

# THE MILITANT

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Iowa jury acquits doctor  
of charges by abortion foe

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 58/NO. 20 May 23, 1994

## Workers in Canada protest gov't wage cuts

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Thousands of provincial and municipal government workers, health care and education workers, teachers, and college professors are poised for sharp confrontations with provincial governments in three of the four provinces in Atlantic Canada. They are organizing protests and possible strike actions in response to accelerated attacks on their wages and working conditions.

In Nova Scotia, 40,000 workers are threatened with a 3 percent wage cut and three-year wage freeze, which the provincial government declared in its budget on April 29. Workers will vote on whether to strike at meetings in the coming days. The ballots will contain various options — from one-day rotating strikes to a general strike of all public sector unions.

"Everyone should go out for a week — shut the province down," one member of the Amalgamated Transit Union in Halifax told the *Militant*.

Teachers and government workers held mass information meetings across the province in the week following the cuts.

At a meeting of members of the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union in Halifax May 4, one worker after another rose to call for an all-out campaign to stop the government cuts. "These days I'm always two weeks late on my mortgage payment," one worker said. "I'm ready for whatever action we need to stop this government."

"We kicked out the Conservative govern-  
Continued on Page 14

## Clinton tries to sweeten Haiti policy

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — On May 7 President Bill Clinton announced that political asylum hearings for Haitian refugees will now be conducted on board U.S. Navy vessels or in unspecified third countries. Previous U.S. policy included forcible repatriations and granting hearings only to those few who land on U.S. shores or who apply at offices inside Haiti, under the watchful eye of the military government.

Just prior to this announcement Clinton dumped his special envoy to Haiti, Lawrence Pezzullo, and on May 8 appointed William Gray to replace him. Gray is president of the United Negro College Fund and was formerly a leader of the Congressional Black Caucus.

These White House decisions are an attempt to stem growing criticism of Clinton's policy toward Haiti and Haitian refugees. They represent no real change.

While Haitians fleeing repression will no longer be summarily returned, the criteria for granting asylum will not be broadened. Those denied asylum will still be sent back. U.S. officials state they will now "increase naval resources" to step up interdictions of boats before they reach the United States.

Some who had earlier criticized Clinton  
Continued on Page 12

# Mandela president; apartheid is buried

BY GREG ROSENBERG

PRETORIA, South Africa — "We have at last achieved our political emancipation," said African National Congress president Nelson Mandela, moments after his inauguration here May 10 as president of the Republic of South Africa. "We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination."

Millions of working people throughout South Africa and the world reveled in this sea change in history. The odious apartheid regime has been thrown onto the trash heap for good. The notorious Bantustans have been reincorporated into South Africa. A nonracial government has assumed office. The new interim constitution outlaws racial discrimination throughout the land.

The ANC is committed to the establishment of a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic republic in a single South African nation-state.

"Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud," said Mandela in his inaugural address.

Some 140 government delegations from around the world, including scores of heads of state, attended the ceremony on the grounds of the Union Buildings, formerly the seat of the white minority regime. Tens of thousands of people, young and old, Black and white, filled the grounds below the official ceremony, during which two deputy presidents were sworn in — Thabo Mbeki of the ANC and former president F.W. de Klerk of the National Party.

The jubilant crowd danced the toyi-toyi  
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Nelson Mandela after his inauguration as president of South Africa. "We have at last achieved our political emancipation," he said.

## 15,000 rally for Caterpillar workers

BY PETER THIERJUNG

PEORIA, Illinois — They streamed in from around the Midwest and across the country on buses and in car caravans. Many drove for hours to get here. Others came by

plane and train.

They were unionists and their families from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New

York, and from as far away as California.

For a few hours May 7, this company-dominated town became a beacon of working-class solidarity. Thousands of members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and delegations from many other unions came to support their brothers and sisters fighting for a decent contract at Caterpillar Inc.

Peoria police estimated between 12,000 and 15,000 people arrived at the Civic Center here for the rally called by the UAW. Thousands later marched to Caterpillar headquarters to protest the company's efforts to impose a concession pact on employees. Almost 1,000 UAW members from the Detroit area alone arrived in a huge caravan that jammed the streets of Peoria.

As the Civic Center arena filled to the rafters, cheers and applause broke out many times as announcements indicated the various unions represented at the rally — Teamsters, Steelworkers, Machinists, Electrical workers, Miners, and others.

Red union T-shirts that have become the on-the-job uniform of Caterpillar workers dotted the massive crowd. Chants of "No contract, no peace!" and "We are — union!" rang out from various sections of the arena. As the rally began everyone clasped hands in the air and sang labor's anthem, "Solidarity Forever."

Michael Masching of UAW Local 2096 in Pontiac, Illinois, and Bob Dunne of UAW Local 974 in East Peoria, Illinois, — two  
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Militant/Frank Gorton

Two hundred residents of Park Hill housing project in Staten Island, New York, rally May 9 after a medical examiner ruled 22-year-old Ernest Sayon's death from police beating a homicide. Protesters demanded that cops — who pummeled Sayon after they arrested and handcuffed him — be prosecuted.





## Battle imminent in Brcko, Bosnia

Belgrade-supported Serb forces have moved a battalion of tanks into the Brcko region, in northeastern Bosnia, in preparation for a battle to maintain their control over the area. The town of Brcko lies in a narrow corridor in northern Bosnia that is the only connection between Serbia and the Krajina region of Croatia, which is also controlled by Serbs loyal to Belgrade. The town was majority Muslim before the war began just over two years ago, but an assault by the rightist army cleared the area of most Muslims. The Bosnian army is mobilizing its forces to try to take the town back.

## Fire at nuclear reactor in Russia

A fire broke out May 6 at the world's second largest fast-breeder nuclear reactor in Russia's Ural Mountains. Yuri Rogozhin, a spokesperson for the Atomic Industry Inspectorate, said that fire fighters had initially been unable to put the fire out. The cloud of smoke that accompanied the fire was caused by leaking liquid sodium, which is used as a cooling agent. The Beloyarsk reactor has been shut for repairs since April. Rogozhin said that mistakes made during the repairs may have been responsible for the fire.

## Albanian villagers protest

Villagers from Kukës, Albania, who were forced out of their homes in 1976 to make way for a hydroelectric project, have occupied a city building where they are conducting a hunger strike. About 60 of the 150 protesters remained inside the building even after the Albanian government sent police to clear them out. The state news agency said 26 people were injured, including 14 police officers, after the cops moved in.

