhances the role of those who want to plunge our country into race conflict and civil war. None, including those within the security forces and the white right, should take it upon themselves to create a situation in which more lives will be lost and more blood shed, as a result of a vain effort to defend the ultimately indefensible.

It is clear that, during this year, we shall also see the establishment of the multi-party Transitional Executive Council, with its substructures to be followed by an elected Interim Government of National Unity. It is therefore important that we give attention to the development of governmental programmes to be implemented during these phases.

These changes will, among other things, bring more people into public administration, to create more representative and therefore legitimate structures of government.

#### Worsening situation for millions

The movement away from almost 45 years of exclusive rule and domination by the National Party will create the possibility for our country to begin to address the fundamental question of improving the quality of life of all citizens. The desperate and worsening situation faced by millions of our people, of unemployment, landlessness, homelessness, hunger, the diseases of poverty, of a disastrous educational system, and so on, cannot be allowed to continue.

We cannot hold out the false promise that

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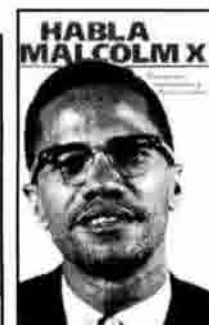
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# Clinton to continue policy of forcibly returning Haitians

Continued from front page  
can die there? This is just like they are under house arrest."

"Blockades are acts of war," commented Rick Swartz, an attorney for the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees in Washington, D.C., who termed the announcement "a dramatic reversal of promises made by Clinton."

In the 15 months since a military coup overthrew the democratically elected president, Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, more than 40,000 Haitians have taken to boats to escape military repression and horrendous living conditions in Haiti. Since last May when Bush issued the executive order for the Coast Guard to directly repatriate Haitians seized on the high seas, some 5,000 people have been forced back to Haiti.

During the election campaign in May, Clinton had stated, "I am appalled by the decision... to pick up fleeing Haitians on the high seas and forcibly return them to Haiti before considering their claim to political asylum. It was bad enough when there were failures to offer them due process in making such a claim. Now they are offered no process at all before being returned."

With no end in sight to their oppressive living conditions and in light of Clinton's promise, Haitians in record numbers have been making plans to flee the island. In the first two weeks of 1993 the Coast Guard has already intercepted 900 Haitian refugees.

U.S. officials claim they have counted more than 1,000 boats capable of carrying up to 150,000 people that are being readied to set sail from Haiti. A boat that left the island in late December carrying 396 Haitian refugees sank southeast of the Bahamas. Cuban authorities reported rescuing eight survivors from this vessel. Another boat with 352 people recently reached Miami.

## UN observer force urged

Clinton's Haiti policy also calls for sending additional Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officers to take applications for political asylum inside Haiti, and for deploying as many as 500 United Nations "human rights" observers in that country. A 16-member observer team sent to Haiti in the fall by the Organization of American States remains confined to the capital, Port-au-Prince, by order of the military-backed government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin.

The INS has meanwhile announced it is considering setting up operations at five sites on the island, and assigning "upwards of 20 immigration agents" there.

The Bush policy is "no less illegal now that it has been endorsed by Clinton than it was when it was announced by Bush," commented Lucas Guttentag, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's immigration project. Guttentag just returned from a five-day trip to Haiti.

"It is very clear that out in the countryside," Guttentag continued, "the military knows what every person is doing. There is no way for people to apply [for asylum] in secret. People remain in hiding and there are military roadblocks everywhere."

## Humanitarian policy?

Clinton motivates his call for the use of U.S. military ships to prevent Haitians from leaving as a humanitarian policy designed to save lives. This was the same rationale put forward by Bush when he announced the policy in the first place.

As does Bush, Clinton insists on making a distinction between Haitians who are economic and political refugees. As the January 14 *Washington Post* points out, however, many Haitians considered themselves "both political and economic refugees, because the two problems were connected."

The day before Clinton's announcement, Aristide publicly urged Haitians "to stay home and help reestablish democracy." In an appeal broadcast on the Voice of America radio station, he said, "It hurts me a lot to think



More than 40,000 refugees have fled Haiti since the September 1991 military coup.

about people preparing to risk their lives in flimsy boats. That's not the road to freedom."

Aristide's support for Clinton's policy is based upon private assurances of support that he has received from the new president. "There is no doubt he [Clinton] is supporting me," stated Aristide in a January 15 interview with the *New York Times*.

"If Clinton picks us up today, then we will try again tomorrow," stated 23-year-old Witzer Joseph, whose father and 22 other

relatives had died on previous boat trips. "Unless we have our president back, we would rather die at sea than die here."

Meanwhile all reports coming out of Haiti indicate that military repression continues unabated. In December, for example, military forces attacked demonstrating students at the University of Haiti, seriously injuring 72 people. Many of those who speak up in opposition to the military have been abducted and killed.

## Haiti Solidarity actions called for Feb. 7-13

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

Activities will be taking place around the country February 7-13 as part of a Haiti Solidarity Week. Many of the public events will call on the U.S. government to admit Haitian refugees, to enforce the embargo on Haiti, and to exert pressure to restore the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in that country.

The actions will coincide with the second anniversary of Aristide's inauguration as the first democratically elected president of Haiti. He was overthrown by the military in September 1991. Tens of thousands of people have fled Haiti to the United States since then. President George Bush, however, issued an executive decree in May ordering the forcible return of refugees to Haiti, where they face repression at the hands of the military-backed regime.

The week of solidarity activities was called by a range of organizations including the Quixote Center/Haiti Reborn, the Haitian group Tenth Department, American Friends Service Committee, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Washington Office on Haiti, and numerous Haiti solidarity organizations.

Local events in cities from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., will include demonstrations, teach-ins, film showings, religious services, and vigils. The Quixote Center is sponsoring a full-page ad in the *Washington Post* with signatures of prominent individuals demanding that President-elect Bill Clinton take steps to facilitate the restoration of

Aristide, tighten the nominal U.S. embargo on Haiti, and provide safe haven for Haitian refugees.

Laurie Richardson, co-director of the Quixote Center, said in a phone interview that the Haiti Solidarity Week actions will be an opportunity for large numbers of people

to "raise in a strong voice" the demand for justice for Haitian refugees.

More information on the nationwide events can be obtained from Quixote Center/Haiti Reborn, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, MD 20782. The telephone number is (301) 699-0042.

## FROM THE PATHFINDER MURAL Harriet Tubman led antislavery fight

This monthly column features the working-class leaders and fighters for social justice from around the world who are depicted on the Pathfinder Mural.

The six-story mural was painted by an international team of 80 artists from 20 countries. Included in the mural are portraits of revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, and Karl Marx, whose speeches and writings are published by Pathfinder Press.

BY SARA LOBMAN

Harriet Tubman was an ex-slave, a leading abolitionist, and the most famous "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, the network that transported slaves in the United States to freedom in the north.

Born around 1820, Tubman escaped from a plantation in Maryland in 1849 and made her way north to Pennsylvania. After working as a maid in several hotels in Philadelphia and Cape May, New Jersey, she returned south to help hundreds of others escape slavery.

In 1850, under pressure from southern plantation owners, the U.S. Congress passed

the Fugitive Slave Law. This law required U.S. marshals in northern states, where slavery was illegal, to arrest runaway slaves and return them to the south. The law also forbade citizens, in both the north and the south, to aid those escaping.

The Underground Railroad responded to the new law by extending its lines into Canada. Tubman played a crucial role in this, helping transport more than 300 people to freedom. In 19 trips, she never lost a passenger.

Tubman was a well known abolitionist. She worked with John Brown, Frederick Douglass, and others. By 1858, her work was known in antislavery circles in England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Liberia, and South America.

In the summer of 1860, Tubman spoke regularly at women's suffrage meetings, conventions of Blacks, and at abolitionist gatherings. She participated in the debates and discussions on the approaching civil war. Tubman, like Douglass, was in favor of using any means necessary to overthrow slavery.

During the war, Tubman worked for the Intelligence Service of the General Staff of the U.S. Army, organizing a spy and scouting corps for the Department of the South. She argued that the army should be open to Blacks, and she herself led 300 Black troops in a military campaign that lifted confederate torpedoes out of the Combahee River, freed 750 slaves, and drove the slaveholders inland.

Carole Byard painted the portrait of Tubman on the Pathfinder Mural. She also painted the portrait of Malcolm X.

The Pathfinder Mural and the Pathfinder Mural bookstore are located at the corner of West and Charles Streets in New York City. The bookstore offers a complete selection of Pathfinder books and pamphlets as well as postcards, posters, and T-shirts depicting the mural. Contributions for the promotion, development, and preservation of the mural can be sent to: Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10011. Telephone: (212) 727-8421.



