

THE MILITANT

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Militant launches one-month
subscription renewal drive

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 57/NO. 27 August 9, 1993

Clinton pushes anti-immigrant policies

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

The Clinton administration is using the plight of 659 Chinese refugees, detained on the high seas for more than a week by the U.S. Coast Guard, to push its proposals for further attacks on the rights of immigrants.

The president has also continued George Bush's policy of picking up fleeing Haitians from international waters and forcibly returning them to Haiti. During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton called this policy "appalling."

Meanwhile, Washington is seeking to undercut the rights of immigrants already in the United States through a highly publicized frame-up campaign against a number of Palestinian, Egyptian, and Sudanese workers charged in the World Trade Center bombing and an unsubstantiated plot to bomb several other public sites in New York City.

U.S. authorities stopped the three rickety boats carrying the Chinese refugees July 6. In spite of subhuman and dangerously unhealthy conditions on the vessels, Washington kept the asylum-seekers stranded 100 miles off the coast of San Diego while it pressured the Mexican government to accept them or force them back to China.

"Simply put, the Administration wants to
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Mandela: workers must stand together

BY JOHANNA RYAN

CHICAGO — "You are the pillar of the liberation struggle throughout the world," African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela told a cheering crowd of more than 1,500 unionists at Plumbers' Hall here July 7. "We are speaking to comrades in arms, who know how to sacrifice and are sensitive to the problems of other workers in other parts of the world."

The labor rally, organized by the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid, capped a two-day Chicago visit by Mandela as part of a U.S. solidarity and fund-raising tour. Officials of the Chicago Federation of Labor, United Steelworkers of America District 31, the Chicago Federation of Teachers, and many other labor groups joined Mandela on the platform.

A highlight of the rally was the participation of 20 striking coal miners from half a dozen United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals in southern Illinois. They made the six-hour drive, as one miner explained, "to show our support and to help this brother out all we can."

In a brief solidarity message to the rally, Tony Kujawa of UMWA District 12 explained that the 1989-90 Pittston Coal strike

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Friendshipment caravan confronts Cuba embargo

In cities across the country, a broad range of forces opposed to Washington's embargo against Cuba launched the second U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan in mid-July.

Convoys of vans, cars, trucks, buses, and tractor trailers departed from a dozen cities in the United States and Canada, carrying what will amount to 100 tons of material aid for Cuba in a well-publicized challenge to the three-decades-long embargo.

A total of 308 volunteer drivers are taking the solidarity caravan through 120 cities. At each stop, activists are organizing public send-off rallies, press conferences, and other events to explain the facts about the U.S. trade embargo and travel ban against Cuba and to promote broader opposition to it.

The drivers include students, workers, farmers, clergy members, small businesspeople, and others. Sixty-five are Cuban-Americans, mainly from Miami and New Jersey. "We are a diverse group, representing many religious and political philosophies, but with one common goal — end the U.S. trade embargo," stated a letter by Pastors for Peace, which initiated the caravan.

The Friendshipment events have drawn both opponents of the U.S. embargo and people who want to learn more about Cuba and why Washington maintains a hostile policy toward that country. In several cities, workers involved in union struggles have spoken at these meetings, from striking coal miners to mushroom pickers and telephone workers.

The Friendshipment convoys will meet in Laredo, Texas, and plan to cross the border into Mexico July 29, where they will be joined by fellow activists from the "Va por Cuba" solidarity coalition. The caravan will travel to Tampico, Mexico, and then to Cuba to deliver the aid.

Pastors for Peace has launched an emergency campaign of telephone calls, faxes, and letters to the White House demanding



Militant/Steve Marshall

Volunteers load humanitarian aid for Cuba July 17 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. More than 120 cities are participating in the Friendshipment.

that the government let the aid caravan pass unhindered into Mexico July 29. Last November, U.S. border officials in Laredo initially blocked the first Friendshipment and harassed its participants until public pressure forced them to let the convoy pass with 15 tons of aid, which was successfully delivered to Cuba.

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment scored an important victory July 16 when a truck from

Winnipeg, Manitoba, carrying aid for Cuba was allowed to cross the U.S. border. The vehicle was loaded with \$2,000 worth of aid, including bicycles, powdered milk, crutches, school supplies, and bibles in Spanish. The effort was organized by the Manitoba Cuba Solidarity Committee.

U.S. customs inspectors held up the group for four hours, initially claiming the medicine and other items could not be shipped across U.S. territory because of Washington's embargo against Cuba. The 30 activists stood their ground, however,

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Coal miners' strike expands into seven states as union appeals for solidarity

BY MARY ZINS

PINCKNEYVILLE, Illinois — As the strike battle between the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) expands, the miners are reaching out to win new support across the country (See accompanying article). There are now 16,000 miners striking in seven states — Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Five thousand camouflage-clad striking miners, their families, and supporters joined an "international labor rally" here July 15 to support the strike. Two thousands had participated in a similar rally in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, a day earlier.

"When it comes to trade unionists, there is only one language — solidarity," said UMWA president Richard Trumka in his keynote addresses to the rallies.

More than 100 locked-out members of the Allied Industrial Workers union from Decatur, Illinois, 50 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers locked out from Central Illinois Power Service plants across southern Illinois, and 25 United Auto Workers members from the Decatur Caterpillar plant joined the Pinck-

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Militant/Steve Craine

Miners march in Pittsburgh May 1

Illinois strikers tour Seattle area

BY SCOTT BREEN

SEATTLE — Two striking coal miners from southern Illinois got a warm reception from unionists and others during their tour of Washington state. Dan Spinnie and Jerry Kellerman, members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals 2161 and 1392 respectively, were invited here by the Washington State Federation of Labor and the King County Labor Council.

The miners told their story at the "To Live in Dignity" Labor Fair and Rally in Tacoma, Washington, on July 17. They were invited to speak and have a booth by the unions organizing the event, which commemorates the anniversary of a mass rally in support of unionism exactly 100 years ago.

Throughout the day, dozens of workers and family members talked with miners at the booth, offering their support. They bought UMWA T-shirts and hats, buttons, and pins, or simply threw money in the donation bucket while sharing experiences. KLAY talk radio did a 15-minute interview

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Hillary Clinton blames workers, youth for health crisis — page 5



Youth protest in Haiti

Scores of young Haitians protested in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Cité Soleil July 14 demanding the immediate resignation of military rulers and the return of democratically elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The youth chanted, "Aristide, the country is for you!"

Soldiers fired shots in the air to break up the demonstration, but there were no reports of arrests or casualties in this community where large numbers of Aristide supporters were killed following the September 1991 military coup.

Meanwhile, representatives of Aristide and of the military government agreed July 17 to a six-month "political truce," during which they would work to restore constitutional government.

AIDS is cities' leading killer

A study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention found AIDS to be the leading cause of death among men aged 25-44 in 5 U.S. states and 64 cities. AIDS is the top killer of men in this age group in 38 percent of U.S. cities with populations over 100,000.

Procter and Gamble cuts jobs

Procter and Gamble Co., the leading maker of household and personal products in the United States, announced it would reduce its work force by 12 percent within four years. The company said half of the 13,000 jobs would be eliminated through closing about 30 plants around the world.

Edwin Artzt, chairman and chief executive of Procter and Gamble, said, "We have a healthy, growing business, a strong balance sheet, positive cash flow, state-of-the-art products and a well-stocked technology pipeline with plenty of opportunities for growth. However, we must slim down to stay competitive."

Curbs on gay soldiers will remain

President Bill Clinton's plan to force homosexuals who serve in the military to hide their sexual orientation and abstain from homosexual conduct falls short of his campaign promise to unconditionally lift the ban on gay soldiers. The accord is dubbed "Don't ask, don't tell, and don't pursue."

New recruits would no longer be asked whether they are gay. But they would also not be permitted to identify themselves as gay once in the military, except to chaplains, doctors, and lawyers. Homosexual conduct on- or off-base would still be prohibited. The policy is scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1, 1993.

House cuts funds for arts

The U.S. House of Representatives cut proposed funding for the National Endowment for the Arts for next year by 5 percent, or \$8.7 million. Three million dollars was cut from last year's budget. An amendment calling for the elimination of the arts endowment was defeated by a 3-1 majority a day earlier.

Much of the debate on the funding focused on the Whitney Museum of American Art, which the Christian Action Network attacked in a letter sent out to new members of Congress. The letter condemned two displays, "Abject Art: Repulsion and Desire in American Art," and "The Subject of Rape."

Wage cuts protested in Canada

An estimated 6,000 public service workers protested the passage of Bill 48 in front of the Ontario legislature building in Toronto July 10. Bill 48 gives public sector workers until August 1 to voluntarily cut \$6 billion from their wages. The government will impose a three-year wage freeze, and force workers to take 12 unpaid days off each year, if the unions don't present a plan by the deadline.

Iraq seeks lifting of sanctions

Washington continues to pressure Iraq to allow the installation of long-term surveillance cameras and the sealing of two missile testing sites. Clinton has repeatedly threatened more air strikes against Iraq if the dispute is not resolved.

Baghdad says the attempt to seal and monitor the sites would set a "critical precedent" that could be used "to paralyze Iraqi industry for political purposes."



Hundreds of unionists faced riot police outside a Hyundai subsidiary in South Korea July 19. Hyundai workers have been conducting partial walkouts and other labor actions since June 5. They are demanding wage increases, union shops, strike funds, and a 40-hour workweek. A tentative agreement announced July 21 would end the strike.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, has indicated that Baghdad is interested in taking actions to speed lifting of the harsh economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations since the end of the U.S.-led Gulf War. Aziz pointed out that the sanctions are causing great hardship for ordinary people in Iraq and that easing them is a top priority for the government.

The UN Security Council resolution says some sanctions will be lifted once the council decides that Iraq has complied with disarmament provisions. UN inspectors have not found any violations for more than a year.

Mideast peace talks stalled

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation in the latest round of Mideast peace talks, stated on Israeli radio that the U.S.-brokered process may have reached a dead end and that a new framework may be required. Israeli and Palestinian delegates are split on a number of central issues, particularly the status of Jerusalem. Palestinians want to include that city in their discussions on self-rule, but Israel refuses.

NATO deploys planes near Bosnia

Some 60 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) planes under U.S. military command have been deployed to bases in Italy where they will be available to play a direct military role in Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO officials reported. The warplanes — from the United States, Britain, France, and the Netherlands — will be ready to carry out air strikes in the former Yugoslavia if requested to by UN forces there.

Fewer jobs in eastern Germany

Four million of the 10 million workers in the former East Germany have lost their jobs since reunification with West Germany.

Though the firing wave has slowed, more jobs are being eliminated than are being created in eastern Germany. About 40 workers apply for every job opening, compared with 5-10 in the western region.

Japan vote is blow to ruling party

Thirty-eight years of single-party rule by Japan's Liberal Democrats ended with July 18 elections. The elections were called after the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa lost a vote of confidence in parliament a month earlier. The Liberal Democratic party, formed in 1955 with U.S. backing, won more seats than the other parties, but fell 33 seats short of the majority needed to guarantee control. A new prime minister is to be selected at a special session of parliament within 30 days of the election. The shake-up took place as the Japanese economy is suffering the impact of a severe recession.

Inkatha leaves S. Africa talks

The Inkatha Freedom Party announced July 18 that it was withdrawing from multiparty negotiations in South Africa. The talks will establish a transitional executive council that will organize for the country's first democratic elections in April 1994. Inkatha voted against setting a date for the elections. Earlier in the day, an unmarked police car pulled alongside African National Congress deputy president Walter Sisulu's car as it entered Soweto. ANC security guards tried to force the cop car away, but police opened fire, killing one of the guards. Sisulu, who was returning from Nelson Mandela's birthday party in Johannesburg, was unhurt.

— PAT SMITH

Colin McKay in Toronto contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT

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Closing news date: July 21, 1993

Editor: GEORGE FYSON

Managing Editor: ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE

Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Martin Koppel, Sara Lobman, Greg Rosenberg, Stu Singer, Pat Smith, Brian Williams. Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax: (212) 924-6040; Modem, 924-6048; Telex, 497-4278.

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

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Gov't inaction aggravates flood damage

BY TOM FISKE

ST. LOUIS — The flood now affecting the Midwestern section of the United States has already wreaked tremendous damage and will continue to devastate additional areas in the coming weeks. The inaction of the U.S. government in addressing this crisis will intensify the effects of the flood on working people, farmers, and small businesspeople.

More levees continue to be broken by the flow of the Mississippi, Missouri, and other rivers in this area. These swollen rivers will recede only slowly. The crest of the Mississippi River at St. Louis, for example, was 47 feet of water on July 18, fully 17 feet above the flood stage. The height of the river is expected to decrease only an inch or two per day.

The extent of the devastation to people living in the flooded areas is massive. Farmers are hurt the most. Parts of eight farm-belt states — Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, and Wisconsin — are so wet that 16 million acres weren't planted this spring or are under water. And crops on another 12 million acres are stunted.

Tens of thousands of people have been forced from their homes. At least 29 deaths have occurred so far. The damage estimate is at \$9 billion and rising.

The U.S. government is doing very little to address this catastrophe. Efforts to reinforce levees that are about to break or overflow are being conducted by sparse National Guard troops or teams of local volunteers placing sandbags. Virtually none of the extensive resources of the U.S. government in money, manpower, or equipment for pumping, transportation, or earth moving have been mobilized.

U.S. president Bill Clinton recently announced that farmers would receive at most 21 percent of the value of the damage to their crops, and this would be in the form of loans. Many of these farmers cannot assume new loans, as they are already heavily burdened with paying interest on existing ones. Very few have crop insurance.

Virtually none of the damaged businesses and homeowners in the flooded areas have federal flood insurance. In fact, investigators have identified only 1,000 potential claims between St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Louis.

Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which oversees the government's disaster relief efforts, have been explaining that most flood victims should not expect to receive grant money from the government. Instead they may qualify for loans at 4 percent interest, if they are deemed "credit worthy."

In a meeting with local government officials and governors of nearby states held July 17 in St. Louis, Clinton made clear the approach of his administration. "The federal response does not totally compensate anybody," he stated. "In terms of compensation, just outright gifts, there's no way of making people whole fully from the federal government."

Clinton has also said that he would like to provide funds for disaster aid by cutting spending elsewhere, but added that he hasn't seen any specific suggestions.

"I hope we don't just open up the treasury," said Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey from Nebraska. "If we turn this thing into a trough event we're going to make deficit reduction impossible."

Iowa officials ignored flood peril

Flood waters inundated the water treatment facility in Des Moines, Iowa, leaving the capital city's 250,000 residents without running water for more than a week. It will be a month or longer before that water is drinkable.

The flood waters that struck Des Moines came after storms dropped as much as eight inches of rain July 9 on the Raccoon and Des Moines river basins in the western part of the state.

In the two days it took for these flood waters to reach Des Moines, government officials took no steps to prepare the city or to warn residents of the potentially disas-



Des Moines residents use floating deck as raft. Socialist candidates there call for moratorium on farm foreclosures and immediate public works program to rebuild.

trous flood possibilities. In fact, these officials consciously downplayed the dangers.

City officials went ahead with the annual "grand prix" auto races on Saturday, July 10. Throughout that day, city officials insisted there was no danger of major flooding, and they stated repeatedly that the water treatment facility was in no danger. By the following morning the entire city's water supply had to be shut down.

Mike Galati and Nell Wheeler, Socialist Workers candidates for the Des Moines City Council, explained in a statement: "The flood of 1993 was brought on by too

much rain. But the catastrophe it has produced was caused by the system of private profit — capitalism — which puts profit before human need.

"Working people will pay for every dollar lost through this flood," the socialist candidates underlined. "Businesses closed down will not pay the workers. Homes and belongings damaged or lost to the flood will only be replaced as working people can afford to. Farmers will receive nothing from crop insurance if they were unable to plant."

Socialist candidates Galati and Wheeler,

called for "an immediate program of government-funded public works paying a living wage to rebuild and repair damaged homes, buildings, roads, levees, and to help farmers replant; a program of emergency aid — housing, food, water, medical care, and lost income to all those affected by the flood; and a moratorium on farm foreclosures."

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people continue to participate in voluntary work brigades to reinforce levees and pump out the encroaching water. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a leader of the freedom struggle in South Africa, participated in one such brigade while on a speaking tour in St. Louis.

Locals of the United Mine Workers of America on strike against the big coal companies have organized a number of their members to participate in these brigades in southern Illinois near the coalfields.

A short item in the July 20 *Wall Street Journal* astutely points out, "The coal strike gets a boost from the Midwest's wet weather. With some 16,000 United Mine Workers closing key Eastern mines, buyers look to Western companies to serve Midwest customers and bypass the 10-week selective strike. But the flooded Mississippi River has interfered, blocking shipments and causing more rapid depletion of stockpiles."

Mike Galati, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa, and a resident of Des Moines, contributed to this article.