The protesters are demanding long-term loans to build new homes or start businesses and compensation for the lost homes and fields that were flooded as part of the project, which destroyed 26 villages. Most of the inhabitants moved to apartment complexes where they have had to pay rent.

## Bulgarian workers strike

Workers in Bulgaria waged a one-hour strike May 4 to demand an easing of austerity policies that have hurt workers' standard of living. Ninety-six percent of the workforce in Bulgaria is employed by the government. Many of these workers are resisting so-called free market reforms.



Protesters in Seoul, South Korea, demonstrate on May 6 against statements by Japan's justice minister Shigeto Nagano that 1937 massacre in the former Chinese capital of Nanking never happened. Nagano was forced to resign as a result of the statement. Japanese troops slaughtered more than 150,000 people during the "Rape of Nanking."

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## Stalinist party leads Hungary vote

The Socialist Party of Hungary — the former ruling pro-Moscow Communist Party — gained a plurality in the first round of parliamentary elections, winning more than 30 percent of the vote. The Alliance of Free Democrats, the Socialists' coalition partners, won almost 20 percent of the vote. Hungary is the third of the former Soviet-bloc countries where elections have brought to power reincarnations of Stalinist parties that governed before 1989. The ruling Hungarian Democratic Forum won only 11 percent of the votes and the rightists, led by Istvan Csurka, less than 2 percent. The com-

position of the government will not be finalized until a second round of voting is completed on May 29.

Elections in Hungary occur during a severe economic crisis. Unemployment has risen to more than 12 percent and the gross domestic product has shrunk by 20 percent over the last four years. In a recent poll, only one in five Hungarians said they are better off since reforms to integrate the country's economy into the world capitalist market began several years ago.

## Angolan government, UNITA agree to elections

Representatives of the Angolan government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) agreed May 5 to a United Nations proposal to hold a second round of presidential elections. With substantial support from Washington, UNITA, a rightist group, has been involved in a war to overthrow the government since 1975, when the nation won independence from Portugal.

UNITA stepped up its military campaign after the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) won a majority of seats in Parliament in elections in 1992. UNITA forces, however, won enough votes to deny Angolan president José Eduardo Santos an immediate majority in the presidential race. They then relaunched their military offensive against Luanda.

## Federal Reserve props up dollar

The Clinton administration intervened in late April and early May to stop the decline in the value of the dollar relative to other

world currencies. On April 29, the U.S. Federal Reserve bought massive amounts of dollars and sold Japanese yen in an effort to drive up the value of the U.S. currency, which was near its lowest point relative to the yen since World War II. The dollar had also plummeted against the German mark. Several days later, Washington convinced the central banks of 15 other countries — Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Norway, and Finland — to join its efforts by purchasing dollars and selling both yen and marks.

## AIDS deaths rise for children

A report by the Census Bureau predicts a sharp rise in the number of infant and childhood deaths from AIDS in 13 sub-Saharan countries, as well as in Brazil, Thailand, and Haiti, over the next 15 years. According to the bureau, AIDS will double the overall death rate expected to occur naturally from the years 1985 to 2010 in the countries studied. In Thailand, the epidemic would triple the expected mortality rate. The report projects that by the year 2010, the average life expectancy in Uganda would drop to 32 years. Without AIDS it would be 59. In Haiti, bureau demographers estimated life expectancy would drop to 44 years from 59 years.

## Dominica protesters blast fee hikes

Protesters in the Caribbean country of Dominica blocked roads leading into the capital city of Roseau April 26 to oppose a 67 percent increase in the cost of motor vehicle licenses and a 100 percent increase in the cost of drivers' permits. The demonstrators also blocked the runway at Canefield Airport, forcing a flight from Martinique to be routed elsewhere. As a result of the protest, most businesses in Roseau were closed.

Opposition to the fee increases began among taxi drivers who have been particularly hard hit by the economic crisis in the country, which has been exacerbated by the low prices for bananas, Dominica's main export crop.

## Millionaire wins Panama election

Ernesto Pérez Balladares, a millionaire banker and candidate of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), was declared the winner in Panama's May 8 presidential elections. The nationwide ballot was the first since U.S. troops invaded and bombed the country in December 1989. At that time they seized head of state Manuel Noriega — also a member of the PRD — flew him to Miami, and jailed him for drug-trafficking-related charges. Noriega is currently serving a 40-year sentence. Thousands of Panamanians were killed by U.S. troops during the invasion. Washington then installed Guillermo Endara as president. Endara was prevented by law from running in the current elections.

— SARA LOBMAN

## THE MILITANT

### U.S.-North Korea conflict What is it all about?

Washington, the biggest nuclear power on earth and the only one to have ever used the atomic bomb (against the people of Japan), is amassing troops and missiles in South Korea and threatening war against North Korea. What's the conflict all about? Find out in the pages of the 'Militant.'

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# First Palestinian policemen enter Gaza

BY PAT SMITH

The roads near the Rafah border crossing in the Gaza Strip were strewn with rocks thrown by young Palestinians eager to end Israeli occupation. The youths were angry at delays in the arrival of a newly agreed upon Palestinian police force to replace Israeli soldiers in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho. By the next day, May 10, the first 150 new police officers of the 2,000 local recruits and 7,000 others enlisted from abroad finally crossed the border from Egypt.

This transfer of authority represents the first step in a self-rule accord finalized by Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in Cairo May 4, after months of talks and delays. The agreement, based on the "Declaration of Principles" signed by the two in Washington, D.C., last September, begins a five-year interim period for negotiating a longer-term future for the occupied territories.

The May 4 accord, which took effect immediately, allows Palestinians to establish a 24-member authority with legislative and executive power over Gaza and the city of Jericho. Arafat has not yet announced the members of this body, which will rule these areas until elections are held in September. Tel Aviv and Palestinian negotiators also agreed to a temporary presence of 400 international observers.

The agreement gives Tel Aviv authority over Jewish settlements in the area and the three main routes settlers take into Israel, as well as a military base along the Egyptian border and a guaranteed water supply for the settlements and the base.

Thousands of ebullient relatives and supporters cheered as several hundred Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails crossed the border after the May 4 signing. Under the agreement 5,000 detainees are to be set free by mid-June. The two sides will continue negotiating further releases.

Issues left unresolved include security ar-

rangements at the Allenby Bridge crossing to Jordan and the Rafah crossing to Egypt, as well as the size of the Jericho area from which Israeli troops are to withdraw. The PLO calls for a 42 square mile area and Tel Aviv insists on a 24 square mile region. These issues were pulled from the agreement after Arafat refused to sign. A committee will be created to consider the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the Israeli government.

