

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Karl Marx on free trade

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Washington uses Asia summit to attack rivals

BY GREG ROSENBERG

Washington utilized the November 19-20 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) summit in Seattle to renew its demands for lower trade barriers that would enable U.S. capitalists to sell more of their goods in Asia.

The APEC meeting took place following U.S. president Bill Clinton's victorious bipartisan campaign for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Senate ratified the pact November 20. The agreement establishes a trading bloc binding the economy of Mexico to that of the United States and sets up protectionist barriers against capitalists in Europe and Japan.

Clinton also took advantage of the Seattle gathering to bash rival capitalist governments in Europe for intransigence in the talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The GATT was set up in 1948 by the most powerful capitalist ruling classes to negotiate agreements governing international trade. Today, 116 governments are part of the talks in the Uruguay Round, which is scheduled to expire December 15 after drag-

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New Zealand conservatives scrape by in elections

BY MICHAEL TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The ruling National Party claimed a razor-thin victory November 17 after absentee votes were finally tallied in one of New Zealand's closest elections. Prime Minister Jim Bolger remained in office after his party scraped by with a one-seat majority in Parliament.

Initial results of the November 6 elections gave neither the conservative National Party nor the opposition social democratic Labour Party a majority. Left uncounted were 300,000 absentee ballots of a total of 2 million votes cast.

Big-business dailies around the world reacted with dismay at the prospect of a hung parliament. "A surprise upset in New Zealand's national elections," said an article in the November 8 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, "has left the financial markets braced for turmoil and some economists worried that the electoral uncertainty could dent an economic recovery that has been a long time in coming." Shares fell more than 9 percent in the opening minutes of trading when the stock market reopened after initial results were announced.

The National Party, which finally won 50 seats in the 99-seat parliament, saw its share of the vote decline to 35 percent, down from 48 percent in the previous elections in 1990.

During its three years in office, the National Party government slashed social welfare programs; initiated a broad attack on unions, cutting wages and making working conditions worse; and pushed sweeping privatizations of state-owned companies. An article in the October 16 issue of the *Economist*, a mouthpiece of capital world-

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Striking workers cripple American Airlines flights

Flight attendants force government action

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — The determined nationwide strike by 21,000 American Airlines flight attendants ended November 22 when Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) officials and American Airlines chairman Robert Crandall agreed to binding arbitration after intervention by President Bill Clinton.

The strikers stayed united, effectively crippling American's operations for five days. Pi-

As we go to press:

Striking coal miners have taken down picket lines in tentative agreement with coal operators — page 11.

lots and ramp workers at the airline stayed on the job during the APFA walkout. American Airlines is the largest U.S. domestic carrier. It employs 119,000 workers and owns 949 planes including commuter aircraft.

The strike was launched November 18 to coincide with the Thanksgiving holidays, when 9 million people were expected to travel by air in the United States. Millions of working people followed news about the strike's impact on television and through widespread newspaper coverage.

With the arbitration plan, the union agreed to call off the strike and the airline agreed not to fire any strikers. Workers will go back under the work rules issued by the



Militant/Kate Kaku

Flight attendants picket line at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. In the days leading up to strike, Clinton's Federal Aviation Administration shortened the training time for scabs from six weeks to 10 days to make it easier for American to break the strike.

company October 31, when the 30-day "cooling-off" period ended, releasing the company to impose its final offer and the union to strike. At press time, it is not known how many of the concessionary rules the company will try to impose.

Both the union and the company will now nominate arbitrators. If they do not come to an agreement, the National Mediation Board will

choose a person or panel to draw up a contract.

The APFA officials had called for intervention by the federal government even before the strike began. Many airline flight attendants view this development as a victory brought about by the strike.

"We took down management, we stuck together and we won," said Adrian DeWitt, Continued on Page 11

New S. Africa constitution registers gains won by democratic movement

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The new interim constitution approved November 18 by 20 groups participating in the multiparty talks in South Africa will eliminate the last remnants of apartheid legislation and greatly expand political rights for all the country's citizens.

This document, which registers gains won by the democratic movement through years of mobilizing against apart-

heid, sets the stage for five months of intensive campaigning to culminate in the April 27 election for a new 400-seat Assembly and 90-seat Senate. This parliament will pass laws and craft a permanent constitution.

The document drawn up by multiparty negotiators includes the nation's first-ever bill of rights. In addition to calling for free speech and the right to assemble,

demonstrate, and vote, the constitution outlaws many of the brutal practices carried out by the apartheid regime for decades. It includes specific prohibitions against torture, forced labor, and detention without a trial.

"Every person shall have the right to freedom of movement anywhere within South Africa," states the constitution. "Every person shall have the right freely to choose his or her place of residence anywhere in South Africa... and no citizen shall be deprived of his or her citizenship."

The charter forbids discrimination not only by race, but by gender, sexual orientation, physical disability, religion, language, or age. It protects the right of workers to join unions and strike.

The constitution offers restitution to Blacks dispossessed of land by discriminatory laws passed since 1913, and assures current landholders that they will not face loss of property without compensation.

The constitution repeals apartheid legislation that granted independence to the four so-called Black homelands of Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda.

The country's president will be chosen by the governing party elected in balloting for the National Assembly. A 27-minister cabinet will oversee government departments.

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ANC president Nelson Mandela campaigning near Durban



Military clamps down in Nigeria

Gen. Sani Abacha declared himself the ruler of Nigeria November 17, ousting interim president Ernest Shonekan, who had been appointed to the post last August by the country's previous military chief, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida. This shake-up comes in response to a general strike called by the country's major unions and prodemocracy forces to protest Shonekan's decision to raise fuel prices by 700 percent.

Abacha promptly banned existing political parties, all political gatherings, the National Electoral Commission, and state, local, and federal governments. He also ordered members of striking labor unions to report back to work.

Babangida annulled the results of a presidential election last June, which was supposed to end a decade of military rule. A series of strikes and protest actions subsequently forced him to resign.

Labor unions agreed to end their strike November 21 after forcing the new military dictatorship to lower gas prices by about 40 percent.

Standoff ends in Kashmir

Kashmiri independence fighters surrendered to Indian government troops November 16, ending a month-long standoff at a mosque in Srinagar, Kashmir. On October 15, Indian troops had surrounded the mosque, trapping 27 independence fighters and 35 civilians inside. A general strike called in response by proindependence leaders was lifted November 20.

About 5,000 people marched later that day to protest the death of an independence supporter at the hands of Indian cops.

UN troops to remain in Somalia

The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously November 18 to maintain troops in Somalia for at least another six months through May 31. Twenty-six thousand UN troops are currently in the country. Washington has announced plans to withdraw its soldiers by March 31. The governments of France, Belgium, and Sweden are planning to pull out their forces as well.

The council also lifted its arrest warrant and reward offer of \$25,000 for the capture of Somali leader Mohammed Farah Aidid. U.S. and UN military officials have blamed Aidid for a number of clashes over the past



U.S. troops patrolling in Somalia

several months that resulted in the deaths of soldiers participating in the UN's occupation force. Some 4,000 supporters of Aidid rallied November 18 to celebrate his emergence from hiding.

Gas sales resume in Haiti

Exxon, Texaco, and Shell Oil resumed deliveries of gas to their affiliated stations in Haiti November 17. The oil companies decided to release the gas supplies already stockpiled inside the country after receiving a judicial order to do so from the country's military rulers. The oil companies had halted gas sales shortly after the UN Security Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo on Haiti in mid-October.

Report links officials with Salvador death squad organizers

Newly released government documents reveal that former presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush continued to collaborate with right-wing Salvadoran leaders despite an abundance of credible evidence that former Salvadoran president Roberto d'Aubuisson and others conducted assassinations. The documents also identified current vice-president Francisco Merino as a leading death squad organizer.

Assassinations of leaders and former

combatants of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) are continuing. At least 25 activists affiliated with the FMLN have been slain since the Salvadoran government and FMLN signed accords in January 1992 ending a 12-year civil war. The U.S. State Department admits members of the ruling National Republican Alliance party are behind some of these killings.

The FMLN accuses the Salvadoran government of resisting the dissolution of the country's paramilitary National Police and its replacement with a civilian police force, as agreed to in the accords.

Belgian gov't pushes austerity

The Belgian government announced a three-year austerity plan that cuts social security payments and increases taxes that hit working people hardest. The plan reduces the minimum wage and funds available for youth programs, as well as cutting pensions. A value-added tax is boosted to 20.5 percent, up by 1 percent. Belgian unions began a series of strikes November 15 to protest the government's budget plan. A nationwide strike has been called for November 26.

Agent Orange still maims people

Agent Orange defoliant sprayed on southern Vietnam by U.S. forces during the war there more than 20 years ago is still causing cancers, deformed babies, and skin defects, reported Vietnamese doctors. Washington sprayed 72 million liters of Agent Orange and other defoliants over southern Vietnam from 1961 to 1971.

Hoang Dinh Cau, chairman of a nationwide committee in Vietnam that monitors the effects of defoliants, stated, "Almost all the population of South Vietnam are more or less damaged. We estimate that maybe several tens of millions of people — I don't have an exact number — were affected."

Cop lied about blood tests

Hundreds of blood tests used to convict defendants from 1979 to 1989 were ruled invalid November 11 by the West Virginia Su-

preme Court of Appeals. An independent team of serologists concluded that former West Virginia State Police serologist Fred Zain lied about, invented, or manipulated evidence to win convictions in all 36 cases they investigated. In addition, there was evidence that Zain's supervisors may have ignored or concealed complaints of his wrongdoings.

At least 134 prisoners may be entitled to new hearings. If a DNA test does not link the inmate with evidence used in the trial, a judge will decide if Zain's testimony was crucial in the conviction. If so, the prisoner may be awarded a new trial. Officials have not decided whether to pursue criminal charges against Zain.

Gov't miscounted unemployed

The U.S. Labor Department reported November 16 that the government has been substantially underestimating unemployment for more than a decade. Many women who were seeking jobs were erroneously described as "homemakers," and therefore not counted as being in the workforce.

According to the revamped survey, the nation's average unemployment rate in the 12 month period through August was 7.6 percent, a half point above the 7.1 percent the department had reported. The department also admits to miscounting laid-off and so-called discouraged workers.

Court overturns extradition

An appeals court in Cincinnati overturned its own 1986 extradition order that sent John Demjanjuk to Israel to stand trial. The court ruled that the U.S. government fraudulently withheld evidence that could have helped Demjanjuk defend himself.

Demjanjuk was stripped of his U.S. citizenship and sent to Israel to face charges that he was the Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible." He was convicted and spent five years on death row before the Israeli Supreme Court overturned this ruling last July. Demjanjuk has since returned to the United States and is seeking to have his U.S. citizenship reinstated.

Cops arrest Kurdish immigrants

Police in Paris rounded up more than 130 Kurdish protesters November 21 at demonstrations against the French government's nationwide sweeps and arrests of Kurdish immigrants. In Bonn, more than 20,000 people marched in opposition to the German government's raids on Kurdish homes and cultural centers.

EC offers new plan for Bosnia

European Community (EC) members unanimously endorsed a plan November 22 to suspend economic sanctions against Yugoslavia if forces led by Serbian rightist Radovan Karadzic agree to return to the Bosnian government an additional 3-4 percent of the land they control. The plan still has to be approved by the United Nations Security Council and the U.S. government and would not take effect until an accord to end the fighting was signed. The EC is also seeking an additional 4,000 troops to join the 9,000-strong UN force currently in Bosnia.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

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Japan faces worst recession since WWII

BY GREG ROSENBERG

Japan is in the throes of its worst recession since World War II. The new bourgeois coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa cannot fundamentally reverse the crisis and decline of what was once thought of as a stable capitalist economy.

Tokyo also faces escalating trade disputes with Washington. An emboldened Clinton administration is leading the bipartisan attempt to squeeze concessions from Hosokawa on everything from rice to auto imports.

On November 1, Muramoto Construction went bankrupt. With debts of 600 billion yen (\$5.6 billion), it was the largest business failure in 50 years. Between March and August 7,000 companies went belly-up.

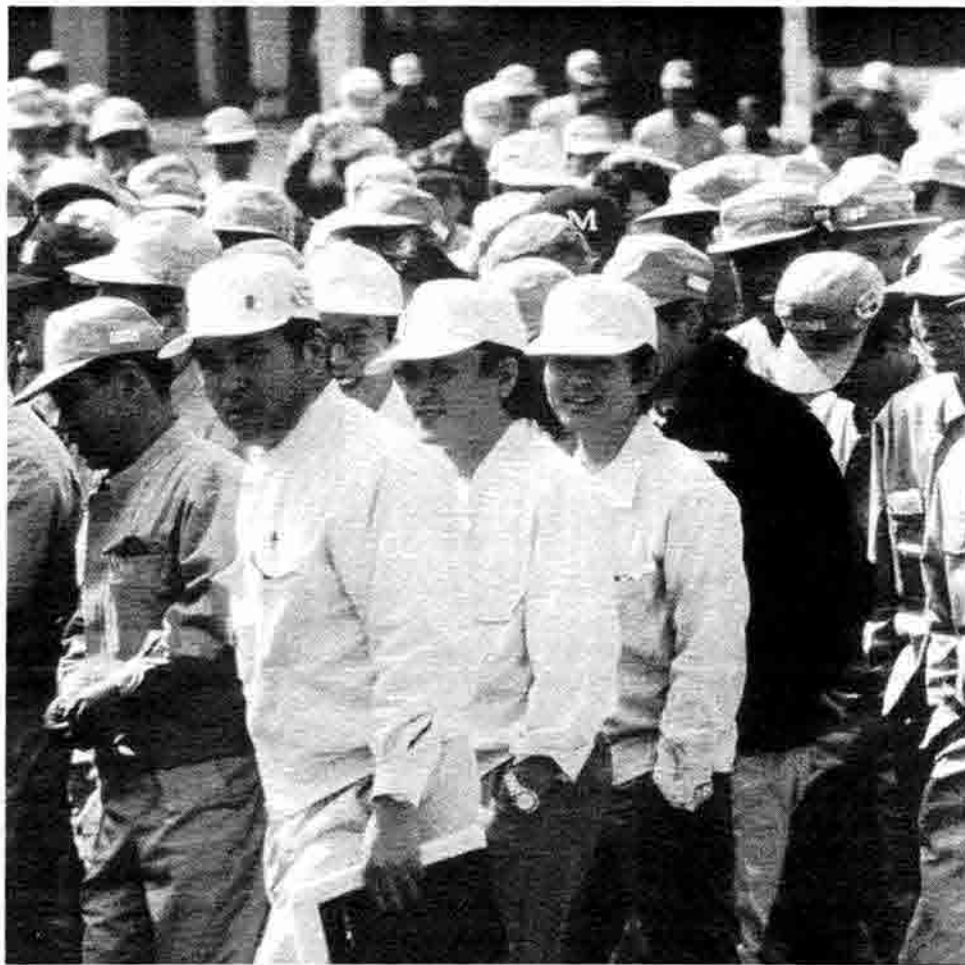
The wave of bankruptcies is contributing to near panic in Tokyo's Nikkei stock exchange and threatening the banking structure. Japanese banks hold an estimated \$284 billion in bad debts they accumulated during the 1980s. Japan's banking capitalists have relied on high stock share prices to cover the debts.

From October 26 to November 15, the Nikkei index plunged 11.1 percent, wiping out \$245 billion in stock values.

Unemployment rose to a five-year high of 2.6 percent in September. Government officials expect the trend to continue. Officially, there are 1.72 million workers out of a job, while the ratio of job openings to job seekers fell. For every 69 offers in September there were 100 people looking at public employment offices. The number of part-time workers has grown as well.

Average wages in private-sector employment rose only 1.9 percent in 1992 — the lowest growth rate in 34 years.

For the last two decades, Japan has been



Workers leaving a Nissan plant in Zama, Japan, last April, shortly before the factory closed. Mounting layoffs expose the myth of lifetime employment in Japan.

presented as the ultimate capitalist success story. This myth has ruptured as Japan's rulers discover they cannot escape the impact of a world depression.

Mounting layoffs now give lie to the claim

of lifetime employment in Japan. The telecommunications group NTT announced it will terminate 10,000 employees by next year. Nissan will cut 5,000 jobs. Honda is eliminating 10 percent of its assembly line

workers over five years. Toshiba is to cut 5,000 jobs, and Kawasaki Steel, 3,200.

After a nearly 40-year monopoly on power, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) fell in June in the midst of major scandal over government corruption. The LDP's fall, however, was rooted in the ongoing recession, declining investment, and rising joblessness in Japan, combined with the escalating trade rift with Washington and a debate on the use of Tokyo's military forces abroad.

Hosokawa won a 270-226 vote to reform Japan's corruption-tainted electoral system November 18. The vote carried with the defection of some LDP deputies from their party. The LDP was closely associated with the system of handing out "gifts," often large sums of cash, in exchange for political support.