Militant/Sara Lobman  
Harriet Tubman's picture on mural

## Supreme Court ruling on clinic blockades

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in Richmond, Virginia, argued that women were a "class of persons" protected by the 1871 law.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the majority opinion, rejected this argument. "There are common and respectable reasons," Scalia said, "for opposing [abortion] other than hatred of, or condescension toward... women as a class." Justice John Paul Stevens, in one of two minority opinions, commented on the violent activities of the antiabortion forces. The rightist demonstrators' goal, Stevens said, is to "deny every woman the opportunity to exercise a constitutional right that only women possess."

Operation Rescue hailed the latest decision and called for supporters to join the organization "in the streets" for "child-saving" activities January 20-23 in Washington, D.C., and other cities around the country. Patrick Mahoney, a national spokesperson for Operation Rescue, pointed out that the number of abortion opponents willing to be arrest-

ed has dwindled over the past two years.

Defenders of a woman's right to abortion noted that many other legal avenues exist for state and federal courts to defend access to abortion clinics.

Abortion rights activists in Washington, D.C., are preparing to strengthen the defense of two dozen facilities in the area. "We have to protect our own rights because the courts won't do it for us," explained Beth Kingsley, a leader of the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force.

### Help defend Washington, D.C., clinics

Operation Rescue has announced it will disrupt Clinton inauguration events and follow this with attacks on Washington, D.C., clinics January 22 and 23. The Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force has asked supporters to be on alert January 20 and 21, and to join mobilizations to defend clinics by going to 1000 16th St. NW, at 5:30 a.m. January 22 and 23.



# What is road for Somali working people?

Continued from Page 5

"a painful synthesis of all of humanity's suffering, but also, and above all, a synthesis of the promise of its struggles."

## Aiding underdevelopment

Returning to the question of the problems associated with foreign aid, Sankara said, "Very few countries have been as inundated as Burkina with every conceivable form of aid. Theoretically, this aid is supposed to work in favor of our development. In the case of what was formerly Upper Volta, you can search in vain for a

sign of anything that could be called development."

Citing a recent study on the character of this aid, Sankara points out, "the only goal of foreign aid is to continue developing nonproductive sectors, imposing unbearable burdens on our meager budgets, disorganizing our countryside, increasing the deficits in our balance of trade, and accelerating our indebtedness."

"In general, the policy of foreign aid and assistance produced nothing but disorganization and continued enslavement," explained Sankara. "It robbed us of our sense of responsibility for our own economic, political, and cultural territory."

"We chose to risk new paths to achieve greater happiness," he continued. "We chose to apply new techniques and to look for forms of organization better suited to our civilization. We abruptly and definitively rejected all forms of foreign diktats, thus creating the conditions for a dignity worthy of our ambitions. . . ."

"We swear — we state categorically — that henceforth nothing in Burkina Faso will ever again be undertaken without the participation of Burkinabè. Henceforth, we will conceive and decide on everything. This is a precondition. There will be no further assaults on our sense of decency and dignity," stated Sankara.

## Food aid as an obstacle

In an April 1986 talk to the first national conference of the CDRs Sankara noted, "Our country produces sufficient food to feed itself. . . . But unfortunately because of our own lack of organization, we're still forced to hold out our hands for food aid. This food aid is an obstacle to us, instilling in us and planting in our minds the habit and welfare reflexes of the beggar. We must do away with this aid through increased production! We must succeed in producing more because it's natural that he who gives you food also calls the tune."

"'Rely on our own resources,' " he added, "must cease to be merely a slogan — we must be obsessed with it. . . . Aid, no!

Cooperation, yes! We need the cooperation of all the peoples of the entire world. But we really do not want aid that nurtures a welfare mentality in us."

Sankara consistently pointed to the political challenges facing the people of Burkina and the progress being made by them in forging a new society as they advanced their revolutionary struggle.

"We have to work at decolonizing our mentality and achieving happiness within the limits of sacrifices we should be willing to make," stated Sankara in a 1985 interview with a Swiss journalist. "From imperialism's point of view it is more important to dominate us culturally than militarily. Cultural domination is more flexible, more effective, and less costly."

Speaking August 4, 1987, on the revolution's fourth anniversary, Sankara pointed with pride to some of the revolution's gains. "For the new society, we must have a new people, a people that has its own identity, knows what it wants and how to assert itself, and understands what will be necessary to reach the goals it has set for itself. Our people, after four years of revolution, are the embryo of this new people. The unprecedented decline of passive resignation among our people is a tangible sign of this."

"The democratic and popular revolution," he continued, "needs a convinced people, not a conquered people — a people that is truly convinced, not submissive and passively enduring its destiny."

The revolutionary process in Burkina Faso was halted when Blaise Compaoré, the minister of state and justice, led a counter-revolutionary coup October 15, 1987, in which Sankara and 12 of his aides were murdered.

The 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso contains rich political lessons for working people of Somalia as well as tens of millions of others throughout Africa and elsewhere in the world who are caught in what appears to be an endless cycle of hunger, poverty, and underdevelopment resulting from decades of imperialist exploitation and oppression.

The Somali people, for example, have been plagued by some of the same problems with aid organizations as Sankara confronted in Burkina.

## CARE backs invasion

A January 19 article in the New York-based *Village Voice*, entitled "Manna from Heaven? Somalia Pays the Price for Years of Aid," describes how food aid to Somalia was used to keep the masses destitute and in a state of dependency while at the same time helping to prop up the brutal pro-U.S. military dictatorship of Siad Barre. The author, Michael Maren, worked in Somalia as part of a U.S. relief organization starting in 1981.

A December 24 *Wall Street Journal* column by Alexander Cockburn, who regularly writes for the *Nation*, points out that one of the major relief organizations — CARE — operates in Somalia as a subcontractor for the U.S. government-funded Agency for International Development (AID), and for the UN World Food Program. CARE happens to be one of the most vocal backers of the U.S. military intervention, calling for linking up food distribution with a more aggressive policing role by the U.S. troops. When several other aid organizations including the British-based Save the Children and Oxfam sought to voice criticism about the invasion, they were bluntly ordered by the British government to keep such views to themselves.

The Sankara-led revolution in Burkina shows that it is possible for working people anywhere in the world to start from even the most backward levels of development and begin to chart a course toward genuine political and economic independence in which the masses themselves become the initiators of deep-going social and political change.

Neither food aid nor imperialist troops offer a way forward. Only the road of revolutionary change opens up the possibility of charting a course toward genuine social development in Somalia and throughout Africa.

## Washington launches attacks against Iraq

Continued from front page

ple were killed. Fifteen people were reported injured. Iraqi television showed scenes of injured children. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein also said that the targets of the raid suffered only superficial damage. U.S. defense secretary Dick Cheney described reports of civilian casualties as "gibberish."

Another U.S.-led bombing squadron returned on January 18 to try to destroy the targets that were missed in the January 13 raid. U.S. planes also struck twice in northern Iraq on January 17. In one incident, an Iraqi plane that U.S. officials said entered the no-fly zone was shot down. U.S. jets also attacked an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile battery. Government spokespeople said the battery had activated its targeting radar and aimed at U.S. jets.

The Bush administration said the bombing attacks were to pressure the Iraqi government to comply with UN Security Council resolutions. The U.S. government has demanded that Iraq guarantee United Nations planes unlimited access to its airspace and to stop challenging Washington's enforcement of two no-fly zones in the north and south of Iraq. The UN planes, which would carry nuclear inspection teams, had been banned by Iraq January 8. The inspectors were told they could travel to Iraq in chartered Iraqi jets.

The Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, said, shortly before the first bombing raid, that Baghdad was ending its ban on UN flights in Iraqi airspace. But at a January 16 news conference in the capital, Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz said that because of its dispute with the United States concerning the no-fly zones, the safety of UN planes flying in these zones could not be guaranteed.

Aziz said the Iraqi military had been directed to attack the many U.S. jets that are intruding on Iraqi territory. Iraq has told the United Nations that if the military incursions on its airspace stop, then Iraq could guarantee inspectors greater access.

Pentagon spokespeople reported that Iraqi guns fired on U.S. jets flying over the northern zone January 14. Iraq proposed that UN planes enter Iraq from the west, avoiding the no-fly zones. The United Nations rejected the Iraqi recommendation.

UN representatives have also said that groups of Iraqis have regularly been crossing the newly redrawn border with Kuwait and retrieving Iraqi material. Iraq maintains they have UN authorization to get the material, stored at the former Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr. A UN committee recently redrew the boundary, taking a valuable strip of Iraqi territory, including the base, for Kuwait.