## No celebrations

The May 4 signing was not followed by celebrations in the streets of Gaza and Jericho. "We celebrated back in September, and nothing happened afterward. This time we'll wait until we see it's real," said Amin Dhair from southern Gaza.

Describing Jericho four days into Palestinian self-rule, *New York Times* reporter Clyde Haberman wrote, "Israeli soldiers set up roadblocks along the main roads outside town and, offering no reasons, declared the

area to be a closed military zone. No one could be found at the local office of the Palestine Liberation Organization." He added, "In other words, the new Palestinian self-rule for Jericho looked suspiciously like the old Israeli occupation."

Israeli police opened fire on a crowd waiting for the new Palestinian police force May 9 in Rafah, Deir al-Balah, and Nusseirat on the road to the Gaza City border crossing, wounding 23 people. An Israeli settler shot and killed Ahmed Tabash, 13, as he waited with 30 other youths for the new green-clad officers. Israeli warplanes pounded what they claimed were bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, south of Beirut May 10, killing at least two people. The organization does not support the new agreement.

In a phone interview from Jerusalem, Michel Warschawsky of the Alternative Information Center reported that most Palestinians "are not happy with the agreement because the framework in Oslo [where the Declaration of Principles was reached] was reduced to its minimum, or even less than its minimum. The region is split by Israeli settlements. The Palestinian police do not have authority over settlers, who can move freely with arms. It is much less than we expected," he stated. The Palestinian police are authorized to stop Israeli drivers for identification and license checks, but will not be allowed to arrest or jail Israeli citizens under any circumstances.

"People lost hope because the agreement took longer than they thought," said Ihab al-Ashkar, an official of Fatah, the largest faction of the PLO. "It will take time."

The movement of Palestinian police officers into the territories has been slower than many Palestinians would like. Palestinian officials said the problem comes from complications in assembling a force and raising the money for them. Nearly 7,000 officers have been recruited from the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Army, a force that once had 20,000 members based in Lebanon. The army was largely disbanded after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

## Legacy of Israeli occupation

Decades of Israeli occupation have left the occupied territories underindustrialized and lacking adequate social services. "Our people were underserved, even humiliated by the level of services that existed for 27 years," stated Riyadh Zanoun, head of the Palestine Health Council. The government-sponsored health system in Gaza is run by Israel's military government and paid for by taxes taken from Palestinian workers.

Unemployment is about 25 percent in the occupied territories as a whole and 50 percent in Gaza. More than 120,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza worked in construction, agriculture, and other low-wage industrial jobs in Israel before Tel Aviv closed the border. In April the Israeli cabinet voted to grant more than 18,000 work permits to laborers from abroad in an effort to replace the Palestinian workers now barred from entering.

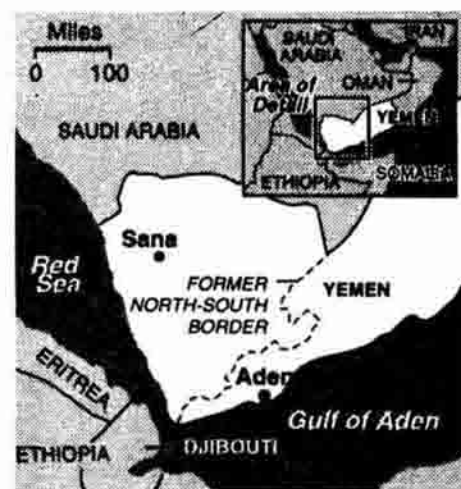
# Fighting threatens to split Yemen anew

BY PAT SMITH

Continuous fighting between military units from the northern and southern parts of Yemen threatens the country with a new split. North and South Yemen, divided for centuries, merged into one state just four years ago.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who comes from the northern part of the country, declared a state of emergency May 5 and announced the beginning of "an all-out war" after rival army units bombed airports, the presidential palace, and other sites. He accused the vice president of leading Yemen to "the abyss of fratricide."

On May 8, government officials loyal to Saleh said their troops were approaching the outskirts of Aden, the capital of the former South Yemen. Vice president Ali Salem al-Beidh's supporters ordered a general mobilization to defend the port city and denied that northern soldiers had reached the perimeter of Aden, the country's financial center.



of the peasants' crops. Under the Imamate, not a single modern factory was allowed to operate.

Conditions in the South were not much better. By the time the British government left in 1967 there were only 14 miles of paved roads and few schools or health-care facilities outside of Aden. Only three Yemeni doctors and 950 hospital beds were available for 1.5 million people.

These conditions led to rebellions in both countries. In 1962, a group of young army officers influenced by the nationalist ideas of Egyptian leader Gamel Abdel Nasser took over Sana in North Yemen and proclaimed the Yemen Arab Republic. Cheering crowds welcomed the overthrow of the Imamate. There were peasant uprisings in some rural areas. But with help from the governments of Britain and Saudi Arabia, the old regime was able to rally a royalist army based on the mountain tribes — the traditional base of the Imamate. Meanwhile, Republican forces got help from Nasser's regime. The result was a civil war that lasted eight years and is estimated to have killed up to 200,000 people.

The Republican leadership, which included wealthy merchants and landowners, refused to advance a social program in the interests of the peasantry that could win them away from the royalist army. Eventually, Nasser and the Saudi monarchy, with the support of conservative forces in the Republican camp, struck a deal. The Imam and his family were exiled. But a weak central government dominated by merchants and the rising bourgeoisie had to coexist with the tribal sheiks who continued to rule in the mountainous areas. The resulting North Yemeni state was little more than a Saudi satellite.

The civil war helped destabilize British rule in South Yemen. An armed liberation struggle in the South coupled with London's other economic and political problems forced the British government to withdraw its troops in November 1967. By June of 1969 the more radical nationalist forces of the National Liberation Front (NLF), which declared themselves "Marxist-Leninist," led the government. They broke off diplomatic relations with Washington.

A year and a half later, the NLF declared the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the South. Initially, the government carried out land reform, provided free health care, carried out a literacy campaign, passed

laws granting legal equality to women, and nationalized banks, housing and some enterprises. They followed an anti-imperialist course and sought aid and support from the workers states. Cuba was among the countries that responded to the requests, sending advisers in 1973. The government relied very heavily on the former Soviet Union for aid and developed close ties with the regime in Moscow.