The vote showed that Hosokawa has firm support from the ruling coalition — ranging from social democratic to conservative politicians — in driving through the effort to make Japanese capitalism more competitive.

Under the auspices of reform the new government, facing the same strains tearing at the other imperialist economies, is intensifying the assault on the working class in Japan. Hosokawa's government includes the Social Democratic Party of Japan and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Government officials refer to the social security system — which provides citizens above age 60 with a sum equal to nearly 70 percent of their gross salaries as active workers — as an intolerable burden. They are floating the proposal to raise the retirement age from 60 to 65 and to change the way pensions are calculated.

Another proposal under debate is an income tax cut. In order to make up for lost revenue, politicians propose raising the regressive consumption tax, which hits workers and farmers hardest.

The government has stepped up scapegoating of sections of the working class for the crisis. The Justice Ministry reported that 3,058 immigrants were deported in June and July after an 11-day crackdown by cops. A majority were from South Korea, followed by workers from Malaysia, Thailand, and Iran.

According to a recent report, women now account for 40 percent of the workforce in Japan.

Rice imports

Under growing pressure from Washington and European Community member governments to accept rice imports, and following the worst harvest since the end of World War II, Tokyo has begun making concessions.

For years Tokyo's protectionist policy was to not import even "a single grain of rice." Using the justification of "food security," the barrier set up big profits for capitalist farmers.

This fall, the government ordered 200,000 tons of rice from China, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. Shipments are due to arrive by the end of the year. While Hosokawa has described this as an "emergency measure," an array of capitalists have called for allowing wider importation.

Subsidies make the price of rice — a staple food in Japan — about eight times higher than anywhere else in the world.

'We want our sovereignty respected,' says UN delegate from North Korea

BY PAT SMITH

More than 650,000 South Korean troops and almost 50,000 U.S. soldiers began joint military exercises south of Seoul November 15. The maneuvers, essentially a practice invasion of North Korea, came one week after U.S. president Bill Clinton stated that Washington has soldiers in South Korea prepared to attack Pyongyang.

The U.S. government is spearheading an international crusade accusing the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) of producing nuclear weapons. This provocation is part of Washington's decades-long campaign of aggression against the people of North Korea. It's rooted in the U.S. government's hatred of their struggle for national sovereignty and reunification.

"We have the knowledge to produce nuclear weapons. It's in books, it's easy to find," Kim Jong Su said in an interview with the *Militant* November 15. "But we don't want to spend the energy and money to build nuclear bombs." Kim is the deputy permanent representative of North Korea to the United Nations.

"The U.S. government insists that the DPRK abandon its nuclear weapons, but the Pentagon keeps nuclear weapons in South Korea and on naval fleets that frequently come to Korea," Kim said, noting the contradictory character of Washington's position. "We insist the entire Korean peninsula be free of nuclear weapons."

Kim outlined steps the North Korean government has taken since signing an agreement with U.S. officials five months ago. "Every July 23 the people of the DPRK mark the beginning of the Korean War with events denouncing the U.S. invasion and teaching youth about the war," the Korean official said. "This year all activities were canceled for fear they would hinder dialogue toward a solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula."

"We also decided to abandon our existing graphite-moderated reactors and replace them with U.S. light water reactors at the expense of the independence of our nuclear power industry. The U.S. reactor does not use plutonium," he explained, "so this will dispel the suspicion that we're developing nuclear weapons." The North Korean gov-

ernment has always said it has nuclear power facilities, but denies accusations that it is developing nuclear arms.

"We temporarily suspended our withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and resumed negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," Kim continued. Pyongyang had threatened to pull out of the treaty in March after Washington and South Korea resumed joint "Team Spirit" military exercises.

U.S. defense secretary Les Aspin threatened in early November to impose sanctions if Pyongyang does not allow inspection of sites the IAEA claims are used for production of nuclear weapons. The DPRK permits inspection at several nuclear sites, but says that the two military installations the IAEA demands access to are not used for nuclear production.

"We have allowed them to replace batteries and film in monitoring cameras, they should thank us for this," Kim said. "But they insist on inspecting two military sites. The U.S. government wouldn't let a country that threatened it with war inspect every military site. The Team Spirit exercises involve hundreds of thousands of soldiers. An all-out war can be waged with that many troops," he pointed out.

"In the 1950s the U.S. government declared it would consider using nuclear weapons against North Korea as an option," continued Kim. "It has never denied this policy." U.S. troops invaded North Korea in 1950 under the cover of the UN flag. Four million Koreans were killed and the Korean peninsula divided.

Many workers and farmers in South Korea, like their counterparts in the north, are strongly in favor of reunifying the country. "Because of the strength of the movement," stated Kim, "the South Korean government cannot jail those who speak out for reunification like they used to."

The Korean official then turned to North Korea's relationship with Japan. Japanese foreign minister Tsutomu Hata recently accused the governments of Iran and the DPRK of collaborating to test a long-range missile. "North Korea needs to defend itself from the much more advanced weaponry of South Korea and the 35,000 U.S. troops stationed

there," Kim said. "We want the U.S. troops out of South Korea; we want our sovereignty respected. Until then we must defend ourselves."

"Tokyo has many things to ask forgiveness for," he continued. "Under Japanese colonial rule Koreans were forced to change their names. They tried to rob us of our culture and language. You could not get a job or education if you spoke Korean. During the war Korean women were kidnapped and used as comfort girls. Now they say North Korea threatens Japan."

Following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Seattle, Clinton met with South Korean president Kim Young Sam in Washington to discuss how to continue pressuring Pyongyang. Concerned about increasing tensions in the region, the governments of South Korea and Japan are urging Washington to utilize promises of aid before applying economic sanctions.

"It is our last real chance," a South Korean official said. "If nothing happens in the next few weeks, we will have to start with sanctions."

Swedish cops ban march protesting racist demonstration in Gothenburg

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Police in Gothenburg banned an antiracist march scheduled for November 20. The protest was organized to counter a demonstration by the White Aryan Resistance to commemorate the death of Francisco Franco, the fascist leader of Spain from 1939 to 1975.

In spite of the police ruling, a broad coalition of antiracist organizations went ahead with plans for a march in the center of Gothenburg. The coalition includes 20 organizations, among them the Red Cross, the Jewish parish/congregation, Stop Racism, and a number of political organizations.

The racist demonstration, which drew 300-400 people, was defended by 500 cops. Judging by the flags carried at the rally, participants came from Sweden, Denmark,

Norway, and from the rightist British National Front.

The antiracist protesters gathered on either side of the right-wing rally. Police arrested 50 of the antiracists, claiming they were "heavily armed."

This is not the first time police in Sweden have tried to prevent protests against racist groups, while organizing massive protection for the rightists' mobilizations. On November 9, police in Stockholm prohibited a march against racist violence organized to mark the death of Jimmy Ranjbar, a student from Iran killed two years ago in a racist attack, and to commemorate the 45th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. *Kristallnacht* was the night in 1938 when the Nazis smashed the windows of Jewish-owned shops, marking the beginning of the Nazi campaign to exterminate Jews in Germany.

Antonio Maceo Brigade leader discusses challenges facing Cuban revolution today

Andrés Gómez: new opportunities to build opposition to U.S. trade embargo

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

On November 3, for the second year in a row, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution submitted by the Cuban delegation entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba." The motion, strongly opposed by Washington, condemned laws that restrict international trade and navigation as well as attempts by governments to impose such laws extraterritorially on other countries.

The following day the *Militant* talked to Andrés Gómez, who was in New York to observe the UN proceedings and to participate in activities organized by opponents of the U.S. government's embargo against Cuba.

Gómez is a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a group of Cuban-Americans that supports the Cuban revolution. He is also the editor of the Spanish-language magazine *Areíto*, published in Miami. Gómez is one of the national coordinators of the National Network on Cuba, which includes some 40 organizations that promote solidarity with Cuba.

Gómez discussed not only the victory the UN vote represented for defense of the Cuban revolution, but the increasingly difficult economic conditions the Cuban people face today, as well as the growing opportunities in the United States to broaden public opposition to Washington's embargo against the island.

The UN vote "is very important," said Gómez, speaking in Spanish. "It allows us to argue more effectively against the blockade."

He remarked that this resolution was adopted by an even wider margin — 88-4, with 57 abstentions — than a similar one presented by Cuba last year.

"The United States," Gómez stressed, "refuses to recognize the Cuban people's right to sovereignty and self-determination and seeks to impose the old relations that existed before 1959," when Cuba was virtually a U.S. colony.

The Antonio Maceo Brigade leader said the fight against the embargo was all the more important because of the serious economic difficulties Cuba faces today.

This crisis, precipitated by the collapse of Cuba's trade with former Soviet-bloc countries from 1989 on, is the result of policies followed for many years in Cuba. In the mid-1980s the Cuban leadership began to take steps toward reversing the course that many recognized was modeled on the policies of the Soviet leadership. They started returning to some of the perspectives advocated in the early years of the revolution and

defended most systematically by Ernesto Che Guevara. The course of rectification, as it was known in Cuba, was only beginning to gain momentum however. By 1990, when the severe effects of the collapse of trade began to be felt, little progress had been made toward developing food self-sufficiency, for example, one of the goals of the rectification process.

Increasingly drastic shortages of oil, food, fertilizers, and other basic necessities have marked life in Cuba for the last three years. These hardships have been aggravated by the 33-year-long U.S. trade embargo.

Sugar harvest

Explaining some of the aspects of this economic crisis, Gómez stressed that "it's important to understand this situation, not to be defeatist but to analyze the facts soberly and rigorously in order to see the importance of the work that must be done abroad in support of Cuba."

"Since the end of the summer," he reported, "Cuban officials have been explaining that the upcoming sugar harvest will not be much different from the previous one." The spring harvest of 4.2 million tons was the lowest in the past 30 years.

"There have been serious problems with the planting," Gómez underlined, due to a drought, on top of other factors. The Cuban daily *Granma* reported that by early November only 30 percent of the projected amount of sugarcane had been planted.

The poor yield of the sugar crop — a major source of the country's hard currency — is an important "indicator of the problems Cuba faces, with shortages of fertilizer, herbicide, fuel, and spare parts," he said.

"The bad weather and these shortages affected the production of food crops as well, of course. During the summer, food production did not meet the basic needs of the population."

Now, in the fall, vegetable planting is 34 percent behind schedule nationwide; in Havana province it is more than 50 percent behind.

This decline is in contrast to last year, when agricultural production — boosted by the mobilizations of tens of thousands of

people for two- or four-week stints of voluntary work — had largely succeeded in fulfilling basic needs.

Gómez added that "the country's industry is operating at less than half of capacity due to the shortages of raw materials and fuel. Many factories are paralyzed and there's no work." In contrast to capitalist countries, however, laid-off workers receive 60 percent of their salary.

The Cuban government has taken a series



Andrés Gómez at news conference against Cuba embargo

of measures to generate hard currency — needed to purchase virtually all imported products — as rapidly as possible. Gómez cited the development of Cuba's pharmaceutical industry, nickel mining, "and especially the tourist industry," which is expected to bring in \$300 million to \$600 million this year. Efforts are also being made to develop some domestic oil production.

"All these projects are advancing little by little, but they aren't enough to guarantee the country's basic needs," he stated.

More recently the Cuban leadership has taken further steps. In August, in order to draw hard currency out of the domestic black market and into the public coffers, the government legalized the possession of dollars by Cuban citizens, and opened up stores where Cubans can use dollars to buy imported goods. A few weeks later, it legalized private self-employment for more than 100 trades and services, from sandwich vendors to plumbers and taxi drivers.

In September the Cuban government announced it would encourage the formation of new cooperative farms, called Basic Cooperative Production Units, where income is linked to production yields. This is intended to increase agricultural efficiency, draw unemployed workers into the agricultural workforce, and alleviate food shortages, by encouraging each cooperative to grow the food it consumes as well. About 1,500 such units have been organized, particularly in sugarcane.

"These measures have given some people more breathing space," Gómez said, especially in the countryside.

Rising social tensions

On the other hand, "The lack of transportation, shortages, and blackouts have a real social and political cost," Gómez added. "It unquestionably affects people's morale. This is most evident in the capital, a city of 2 million inhabitants."

The unpredictable four- or eight-hour blackouts, which can suddenly spoil a family's scarce reserves of perishable food, add to the uncertainty.

The shortage of food has had a particularly hard impact. "Before," Gómez noted, "people could see that in spite of the other hardships there was enough food guaranteed for everybody. They would say, 'We're in a big mess, but at least we can eat.'"

"Although thanks to the gains in medical care we have a healthy population, now people are especially worried about the kids

and the elderly.

"Cubans are a highly politicized people and very proud of their social gains, so they're very concerned. This situation affects the national psyche," Gómez pointed out.

"People are worried because they don't see any viable alternatives with immediate results."

Gómez emphasized, "The majority of the population is willing to resist the hardships, despite the lack of immediate solutions."

This fact is reflected, for example, in the turnout of tens of thousands of working people and youth last summer for the voluntary mobilizations to harvest crops, as well as the strong support for equitable rationing of basic consumer goods. The economic pressures, however, inevitably have a polarizing impact.

"For a long time," Gómez said, "there existed a national consensus about the legitimacy and viability of Cuba's socialist system, as a result of the social and economic advances and the system's ability to meet the nation's needs. While there were always individuals who harbored reservations or opposed this social endeavor, as long as their basic needs were satisfied they didn't express those views."

"The tensions caused by this crisis have eroded the consensus," Gómez noted. "More people simply aren't willing to give the revolution a chance to adapt and survive. While not guided by any political persuasion, they voice their opposition."

In addition, Gómez stated, "there are antisocial elements that in a crisis — as in any country — take advantage of the situation for their own gain."

The social polarization has led to unprecedented incidents of violence in recent months. *Granma* reported that a gang of 23 youths robbed and beat up passengers on a bus in the Havana area August 2, taking people's foreign-made clothes. One passenger was killed when he resisted and the youths pushed him off the bus.

Such violent outbursts are highly disturbing for most Cubans, Gómez explained. "The population was accustomed to a real social peace. It wasn't the kind of social peace that is imposed through police repression in countries with a totalitarian regime. Cuba hadn't experienced social violence for more than 30 years — an entire generation."

"Now, in just a year and a half, these violent incidents begin to emerge, with an effect on society that goes beyond the acts themselves."

"There have been armed holdups," Gómez stated, noting that in contrast to places like Puerto Rico or New York City, where social violence is commonplace, in Cuba this is new and "it heightens people's worries. They ask: where are we going? What's happening to us? What have we done for such things to happen?"

Now, he said, "there is a nationwide debate on how to prevent this: Should we crack down? More police? Or should we avoid repressive measures so as not to aggravate the situation?"

"Some say, 'We need more police to repress those criminals who are taking advantage of things and don't have any social discipline.' Others argue against that approach," Gómez reported.

The Antonio Maceo Brigade leader explained that shootings by police have been rare in revolutionary Cuba. "Until the late 1960s, Cuban police didn't carry weapons. And any officer that hit someone was in big trouble."

Recently, however, "there are some police officers who unfortunately, through lack of training or incompetence, have resorted to their weapons and committed excesses against individuals. So in some cases the community becomes outraged and responds — as is their right — to abusive acts by police."

The Cuban newspaper *Trabajadores* reported that protests occurred October 14 and 15 in the eastern Havana neighborhood of Regla after a local resident was accidentally killed by border police when caught trying to leave the island by raft. At the

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funeral procession, a crowd broke the windows of the hearse and took the casket to the police station in protest. Two people were injured and several arrested.

"The enemy is hoping this social toll will lead to a social explosion," Gómez said, referring to Washington and other capitalist powers. "We have to be conscious that this social cost exists."

'Need political discussion'

Asked about the discussions among supporters of the revolution in Cuba on how to respond to the crisis, Gómez replied, "I think more political discussion is needed. The discussion must be led by the [Cuban Communist] Party.

"Some say what's needed is to resolve the food problem and the rest will then be solved.

"But if the food problem can't be solved now because of the objective conditions, then political discussion and clarification becomes all the more necessary."

The recent economic measures announced by President Fidel Castro, Gómez stated, "have sparked questions and concerns. People say, 'Maybe this will enable us to climb out of this situation, but where will it lead us in the long run? Where is the revolution going?'

"People ask, 'When Fidel says the essential thing is to guarantee the country's independence, sovereignty, and the previously achieved social gains, what does he mean? Aren't we going to be able to develop socialism? Or rather, how are we going to be able to continue developing socialism, under these new international and domestic conditions?' These are the kinds of questions supporters of the revolution are discussing in Cuba, he noted.

All this is important, Gómez stressed, because "we must have an accurate understanding of what is happening in Cuba to weigh the impact of the work being done



Workers at Blas Soler cooperative farm near Holguín, Cuba. In September the Cuban government announced formation of new cooperative farms to boost production.

abroad — especially here in the United States — to mobilize broader support for ending the trade sanctions against Cuba, for a policy based on respect for the Cuban people's right to choose their own course and develop in peace.