Bill Clinton, the U.S. president as of January 20, said he will continue the tough stance on Iraq. "There is no difference between my policy and the policy of the present administration," Clinton emphasized at a January 14 news conference. Clinton said he supported all the bombing raids. Warren Christopher, Clinton's nominee for secretary of state, said he had "continuing total support" for the bombing and predicted that the new administration could "perhaps use even greater force to ensure" enforcement of UN sanctions.

In Baghdad, demonstrations began January 16 commemorating the second anniversary of the Gulf War and protesting the continuation of UN sanctions.

## South Africa 'at gateway to future'

Continued from Page 9

a solution to these problems can be found overnight. Yet a beginning has to be made, and made soon.

This will entail many things, among them measures aimed at ensuring sustained economic growth, a more equitable distribution of wealth, and of income and opportunity especially with regard to the women of our country, the rationalisation and restructuring of state expenditure, the elimination of corruption in the public sector and an appeal to the international community to come to our aid.

Any political arrangements enabling democratic rule will be nullified if we do not ensure a stable and growing economy. Both the workers of our country and business have a crucial and decisive role to play in this regard.

It is crucial that the people should not only get the vote, but also begin to see a new future dawn with regard to jobs, land, food, housing, health and education. Without this, the people cannot even begin to regain their dignity as human beings. Without this, we cannot say we have begun to dismantle the criminal and destructive system of apartheid.

As we progress towards the democratic settlement, more windows to the world will open for our country and people. We should value and nurture this development. The critical element with regard to ending South Africa's isolation will not be statements made by this or the other politician, but the actual movement forward towards the democratisation of our country.

## World looks to us

The world looks to us, who know the true meaning of racism and racial oppression, to create a political and social order which will make a critical contribution to the worldwide struggle against racism.

All humanity is ready and willing to assist us achieve this result which has universal implications. This is an opportunity we dare not allow anyone to frustrate simply because

they refuse to break with the past.

We appeal to the international community and the solidarity movement with its proud history of anti-apartheid activity to help us ensure that the ideal of democracy is realised in South Africa. At this decisive moment their support is more crucial than ever before.

As part of the process of our entry into the world we shall have to do everything in our power to help ensure that Southern Africa is a region of democracy, peace, stability, mutually advantageous co-operation and prosperity.

## Angola and Mozambique

We support the peace processes in Angola and Mozambique aimed at attaining democracy, national reconciliation, peace and reconstruction. In both cases, we have the duty to reciprocate the support the governments and the peoples of these countries extend and have extended to our own programme of transformation. We condemn the continued destabilisation interventions of the apartheid regime in Angola.

We look forward to the termination of the fratricidal wars and conflicts on the African continent, especially in Somalia, Liberia and Sudan. They have imposed enormous suffering on the people of these countries and unnecessary burdens on the neighbouring states. We appeal to the belligerents in these countries to stop the bloodletting, co-operate with their neighbours and the United Nations, to arrive at a speedy settlement of these conflicts.

We are encouraged by the initial steps that have been taken to find a peaceful solution to the problems facing the Palestinian and other peoples in the Middle East. The recent actions of the Government of Israel are a major setback to the search for a peaceful solution and have been rightly condemned by all who seek peace.

We support the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement the programme of action agreed by the OAU and the UN to resolve the

problem of Western Sahara.

The shameful conflict in the former Yugoslavia must be brought to an end. In particular, the so-called ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the atrocities that go with it, should no longer be tolerated.

As we change the manner in which South Africa is governed during this year, our possibilities will increase not only to change our own situation, but also to make our contribution to the building of a new world order of democracy, equality, peace and prosperity.

Let us claim our right to make this contribution on the basis that, within our own national borders, we are creating a society based on the same principles of democracy, equality, peace and prosperity for all.

We enter 1993 conscious of important landmarks in our people's history. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the passing away of King Dinizulu ka Cetshwayo, one of the first honorary presidents of the ANC. It is also the 80th anniversary of the passing of the infamous Land Act of 1913 which sealed the dispossession of the African people. We recall with pride the heroic 1913 mass resistance of women against the imposition of passes.

This is the centenary year of the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi, that symbol of resistance to white domination and colonialism. It also marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of the United Democratic Front which epitomised the unity in struggle of the democratic forces.

We salute all those who paid the supreme sacrifice to help bring our country to this decisive moment.

Let us grasp the opportunity and respond to the challenge of this year with the spirit and steadfastness that has always been the hallmark of the ANC.

Let us make 1993 the year during which our country effectively enters the transition to democratic rule: the year of votes for all in which we mobilise for a decisive victory for the forces of democracy.



# Mounting deaths of Somalis from U.S. shootings

Continued from front page

"One Somali, however, presented the troops with a letter in English protesting the seizures. 'You have no right to take the guns,' the letter read in part. 'Thanks for nothing.'"

A January 12 letter sent by the marine commander in Somalia, Maj. Gen. Charles Wilhelm, to his troops, warns "We are now involved in what may be the most demanding part of our mission, restoring stability to Mogadishu. Because we have been shot at, because we are now busy collecting weapons within the city... if we are not careful we will start thinking that we're at war."

This coincided with the first combat death of a U.S. marine in Somalia. The U.S. military's more aggressive actions have led to more and more Somali deaths. Marines opened fire January 10 on what they said was an armed patrol of eight Somalis, killing three of them.

Six other Somalis were shot dead and six more wounded January 15 when U.S. soldiers, allegedly patrolling for bandits, fired on a farm truck outside the town of Bale Dogle. At least four of those killed were civilians caught in the cross fire.

On January 13 a U.S. marine barged into a private home in Mogadishu where he shot and killed a Somali man. The following day U.S. military commanders issued new guidelines somewhat restricting the previous practice of house-to-house searches by marines.

"You don't know who the enemy is... They can talk to you during the day and shoot at you at night," complained a marine sergeant, expressing the frustration of a growing number of marines.

"I'd like to see the Americans out of here as soon as possible," stated Rep. John Murtha, the chairman of a seven-member congressional delegation that visited Somalia in mid-January. "The longer we're here, the more involved we get. The more involved we get, the longer the deployment."

## Worries about UN replacements

Washington is counting on a sizable, well-armed UN force to replace U.S. troops in Somalia, but there is growing worry by U.S. military personnel on the prospects for this. There are now 34,000 troops operating under U.S. command in Somalia. This includes more than 10,000 troops from 21 other countries, with another 5,000 soldiers promised. Among the troops on the ground are 200 sent by Kuwait and 2,500 from Italy.

Thus far only Belgium, Italy, India, and Pakistan have pledged troops for the next phase of the operation under UN military command. Most other nations, including France and Canada, have said their troops will leave when the U.S. troops depart.

The Defense Department announced January 15 that 850 U.S. marines will be withdrawn this month. About 5,000 U.S. troops are expected to remain as part of the UN force. In addition the U.S. military is planning to station a rapid-deployment marine battalion offshore.

Ten days after the formal end of the January 4-5 UN-sponsored conference on Somalia, the heads of the feuding factions signed an accord declaring a national ceasefire and calling for the disarming of their militias.

The conference, which was dominated by eight former army generals and eight colonels, hopes to undertake a massive disarmament of Somalia's population. According to the *Times*, some 100,000 Somalis still possess weapons.

Somalia's two main warring factions — led by Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid and Mohammed Ali Mahdi — are also planning to set up a joint police force in Mogadishu to perform some of the tasks of imposing law and order currently being undertaken by the U.S. marines.