NAACP convention draws thousands

BY KATE KAKU

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — Some 4,000 delegates and thousands of guests attended the 84th annual convention of the NAACP here July 10-15. The theme of the convention was "Passing the torch... Preparing for a better tomorrow." The gathering was one of the largest — and youngest — civil rights meetings in years. Many of the participants were in their teens or early twenties.

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, spoke to 12,000 people the opening night of the convention. He was introduced by Benjamin Chavis, the newly elected executive director of the NAACP, as the next president of the republic of South Africa. "We have been waiting for 84 years," Chavis said, "for a national president of the ANC to address the national convention of the NAACP." "We are here today not as guests, but as comrades-in-arms," Mandela said. He stressed the historical ties between the two organizations and explained the importance of the civil rights movement in the United States to the fight in South Africa against apartheid. Mandela urged the delegates to do everything possible to help the ANC win the elections scheduled in South Africa for April 1994.

"The forces of racism in South Africa are in retreat," the ANC leader explained. "The countdown to the democratic transfer of power to the people has begun."

The convention passed a resolution vowing political and financial support to the ANC voter registration drive and campaign. More than \$50,000 was raised for this effort at the convention itself.

Chavis, in his address to the gathering, spoke about the need to build a global civil rights organization, with chapters of the NAACP throughout Africa and the Caribbean.

Since taking office in April, Chavis has been on the road. He traveled to Los Angeles on the eve of the verdict in the civil rights trial of the cops who beat Rodney King, and visited Louisiana and the south side of Chicago to condemn and publicize "ecological racism." This refers to the fact that Blacks, along with other working people, suffer disproportionately from toxic waste and the destruction of the environment.

Chavis was one of the Wilmington 10 — antiracist activists in North Carolina who were framed up on criminal charges in 1971. He served four and a half years in prison before being freed through the efforts of an international defense campaign that eventu-

ally won the overturn of the convictions. More recently he was the director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice.

Chavis spoke about the need to fight economic racism and demand more jobs for African-Americans. He urged the establishment of more businesses owned by Blacks as a way to keep money in the Black community.

Chavis also announced that \$2 million had been donated to the NAACP from the estate of businessman Reginald Lewis.

Lani Guinier, the University of Pennsylvania law professor who was recently rejected by the Clinton administration to head the Justice Department's civil rights division, spoke at the convention.

Delegates passed a resolution supporting the nomination of Joycelyn Elders to the post of Surgeon General. Elders has advocated greater availability of contraceptives, sex education in schools, and better AIDS prevention programs.

Vice-president Al Gore also addressed the meeting.

The organization voted to oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement, because, a statement issued by the NAACP said, "it would further drain the economic base of our community." The convention also called for the restoration of democratic

rule in Haiti and the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Chavis, speaking at a press conference during the convention, also reaffirmed the organization's demand for full civil rights for gays, including in the military. A debate broke out at the meeting when members of the South Carolina delegation demanded the NAACP reverse its stand in opposition to Washington's ban on gays in the armed forces, arguing that this question had nothing to do with civil rights. A statement issued by the NAACP board of directors states that "Whereas, the NAACP has historically supported efforts to eliminate unfair discrimination and to protect the civil rights and human rights of individuals... the NAACP supports efforts to end discrimination against gay men and lesbian Americans in areas of American life."

The NAACP joined other forces in calling for a large turnout at the August 28 march on Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 1963 demonstration led by Martin Luther King, Jr. The demands of the rally include jobs, justice, economic development, health care reform, and environmental justice. Chapters of the NAACP will work with other civil rights groups to organize buses to take part in the action.

Kate Kaku is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 5488 in Chicago.

Mark Curtis defense gains support from Black rights activists

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — Activists involved in the fight for justice for Mark Curtis received a very good response at the NAACP national convention. Hundreds of participants took literature explaining Curtis's frame-up by the Des Moines police on sexual assault and burglary charges in 1988. The materials also included information on the Mark Curtis Defense Committee campaign for letters supporting Curtis's right to parole.

Delegates who received information on the case included NAACP chapter presidents; members of unions such as the United Auto Workers, International Association of Machinists, United Food and Commercial Workers, and several others;

an activist in Amnesty International; and young people involved in NAACP youth work.

Several gave donations and pledged to write letters to the Iowa State Board of Parole asking for Curtis's release. Some of the convention participants expressed interest in setting up meetings of their local chapters to see the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* and to find out more about the case.

A delegate from Alabama told Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and a leader of the defense effort, "I'll write a letter and talk to others about the case. Just call me anytime you want to set up a meeting to discuss it."

Maurice Williams is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa.

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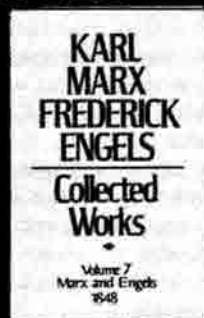
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Tokyo summit shows trade tensions among imperialist powers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The three-day Group of Seven (G-7) meeting, held July 7-9 in Tokyo, once again revealed increasing tensions and trade conflicts among the rulers of the leading imperialist powers. Each went to Japan seeking greater access to raw materials and markets in the middle of a worldwide economic depression.

The G-7 is composed of the heads of state of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States. This was their 19th annual meeting.

Pointing to discontent among working people in all of these imperialist countries, newspapers and magazines were filled with reports of very low approval ratings for the seven heads of state leading up to the G-7 summit.

"Weak at home, world leaders face the summit in Tokyo with little clout," was a headline in the July 12 issue of *Newsweek*. French president François Mitterand topped the list with a 46 percent approval rating, followed by U.S. president Bill Clinton with 38 percent and German chancellor Helmut Kohl with 27 percent. Japanese prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa's rating fell below 6 percent.

The public highlight of the meeting was the announcement of a limited agreement promising tariff reductions on several items including pharmaceuticals, construction equipment, beer, and liquor. But an article in the *Wall Street Journal* describing the agreement pointed out that the "negotiators simply formalized tariff cuts that the trading partners had previously indicated they would make."

Prior to the opening of the G-7 meeting, ministers from the so-called Quad countries — the United States, members of the European Community, Japan, and Canada — had been conducting talks in the hope of being able to announce an agreement on some of the less controversial trade disputes.

Clinton hailed the Quad group accord, promising that it meant "more jobs and higher incomes for our people." U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor proclaimed this pact to be the "biggest tariff cutting agreement in history."

French foreign minister Alain Juppé, however, dismissed the agreement in a more sober assessment as simply a "report that sets out the terms for future negotiations." The *Manchester Guardian Weekly* described it as being "symbolic rather than real."

None of these tariff reductions even take effect until a complete agreement is reached at the 108-member General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, the current round of which started in Uruguay and has dragged on for the past seven years.

U.S.-EC disagreements

Disagreements between the rulers of the United States and the European Community (EC) member nations continue to plague these talks. Washington, for example, is unwilling to reduce tariffs on textiles, such as woolen suits, where the EC has a competitive advantage. The U.S. government also fears having to extend the same reductions to China and other countries that could then gain greater access to the U.S. market. In addition, the Clinton administration insists on maintaining high tariffs for the ceramics, glass, and apparel industries.

Paris continues to oppose proposed cuts in its exports of cereal and corn gluten, while denouncing the U.S. government's decision in June to impose stiff duties on steel from 19 countries.

Both Washington and the European Community governments are demanding that Japan open up its markets to their products, but they openly disagree among themselves over how to go about doing this. The Clinton

administration has been insisting that Tokyo accept specific targets and quotas for increased imports of goods and services from the United States. Governments in the European Community, on the other hand, object to what they describe as this "managed trade" approach.



Japanese prime minister Miyazawa and U.S. president Clinton at G-7 summit. Meeting did nothing to resolve the tensions and trade conflicts between imperialist rivals.

"If the Japanese markets are opened, European business will have to fight for its share," stated Keith Richardson, the secretary general of the European Roundtable, an association of business executives based in Brussels, Belgium. "But one hopes there are no special arrangements between the U.S. and Japan that might be done at Europe's expense."

The day after the conclusion of the G-7 meeting, Clinton and Miyazawa announced an accord on a "framework" for resolving trade disputes. In return for Washington abandoning its demand for market targets, Tokyo agreed to a series of rules for conducting future talks.

London's *Financial Times* condemned this agreement July 13 as not being "consistent with the [G-7] summit's declaration in favour of multilateralism. . . . Many in the US believe that their concerns are more legitimate than those of other countries. They are mistaken."

Aid promised to Russia

The G-7 meeting also agreed to provide \$3 billion in aid to Russia. Most of this money is simply a reallocation of funds previously committed but not disbursed. Much of the aid is in the form of potential trade credits, which Russia will have to spend on goods produced by G-7 member countries.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin, who attended the final day of the talks, was turned down in his request to sign the political communiqué issued by the G-7 leaders. The Russian leader was also rebuked when he asked for tariff-free access for Russian goods to G-7 markets.

A "confidential report" prepared by the finance ministers from the G-7 countries concluded that their economies face a long-term crisis of slow growth and rising unemployment. According to the July 8 *Financial Times*, the report calls for "greater wage flexibility," meaning additional demands for concessions from workers; "changes to social insurance schemes," in other words, further cutbacks in social programs; and reductions in health care spending.

"John Major, the British prime minister, said each G7 country had to take unpopular but necessary steps to keep in check growing social security budgets," reported the *Financial Times*.

The G-7 economic communiqué declared "unacceptable" the fact that more than 23 million people are unemployed in the G-7 countries. It offered little else, however, except a call for a ministerial meeting in the United States later this year to explore the causes of what it describes as "excessive unemployment."

Clinton blames workers for health crisis

BY PAT SMITH

Hillary Clinton, who headed the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, has launched a campaign to sell the key points of the White House's medical package. The proposal is expected to be submitted to Congress in September.

In her speeches, Clinton places the blame for the health-care crisis squarely on the backs of individual working people, who she accuses of being irresponsible for not having adequate medical insurance.

"We're going to tell workers that if they do not do their part to be responsible users of health care, then we will never be able adequately to rein in costs," she told the Democratic Governors Association June 18 at a meeting in Woodstock, Vermont. "There can't be any more free lunch. There can't be any more free health care to which people feel they are entitled."

"We're going to tell individuals who think they can get by without coverage because they're 25 and believe they're immortal, that when they have that terrible accident or unpredicted illness and end up in the emergency room or in the [intensive care unit] and stick us with the bill, that we're not going to let that go on any longer," Clinton said. "Everybody will have to contribute to the health-care system, just like in many states they have to have auto insurance."

In a speech in Honolulu, Hawaii, July 13, Clinton told a group of small business owners, "It seems to me the employee has to be responsible for his or her own health, and has to make a contribution in some way to the financing of health care." She said the plan would probably include higher cigarette taxes and give states the flexibility to develop their own programs. She stressed that the government would not finance the system and would not assume total control over costs and coverage.

HMOs get rich

The White House plan — which has little to do with the health of working people and others — will contribute greatly to the income of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and some insurance companies. A *Wall Street Journal* article in May pointed out the the proposed plan will "clear the field" for big insurers and companies that operate managed care networks, such as HMOs. These insurers "get credit for promoting a major administration goal," the *Journal* continued, "controlling medical costs."

They will win most of the business that will result from forcing workers and small employers to pay for insurance. The strict limits HMOs place on the tests and proce-



Militant/Valerie Libby

Health-care workers at Cincinnati strike rally in March. Campaigning for the White House's health plan, Hillary Clinton declared, "There can't be any more free lunch."

dures doctors can order, along with the caps they place on the prices medical agencies can charge for services — while oftentimes preventing an individual from receiving important tests and treatment — allow them to charge lower rates and reject a smaller percentage of applicants. Clinton has made it clear that any campaign to "cut costs" will come out of the pockets of working people and others, not the insurance companies.

"The overwhelming public perception is that the real problem in health care is that doctors charge too much, hospitals charge

too much, insurance companies charge too much, everybody charges too much, so we should just cut everybody's prices and everything will be fine," she told a June 10 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. "You know that is not the case and I know it. But it will be one of our challenges to educate the public."

Meanwhile, the *New York Times* reported that the pay of the chief executives of the 26 top health-care corporations is rising rapidly. The median annual pay for these business-

men was \$2.9 million in 1992 — 192 times higher than that of a janitor.

There are an estimated 37 million people in the United States without medical insurance and millions more are underinsured. A government study of the health gap between poor and higher-paid people in the United States reported that in 1986 those with family incomes less than \$9,000 a year had a death rate three to seven times higher than those with family incomes of \$25,000 or more. According to *New England Journal of Medicine* executive editor Marcia Angell, this gap is "very large — larger than the gap due to many other well-known risk factors, including cigarette smoking."

Recent steps taken by the administration in health-care programs for children and the elderly will widen this gap. Federal officials say that currently only 40 percent to 60 percent of preschool children get the vaccines recommended by doctors. In spite of this, President Bill Clinton has dropped a proposal for the government to purchase vaccines at half the cost charged to private doctors and distribute them to all children. The government will continue to immunize children covered by Medicaid, but all other vaccines must be paid for by individual families.

The Clinton administration proposes that the more than \$50 billion in planned cuts to Medicare for the elderly over the next five years be used to reduce the federal budget deficit, not to fund benefits for these without insurance as Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala initially said. In fact, Democratic senator Daniel Moynihan of New York suggested an additional \$35 billion in Medicare cuts.

Budget targets workers and small business

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In mid-July a joint congressional conference began discussions to resolve differences over a package of tax increases and social-spending cuts passed by the Senate in June and the House of Representatives a month earlier. At issue are a series of economic proposals that U.S. president Bill Clinton claims will contribute to reducing the government budget deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years.

The package calls for one of the biggest tax increases in U.S. history. It also takes aim at entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare, which were won by the working class in earlier struggles.

Clinton claims his tax proposals are primarily aimed at making the wealthy pay their "fair share." The facts show, however,

that the superrich have always been able to take advantage of loopholes to shield the vast bulk of their wealth from government-legislated tax rates.

"The tax take predicted by Bill Clinton from his higher marginal rates on income is never going to happen," proclaimed the *Wall Street Journal* in a June 25 editorial. "For starters, no serious person believes the President is actually taxing 'the wealthy' from the '80s."

"At the end of the year," continued the *Journal*, "taxes as a percentage of GDP [gross domestic product] will be around 20% — just as they were in the 1960s when the top rate ran between 77% and 91%, and as they were in the 1980s, when that rate fell to 28% from 50%." Current congressional proposals call for setting the top corporate income tax rate at 35 percent.

Tax increases and spending cuts

The bills passed by both the Senate and House would increase taxes by about \$250 billion over the next five years.

The brunt of the increases will fall on small businesspeople, who will be the victims of higher tax rates, including the capital gains levy. Small businesses often find themselves in the same tax bracket as large corporations, but without the resources to pay the new fees or avoid them.

The capital gains tax is an assessment on income gained through the sale of stocks, bonds, and real estate. While Clinton is proposing this tax remain at 28 percent, the Senate plan calls for an increase to 31 percent in 1994.

In addition, Clinton and both houses of Congress propose to raise income taxes for individuals who earn \$115,000 a year from 31 percent to 36 percent. Those with incomes over \$250,000 would be in the highest bracket, at 40 percent.

The other central component of this economic package involves stepping up attacks on the social wage of the working class. The bill passed by the House, for example, calls for cutting Medicare by about \$50 billion and taxing 85 percent of Social Security benefits of individuals with income above \$25,000 and couples who receive more than \$32,000 a year.

The package also includes a freeze on spending for other social programs over the next five years. This in reality means further

cutbacks in such programs as child immunizations and food stamps. Currently more than one in ten people in the United States relies on food stamps to get by.

The Senate bill, which calls for \$98.5 billion in cuts to entitlements and other social programs, differs little from the House proposals. What is under discussion in the joint congressional conference is simply making slight adjustments in how much spending to cut and new taxes to impose in the final package.

Also under discussion are proposals for a new energy levy, known as the BTU tax. The House passed Clinton's proposal for such a broad-based tax on the heat content of fuels. This would include raising the federal gasoline tax by 7.6 cents a gallon. The Senate rejected the BTU tax and called instead for imposing a 4.3-cents-per-gallon tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, on top of the current 14.1-cent gas levy.

While campaigning for the presidency last year, Clinton said he was opposed to raising the gasoline tax. The increase will

Mandela: workers must stand united

Continued from front page

had changed his union. "It was a victory that we wouldn't have won without the power of solidarity," he declared. "We have to stick together internationally." Kujawa then introduced the strikers, who marched to the front of the stage dressed in camouflage, carrying banners that read "Organized Labor Sticks Together" and "An Injury to One is an Injury to All." They were greeted with a standing ovation from their fellow unionists.

In his 40-minute speech, Mandela addressed his union audience as fellow fighters against oppression, touching on political questions of concern to working people worldwide. "A clarion call that has echoed throughout the world," he said, "is 'Workers of the World, Unite!'" This call is even older than the 1847 *Communist Manifesto*, Mandela noted.