"The Cuban people need time to be able to solve these problems," Gómez stated. "Any victories in weakening the U.S. policy of aggression would give more space and would allow a more normal development of the Cuban economy. That hasn't happened, he commented, "although some victories are being won, such as yesterday's UN vote."

Solidarity aid can't counter the effects of the U.S. trade embargo but it's significant, Gómez underlined. "Much of the material aid does help resolve real problems. Recently there was an urgent need for insulin, for example. Being able to send enough insulin to solve an immediate crisis is a huge contribution to the Cuban peo-

ple," he remarked.

"The aid is a contribution in political terms especially. When Cubans know that the people of France sent a shipment of paper, they don't feel alone. And that's very important right now."

Addressing the international fight to end the U.S. embargo, Gómez stated, "We must explain to the general population in the United States the real reasons for the policy of aggression against Cuba." He noted that a large number of people in this country do not support the embargo and favor normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations. "This is true in spite of 35 years of continuous propaganda against Cuba."



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY RICH STUART

Minnesota debate zeros in on U.S. gov't policy toward Cuba

BY AUGUST NIMTZ

MINNEAPOLIS — Alfonso Fraga, head of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., and Dennis Hays, chief of the State Department's Cuba Desk, debated U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba at a program at the University of Minnesota here November 13.

An overflow crowd of 270 attended the event, which was organized by the Hubert Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs.

The day before the meeting, Hays and his boss, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson, appeared before the congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs to spell out the Clinton administration's policies toward Cuba.

"We will continue our diplomatic, political, and economic isolation of the Cuban government and maintain our economic embargo on the Cuban government," Watson said. "This administration will continue to vigorously oppose politically motivated efforts to undermine the U.S. embargo."

At a luncheon with about 20 university faculty and staff prior to the debate, Fraga had warned, "Nothing I have seen indicates any fundamental change in U.S. policy regarding Cuba within the Clinton administration."

In his opening comments, Fraga pointed to the real reason behind Washington's hatred of Cuba. "The fault of the Castro government is that it broke imperialism's hold" on the island, he said. Ever since, Washington's policy has been to "reinstate U.S. hegemony." The 33-year-old embargo is one of the "pillars" of that policy.

"The blockade is a violation of human rights of a whole people for wanting to build a different society," he added.

Fraga accused Washington of having a

double standard when it came to human rights. "Whereas the United States has diplomatic and economic relations with China, a country it accuses of lacking free elections and violating human rights, it refuses to normalize relations with Cuba, supposedly for these very things," he said.

If Washington lifted the blockade, Fraga said, U.S. corporations could profit. "Cuba needs rice and chickens," he said. "Why not buy the rice in Louisiana and the chickens in Arkansas?"

Hays: 'Revolution at dead end'

Hays began his prepared remarks by saying that "Cuba is out of step with the rest of Latin America." The reality, he argued, is that "the revolution is at a dead end. This is reflected in the 'crumbling foundations' of its economy.

"There is no freedom of expression in Cuba," Hays said. "There is no freedom of the press, no freedom of association. There are no independent political parties." This has been the stock-in-trade justification by U.S. officials for Washington's policy of aggression against the Cuban revolution.

Hays defended the embargo, demagogically claiming that it was similar to steps the U.S. government had taken to "advance the rights of people in South Africa and Haiti." For those who violate the travel ban to Cuba, Hays said, the Clinton administration "urges enforcement action whenever the law is violated."

Many in the audience booed Hays when, in response to a question, he said that humanitarian aid to Cuba is "used by the Cuban government to prop up the revolution and to undermine human rights activists."

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made important contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Pathfinder's latest book, *Nelson Mandela Speaks: Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa*, was featured in a full page review in the November 9 *Chicago Defender*, one of the largest Black-oriented newspapers in the United States. In the critique, entitled "Words of Peace Warrior Compiled in Book," columnist Prizgar Gonzales wrote "This captivating book of Mandela's speeches reveals a warrior with the courage of a lion." Gonzales said of *Nelson Mandela Speaks*, "It should be read by every human on the planet."

The collection of speeches and interviews by the African National Congress (ANC) president was also reviewed in the November 11 *An Phoblacht/Republican News* of Dublin, Ireland. Concluding his review "Politics Without Limits," Neil Forde declared, "*Mandela Speaks* provides a remarkable insight into his politics. The international and domestic roles Mandela plays now show that for organized political activists engaged in what at many times seemed the most hopeless of struggles, there are in fact virtually no limits on what you can achieve. *Mandela Speaks* is a testament to the political mobilisation of the ANC and of Mandela himself in his own tireless struggle."

Pathfinder bookstore volunteers in Philadelphia set up a book table at a conference of the Pennsylvania Labor Historical Society held in Reading, Pennsylvania, in Oc-

In addition, he pointed out, "because of the current situation in Cuba, a growing number of people in the Cuban community in the United States oppose the blockade in spite of their differences with the Cuban revolution. They are at odds with the right wing, which rigidly maintains its position of supporting the embargo even if the people of Cuba starve to death.

"While the right wing in Miami has many resources and can mobilize as well as threaten people," Gómez said, "there are more opportunities than ever to carry out work against the blockade within the Cuban communities, both in Miami and in northern cities."

He added that there is also more potential to carry out this work among broader sections of the population in the United States.

One such opportunity, Gómez noted, is the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan, a broad campaign that will deliver material aid to Cuba and promote opposition to the U.S. embargo. A previous Friendship convoy last July and August delivered 100 tons of aid to Cuba, reaching out to thousands of people in the process.

The new caravan will set off for Cuba February 25 and travel through 120 cities in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Organizers hope to involve hundreds of volunteer drivers in the effort.

"The opportunities are real," Gómez concluded. "We can have an impact with a broad public campaign against the blockade. We have to work to organize this opposition."

Fifty labor historians as well as union officials and members attended the conference, which commemorated the Reading Railroad massacre of 1877. Volunteers sold seven copies of *The Great Labor Uprising of 1877* by Philip S. Foner on the giant battle between capital and labor that shut down the country's railroads then.

Conference attendees also bought two copies of the recently reissued *Mother Jones Speaks*, one copy of *Eugene Debs Speaks*, and one copy of *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay*, by Leon Trotsky, off the Pathfinder table.

Two unionists joined the Pathfinder Readers Club at the event.

Pathfinder volunteer Ron Richards reported from Puerto Rico that October was one of his busiest months ever, selling some \$600 of Pathfinder books. At the annual Claridad Festival in San Juan, where books by Malcolm X were the most popular items, Richards sold three copies of *Habla Malcolm X (Malcolm X Speaks in Spanish)*.

Richards adds that he has begun getting calls from students at the University of Puerto Rico looking for books by Karl Marx, V. I. Lenin, and Trotsky.

Television viewers in Japan just got a good look at the Pathfinder Mural in Manhattan. A recent episode of *New Yorkers*, a show that introduces New York City to the Japanese audience, featured the Radical Walking Tour of New York conducted by Bruce Kayton.

As Kayton described the mural, the camera swept across the portraits of Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and others in the six-story-high wall painting. The show concluded with photos of South African artist Dumile Feni and his magnificent portrait of Nelson Mandela on the mural.

Three weeks to go in drive to raise \$75,000 for 'Militant'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The last two issues of the *Militant* have featured articles by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels discussing protectionism and free trade. They are not simply interesting history, but offer many lessons for workers today who want to figure out what stance to take on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and other trade pacts among competing capitalist governments.

Marx and Engels explained that working people have no stake in taking sides in the bosses' competition. Instead, they argued, the working class needs to unite in struggle against the capitalist class as a whole. They participated in the revolutionary struggles of the day, built organizations that could begin to carry out this perspective, and put forward a working-class view in debates over capitalist trade policy.

This discussion was the focus of a meeting to build the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial Anniversary Fund in Seattle November 20. Doug Jenness, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Minneapolis and former editor of the *Militant*, spoke at a Militant

Labor Forum there on NAFTA.

"The meeting was very timely," said Militant supporter Mark Severs. Top officials of 14 governments were in town that weekend for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, including U.S. president Bill Clinton. Washington used the meeting to reiterate its demands for lower trade barriers in Asia for U.S. capitalists.

More than 40 people came to the forum, "including two young people who heard about it at a protest against Clinton earlier that day and several Militant supporters from Canada," said Severs. "There was a lot of discussion on the question of jobs, and about how opponents of NAFTA pit workers in the United States, Mexico, and Canada against each other."

Many people returned the next morning for a discussion on a working-class approach to defending the environment.

By the end of the weekend, Militant supporters in Seattle had reached their target of raising \$2,500 for the fund, "so we decided to raise our goal to \$3,500," Severs said.

That's the spirit needed to complete the drive to raise the \$75,000 fund by December 14. Last week was the best so far in the fund effort, with nearly \$9,000 coming into the business office. For the last three weeks of the drive, we need to average around \$16,500. The final fund chart will be based on all money received by Tuesday, December 14, at noon, EST.

It's important for Militant supporters to not only collect money but also send it in rapidly. Having the collection in hand lets us know how we're doing on the fund, and

also helps meet the week-to-week cost of putting out the paper.

Special forums like the one in Seattle give a real boost to Militant supporters' fund-raising efforts.

Readers in Atlanta sprang to the top of the chart this week after a very successful weekend tour of Ma'mud Shirvani, who has been speaking around the country on "Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics." Shirvani is the coauthor of the introduction to the new Pathfinder book *To See the Dawn: Baku 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East*.

"A lot of people came to the forum and to two classes the next day," said Alicia Merel. Shirvani gave classes on "The Baku Congress" and "Politics in Iran Today." Forum goers included "three people who had never been in the Pathfinder bookstore before." Three workers who are political refugees from Haiti joined in the discussion.

Militant supporters "talked to a lot of people about the fund as we built the forum, so they were prepared to give money," said Merel. "Some others who hadn't known about the fund gave as well. We raised more than enough money from the door collection and refreshment sales to pay expenses for the event, and we'll send the extra money from that in for the fund as well."

Readers in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area also organized special forums November 20 to promote the fund. Meetings are planned in several other cities for the December 4 and December 11 weekends. These can help push the fund over the \$75,000 mark.

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New Zealand conservatives scrape by in election

Continued from front page

wide, praised the government for these measures. "During the past decade New Zealand has implemented free-market reforms more radical than any other industrialized country's," it boasted.

The opposition Labour Party, which increased its number of seats by 16 to 45, gained 34 percent of the vote, slightly less than in 1990 and its lowest percentage since 1931.

Two other parties, the Alliance and New Zealand First, each won two seats. The Alliance, a coalition of five groups including environmentalists and dominated by Jim Anderton who broke from the Labour Party, gained 18 percent of the vote, coming in second in 21 electorates (districts). New Zealand First, a splinter from the National Party and led by former cabinet minister Winston Peters, won 8 percent of the vote. Both parties were formed after the 1990 election.

Since the 1930s, seats in Parliament have been held almost exclusively by the National or Labour parties. Governments have been formed by one or the other of these organizations. The fragmentation of this two-party system reflects the greater instability of capitalist politics during a world economic depression.

In 1990, the National Party won a 69-seat landslide. This followed six years of radical economic restructuring under the previous Labour government, which turned many state-owned industries and government-funded services into private corporate enterprises. Through this process, the government cut tens of thousands of jobs, eliminated subsidies to farmers, and began to reverse many of the social gains won by the labor movement in the 1930s and 1940s—in health care, education, housing, benefit payments, and protective labor laws.

After taking office, the National Party not only continued but deepened this anti-working-class assault. Within a year, polls showed support for the National Party had

halved, making it the most unpopular government on record, and putting it in third place behind the Labour and Alliance parties.

The National Party's narrow victory in the November 6 election coincided with an upturn in the business cycle. Corporate profits increased, exports and foreign direct investment boomed, and the country's gross domestic product (GDP) rose by an average 3.8 percent from June 1991 to 1993. GDP had declined in the previous six years. Many in the middle classes and more privileged layers of the working class also benefited.

National campaigned on the theme that its policies were producing "economic recovery" and should be continued.

All four parties presented economic growth and job creation as the key issues in the election. The debate between the capitalist politicians was over how far and how fast to proceed in further dismantling social programs and driving down wages and working conditions.

Workers' wages decline

For the majority of working people, however, wages have declined despite the business upturn. Official unemployment is almost 10 percent. Health care, housing, education, and other social services are eroding for working people.

The Labour Party offered itself merely as an alternative government. It campaigned on a platform not very different from that of the National Party. "I don't think we felt there was a very big difference in the policies of the parties," commented a representative of the New York credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service following the election.

One of the Labour Party's more prominent planks was a "work-for-dole" scheme that would replace unemployment benefits for workers under 20 with makeshift work programs. Almost 25 percent of young workers are unemployed, while for those who are Maori or Pacific Islander the rate is



Militant/Terry Coggan
Protesters against health cuts in front of Wellington Hospital in 1992. New Zealand government has been on campaign to reverse social gains won by labor movement.

almost 50 percent.

Anderton, central leader of the Alliance coalition, is a former Labour Party president and member of Parliament who split from the Labour government in the 1980s to form the New Labour Party.

The New Zealand First Party was formed in the run-up to the election by Peters, a member of the National cabinet who was expelled from the party's caucus for his criticism of the government's course.

Both these parties campaigned to soften or reverse some of the attacks on health care, education, and other social services. They called for the reimposition of protectionist tariffs against imports, which the Labour and National regimes eased.

The New Zealand First Party emphasized a nationalist perspective, scapegoating foreign imports and immigrants for unemployment. Peters demagogically denounced government corruption and the "quislings" who

had sold the country to the boardrooms of New York, Tokyo, and Europe.

Leaders of the Council of Trade Unions, the main union federation, campaigned in support of the Labour Party as the "lesser evil" to the National Party. Many union officials, however, also campaigned or stood as candidates for the Alliance.

Following the election, Anderton endorsed the National Party as the constitutionally elected government, calling for a new era of cooperation and consensus between the parliamentary parties.

A referendum to decide the electoral system was held in conjunction with the parliamentary ballot. A majority of 54 percent voted in favor of proportional representation to replace the existing method by which members of Parliament are elected by a simple majority in each electorate. The change had been proposed by a government-appointed commission in 1986.

Karl Marx speaks on free trade

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

In this issue of *International Socialist Review* we reprint "Speech on the Question of Free Trade," an address Karl Marx delivered in Brussels, Belgium, in January 1848.

Marx's speech was published in pamphlet form in several languages. In 1888 Frederick Engels wrote a preface, titled "Protection and Free Trade," to the U.S. edition of the booklet with Marx's address. Last week the *Militant* reprinted this preface in the November issue of *International Socialist Review*. The two essays together are the clearest written presentation available of a working-class view on capitalist trade policies.

These writings by Marx and Engels are invaluable in understanding why working people today must break from the reactionary, nationalist framework of U.S. government officials, capitalist politicians, and union tops that surrounded the debate on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Leading up to the approval of NAFTA by the U.S. Congress November 17, the Clinton administration and spokespeople for most of big business argued in nationalist terms that the accord would put U.S. bosses in a stronger position to compete with and win trade wars against their rivals in Europe and Japan and slow down the flow of immigration from Mexico. AFL-CIO officials and some right-wing politicians countered with protectionist arguments, pitting workers in the United States against those in Mexico and Canada. They outdid Clinton with a higher anti-immigrant, "America First" pitch.

Marx was scheduled to deliver his speech on free trade at the Congress of Economists in Brussels in September 1847. But conference organizers — manufacturers, merchants, and other spokespeople for the capitalist class in Germany, England, France, and elsewhere in Europe — ended the meeting early to ensure that this outstanding representative of the working-class movement would not have a chance to speak. Marx gave the talk a few months later at a public meeting of the Democratic Association of Brussels, an organization of which he was one of the vice-presidents.

Two months after the Congress of Economists, a small group of working-class revolutionists, mostly German artisans, founded a new international organization, the Communist League. Marx and Engels were assigned to draft its program, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

Every revolutionary struggle since 1848, whether ending in victory or defeat, has enriched our understanding of how the working class can move more surely and rapidly along the strategic line of march first outlined in this document.

Rarely has a new program been put to the test of action as rapidly as the *Communist Manifesto*. Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and much of Europe were convulsed by revolutionary upheaval in 1848. Marx and Engels made their way to Cologne, Germany, and joined the democratic movement against the rule of the nobility.

In Germany, as on much of the European continent, capitalist industrial production was still in its infancy, and the working class correspondingly small. Many members of the German bourgeoisie still dreamed of eliminating feudal obstacles to the development of capitalism by leading a popular revolutionary struggle against the landed aristocracy, overthrowing the feudal ruling classes, and unifying the more than 30 separate kingdoms and principalities into a single German republic.

This was no longer true a few decades later. With the rise of imperialism at the beginning of the 20th century, capitalism exhausted its progressive content and became the main obstacle to solving all basic problems facing humanity. The bourgeoisie could no longer be counted on to act in a revolutionary way.