In early 1979, Washington helped arm the government of North Yemen in an attack against the South. Although Yemen's oil reserves were not known at the time, Washington saw the country as central to the politics of the strategic Arabian Peninsula. Following the 1979 overthrow of the Shah in Iran and the defeat of imperialist-backed forces in Ethiopia, the White House was determined to prevent upheavals elsewhere.

Plagued by faction fights, the nationalist petty-bourgeois regime of South Yemen did not chart a revolutionary course in response to the attack. In 1986 factional cliques, similar to the Stalinist grouping around Bernard Coard in Grenada, carried out a murderous assault against other government officials. The weakening of the government meant the gap between the policies of North and South Yemen had narrowed.

Both countries remained among the least developed and poorest in the region and relied heavily on foreign aid. The governments discovered oil reserves in the 1980s, mostly in South Yemen. The breakup of the Soviet Union, on which the regime in South Yemen relied heavily for aid, made tapping this resource difficult. Both regimes viewed obtaining income from this natural resource as a way to fatten their coffers. This helped lead to the merger. The current war is nothing more but the attempt by rival cliques among the bourgeois rulers to take control of the oil reserves and other resources.

## FOR FURTHER READING

In *New International* no. 7  
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Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. Also includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters. 333 pp. \$12.00

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Leon Trotsky

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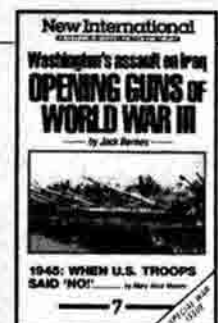
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## NEWS ANALYSIS

The government estimates that 12,000 people were killed or wounded in fighting the first week in May.

The two countries were formally united in May 1990. Sana, the capital of North Yemen, became the political capital of the unified state. Aden was declared the economic capital. Saleh, the former head of the North, became president and Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, former president of the South, was named premier. Despite the unification agreement, forces from the North and South have been battling for the past four months, arguing over the distribution of resources and positions of power. The armies of the two countries were never completely united into one force.

## Historic divisions

Until the 1960s, the northern part of Yemen had been ruled for centuries by Imams, who were religious as well as political leaders. The southern part of the country, which had broken from the feudal rule of the Imams in 1728, became a British colony in 1839. London wanted to control the port of Aden, the best natural port on the Arabian Peninsula and a valuable link in the chain of bases connecting the British empire with India.

British troops occupied the capital city and ensured stability by reinforcing the traditional tribal structure. At the same time, economic development was frozen except in the port of Aden itself. Preservation of the Imamate in North Yemen fit in perfectly with London's colonial policy.

For the peasants and workers in Yemen, however, the cost of maintaining British rule was high. There were only 15 doctors in North Yemen in 1962 to care for 5 million people and only 600 hospital beds in the entire country. The government did not contribute one cent to the cost of education. The Imams, many of them landlords, maintained their control through the use of feudal taxes. Landlords seized 80 percent



# All goals are within reach!

BY PAT SMITH

We're on a roll! Supporters of the international campaign to win new readers to the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* magazine are within reach of making all three targets in the final week of the drive.

Eighty percent of the goal for *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions had arrived in the *Militant* business office by the Tuesday noon deadline — about a week behind schedule. But distributors reported much higher totals, with sales of a couple hundred more subscriptions and magazines in just the last few days.

With over-the-phone updates from supporters in most cities in the United States and Canada, we need to sell 487 *Militant* subscriptions, 89 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 179 copies of *New International* to make the drive. If late-breaking sales from other parts of the world were on hand, the totals would be even a little lower.

Distributors in Los Angeles, for example, have sold 22 more subscriptions to the *Militant* and 10 more to *Perspectiva Mundial* than is reflected on the chart this week. Readers in Cleveland — which is near the bottom of the chart — are sure they'll make their goals after selling enough subscriptions to jump from the 49 percent listed on the current chart to 70 percent of their goal.

Readers of the *Militant* from Morgantown, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh joined forces to sell eight *Militant* subscriptions and two *New Internationals* May 7. They traveled that day more than 500 miles to a northern West Virginia mine portal; a university campus in Athens, Ohio; and a Steelworkers-organized aluminum plant in Ravenswood, West Virginia. Two miners at the McElroy mine bought subscriptions to the *Militant* on their way into work that morning and 11 purchased single copies of the socialist newspaper. Efforts like this



Militant sales at Staten Island, New York, protest against cop killing.

have brought campaign supporters in Morgantown to within 10 *Militant* subscriptions of their goal.

Readers in Sweden were well received at May Day events organized by the trade unions and Social Democratic Party in Stockholm. Demonstrators bought 5 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 3 to the *Militant*, 35 single copies of the two papers, and 6 issues of *New International* and *Ny International*. Five young people in Malm invited Maria Hamberg to speak on the South African revolution when she returns from a *Militant* reporting team there.

Sylvia Charbin, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Toronto, wrote that three coworkers bought *Militant* subscriptions and one bought *New International* no. 5, featuring the article "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," during an extended coffee break to celebrate President Nelson Mandela's victory in the April elections. Workers on her shift shared a cake they had inscribed with "Long live the new South Africa" and faxed a message of heartfelt congratulations to Mandela, the ANC, and the

people of South Africa.

In Philadelphia, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) member Deborah Liatos sold five *Militant* and two *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions at her union hall during a victory celebration to welcome newly organized OCAW members into the local. The new members work at Snow Environmental, a company contracted by area plants to clean up toxic chemical and oil waste spills.

With successes like these, distributors around the world can meet the goals in full and on time! Supporters are urged to fax updates to the *Militant* by the end of Sunday, May 15, reporting on total sales to date. The *Militant* will include in the final chart all subscriptions that arrive in the business office by noon, Wednesday, May 18. Distributors are encouraged to send subscriptions to the business office with a reliable overnight mail service so the chart will accurately reflect all sales up to the last minute. Every subscription counts as we fight to make all the international goals.

## New Alliance Party joins Perot backers to form Patriot Party

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

At a convention held last month in Arlington, Virginia, members of the New Alliance Party (NAP) joined with supporters of Ross Perot to form the national Patriot Party. This is the latest step in NAP's rightist trajectory.

The New Alliance Party has been courting the Perot milieu ever since the Texas billionaire's 1992 presidential campaign, in which Perot posed demagogically as the champion of the "little guy" victimized by government corruption and "gridlock."