"It is not just a statement from intellectuals," he stressed, "but a warning to the workers of the world that they must unite to promote their own cause, their own future. Because as you know, right down through the centuries, the workers of different countries have slaughtered one another — not to promote their own interests, but to promote the interests of the rulers, who have no interest whatsoever in the welfare of the workers. Today in countries like Yugoslavia, like Somalia, on our own borders in Angola, we have precisely the same thing," he said.

Mandela cited the example set by former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, "a man who preferred to go to jail rather than go and slaughter the workers

of Vietnam. We require today 100,000 Muhammad Alis!"

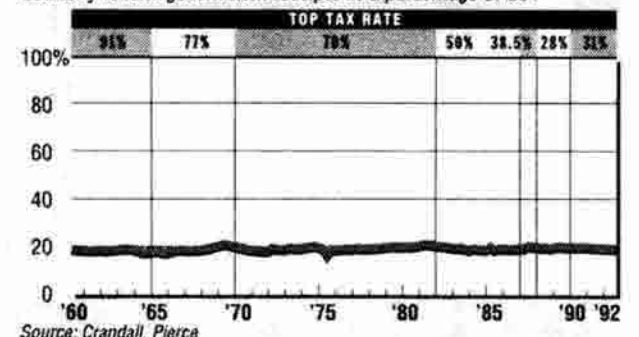
The ANC leader described the close relationship between the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the overall liberation struggle. "We have what we call a revolutionary alliance with COSATU," he explained, which has shaped both the negotiations with the apartheid regime and the election campaign. "That is why we are so confident of victory," he added. "Because any organization which has the support of the masses of the people, which receives the support of the youth of the country, can never fail."

Mandela also launched a spirited defense of the ANC's right to forge alliances with revolutionary Cuba, the South African Communist Party, and other forces not approved of by Washington or the South African regime. "No freedom fighter, indeed no human being with integrity," he said, "can desert the friends who assisted him during the most difficult times . . . on the advice of those who were assisting our enemy."

While in Chicago, Mandela also spoke to a rally of 2,000 on the South Side hosted by Operation PUSH, and to several large fundraising events hosted by Black businesspeople and church leaders. Organizers estimated that close to \$1 million was raised for the ANC's election campaign. Mandela explained that the funds would be used to send organizers to the rural areas, to translate campaign literature into 11 languages, and to transport voters from their workplaces and neighborhoods to the polls.

High Rates, Low Rates — Same Yield

Quarterly federal government receipts as a percentage of GDP



Source: Crandall, Pierce
Graph shows that superrich have always been able to use loopholes to shield their wealth from taxes.

most affect independent truckers and those who drive long distances to work, primarily in the western states.

Some legislators, like Democratic senator David Boren from Oklahoma, are calling for eliminating the energy tax and substituting deeper cuts in Medicare and Social Security. Daniel Moynihan, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is seeking a compromise agreement to further raise the gas tax above the 4.3-cents-per-gallon amount already passed by the Senate.

Despite all the hoopla about how these new spending cuts and tax proposals will reduce the budget deficit, this \$500 billion package is only expected to reduce the current \$300 billion government deficit to about \$200 billion by 1997.

Timex strikers from Scotland reach out to U.S. coal miners

BY BERNIE SENTER

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — A delegation of striking Timex workers from Dundee, Scotland, visited coal miners in West Virginia and Kentucky July 14-19.

Workers at Timex have been on strike since January 29. After two weeks, the company locked out all 343 workers and replaced them with scabs. They have organized three demonstrations of six to seven thousand in Dundee and traveled throughout Britain, and to Norway, Denmark, Ireland, and France to win support for their strike. "In three days in Belfast, [Ireland,] which is one of the most poverty stricken cities in Europe, we raised £2,500 [U.S.\$3,750]," Timex shop steward Margaret Thomson said.

"The miners seem to be very solid and determined," she continued. "We got great strength and encouragement for our struggle from them."

Timex workers Ann Low said the miners "are tough men and they are fighting a hard battle but they will win."

Thomson and Low, along with fellow Timex strikers John Kydd and Charlie Malone, stood with the banner from their union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union, at the rally of 2,000 miners in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, July 15. The next day, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 31 toured Thomson and Low to six picket lines in northern

West Virginia.

"We were able to chat with miners on several issues," explained Thomson. "Obviously on their dispute and our dispute but also on politics in general. They asked about the British health-care system because it's on the top of many of their minds."

Low and Thomson traveled to Boone County in southern West Virginia, where they brought greetings to a rally of 700 striking miners and their families. At the rally, they met members of the women's auxiliary from Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. Workers from Ravenswood waged a successful 22-month-long battle that ended last year. Thomson said that the women from Ravenswood "were going around the [miners'] rally telling about the plight of the Timex workers and encouraging a boycott" of Timex products.

The next day the Timex workers toured two picket lines in southern West Virginia including at Arch Mineral Corp.'s Ruffner mine. Miners at the Ruffner complex recently won a court battle allowing them to keep their picket shack on company property.

Thomson and Low attended a recruiting meeting organized by the UMWA for non-union miners in Inez, Kentucky. One hundred miners from the Pontiki mine applauded after Thomson explained the importance of everyone joining the union. The Scottish workers also stayed for a meeting



Militant/Elizabeth Lariscy
Scottish Timex strikers Margaret Thomson (with microphone) and Ann Low (right) addressing rally of 700 coal miners in Boone County, West Virginia.

of Beech Fork miners.

On their last day in this area, Thomson and Low participated in a dinner and meeting for the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan traveling through West Virginia. "I felt very humble for what these people are doing to help the people of Cuba," Thomson said. "I really felt that as appalling as our situation is, we weren't aware of the degree of suffering of the people of Cuba. We listened and learned a lot from these brave people."

Timex workers John Kydd and Charlie Malone addressed a conference of women organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic

Workers union. They also met with officials from the AFL-CIO. Thomson and Low visited picket lines of striking steelworkers and glass workers in Pittsburgh. They met with labor officials from the United Steelworkers of America at the union's international offices in Pittsburgh.

In the next few days the delegation from Timex will travel to the Timex factory in Little Rock, Arkansas, to meet with workers there.

Bernie Senter is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 8-957 in Morgantown.

Mine workers expand their strike to seven states

Continued from front page
neville action.

A dozen glass workers on strike at Pittsburgh Plate and Glass joined miners from southwestern Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, and Ohio at the Waynesburg rally.

Seven hundred miners assembled in Danville, West Virginia, July 17 for an all-day picnic and rally to support the strike. UMWA vice-president Cecil Roberts was the featured speaker. A dozen steelworkers from the Ravenswood plant and workers from the Pittston miners were introduced. Earlier in the day two strikers from Timex in Dundee, Scotland, addressed the gathering.

Some 350 miners and their supporters joined an all day picnic and rally in Homer, Pennsylvania, July 18.

Building solidarity with the coal strike was the major discussion at the 15th National Conference of Women Miners in Gallup, New Mexico. UMWA president Trumka told the meeting, "We have struck in a selective way, that could spread, that could impact the West." Trumka also addressed a solidarity rally of 350 people in St. Louis.

Coal bosses angered by rallies

Spokespeople for the BCOA responded angrily to the solidarity rallies, the expansion of the strike, and the recent announcement of an interim agreement with the Independent Bituminous Coal Bargaining Alliance, which represents four medium-sized coal companies.

Peabody Coal and Eastern Associated Coal Corp. bought ads in newspapers throughout the coalfields. Naming the dates of the international solidarity rallies, they said "BCOA negotiators will be waiting for you (UMWA) on these dates. . . . If you have something more important to do, we will be happy to meet with you at your earliest possible convenience."

The UMWA responded by taking out its own ads. "Set the time. Name the date. But bring your parents," the ads said. The union "will only negotiate with the parent companies who really own the coal mines and coal lands . . . not their subsidiaries, not the 'paper' companies they created to get around the obligations they agreed to in their 1988 contract with the UMWA."

Several mining companies have moved to resume production at their struck mines by concentrating supervisory personnel at selected mines.

Injunctions limiting the number of pickets were issued for Illinois Arch Mineral Corp. and Ziegler Coal Holding Co. operations after mobilizations that involved nearly 1,000 miners. A similar injunction for Consol Energy, Inc.'s operations in northern West Virginia was issued after a mass picket of more than 100 miners.

Despite the company propaganda, support for the union continues to grow. In Inez, Kentucky, 100 Pontiki Coal Co. miners met with union representatives July 18 to plan for the upcoming union representation election scheduled for August 13. The new UMWA local at the Wolf Creek Collieries is hosting a picnic and rally to celebrate winning the union vote and to support the Pontiki miners.

Mary Zins is a laid-off miner and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 in St. Louis. Bill Scheer and Sandy Sherman reporting from Pennsylvania, Ellie Garcia from Gallup, and Elizabeth Lariscy from West Virginia contributed to this article.

Alabama: miners tell unionists about their fight

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Two members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2161 on strike against Ziegler Coal Holding Co. in Illinois wound up a successful 11-day speaking tour here July 20.

Mike Blair and Sonny Smith addressed close to 20 meetings of trade unions and community organizations, raising more than \$5,000 in contributions and an equal amount in pledges. The tour was sponsored by the Jefferson County Labor Council and UMWA District 20.

One of the highlights of the tour was a visit to United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226, which recently fought an eight-and-a-half-month-long strike against Trinity Industries. Blair and Smith were also invited to speak at five other USWA locals.

The miners attended a United Transportation Union (UTU) regional conference in Atlanta, where representatives from dozens of locals donated more than \$1,000, pledged to raise hundreds more, and invited miners

to speak at two other UTU regional conferences in Kansas City and Pittsburgh.

Blair and Smith spoke to meetings of the United Auto Workers, Communication Workers of America, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Molders Union, the Bessemer Baptist Ministers Conference, and were guests on two local radio talk shows.

During the 11-day tour the miners spoke at a meeting of UMWA District 20 local presidents and attended six UMWA local meetings in the area.

As a result of the tour, UMWA members and other unionists are discussing a return visit by striking miners to reach dozens more unions and community organizations in the area. Plans are also underway to send truckloads of food to the strikers.

The UMWA District 20 executive board is urging UMWA locals and other area unions to attend a Labor Day rally and parade in Evansville, Indiana.

'We can take on bosses, but no one can do it alone'

BY KIP HEDGES

MINNEAPOLIS — Jim Moore and Ken Cochrum, members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2250 in southern Illinois toured the Twin Cities area July 15-17, explaining the issues in their strike to hundreds of Minnesota unionists.

In front of some 70 delegates to the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, Cochrum and Moore said that they had one

message — solidarity. "Corporate America will drive working class America into the dirt until we get together and stop them," stated Cochrum. Delegates at the meeting donated more than \$500 to the Miners' Relief Fund.

The miners also spoke at a meeting of Branch 28 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, who are facing an attack from the federal government in the form of speedup. One thousands dollars was donated to the miners' cause.

They also spoke at a meeting of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 459 in St. Paul where union members discussed the parallels between attacks they and the miners both face. "These companies can be taken on but no one can do it alone," Moore explained. "In Illinois we are getting the whole community involved — other unions, our families. We will win."

Moore and Cochrum addressed 40 people at a reception hosted by the Midwest Women's Labor School at the University of Minnesota.

At the midnight meeting of IAM Local 1833, a union whose members are being asked by Northwest Airlines to agree to some \$340 million in concessions, the miners were well received. Asked why the miners were wearing the camouflage outfit, Cochrum responded, "Because we are in a war. If you come down to southern Illinois and we hope you do, you won't be wearing what you have on. You'll be wearing camouflage."

Moore and Cochrum said they planned to return to Minnesota for several weeks in order to follow up on the warm response they got from Minnesota union members.

Illinois coal strikers tour Seattle

Continued from front page
with Kellerman.

The strikers also spoke at two meeting of Teamsters Local 174, which organizes 6,000 members in this area. The previous day, they had met with the Teamsters Executive Board, which agreed to send a resolution of support and a financial contribution to the UMWA.

In the first three days of the tour, the miners also spoke at the send-off rally of the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendship caravan in Seattle (see article page 8); The Evergreen State College Labor Center's graduating class dinner in Olympia; District 1199's exec-

utive board representing 1,000 nurses; and were special guests at the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2202 union picnic, where Alaska Airlines machinists, cleaners, and ramp workers expressed their support for the miners' struggle. Already, four IAM Local 2202 members have visited the coalfields to show their active solidarity with the strike. They are now helping bring the miners' story to their coworkers.

The UMWA activists have more than half a dozen additional speaking engagements in the area.

Scott Breen is a member of IAM Local 289 in Seattle.

Clinton promotes anti-immigrant policy

Continued from front page
prevent the Chinese refugees aboard the ship from applying for political asylum in the United States," a *New York Times* article noted. The government, it added, sought to keep them from exercising their right to "due-process requirements and legal protections."

One State Department official said, "We are trying to say to them: 'Don't come. You won't even make it to American shores. You'll end up in Mexico or some other place, but not here.'"

In early June the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arrested 300 refugees from China whose ship, *Golden Venture*, ran aground off New York City. The workers, who requested political asylum, are now locked up in INS prisons in Pennsylvania and Louisiana.

International human rights groups protested Washington's actions, pointing to reports that 524 refugees who were forcibly returned to China earlier this year had been jailed or otherwise persecuted by the Beijing government.

The U.S. Coast Guard stopped the freighter *East Wood* in the South Pacific and detained the immigrants for three weeks on the Marshall Islands, a U.S. colony, before deporting them in March. A Clinton administration official downplayed the repression meted out to those refugees, including imprisonment and "reeducation" courses, which he likened to "a driver's education class."

News blackout

Nervous about growing public sympathy for the refugees detained off the coast

of California, the U.S. government imposed a news blackout July 13. It halted reporters' visits to the ships and kept the faces of passengers waving signs — reading "Bread We Want, Freedom We Want" and "USA I Love You" — off television and out of the newspapers.

Washington encountered opposition from the Mexican government, which

On one ship, however, the refugees protested their diversion to Mexico. The Mexican government responded by sending in a contingent of armed marines and imposing a complete news blackout.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration reiterated its drive for harsher anti-immigrant legislation. President Bill Clinton announced this aggressive policy at a high-

increase the Border Patrol.

The administration is carrying out its anti-immigrant campaign under the cover of fighting criminal syndicates that smuggle immigrants and subject them to indentured servitude. The proposed measures include 20-year prison sentences for smugglers and seizure of their assets under antiracketeering laws.

One measure — revealing the anti-working-class nature of Clinton's immigration package — would exclude undocumented workers from coverage under his new health-care plan.

Conservative forces have praised the president's stance. Dan Stein, head of the right-wing Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates sharply restricting immigration, lauded Clinton's "pragmatic and realistic policy."

In a column in the July 13 *New York Post*, rightist politician Patrick Buchanan seized on Clinton's anti-immigrant moves. "Clinton & Co. are stealing a march on a GOP [Republican Party] whose paralysis on the immigration issue is forfeiting the opportunity of a decade," he stated.

Buchanan called on Republicans to campaign aggressively against immigration, declaring it "the issue of the decade." At stake is "the 'nationalism' issue in 1996," he stressed, in reference to the next presidential elections.

Echoing Clinton's words, the right-wing columnist called for measures "to secure America's southern border." His article railed against "the overland invasion of California by illegals whose demand for services is bankrupting the Golden State."

Buchanan praised Senator Dianne Feinstein for pushing the anti-immigrant campaign. The California Democrat, he noted, has called for beefing up the Border Patrol and building a 16-foot wall along the border with Mexico to "stop the mobs" of immigrant workers.

Like Feinstein, Buchanan scapegoats immigrants for the social problems caused by the capitalist system. He favorably quotes a statement by the senator, who complains: "One-point-3 million Californians are out of work. Jobs are hard to find. Every classroom is overcrowded. Crime abounds. And affordable housing is virtually non-existent." Immigrants are to blame, both politicians argue.

Clinton's crackdown on Chinese refugees represents an even harsher stance than the Bush policy. In 1990 Bush issued an executive order extending asylum protection to those who could show adverse effect from Beijing's forced population-control policies.



Chinese refugees on deck of the *Sing Li 6*. Washington denied the immigrants the right to even file for asylum.

complained that it was hypocritical for U.S. officials to demand it deal with the refugees when Mexican immigrants to the United States are systematically victimized by the INS. After heavy pressure from Washington, including a threat to sabotage approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Mexican government accepted the three vessels and proceeded to deport most of the refugees to China.

profile White House ceremony June 18 where he nominated Doris Meissner as INS commissioner. Meissner was acting commissioner of immigration in the Ronald Reagan administration.

Clinton declared that Meissner's number one priority would be to ensure that the U.S. government does not "lose control of our borders."

Denial of due process

One of Clinton's proposed changes in immigration law would institute "summary exclusion." This would authorize INS officials at ports of entry to deny an immigrant an asylum hearing without due process. Those whose claims were deemed "frivolous" could be deported the very day they were detained.