Addressing the tasks of the working class in the 1848 bourgeois-democratic revolution, the final section of the *Manifesto* had presented the main lines of action for communists in the following way: In Germany communists fight "with the bourgeoisie whenever it acts in a revolutionary way" against the absolute monarchy and the feudal landowners.

But unlike the successful French revolution at the end of



Street fighting outside royal palace in Paris Feb. 24, 1848. Less than a month after Marx gave speech on free trade, revolution began to sweep Europe. Marx and Engels were active participants in these struggles.

the 18th century, when the capitalist class swept the monarchy from power, the German bourgeoisie, terrified by the prospect of a strengthened working class that could threaten its political domination, sought to strike a deal with the nobility. Marx and Engels argued in burning articles and editorials against the compromising strategy of the bourgeois leaders of the movement in 1848.

By the beginning of 1849, the counterrevolution had gained momentum and put a break on the victory of the democratic movement. One year later, Marx explained at a meeting of exiled Communist League members in London that the working class, at least in Germany, would have to go through decades of further developments and class battles "in order to alter the situation and to train [itself] for the exercise of power."

Conditions for a successful revolution led by the working class did not ripen anywhere in the world while Marx and Engels were alive. But their proletarian approach, which resonates in their writings on free trade and protectionism, has guided millions of revolutionists ever since.

Marx's speech printed below can also be found in volume 6 of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

* * *

BY KARL MARX

Gentlemen, the Repeal of the Corn Laws¹ in England is the greatest triumph of Free Trade in the nineteenth century. In every country where manufacturers discuss Free Trade, they have in mind chiefly Free Trade in corn or raw material generally. To burden foreign corn with protective duties is infamous, it is to speculate on

the hunger of the people.

Cheap food, high wages, for this alone the English Free Traders have spent millions, and their enthusiasm has already infected their Continental brethren. And, generally speaking, all those who advocate Free Trade do so in the interests of the working class.

But, strange to say, the people for whom cheap food is to be procured at all costs are very ungrateful. Cheap food

**Whether capitalism declines
or grows, the worker goes
to the wall just the same . . .**

is as ill reputed in England as is cheap government in France. The people see in these self-sacrificing gentlemen, in Bowring, Bright & Co., their worst enemies and the most shameless hypocrites.

Everyone knows that in England the struggle between Liberals and Democrats takes the name of the struggle between Free Traders and Chartists. Let us see how the English Free Traders have proved to the people the good intentions that animate them.

This is what they said to the factory hands:

"The duty on corn is a tax upon wages; this tax you pay to the landlords, those medieval aristocrats; if your position is a wretched one, it is so only on account of the high price of the most indispensable articles of food."

The workers in turn asked of the manufacturers:

"How is it that in the course of the last thirty years, while our commerce and manufacture has immensely

increased, our wages have fallen far more rapidly, in proportion, than the price of corn has gone up?

"The tax which you say we pay the landlords is about three pence a week per worker. And yet the wages of the hand-loom weaver fell, between 1815 and 1843, from 28s. [shillings] per week to 5s., and the wages of the power-loom weaver, between 1823 and 1843, from 20s. per week to 8s. [A shilling equaled 12 pence.]

"And during the whole of the time that portion of the tax which you say we pay the landlord has never exceeded three pence. And, then, in the year 1834, when bread was very cheap and business lively, what did you tell us? You said, 'If you are poor, it is only because you have too many children, and your marriages are more productive than your labor!'

"These are the very words you spoke to us, and you set about making new Poor Laws, and building workhouses, those bastilles of the proletariat."

To this the manufacturers replied:

"You are right, worthy laborers: it is not the price of corn alone, but competition of the hands among themselves as well, which determines wages.

"But just bear in mind the circumstance that our soil consists of rocks and sandbanks only. You surely do not imagine that corn can be grown in flower-pots! If, instead of wasting our labor and capital upon a thoroughly sterile soil, we were to give up agriculture, and devote ourselves exclusively to commerce and manufacture, all Europe would abandon its factories, and England would form one huge factory town, with the whole of the rest of Europe for its agricultural districts."

Repeal of Corn Laws ruined agriculture

While thus haranguing his own workingmen, the manufacturer is interrogated by the small tradesmen, who exclaim:

"If we repeal the Corn Laws, we shall indeed ruin agriculture; but, for all that, we shall not compel other nations to give up their own factories, and buy our goods. What will the consequences be? I lose my customers in the country, and the home market is destroyed."

The manufacturer turns his back upon the workingmen and replies to the shopkeeper:

"As to that, you leave it to us! Once rid of the duty on corn, we shall import cheaper corn from abroad. Then we shall reduce wages at the very time when they are rising in the countries where we get our corn. Thus in addition to the advantages which we already enjoy we shall have lower wages, and, with all these advantages, we shall easily force the Continent to buy of us."

But now the farmers and agricultural laborers join in the discussion.

"And what, pray, is to become of us? Are we to help in passing a sentence of death upon agriculture, when we get our living by it? Are we to let the soil be torn from beneath our feet?"

For all answer the Anti-Corn Law League² contented itself with offering prizes for the three best essays upon the wholesome influence of the Repeal of the Corn Laws on English agriculture.

These prizes were carried off by Messrs Hope, Morse, and Greg, whose essays were distributed broadcast throughout the agricultural districts. One of the prize essayists devotes himself to proving that neither the tenant farmer nor the agricultural laborer would lose by the repeal of the Corn Laws, and that the landlord alone would lose.

"The English tenant farmer," he exclaims, "need not fear repeal, because no other country can produce such good corn so cheaply as England. Thus, even if the price of corn fell, it would not hurt you, because this fall would only affect rent, which would go down, while the profit of capital and the

wages of labor remain stationary."

The second prize essayist, Mr. Morse, maintains, on the contrary, that the price of corn will rise in consequence of repeal. He is at infinite pains to prove that protective duties have never been able to secure a profitable price for corn.

In support of his assertion he quotes the fact that, whenever foreign corn has been imported, the price of corn in England has gone up considerably, and that when little corn has been imported the price has fallen extremely. This prize-winner forgets that the importation was not the cause of the high price, but that the high price was the cause of the importation. In direct contradiction of his colleague he asserts that every rise in the price of corn is profitable to both the tenant farmer and laborer, but does not benefit the landlord.

The third prize essayist, Mr. Greg, who is a large manufacturer and whose work is addressed to the large tenant farmers, could not afford to echo such silly stuff. His language is more scientific.

He admits that the Corn Laws can increase rent only by increasing the price of corn, and that they can raise the price of corn only by inducing the investment of capital upon land of inferior quality, and this is explained quite simply.

In proportion as population increases, it inevitably follows, if foreign corn cannot be imported, that less fruitful soil must be placed under cultivation. This involves more expense and the product of this soil is consequently dearer.

Workers have made common cause with manufacturers against landlords to destroy last remnants of feudalism . . .

There being a demand for all the corn thus produced, it will all be sold. The price for all of it will of necessity be determined by the price of the product of the inferior soil. The difference between this price and the cost of production upon soil of better quality constitutes the rent paid for the use of the better soil.

If, therefore, in consequence of the repeal of the Corn Laws, the price of corn falls, and if, as a matter of course, rent falls along with it, it is because inferior soil will no longer be cultivated. Thus the reduction of rent must inevitably ruin a part of the tenant farmers.

These remarks were necessary in order to make Mr. Greg's language comprehensible.

"The small farmers," he says, "who cannot support themselves by agriculture must take refuge in manufacture. As to the large tenant farmers, they cannot fail to profit by the arrangement: either the landlord will be

obliged to sell them their land very cheap, or leases will be made out for long periods. This will enable tenant farmers to invest more capital in their farms, to use agricultural machinery on a larger scale, and to save manual labor, which will, moreover, be cheaper, on account of the general fall in wages, the immediate consequence of the repeal of the Corn Laws."

Dr. Bowring conferred upon all these arguments the consecration of religion, by exclaiming at a public meeting, "Jesus Christ is Free Trade, and Free Trade is Jesus Christ."

It will be evident that all this cant was not calculated to make cheap bread tasteful to workingmen.

Besides, how should the workingmen understand the sudden philanthropy of the



Artist's depiction of Marx, left, and Engels, center, inspecting an issue of *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* (New Rhineland Gazette) fresh off the press.

manufacturers, the very men still busy fighting against the Ten-Hours Bill,³ which was to reduce the working day of the mill hands from twelve hours to ten?

To give you an idea of the philanthropy of these manufacturers I would remind you of the factory regulations in force in all their mills.

Every manufacturer has for his own private use a regular penal code by means of which fines are inflicted for every voluntary or involuntary offence. For instance, the hand pays so much when he has the misfortune to sit down on a chair, or whisper, or speak, or laugh; if he is a few moments late; if any part of a machine breaks, or if he turns out work of an inferior quality, etc. The fines are always greater than the damage really done by the workman. And to give the workingman every opportunity for incurring fines the factory clock is set forward, and he is given bad material to make into good stuff. An overseer unskillful in multiplying infractions of rules is soon discharged.

You see, gentlemen, this private legislation is enacted for the especial purpose of creating such infractions, and infractions are manufactured for the purpose of making money. Thus the manufacturer uses every means of reducing the nominal wage, and even profiting by accidents over which the workers have no control.

And these manufacturers are the same philanthropists who have tried to persuade the workers that they were capable of going to immense expense for the sole and express purpose of improving the condition of these same workingmen! On the one hand they nibble at the workers' wages in the pettiest way, by means of factory legislation, and, on the other, they are prepared to make the greatest sacrifices to raise those wages by means of the Anti-Corn Law League.

They build great palaces, at immense expense, in which the League takes up its official residence. They send an army of missionaries to all corners of England to preach the gospel of Free Trade. They print and distribute gratis thousands of pamphlets to enlighten the workingman upon his own interests. They spend enormous sums to buy over the press to their side. They organize a vast administrative system for the conduct of the Free Trade movement, and bestow all the wealth of their eloquence upon public meetings.

It was at one of these meetings that a workingman cried out: "If the landlords were to sell our bones, you manufacturers would be the first to buy them, and to put them through the mill and make flour of them."

Struggle between lords of land and capital

The English workingmen have appreciated to the fullest extent the significance of the struggle between the lords of the land and of capital. They know very well that the price of bread was to be reduced in order to reduce wages, and that the profit of capital would rise by as much as rent fell.

Ricardo, the apostle of the English Free Traders, the leading economist of our century, entirely agrees with the workers upon this point.

In his celebrated work on political economy [*Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*] he says:

If instead of growing our own corn . . . we discover a new market from which we can supply ourselves . . . at a cheaper price, wages will fall and profits rise. The fall in the price of agricultural produce reduces the wages, not only of the laborer employed in cultivating the soil,

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but also of all those employed in commerce or manufacture.

And do not believe, gentlemen, that it is a matter of indifference to the workingman whether he receives only four francs on account of corn being cheaper, when he had been receiving five francs before.

Have not his wages always fallen in comparison with profit? And is it not clear that his social position has grown worse as compared with that of the capitalist? Beside which he loses actually. So long as the price of corn was higher and wages were also higher, a small saving in the consumption of bread sufficed to procure him other enjoyments. But as soon as bread is cheap, and wages are therefore low, he can save almost nothing on bread, for the purchase of other articles.

The English workingmen have shown the English Free



Children in a British slum, 1875. Marx pointed out that while free trade drove down the cost of food, it also led to lower wages for working people.

Traders that they are not the dupes of their illusions or of their lies. And if, in spite of this, the workers have made common cause with the manufacturers against the landlords, it is for the purpose of destroying the last remnant of feudalism, that henceforth they may have only one enemy to deal with.

The workers have not miscalculated, for the landlords, in order to revenge themselves upon the manufacturers, have made common cause with the workers to carry the Ten-Hours Bill, which the latter had been vainly demanding for thirty years, and which was passed immediately after the repeal of the Corn Laws.

When Dr. Bowring, at the Congress of Economists,

Under capitalism, there will always be a class which exploits and a class which is exploited . . .

drew from his pocket a long list to show how many head of cattle, how much ham, bacon, poultry, etc., is imported into England, to be consumed — as he asserted — by the workers, he forgot to state that at the same time the workers of Manchester and other factory towns were thrown out of work by the beginning of the crisis.

As a matter of principle in Political Economy, the figures of a single year must never be taken as the basis for formulating general laws. We must always take the average of from six to seven years, a period during which modern industry passes through the successive phases of prosperity, overproduction, crisis, thus completing the inevitable cycle.

Doubtless, if the price of all commodities falls, and this is the necessary consequence of Free Trade, I can buy far more for a franc than before. And the workingman's franc is as good as any other man's. Therefore, Free Trade must be advantageous to the workingman.

There is only one little difficulty in this, namely that the workman, before he exchanges his franc for other commodities, has first exchanged his labor for the money of the capitalist. If in this exchange he always received the

said franc while the price of all other commodities fell, he would always be the gainer by such a bargain. The difficulty does not lie in proving that, the price of all commodities falling, more commodities can be bought for the same sum of money.

Economists always take the price of labor at the moment of its exchange with other commodities, and altogether ignore the moment at which labor accomplishes its own exchange with capital. When it costs less to set in motion the machinery which produces commodities, then the things necessary for the maintenance of this machine, called workman, will also cost less.

If all commodities are cheaper, labor, which is a commodity too, will also fall in price, and we shall see later that this commodity, labor, will fall far lower in proportion than all other commodities. If the workingman still pins his faith to the arguments of the economists, he will find, one fine morning, that the franc has dwindled in his pocket, and that he has only five sous left.

Thereupon the economists will tell you, "We admit that competition among the workers will certainly not be lessened under Free Trade, and will very soon bring wages into harmony with the low price of commodities. But, on the other hand, the low price of commodities will increase consumption, the larger consumption will increase production, which will in turn necessitate a larger demand for labor and this larger demand will be followed by a rise in wages."

The whole line of argument amounts to this: Free Trade increases productive forces. When manufactures keep advancing, when wealth, when the productive forces, when, in a word, productive capital increases, the demand for the labor, the price of labor, and consequently the rate of wages, rises also.

The most favorable condition for the workingman is the growth of capital. This must be admitted: when capital remains stationary, commerce and manufacture are not merely stationary but decline, and in this case the workman is the first victim. He goes to the wall before the capitalist.

Workers go to the wall just the same

And in the case of the growth of capital, under the circumstances, which, as we have said, are the best for the workingman, what will be his lot? He will go to the wall just the same. The growth of capital implies the accumulation and the concentration of capital. This centralization involves a greater division of labor and a greater use of machinery. The greater division of labor destroys the special skill of the laborer; and by putting in the place of this skilled work labor, which any one can perform, it increases competition among the workers.

This competition becomes more fierce as the division of labor enables a single man to do the work of three. Machinery accomplishes the same result on a much larger scale. The accumulation of productive capital forces the industrial capitalist to work with constantly increasing means of production, ruins the small manufacturer, and drives him into the proletariat. Then, the rate of interest falling in proportion as capital accumulates, the little *rentiers* and retired tradespeople, who can no longer live upon their small incomes, will be forced to look out for some business again and ultimately to swell the number of proletarians.

Finally, the more productive capital grows, the more it is compelled to produce for a market whose requirements it does not know, — the more supply tries to force demand, and consequently crises increase in frequency and in intensity. But every crisis in turn hastens the concentration of capital, adds to the proletariat. Thus, as productive capital grows, competition among the workers grows too, and grows in a far greater proportion. The reward of labor is less for all, and the burden of labor is increased for some at least.

In 1829 there were, in Manchester, 1,088 cotton spinners employed in 36 factories. In 1841 there were but 448, and they tended 53,353 more spindles than the 1,088 spinners did in 1829. If manual labor had increased in the same proportion as productive force, the number of spinners ought to have risen to 1,848; improved machinery had, therefore, deprived 1,400 workers of employment.

We know beforehand the reply of the economists — the people thus thrown out of work will find other kinds of employment. Dr. Bowring did not fail to reproduce this argument at the Congress of Econo-

mists. But neither did he fail to refute himself. In 1835, Dr. Bowring made a speech in the House of Commons on the 50,000 hand-loom weavers of London who have been starving without being able to find that new kind of employment, which the Free Traders hold out to them in the distance. Let us hear the most striking portion of this speech of Mr. Bowring.

"The misery of the hand-loom weavers," he says, "is the inevitable fate of all kinds of labor which are easily acquired, and which may, at any moment, be replaced by less costly means. As in these cases competition

To call cosmopolitan exploitation universal brotherhood, is an idea that could only be engendered in the brain of the bourgeoisie . . .

amongst the work-people is very great, the slightest falling-off in demand brings on a crisis. The hand-loom weavers are, in certain sense, placed on the borders of human existence. One step further, and the existence becomes impossible. The slightest shock is sufficient to throw them on to the road to ruin.