Perot has gained a hearing among disgruntled professionals, small businessmen, and other middle-class elements who are panicked by the current social and economic crisis and are looking for radical solutions not offered by the Democrats and Republicans, the two traditional capitalist parties.

NAP also orients toward well-heeled middle-class layers in the Black community that are also becoming receptive to reactionary demagoguery. It has converged with figures such as Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, whose propaganda scapegoats youth, women, Jews, and others for the social crisis. The support Farrakhan has garnered for his radical-sounding but reactionary program among Black college stu-

dents, and middle-class Blacks, and others is another manifestation of the growing class differentiation and political polarization among oppressed nationalities in this country.

The April 15-16 meeting reflected NAP's convergence with these forces. For months it has been working closely with local Patriot Party formations — set up by Perot followers after the 1992 elections — in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. Other groups of Perot supporters, however, have kept their distance from NAP because of its previous "leftist" label, which the group has since shed.

Several leaders of both NAP and regional Patriot Party branches were elected as officers of the new national party. Another elected officer is Colin Moore, a New York lawyer and ally of Democratic Party politician Al Sharpton.

The Patriot Party convention adopted a statement of principles supporting "free enterprise" and advocating "fiscal responsibility," the slogan under which Perot and other capitalist politicians have campaigned for sharp cuts in workers' social benefits. NAP has also called for "belt-tightening by the American people."

In the convention debate, NAP's central leader, Fred Newman, demonstratively endorsed the Patriot

Party name. "It's time that all Americans reclaim our patriotism," he declared.

"I proudly call myself a patriot," Newman exclaimed, invoking the U.S.-led slaughter in Korea in the early 1950s. "I was there in uniform, proudly for my country, supporting what this country really stands for."

To silence any misgivings by NAP members who might still identify with the group's "pro-socialist" past, the party newspaper, *National Alliance*, has been waging an increasingly shrill cop-baiting and anticommunist campaign against its political opponents. The May 5 issue labels a range of political forces, from the liberal *Nation* magazine to the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party, as "the counterintelligence left."

In an attempt to whip up its membership and justify future attacks on other political organizations, the *National Alliance* ominously hints, "The activities of those calling themselves 'communists' and those who call themselves employees of the FBI have become remarkably similar."

In the latest twist, NAP, which is running Lenora Fulani in the Democratic primaries for the New York governor's race, has commented favorably on right-wing radio commentator Howard Stern's bid for governor on the Libertarian ticket.

## WHERE WE STAND end of week nine

**80% SOLD 2,400** **90% SHOULD BE 2,700**

	THE MILITANT			Perspective Mundial		NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD/		%	SOLD/GOAL		SOLD/GOAL	
AUSTRALIA	24	25	96%	8	8	23	27
SWEDEN	37	40	93%	23	18	26	30
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland*	84	90	93%	5	6	40	40
Christchurch	38	45	84%	1	2	19	20
N.Z. Total	122	135	90%	6	8	59	60
CANADA							
Toronto	63	80	79%	16	15	50	40
Vancouver	76	75	101%	12	10	34	45
Montreal	47	75	63%	21	20	66	70
Canada Total	186	230	81%	49	45	150	155
UNITED STATES							
Albuquerque, NM	7	5	140%	2	1	1	3
Albany, NY	6	5	120%	1	1	4	4
Greensboro, NC	51	50	102%	3	5	18	22
Miami	111	120	93%	40	50	93	105
Detroit	82	90	91%	6	10	25	40
Atlanta	81	90	90%	12	13	32	35
Houston*	63	70	90%	13	12	27	27
Washington, D.C.	67	75	89%	28	25	46	40
Twin Cities, MN	96	110	87%	12	17	56	65
St. Louis	62	70	89%	5	8	24	35
New Haven, CT	13	15	87%	2	3	12	10
Philadelphia	98	115	85%	20	30	73	65
Boston	103	120	86%	27	40	55	80
Des Moines, IA	66	80	83%	21	35	38	55
Chicago	106	130	82%	26	30	66	75
Salt Lake City, UT	72	90	80%	11	15	41	55
San Francisco	108	135	80%	34	40	93	105
New York	105	135	78%	17	35	104	110
Birmingham, AL*	69	82	84%	3	5	27	35
Seattle	56	75	75%	8	12	34	35
Pittsburgh	74	100	74%	10	10	32	40
Los Angeles	154	200	77%	75	95	136	160
Newark, NJ	91	130	70%	17	35	59	75
Cincinnati, OH	9	15	60%	3	2	5	8
Morgantown, WV	30	50	60%	0	2	20	30
Brooklyn	68	130	52%	25	35	76	110
Edinboro, PA	5	10	50%	1	0	0	3
Cleveland	42	85	49%	7	10	20	30
Denver	4	10	40%	2	2	3	3
Portland, OR	2	6	33%	0	0	0	2
U.S. Total	1901	2398	79%	431	578	1220	1462
ICELAND	9	12	75%	0	1	0	6
BRITAIN							
Manchester	45	50	90%	0	5	22	30
London	41	60	68%	0	2	22	40
Sheffield	20	35	57%	1	2	19	20
Britain Total	106	145	73%	1	4	63	90
GREECE	7	10	70%	0	1	7	5
BELGIUM	2	3	67%	2	4	2	5
GERMANY	4	10	40%	1	4	18	25
FRANCE	2	10	20%	4	2	9	12
PUERTO RICO	0	2	0%	5	8	7	12
TOTAL	2,400	3,020	80%	530	681	1584	1,889
SHOULD BE	2,700	3,000	90%	585	650	1,620	1,800
* raised goal							

### IN THE UNIONS

<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
ILGWU	14	12	117%	10	24	2	8
ACTWU	19	23	83%	7	8	3	10
UTU	58	72	81%	4	3	2	22
IAM	61	80	76%	4	15	5	25
OCAW	51	70	73%	1	5	8	25
UMWA	14	20	70%	0	—	0	—
USWA*	45	70	64%	3	8	6	21
UAW	75	125	60%	8	10	14	30
UFCW	21	35	60%	15	20	3	15
<b>U.S. Total</b>	358	507	71%	52	93	43	156
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>							
AMEU	0	4	0%	0	—	1	3
FPU	0	2	0%	0	—	0	2
NUW	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
<b>Australia Total</b>	0	8	0%	0	—	1	6
<b>BRITAIN</b>							
TGWU	5	7	71%	0	—	1	—
AEEU	1	—	—	0	—	0	—
NUM	1	—	—	0	—	0	—
RMT	17	—	—	1	—	1	—
<b>Britain Total</b>	24	—	—	1	—	2	—
<b>CANADA</b>							
CAW	8	9	89%	4	5	4	4
IAM	13	19	68%	3	2	3	6
ACTWU	2	4	50%	1	2	2	2
USWA	5	11	45%	2	2	10	12
<b>Canada Total</b>	28	43	65%	10	11	19	22
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>							
UFBGWU	5	6	83%	0	0	2	1
EU	6	9	67%	1	0	1	2
MWU	1	4	25%	0	0	1	1
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	12	19	63%	1	0	4	4
<b>SWEDEN</b>							
Food workers	2	3	67%	1	—	1	2
Metal workers	0	1	0%	1	2	0	2
Transport workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
<b>Sweden Total</b>	2	6	33%	2	2	2	5