## 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.

# 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 best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and the Struggle for Black Rights Today.** Sat., Jan. 23, 7 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Washington's Continuing War against Iraq.** Speaker: Kevin Jones, Socialist Workers candidate for Los Angeles City Controller. Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2546-C W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

### San Francisco

**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.

**Germany: The Fight against Racist Attacks.** Speaker: Markie Wilson, Socialist Workers Party, member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-326. Sat., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Stop U.S. War Moves against Iraq.** Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Translation to Spanish.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**The Fight for Women's Rights Today.** Speaker: Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party, member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365. Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**U.S. Rulers Drive to War in Yugoslavia.** Speaker: Richard Rathers, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** 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.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**Class Conflict and Social Crisis in India To-**

**day: 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. 23, 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.** 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

**Stop the Bombing: Say No to Washington's War against the Iraqi People.** Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** 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.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Defending Abortion Rights Today.** A panel discussion. Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

**Support Asylum for Haitian Refugees.** Speaker: Harvey McArthur, recently returned from visit to detention camp for Haitians at U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay. Sun., Jan. 31, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**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 Street. 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 Street. Donation: \$1. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**The Clinton Presidency: Challenges Facing Youth and Trade Unionists.** Sat., Jan. 23, dinner 5:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$4 program, \$5 dinner. Tel: (215) 546-8196.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Opponents of U.S. Embargo against Cuba Speak Out.** Speakers: Jackie Floyd, Socialist Workers Party; Jeff McCrary, Rice University student, participated in Pastors for Peace U.S.-Friendship to Cuba. Sat., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8196.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Defend Abortion Rights! Twenty Years after Roe v. Wade.** Speakers: Hilda Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., Jan. 24, 4:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

**Israel's War on Palestinians. Stop the Depor-**

**tations!** Speakers: Hanna Eady, director, New Image Theater, Palestinian artist; George Chalmers, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists. Sat., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**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

### Manchester

**Crime, Drugs, and Punishment: Whose Interests Do They Serve?** Sat., Jan. 23, 6 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

**Behind the War in Yugoslavia: An Eyewitness Account.** Speaker: Anne Howie, Communist League. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

## CANADA

### Vancouver

**Open the Border to the Haitian Refugees.** Speaker: Harvey McArthur, recently returned from visit to detention camp for Haitians at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay. Sun., Jan. 24, 3 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## ICELAND

### Reykjavik

**Somalia: Aid or Invasion?** Speaker: Gylfi Pall Hersir. Sat., Jan. 23, 1 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

**United States against Iraq: What it is Really About.** Sat., Jan. 30, 1 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

**Social Rights or Charity?** Sat., Feb. 6, 1 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

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**Class Conflict and Social Crisis in India Today: An Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Felicity Coggan, traveled to India in December to attend Asian Students Association conference. Sat., Jan. 23, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Tel: (3) 365-6055.

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**Hands Off Iraq! What's Behind U.S. Attacks?** Speaker: Janet Roth, Communist League. Sat., Jan. 30, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

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**Somalia, Yugoslavia, Iraq: Will Clinton Continue the War Drive?** Speaker: representative, Communist League. Sat., Jan. 23, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

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**National health care, anyone?** — In addition to "earning" \$129,500, congressional perks include free



Harry Ring

use of a Capitol medical service staffed by doctors, nurses, and medical technicians.

**Preventive medicine** — Also available to members of Congress — \$50-a-year health club memberships.

**Whatever it takes** — Masako Owada, who will marry Japan's crown prince, is a government official and a Harvard grad. So one firm is marketing a swimsuit that will assertedly make women look "intelligent but active." And the president of Sony says the wedding will boost the dismal sales of high-definition TVs. He promises that Owada will look "even prettier and more intelligent" on the \$8,000 set.

**Miracle at the altar** — Japanese capitalists say the slated royal wedding will spark the battered economy. In particular, they predict, the nuptials will stimulate other cou-

ples to do likewise, spurring the sales of home furnishings, etc. Meanwhile, since the announced betrothal, the Japanese stock market dropped another 2.8 percent.

**Maybe longer than the job** — For women entering a profession, assembling a proper wardrobe takes a lot of dollars. So, Nordstrom's Personal Touch department has come up with a how-to pamphlet, "Investment Dressing." A Personal Touch manager says, "The clothes may be more expensive, but they last longer."

**White Rose Tournament** — In Pasadena, California, a majority of the population is Latino, Black, and

Asian. But the folks who run the lucrative annual Tournament of Roses are all white and, with a lone exception, all male. The nine members of the executive committee are white males and with the exception of a recently appointed woman who is white, so are the heads of the 28 standing committees.

**Curse away capitalism?** — At a temple north of Tokyo, several hundred people assemble on New Year's Eve to vent their feelings about the social ills that afflict their lives. Women, generally expected to avoid improper language, can join in cursing out the wrongdoings that beset them. Occasionally, a reporter notes,

the shouting gets specific. Like, "Give me a raise!"

**Chocoholic's dream** — A truck went off the road in North Carolina, spilling 45 drums of chocolate syrup and 50 bags of cocoa. We don't know if the driver had OD'ed on the aroma, but according to a news account he was charged with driving while "impaired."

**Welcome the troops back from ???** — It was offered for last Xmas, but it could become a year-round item. A kingsize toy soldier that lights up the lawn at night. It's 6'6" tall, so it come in three easily assembled parts — head, body and legs. \$1,500.

## Filipino youth leader on U.S. troop withdrawal

BY GREG ROSENBERG

NEW DELHI, India — Amante Jimenez, 24, is the national chairperson of the League of Filipino Students. In an interview here during the December 11-16 Asian Students Association conference, Jimenez outlined some of the challenges facing working people in the Philippines.

Jimenez said the victory registered by the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the huge Subic Bay Naval Base last November "didn't signal the dawning of a new era of national freedom. During the very same ceremonies, [Philippine president Fidel] Ramos called for a review of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, claiming the United States is compelled to assist the Philippines in case of conflicts arising from the issue of the Spratly islands."

The Spratly islands are a tiny island group in the South China Sea, midway between the Philippines and Vietnam. Oil exploration is taking place in the ocean surrounding the islands, whose ownership is disputed between Vietnam, China, and the Philippines.

Subic was the largest U.S. military base in the world outside the United States. It,

together with Clark Air Base, which closed in 1991, served as launching points for troops, bombers, warships, and weaponry in conflicts from the Vietnam War to the assault on Iraq.

"It is almost certain that arrangements granting the U.S. access to Philippine air and naval ports shall be reached in the near future," Jimenez said. Announcements from Washington and Manila in the past two months indicate that U.S. warships, aircraft, and troops will continue to have some access to such facilities. In addition to being able to project its massive military power worldwide, Jimenez said that "access and military presence remain one of Washington's foremost economic leverages in the region, especially against the emergent economic superiority of Japan in Southeast Asia."

Economic conditions in the Philippines continue to put a severe squeeze on working people. Jimenez said Ramos, who was military chief under former president Corazon Aquino, "projects that the Philippines shall become Asia's next economic miracle." This is a fallacy, however, Jimenez said. "The government's blind obedience to the

International Monetary Fund results in 40 percent of the national budget going to pay for the foreign debt," which is more than \$30 billion.

Farmers, said Jimenez, are being driven off tracts of land south of Manila and on the island of Mindanao to open up export-oriented agricultural areas. The government's projection for 2 percent economic growth in 1993 would be adjusted to a 1.8 percent decline if money being sent home from overseas contract workers were subtracted.

The League of Filipino Students chairperson, who was jailed in early 1992 after being roughed up and arrested by police for participating in a demonstration at the U.S. embassy in Manila, also discussed the 500 political prisoners being held in jail. "Most of them are worker and peasant activists slapped with criminal charges," he said.

In 1992 the Ramos government unbanned the Communist Party of the Philippines and freed party leader Satur Ocampo, along with Rodolfo Salas, who the regime says is the head of the insurgent New People's Army.

"Ramos is not intent on conducting genuine peace negotiations with the revolutionary force," Jimenez explained. "Their approach remains a military one. The armed forces are stepping up their operations in northern Luzon. They have called for an expansion of the paramilitary units. They are preparing to buy six Italian S-211 jet fighters for aerial bombing operations."

Jimenez pointed out that protests have been held against government deals with Westinghouse Corp., which built a faulty nuclear power plant in Morong in central Luzon province. Westinghouse bribed former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos to the tune of \$17 million in 1974, winning a contract to build the plant for \$500 million. The construction cost for the first of the two units has risen to \$2.2 billion.

Jimenez said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission noted that the plant stands on an earthquake fault and is located eight miles from the active Natib volcano. Ramos is currently working to negotiate an out-of-court settlement with Westinghouse. The government has no plans to stop payments on the \$2.2 billion nuclear debt package.

## Vigils, rallies protest death penalty as Washington state hangs prisoner

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

SEATTLE — Westley Dodd was executed by hanging January 5 at the State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Washington. It was the first execution in three decades in Washington state and the first hanging in the United States since 1965.

Dodd had been convicted of sexual abuse and murder in the deaths of three boys. As with the execution of Gary Gilmore in 1977 after capital punishment was reinstated as a legal form of punishment by the U.S. Supreme Court, Dodd was a prisoner who waived his right to appeal and asked to be executed.

One week before the execution the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit, arguing that hanging constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and should not be permitted. Other vehicles for appeal were precluded because of Dodd's refusal to support them. The Washington State Supreme Court ruled against the lawsuit, however, citing Dodd's request for hanging as a factor in their decision.