"By more and more superseding manual labor, the progress of mechanical science must bring on, during the period of transition, a deal of temporary suffering. National well-being cannot be bought except at the price of some individual evils. The advance of industry is achieved at the expense of those who lag behind, and of all discoveries that of the power-loom weighs most heavily upon the hand-loom weavers. In a great many articles formerly made by hand, the weaver has been placed *hors de combat* [out of the running]; but he is sure to be beaten in a good many more stuffs that are now made by hand."

Further on he says, "I hold in my hand a correspondence of the governor-general with the East India Company. This correspondence is concerning the weavers of the Dacca district. The governor says in his letter, 'A few years ago the East India Company received from six to eight million pieces of calico woven upon the looms of the country. The demand fell off gradually and was reduced to about a million pieces. At this moment it has almost entirely ceased. Moreover, in 1800 North America received from India nearly 800,000 pieces of cotton goods. In 1830 it did not take even 4,000. Finally, in 1800, a million pieces were shipped for Portugal; in 1830 Portugal did not receive above 20,000.'

"The reports on the distress of the Indian weavers are terrible. And what is the origin of that distress? The presence on the market of English manufactures, the production of the same article by means of the power-loom. A great number of the weavers died of starvation; the remainder has gone over to other employment, and chiefly to field labor. Not to be able to change employment amounted to a sentence of death. And at this moment the Dacca district is crammed with English yarns and calicoes. The Dacca muslin, renowned all over the world for its beauty and firm texture, has also been eclipsed by the competition of English machinery. In the whole history of commerce, it would, perhaps, be difficult to find suffering equal to what these whole classes in India had to submit to."

Free Traders view workers as machinery

Mr. Bowring's speech is the more remarkable because the facts quoted by him are correct, and the phrases with which he seeks to palliate them are char-

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acterized by the hypocrisy common to all Free Trade discourses.

He represents the workers as means of production which must be superseded by less expensive means of production, pretends to see in the labor of which he speaks a wholly exceptional kind of labor, and in the machine which has crushed out the weavers an equally exceptional kind of machine. He forgets that there is no kind of manual labor which may not any day share the fate of the hand-loom weavers.

The constant aim and tendency of every improvement of mechanism is indeed to do entirely without the labor of men, or to reduce its price, by superseding the labor of the adult males by that of women and children, or the work of the skilled by that of the unskilled workman. In most of the throstle mills, spinning is now entirely done by girls of sixteen years and less. The introduction of the self-acting mule has caused the discharge of most of the (adult male) spinners, while the children and young persons have been kept on.

The above words of the most enthusiastic of Free Traders, Dr. Ure, are calculated to complete the confessions of Dr. Bowring. Mr. Bowring speaks of certain individual evils, and, at the same time, says that these individual evils destroy whole classes; he speaks of the temporary sufferings during a transition period, and does not deny that these temporary evils have implied for the majority the transition from life to death, and for the rest a transition from a better to a worse condition. When he asserts, farther on, that the sufferings of the working class are inseparable from the progress of industry, and are necessary to the prosperity of the nation, he simply says that the prosperity of the bourgeoisie class presupposes as necessary the suffering of the laboring class.

All the comfort which Mr. Bowring offers the workers who perish, and, indeed, the whole doctrine of compensation which the Free Traders propound, amounts to this:

You thousands of workers who are perishing, do not despair! You can die with an easy conscience. Your class will not perish. It will always be numerous enough for the capitalist class to decimate it without fear of annihilating it. Besides, how could capital be usefully applied if it did not take care to keep up its exploitable material, i.e., the workingmen, to be exploited over and over again?

But, then, why propound as a problem still to be solved the question: What influence will the adoption of the Free Trade have upon the condition of the working class? All the laws formulated by the political economists from Quesnay to Ricardo, have been based upon the hypothesis that the trammels which still interfere with commercial freedom have disappeared. These laws are confirmed in proportion as Free Trade is adopted.

Prices of commodities

The first of these laws is that competition reduces the price of every commodity to the minimum cost of production. Thus the minimum of wages is the natural price of labor. And what is the minimum of wages? Just so much as is required for production of the articles absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the worker, for the continuation, by hook or by crook, of his own existence and that of his class.

But do not imagine that the worker receives *only* this minimum wage, and still less that he *always* receives it. No, according to this law, the working class will sometimes be more fortunate, will sometimes receive something above the minimum, but this surplus will merely make up for the deficit which they will have received below the minimum in times of industrial depression.

That is to say that within a given time which recurs periodically, in other words, in the cycle which commerce and industry describe while passing through the successive phases of prosperity, overproduction, stagnation, and crisis, when reckoning all that the working class has had above and below mere necessities, we shall see that, after all, they have received neither more nor less than the minimum; i.e., the working class will have maintained itself as a class after enduring any amount of misery and misfortune, and after leaving many corpses upon the industrial battle-field. But what of that? The class will still exist; nay, more, it will have increased.

But this is not all. The progress of industry creates less and less expensive means of subsistence. Thus spirits have taken the place of beer, cotton that of wool and linen, and potatoes that of bread.

Thus, as means are constantly being found for the maintenance of labor on cheaper and more wretched food, the minimum of wages is constantly sinking. If these wages began by letting the man work to live, they end by forcing him to live the life of a machine. His existence has no other value than that of a simple productive force, and the capitalist treats him accordingly.

This law of the commodity labor, of the minimum of wages will be confirmed in proportion as the supposition of the economists, Free Trade, becomes an actual fact. Thus, of two things one: either we must reject all political economy based upon the assumption of Free Trade, or we must admit that under this same Free Trade the whole severity of the economic laws will fall upon the workers.

To sum up, what is Free Trade under the present conditions of society? Freedom of Capital. When you have torn down the few national barriers which still restrict the free

Free Trade system hastens social revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone I am in favor of free trade . . .

development of capital, you will merely have given it complete freedom of action. So long as you let the relation of wages-labor to capital exist, no matter how favorable the conditions under which you accomplish the exchange of commodities, there will always be a class which exploits and a class which is exploited.

It is really difficult to understand the presumption of the Free Traders who imagine that the more advantageous application of capital will abolish the antagonism between industrial capitalists and wage-workers. On the contrary. The only result will be that the antagonism of these two classes will stand out more clearly.

Let us assume for a moment that there are no more Corn Laws or national and municipal import duties; that in a word all the accidental circumstances which to-day the workingman may look upon as a cause of his miserable condition have vanished, and we shall have removed so many curtains that hide from his eyes his true enemy.

He will see that capital released from all trammels will make him no less a slave than capital trammelled by import duties.

Freedom of capital to crush the worker

Gentlemen! Do not be deluded by the abstract word Freedom! Whose freedom? Not the freedom of one individual in relation to another, but freedom of Capital to crush the worker.

Why should you desire farther to sanction unlimited competition with this idea of freedom, when the idea of freedom itself is only the product of a social condition based upon Free Competition?

We have shown what sort of fraternity Free Trade begets between the different classes of one and the same nation. The fraternity which Free Trade would establish between the nations of the earth would not be more real, to call cosmopolitan exploitation universal brotherhood is an idea that could only be engendered in the brain of the bourgeoisie.

Every one of the destructive phenomena to which unlimited competition gives rise within any one nation is reproduced in more gigantic proportions in the market of the world. We need not pause any longer upon Free Trade sophisms on this subject, which are worth just as much as the arguments of our prize essayists Messrs Hope, Morse, and Greg.

For instance, we are told that Free Trade would create



A meeting of the Union of German Workers' Associations, 1868. The victory of the bourgeoisie over the landed aristocracy in the 18th and 19th centuries was accompanied by growth of labor movement and workers organizations.

an international division of labor, and thereby give to each country those branches of production most in harmony with its natural advantages.

You believe perhaps, gentlemen, that the production of coffee and sugar is the natural destiny of the West Indies.

Two centuries ago, nature, which does not trouble itself about commerce, had planted neither sugar-cane nor coffee trees there. And it may be that in less than half a century you will find there neither coffee nor sugar, for the East Indies, by means of cheaper production, have already successfully broken down this so-called natural destiny of the West Indies.

And the West Indies, with their natural wealth, are as heavy a burden for England as the weavers of Dacca, who also were destined from the beginning of time to weave by hand.

One other circumstance must not be forgotten, namely that, just as everything has become a monopoly, there are also nowadays some branches of industry which prevail over all others, and secure to the nations which especially foster them the command of the market of the world. Thus in the commerce of the world cotton alone has much greater commercial importance than all the other raw materials used in the manufacture of clothing.

It is truly ridiculous for the Free Traders to refer to the few specialties in each branch of industry, throwing them into the balance against the product used in everyday consumption, and produced most cheaply in those countries in which manufacture is most highly developed.

If the Free Traders cannot understand how one nation can grow rich at the expense of another, we need not wonder, since these same gentlemen also refuse to understand how in the same country one class can enrich itself at the expense of another.

Do not imagine, gentlemen, that in criticising freedom of commerce we have the least intention of defending Protection.

One may be opposed to constitutionalism without being in favor of absolutism.

Moreover, the Protective system is nothing but a means of establishing manufacture upon a large scale in any given country, that is to say, of making it dependent upon the market of the world; and from the moment that dependence upon the market of the world is established, there is more or less dependence upon Free Trade too. Besides this, the Protective system helps to develop free competition within a nation.

Hence we see that in countries where the bourgeoisie is beginning to make itself felt as a class, in Germany for example, it makes great efforts to obtain Protective duties. They serve the bourgeoisie as weapons against feudalism and absolute monarchy, as a means for the concentration of its own powers for the realization of Free Trade within the country.

But, generally speaking, the Protective system in these days is conservative, while the Free Trade system works destructively. It breaks up old nationalities and carries antagonism of proletariat and bourgeoisie to the uttermost point. In a word, the Free Trade system hastens the Social Revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone, gentlemen, I am in favor of Free Trade.

1. The Corn Laws (first introduced in the 15th century) imposed high tariffs on agricultural imports in order to maintain high prices on agricultural products on the home market. By the Act of 1815 imports of grain were prohibited as long as grain prices in England remained lower than 80 sh. per quarter. Later further Acts were adopted (1822, 1828 and others) changing the terms of grain imports.

The struggle between the industrial bourgeoisie and the landed aristocracy over the Corn Laws ended in their repeal in June 1846.

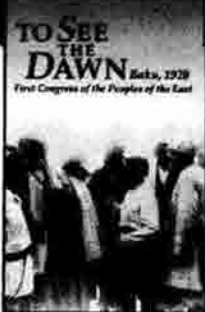
2. The Anti-Corn Law League was founded in 1838 by the Manchester manufacturers Cobden and Bright. Acting under the slogan of unrestricted free trade the League fought to weaken the economic and political position of the landed aristocracy and at the same time to reduce workers' wages.

3. The Ten-Hours Bill — legislation reducing the work day to ten hours — was submitted to Parliament in England several times. In 1847 after a prolonged struggle the Bill was passed, and applied only to children and women. However, many factory owners ignored it.

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Flight attendants' strike cripples airline

Continued from front page

a flight attendant in Miami, following the decision.

Richard Ross, APFA Miami strike coordinator, said at a post-strike rally celebrating the union's accomplishments, "This proves that the labor movement is back and that the Reagan years are over."

APFA union officials had planned the strike to last 11 days, until November 29, the day before the next group of 1,000 replacement trainees were scheduled to fly. "Then we will pursue other options available to us under the Railway Labor Act," said Denise Hedges, president of the APFA.

Before the strike, Clinton's Federal Aviation Administration, at the request of American management, had shortened the training time for flight attendants from six weeks to 10 days, to make it easier for the company to train replacement workers.

In discussing the potential pitfalls of federal arbitration, attendant David Gray said, "I don't think binding arbitration could end up worse than what we have now."

Crandall had forcefully rejected all calls for mediation saying, "A mediator always splits the difference." This was unacceptable because American's owners wanted deep concessions from the union.

"He's the elected leader of the country," said Crandall, at a news conference in Dallas. "For any citizen or any company or any union to say 'No, I won't do that' to the president requires an awfully good reason."

"I don't think there's any question we don't like it," said the company's chief financial officer, Donald Carty, commenting on the binding arbitration. "We don't like it at all."

This powerful and effective strike resulted in the airline losing more than \$10 million a day while facing a barrage of criticism from stranded ticket holders.

American had said outright it would not let strikers return to their jobs and even sent the attendants their pay with the words "final check" written on it. "Any flight attendant who strikes will be permanently replaced, whether the strike lasts 1 day or 11 days or 6 weeks," stated American Airlines spokesperson Al Becker.

But the workers were not swayed by this threat. "I may be risking my job, but this is not a self-centered thing," said striker Brenda Givens.

The strike, the first ever for flight attendants at American, mobilized 95 percent of union members, deeply wounding the airline's capacity to function.

Empty airplanes

On the second day of the strike, the Allied Pilots Association (APA), representing pilots at American, calculated that of 2,578 daily scheduled flights American flew 1,500 without passengers and canceled 220.

The company flew the empty planes, with shades drawn, from city to city in the vain hope that crews would be waiting at the next airport to staff the flights. Thousands of passengers at hundreds of airports were stranded as American boarded and then deboarded them while it scrambled to patch together crews.

Enthusiastic strikers across the United States and Puerto Rico, wearing their AA wings pins upside down, picketed at terminals, cargo docks, employee bus stops, and even railway stations in 40 cities.

In Chicago, the airline's second-largest hub, 800 attendants and supporters picketed November 20. Half of all departures were canceled and one-third of those carried only cargo. The spirited group led chants of "American's lying, we're not flying," and "You won't go, but your bags will."

Hundreds of APFA members joined spirited daily pickets at New York's Kennedy Airport. On November 20, members of the hospital workers union Local 1199 and striking International Association of Machinists (IAM) members at Alitalia Airlines joined the line.

Striking attendant Carlos Duberry, formerly a worker at Eastern Airlines who participated in the 1989-91 strike against Eastern head Frank Lorenzo's union-busting drive, said, "The first time I had some reservations. Now I know what to do. This is not just for us, but for every working person."

Another said, "I've been willing to take concessions, including at Eastern, but concessions just don't work. If we win, everyone wins, so now I'm going to fight for me and everyone else."

In Miami, airport authorities unsuccessfully tried to rein in the number of pickets, even providing maps marked with "picket locations." The strikers spread out and increased their numbers way beyond imposed limits.

During the strike, APFA members were joined on the picket lines by many other unionists including other flight attendants, ramp workers, mechanics, cleaners, and pilots from American and other airlines.

David Gómez, a flight attendant at United, walked the Miami picket every day. "This is just a preview of what is coming. I hope [United's chairman] Stephen Wolf is watching this and learning a lesson," he said.

At the outset of the strike a federal injunction was issued to bar the Transport Workers Union (TWU), which organizes ramp workers, mechanics, and other ground service workers at American, from joining the strike.

TWU officials said this injunction kept them from honoring APFA's picket line. TWU president Sonny Hall declared November 19, "Should American begin the hiring of permanent replacements, TWU will have no alternative but to become party to this dispute."

TWU Local 568 in Miami voted to donate \$2,000 to the strikers. Some TWU members argued that they should join the strike in spite of the injunction.

The pilots did not declare a sympathy strike, which would have grounded the airline. APA president Rich LaVoy announced November 19 that the "need for a sympathy strike had been superseded by the success of the APFA strike."

The APA set up a voluntary relief fund for strike donations and thousands of pilots picketed as individual union members nationwide.

Ten years of concessions

The across-the-board concession contract proposal came 10 years after American pushed through the first two-tier wage struc-

ture in the airline industry. In 1983 flight attendants agreed to the two-tier in exchange for a "no furlough" clause for "A" scale attendants that was later lost.

The union says that real wages for flight attendants have declined 40 percent since then while their workload has dramatically increased.

In its effort to compete, American spent millions of dollars buying more routes and planes while driving its workers to be more productive.

Nonetheless, American's parent company, AMR, lost \$935 million last year while the industry as a whole lost \$10 billion over the last three years.

"We have to deal with our costs and get revenues in balance," said American executive Bob Baker. "I don't know how many people will end up working for this company on the other side of that process."

The 1993 company contract proposal aimed to cut crew size, flight hours, and vacation time; install worker payments for medical coverage; tightly control job bidding; and offer a minimal wage increase that would be erased by the other concessions and inflation.

The big-business media claimed that flight attendants earned \$17 an hour. Strikers explained that they only get paid for time in the air. For every hour spent flying, an attendant will spend many hours between flights or stuck in hotel rooms far away from home.

New hires at American make \$14,000 a year and the average pay is \$23,000. This is equivalent to between \$7 and \$11 an hour for a 40-hour workweek.

Strikers answered questions about these issues as thousands lined up at strike-breaking hiring halls set up by American. APFA members vigilantly picketed at most of these sites where the company says it interviewed 5,000 potential replacement workers.

According to the union, 500 replacement workers flew during the strike, along with 2,000 supervisors and 1,000 flight attendants who crossed picket lines, frequently in disguise.