Currently an immigrant's statement that he or she has a well-founded fear of persecution is often sufficient to be scheduled for a hearing.

The proposed legislation would also expand Coast Guard authority to board ships on the high seas. It stipulates mandatory detention of "smuggled" immigrants, a policy that was instituted in practice with the refugees on *Golden Venture*.

The hearing process would be accelerated, supposedly to cut through bureaucratic delays on asylum petitions, but primarily to reduce the number of immigrants granted the right to stay in the country. The government also wants to

Greek government expels 12,500 Albanian workers

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN
AND BOBBIS MASAILIDES

ATHENS, Greece — More than 12,500 Albanian immigrants were arrested and deported here at the end of June after police conducted a massive raid on construction sites, working-class neighborhoods, and job assembly points. Between 150,000 and 300,000 undocumented Albanians live in Greece.

The search included hunting down workers who were hiding in huts and animal pens in the countryside. In the Athens area, the arrests were so numerous that the workers were held at a former U.S. military base prior to their deportation.

The round-ups and deportations were accompanied by a vicious anti-immigrant campaign. "The Greek economy is not in a position to deal with the weight of the presence of thousands of illegal immigrants, and Greek society cannot tolerate the increased incidents of criminal behavior," the Ministry of Public Order announced.

Andreas Papandreu, former prime minister and a leader of the opposition Pan Hellenic Socialist Movement, applauded the deportations, calling them "logical and correct." He went on to warn that "This has to be effective and right now it is not. We send them away and they come back."

The Greek government claimed the raid was in retaliation for the deportation from Albania of a Greek Orthodox church official on June 25. The Albanian government says the priest was deported for "unconstitutional and anti-Albanian activity," including the distribution of flyers concerning the annexation of southern Albania by Greece. A substantial Greek population lives in southern Albania.

The government campaign of deportations has put wind in the sails of anti-immigrant thugs. In mid-May, up to 100 rightists in the town of Kryekouki dragged dozens of Albanian immigrants out of bed and beat them in an assault aimed at "ridding the region of Albanians."

There have been some protests against the racist violence and deportations. On June 15, 700 people demonstrated in Athens demanding that those responsible for the violence in Kryekouki be arrested and opposing the killings of Turkish workers in Germany. A day earlier, hundreds of residents on the Greek island of Kerkira blockaded the airport to protest the arrival of French rightist and National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen. In addition, the Athens Labor Center has issued a statement condemning the June deportations.

Natasha Terlexis also contributed to this article.

Militant launches subscription renewal drive

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Supporters of the *Militant* around the world are kicking off a drive to convince hundreds of new readers to renew their subscriptions. This will be just one component of a campaign to expand the circulation and visibility of the socialist paper and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* over the next few months.

The renewal drive, scheduled to run from July 31 to August 28, will build on the success of an eight-week circulation expansion campaign earlier this year in which nearly 3,000 people signed up to receive the *Militant* and 678 bought subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Many of those who subscribed are workers, students, and fighters for democratic rights who first saw the *Militant* on a picket line, at their plant gate, at a defense line in front of an abortion clinic, or through one of numerous other struggles.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are invaluable tools for such fighters. These publications not only provide important information on working-class struggles around the world. They offer a

perspective on how workers, farmers, and youth can stand up to the attacks on their rights and living standards that are increasing as the worldwide capitalist crisis continues.

Expanding 'Militant's reach

The socialist periodicals answer, for instance, the arguments put forward by rightists like Patrick Buchanan who try to blame immigrants, gays, Jews, and others for the existing economic and social problems.

Supporters of the socialist publications will contact as many of these readers as possible to discuss what's happening in world politics — from the Friendshipment caravan challenging the U.S. embargo against Cuba to the Clinton administration's attacks on immigrants and the upcoming elections in South Africa — and why they should continue to subscribe. The aim will be to get at least 300 *Militant* subscribers and 50 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscribers to renew.

During the month of August, supporters will combine the renewal drive with a cam-

paign to get the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* into libraries. This will make the publications more visible and accessible to workers and young people.

This effort will build on the warm reception the socialist periodicals received at the American Library Association's annual conference at the end of June. Hundreds of librarians from across the United States and several other countries, expressed interest in these publications.

By systematically approaching public and campus libraries in each area, supporters can greatly expand the number that provide the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to their users.

These two campaigns will help *Militant* supporters around the world gear up to begin a major subscription drive and campaign to sell copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* early in September.

Every reader is welcome to join these efforts. For information on how you can help, contact one of the *Militant* distributors listed on page 12 or the *Militant* at 410 West St., New York, NY 10014; (212) 243-6392.

Caravan challenges U.S. embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page

and received prominent news coverage. After consultation with higher officials, the border cops finally permitted the truck to pass.

The day before, a group of 20 activists from Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, was refused permission to enter the United States with a truck full of aid. The contingent was greeted at the border by 20 U.S. activists. They unfurled a big banner reading "End the blockade against Cuba" and chanted "Cuba sí! Embargo no!"

After being told by U.S. customs officials that their aid shipment would violate the embargo, Friendship driver Kevin Neish, a mechanic, told reporters, "This is about an injustice to Cuba by a very big neighbor. It is time to bring this Cold War relic to an end and treat Cuba fairly." The attempted crossing received extensive media coverage. One activist from Vancouver Island, Cuban-born student Camilo García joined the caravan in Seattle as a driver.

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE — After hearing news that the Friendship delegation from Winnipeg had crossed the U.S. border, Pastors for Peace organizer Gerry Condon told a crowd of 150 at the send-off rally in Seattle that night, "This is a huge victory. It didn't come without struggle and we expect further struggle with U.S. officials in Laredo when the entire caravan crosses into Mexico."

The Seattle caravan consisted of four pickups and a large truck, covered with colorful banners and placards and loaded with \$23,000 of medicine, bicycles, and other supplies.

United Mine Workers of America striker Dan Spinnie was introduced to applause from the crowd. Spinnie had just arrived from southern Illinois to start a 10-day labor tour building support for the miners' strike.

"Until I got here I didn't know anything about this struggle, just like you didn't know about our struggle," he told the activists. "But the one lesson I can give you from 17 years in the mines is this: if you stick together nobody can stop you."

Chris Hoepfner, one of the caravan drivers, told the rally his boss had just denied his request for a leave of absence to make the trip. Hoepfner works at the Kenworth Truck assembly plant here and is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 289. He is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle.

Hoepfner said he would go anyway and supporters are mobilizing to defend his right to retain his job when the caravan returns.

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — "The participation of the Cu-



Militant/Janet Post



Militant/Harvey McArthur



Militant/Bob Cantrick

Loading material for Friendship caravan in Miami (top), UMW Miner Dan Spinnie addressing send-off rally in Seattle (bottom), and activists preparing some of the final boxes for the shipment from New York (right).

ban-American community here makes a historical statement," said Lucius Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) and a leader of Pastors for Peace, at a July 16 press conference here. Fifty Miami residents, most of them Cuban-Americans, are participating in this leg of the Friendship.

"Millions know it's time for the embargo against Cuba to end and the people of the United States have decided to take foreign policy into our own hands," he added.

Local organizations that collected aid and provided drivers include churches; the Antonio Maceo Brigade; the Alliance of Workers in the Cuban Community; the Cuban-American Coalition; the Afro-Cuban Cultural Renaissance Center; PECA, a group of Cuban-American businesspeople; and the Socialist Workers Party.

Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, stated, "This is the first time

that all the organizations that favor lifting the blockade participated in a joint effort."

A group of 10 right-wing Cuban-Americans protested across the street from the news conference.

After leaving Miami loaded with aid, the solidarity contingent stopped in Gainesville, Florida, where several participants petitioned against the embargo among students at the University of Florida. They were also interviewed by the campus radio station before holding a public meeting.

BY MARTHA PETTIT

ELIZABETH, New Jersey — Supporters of the Friendship in northern New Jersey filled a tractor trailer with aid to Cuba in a well-publicized event in Jackson Park here, despite attempted right-wing disruption.

Seventy-five volunteers, many wearing the red-and-blue T-shirts of the Cuban American Committee of New Jersey, loaded eight tons of medical equipment donated by a local hospital, as well as a computer, 30 bicycles, a dozen typewriters, wheelchairs, and cases of evaporated milk.

Raymundo del Toro, a truck driver and Teamsters union member who heads the Cuban American Committee, led the delegation of 23 drivers, 18 of whom are Cuban-Americans.

One of the drivers, Martin, who emigrated from Cuba in 1980, commented, "The people in Cuba have the right to decide their future. This aid is a specific way to help them."

Meanwhile, 300 pro-embargo demonstrators gathered across the street and taunted those loading the aid. Right-wing groups including the Cuban Defense League, Alpha 66, and Comandos L had publicized the demonstration through radio announcements, leaflets, and newspaper articles, with particular help from local radio personality Miguel Pérez.

A number of local residents who had heard of the aid shipment, however, including Cuban-Americans, walked into the park to donate supplies. One woman rode her bike in with a guitar on her back and donated both items.

As the right-wingers grew more provocative, police did nothing. As soon as the tractor trailer had been loaded and pulled out to enthusiastic applause by caravan supporters, the cops suddenly withdrew and ordered Friendship activists to leave or face arrest.

Right-wingers then rushed the dozen remaining caravan supporters, beating some.

Eugene McElroy, caught between the police and the rightists, was beaten by the cops, who then charged him with disorderly conduct. He faces an August 2 trial date. Two right-wing thugs were also charged.

The caravan, however, proceeded successfully to its next stop, Philadelphia. Among the participants at the public meeting there was a group of Kaolin mushroom workers, who in April struck their farm in nearby Chester County for union recognition. Strike leader Luis Tlaseca announced that workers had recently won the union representation election.

Continuing to Washington, D.C., the Friendship contingent was welcomed by a meeting of 70 people at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, co-sponsored by the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. Speakers included caravan participant Marshall García and Charlie Malone, a leader of the strike battle by 340 locked-out workers at the Timex plant in Dundee, Scotland. He and other strikers are on a U.S. visit seeking support for their fight. Pointing to the similarities between the Timex workers and the Cuban people, Malone said, "Our struggles are linked. Like them, we will not be starved into submission."

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

NEW YORK CITY — Friendship participants traveling from Maine, Vermont, and Boston joined drivers from New York at an enthusiastic send-off rally of 250 held here July 17 at Riverside Church.

The 18 volunteer drivers, introduced to the cheering audience by IFCO representative Ellen Bernstein, come from all walks of life. Effie March, from Rochester, New York, is a recent college graduate. Ed and Gordon Plaut, father and son, are American Friends Service Committee activists. Elizabeth Kealy is laid off from a garment factory in Manhattan. Juan Luis, born in Cuba, is a teacher.

David Olson, an actor from Boston, said he first heard about the solidarity caravan when Lucius Walker spoke at his church in February. "I said, 'Send me. Here I am.' The U.S. blockade of Cuba is totally immoral," he remarked. He and others organized a Friendship rally that drew 200 people and raised \$1,500 for the convoy plus supplies to be donated.

Keynote speaker Paul Mayer, a caravan leader, noted the growing voices in U.S. government circles that are calling for an

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Telephone workers: 'we're proud to be a connection with Cuba'

The following is a statement issued by Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 13550 at a July 12 news conference held a few days before the Friendship caravan left Pittsburgh. Lois Grimes, president of the local, which organizes international telephone operators at AT&T, spoke at the press briefing.

CWA is pleased to participate in the announcement of Cuba Friendship Week here, Monday, July 12, 1993, at 10:00 a.m. at the City Council Chambers. We are hoping to foster some good will after AT&T made their surprise declaration a week and a half ago, of job cuts in the Pittsburgh area numbering 399 for international operators. While some of the cuts are attributed to dwindling call volume, the majority of the cuts are due to a severe deterioration of service with Cuba. Of the international traffic handled by the Pittsburgh International Operating Center, currently 66% of the call volume goes to Cuba. There are approximately 17,000 calls a day and only a small percentage actually are able to be connected.

"It is very difficult to hear the despera-

tion in our customers' voices, knowing how badly they want to be connected and not to be able to help them because of reasons outside of our control," stated Lois Grimes, President of CWA Local 13550, the Local that represents the international operators. Grimes continued, "Cuba customers have been one of our most loyal customer bases over the years, and our hearts go out to these people."

"CWA feels that AT&T in choosing this course of action, at this time, when things are already so bad inside the country, has dealt yet another blow to this portion of our customer base. We are horrified by not only the impact to our membership, but to the treatment of these customers. At times, customer service seems to be from a bygone era," Grimes went on to say.

"We are proud to be an important connection with Cuba, and it is our hope that the difficulties surrounding the embargo can be worked out, so as to restore a measure of normalcy to this segment of our society. . . . We look forward to serving the Cuban population for many years to come, and allowing and encouraging truly global communications to expand and improve the lives of all Cubans."

U.S., Cuba youth discuss world politics

BY GREG ROSENBERG

EL PARAÍSO, Cuba — Fourteen young people from across the United States visited Cuba July 4-18. Traveling as journalists on assignment for local newspapers and radio stations, the brigade lent its solidarity to the Cuban revolution and reported on developments in this country during the most severe economic crisis Cuba has faced since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Batista regime in 1959.

Informally dubbing themselves the "Down with the blockade brigade" in reference to the brutal U.S.-led embargo against Cuba, the North Americans were among the first of 24 solidarity brigades to come here this summer. At the El Paraíso camp they lived alongside 70 Cuban youth and a group of 17 from Belgium. Brigades from throughout Europe and Latin America are traveling to Cuba through August. For the first time, a group of North Korean youth will also visit.

At 5:30 each morning, the inhabitants of this agricultural camp, which is organized by Cuba's Union of Young Communists (UJC), were awakened to the blaring strains of Tchaikovsky and "Guantanamera." Hustling out of their mosquito netting for a quick breakfast of milk and a piece of bread, the youth grabbed their machetes, fumigation packs, and other tools to head for the banana plantations, sweet potato fields, and strawberry patches. On days when fuel was available, they rode in a tractor-driven trailer. When fuel was not available they walked up to two and a half miles to work sites under the searing summer sun.

"The crisis is affecting us deeply," said Marian Medina Lamchong, the 32-year-old director of the camp during July. "There are major shortages of basic foodstuffs, goods, and transportation. There's an intense problem of blackouts," throughout the country. Even in the countryside, where things are not as difficult as in Havana, all aspects of life are affected. "Without fuel, we can't transport the water the people need to work in the fields," she said. Much of the time the rice, beans, soup, and *fufú* (a dish made from plantains) produced for camp participants were cooked over wood fires, as no cooking fuel was available.

Response to food crisis

In response to the economic crisis, massive numbers of workers and youth are giving up vacation time and days off to engage in voluntary labor, aimed at ensuring an adequate supply of food is available to meet the basic nutritional needs of the population. Most schools and workplaces have gardens where the students and workers grow food. More than 600,000 youth will work on some aspect of food production this year.

The El Paraíso camp, like many across Cuba, accommodates groups of 100 youth for 15-day stints of voluntary labor. During the first half of July, youth involved in the arts — from writers and actors to television producers and musicians — worked in the

fields. They are to be followed by a group of health-care workers.

One feature of life in the fields and in the camp during meals and relaxation time are the wide-ranging political discussions that take place, both on the challenges confronting Cuba and the world situation.

Describing the impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union, UJC leader Pavel Díaz Hernández remarked that many Cubans ask, "How can it be that a system that had 70 years of life can be broken down in two years?"

successful effort meant that at any one time half a dozen books were being passed around. Most popular were the Spanish-language editions of Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed* and *Malcolm X Speaks*. The camp leadership decided subsequently to set up a library, and the brigade donated books to it along with donations to five libraries presented to librarians working in the camp.

Growing tensions

Other discussions took up a series of

said, "We accept that there are a certain amount of Cubans who want to leave. But the violations of international law always come from the United States." Rojas pointed out that the U.S. government has drastically reduced the number of visas it grants to Cubans for entry to the United States, thus encouraging illegal immigration.

"These are provocations against Cuba," said a young high school student from Havana doing voluntary work at a nearby camp. "Times are very hard, but you must understand that the Cuban youth will resist to the very end."

The severe crisis has also generated more open conflicts within Cuban society. Following the shooting a couple hundred residents of Cojimar, just east of Havana, threw rocks at Cuban police.

Wherever the North American brigade went, members were warmly welcomed by Cubans, who not only wanted to thank us for coming, but also wanted to find out about politics in the United States. This reporter was interviewed by Cuban journalist Soledad Cruz on her one hour national program on Radio Progreso. The discussion centered on the conditions of the working class in the United States.

Brigade activists were welcomed at hospitals, a bike factory, by workers at the 30th brigade of the Blas Roca Contingent, and other locations in the nearby city of Güines and in Havana.