At a January 2 speak-out on the death penalty sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum in Seattle, Monica Zucker, a member of the steering committee of the Washington Coalition Against the Death Penalty and a member of the ACLU, described capital punishment as the culmination of injustice in a system based on violence. "We're dealing with problems as if we're at war with our own people," she said.

Zucker added that "29 or 30 prisoners were executed in the U.S. in 1992, the most since the death penalty was reimposed in 1976."

Mark Severs, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in the 1992 elections, pointed to the vigils and protests scheduled in the days before the execution and to the need for a public discussion. He stated that this is a "crucial fight that will be with us until the brutal system of profits is replaced.

The death penalty is a weapon of terror and intimidation used by a small wealthy class against us. We working people are viewed as a criminal class by them.

"Among the inmates there are no millionaires or billionaires," Severs added. "Forty percent of the people on death row are Black, while Blacks make up about 12 percent of the population as a whole. Capital punishment is a court-approved extension of the summary 'justice' meted out daily on our streets by the police."

"This state has a 'sexual predator' law where you can be convicted of a crime, do your time, be released on parole, and then be reviewed by a board that determines whether you're a potential repeat offender," Severs continued. "If this is their opinion, you are incarcerated indefinitely with no opportunity for appeal. Fifteen people are currently jailed under this law."

TV channels 4 and 7 and their radio affiliates covered the forum and featured it on the 11:00 news that night.

Vigils protesting the execution were held in Tacoma, Seattle, Olympia, and Walla Walla. More than 100 people attended the vigil at St. James cathedral in Seattle and 50 stood on the steps of the capitol building in Olympia. Dan Hancock was among a group of students there from North Thurston High School who felt that "the death penalty is total hypocrisy." Though Dodd may want to die, many on death row don't, said Hancock.

Outside the Walla Walla prison the night of the execution, news reports indicated that "several hundred" death penalty supporters rallied and about 50 opponents held a protest there.

One protester, local farmer Dean Weaver, said, "We're a farming community, and I think that has dignity, but I don't think killing people has any dignity."

George Chalmers is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 289.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interest of the Working People  
January 29, 1968 Price 10¢

The announcement that the People's Republic of Korea had seized a U.S. spy ship off its coast, and Washington's reaction to that announcement, both point to the danger created by U.S. imperialism in this section of the world.

A special correspondent of the *New York Times* in Washington said on Jan. 23 that there is "no doubt" that the U.S. ship was "trying to pinpoint the sites of key radio and radar stations in North Korea," to help American engineers "design jamming devices and other electronic countermeasures to cripple enemy radar in the event of combat."

Washington's arrogance was never more apparent in its reaction to this defensive move by the Koreans. Members of Congress said it was an "act of war" for the Koreans to do what they did — as if the U.S. has the right to send spy ships into the waters of any country any time it wishes.

Those opposed to the war in Vietnam should raise their voice against the threatening talk of "war" going on in Washington, and demand that the U.S. stop all provocative spy raids on North Korea and get its troops out of South Korea.

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS  
January 30, 1943

Excerpts from a speech made by A. Philip Randolph, national director of the Negro March On Washington Movement, to a conference of that organization held in Chicago last September and printed in the Oct. 3,

1942, issue of the *Militant*, were part of the "evidence" introduced by Post Office Department officials at the Washington hearing to consider revocation of the *Militant's* second-class mailing privileges.

The insertion into the record of the quotations from Randolph's speech was intended to show how the *Militant* had violated the Espionage Act.

Actually, however, as a reading of the excerpt will show, it proved nothing but that the *Militant* supports the struggle for Negro equality, and that the attack on this paper constitutes the first step toward the suppression or intimidation of all independent tendencies in the labor, liberal, and Negro movements.

Following is the excerpt introduced into the Washington hearing last week:

"While he opened his remarks with an expression of hope 'for the triumph of the United Nations,' Randolph was immediately compelled to characterize, at least by implication, the true character of the war: 'Unless this war sounds the death knell to the old Anglo-American empire systems which is the hapless story of exploitation for the profit and power of a monopoly capitalist economy, it will have been fought in vain.' Of course, Randolph knows well that Churchill and Roosevelt are not fighting to sound the 'death knell' to American and British capitalism, but to preserve it.

"[Randolph said:] 'This system grew fat and waxed powerful off the flesh and blood and sweat and tears of the tireless toilers of the human race and the sons and daughters of color in the underdeveloped lands of the world.'

" 'We must develop a series of marches of Negroes at a given time in a hundred cities or more throughout the country, or stage a big march of a hundred thousand Negroes on Washington to put our cause into the main stream of public opinion and focus the attention of world interest. This is why India is in the news. . . . ' "



# Hands off Iraq!

The cowardly bombing of Iraq by U.S. military forces, with some help from Britain and France, is a brutal violation of that nation's sovereignty.

Washington is asserting it has the right to lash out at will against Iraq, and by extension anywhere in the world where it feels its interests are being threatened. Through naked force the U.S. rulers hope to maintain their domination over this oil-rich region and get an upper hand against their imperialist rivals headquartered in Paris, London, Bonn, and Tokyo.

Various pretexts are cited for bombing Iraq and killing working people of that country — United Nations inspection teams are not being allowed in; Baghdad is violating the so-called "no-fly" zones on its own territory; nuclear weapons are allegedly being built. The Bush administration has used whatever justification it thinks will gain popular support for its "right to intervene."

Waving the appropriate UN resolutions Washington has established "no-fly" areas over nearly two-thirds of Iraq. These exclusion zones, where Iraqi planes will be and have been shot down on sight, are as much a violation of Iraq's right to determine its own affairs as the bombing of Baghdad.

Massive bombing and other military assaults during the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1991 left much of the country in ruins and took as many as 150,000 lives. The economic embargo against the people of Iraq, which remains in effect to this day, has produced great hardship and thousands more deaths. Bombing Iraq now is a continuation of the carnage Washington began two years ago. And Warren Christopher, the new secretary of state, made it clear that

it is not about to end. He urged that Clinton could "perhaps use even greater force."

The Saddam Hussein regime is a creation of successive U.S. administrations. Through a long war with Iran and right up to Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait, Washington made considerable efforts to fund, arm, and egg on his brutal regime. While Washington would like to get rid of Hussein, the U.S. military actions against Iraq today hurt above all the country's people, not its corrupt leaders.

The continuing military assault against Iraq is also a warning to other regimes in the area, particularly Iran. Ever since the Iranian revolution in 1979, Washington has never dropped its goal of turning it back. It was Baghdad's brutal war against Iran after the revolution that made Saddam Hussein such a favorite of Washington for a decade.

Washington's actions against the people of Iraq also shed light on the continuing intervention of U.S. forces in Somalia. That action is no more humanitarian than the bombing of Baghdad. Many Somalis have already been killed as a result of this mission. Through gaining acceptance for military intervention in Somalia, Washington hopes to make it easier to conduct its actions against Iraq and wherever else it feels military action is needed in other parts of the world.

Working people have no interest in the wars that Washington is embarking on, be they in Iraq, Somalia, and soon Yugoslavia. Protests should be organized to demand:

Stop the bombing!  
U.S. hands off Iraq!

# Defend Social Security

"Clinton could end up looking a lot like Ross Perot," noted the *Washington Post* after officials of the new presidential administration hinted that entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid could be cut to bring down the budget deficit. Clinton's rapid backing off from campaign promises should help dispel the fantasies of those who may have had illusions that the White House with a Democratic family in residence might do better by working people.

In order to gain support for the idea of cutting social programs, politicians argue that the "rich don't need social security." Such programs should be "means tested" they say — so that funds go only to those truly in need. Billionaire Ross Perot even made the "generous" offer to forego social security benefits himself. But any attempt by the government to make social security a "means tested" program is simply a cover to begin taking back one of the giant conquests of the working class. It leads in the direction of reestablishing the degrading "poorhouse" system of public and private charity.

Social programs that are designed to benefit all citizens have never been the result of government largess. Some form of income after retirement, medical coverage for the elderly and the very poor, unemployment compensation, and other social programs, are the result of decades of struggle by working people. They are the product of the labor movement fighting for the government to take responsibility for the basic needs of all working people who are regularly victimized by the normal workings of the capitalist economy.

These entitlements make up part of the social wage that the capitalist ruling class — now with Clinton as chief executive officer — is determined to cut back on.

In addition to cuts in social programs, politicians of various stripes are urging an increased gasoline tax to cut the budget deficit. This would supposedly equalize the burden among all. But a tax on gasoline is the most regressive kind of levy — an unemployed auto worker will be forced to share the same hardship as the head of General Motors.