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU — Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; FPU — Food Preservers' Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; NUW — National Union of Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union



# Production gears up on third issue of 'Nueva Internacional'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Production of the third issue of *Nueva Internacional*, which includes articles on the Nicaraguan revolution, is advancing rapidly, reports Martin Koppel. Koppel is the editor of the magazine as well as of the socialist Spanish-language monthly, *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Work is also underway on new issues of *Nueva's* sister publications — the English-language *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and the Swedish-language *Ny International*.

Volunteers who contribute to the translation and editing tasks on a regular basis are an indispensable part of the project, Koppel said. "The only way we can get these political weapons out in a timely way is through a big collective effort involving supporters of *Nueva Internacional* in many cities. "It's quite an operation, and a growing one at that," he said. "So far a dozen volunteers in the United States and Puerto Rico have pitched in to help in different ways on *Nueva Internacional* no. 9.

"For example, a steelworker in Pittsburgh has been editing articles after work. She, like other volunteers, sends us the finished work by E-mail, taking advantage of new technology to save time and money," Koppel said.

There are also volunteers in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Newark, and Miami.

"Even before we publish *Nueva Internacional* no. 3 in a couple of months," Koppel said, "we'll start production of the next two issues. Issue no. 4 will include 'What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold' and 'How U.S. Imperialism Lost the Cold War,' resolutions approved by conventions of the Socialist Workers Party in 1988 and 1990. Issue no. 5 will include recent talks by SWP leader Jack Barnes that take up world political developments through the mid-1990s. These documents are extremely useful for working people and youth who are trying to understand politically what is happening in the world today."

When asked what kind of a reception he has found for *Nueva Internacional*,

Koppel recounted his experience last February at the Havana Book Fair in Cuba, where the *Nueva Internacional* display was a source of particular interest to young people and others who attended the fair. "These youth were hungry for politics," Koppel said. "One person after another, seeing the cover of *Nueva Internacional* no. 1 and noting its main title — 'The Opening Guns of World War III,' — grabbed it off the table and leafed through it. A few people who had already read or heard about the book at earlier political conferences or on voluntary work brigades where they met *Nueva Internacional* supporters would recommend it to others browsing at the table."

Koppel invited others to become part of the translation and editing team. "As the project develops we will need more volunteers," he said.

## More pledges needed

As we go to press we have just over \$13,000 in hand, 13 percent of the \$100,000 New International Fund goal. Supporters of the fund should note that the goals taken by local areas have dropped since last week. Readers in other cities are encouraged to take up the slack by raising their targets.

Supporters of the Marxist magazine and its sister publications in Spanish, French, and Swedish are preparing meetings in cities around the world to help make the international goal by the end of June. Building these meetings broadly among young people and workers will help get the drive back on target and will help publicize the importance of this valuable tool in four languages.

In Seattle, Harvey McArthur will speak on "The Rise and Decline of the Nicaraguan Revolution" on May 14. McArthur, a member of the International Association of Machinists now living in Seattle, was a journalist for *Perspectiva Mundial* and the *Militant* in Nicaragua in the 1980s. Koppel will speak on the same topic at a May 21 meeting in New York.

# New International FUND

	Goal	Collected	Percent
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Philadelphia	7,500	5,357	71%
Detroit	3,900	1,450	37%
Des Moines	3,000	1,010	34%
New York	4,750	1,484	31%
Twin Cities	5,000	1,197	24%
Chicago	5,250	550	10%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	210	8%
Morgantown	1,300	75	6%
Seattle	4,100	200	5%
St. Louis	3,000	125	4%
Miami	2,700	110	4%
Birmingham	2,500	100	4%
Cleveland	3,000	30	1%
Los Angeles	6,750	20	0%
Salt Lake City	4,000	2	0%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1	0%
Atlanta	3,250		0%
Boston	4,000		0%
Brooklyn	3,250		0%
Greensboro	1,500		0%
Houston	3,200		0%
New Haven	500		0%
Newark	5,500		0%
San Francisco	8,000		0%
Portland		1,150	
Other		285	
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>92,250</b>	<b>13,356</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>375</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>			<b>0%</b>
Manchester	600		0%
London	1,050		0%
Sheffield	600		0%
<b>Britain Total</b>	<b>2,250</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>			<b>0%</b>
Auckland	500		0%
Christchurch	250		0%
<b>N.Z. Total</b>	<b>750</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>INT'L TOTAL</b>	<b>99,525</b>	<b>13,391</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Contribute to \$100,000 Fund for Marxist Magazine**

*New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, has launched a \$100,000 fund to print a series of new issues of the journal, which will appear in English, Spanish, French, and Swedish.

The successful completion of this fund, which ends June 28, will enable these important publications to reach thousands of working-class fighters around the globe.

Write check to **NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND** and send to 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014

I pledge ☐ Enclosed is ☐ (check one)

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (for identification only) \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa jury acquits doctor of charges by abortion foe

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — In an important victory for abortion rights, a Polk County jury took less than an hour on April 26 to acquit Dr. Herbert Remer of assault charges. David Shedlock, a local leader of the right-wing antiabortion outfit Operation Rescue, had falsely claimed that Remer attacked him on September 4.

Remer, a doctor who provides abortion services in central Iowa, was arrested and charged with "assault causing injury" for defending himself against Shedlock. The doctor was attempting to photograph Operation Rescue picketers outside his clinic when Shedlock hit him on the wrist with a sign. Remer then struck Shedlock back in self-defense. Polk County Attorney John Sarcone promptly filed charges against Remer, but did not charge Shedlock in the incident.

Pro-choice activists here see the verdict as an important victory. If he had been convicted, Operation Rescue could have filed a civil suit against Remer, in an attempt to drive him out of business. In addition, a Shedlock victory would have shifted the onus of violence at the clinics from the rightist perpetrators to the medical personnel.