"I hope there are future brigades," said Greg Lobo, a student at the University of California at Santa Cruz. "To see Cuba is the experience of a lifetime. People are going to resist, even though times are bad."

Brigade participants Kim Porter and Karen Williams from Greensboro, North Carolina, said that they already have 10 speaking engagements set up at local campuses, churches, and political organizations to discuss the challenges confronting the Cuban revolution and the determination of young people there to advance despite enormous obstacles.



Fourteen young people from across the United States joined Cuban youth on a two-week volunteer brigade they dubbed the "Down with the blockade brigade."

During a break from chopping up and hauling banana trees felled in a rainstorm, a discussion broke out on the place of the contributions of Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky. A dozen Cubans and North Americans quickly jumped in, commenting on everything from the Stalinist methods of the Soviet bureaucracy to the contributions of Che Guevara on the Cuban economy.

Participants in the North American brigade organized to obtain donations of Pathfinder and other books to bring to Cuba. This

provocative moves by the U.S. government and rightist Cuban American groups in late June and early July. On three separate occasions, speedboats from Florida entered Cuban waters and attempted — for a fee — to pick up Cubans wanting to leave the country. The boats were intercepted by the Cuban coast guard, and in at least one incident, three Cubans attempting to reach the boats were killed.

At El Paraíso, Fernando Rojas Gutiérrez, president of Asociación Hermanos Saiz, a group of young artists,

Calls to end Washington's embargo on Cuba grow among Latin governments, U.S. rulers

BY HILDA CUZCO

A growing number of governments around the world, as well as sections of the ruling class in the United States are speaking out against Washington's trade embargo against Cuba.

Heads of state from 21 Latin American countries and Spain and Portugal attending the third annual Ibero-American summit in Salvador, Brazil, called July 16 for an end to the 33-year-old U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Cuban president Fidel Castro said at the meeting in Brazil that he is prepared to

negotiate with Washington but he will not "negotiate the revolution or the achievement of socialism."

In another blow against the U.S. policy of aggression toward the Caribbean island, Cuba's neighbors in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) agreed at the beginning of July to set up a joint commission with Havana to foster cooperation in areas such as trade and the sugar industry. The agreement followed a call by the governments of the 13 Caricom countries to lift the economic embargo against Cuba.

Last November, the United Nations overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for an end to the U.S. embargo. Only the delegates of Israel, Romania, and the United States, voted against the resolution. Representatives of the 59 countries that approved the resolution disagreed with the passage of the so-called Cuban Democracy Act, also known as the Torricelli bill, which was signed into law by former president George Bush in October 1992.

The Torricelli bill tightens the embargo by imposing penalties on U.S. subsidiaries in third countries trading with Cuba. Its passage has also deepened the debate among Cubans, both in the United States and Cuba, who oppose the revolution. Ramón Cernuda a prominent opponent of the Cuban revolution in Miami, said that the bill "seeks to starve people of Cuba in the name of human rights and democratic values."

In an indication of the growing debate among the U.S. rulers, the *New York Times* ran an editorial July 16 calling for the gradual lifting of the embargo. "President Clinton would risk little, and could gain a good deal, by removing America's Cuba policy

from its cold war freezer," the editorial said. The *Times* editors argued that the Torricelli law "has since backfired — even in Miami, the heart of anti-Castro country."

The editorial goes on to point out, "In another token of changing views, even some American conservatives have urged the Clinton Administration to end unilaterally the embargo. . . . Why not challenge Fidel Castro to free all his political prisoners in return for a significant easing of the trade embargo? That would begin to get American policy [towards Cuba] out of the ice tray."

Meanwhile, the Cuban government notified the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T) that it is being forced to reduce the incoming calls to Cuba to 20,000 minutes a month, from 20,000 minutes a day. The revenue from telephone calls placed through AT&T is not available to Cuba. The company and the Cuban government split the proceeds about equally, but because of the embargo, AT&T must pay Cuba's share into an escrow account. That account, established in 1966, totals more than \$80 million.

Cuba plans to increase the calls routed through Canada, which allows the sharing of revenue. In retaliation, Clinton administration officials threatened to shut the Cuba-Canada telephone communication services, alleging that the calls paid by U.S. residents violate the embargo.

The *New York Times* disagreed, however. The July 16 editorial pointed to the "bizarre telephone crisis."

"Illogically," the *Times* editors wrote, "the [Torricelli] act asks Havana to permit freer contacts with exiles, yet makes it more difficult than ever for Cuba to earn hard currency."

Socialists win Delaware ballot suit

BY PETE SEIDMAN

WILMINGTON, Delaware — The Socialist Workers Party has won an important civil liberties challenge to Delaware election laws. Voters here will no longer have to disclose their social security numbers when they sign a petition to put independent candidates on the ballot.

The out-of-court settlement was reached after the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware (ACLU) filed suit in October 1992 against the state election board on behalf of Socialist Workers 1992 presidential and vice-presidential candidates, James Warren and Estelle DeBates.

The SWP went to court after the election board ruled that only 609 of the 2,993 signatures submitted on nominating petitions for the party's 1992 presidential ticket were valid. The state invalidated more than a thousand names because they were not accompanied by the signer's social security number.

The Socialist Workers campaign charged that requiring the disclosure of social security numbers is a violation of the Federal Privacy Act.

From now on, the state election commissioner will include a statement on all nominating petition forms that disclosure of social security numbers is voluntary.

The state also agreed to pay \$5,500 in attorney's fees as a condition of the settlement.

At a July 7 news conference at the offices of the ACLU in Wilmington, SWP spokesperson Kathy Mickells hailed the victory as "a step in opening up the election process to other points of view besides those of the Democrats and Republicans."

Given the sharpening world economic crisis, Mickells said, "This victory can be used by all to engage in the electoral arena with ideas that are in the interests of workers and farmers."

A fascinating history of U.S. class struggle

Just reprinted, 'Notebook of an Agitator' makes solid argument for socialism

Notebook of an Agitator: From the Wobblies to the Fight against the Korean War and McCarthyism by James P. Cannon. 379 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1993. \$21.95 paper.

BY MARK CURTIS

James Cannon was a socialist revolutionary — a man of working-class origins who was right in the middle of the major strikes, antiwar campaigns, and defense cases in the United States for 65 years.

Cannon joined the Socialist Party in 1908 and the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) three years later. Inspired by the Russian revolution he became a founding member of the U.S. Communist Party from which he was expelled in 1928 for supporting the continuation of Bolshevik leader

United States and worldwide. The ILD helped to mobilize 18,000 people at Madison Square Garden in New York City in one of several rallies for the two workers.

With an intensity driven by the life-or-death stakes in the case, Cannon urged a defense policy that, "while favoring all possible legal proceedings . . . calls for agitation, publicity, demonstrations — organized protest on a national and international scale."

In spite of the massive campaign to save Sacco and Vanzetti, the state of Massachusetts executed them in a barbaric display of power as an example to a rebellious working class.

The Sacco and Vanzetti frame-up was part of the capitalist rulers' campaign to go after working-class fighters in order to victimize and terrorize a young and still disorganized labor movement.

The prowar, anti-immigrant hysteria whipped up in the 1910s and '20s resulted in many workers — not just Sacco and Vanzetti — being thrown in jail. Articles by Cannon describe his visits to San Quentin and Folsom prisons in California to see Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, framed up for a bombing attack on a prowar parade. He paid homage to labor organizer Frank Little, whose last words before being lynched by a prowar mob were, "I stand for the solidarity of labor."

Fighting workers today — including the 16,000 coal miners who are currently on strike — will enjoy getting acquainted with William "Big Bill" Haywood. A founder of the Western Federation of Miners, Haywood was repeatedly jailed and run out of mining towns. The union leader liked to remind people that the Western Federation of Miners "was born in a bull pen."

Nonpartisan defense committee

Because of its defense of these fighters, the ILD was appreciated and supported by labor militants of the day, especially those who had been grabbed by the local cops, hauled before a judge, and thrown straight into jail, where they languished until their cases came to the attention of the ILD.

Cannon sought to build the ILD into some-

thing that was unheard-of in its day — a non-partisan defense committee that would assist any victim of the antilabor offensive and unite supporters of workers' struggles regardless of their political affiliations. Sacco and Vanzetti, for example, were anarchists, Little an IWW organizer, and Cannon a leader of the newly formed Communist Party.

The ILD's perspective of "No faith whatever in the courts" was not acceptable to some liberals in the Sacco and Vanzetti defense movement who wanted to restrict the fight to the narrow groove of legal technicalities.

But Cannon had no illusions in capitalist "justice" and he refused to be discouraged by the relatively weak state of the labor movement.

"It is the task of conscious workers," he explained, "to organize those small actions which are now possible — meetings, petitions, pamphlets, conferences, etc. — and to strive to develop them into higher forms of class action."

Cannon further stated that only through this deliberate course could working-class fighters serving time in prison be "inseparably united with the living labor movement" and real victories be won.

Boxing and the Fourth of July

It was as an uncompromising fighter for labor rights and a principled socialist agitator that Cannon looked at the world. He wrote about everything that affected the lives of working people. The death of a welterweight boxer, the Catholic church hierarchy, the inner workings of *Time* and *Life* magazines, filmmaker Charlie Chaplin, and the Fourth of July were all subjects for his pen.

Cannon understood that when rightist politicians — like Patrick Buchanan today — call for a "cultural war," they are blowing the battle horn for attacks on freedom of speech, religious tolerance, and the rights of working people, women, and immigrants. He knew the importance of taking on would-be totalitarians who claim the right to censor ideas.

"I can't get along without freedom," the revolutionary wrote. He championed the First Amendment and the separation of

church and state. Cannon used the moral high ground to reject the Catholic church hierarchy's attempts to "dip into public funds to support their religious schools," or to "regulate public morals by police methods" by pressuring theaters to censor movies like *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Cannon did all of this without in the least insulting the religious sensibilities of anyone. His target wasn't workers who are Catholic, but the church hierarchy, who profit as rulers of an institution that is a vast landholder and promotes reactionary positions throughout the world.

In an article entitled, "What Do They Know About Jesus?" Cannon slams certain ministers and their paid mouthpieces as "Wall Street money sharks" for signing a statement declaring that the "union shop" was against the basic teachings of the Bible. "Leave Jesus out of your lying propaganda," Cannon warned. "Your attempt to pass Him off as a union-buster goes just a little bit too far."

Confidence in working class

To read Cannon's writings is to love his clear, plain-talking style. This is not a sentimental book, but you will be moved by his unshakable confidence in the working class. Several articles deal with acts of human solidarity — coworkers donating skin grafts to a boilermaker who suffered severe burns and prisoners who are white rising en masse to donate blood to a fellow inmate who is Black, for example.

Other sections of *Notebook of an Agitator* deal with important political questions such as the rise of fascist currents in the United States, the Korean War, the big labor battles of the 1930s in Minneapolis and San Francisco, and the growing cancer of Stalinism.

Pathfinder has added introductory notes and a glossary to the new reprint to provide basic background material to the reader.

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of burglary and sexual abuse at the John Bennett Correctional Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

IN REVIEW

V. I. Lenin's communist course. Cannon went on to help found the Socialist Workers Party. Until his death in 1974, Cannon continued to play a leadership role in U.S. working-class politics.

Through newspaper articles written over a stretch of 30 years, Cannon was a labor agitator speaking to ordinary workers "about the problems of everyday life under capitalism and the prospects for a socialist future."

Notebook of an Agitator, originally published in 1958 and recently reprinted by Pathfinder, is a collection of some of these articles, making the book both a fascinating history of the class struggle in the United States and a persuasive argument for socialism.

Sacco and Vanzetti

The book opens with the campaign to save Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti from execution. These two immigrant workers were framed on robbery and murder charges in Massachusetts in 1920. The International Labor Defense (ILD), headed by Cannon, participated in a seven-year defense campaign that won extensive support both in the

Clinton threatens North Korea with annihilation

BY PAT SMITH

One month after North Korean and U.S. government officials signed a statement of mutual "assurance against the threat and use of force, including nuclear weapons," U.S. president Bill Clinton threatened to annihilate North Korea.

If Pyongyang develops and uses an atomic weapon, "we would quickly and overwhelmingly retaliate," Clinton said during his July 10-11 stop in South Korea. "It would mean the end of their country as they know it." This was just one of several threats the president made against North Korea during his six-day trip to Asia.

North Korea is "just one of many renegade nations that would like to have nuclear weapons and be unaccountable for them," Clinton said in a July 9 interview with NBC. "We can't let it happen."

Washington has long used the accusation that North Korea is building nuclear weapons as an excuse to threaten the country with military destruction. Washington and Seoul have belligerently demanded that North Korea open its military facilities to "inspections" by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The U.S. government regularly conducts joint military maneuvers with the South Korean regime as a threat against Pyongyang. In addition, the U.S. rulers continue to press for United Nations-imposed economic sanctions against North Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as North Korea is officially known, has always said it has nuclear power facilities. But it denies accusations that it is developing nuclear weapons.

In a statement issued July 13, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK blasted Clinton's threats, calling them a "downright provocation" against North Korea. "The United States must ponder over the fatal consequences that might arise from its rash act," the statement said.

In an address to the South Korean National Assembly, Clinton vowed to maintain

the U.S. military presence on the peninsula and promised to continue to modernize the South Korean and U.S. armed forces there. "The bedrock of America's security role in the Asian Pacific must be a continued military presence," Clinton said. He noted that the Belleau Wood amphibious group and the USS Independence battle group have been sent to Japan in a show of potential force.

Clinton also spoke to some of the 36,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea while touring the demilitarized zone that divides the peninsula. Korea has been divided since the U.S.-led Korean War ended in 1953.

At a news conference in Tokyo earlier in the week, Clinton spoke favorably of the Korean War. "We did the right thing there," he said. Three million Koreans, almost one million Chinese, and tens of thousands of U.S. troops died during the three-year war.

Friendshipment confronts Cuba embargo

Continued from Page 8

end to the embargo. "We are in the midst of a historic moment today" in the fight against the embargo, he explained. Congressman Charles Rangel, Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, and others also spoke.

The meeting raised \$1,900. One participant, Jesús, a tailor who is Dominican, heard about the event on the radio and came with a \$100 donation. "This is out of gratitude to Cuba," he said. "When the Dominican Republic was afflicted by an outbreak of polio several years ago, Cuba immediately sent us polio vaccines. Now Cuba needs our help."

A group of 50 right-wingers picketed near the church, yelling provocatively as volunteers loaded the vans with bicycles, typewriters, medical equipment, powdered milk, and other donations for Cuba. The large size of the meeting and a team of volunteer monitors, however, deterred the rightists



U.S. troops, fighting under UN flag, burn Korean village in 1952.

from attempting any physical disruption.

The caravan left New York July 18 and headed south to Baltimore. Forty people participated in a meeting in Richmond, Virginia, where three additional boxes of material aid were contributed. The caravan was also welcomed in Rocky Mount, Raleigh, Freemont, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

BY JOHN COX

PITTSBURGH — "United States Cuba Friendship Week" in this city was kicked off with a news conference in city council chambers July 12, at which Councilman Jim Ferlo condemned the U.S. embargo as "draconian" and a "violation of international law." The city council had passed a resolution May 25 urging residents to make donations to the Friendshipment.

Fifty people representing some 20 differ-

ent organizations attended the news conference. The largest delegation was international telephone operators wearing red union T-shirts from Communication Workers of America Local 13550 (see box on page 8).

At a City Council meeting July 13, Bernardo Toscano of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., presented a letter from the National Assembly of Cuba thanking the people of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh City Council for their expression of friendship.

A July 17 send-off dinner for the solidarity delegation drew 130 people and was covered by two major television stations.

Friendshipment drivers Dan Fein from Miami and Elizabeth Kealy from New York; Nancy Cole from Philadelphia; Marty Michaels from Washington, D.C.; Fred Stanton from New York; and Cecelia Moriarty from Boston contributed to these reports.

U.S. intervention in Korea was a 'brutal imperialist invasion'

July 27 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. The following letter, written to President Harry Truman and the members of the U.S. Congress at the beginning of the war, is reprinted from *Notebook of an Agitator: From the Wobblies to the Fight against the Korean War and McCarthyism* by James P. Cannon. A new edition of the book has just been published by Pathfinder.

The letter was first printed in the July 31, 1950, issue of the *Militant*.

Following World War II, Korea was militarily occupied and divided — against the will of the Korean people — by troops from the United States and Soviet Union. In the south, a brutal dictatorship led by Syngman Rhee was put in power by the U.S. occupiers, blocking the Korean people's right to unification and independence.



Militant

Socialist leader James P. Cannon.

On June 25, 1950, war broke out between the two Korean governments. To protect imperialist interests, Truman secured the cover of a United Nations "peacekeeping" mandate and sent thousands of troops to defend the Rhee regime. The war claimed more than three million lives.

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To the President and Members of the Congress:

Gentlemen:

I disagree with your actions in Korea, and in my capacity as a private citizen I petition you to change your policy fundamentally, as follows:

Withdraw the American troops and let the Korean people alone.