The capitalists have billions of dollars that could be used to raise the social programs and the living standards of working people rather than lowering them. The profits they squeeze from the fruits of our labor would be more than enough. Any money shaved from social benefits, or raised from higher taxes, to pay off the deficit isn't "shared sacrifice." Such moves just make working people pay to fatten the wallets of the wealthy bondholders who enrich themselves from interest payments on the national debt while placing the burden for the economic crisis on our backs.

As the new Clinton administration begins to take aim at social programs, the labor movement should prepare to fight. What working people need is jobs for all, which can be achieved by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay, and a federally funded public works program. We also need an expansion of the social security system.

What the labor movement must fight for is a social security system that is universal — free public health programs, education, and other social programs for all. The government should tax the wealthy, not working people.

# Clinton rebuffs Haitians

President-elect Bill Clinton's declaration that he will continue George Bush's policy of forcibly repatriating Haitians into the hands of a bloodstained military regime should be condemned by all supporters of social justice.

To back up the Bush-Clinton policy, Washington has boosted its military presence off Haiti's shores to include 22 U.S. Coast Guard and Navy ships, in a blockade designed to prevent Haitians from leaving the island.

Clinton's actions contradict the lofty statement he made during his presidential campaign when he condemned Bush's forced repatriation policy as a violation of elementary human rights. Now Clinton, like Bush, describes this outrageous policy as a humanitarian effort designed to save lives.

The blockade being imposed on people leaving Haiti is all the more hypocritical in light of Washington's weakening of the economic embargo of that country, which was announced by the Organization of American States shortly after Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in September 1991. In February of last year the Bush administration exempted from the embargo all U.S. businesses with factories in Haiti. And many European governments have completely ignored the embargo from the beginning.

Clinton, like Bush, suggests to Haitians that rather than leave Haiti in boats they should apply for U.S. asylum right there on the island. However, given the repressive condi-

tions, many Haitians know that simply by taking this step they are setting themselves up for further harassment, beatings, and even death at the hands of the military.

For those who have actually filled out such applications, the record shows that the U.S. government continues to reject most of these asylum requests despite strong evidence showing well-founded fear of persecution. The *Miami Herald* recently reported on the case of a Haitian man who was turned down for asylum, though he had been beaten by four soldiers. The Immigration and Naturalization Service Agent (INS) cynically explained that if indeed the army was out to get him, the soldiers would have killed him when they had the chance.

The attempt to draw a distinction between economic and political refugees as a basis to bar the vast majority of Haitians from even being considered for asylum makes a mockery of justice. All Haitians seeking to escape the island are victims of both military repression and grinding poverty, which is the product of decades of imperialist exploitation and oppression of Haitian workers and peasants.

The *Militant* urges all of its readers to participate in the February 7-13 Haiti Solidarity Week of activities being organized by a range of organizations in cities around the United States. These actions can be used to press Washington to end its policy of forced repatriation, open U.S. borders to Haitian refugees, and enforce the economic embargo against the illegal regime.

# Clinton prepares for austerity and war

Continued from Page 3

course results from the need of the wealthy U.S. rulers to drive down the social wage of working people. This is not the hourly wage paid by the employer but the government-funded social benefits working people have won in struggle. This social wage is based on the premise the government should provide basic protection from the impact of the ups and downs of the capitalist business cycle, some form of income after retirement at an age when it can still be enjoyed, medical coverage, and other social benefits. The assault on such programs runs in tandem with the employers' drive against the hourly wages and job conditions of tens of millions of working people.

Reduction of the social wage along with the hourly wage is essential for the employers, both individually and collectively, to compete against their imperialist rivals abroad and to make working people pay for the crisis of the world capitalist economic system.

The fact that the government is taking on this challenge is relatively new. The nationwide movement of working people that forged the industrial labor unions in the 1930s established for the first time the assumption that the government is responsible for providing a basic level of unemployment compensation, food and housing, and other social rights to all those affected by the workings of the capitalist economy.

This conquest was a break from the previous degrading system of private and public charity for small layers of the very poor — the so-called workhouses, poor farms, and poorhouses, which date back two centuries to the rise of industrial capitalism and the dispossession and ruin of hundreds of thousands of small farmers and artisans.

## Extent of rural crisis

Just why the labor movement needs to rechart a similar course today to protect working people from the ravages of the current depression was spelled out in some reports by sources that are not unfriendly to the new Democratic administration.

Hoping to cash in on Clinton's promise of a \$20 billion-a-year program to upgrade roads and other infrastructure, the National Association of Counties and two similar organizations urged the new president to release some \$3 billion immediately for rural areas.

"Our infrastructure is in bad shape," said Kenneth Stoner, president of the association. Stoner is the commissioner of Phillips County in Clinton's home state of Arkansas. Of the county's 28,000 residents, some 11,000 receive food stamps.

Stoner noted that the nationwide rural poverty rate of 16.1 percent was significantly higher than the 13.7 percent for urban areas. Of the 3 million miles of rural roadway, less than half is paved and 180,000 bridges are in need of repair, a report by the association says.

The unemployment picture is similar. In the fifth quarter of the official upturn from the 1990-91 recession, government unemployment figures stand at 7.3 percent — higher than at the trough of the downturn.

In mid-January the Labor Department released the initial results of its new way of calculating the unemployment level. The figures will surprise few. Some 1.8 million workers previously counted as fully employed because they worked 35 hours a week have been actually working two or more part-time jobs. Another 5.3 million workers must work both a full-time and a part-time job to make ends meet. About 900,000 people listed as wage earners have been working in family businesses without pay. And nearly 2 million women consider themselves forced to work part-time because they lack child care.

## Gas or consumption tax

To make matters worse the Clinton administration is considering the most regressive kind of taxation to increase government revenues, such as adopting Perot's proposal for a 50-cent-a-gallon gas tax.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman, echoing Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, argued that "as a nation, we have been consuming too much and investing too little." Altman, a former investment banker, said "one form or another of new tax on consumption is necessary" to raise the government's income flow.

"There were a lot of good arguments made for the gas tax," Clinton said after his two-day televised meeting on the economy in Little Rock, Arkansas, earlier this month. Vice-president-elect Al Gore and budget director Panetta have long been advocates of the tax. The proposal also has the backing of U.S. automakers.

While preparing for a new round of assaults at home, Clinton administration officials stressed, in the words of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, that the use of military "force in certain circumstances — and its credible threat in general — will be essential to the success of our diplomacy."

In testimony before Congress, Christopher cited the case of the former Yugoslavia, where he said "Europe and the world community in general must bring real pressures, economic and military, to bear on the Serbian leadership to halt its savage policy of murder, rape and ethnic cleansing."

On the bombing of Iraq, Clinton said, "I think it was the right decision, done in the right way. We've been very supportive of President Bush." Christopher added that he backs so-called war crimes trials against Iraqi government officials.



# The USAir-British Airways merger controversy

BY EDWIN FRUIT

BALTIMORE — The proposed alliance between British Airways, the world's largest carrier of international passengers, and USAir, the sixth-largest airline in the United States, collapsed just before the new year. The U.S. Department of Transportation was prepared to veto the deal unless London agreed to open British airspace to more U.S. flights. The British government refused to give in and British Airways withdrew from the plan.

## UNION TALK

In the past few months there has been a big media blitz around the merger. Full-page ads appeared in major dailies signed by the corporate heads of United, Delta, and American airlines opposing the deal, and by USAir and British Airways representatives urging approval. U.S. transportation secretary Andrew Card estimated that more than 100,000 letters on both sides of the issue had been sent to his office.

At USAir, where I work, most people had a wait-and-see attitude. They were concerned with keeping their jobs, and if the alliance would do that they were for it. The announcement that the deal had fallen through did not cause any big concern. One worker remarked, "This isn't about foreign control. It's about competition and American Airlines doesn't want another strong airline with international links."

Many workers at United Airlines voiced opposition to the deal, thinking a USAir-British Airways alliance would make it harder for United to compete and therefore might put their jobs in jeopardy.

Ironically, employees at United and USAir are not only members of the same union, the International Association of Machinists (IAM), but are in the same district and at many airports belong to the same amalgamated locals.

By adopting the slogan "What is good for the company is good for us," workers fall into a deadly trap. We begin to see each other as enemies, instead of uniting to fight against layoffs, wage cuts, and deteriorating living standards, which are all by-products of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system.

IAM international officials, who generally support protectionist measures as a way of "saving American jobs," found themselves in a sticky position. One section of the officialdom was against the alliance while other top officials favored it.

IAM international president George Kourpias, in a letter to Card, endorsed the alliance. "This organization has the

responsibility and total commitment to protect the jobs of thousands of USAir and British Airways employees (U.S.), in addition to maintaining a viable competitive air transport system in America for the traveling public," he wrote.