In Miami, American brought in 750 flight attendants from South America to fly both international and domestic routes during the strike. These workers are covered under separate labor contracts.

"These attendants are members of other unions in Lima, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, and Santiago that support our strike, but the workers are being threatened with losing their jobs if they don't fly," said Durkin.

The APFA strike has spurred a broad discussion among working people in this and other countries about the conditions faced by workers and the course needed to fight and win. This strike graphically demonstrates once again that it is the workers who run the industries, not the bosses.

"Whatever happens with binding arbitration," said a flight attendant in Chicago with 13 years' seniority, "doesn't detract from our victory. The arbitration is another fight at another table."

Rick Walker, a TWU member at American Airlines who was a regular picket on the flight attendants' line in Miami, said, "While I am not a fan of binding arbitration, I think the flight attendants will end up with a better contract than what they were facing before the strike. They showed that you're always better off if you fight. Despite the odds their unity stopped American."

"Just tell them we stood up for our rights," stated one flight attendant.

Janet Post is a member of IAM Local 368 at United Airlines. Also contributing to this article were Cappy Kidd in Chicago; and Nancy Rosenstock and Elizabeth Stone, members of the IAM in New York City.

Striking coal miners remove pickets in tentative agreement with coal bosses

BY DAVID MARSHALL

MARISSA, Illinois — On November 23, negotiators for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) reached an agreement granting amnesty to strikers the companies have discharged for alleged misconduct during the six-month walk-out by 18,000 union miners in seven states.

Under the terms of the amnesty, the coal companies pledged to pull their security guards and hired thugs back from mine entrances, and UMWA locals removed the picket lines they have maintained around the clock since going on strike on May 10.

"We don't have a contract yet," said John Cox, director of Region 3 of the UMWA, "but we have an agreement that all the strikers get their jobs back when we go back to work."

According to Cox, the coal operators have fired between 30 and 40 workers over the course of the strike, and have threatened to fire another 350-400. Many others face suspensions and other disciplinary action.

Cox said that negotiators for the union and the operators have arrived at a verbal agreement on the central issues in the strike, and that a tentative written agreement can be expected in the next few days.

"We're cautiously optimistic," says Mike DeLost, vice-president of UMWA Local 1148 at Peabody Coal Co.'s Randolph preparation plant in Marissa. "We're ready to go back on the picket line if we need to. The strike headquarters will still be staffed and we're having our regular local meeting tomorrow. We'll be staying close to the fax machine, so if anything happens we'll activate the phone tree or call a meeting."

Larry Bartram is a striking miner in West Virginia who has been fired for alleged strike misconduct. "The picket lines are down," explained Bartram, who is vice-president of Local 5958 at Arch Mineral Corp.'s Ruffner mine in Logan County, "but the picket shacks will not come down until we see the agreement and vote on it. If the agreement is passed, then we'll take them down."

Once union and company negotiators reach a tentative agreement on contract language, rights won previously by the union membership require a number of steps be-



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
UMWA picket shack outside Arch Mineral's mine in Yohyn, West Virginia, in May. Eight miners from the local pleaded innocent November 18 to frame-up charges.

fore a contract is in place and miners return to work. Union negotiators will first explain the proposal to district officers, local officers will meet to discuss the proposal, and then each local will organize meetings where the rank and file are able to read and discuss the terms in detail. Forty-eight hours later, the membership will vote.

Miners throughout the coalfields are anxious to see the terms of an agreement.

"Everyone was happy to hear that a settlement might be near," said Doug Hitt, a member of Local 2250 at Ziegler Holding Co.'s Old Ben no. 25 mine near Logan, Illinois. "But we're all a little skeptical. After this long on strike we don't want any false hope. We want to see the contract. I don't see us going back for anything less than what we had."

A new contract will affect 48,000 miners who work for BCOA companies, and miners at several other companies that have signed "me-too" agreements pledging to be bound by any plan the union reaches with the BCOA.

The 1988 contract, which expired in Febru-

ary 1993, required BCOA companies to give union members three out of every five jobs at all new mines opened by member companies.

In violation of the contract, BCOA companies have opened mines under different company names and have refused to offer jobs to UMWA members laid off from their other mines. This practice, known as "double breasting," is the main issue in the fight.

In a related development eight members of UMWA Local 5958 pleaded innocent in federal court November 18 to frame-up charges that they conspired to attack a convoy of cars with rocks, slingshots, firearms, and Molotov cocktails, killing a contract worker.

David Marshall is a laid-off member of International Association of Machinists Local 1345 in St. Louis. Mary Zins, a laid-off UMWA miner and member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 in St. Louis; Kathy Rettig in Morgantown, West Virginia; and Val Libby in Cincinnati also contributed to this article.

Pacific Rim talks

Continued from front page
ging on for more than seven years.

"We come here today hoping to drive down trade barriers," said Clinton at the APEC meeting. He warned that "the message to Europe is we want this to be a united but open community and we want Europe to work with us to get a good GATT agreement."

U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor was more blunt. "We trust our partners in Geneva will take careful note" of the meeting, he said.

Sharpening rivalries between the imperialist powers characterize the trade discussions. These conflicts are driven by falling profit rates amid a world depression.

The heads of government from Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States, along with ministers from Hong Kong and Taiwan attended the APEC meeting.

Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad refused to come, charging that the purpose of the meeting was to enable Washington to more easily push for an increased share of the Asian market.

The region accounts for 40 percent of the world's population and 50 percent of its gross national product.

Clinton, who met with Chinese president Jiang Zemin during the summit, said China is "playing a constructive regional and global leadership role while moving toward greater internal liberalization."

While making noises about human rights violations in China, Washington's main interest lies in profit-taking from the rapid growth of the Chinese economy — which is expanding faster than any other in the world — and retaining Beijing's cooperation in U.S. assaults on working people around the globe.

China's Stalinist rulers are moving full steam ahead to introduce capitalist market measures into the economy of the Chinese workers' state.

Washington is the recipient of an estimated one-quarter of Chinese exports. Aircraft giant Boeing now does 14 percent of its business with China.

APEC trade and foreign ministers, meeting November 19, said they would be willing to reduce or eliminate certain tariffs as part of an overall agreement on world trade. But they refused to commit to a course of forming a free-trade area in the region.

Tokyo in particular, which faces continuing pressure from Washington to open its market to autos, rice, and other goods, is opposed to such a course. Japanese capitalists already dominate much of the region's trade.

Nobuo Matsunaga, Tokyo's special envoy at the talks, said, "If Mr. Clinton tries to rush us, he will fail, and the whole idea will fail as well."

GATT rift

Following the APEC summit, talks began in Washington between Kantor and Leon Brittan, chief negotiator for the governments grouped in the European Community (EC).

Brittan had warned prior to the APEC talks that any agreement between Tokyo and Washington that sought to increase the market share of foreign companies in Japan "could only be at the expense of the [European] Community."

Paris has set a recalcitrant tone on U.S. demands for a trade settlement. "If we want to have a GATT accord by December 15, the United States must negotiate," said Foreign Minister Alain Juppé November 5. "If there are no concessions, we will not sign."

Paris has threatened to veto an agreement on agricultural trade — known as the Blair House accord — that would sharply cut agricultural exports from countries in Europe and result in growing U.S. exports to the region. The French government's move in effect would torpedo the GATT talks.

According to the November 22 *Financial Times*, French president François Mitterand "deliver[ed] a stinging attack on what he said was bullying U.S. tactics following the Nafta accord."

The *Wall Street Journal* blasted Paris's reluctance to give up a hunk of its agricultural profits in an October 29 editorial, written in the midst of a strike by Air France workers. "The larger issue here," stated the *Journal* editors, "is whether France is going to enter the 21st century with a flexible economy, or with one in which mobs hold veto power over economic and business decisions."

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

NAFTA: Victory or Defeat for Working People? Speaker: Ken Riley, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 44. Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4; low income \$2. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Cuba: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End. Speaker: Sara Lobman, *Militant* staff writer. Sat., Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$6; students and unemployed \$3. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Employer Takebacks and Union Busting... How Workers Are Fighting Back. Panel of unionists involved in labor struggles. Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. 59 Fourth Ave. (Corner of Bergen, near Atlantic and Pacific subway stations). Donation: \$4. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

Manhattan

Stop the Frame-up in the World Trade Center Trial! Speaker: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. 214-16 Avenue A. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 388-9346.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Economic Crisis, NAFTA, and the Fight for Jobs. Speaker: Doug Jenness, former *Militant* editor and longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

Class: Marxism and the Fight to Protect the Environment. Sun., Dec. 5, 10 a.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. For more information and rides call (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Right to Choose an Abortion: The Attacks Continue. Speakers: Cherry Anderson, coordi-

New S. Africa constitution registers gains

Continued from front page

Any party winning 5 percent of the popular vote is entitled to a cabinet post.

This agreement came out of two years of negotiations. Under the impact of a mass action campaign led by the African National Congress (ANC), the National Party-led government was forced to agree to concessions on a number of important issues. South African president F.W. de Klerk, for example, wanted to make the post of president more of a figurehead position. He demanded that the governing cabinet be required to reach two-thirds majorities on major decisions.

He finally had to accede to the position put forward by ANC president Nelson Mandela that the country's president will seek consensus in making decisions "in the spirit of national unity."

The new interim constitution must be

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FORGING A DEMOCRATIC, NONRACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

London

Speakers: Mandla Langa, African National Congress; Donald Woods, author of *Biko*, and *Asking for Trouble*, made into the film *Cry Freedom*; Kumar Murshid, chair, Tower Hamlets Anti-Racist Committee; Kevin Hussey, sacked TGWU shop steward, Tilbury Docks Dispute Committee; Glenroy Watson, Anti-Apartheid Movement; representative, Pathfinder Press. **Sat., December 11, 2:00 p.m.** School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, London. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-401-2409.

nator, Pro-Choice Task Force of Swarthmore College; Kevin McGuire, clinic escort coordinator, Elizabeth Blackwell Clinic; Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers Party, defended clinic during Operation Rescue attacks. **Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.** 1906 South St. (corner of 19th and South Sts.) Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

TEXAS

Houston

Defending Cuba Today. Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. **Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.** 6969 Gulf Freeway #250 (in the Woodridge Plaza-Woodridge exit of I-45 so.) Donation: \$5. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Truth about Clinton's Heath Security Act Speaker: Susie Beck, Socialist Workers Party. **Sat., Dec. 4, 7 p.m.** 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3; unemployed \$1. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

Celebrate the publication of Pathfinder's new book NELSON MANDELA SPEAKS

Toronto

Speakers: Edward Scott, Anglican archbishop; Jabu Dube, chief information officer for the African National Congress (ANC) in Canada; Duncan MacDonald, Ontario Federation of Labour; Karen Kaija, ANC-Mandela Support Coalition; Nicholas Davis, *Excalibur Newspaper*, York University; Carol Caron, Pathfinder Press. **Sat., December 4, 7:30 p.m.** Reception 6:30 p.m. Friends House, 60 Lowther Ave. (2 blocks N. of St. George subway, Bedford exit). Tel: (416) 533-4324.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics. Educational Conference. Celebrate the publication of *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, coauthor of the introduction to the Pathfinder book *To See the Dawn*. 1405 E. Madison. Donation for the conference: \$10. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

Forum and Slideshow. **Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.** **Classes:** *Baku Congress*. **Sat., Dec. 4, 3 p.m.** **Politics Today in Iran.** **Sun., Dec. 5, 11 a.m.** 1405 E. Madison. (206) 323-1755.

BRITAIN

Manchester

The Budget: How Should Workers Respond? **Sat., Dec. 4, 6 p.m.** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Hands Off Korea! Stop U.S. War Moves against North Korea! **Sat., Dec. 11, 6 p.m.** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

ratified by South Africa's white-minority parliament, which convened November 22 to discuss the document. After approval, the multiracial Transitional Executive Council will assume its powers to oversee governance of the country until the April election.

"One looks forward to this with excitement," said Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the ANC. "We have done the negotiations successfully and we will also start preparing for our entry into Parliament with the same type of vigor and determination we displayed in the negotiations."

The Freedom Alliance, which includes the Inkatha Freedom Party and the white separatist Conservative Party and Afrikaner People's Front (AVF), opposes the interim constitution. Inkatha leader Mangosuthu

Buthelezi vowed to fight against this agreement "every inch of the way."

Mandela concluded a successful 10-day campaign swing through Natal province November 21, an area Buthelezi has long considered his power base. Addressing 7,000 people attending the first ANC rally to be held in the town of Esikahwini since 1989, Mandela blasted political violence. "The killings of people have been because... surrogate leaders were actually thinking that if people were killed, beaten, and intimidated, you would run away from the ANC," he stated. "Instead, you are coming to the ANC."

Mandela also urged Inkatha to rejoin the negotiations and participate in the elections. "There is no excuse whatsoever that [Inkatha] should stay out of multiparty talks forever," he stated.

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

They have a chapter in Waco? — Att'y Gen. Janet Reno was among those tapped by "Sara Lee," the cheesecake folk, as a female



Harry Ring

"front-runner" of the year. A cash donation went to an organization of her choice — the Children's Defense Fund.

The chickens come home — "In reality, while TB was virtually eliminated in industrialized countries, nothing changed in the de-

veloping world. Tens of millions of people have been dying from TB for decades. Each year it kills more than 3 million people... more than all the adult deaths from all other infectious diseases combined, including AIDS." — The World Health Organization explaining the reescalating incidence of tuberculosis in industrialized countries.

Buttin' heads with the guv — Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa invested \$28 in a device to block the family TV from receiving MTV cable. That's so his son, nine, will stop watching *Beavis and Butt-head*, which features two teenage under-achievers. The action was taken to shield the governor's son from "wrong values."

Bench vacancy coming up? — In Puerto Rico, a San Juan judge rejected a motion to reconsider the \$250 fine imposed on Col. Lucinio Ramirez, director of the Police Traffic Bureau. The colonel had parked his car in a spot reserved for the handicapped.

That was his bonus — The U.S. drug agent who illegally arrested Panama's Manuel Noriega was suspended, with pay, during a probe into reports that he stashed hundreds of thousands of dollars from undercover operations in safe deposit boxes he controls. That's according to the Drug Enforcement Agency's Florida director, Tom Cash.

'Peace dividend' — British Aerospace is eliminating 630 plane

manufacturing jobs because of a drop in military orders, and 382 more at an ordnance subsidiary. The company threatened to shut down some plants unless the British government stops stalling on ammunition orders.

Better keep their phone numbers — Citing a drop in the number of bank failures and an asserted improving health of the banking system, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said that over the next two years, it will be laying off 3,300 temporary workers who had been hired to help dispose of the assets of busted banks.

That's important imagewise — David Paul, head of the busted CenTrust thrift is being tried in Mi-

ami for using \$3.2 million of company cash to dress up his home, his vacation home, and his yacht. But the feds had no quarrel with the \$\$\$\$ spent to touch up his office suite with a Rubens painting, mahogany flooring, and gold-plated toilet fixtures.

Cheap thrill — From Gump's, the stylish San Francisco department store. A velvet cushion adorned with faux \$100 bills and real pennies, nickels, and dimes. Only \$110.

Thought for the week — "I earned it." — Oliver North on the \$2 million he's scooped up from lectures and books since the exposure of his role in the Iran-Contra caper.

Hundreds in Canada protest racist gov't report

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — More than 500 people took to the streets here November 13 to protest a racist report on immigration presented to the Ontario legislature. The report, introduced by Liberal Party leader Lyn McLeod October 28, brands the 60,000 individuals from Somalia who are now living in Canada as criminals who rip off the welfare system to buy arms for various clan factions in Somalia.

Chanting "Stop the racist attacks now" and "Down with the racist immigration policies," the demonstrators — most of whom were immigrants and refugees from Somalia — demanded an inquiry into the origin of the report and called for McLeod's resignation.

The demonstration was organized by the Somali Committee for Racial Justice, the Coalition for a Just Refugee and Immigration Policy, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, and the Toronto Coalition Against Racism. It was endorsed by nearly 40 other organizations.

"I am very angry," said one worker from Somalia. "We will continue to protest."

"McLeod is scapegoating Somalis," said Ahmed Hussein, a refugee who is an unemployed environmental engineer. "When the politicians can't solve economic problems they use scapegoating."

"I am here because we have a common enemy — racism," said an unemployed Tamil refugee from Sri Lanka. "We have to fight together with the Somali community."

Vicious racist attack

McLeod's report was based on a 43-page federal document that revealed a massive spying operation conducted against refugees from Somalia that began in July 1992.

"The Somali refugee movement is an organized movement that is clan driven and financially motivated," the federal report states. "It is international in nature and it is, in spite of what anyone else may say, organized crime...."

"It involves a conspiracy, on the part of the clans, to defraud the Canadian people by taking advantage of the welfare system. It is a systematic and deliberate pillaging of our social net."

"The Somali people are... opportunists whose use of confusion and misrepresentation are unparalleled except by the gypsies of eastern and western Europe," the document continues.