I am setting forth the reasons for this demand in detail in the following paragraphs. But before opening the argument, I beg your permission, gentlemen, to tell you what I think of you. You are a pack of scoundrels. You are traitors to the human race. I hate your rudeness and your brutality. You make me ashamed of my country, which I have always loved, and ashamed of my race, which I used to think was as good as any.

The American intervention in Korea is a brutal imperialist invasion, no different from the French war on Indo-China or the Dutch assault on Indonesia. American boys are being sent 10,000 miles away to kill and be killed, not in order to liberate the Korean people, but to conquer and subjugate them. It is outrageous. It is monstrous.

The whole of the Korean people — save for the few bought-and-paid-for agents of the Rhee puppet regime — are fighting the imperialist invaders. That is why the press dispatches from Korea complain more and more about "infiltration" tactics, increasing activities of "guerrillas," the "fluid" fighting front, the "sullenness" and "unreliability" of the "natives."

The Korean people have a mortal hatred of the Wall Street "liberator." They despise unto death the bestial, corrupt, U.S.-spon-

sored Syngman Rhee dictatorship that made South Korea a prison camp of misery, torture and exploitation.

The high morale and fearlessness of the North Koreans and the hostility of the South Koreans toward their U.S. "liberators" alike testify to the unity of the entire Korean people in this unflinching opposition to imperialist domination.

The explosion in Korea on June 25, as events have proved, expressed the profound desire of the Koreans themselves to unify their country, to rid themselves of foreign domination and to win their complete national independence. It is true that the Kremlin seeks to take advantage of this struggle for its own reactionary ends and would sell it tomorrow if it could get another deal with Washington. But the struggle itself has the overwhelming and whole-hearted support of the Korean people. It is part of the mighty uprising of the hundreds of millions of colonial people throughout Asia against western imperialism. This is the real truth, the real issue. The colonial slaves don't want to be slaves any longer.

This is more than a fight for unification and national liberation. It is a civil war. On the one side are the Korean workers, peasants and student youth. On the other are the Korean landlords, usurers, capitalists and their police and political agents. The impoverished and exploited working masses have risen up to drive out the native parasites as well as their foreign protectors.

Whatever the wishes of the Kremlin, a class war has been unfolding in Korea. The North Korean regime, desiring to mobilize popular support, has decreed land reforms and taken nationalization measures in the territories it has won. The establishment of people's committees has been reported. These reforms, these promises of a better economic and social order have attracted the peasants and workers. This prospect of a new life is what has imbued a starving subject people with the will to fight to the death. This is the "secret weapon" that has wrested two-thirds of South Korea from U.S. imperialism and its native agents and withstood the troops and bombing fleets of mighty Wall Street.

American imperialism was quite willing to turn northern Korea over to Stalin in return for control over South Korea, which it ruled through the bloody dictatorship of Syngman Rhee. Now Washington is seeking, against the resistance of the Korean people, to reimpose its imperialist puppet rule, to enforce the division of Korea and to maintain it as a colony and military base for future war on the Soviet Union.

There is not an iota of concern for the wishes and rights of the Korean people in this brutal invasion. The attempt to prop up the Syngman Rhee regime by armed force is part of Wall Street's planned program to dominate and exploit the whole world. Your undeclared war on Korea, Mr. President, is a war of enslavement. That is how the Korean people themselves view it — and no one knows the facts better than they do. They've suffered imperialist domination and degradation for half a century and they can recognize its face even when masked with a UN flag.

The right in this struggle is all on the side of the Korean people. Like the colonial peoples everywhere in Asia, they want no part of U.S. or even UN "liberation." They want the American troops to get out of Korea. They want freedom from all foreign domination. They want to decide their own fate.

The American people well remember the War of Independence that brought this nation its freedom from British tyranny. In the spirit of this revolutionary and democratic tradition of ours, I call upon you to halt the unjust war on Korea. Withdraw all American armed forces so that the Korean people can have full freedom to work out their destiny in their own way. I submit this to the Congress as a motion.

James P. Cannon

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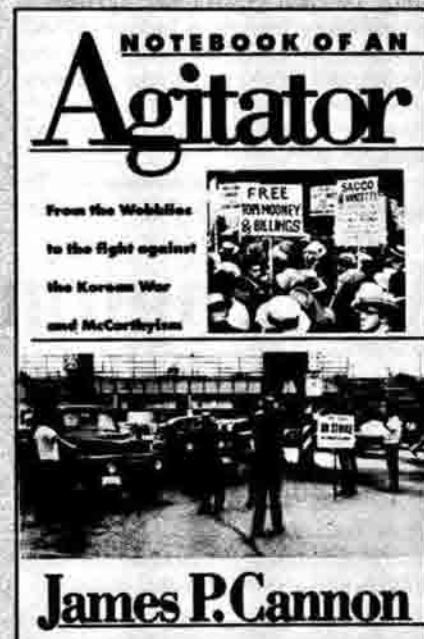
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GEORGIA

Atlanta

Defending Abortion Rights Clinic by Clinic—Eyewitness Reportback from Jackson, Mississippi. Speakers: Miguel Zárate, chairperson 1993 Georgia Socialist Workers campaign, member, United Auto Workers Local 882; others. Sat., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

The Fight against Antigay Discrimination Today. Speakers: Dorothy Kolis, Socialist Workers

candidate for city council president, member, United Auto Workers Local 882; others. Sat., Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Stop the Bombing of Somalia: True Face of U.S. 'Humanitarian' Invasion. Speaker: Kristin Meriam, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 31, 5 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

Flood 1993: Natural Disaster or Product of Capitalism? Speaker: Sandra Nelson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Aug. 7, 5 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

IOWA

Des Moines

Revolutionary Cuba Today: An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Cuba, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sun., Aug. 1, program 4 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3 for program, \$5

for dinner. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

Socialist Workers 1993 Campaign Rally. Meet candidates Mike Galati for City Council At-large, Nell Wheeler for City Council Ward 3, Angel Lariscy and Ruth Nebbia for school board. Sun., Aug. 8, 4 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

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Defending Abortion Rights Today. Speakers: Laura Garza, recently participated in clinic defense in Melbourne, Florida, member Socialist Workers Party and United Steelworkers of America; others. Sat., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S. Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

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Forum and Class Series on the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee, just returned from Cuba. Sat., July 24, 7:30 p.m. Followed by weekly class series, Tuesdays, July 27–Aug. 17, sessions at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Classes based on *New International* no. 8, "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism." All events at 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3 for forum, \$3 for class series. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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China Today: Slides and Observations by Recent Visitor. Speaker: James Munro, Prof. of Philosophy, Edinboro State University. Sun., Aug. 8, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn. Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

Washington, Rome feud over Somalia occupation

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Stepped-up U.S. military operations in Somalia have led to an open rift with the Italian government, whose 2,600 soldiers stationed on the ground there are the third-largest component of the 20,000-member United Nations occupation force. Washington currently has 5,000 troops operating in that country.

The debate in Italy about the role of its troops in Somalia was fueled by the death of 3 Italian soldiers and the wounding of 20 more in fighting in Mogadishu July 2. These were the first Italian ground forces killed in combat since World War II.

A massive U.S. air strike July 12 led by Cobra attack helicopters pumped 16 missiles and more than 2,000 rounds of 20-millimeter cannon fire on a section of Mogadishu, the capital city, where Somali general

Mohammed Farah Aidid was presumed to have a command center. The UN is seeking the arrest of Aidid, who they blame for a June 5 clash that resulted in the death of 23 Pakistani members of the UN force and at least 15 Somalis.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, at least 54 Somalis were killed and 174 wounded in the 20-minute assault July 12. The air strike "raised questions about whether the U.S. pilots in Somalia were now targeting people as opposed to places," commented an article in the July 16 Washington Post.

Avvenire, the official newspaper of Italy's Catholic bishops, called the attack a "vile American raid." Italian prime minister Carlo Ciampi said the UN mission was moving toward "a military intervention almost as an

end in itself against the wishes of those who are carrying it out." Italy is one of the former colonial rulers of Somalia.

In response to this raid and the ongoing military operation in Mogadishu, which has included setting up roadblocks throughout the city and house-to-house searches allegedly to confiscate weapons from Somalis, Italian defense minister Fabio Fabbri proposed a suspension of UN combat actions there. This was rejected by UN officials. "The war is not over," commented a UN military spokesperson. "Once you decide to go to war, you have to finish it."

The Italian government has criticized the UN operation in Somalia for having too many U.S. officials in policy-making positions. It demanded that an Italian officer be assigned to one of the top three military posts. Wash-

ington resisted this request, and it wasn't until July 20 that the UN secretary-general's office announced that an Italian officer would be assigned to a leading position.

The UN's military command structure in Somalia is formally under the authority of Turkish general Cevik Bir, but in practice is led by Gen. Thomas Montgomery, commander of the U.S. forces there.

The scope of the crisis wracking the occupation force in Somalia was revealed in mid-July when UN officials in New York admitted the Italian, Kuwaiti, and Saudi contingents have refused to carry out orders given by Bir.

Kofi Annan, a top UN official, announced July 14 that Italian general Bruno Loi, was being sent home for refusing to carry out UN military commands in southern Mogadishu. According to Annan, the Italian officer insisted on waiting for instructions from Rome rather than performing specific tasks ordered by the UN authorities in Somalia.

The Italian government responded by threatening to withdraw its troops from Somalia, but backed down from this stance the following day. Italian deputy chief of staff Gen. Bruno Buscemi affirmed July 16 that Italian troops will remain in the country, while also making clear that the order to remove the Italian commander from Somalia will not be heeded.

In an effort to end the public dispute between Italy and UN officials, a meeting has been set for July 27 between UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Bruno Bottai, director-general of the Italian foreign ministry.

Meanwhile, the German government reaffirmed its plans to deploy 1,500 troops to Somalia at the end of July. This will mark the first use of German soldiers abroad since World War II.

Jury in Idaho rejects government's frame-up

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — In an important victory for democratic rights, an Idaho jury found white separatists Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris not guilty of killing a federal marshal last summer. Weaver still faces 15 years in prison and up to \$500,000 in fines for two lesser charges.

Weaver, originally from Iowa, believes that white Christians should form their own society, and uses Old Testament readings to buttress his racist views. In 1983 he moved with his family to a remote, rural area in Idaho that was already home to several "survivalist" outfits. FBI agents asked Weaver in 1990 to turn informant against some of these groupings. When he refused, a federal grand jury indicted him for allegedly selling two sawed-off shotguns to an undercover agent. Weaver was arrested and arraigned in January 1991, and told to appear for trial on February 19. Two weeks later he received a notice from a probation officer stating that the trial date was changed to March 20. It actually had been reset for February 20.

When Weaver failed to appear in court, a warrant went out for his arrest and a second grand jury indictment was issued against him. Weaver, his wife Vicki, their children, and friend Harris then secluded themselves in their mountain cabin.

Their home was kept under constant surveillance by the police and on August 21, 1992, federal marshalls "reconnoitering" the area encountered members of the Weaver family. Weaver's 14-year-old son Samuel was shot dead in the back and deputy marshall William Degan was killed in the gunfire that ensued. Government agents also killed the boy's pet dog.

A small army of cops descended into the area, surrounding and sealing off the cabin. The next day a government sniper killed Vicki Weaver and wounded both Harris and Randy Weaver. The surviving family members surrendered shortly after.

A grand jury indicted Harris for Degan's murder, and charged Weaver with "abetting" his death. A month later another grand jury indictment added conspiracy and weapons charges against the two. No one was charged for the deaths of Samuel and Vicki Weaver.

The trial began this April in Boise, Idaho.

The government prosecutors attempted to use the racist views of the defendants to justify the federal marshalls' actions. But they were not able to point to any evidence that the Weaver family was guilty of any racist or terrorist act.

During the trial, the prosecutors admitted that the cops had fired the first shots August 21, and that photographs from the scene of the shoot-out were faked to bolster the prosecution's claims. In June the court ordered the government to pay a \$3,200 fine to defense lawyers for intentionally withholding key documents from them.

Two of the ten counts were dismissed for lack of evidence.

The July 8 verdict is a complete rejection of the government's case. From secret grand jury indictments to the murderous use of arms, and from trumped-up weapons charges to harassing those with unpopular views, the parallels between the Weaver case and the vicious attack against the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, were not lost on anyone. The *Des Moines Register* wrote in an editorial, "There's no excusing the heavy handed approach the government took in Idaho, a situation astonishingly similar to the later... tragedy near Waco, Texas."

Bill Kalman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 at the Monfort packinghouse in Des Moines.

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TEXAS: Houston: 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250. Zip: 77087. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BARBADOS

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

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-928-7993.

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

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

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

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

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

ICELAND

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

MEXICO

Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 5-777, C.P. 06502 Mexico D.F.

NEW ZEALAND

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

Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

SWEDEN

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

Got their goat? — At the struck Peabody coal mine near Lynville, Indiana, the company



Harry Ring

sent security cops to demand that Barbara and George, a pair of goats, be removed from the picket line. Responded United Mine Workers local president Bill Neff: "I don't think they have any control over who walks this picket line."

Free-market oil — Ex-inspectors told a Congressional committee that the Valdez tanker terminal of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline has dangerous defects in wiring and aging equipment. One said this could trigger an explosion that could "blow a tanker out of the water" and result in 20 times the damage of the Exxon Valdez spill. They testified that inspectors who complain are fired and blacklisted.

The enforcers — The feds indicate they may not be able to do much about complaints by airline attendants and passengers of health problems stemming from newly designed planes which, to save money, circulate less fresh air in the

cabins. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration only deals with problems on the ground, and the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't set standards for "indoor" air.

Oh — Reading the above, a reader might enquire, what about the folks at the Federal Aviation Administration — can't they do something? Nope. In addition to allegedly ensuring flight safety, the mission of the FAA, as one paper put it, is "to promote the financial well-being of the airline industry."

They worked all year for it — We were impressed by Los Angeles

billionaire Marvin Davis and his spouse. Motoring on the French Riviera, their car got separated from that of their bodyguard and their path blocked. Four masked men took off with \$10 million in jewelry and \$50,000 cash they had in the car trunk. But, the couple declared, they intended to complete their vacation.

Lunkheads of the year — French police said they nabbed two accomplices in the Davis robbery who led them to 75 percent of the lifted jewelry. (The remainder and the \$50,000 are still missing.) How did the suspects get caught? They were stopped for not having their seat belts fastened.

The sane society — Los Angeles County will spend several hundred million more to beef up the sheriff's department and other police agencies by cutting deeper into benefits and services for the ill and impoverished. There's one exception. Anticipating violence in welfare offices when people are forced to wait in longer lines, the budget for security cops will be upped 25 percent.

Who says bosses are humorless? — "Temporaries — Daily Workout — Earn while you Burn those winter calories away! Get ready for your summer wardrobe by working in a fast-paced environment. Assembly work, Packagers..." — Ad in Portland Oregonian.

Arrest of sheik is flagrant violation of basic rights

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The arrest and imprisonment of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, ordered by the Clinton administration July 1, is a flagrant violation of basic human and democratic rights.

Government officials have admitted they have no evidence linking Abdel Rahman with alleged terrorist plots. No criminal charges have been presented against him either. But the clergyman has already suffered a public lynching by the big-business media and capitalist politicians alike.

U.S. attorney general Janet Reno and immigration officials tried to justify the detention by stating that the 55-year-old blind man "was a danger to the community." Pres-



Omar Abdel Rahman: frame-up target

NEWS ANALYSIS

ident Bill Clinton gave Reno his full backing.

"We consider this a clear abuse of discretion on the part of Attorney General Janet Reno," said Michael Warren, a lawyer for Abdel Rahman. "It was not based on any fiber of fact that he constituted a danger to the community. He's never been arrested, he's never been indicted or convicted of anything."

Abdel Rahman was arrested after the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) revoked his parole status, which allowed him to remain free while he appealed a deportation order. He has been a legal U.S. resident since 1990. Government officials now claim they made a mistake when they gave him a visa and later resident status, since he was on a list of people from around the world who are to be barred from entering the United States. This "watch list" now numbers 2.7 million people.

The Egyptian cleric was taken into custody July 2, eight days after heavily armed FBI agents and city police arrested eight men and charged them with plotting to bomb the United Nations and other targets in New York. He has since been held in jail in Otisville, New York. A ninth man was picked up in Philadelphia June 30. The FBI announced a week later that a tenth suspect in the alleged conspiracy has not yet been arrested.

Alleged bombing conspiracy

In addition, a federal grand jury indicted Ibrahim Elgabrowni July 14 for the alleged bombing plot. Elgabrowni, a civil engineer in Brooklyn, had been arrested earlier by the FBI and held without bail in connection with the February 26 bombing of the World Trade Center, although police said at the time they had no evidence linking him to the explosion.