In October IAM general vice-president John Peterpaul, echoing the line of the heads of United, Delta, and American airlines, explained, "Ideally, we want British Airways to stay out of the management of USAir and for the European skies to open up for all U.S. carriers."

USAir has been in financial straits for several years. A combination of mergers and a depressed economy, along with intense competition, contributed to this situation. In the past five years several major airlines have been forced to shut down, including Eastern, Braniff, Midway, and Pan Am.

Other airlines, such as TWA, America West, and Continental, are in bankruptcy court. A new round of layoffs and wage cuts was just announced by Northwest, Alaska, and



British Airways planes at London's Heathrow airport

United airlines, following similar moves by Delta and American.

USAir was looking for an alliance that would strengthen its position and give it access to profitable international routes. British Airways was promised 44 percent of USAir in return for a \$750 million investment.

For months USAir executives campaigned to convince the U.S. government and the public that such an alliance would be "good for American business." They claimed the alliance would save the jobs of 47,000 workers in the United States employed by USAir. The heads of American, United, and Delta, on the other hand, complained this would give British Airways complete access to U.S. markets while continuing to restrict their access to British airspace. They raised the specter of foreign domination over a U.S. company.

USAir officials tried to show how "American" the deal

was by pointing out that British Airways uses Boeing aircraft and General Electric engines, while United has orders from the European aircraft-maker Airbus.

USAir heads urged their employees to send letters to Congress supporting the alliance, while United, American, and Delta heads encouraged their employees to write letters opposing the deal.

### Workers must fight regardless

Workers will have to continue fighting for better working conditions, higher wages and benefits, and against layoffs, regardless of who is at the helm of the company.

Capitalism is in crisis worldwide, as is clearly seen in the airline industry. Many airline workers have worked for a number of companies as airlines are bought out, merge, go into bankruptcy, or go out of business. Allying ourselves with any boss can only be a dead end, as they all try to weaken our unions and drive down our wages.

USAir's antilabor position was made clear during the recent strike, which ended with a concession contract, and through its success in beating back a union-organizing drive by ramp service workers and caterers.

British Airways has also been hostile to its work force, in both the United States and Britain. Just recently, British Airways proposed a 25 percent reduction in wages, which the union rejected. The company agreed to ongoing negotiations only after a systemwide strike by the Transport and General Workers Union was threatened. British Airways has also been successful in forcing separate contracts for its domestic and international divisions, another tactic to divide the work force.

We need to achieve unity in struggle with other working people, regardless of our nationalities. Multinational corporations have no problems crossing borders to promote the interests of the rich. We have to do likewise to fight for our common interests. For example, we should link up with our brothers and sisters in Britain who are trying to defend their standard of living.

In the process we can begin to transform our unions into fighting organizations to defend working people against the maneuvers of the bosses and their governments whose only aim is to increase their profits at our expense.

*Edwin Fruit is a member of IAM Local Lodge 846 and works for USAir at Baltimore-Washington International Airport in Baltimore. Janice Lynn, a member of IAM Local Lodge 1759 who works for United Airlines at Dulles Airport in Virginia, also contributed to this article.*

## LETTERS

### Discussion on Somalia

More than 200 people attended a public forum December 21 in New York City, sponsored by WBAI-FM Radio. The program, "Somalia Today and New Militarism," took place at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Labor Center, the union hall of Local 1199 of the Hospital Workers Union.

Among those participating in the panel were Samori Marksman of WBAI-FM and the African and Caribbean Resource Center; a representative of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Dr. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, a Kenyan novelist and historian; Mursal Farah and Dr. Asha Samaad Matias, both from the Somali Association for Relief and Development (Safrad); and Dr. Said Samatar, a Somali professor of history at Rutgers University who accompanied the U.S. Marines in Mogadishu.

Dr. Samaad Matias and Farah revealed the hypocrisy and cynicism in the U.S. government's stated purpose for launching the invasion. Both Safrad representatives explained the disregard for the Somali people's needs by relief agencies themselves, and the steps forward that were being made within the country before the invasion took place.

I spoke during the discussion about the importance of seeing the Somali people as potential fellow fighters, not victims that needed Washington to set up a government for its own interests.

Dr. Samatar responded that the central problem the Somali people face is starvation, and the multinational force led by the U.S. military is providing the relief needed. He went on to say that he had never before witnessed such a welcome response to troop deployment by a people. He believed a "wait-and-see" approach was the wisest as it

wasn't clear to him that the U.S. was attempting to set up a government in Somalia.

These comments drew a heated response from a number of participants. One woman said, "Wait? For what? It may be too late to do anything after they get their feet dug into the soil."

*Elizabeth Kealy  
New York, New York*

### British injustice

The British State has a despicable record of human rights abuses in Ireland. In particular during the current phase of the "troubles" it has wrongfully imprisoned many Irish women and men whose only real crime has been to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. International pressure has often been the key factor in securing the freedom of many of those so victimized. It is in the light of this that I write to you on behalf of the Casement Park Accused, the latest victims of British injustice.

The Casement frame-up begins in March 1988. A massive funeral for three Irish Republicans, executed by the British Army in Gibraltar, was itself the object of a murderous assault by the Loyalist Michael Stone. Three mourners were killed outright and over thirty were injured. In the hours preceding the subsequent funeral of Kevin Brady (one of Stone's victims) another Belfast Catholic was assassinated by the death squads of the Loyalist UDA.

At one point a car drove at high speed into the procession, its two occupants produced revolvers, and a shot was discharged. Fearing another Loyalist killing spree a courageous group of (unarmed) mourners advanced and disarmed the two men. While some searched the vehicle for explosives others moved the unknown assailants to the nearby Casement Park in order

to search them. It then emerged that the men were undercover British soldiers. Some time later an armed unit of the Irish Republican Army arrived, took the soldiers into their custody, and shot them. The members of this unit have never been identified or imprisoned but many others have.

The British Government has never explained what the two soldiers were doing nor why it was that, unusually, there were no police officers present at the funeral. The State nevertheless was bent on vengeance and so blatantly distorted the law in order to secure the conviction of men who had no part in the killings.

The burden of the prosecution's case was that those who disarmed the unknown gunmen and then moved them to Casement Park must have known that they would be murdered and that they therefore shared a common purpose with those who actually carried out the shootings. Five men have been sentenced to life imprisonment on this dubious legal basis. Three of these — Pat Kane, Michael Timmons, and Sean Kelly — never even went near Casement Park and so could scarcely share a common purpose with an IRA unit of whose existence they were unaware.

Widespread concern about these cases has been voiced with Amnesty International, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, the Haldane Society of Lawyers, and the British National Council for Civil Liberties, all producing reports critical of some aspects of the legal process. Two campaigns have been formed to reverse these miscarriages of justice, the Justice for the Casement Park Accused Campaign (8 Archway Mall, London, N1 5RG, Britain), and the Casement Accused Relatives Committee (5-7 Conway St, Falls Rd., Bel-

fast 12, Northern Ireland). Please send messages of support and more importantly protest to your nearest British Ambassador or Consul and otherwise raise the matter in your locality. Your intervention may help to end the agony of these men and their families.

*Steven Hepburn  
Middlesex, England*

### Nuclear missiles

Mary-Alice Waters's letter to the *New York Times* on the Cuban Missile Crisis helped clear the air on an important aspect of this world-shaking event. That the *Times* did not print it is an expectable disappointment — that the *Militant* did proves once again what an indispensable resource it is in defense of our class.

I would like to venture a different political opinion on one important issue relating to the crisis: the wisdom of allowing missiles to be placed in Cuba. First, let's be clear about what we agree on: Cuba has a right to self-defense; the U.S. had missiles in Turkey, and missiles in Cuba could be construed as quid pro quo.

However, I believe that no state has a right to even threaten to annihilate workers with weapons of mass destruction. The deaths of 180 million U.S. citizens in a nuclear holocaust, and the deaths of millions elsewhere from a nuclear exchange, would have done terrible damage to the condition of workers worldwide. This is incontrovertible. The mere fact of a workers' state having missiles, even as an alleged deterrent, makes it more politically feasible for imperialist politicians to actually use theirs. Therefore, the stationing of Soviet missiles in Cuba was a big mistake.

Nuclear weapons are not precise machines aimed at war-makers' abilities to produce further war materiel or move troops. They are,

instead, weapons of terror against entire populations — akin to the gas chambers of the Nazis. Could we imagine saying that a workers' state had a right to build an equal number of gas chambers to the Nazis, in the name of self-defense?