"This is not only a victory for Dr. Remer, but also for pro-choice forces who have mobilized behind him," said Tom Ross, a member of the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment and a second-year medical student at the University of osteopathic Medicine. "This shows we can organize to defend women's rights."

Remer's victory was aided by a series of actions organized to protest his arrest and to mobilize support for safe, legal, and accessible abortion. One month after Remer was charged, 350 people demonstrated at the county courthouse demanding that the charges be dropped. Out of this action the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment was formed. The group's first public event, a speak-out for abortion rights at

Drake University last November, drew more than 300 people and attracted a range of prominent speakers.

When Remer's trial date was postponed to this spring, the coalition began to organize public events on area campuses. In the last few months, Remer has spoken to a campus National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) meeting of 25 activists at Iowa State University in Ames, a candlelight vigil attended by 70 people in Iowa City commemorating the one year anniversary of Dr. David Gunn's murder, and at a panel discussion at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, attended by 80 students. The week before the trial began, some 50 people attended a support meeting for Dr. Re-

mer at Java Joe's restaurant in downtown Des Moines.

At all of these events, coalition activists circulated petitions demanding that county prosecutor Sarcone drop the charges against Remer. Petitions containing more than 3,600 signatures were turned in to Sarcone's office at a well publicized press conference two days before jury selection began.

During pretrial proceedings and at the trial itself, prosecutor Joe Weeg took great pains to work with Operation Rescue to paint Remer as the cause of violence. In his opening statement, Weeg alleged that "David Shedlock has never, ever, ever physically threatened a soul. He's never, ever, ever physically threatened Dr. Remer." But the jury, hearing testimony about some of

the 250 documented acts of harassment carried out by Shedlock and other Operation Rescue activists against Remer and clinic patients, chose to believe otherwise.

"The verdict affirms my innocence," Remer said in an interview, "which is different from just being not guilty. It was very wrong of the state to bring these charges."

A victory celebration will be held in Des Moines on May 21.

For more information, call the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment at (515) 255-5445.

*Bill Kalman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. He is also a member of the Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment.*

# Pro-choice forces counter rightists in Sweden

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON  
AND ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A national mobilization in opposition to a woman's right to choose abortion took place here April 23. The annual "Right to Life" march and rally this year drew 5,000 participants, who were bused in from the whole central part of Sweden. The size of the mobilization was significantly smaller compared to last year when 9,000 people turned out.

The main force organizing the event is a religious sect called "Word of Life." This year, its central leader, Ulf Ekman, shared the platform with Tuve Skånberg, a member of the executive committee of the Christian Democratic Party, one of the four parties in the current conservative coalition government.

Pro-choice activists from the "Defend the right to abortion" committee organized to counter the impact of the march. They lined up along the march route. Their main slogan was "Illegal abortions — never again!" They sold more than 1,000 "Defend the right to abortion" buttons and passed out several thousand fliers.

"Last year I just hollered and tried to disrupt them in sheer frustration," said one of the organizers of the counterprotest. "I felt very agitated and displeased with myself. So I decided to be more constructive this year. And I feel much better now."

One of the participants in the defense activities was Enikő Vass. "I come from Romania where the government made abortion illegal and all contraceptives illegal in 1966," he said. "My mother was a midwife so I know how women suffered."

The 10 day pro-choice campaign began with an action in a downtown square. Women lay down on the ground in a circle to symbolize the 500 women who die every day around the world due to illegal, botched abortions. Activists then gathered downtown every day leading up to the march to pass out fliers and discuss with passers-by the importance of defending the abortion law in Sweden and the right to abortion for all women around the world.

On April 27, a public meeting in defense of a woman's right to choose was organized. Some 30 people attended, including a few

from the "Right to Life" march.

Kajsa Sundström, a retired gynecologist and author of the United Nations report "Abortion: A reproduction Health Service," was one of the speakers. "Five hundred thousand women die every year giving birth or during pregnancy," she said. Two hundred thousand of them die from injuries as a result of illegal abortions. Ninety-nine percent of these women live in the Third World. It all depends on where you were born and which class you belong to.

"It is the young, the poor, and the uneducated women who suffer most," she continued. "In Latin America abortions are illegal, but a chain of abortion clinics exists for those who can afford them. To me, abortion is a women's question. The woman's right to decide is the main point and also the point the antichoice people don't like."

"We have to defend our abortion law and try to spread our gain to other countries: legal and safe abortions," said Sundström. "We have lived with the law for 20 years now. We don't want to go back to the time when society and its representatives decided."



# Cuban youth ends U.S. tour in Miami

BY LAURA GARZA

MIAMI—Pável Díaz Hernández, a member of the Union of Young Communists in Cuba and associate researcher at the Center of Studies for Youth in Havana, wound up a two-month tour of 40 U.S. cities with a brief visit in Miami. Díaz met with more than 100 Haitian activists from the community group, Veye Yo. He also spoke at a meeting of 70 Cuban-Americans and others who oppose the U.S. embargo. Díaz toured fields with a farmworker organizer, spoke with students from the University of Miami Law School, and addressed a meeting of Cuba solidarity activists from the Antonio Maceo Brigade and the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community.

Haitian activists loudly applauded Díaz as he addressed the Veye Yo meeting. "We Cuban revolutionaries have a lot in common with the Haitian people who have fought so long for their freedom," said Díaz. "It is wrong for the U.S. government to treat Haitian refugees so badly while those from Cuba are welcomed," he added.

Díaz fielded a number of questions, including one on whether Cuba has democracy. He said that in no other country are working people involved in running the country as they are in Cuba.

"I also think democracy should include

the right not to be gunned down in the street by your government, the right not to be homeless, the right to decent health care and education," he said to applause. Díaz pointed out that Cuba arms and gives military training to its population. He asked if any other government would have the confidence to do that. "We have chosen our form of democracy and we are not about to give it up," he concluded.

## Development of tourism

At a reception sponsored by the Miami-Cuba Friendship Committee, Díaz said he thought it was important that he had been able to speak with youth, workers, farmers, and farmworkers during his tour. It gave him a chance to explain facts about Cuba that are rarely available to most workers and youth in this country.