The FBI's case against the 11 men accused so far of planning to blow up tunnels and government buildings in New York is entirely based on information obtained through Emad Salem, a police plant who is a former Egyptian military officer.

In February Salem, who has been working for the FBI at least since November 1991, testified in court he was one of the personal guards of former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and had been present and wounded when the head of state was assassinated in 1981. In Egypt, however, Tahseen Bashir, who was Sadat's press secretary, told the *New York Times* he knew all the former president's guards and Salem was not one of them.

U.S. officials acknowledged July 16 they

have been unable to corroborate reports by the Egyptian government, featured on the front page of major dailies the day before, that Iranian agents and Abdel Rahman cooked up the bombing plot in Pakistan.

These contradictory claims have not prevented the White House, capitalist politicians, and the media from convicting all those arrested in public before any trial takes place. Articles in the press continue to brand the men as "bombers."

The government of Egypt has requested Abdel Rahman's extradition so he can be tried on charges of inciting an antigovernment riot in 1989 despite the fact that the Muslim cleric was acquitted of those charges in 1990.

On July 9 the federal Board of Immigration Appeals denied the clergyman's request for political asylum, arguing he did not face political persecution if he returned to Egypt. Since mid-June, however, Cairo has hanged 14 "followers of Abdel Rahman" accused of conspiring to overthrow the government.

Guilt by association

In an effort to convict Abdel Rahman through guilt by association, press reports repeat day after day that several of the defendants attended religious services at his mosque. Attempts are also made to link Sayyid Nosair to the defendants in the alleged bombing plot. Nosair was accused of killing Israeli right-wing leader Meir Kahane in 1990. He was acquitted of the murder charge but was sent to prison on gun possession and assault charges.

The *New York Post* reported July 14 that several inmates in Attica, where Nosair is being held, say they have been placed in solitary confinement or have been handed phony charges by prison officials because they refused to give statements implicating Nosair in the alleged bombing conspiracy.

"Statue Of Liberty Was Next Terror Target," was the screaming front-page headline of *New York Newsday* July 16. The article asserted the statue was the next target of those arrested. The evidence? The word of Theodore Williams, a prisoner convicted of heroin trafficking, manslaughter, and burglary who supposedly told prosecutors — in hope of being paid — that one of the alleged bombers confessed the plot to him in jail.

At least two of the defendants in the recent case have given interviews denying any role in a bombing conspiracy. William

Kunstler, a lawyer for some of the defendants, said his clients were entrapped by the FBI informer.

This would not be the first time that the U.S. government has cooked up a fantastic bombing conspiracy in New York to justify assaults on democratic rights.

1965 'Statue of Liberty' case

In February, 1965, four people were arrested in New York on charges of plotting to blow up the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, and the Washington Monument. The government circulated sensational reports to the press of how they foiled the plan of three Black nationalists and a Quebecois woman just in time to prevent the bombings.

The "evidence" consisted of a small amount of dynamite allegedly brought from Canada and the story of a single witness, Raymond Wood, who was revealed to be an undercover cop and agent provocateur.

After being convicted in the press and then in court, Robert Collier, Khaleel Sayyed, and Walter Bowe received stiff jail sentences. The Canadian woman, Michelle Duclos, was given five years on probation. But in December 1966 Duclos was acquitted in a Montreal court.

The Canadian court record established that Wood, the police agent, had hatched the

"plot," organized it, and paid for it with police funds.

From the arrests in March to the detention of Abdel Rahman, lies, half-truths, and self-serving rumors are being patched together to portray those arrested as inhuman terrorists and justify attacks on democratic rights.

Federal cops have unleashed a campaign of spying and harassment of a range of legal political organizations, particularly Palestinian groups.

An anti-Arab campaign is also under way aimed at restricting the rights of immigrant workers. An editorial in the *New York Post* July 16 called for acknowledging "that all Islamic fundamentalists are potential terrorists." The *New York Times* led its July 4 Week In Review section with an article complaining that "easy immigration and due process" made the United States vulnerable to terrorists.

Doesn't the presumption of innocence, due process, and protection from illegal search and seizure apply to Abdel Rahman and the other alleged terrorists? If not, who else might someday find themselves labeled fundamentalists or radicals? A Black rights group? Defenders of an abortion clinic? Striking coal miners?

Working people should demand that Omar Abdel Rahman be freed immediately and oppose racist attacks on Arabs as well as all restrictions on immigrants' rights.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
August 9, 1968 Price 10¢

The worldwide protest that has greeted the Pope's decree against birth control is a heartening sign that a large section of the Catholic population is determined to find its way to family planning with or without the consent of the pontifical head of its church. Rome's refusal to lift the ban on birth-control devices was so bitterly disappointing because many Catholics had expected some relaxation of the archaic restriction.

The Pope's reactionary edict will not stop them from practicing birth control. A 1965 study of white Catholic women in the U.S. showed that 78 percent had used contraception at some time. As the July 30 *New York Times* noted, it is "clear that on this particular question the authority of the papacy was already being challenged."

It will likewise be widely defied in Latin American countries with their predominantly Catholic populations. "Within the last three years, family-planning programs have taken hold in 16 Latin American countries," said the *Times*.

In a poll of 14,000 women in Caracas, Venezuela, "most of the women consulted said they planned to continue in the program despite the Pope's ruling." One woman, 32 years old and mother of five children, said, "My husband and I have made our decision. We are going to give the children we have an education and we cannot afford any more. Besides the doctor says I cannot have any more."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS
August 7, 1943

Italy is now in the throes of revolution. The Italian revolution is only ten days old. But already the workers there are displaying all the imagination, boldness and heroism that the working class always displays in time of revolution. They are taking their place at the head of all the oppressed masses in the country. And their example is already inspiring the workers of all Europe, especially those of Germany.

It was the Italian masses that toppled Mussolini from power. They stormed the houses of the fascist leaders. They sacked the leading fascist newspapers. They forced open the prisons and freed the political prisoners. The Italian workers seek to obliterate and destroy every symbol and vestige of the hated fascist regime.

We can be sure that if the Italian masses are given their choice, the revolution will go on until the capitalists, the monarchy, the church hierarchy are deposed from power and a workers' and peasants' government set up — the only kind of government which can guarantee the will of the overwhelming majority of the people, the only kind of government which can guarantee the people peace, bread and freedom.

But there's the rub. The Italian people are not being left alone. They are not being allowed to finish the job. Roosevelt and Churchill have already announced that they intend to land an army of occupation in Italy, that they intend to rule the country by military force, that they intend to prevent the people at the present time from setting up their own freely elected democratic government.

Clinton shows his real face

Since Inauguration Day six months ago it has become clearer to many workers and farmers that "the man from Hope," as President Bill Clinton liked to be called during the election campaign, has been leading one attack after another on the living standards and democratic rights of working people.

In fact, Clinton has adopted Ross Perot's economic program. During the 1992 race, in the name of reducing the budget deficit, Perot openly advocated sharp cutbacks in social entitlements and major tax increases. Now the White House and Congress are doing exactly that.

Clinton-backed legislation calls for cutting Medicare by \$50 billion, further taxing Social Security benefits, and freezing other social spending. Clinton is also pushing for one of the biggest tax hikes in history.

Meanwhile, "No free lunch" is Hillary Clinton's war cry in the administration's assault on health care. "There can't be any more free health care to which people feel they are entitled," she declared. "Cutting costs" will mean less affordable medical coverage for working people and greater profits for the owners of some health businesses and insurance companies.

On another front in the war on working people, Clinton's immigration policy — praised by rightist politician Patrick Buchanan — is among the most reactionary of any administration in decades. This is highlighted by the new government policy of boarding foreign ships on the high seas — sanctioned piracy — and forcibly returning Haitian and Chinese refugees to face hunger and repression at home. Proposed legislation would deny many of these immigrants

asylum without even the right to a hearing.

That Clinton is spearheading these assaults should not surprise anyone. He is simply doing his job. As occupant of the White House, his duty is to serve the needs of the Du Ponts, Rockefellers, and other billionaire families that rule the United States. That's why he was elected. Today, as corporate profit margins plummet and the world capitalist economy sinks into the worst depression since the 1930s, the U.S. rulers, like their counterparts in Europe and Japan, have only one way to bail out their system — to take it out of the hides of workers and farmers.

Last year the wealthy ruling class in the United States canned George Bush and decided to back Clinton's election because — after the fiasco in the Persian Gulf War — they considered he could better do the job of defending their interests. The new administration is acting on that basis both at home and in foreign policy. Clinton's renewed bombing of Iraq, the war in Somalia, and military threats against North Korea will only lead to more U.S. assaults against workers and farmers abroad.

Working people have no friends in Washington. Nor do they in Bonn, Paris, Tokyo, or London. As workers and farmers seek to protect their rights and living standards — from the strike by U.S. coal miners to protests against cutbacks in social programs and to the struggle for civil rights for gays — they will find themselves in opposition to the rulers and their governments. The only way forward, as African National Congress president Nelson Mandela explained in Chicago, is for working people around the world to stand together.

Support aid caravan to Cuba

The U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan now underway is one of the most important activities taking place for all those seeking an end to the 33-year-long U.S. economic embargo and for supporters of the Cuban revolution.

The more than 300 drivers, traveling throughout the United States and collecting 100 tons in humanitarian aid for Cuba, are having a political impact well beyond their numbers. In each of the 120 cities they are visiting July 16–26, public events are being organized that will educate broader numbers of people about the embargo.

For more than 30 years the Cuban revolution has been an outstanding example to working-class fighters that it is possible to stand up to the rulers in Washington and chart a road forward in the interests of workers and farmers.

Opportunities to deal real blows to the embargo are greater today than ever before. The political isolation of Washington's hostile policy toward Cuba is reflected in the fact that growing numbers of officials from countries around the world are now publicly condemning it. This includes the heads of state of 21 Latin American countries, Spain, and Portugal who recently attended the Ibero-American summit; the 13 governments of the Caribbean nations comprising Caricom; and the representatives from 59 countries that voted last November in the United Nations against the U.S. embargo. Leading spokespeople for sections of the U.S. ruling class are also raising doubts about the viability of the trade ban, which has failed to bring the

Cuban people to their knees.

The solidarity caravan has already involved a broad range of forces: students, Cuba solidarity activists, unionists, farmers, church groups, small businesspeople, and others, including many Cuban-Americans. Friendship supporters have been able to collect generous donations from coworkers as well as from local businesses. Large numbers of democratically minded people, both those who support the Cuban revolution and many of those who don't, will be willing to take a stand in defense of freedom to travel and the right to exchange ideas.

Supporters of the Friendship effort should consider traveling to Laredo, Texas, July 26–28 to be part of a series of events against the embargo there prior to the caravan entering Mexico.

All supporters of democratic rights can also help by joining in the emergency campaign initiated by Pastors for Peace to organize meetings, place phone calls, send faxes, and write letters to the White House demanding that the aid convoy be allowed to cross into Mexico on July 29 without government harassment.

Now is the time for caravan supporters to begin planning public educational activities featuring Friendship participants after their return. The success of the caravan will represent a big step forward in organizing a broad-based campaign to force the U.S. government to lift its inhumane embargo and let people travel freely to Cuba.

End threats against N. Korea

Behind the smokescreen of opposing nuclear weapons proliferation, Washington is stepping up its warlike threats against North Korea.

During his recent visit to South Korea, U.S. president Bill Clinton made clear Washington's policy of aggression towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The threat to annihilate North Korea if Pyongyang develops or uses nuclear weapons, the continued push for United Nations-imposed sanctions on the DPRK, and the vow to maintain and modernize the U.S. military presence in South Korea are provocations that should be denounced the world over.

Clinton's visit to South Korea coincided with a strike by 20,000 workers against Hyundai Motor. In the course of this battle, thousands of police were used against the strikers. On July 20 the government threatened to call out 10,000 riot police if the union did not immediately settle.

These threats show the true reality on the Korean peninsula. It is Washington's troops and weapons and Seoul's cops that pose the real threat to the people of the region.

July 27 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. During this slaughter Washington hid behind a UN flag to wage a war to prevent the forging of a unified and independent Korea. Some 2 million Koreans were

killed, and another 3 million were injured in their heroic battle against imperialist domination.

Today Washington deploys more than 36,000 troops in South Korea. It conducts joint military maneuvers with Seoul every year as a further threat to the North.

Clinton demands that the DPRK allow endless inspection of its military facilities. But Washington and Seoul, while claiming that all U.S. nuclear weapons have been removed from South Korea, refuse to allow inspection of their facilities to confirm this. The rulers of the United States remain the only ones to have ever used nuclear weapons against human beings, killing and maiming hundreds of thousands in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Today Washington accuses North Korea of being a "renegade nation" and a nuclear threat to cover its hostile campaign against Pyongyang and the reunification of Korea.

Working people and youth should reject the U.S. rulers' war threats against North Korea and join the thousands of workers and youth throughout the peninsula who demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the reunification of Korea.

Antistalking laws don't advance fight for abortion rights

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — On July 11, four abortion rights activists became the latest victims of Minnesota's new "antistalking" law. The four women, members of the local abortion rights group Network to Ensure Access (NEA), were arrested by suburban cops here for following a caravan of Op-

AS I SEE IT

eration Rescue (OR) members on their way to the home of Dr. Mildred Hanson, the director of an abortion clinic.

Two weeks earlier, Brian Oates, an OR member, was arrested for "stalking" abortion clinic security guard Mike Carlson.

The antistalking statute went into effect June 1, making Minnesota the 31st state to enact such a law. Its passage had been hailed by pro-choice organizations as a powerful new weapon to prevent harassment of abortion clinic staff members and patients by organizations like Operation Rescue.

The house Oates was staying at was raided by the cops, who seized OR membership information, financial data, computer discs, and related material.

But the arrest of Oates — like that of the four abortion rights activists — did nothing to advance the fight for reproductive freedom. Rather, it was an attack on rights of privacy and freedom of association — rights which abortion rights fighters should seek to defend and expand.

Peter Halikas, a recent University of Minnesota graduate, was in the NEA surveillance caravan and watched the cops nab the pro-choice activists. Like many, he was surprised by the arrests. This, he said, made him think twice about the antistalking law.

The statute is "too broad," Halikas said. "Now, if you follow [Operation Rescue] and get arrested and convicted, if you're a male, it goes on your record like you're a sexual pervert."

Anyone who "stalks, follows or pursues another," the measure states, causing a "reasonable person under the circumstances to feel oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated" can be charged with violating the law.

'Legal stalking' still allowed

But the law is careful to make exceptions for anyone with a "license" or who is seeking "to ensure compliance with a court order." This means private gumshoes, rent-a-cops, and the police can go about their surveillance and spying without a qualm.

Abortion rights activists should demand that no charges be filed against anyone arrested under the antistalking statute. Should the law remain in place, it will continue to be used against fighters for abortion rights.

Working people, unionists, pro-choice activists, and youth need maximum democratic rights to discuss and debate ideas and issues, strategies and tactics, to be able to act effectively. Anything that cuts across such rights weakens the ability of fighters to advance.

In addition to the anti-stalking law, "no picketing zones" at the homes of some clinic staff members are now in place. And two abortion clinics here have gotten court orders restricting to 50 the number of abortion opponents allowed within two blocks of their property. These constraints — which also apply to pro-choice activists — further restrict the right to assembly and association. They have nothing to do with thwarting acts of antiabortion hooliganism and vandalism, which are already illegal.

Massive mobilizations are key

Christie Ruggiero, a young pro-choice fighter and NEA clinic defense leader explained, "It was much simpler last year," when none of the current restrictions existed. "We put out a mass call to people. They came. We linked arms. We chanted. And we kept the clinics open. It was much more empowering because we were making a difference. We were in [Operation Rescue's] faces. We were the fence," she said, in reference to a recently installed cyclone fence, "not this metal thing."

The rally of 4,000 in mid-June, organized by the NEA to launch summer clinic defense and the deployment of more than 2,000 newly trained, mostly youthful clinic defenders are the key to defending the clinics — not reliance on the cops or undemocratic laws.

While Operation Rescue's nine nights of political rallies in its July 9–18 "Cities of Refuge" campaign regularly drew between 300 and 1,000 people, these audiences — fearing a losing battle at the clinics — could not be turned into troops in the streets.

Massive, united, disciplined actions — not limits on the rights of privacy, speech, and assembly — are decisive to effective clinic defense today.

Pro-choice fighters must be in the streets, in front of the clinics, marching and chanting, and reaching out to mobilize working people and youth to defeat the reactionary foes of reproductive freedom.

Such action will forge confidence among ranks of fighters in each other, as well as their capacity to prepare for bigger, sharper battles with the ultraright that lie ahead of us.

Jon Hillson is a railroad worker and a member of United Transportation Union Local 100. He was an NEA clinic defense trainer and team leader.