Just as the *Militant* has correctly concluded that nuclear power has no legitimate role in this world, as an inherently toxic technology, I believe this conclusion should be extended to nuclear missiles.

*Albert Fried-Cassorla  
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania*

### Malcolm X award

The *Militant* recently received a "Keeper of the Flame Award" certificate, issued by the Malcolm X Lovers' Network "for maintaining the legacy and ideals of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) in the hearts and minds of our people." The certificate was dated November 2, 1992, in honor of Black Solidarity Day and signed by Preston Wilcox, Editor/Curator.

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

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



## Cuban to tour Canada and Britain

### Che Guevara and the revolution in Cuba to be topic of British tour

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

LONDON — Cuban economist Carlos Tablada will tour Britain February 3–13 and 22–28. He will be speaking at public meetings in London, Manchester, and Sheffield on "The challenges facing the Cuban revolution today."

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. The book outlines how Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution in the 1960s, sought to lead Cuba's working people to take control of the country's economic and political institutions and transform themselves in the process. Guevara explained that socialism could not be built by utilizing capitalist market methods.

The tour in Britain is part of a European tour to launch the new French-language edition of Tablada's book. He will speak in cities in Belgium, France, and Sweden.

This will be Carlos Tablada's second visit to Britain. In November 1990 he conducted a three-week tour in Britain where he addressed 15 college lectures and seminars, four public meetings, a conference of farmers, a conference on the Third World debt, a meeting at the House of Commons, and meetings with trade unionists. In all Tablada spoke to more than 1,500 people.

There is already broad interest in Tablada's forthcoming visit here. Endorsers of the tour include Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), who recently visited Cuba; a member of the European Parliament; and 11 members of Parliament including Tony Benn and Jeremy Corbyn. The FBU, which recently sent a union delegation to Cuba, is also financially sponsoring the main public rally that Carlos Tablada will address February 27 at the Trades Union Congress headquarters in Congress House.

Many academic figures have sponsored the tour. These include Professor J.C. Dunkerley of Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, Shubi Ishemo of Hallam University, and Barry Wilkins of the University of Wales in Cardiff.

Among other organizations endorsing the tour are the Association of South African Students, the Kurdistan Solidarity Committee, and the Young Communist League.

Carlos Tablada will be addressing a meeting of students at Queen Mary and Westfield College in London. Other events being planned include a meeting with a group of South African students, a discussion with

trade union leaders in the Ford car plant in London; an event at Latin America House, the organizing center of many Latin American solidarity campaigns in London; and a meeting with members of Parliament.

Carlos Tablada's tour comes at a time of increased interest in Cuba due to the depth of the economic crisis here where many young people are looking for alternatives to capitalism. Recent television documentaries and press reports on the Cuban missile crisis have also heightened interest in Cuba. This has been increased by press exposures of Britain's involvement in the missile crisis. The December 23 *Independent* reported, "A secret agreement allowing United States bombers to launch air-strikes against Cuba from a British base in the Bahamas during the 1962 missile crisis has been disclosed by the Campaign for Freedom of Information."

One example of growing interest that exists in Britain on events in Cuba was a recent meeting that was organized by Labour Party members of Parliament who just returned from a delegation to Cuba.

Marcella FitzGerald, coordinator of Tablada's tour here, explains that "more and more young people are asking questions about Cuba today like: how can Cuba survive? The aim of this tour will be to allow as many of these young people as possible to hear Carlos Tablada's views."

Those interested in helping to publicize the tour and in receiving more information on Tablada's speaking engagements can contact Pathfinder bookshops in London, Sheffield, or Manchester (see addresses on page 12).

### Cuban economist to speak in eight Canadian cities

BY GRANT MILLER

MONTREAL — A 14-day tour of Canada by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada will start January 18 in British Columbia. Tablada will be speaking on "Challenges before the Cuban revolution today." The eight-city tour is sponsored by Pathfinder, the publisher in English and French of Tablada's book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

In the days leading up to Tablada's departure for Canada, several prominent individuals made inquiries to the Ministry of Employment and Immigration to express their concerns about delays in the issuing of a visa for Tablada that were threatening the tour itself. The application for the visa was made to the Canadian embassy in Havana December 7.

A total of 37 letters of invitation in support



Militant/Janet Post

Carlos Tablada speaking in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1989.

of the visa application were sent on or after that date. The letters were sent by a range of figures in university and trade union circles and from student associations and organizations that promote solidarity with Cuba.

Inquiries were made by federal members of Parliament Warren Allmand and Svend Robinson; well known civil rights lawyer Clayton Ruby; François Demers, dean of the Faculty of Arts at Laval University in Quebec City; Robert White, head of the Canadian Labor Congress; and many of the university professors who have invited Tablada

to speak on their campuses.

The visa was finally issued January 15, just two days before Tablada's planned departure date.

After leaving British Columbia, Tablada travels to Ontario where he will speak in Toronto, Hamilton, and Ottawa. The tour ends in Quebec with engagements in Montreal and Quebec City. Tablada then flies to Europe where meetings have been organized in Britain, Sweden, France, and Belgium.

For details of Tablada's Canada tour meetings, see page 6.

## U.S.-based terrorists threaten new wave of attacks on Cuba

BY DAN FEIN

MIAMI — U.S. authorities are giving the green light to stepped-up terrorist activities launched against Cuba from U.S. territory.

On January 6 U.S. district judge James Lawrence King threw out two federal weapons charges against Tony Bryant. Bryant had been rescued from Cuban waters July 4 of last year by the U.S. Coast Guard, which discovered guns in his speedboat.

Bryant, a former member of the Black Panther Party, hijacked a plane to Cuba in 1969, a crime for which he was convicted.

Convicted felons are barred from carrying weapons.

For two days the jury in this case heard testimony about the violation committed by Bryant and three others in a speedboat piloted by Bryant of Cuba's territorial waters. The four are members of Comandos L, a Miami-based right-wing terrorist organization that has taken public responsibility for recent armed attacks against Cuba.

Bryant claimed he and his accomplices were in Cuban waters to rescue rafters leaving Cuba. Their speedboat hit a rock and they called the Coast Guard for help. The Coast Guard found four guns in the speedboat after towing it to the shore.

Bryant said he had no idea the guns were on board. The judge agreed and threw the case out.

The next day Bryant called a news conference where he announced new raids against Cuba. "From this point on we're at war," he said. "The U.S. Neutrality Act doesn't exist."

The Neutrality Act bans the planning and launching of military expeditions from U.S. soil against countries with which the United States is not at war.

Bryant declared Comandos L will target military and economic sites in Cuba, such as hotels. He warned foreign tourists to stay out of Cuba to avoid becoming victims of the violence.

For decades the U.S. government has ignored violations of the Neutrality Act by Comandos L and other terrorist organizations that train and launch armed attacks against Cuba from southern Florida.

## Angolan people push back UNITA attacks

BY GREG McCARTAN

Fighting between government troops and the terror outfit UNITA has spread across much of southern Angola. UNITA forces have been driven from several cities, according to Associated Press and Reuters dispatches.

Government-led forces have done best in cities where civilians have been armed and allowed to help push UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) out of occupied areas. The first such action took place in the capital city of Luanda last October and has been repeated in the coastal town of Benguela and Lubango, 400 miles southeast of the capital.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has organized a war of attrition against the government since the nation won independence from Portugal in 1975. With significant military and political backing from Washington and the

South African regime, Savimbi's drive to oust the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has left the country deeply divided and war-ravaged.

Savimbi stepped up his military assaults shortly after United Nations-supervised elections were held last September. Although the MPLA won a majority of seats in parliament, Savimbi garnered enough votes to deny Angolan president José Eduardo dos Santos a majority in the presidential race. Calling the vote results a fraud, Savimbi's forces occupied parts of the capital city and captured several strategic towns.

Savimbi won a hearing in the elections by placing blame on the MPLA for the country's tremendous economic and social problems. He presented little in the way of a program and faces a challenge in transforming UNITA into an organization that can contest for political support in the long term, given that wide

layers of the population hold him responsible for the damage and hardship caused by the imperialist-backed war.

In addition to Benguela and Lubango, government forces recaptured the cities of Caxito and Ndalatando and opened a drive on Huambo, the headquarters of Savimbi's operations. Fighting is also taking place in Cuito and Dundo, according to press reports.

Casualties have been high because civilian participation in the battles has taken place on the initiative of the population and was not organized along traditional military lines. Two hundred reportedly died in fighting in Lubango and at least 100 in Huambo.

A UNITA radio broadcast denied government claims that Huambo had been captured. "Government forces are still under fire and have sustained heavy human and material losses," it said.