"In dealing with these people I have come to understand that our western and primarily Christian-based way of life has little meaning or relevance to these people."

The report calls for a two- to four-year combined operation by the immigration cops, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, social service agencies, and provincial cops against individuals from Somalia who are claiming refugee status. It also recommends that all refugee claimants be photographed and fingerprinted and that all Somali passports be declared invalid at Canadian borders.

'Not supported by the facts'

The day before the demonstration, newly appointed federal immigration minister Sergio Marchi released a statement distancing himself and the Liberal government from the report.

"The conclusions [in the report] are not

supported by the facts and are essentially speculative," said Marchi. "Moreover, the report in question has not and will not be used in any way by the [immigration] department. Canadians should know that the report neither reflects my views nor those of the department."

Marchi said the report contained mistakes and "represents only the opinion of the author." He said future reports would "improve" but the immigration department would continue its investigations into alleged welfare fraud by refugees.

Ogony Adongo, speaking at the rally for the Toronto Coalition Against Racism, called the report hate propaganda. "It's a lie to say the report will not be used," Adongo said. "It has already been used. And it's a lie to say it's the work of one individual. The government is just trying to save face."

"Enough is enough!" said Zeinab Adan from a coalition of Somali-Canadian organizations in Ottawa-Carlton. Adan demanded that the media end its biased reporting against immigrants from Somalia. "We are here to stay," she said. "We are part of the Canadian mosaic." Speaking in French, Adan appealed for support from Quebecois and francophones outside of Quebec.

Other speakers included spokespeople from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and the Kenya Human Rights Committee.

Dixon Road struggle

The government's anti-immigrant stance gives confidence to other racist forces. For several years residents at a Dixon Road condominium and rental complex in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke have been struggling against racist harassment by security guards hired by the landlords. The guards are armed with clubs, handcuffs, pepper spray, walkie-talkies, and attack dogs. The majority of the residents are from Somalia.

A struggle exploded into the streets in July after Maryam Abdi, a 27-year-old woman from Somalia, was bitten by one of the attack dogs. She was a bystander during a confrontation between residents and security guards over a parking ticket. Tenants quickly erected barricades on Dixon Road.

During the confrontation 18-year-old Adam Musse was arrested for supposedly threatening a guard with a pop bottle. "I saw the guard take the bottle out of a garbage can," said Musse. "They try to provoke us." Musse had to appear in court three times before the charges were finally dropped.

Gaid Musse, a leader of a committee formed at the Dixon Road apartments, explained that the landlords have deliberately whipped up hostility between the mostly white condominium owners and the Somali residents, most of whom rent their homes.

"The owners publish a newsletter saying that the Somalis defecate and urinate in the halls and are dirty," Musse said. "They say the condominium property values are falling because of the Somalis."

Musse explained how the police are routinely called by the guards to harass Somali youth. "The police come and ask, 'Who is the troublemaker here?' The guards point to someone and the cops arrest them."

As a result of the July 30 protest, the



Militant/Heidi Rose

Report attacks Somali people as "opportunists" guilty of "systematic and deliberate pillaging" of social resources in Canada. Above: 500 join November 13 march.

Etobicoke City Council carried out an investigation. None of the slanders made by the owners of the complex were substantiated, said Musse, "but nothing has been resolved. The young people are still unemployed and

we don't have the services that we need."

John Steele is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 at Ford Electronics.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
December 6, 1968 Price 10¢

Massive strike actions by Italian workers coupled with militant student struggles brought the downfall of the Christian Democratic government of President Giovanni Leone.

On Nov. 14 the country was shut down by a general strike involving 12 million workers demanding major reforms of the country's social-security program. Five days later the government was hit by a strike of a million public employees. And, to add to the explosive quality of these events, thousands of students, engaged in a struggle for university and high-school reform, joined the workers' movement.

A thousand high-school students marched in Venice asking for more classrooms and more teachers. Similar demonstrations took place in Florence and Rome.

The student protests mushroomed into a national movement Nov. 12, when tens of thousands demonstrated across Italy for a voice in school administration and better facilities.

The strikes continued and deepened as they entered their second day. Thousands of high-school students demonstrated in the streets of Rome Nov. 13. Leaders of the "Student Movement" in Florence declared their support for the workers' general strike. Their statement said, "The battles that workers carry forward against the exploitation of one class by another are the same battles that the students carry on against the class schools."

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

December 4, 1943

Shocking reports have come in recent months from India of millions suffering death from sheer starvation. In the streets of Calcutta, in the industrial province of Bengal, lie hundreds of thousands of homeless men, women, and children, bodies weakened and shrunk by starvation, grovelling in the gutter for bits of garbage, waiting for death to overtake them.

The estimated death toll in the single province of Bengal, where the suffering has been most acute, is 2,000 a week, according to the official British government figures. But the estimate of Indians travelling in the country, eye-witnesses to the ravages of the worst famine in 70 years, is — 50,000 deaths weekly.

The responsibility for the terrible plight of this vast mass of Indian people rests with British imperialism. For 150 years the British rulers have been siphoning off the profits from the natural resources and labor of India. Their unquenchable thirst for greater and greater wealth is one of the direct causes of the Indian famine.

Winston Churchill, the outspoken ruthless guardian of British imperialist interests, voiced the attitude of the British ruling class toward India in a speech delivered Dec. 12, 1930:

"We have no intention of casting away that most truly bright and precious jewel in the crown of the King, which more than all our other Dominions and Dependencies constitutes the glory and strength of the British Empire."

Flight attendants set example

The five-day strike by thousands of flight attendants at American Airlines was a good example of workers using their union power. Through united action, members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) succeeded in crippling the largest domestic carrier in the United States. Flight attendants were justly proud over their ability to shut down American. The wealthy owners of the airline were surprised. They were caught completely unprepared for the strike's impact. Four days into the strike, the best American management could say was that it hoped to have 37 percent of its planes in the air.

Millions of working people nationwide watched and were inspired by this fight. Spirited, chanting picket lines drew hundreds of strikers each day at major hub airports. Other unionists, from fellow airline workers to health-care workers, came out to reinforce the lines.

Flight attendants, by an overwhelming majority, stayed out solid, with only 5 percent crossing the line.

APFA members patiently explained their fight and the issues in the strike. The result was that many ticket holders directed their anger toward management, not the strikers.

The Clinton administration was forced to step in because of the strength of the strike. The U.S. president is no ally of the working class. He demonstrated this when he approved the Federal Aviation Administration's proposal, at American's request, to shorten the required training time for scabs from six weeks to 10 days.

The strike was an example for workers nationwide. It runs counter to the line of "labor-management cooperation" that employers push and top union officials echo.

The U.S. government is bound to protect the interests of capital. The prospect of hundreds of thousands of travelers being stuck on the busiest travel day of the year didn't sit well. Especially when the bosses at American were hemorrhaging more than \$10 million a day.

In addition, the administration was confronted with an unpredictable situation. Given the strike's success, and the active support for the flight attendants by many pilots, mechanics, ramp workers, and cleaners, the possibility of the pilots' union and Transport Workers Union deciding to honor picket lines remained a viable one.

The APFA strike faced steep challenges. The officials of the pilots' union and Transport Workers Union told their members to keep working. American, driven by falling profit rates and competition, is on a campaign to radically restructure its operation. The overall state of the labor movement is weak. Top union officials routinely offer up concessions, arguing this is necessary to save "our" companies.

The conditions the attendants go back with are far from ideal. They are working under an imposed contract and face binding arbitration.

But the flight attendants' five-day strike set an example for the entire labor movement, inspiring other airline workers in particular. At United Airlines, where the bosses are also driving for concessions, workers are setting up informational pickets and taking other actions to oppose the company assault.

The flight attendants at American showed the world that when working people are under attack, the only course to take is to stand together and fight.

Support ANC campaign

The interim constitution approved November 18 in South Africa advances the campaign to overthrow the white-minority regime and sweep away the last remnants of apartheid once and for all. It brings the goal of a democratic, nonracial republic a step closer to realization.

Now is the time to join ranks with the African National Congress (ANC) and step up efforts to ensure a sweeping ANC victory in the upcoming elections in April.

Some of the rights and freedoms outlined in the interim constitution seem simple — the right to move freely throughout the country, the right to live anywhere, and prohibitions against torture, forced labor, and detention without trial. But apartheid was rooted in the systematic denial of these and other basic democratic rights for the vast majority of the population in South Africa.

Apartheid was more than just racism. It meant the wholesale dispossession of Blacks, Indians, and Coloureds. Barred from voting or owning land, millions of Black South Africans were compelled by law to live in the Bantustans, so-called homelands that are allotted the worst 13 percent of the country's soil. Four of them were declared independent countries by Pretoria, although no other government in the world has ever recognized them.

The ANC has always insisted that South Africa must be

one united country, free for all those who live there, not an assemblage of racial homelands. The interim constitution sounds the death knell for these creatures of apartheid.

While the interim constitution lays the basis for the first democratic, nonracial elections in South Africa's history five months from now, it does not mean the end of the fight to rid the country of the legacy of apartheid.

As ANC president Nelson Mandela has pointed out many times, much remains to be done. The government elected in April 1994 "will face tremendous challenges," he explained earlier this year. "We want to build a nation free from hunger, disease, and poverty; free from ignorance, homelessness, and humiliation; a country in which there is peace, security, and jobs," Mandela explained.

Working people in South Africa deserve support in their fight to accomplish these goals.

The labor movement should mobilize support for the ANC's election campaign. Unionists, students, and others can raise money, recruit international volunteers to help with voter education and campaigning in South Africa, and, most importantly, explain the revolutionary course of Mandela's leadership in order to win millions to stand with the ANC in confronting the big challenges they will face after the elections.

Build Friendshipment to Cuba

Youth and working people in the United States, Canada, and other countries should join efforts to build the next Friendshipment solidarity caravan to Cuba. This is an important opportunity to broaden public opposition to the U.S. policy of aggression against the Caribbean country.

For more than 30 years, Cuba has been the target of an unremitting effort by the government of the United States to rid the Americas of the revolutionary regime that came to power in January 1959.

"We will continue our diplomatic, political, and economic isolation of the Cuban government and maintain our economic embargo," Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson told the congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs November 12.

The State Department expects that the U.S. squeeze on Havana at a time of severe economic difficulties and growing social tensions will bring down President Fidel Castro's government.

But the Cuban revolution is alive. In defense of this revolution, working people there are still defying Washington's attempts to force them to cry "uncle."

This is the reason why U.S. president Clinton won't let up the pressure. As long as the Cuban revolution exists, the White House won't normalize diplomatic relations or develop trade links with Cuba — as it is doing with China or Vietnam, where Stalinist regimes have driven working people out of politics and are implementing wholesale capitalist market reforms. Working people the world over should take pride in Washington's hatred of Cuba.

Cuban workers and farmers are confronted with severe food shortages and other social and economic problems. They need time to solve these problems themselves. International solidarity and material aid, along with revolution-

ary developments in other parts of the world, are essential in extending the space working people in Cuba have to confront the challenges facing the revolution.

The best opportunity to draw fresh forces into the fight against the U.S. embargo and undemocratic travel restrictions is the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan. Drivers from Canada and the United States will travel through more than 100 U.S. cities, transporting hundreds of tons of much-needed material aid to Cuba by mid-March. Dozens of additional volunteers will join the caravan as it makes its way through Mexico.

Hundreds can be won to be drivers on the caravan. In addition, thousands can take part in the campaign to collect material aid and organize programs to discuss why working people should stand up to Washington's policy.

But it will take hard work. Now is the time for opponents of the U.S. embargo and travel ban to step up efforts to build the Friendshipment. All opponents of U.S. policy against Cuba can speak at campuses, union meetings, community events, house gatherings, churches, and elsewhere to recruit drivers, raise humanitarian aid, and convince others to become involved.

Bookstore and grocery store owners, independent truckers, fishermen, and others should be asked to provide drop-off locations for aid or to use their rigs for transportation. Rank-and-file workers can organize to make their union halls available as well. Hundreds of students, factory workers, family farmers, and others can be won to this political perspective of solidarity with fellow fighters —

Now is the time to build coalitions to coordinate the caravan campaign in every city where they don't exist and work to broaden solidarity committees that are already functioning.

Do sanctions help advance workers' struggle in Haiti?

Should working people support economic sanctions against Haiti as part of the struggle against the military dictatorship there? Or is the embargo today simply a form of imperialist intervention that should be opposed? So asks reader Rollande Girard in a letter printed on the facing page. She points to an important question that workers and farmers in Haiti, exiles living in the United States, and others who support the struggle against the military regime there are grappling with.

Economic sanctions are not an abstract principle. Whether workers should support them depends on the specific situation, the class forces involved, who is calling for them, and why. And the answers to these questions don't always remain the same.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

At the heart of the issue is the question of what force is capable of getting rid of military rule in Haiti and reopening space for the Haitian toilers to discuss, debate, and organize politically to advance their interests. With the struggle in Haiti currently at an ebb, some activists are looking to the Clinton administration — or to the governments of Canada or other Caribbean countries — to intervene in the situation. Ousted Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide has called for maintaining the sanctions and said he would welcome U.S. military intervention. But this is no way forward.

The U.S. rulers have a long history of intervening in Haiti, which included occupying the country from 1915 to 1934. Their goal has always been the same: to shore up imperialist domination and exploitation of the island.

Today U.S. warships patrol the waters surrounding Haiti, supposedly to press for the restoration of democracy. But their main activity has been to continue the criminal U.S. policy of seizing refugees fleeing Haiti and forcibly returning them into the hands of the military government.

It's worth looking at the discussion that took place in the *Militant* two years ago around the question of calling for an embargo of Haiti.

In the weeks following the September 1991 coup against Aristide, the *Militant* distanced itself from those calling for sanctions. It recognized that it is extremely unusual for the workers' movement to back any sort of sanctions by an imperialist power against a semicolonial country, no matter how repressive the government there.

The capitalist rulers in Washington and elsewhere use economic pressures, along with threats of intervention and actual military actions, in an effort to force governments around the world to back U.S. foreign policy objectives. The most glaring example in recent years is the embargo that preceded the U.S.-led assault on Baghdad, which continues to strangle working people in Iraq to this day.

That's how imperialism uses economic sanctions — as a club against working people.

In the months after the coup, however, workers and farmers in Haiti and many Haitians living in the United States mounted an intense struggle demanding the return of Aristide, who had been elected by a large majority following years of mass struggle against successive military regimes. As part of the resistance to the coup, many Haitian workers put forward the demand for economic sanctions as a weapon that could strengthen the struggle.

Exactly two years ago the *Militant* in this column urged support for the economic sanctions. The paper explained that "unlike Iraq, where sanctions were an important part of the imperialist drive to war against the people of that country, the demand for an embargo comes from Haitian working people themselves." This support for economic sanctions was always tied to the fight of the Haitian toilers, not to any idea that sanctions alone could restore democracy.

Today a qualitatively different situation exists in Haiti than in 1991. As Girard points out, there are no mass mobilizations taking place that would be advanced in some way by an embargo. There is no leadership, either in Haiti or in exile, that is pointing toward such a mobilization of Haitian working people.

In this context, the demand for sanctions becomes a call for imperialist intervention, not a contribution to the fight of the Haitian masses.

The contrast is particularly clear if you look at the worldwide movement to isolate and weaken the apartheid regime in South Africa through economic sanctions. That fight was advanced every step of the way by the revolutionary leadership of the African National Congress as a supplement to — not a substitute for — a mass struggle of South African working people in their millions. It is this mass movement above all, reinforced by solidarity from workers and democratic-minded people around the world, that is winning the fight to create a nonracial, democratic society there.

What working people in Haiti need today is space to organize and develop a leadership that can chart a course forward in the struggle against the military regime and against imperialist exploitation.

The economic embargo does nothing to accomplish this. Instead, working people in the United States and elsewhere should demand: U.S. hands off Haiti! Open the borders to Haitian refugees!

— NAOMI CRAINE

Soda ash miners in Wyoming win strike victory

Some 480 soda ash miners fought off a union-busting probe by General Chemical Co. at its southwest Wyoming mine. During the course of their four-month strike, members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 15320 stood up to cop harassment and arrests; company firings of 34 strikers for so-called strike misconduct; threats, including the use of firearms by compa-

Gold miners win labor board ruling in Canada

The Canada Labor Relations Board (CLRB) ruled November 11 that Royal Oak Mines bargained in bad faith with striking members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The announcement was cheered by more than 100 union

ing for a contract. The current contract expired September 30.

In the past Biltwell has signed contracts with the same provisions as the national Clothing Manufacturers Association agreement. This year, however, they are demanding a wage freeze and the introduction of forced overtime. On November 15, 130 members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 1104 demonstrated in downtown St. Louis, chanting "No contract, no peace" and "We are the union, the mighty, mighty union."