Union opens contract talks with U.S. auto bosses

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

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

Rally supports Connecticut nursing home workers

More than 500 workers and their supporters rallied June 16 in solidarity with 200 locked-out nursing home workers in New Haven, Connecticut. Members of Healthcare Employees District 1199 struck the Winthrop Health Care Center April 2, demanding retention of their

ON THE PICKET LINE

happening in your union, at your workplace or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Contract talks between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Big Three automakers — General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler — opened in Detroit June 23. The union contracts, which cover more than 400,000 workers, expire September 14.

At the opening session of the contract talks, the employers made clear their plan to go after workers' health and pension benefits, and to substantially reduce pay for workers who make auto parts. GM slashed health benefits for nonunion workers last year and announced that UAW members would face the same cuts this year. The company has also demanded that auto workers pay a much larger share of their medical expenses and is seeking a two-tier wage structure in the parts plants. □

Utah copper workers vote to strike Kennecott

In mid-June, members of the United Steelworkers of America and other unions at Kennecott Corp. overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike when their contract expired July 1. Since then the copper workers have continued to work on a day-to-day basis under provisions of the old contract as negotiations continue. Some 2,400 workers are employed at Kennecott's open pit mine and other facilities near Salt Lake City.

The company is demanding the right to eliminate craft jobs and any other recognized classifications. They also want to impose sweeping job combinations. The multiplant labor pools that Kennecott envisions would sacrifice jobs as well as safety. □

medical benefits and wages equal to those won by the union at 30 other nursing homes in the state.

The workers since offered to return to work under the terms of the old contract, but the owner of the facility, Nelson Tuchman, refused the offer. The dispute is now considered a lockout, making the workers eligible for unemployment benefits.

The June 16 action was the third mass rally at Winthrop since April. Among those in attendance were District 1199 members who have won contracts as well as members of the United Auto Workers, International Association of Machinists, Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers, Teamsters, and Hotel and Restaurant Employees union. □

Locked-out steelworkers in Ohio win support

Two hundred unionists gathered in Warren, Ohio, June 24 for a day of solidarity activities to support 116 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 6529 who have been locked out by the Taylor-Winfield Co. since Sept. 8, 1992. The company, a major producer of spot-welding equipment for steel mills, locked the workers out when they refused to accept major medical insurance concessions.

Auto workers, steelworkers, electrical workers, and others from Ohio and Pennsylvania turned out to show their support as the company began an auction to sell off much of the plant machinery.

The Local 6529 office carries a big sign describing itself as "Lock Out, Look Out, Ravenswood North," referring to the close ties the workers feel with 1,700 USWA members who fought a lockout by Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. in West Virginia for 20 months in 1991-92. □



Militant/Bill Scheer

June 22 rally in support of Pittsburgh Plate Glass workers. The workers, members of the Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers Union, have been locked out since rejecting a company-imposed contract in May. Some 200 workers mobilized July 8 outside the Creighton, Pennsylvania, plant to prevent management from entering the factory to do production work. The unionists also joined a July 14 rally in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, organized by striking mine workers.

New York garment workers stage one-day job action

About 70 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), single needle operators at Leff and Wolf Sportswear in New York City, organized a job action June 2 to demand a higher piece rate on a new skirt style.

The operators gathered at 8:30 a.m., the start of their work day, and went into the owner's office to demand a higher rate for the job. The boss refused to meet with them, so the workers declined to sew the skirt. The previous day even the fastest operators were only able to make \$10 for the entire day.

The company agreed to raise the rate for the operation from \$1.01 a skirt to \$1.60, and at 2:00 p.m. all of the single needle operators returned to work in a disciplined fashion. The following day the workers elected a price committee to ensure that future rates for piecework fall within the parameters of the union contract. □

Bakery workers in Vancouver walk out

The 120 production workers employed at Weston Bakeries in Vancouver, British Columbia, walked

out on May 23. The company, part of the giant Weston food empire, is demanding major concessions. These include the introduction of a two-tier system under which all new employees would start at 25 percent below the base rate. New hires would not be guaranteed more than four hours a shift and their probation period could go on for years.

Picket lines are up at all three gates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members of Bakery, Confectionary and Tobacco Workers Union Local 468 working at other bakeries voted unanimously to assess themselves an average of \$33 per week to support the strikers. □

St. Louis machinists halt some concessions

Members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 837 voted June 19 to approve a new contract with the McDonnell Douglas Corp. in St. Louis. This came one week after the workers had rejected the previous contract offer and voted to strike.

The contract negotiations were marked by tensions not seen in previous years. A strike had not occurred at this plant since 1975.

Since then, workers have accepted several concession contracts. This time, however, they voted by a 3-1 majority to reject the contract offer.

By the time of the final contract meeting, many of the concessions had been eliminated or changed. The company gave up demanding job combinations for the categories of skilled workers. However, beginning in 1994, new retirees will have to pay one-third of their health insurance payments. Workers will receive a lump sum bonus instead of a wage increase. The contract was approved by a 3-1 majority. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: John Sarge, member of UAW Local 900, in Detroit; Ellie Garcia, member of USWA Local 4347, and Dave Salner, member of USWA Local 8319, in Salt Lake City; Will Wilkin, member of IAM Local 609, in New Haven; Mike Italie, member of USWA Local 14919, and Paco Sanchez, member of USWA Local 6037, in Cleveland; Marilee Taylor, member of ILGWU Local 23-25 in New York City; Paul Kouri, member of USWA Local 3495, in Vancouver; and Tom Fiske and Angie Folks in St. Louis.

LETTERS

Ohio prison protest

Dan Cahill, a prisoner at Madison Correctional Institution in London, Ohio, is now in his 46th day of a hunger strike to protest having been charged by the prison with "contraband" for possession of a one-paragraph article that was critical of the ACA (American Correctional Association). This typed article came into Cahill's possession through the regular prison mail which cleared the mailroom and was delivered by Madison Prison to him.

This first charge of contraband came in early May, shortly after Cahill had spoken out against the Department of Corrections regarding the Lucasville uprising. He had been a prisoner at Lucasville for nearly 12 years up until 1991.

In addition to being placed in the "hole" (disciplinary solitary confinement) on the "contraband" charge, Dan was also charged by prison officials with "gang related activities" and found guilty of this second charge. The "evidence" for finding him guilty were parts of two letters he had received from a prison reform organization which mentioned the need for a dialogue on aspects of the prison system such as the accreditation program, parole board, and the in-

spection committee.

Recently, a new administrative regulation was instituted by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections which states that a prisoner's membership in any organization (even human rights organizations such as Amnesty International) not "approved" by the prison administration constitutes "gang related activity." Many prisoners and advocates for prisoners' rights have charged that this new policy is a crackdown on free speech and on peaceful organization and leaves no non-violent means of communication open to prisoners.

Justice Watch,
Prisoners Rights Committee
Cincinnati, Ohio

Native American struggles

In reading the article in the *Militant* about the mine workers struggle on the Navajo Reservation, I thought that the *Militant* might consider doing a series of articles on the 500 years of struggle of Native Americans in this hemisphere. Today, young workers are looking for examples of struggles that have shown that it is possible to fight back against the ruthless government that we all face on a daily basis. There isn't a more splendid

example of struggle than that which Native Americans have been waging in this part of the world.

The pamphlet by George Novack is an excellent introduction to this issue. However, 500 years of struggle can hardly fit into a pamphlet, and I do believe that there is a lot of information pertaining to this struggle that can be of use to young workers.

Steve Halpern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Overpopulation

After reading the July 12 issue of the *Militant*, I want to respond to your editorial on overpopulation. While I agree that any arguments simplistically stating that overpopulation is the main problem are wrong, I also believe that your arguments seem simplistic and dogmatic on the other extreme.

Citing Marx and Engels is good but I believe that the environmental crisis has gotten dramatically, qualitatively worse in the 100 years since their deaths. I also believe that Marx and Engels never foresaw that capitalism would rule the globe 100 years after their passing.

While I agree that a world socialist economy could halt the destruction of the environment, I don't see this coming to pass before even

greater, irreversible damage is done to our planetary home. While I agree that a mobilized working class is critical to all social progress, including saving the environment, I also believe that at least one aspect of the program of the "overpopulation thesis proponents" is critical to the working class. That aspect is widespread education and availability of family-planning resources. Margaret Sanger, the socialist leader of the early family-planning movement, knew that huge families meant damaging slave-like conditions for working-class women under capitalism.

I believe there is critical value in family planning for the workers movement. Your editorial sounded like some of the anti-family-planning tracts that I have seen, in some respects, and I don't believe you intended that.

Phil Amadon
Cincinnati, Ohio

Library 'justice'

Bending to a whirlwind of protest, Judge Yves Fournier has granted a new trial to Debra Rajotte of Lachine, Quebec, and withdrawn his sentence against her of 37 days in jail or a \$467 fine. Rajotte was convicted on May 12 because her two young

children failed to return seven books they had borrowed from the public library. Mailed overdue notices were never received because the family had moved.

Suzanne Poirier was sentenced to 14 days by the same judge in an earlier trial. She refuses to pay a \$438 fine for three overdue books and is appealing her jail sentence.

"Yes, it makes for bad publicity for the city," admitted Lachine mayor Guy Dicaire, "but it works. People are sure returning their library books."

On the day he granted Rajotte a new trial, Judge Fournier let a 64-year-old Lachine resident off on a charge of losing a library book.

The accused explained that a friend had returned the book in question. The library said no, it was never received, leaving the judge to concede, "It is not for the courts to explain the unexplainable."

Roger Annis
Montreal, Quebec

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.

Abortion rights activists push back rightist campaign to close clinics

In cities across the United States, abortion rights activists won an outstanding victory against the rightist outfit Operation Rescue (OR). From July 9-18 activists in seven areas—central Florida; Cleveland; Dallas/Fort Worth; Jackson, Mississippi; Minneapolis; Philadelphia; and San Jose, California—confronted and outmaneuvered Operation Rescue forces, keeping clinics open and defeating OR's "Cities of Refuge" campaign. Activists dubbed the rightist actions "Operation Fizzle." We print below on-the-scene reports of each of these efforts.

Cleveland

Activists from throughout Ohio and neighboring states outnumbered Operation Rescue forces at four clinics during the first eight days of the ten-day mobilization. None of the clinics were shut down.

On July 13 police arrested and beat three pro-choice demonstrators. The Cleveland chapter of the National Organization for Women is protesting the police assault.

Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry arrived in town July 16, to rally forces for the final day. He called for "civil war" in the streets to retake America from "abortionists" and "sodomites." But Terry's call fell flat as it became apparent that divisions existed among OR's forces over whether to break the law and blockade clinics.

Pro-choice and antiabortion rights forces were roughly matched at three targeted clinics July 17. It became clear by late morning that OR could not shut down a single clinic. They withdrew their forces by noon. At a victory celebration of more than 100 July 18, abortion rights supporters vowed to meet OR head if they return—as announced—August 6-7.

Melbourne, Florida

For seven days abortion rights fighters at Aware Woman Center for Choice successfully mobilized to keep the clinic open against Operation Rescue's daily pickets and rallies. Facilitator and longtime clinic defender, Paula Hurley said, "This week has been a dismal failure for OR." One reason, she explained, is that "we have had a lot of new young people join the fight in the last couple of weeks."

Jackson, Mississippi

Operation Rescue's "Cities of Refuge" campaign ended here with the abortion opponents failing to close any clinic or prevent any abortions from taking place. Enthusiastic abortion rights supporters, organized by

Pro-Choice Mississippi, turned out every day to defend the doors of the Mississippi Women's Medical Clinic.

On the final Saturday of the campaign Operation Rescue forces raced towards the clinic, climbing metal police barricades. Clinic defenders quickly formed defense

led away in defeat from a well-defended clinic after a four-hour standoff.

Dallas

In what a Planned Parenthood spokesperson referred to as "a dismal failure" for Operation Rescue, not a single clinic was

Randall Terry showed up July 14 in an effort to rejuvenate his vastly outnumbered antiabortion forces. He explained the way to deal with social problems such as "AIDS, flooding in the Mississippi River region, and even the riots in Los Angeles" is to elect "only men and women whose ethical alle-



Militant/Don Mackle
Abortion rights activists defending clinics against Operation Rescue's "Cities of Refuge" campaign. Pictured above: Cleveland; top right: Philadelphia; bottom right: Jackson, Mississippi.



Militant/Nancy Cole



Militant/Denise McInerney

lines at the doors forcing the thugs to stop their assault and sit down.

Minneapolis

Abortion rights supporters outnumbered Operation Rescue picket lines outside clinics and doctor's homes in Minneapolis.

Vern Opgard, a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1833 at Northwest Airlines, said he was excited to join the clinic defense effort. "All of a sudden, you can put your money where your mouth is. There is something to be done," he said.

On July 17, the last day of the antiabortion rights campaign, 80 ultrarightists trick-

shut down during OR's campaign in Dallas. Spokespeople for the rightist group had predicted turnouts of 2,500 people in front of the clinics, but the largest group numbered only 250. "They had very little effect," said the spokesperson.

San Jose, California

At sunrise July 10, a large, youthful crowd of pro-choice activists gathered at the Pregnancy Consultation Center ready to be organized into clinic defense. The large turnout, as well as a similar one at Planned Parenthood, served to deter Operation Rescue from attacking any clinics that day.

giance is to the Ten Commandments."

OR staged an unsuccessful assault on a clinic July 19, while vowing to continue its "Cities of Refuge" campaign here for another 10 days.

Philadelphia

More than 1,200 mostly young women and men trained to defend clinics in the weeks prior to Operation Rescue's campaign here. Several hundred abortion rights activists formed defense lines at 6:00 a.m. each morning at Philadelphia's four clinics preventing OR from closing any of them.

Facing crowds of up to 600, Operation Rescue did not attempt to blockade any Philadelphia clinics. They sent their forces to small outlying clinics and doctors' offices that had chosen to rely on police instead of organizing clinic defense.

The Reproductive Health and Counseling clinic housed in a hospital near Chester Pennsylvania, was blockaded July 9 while police spent six hours arresting 150 anti-abortion protesters. Clinic defenders were not allowed on the property.

A new clinic in Delaware was blockaded for eight hours on July 10. Police took three hours to arrive and five more to arrest the rightists who broke through the porch of the medical facility. After the siege, the doctor who runs the facility decided to join clinic defense efforts.

Some 400 Operation Rescue protesters were arrested during the 10-day campaign.

Peter Thierjung reporting from Cleveland; Rosa Garmendia and Phoenix Kendrick reporting from Melbourne; Denise McInerney reporting from Jackson; Marea Himelgrin and Jon Hillson reporting from Minneapolis; Jim Altenberg and Osborne Hart reporting from San Jose; and Connie Allen reporting from Philadelphia contributed to this article.

Police lied in killing of Detroit worker

BY CINDY JAQUITH

DETROIT — Cops here engaged in a systematic cover-up after beating Malice Green to death last November 5. The scope of this operation emerged as the concurrent trials of three of the officers involved enter their second month.

Green, an unemployed steelworker who was Black, was killed by savage blows to the head from police flashlights after cops stopped his car in a working-class neighborhood on this city's southwest side. The area is routinely terrorized by the police. On July 8 a cop gunned down 16-year-old Gary Glenn just mile from where Green was slain nine months earlier.

On trial for Green's death are Walter Budzyn and Larry Nevers, charged with second-degree murder, and Robert Lessnau, charged with assault. The three men, who have been fired from the police department, are white. Charges have been dropped against a fourth cop, the supervisor on the scene that night, who is Black, but that is under appeal. No

charges were ever filed against the several other cops who were present.

On June 23, EMS technician Mithyim Lewis testified that he saw Green hanging out of his car window, his body almost touching the pavement, when he arrived at the scene. "He was covered with blood," said Lewis. "His entire face, his hair, appeared to be soaked with it."

Lewis asked one of the cops present what had happened. "I hit him, and if he doesn't quit it, I'm gonna hit him again," the officer replied. The cop—identified as Larry Nevers by another witness—then delivered two more blows to Green's head with his flashlight.

Moments later the cops pulled Green entirely out of the car. Five cops stood on his arms and legs as he writhed on the ground.

The cops began covering up their crime that very night, seeking to portray Green as a dangerous criminal.

Walter Budzyn's lawyer, Michael Batchelor, argued in court that the cops stopped

Green because they believed the car he was driving had been used in a robbery. But prosecution witness Sgt. Robert Marcinkowski testified July 6 that Budzyn and Nevers received a computer message four hours before they killed Green, alerting them to the fact that the car wanted in the robbery had been located by police in another part of the city.

Sgt. Kenneth Day told the court that when he arrived on the scene none of the officers involved turned over any crack cocaine to evidence technicians. Four hours after Green died, however, Budzyn was at the police headquarters processing four rocks of cocaine as evidence.

Gregory Sims testified that he was passing by in the aftermath of Green's beating. Concerned, he tried to get closer to see what was happening. He told the court a cop who was white told him to keep his "Black ass" across the street.

Cindy Jaquith works at Fitzsimons Manufacturing in Detroit and is a member of United Auto Workers Local 155.