Workers have also organized "wearing red" days to show unity and solidarity with the efforts of their negotiating committee. □

10,000 protest cuts in social wage in Edmonton

Some 10,000 people, including many unionists and youth, marched and rallied October 23 in Edmonton against health and education cuts proposed by the Conservative Party government in the province of Alberta.

The provincial government has announced plans to eliminate its \$3.4 billion deficit by 1997. Already \$344 million has been chopped from health and welfare.

Ralph Klein, the Conservative premier of Alberta, has told health-care workers they should organize



Militant/Martha Pettit
Some 600 textile workers and their supporters marched in Paterson, New Jersey, November 22 to win support for their strike. Members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union won a victory in their fight November 16 when truck drivers refused to pick up work made at struck plants.

bake sales to make up for budget shortfalls caused by the cuts.

Since the budget year began in April, more than 1,100 health-care workers have lost their jobs. Approximately 13,000 welfare recipients have had their benefits cut off. Some 1,500 liquor store workers have been served lay-off notices as the government moves to privatize liquor sales. The government is also seeking a 20 percent cut in education and a 5 percent rollback in public sector wages. □

GM auto workers approve concession contract

Officials of the United Auto Workers (UAW) announced November 11 that workers at General Motors Corp. had ratified a three-year labor contract, which includes concessions.

The GM owners plan to cut 65,000 union jobs by 1995 in a bid to become more profitable. GM's stockholders have lost \$17 million since 1990. Some 265,000 UAW members are currently employed at GM.

The agreement includes a wage for new hires of 70 percent of full pay, deductions from cost-of-living increases to pay for health-care benefits, and 3 percent wage increase. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: David Salner, member of USWA Local 8319 in Tooele County, Utah; Ned Dmytryshyn, member of Teamsters Local 213 in Vancouver, British Columbia; Becky Ellis, member of ACTWU Local 1104 in St. Louis; and Peter Thierjung, member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland.

ON THE PICKET LINE

ny scabs; violence-baiting in the local newspaper (*The Rocket Miner*), and Salt Lake City TV News; and provocations by federal authorities.

On November 15 the Steelworkers ratified a contract maintaining current medical and retirement benefits, the addition of a \$20 a month transportation allowance, and pay raises of 7 percent, 3 percent, and 2 percent over the three-year contract.

The company agreed to reinstate the 34 strikers after a one-month suspension in exchange for the union dropping outstanding grievances. Reinstated workers will not face probation or future discipline.

Company firings emerged as the most important issue in the strike. "Either we all go back or none of us go back," was the way Dave Welch, one of the strikers, summarized the miners' view of this issue.

Not one of the 460 union members crossed the picket line, and most actively participated in the strike. Frequent mass pickets helped maintain high morale and good communication. Widespread support for the union was demonstrated at a community rally of 300, a picket line rally of 250, and a "stand-in" of 150.

"It took us a while, but we finally whipped them," said striker Cecil MacGowen.

members and supporters.

The key issue in the 17-month-long strike is safety and a union-busting drive by the company.

Harry Seeton, president of CASAW Local 4, said he hoped the gold miners would be back at work shortly. On November 16 CASAW members voted 96 percent in favor of the CLRB recommendations that Royal Oak was ordered to present to the union.

The labor board recommendation proposes that four outstanding issues from April 1992 be negotiated within 30 days. They include transportation allowance for annual holidays for families, statutory holidays, wages, and health and safety inspections.

If there is no agreement within 30 days, industrial commissioners will attempt to get an agreement. If they fail, a three-year contract will be imposed.

A back-to-work protocol gives CASAW members seniority over replacement workers. The firings of 45 CASAW members will go to expedited arbitration. Royal Oak has stated that it will submit an additional list of firings and will appeal parts of the labor board ruling.

Garment workers demand a contract in St. Louis

Workers at Biltwell Co., a garment factory in St. Louis, are fight-

LETTERS

Kentucky miners

It was very, very satisfying to see the return of some union strength to Hazard, Kentucky, last October 24 when 330 new members were taken into United Mine Workers Local 5890, as reported in the November 15 *Militant*.

I visited Hazard as a reporter for the *Militant* in the early 1960s when the coal miners in eastern Kentucky were undergoing a severe attack at the hands of the coal companies. The attack was aimed in part at eliminating major social gains from a contract agreed to in 1953 by John L. Lewis. That contract allowed companies to introduce massive mechanization of mining, especially strip mining.

In return the coal companies agreed to pay a royalty on every ton of coal produced, which would be applied to a miners' health plan. The plan included providing hospitals and regular health care — the first time for many — in small Kentucky communities.

In the early '60s, the companies began to renege on royalty payments and threatened to shut down all the miners' hospitals, which I think they ultimately succeeded in doing, but not without a fight.

A series of militant protest struggles were initiated by coal miners against hospital closures and other takebacks, and some miners were arrested and framed up. Among these was Berman Gigson, who, along with others, was charged with blowing up a railroad bridge near Hazard. The miners were later found innocent of these charges, which doesn't happen too often to framed-up workers.

Unfortunately, despite their determined fightback, miners were unable to beat off the company, which led to a decline in UMWA strength in eastern Kentucky at that time.

It has taken a few years but it is really inspiring to see eastern Kentucky miners take back some of the union strength and benefits they fought so hard to defend in the 1960s.

Tom Leonard
Houston, Texas

Free Leonard Peltier

Beginning November 21st, 1993 thousands of supporters of justice for Leonard Peltier from all over the United States and 25 countries will send their message to the White House. The Leonard Peltier Freedom Campaign and invited guests will deliver to the White House one million signatures on petitions urging the president to give freedom to Leonard.

Beginning November 21st thru December 24th we intend to send to the White House: 100,000 letters of support, 10,000 phone messages, and 1,000 resolutions, proclamations and declarations.

We urge you to take a stand for Leonard's future, help get him home for the holidays so that he can watch his grandchildren tear open their Christmas gifts, and toast the beginning of a new year of freedom with his loved ones.

Mail all original letters, proclamations, declarations, and resolutions directly to

President Bill Clinton
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave,
Washington, DC. 20500

Mail all copies of letters, proclamations, declarations and resolutions to

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee PO Box 538, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Leonard Peltier Freedom Campaign
New York, New York

Appreciates 'Militant'

Thank you for your excellent publication, the *Militant*, sent to me in state prison in California. I'm writing to let you know I'm being discharged from prison. Yes, the state of California is obliged by law to let me out onto the streets, after nine and a half years of incarceration!

I took time to write British prime minister John Major, on the behalf of the Irish prisoners being held illegally. I hope Mr. Major gets my letter too.

I wrote letters to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Iowa Parole Board. I tried my best to write effective, legible, personal letters on these important issues. Your subscription was very welcome and helped me considerably to understand true facts on the world environment and events.

I will order your newspaper at a later date. I know in the San Francisco area where to find the latest editions of the *Militant*. Got to have my issue weekly too!

I thank all your contributors who donate funds, giving money to benefit the Militant Prisoners Fund. It was an excellent program and was well worth the expense. But I'm happy that I could write you this short letter just saying "Thank you." Doing my part always for

working people all over the world.

Socialism is the only way to go! South Africa's white minority regime must be stopped. Mr. Mandela is doing all he can in South Africa. Blacks are people too. I'm a white human being. Color has no relation to human conditions. We are all flesh and blood, and deserve to be treated with respect.

A prisoner
Corcoran, California

Haiti protest

On November 20, Veye Yo, a Miami-based Haitian rights group, organized a picket line to protest a press conference called by supporters of the right-wing group FRAPH [Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress], which is responsible for the murders of many Haitian activists and supporters of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The protesters gathered across the street from the press conference, which had as one of its goals asking for the lifting of the sanctions.

The 300 pickets chanted "No Aristide, No Peace!" and "We want, embargo!" The embargo was reimposed against Haiti as a way to pressure the military regime after the U.S. government retreated from sending their military "trainees" to Haiti.

In the last month or two, most progressive Haitian organizations in the diaspora have opposed the sanctions, saying that they hurt the people and not the military, because the military had time to make provisions of oil and they are the ones controlling the market.

Although this is not the center of the discussion on how to establish democracy in Haiti, there are dis-

cussions among activists who support the fight for democracy in Haiti on the demands that the movement should put forward.

Some argue that sanctions are used by the U.S. for their own interests and it is part of the U.S. intervention into Haiti. They say that the situation is different than two years ago when the demand first came up, because there are no mobilizations by the people in Haiti demanding sanctions. This is different than the situation in South Africa where there were mobilizations by mass organizations, whose leaderships were asking for sanctions.

At the picket line, some explained that they thought sanctions were the only thing they could demand to put pressure on the military regime.

It would be useful for the *Militant* to clarify what should be the demands of those who support the fight for the return of Aristide and democracy in Haiti.

Rolande Girard
Miami, Florida

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

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

Iowa rally defends abortion rights

BY RUTH NEBBIA

DES MOINES, Iowa — "I've taken my share of harassment. It has been frequent, persistent, and obnoxious," said Susan Wicklund.

A Minnesota-based doctor, Wicklund flies to North Dakota and Montana to provide reproductive health care. She has been targeted by several antiabortion groups. Her story has been featured twice on the CBS news program *60 Minutes*. Wicklund addressed a packed room of some 250 people at Drake University November 20 as part of a "Speak Out Against Clinic Violence and Harassment." She described the shock she felt upon hearing that Dr. David Gunn had been assassinated by an abortion opponent in Pensacola, Florida, earlier this year. "How do I explain to my daughter why I keep working. How do I explain the bulletproof vest, and the pistol and the security guards?"

"I work because of my patients. Each woman for reasons only she needs to understand and accept has chosen to end her pregnancy and have an abortion," continued Wicklund. "I can help make sure that abortion is done in an emotionally and physically safe environment. We need your help and continued support, we need your physical support at our clinics and at our sides."

The meeting was organized by the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment. The group was formed earlier this year after Des Moines doctor Herbert Remer was arrested and charged with assault for defending himself from an attack by David Shedlock, a leader of Operation Rescue. The coalition organized a 350-person demonstration in October protesting Remer's arrest.

"Here we are, we are going to take control and stand up for what is right and put an end to clinic violence and harassment starting tonight," Flip Frisch told the meeting. Frisch is a student and coordinator of the Drake University National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) chapter.

The speakout attracted many Drake students, and other pro-choice student activists



Speakers addressing abortion rights meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, November 20. "We are going to put an end to clinic violence and harassment," said Flip Frisch, coordinator of Drake University NARAL.

and trade unionists from Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri; Ames, and Iowa City, Iowa. Cosponsors of the meeting included several Drake student organizations.

Half a dozen Operation Rescue members attended the speakout, which was videotaped by Shedlock in hopes of provoking a confrontation. Several dozen disciplined marshals, including students, trade unionists, and other pro-choice defenders, lined the aisles and surrounded the Operation Rescue members in the audience. As a result, the meeting was held without incident.

David Gunn, Jr., son of the murdered Florida doctor, told the crowd the pro-choice movement must remain united. "We are the majority, our voice should be heard," he said.

"What [Operation Rescue] did was despicable, it's harassment and it hurts," Karen

Stewart said. "That's why I'm here to speak up against it."

Stewart had visited Dr. Remer's office after suffering a miscarriage. Operation Rescue sent Stewart a letter denouncing her as a murderer after locating her address through a license plate number check after the visit.

"No one should be forced to have children if they are not prepared for them," Diane Crady, a member of the Women's Committee of United Auto Workers Local 997 and a patient of Remer's, told the au-

dience.

"Ultimately this is... about the fear that when women can control their own reproduction they gain some measure of independence and power," stated Ronnie Podolefsky, president of the Iowa chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Jill June, president of Des Moines Planned Parenthood, thanked the audience for their support and congratulated the Des Moines police and prosecutors office for their recent judgment against Shedlock for trespassing and obstruction of justice, for which he was sentenced to 50 days in jail and one year of probation. "But let me tell you, if you are not registered to vote, your support is meaningless to us," she said.

"Drop the charges!" was the chant at the standing ovation when Dr. Remer was introduced. "We should all unite together to back reproductive rights, to ensure that women can control their own bodies," he said.

Also speaking were Jill Edwards, a medical student at the University of Iowa; Reisha Johnson, administrator of the Women's Medical Center in Omaha; Gayle Sand, associate director of the Emma Goldman Clinic for Women in Iowa City; Lisa Strong, a Minneapolis abortion rights activist; and Karin McElwain, executive director of Iowa NARAL.

Greetings were read from Dr. George Tiller from Wichita, Kansas; U.S. senator Tom Harkin; the Iowa Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights; U.S. surgeon general Jocelyn Elders; and NOW president Patricia Ireland.

Ruth Nebbia is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 431 in Des Moines.

Students rally to defend public education at Minnesota campus

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Rallying under a banner that read, "Stop University 2000! Defend Public Education!" 65 students, faculty members, and university workers gathered November 10 on Northrop Mall on the University of Minnesota campus to protest a proposed plan to radically restructure the university.

The plan, called "University 2000," would divide the land grant institution into two tracks — a "world-class Research University" with strict entrance requirements and a "University College" for everyone else.

"Public education is a right," student leader Damon Tinnon said in a letter to the *Minnesota Daily* explaining his opposition to the plan. "It is not to be based on elite specifications. Public Universities are one of the last resources that oppressed nationalities and working people have. We cannot afford to have it stripped away from us." Tinnon is a junior at the University of Minnesota and a member of the Political Organizing Committee.

The "Strategic Planning Status Report" issued by University of Minnesota president Nils Hasselmo argues that the plan is necessary "because state and federal funding of higher education is eroding — and competition for that funding is increasing dramatically."

Virtually no details of the proposal are available. Speaking at the November 10 rally for the Coalition to Oppose University 2000, Ryan Kelly explained why the plan is being put forward as a "hypothesis" by Hasselmo with few specifics — "They can't put the plan into words because they can't say elitism and look how they want to in the public eye."

Lorena Andrade, vice-president of the

La Raza Student Cultural Center, told the rally that her group opposes the plan because, "It will block access to communities of color and the working class. We don't have the same level of access to public education in grade school and high school and now we'll be excluded by entrance requirements from the University of Minnesota. We should have access to a four-year college education and not just vocational training."

Tinnon, who chaired the rally, said that the University 2000 plan is designed "to make the University more pleasing to big capital — to assure Cargill and Land O'Lakes and 3M a layer of students to recruit out of and to attract research money from these big Minnesota-based corporations."

"It is true that one of the purposes of a land-grant institution like the University of Minnesota is research," Tinnon said, but it is important to ask, "Research for whom? Research for Cargill or for small farmers? Research to improve the profit rates of 3M or research to improve the lives of factory workers? Let's open the books on the research affecting communities in Minnesota."

Coalition members are collecting hundreds of signatures on petitions demanding a "University Time-Out" of two hours where supporters and opponents of the plan can explain their positions to students.

Other speakers at the rally included Jamil Salaam, of the Africana Student Cultural Center; Stefanie Yorek, of the Progressive Student Organization; Political Science professor August Nimtz; and Kari Sachs, a Ford assembly line worker, and a member of United Autoworkers Local 879 and the Socialist Workers Party.

Framed-up unionist wins support at Iowa, Alabama conferences

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Supporters of Mark Curtis introduced dozens of abortion rights activists to the case of the framed-up unionist and political activist at the Speak Out Against Clinic Violence and Harassment here and at a prochoice conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

Curtis has served more than five years in Iowa prisons since his conviction on trumped-up rape and burglary charges.

Many people picked up literature from a table set up by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee outside the meeting in Des Moines. Five participants asked to see a video about the case.

One person attending the conference came by the table to voice strong support for the frame-up. She said material "supporting a convicted rapist" should not be allowed at the gathering. She succeeded in cutting short a discussion with one activist, who nevertheless took some literature on the case.

At Defending Choice: A Conference for Activism, held in Birmingham November 6-7, some 50 people stopped by a table set up by Curtis supporters. During the meeting, which drew more than 100 activists from 11 states, Kay Sedam briefly described Curtis's fight for justice to those gathered. Curtis was active in defending

abortion clinics in the Birmingham area when he lived there in the mid-1980s.

The informational table did a brisk business, distributing stacks of the brochure *Who is Mark Curtis?* and information on Curtis's campaign for parole, as well as getting names of those interested in further discussions.

Some high school students expressed interest in viewing the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*. They had organized a workshop on the special legal restrictions young women face in obtaining abortions.

One doctor attending the conference had read materials circulated by opponents of Curtis's defense effort in Boston. He questioned why Curtis insists on his innocence, saying there is plenty of evidence he is guilty.

In response, a supporter of the defense campaign pointed to the many inconsistencies between the alleged victim's description of her attacker and Curtis, as well as to evidence the judge had excluded from the trial that demonstrated the frame-up nature of the charges. The doctor bought the pamphlet *Freedom and Justice for Mark Curtis: An Answer to a Slander Campaign*, which responds to the pro-prosecution effort.

Kay Sedam in Birmingham contributed to this article.