He noted that his Miami tour was taking place at the same time as a historic conference in Cuba titled "The Nation and Emigration." Cuban emigrants from many countries, especially from the United States, participated in the meeting. The conference was aimed at discussing steps that could be taken to ease travel restrictions to Cuba and maintain relations and increase communication between Cubans on and off the island. Díaz noted that the conference was being looked at with great hope in Cuba. "In the past we made the mis-



Militant/Janet Post

Pável Díaz speaking at forum at Eastside Unitarian Church in Miami

take of lumping all those who left in the same category as Alpha 66 [a terrorist counterrevolutionary outfit based in the Miami area]," he said. "But this was wrong." He noted the Cuban community in the United States is not homogenous and it is important not to lose any opportunity to speak with brothers and sisters who want to help Cubans as they confront the problems they have. "The conference will show those in Cuba that this is the case," he said.

## Discussion on homosexuality

Audience members, many of whom were Cuban-Americans and other activists in the

fight against the U.S. embargo, asked about his experiences in Angola, the elections in South Africa, trade unions in Cuba, and the status of women.

Asked about homosexuality in Cuba, Díaz said that with discussion and debate attitudes have been changing. He pointed to the recent showing in Cuba of "Fresa y Chocolate" [Strawberries and Chocolate], a film that has a gay person as one of its two central characters and openly criticizes discrimination against homosexuals. The movie has received several international awards and is very popular inside Cuba. "I would say the film summarized a debate," said Díaz. "Its showing was a crossroads because the reaction to the film has been very positive. It won first prize in the Latin American film festival," he noted. "The reaction shows a maturity about how to use this. There is much more openness in Cuba about how to view gays and lesbians," he said.

In response to a question about whether Cuba was adopting capitalist reforms, Díaz said capitalism has proven it is a system of inequality. "What can capitalism say it has done in Latin America where 25 children die every minute?" he asked. "The measures we're taking have been forced on us," he said. "I don't believe there's an alternative." But measures such as decriminalizing the use of U.S. dollars and increasing foreign investments "are aimed at helping us save the revolution, save independence, sovereignty, free education, and health care," he said. "This is why, even though some say we are instituting capitalist measures, the capitalists are trying to drown us."

# Pável Díaz speaks in New York City

BY FRED STANTON  
AND SEVDA ICER

NEW YORK — Cuban youth leader Pável Díaz Hernández was one of thousands of Cubans who volunteered to go to Angola in the 1980s to fight the South African army after it invaded that country.

In mid-April, just two weeks prior to the historic South African elections, Díaz was in New York on one of the final stops in a nationwide U.S. speaking tour.

"It gives me such pride to see the new South Africa that is being created today," Díaz said, speaking to the Brooklyn youth chapter of the NAACP on April 15.

"When I volunteered to go to Angola I was a participant in the fight against apartheid."

Díaz said that the defeat of the South African army by the Cuban and Angolan forces was a turning point in the struggle to free South Africa.

After his talk Díaz asked the group, most of whom are high school students, what problems they face here in the United States. Replies included harassment by store security guards and cops, lack of jobs, bad education, and the false media image that portrays most youth who are Black as criminals.

Díaz encouraged the students to think about the cause of such problems, the fact that the capitalist class owns the media, for example. He explained that before the Cuban revolution Blacks in Cuba faced many of the same problems. "Now this kind of

institutionalized racism has been abolished," he said. "Although some individual Cubans still have racist ideas."

At a meeting of 50 people at New York University sponsored by Lucha, a Latino student organization, Díaz spoke of the decisive role of Cuban youth in confronting Cuba's economic crisis.

"We are going through a very important process in Cuba of discussing how best to resolve our serious economic problems, a process that includes thousands of workers assemblies on how to make the economy more efficient," he said.

"Cubans love to criticize and youth are the most critical, but we make our criticism part of our work to improve things, such as participating in the agricultural brigades in the countryside," continued Díaz. "It is solidarity and other human values created in the revolutionary process that has allowed us to survive."

Replying to a question about abortion, Díaz said, "That's very easy to answer because women in Cuba have the right to abortion. This is a real conquest; women everywhere should have a right to control their own bodies."

Díaz also addressed a meeting of 50 people at Brooklyn College. The event, sponsored by the Puerto Rican Alliance, kicked off Latino Heritage week at the campus.

At another meeting of 125 people hosted by the Dominican Friends of Cuba, Díaz

reported that during his six-week nationwide tour he spoke to thousands of people including a meeting of 300 workers locked-out by A.E. Staley Corp. in Illinois.

"Cubans need to know more about workers' struggles in the United States, about the Eastern Airlines and Teamsters' strikes," he said.

On April 16, Díaz got a chance to talk with Cuban supporters of the revolution when he attended a dance marking the anniversary of the Cuban victory over the U.S.-backed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. The festivity was sponsored by Casa de las Americas, an organization of Cuban-Americans.

An interview with Rodolfo Pierera, a reporter for the daily Spanish language *El Diario*, ended the New York tour.

# Cuban academics win U.S. visas

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — More than 100 people packed into a meeting room at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew in Manhattan May 5 to hear presentations on the Cuban revolution today and the U.S. government's policy of aggression against the Caribbean country. Juan Antonio Blanco and Maria del Pilar Díaz-Castañón were featured speakers. Blanco is director of the Havana-based Felix Varela Center for the Study of Ethics. Díaz-Castañón teaches political philosophy at the University of Havana. The meeting was sponsored by the Cuba Information Project.

Both speakers had been invited to the United States to participate in an April 23 meeting at Yale University titled "U.S.-Cuban Relations: Ethics, Religion, and Human Rights Issues. More than 150 people attended the one-day conference, which was cosponsored by eight academic departments and organizations at the university.

Prior to the conference, organizers waged a difficult visa fight for the Cuban speakers invited to attend. The State Department denied visas to two of the conference invitees — Rev. Raul Suarez, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana and director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center there; and Abelardo Moreno of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. The Clinton administration rejected Suarez's visa request on the grounds that he is an elected member of Cuba's National Assembly. In Moreno's case, Washington denied him the right to travel from New York to New Haven arguing that the trip went beyond the 25-mile radius from the United Nations imposed on Cuban diplomats by U.S. authorities.

Blanco was told that his visa had been approved. But when he called to find out

how to pick it up, the U.S. Interests Section in Havana said there had been a mistake; his request was in fact denied. Only after dozens of academics and others flooded the State Department with letters and phone calls demanding the visa be granted, did Blanco finally receive permission to visit the United States.

Dennis Hays, director of Cuban affairs at the State Department, also attempted to intervene in the organization of the Yale conference. He wrote to the committee planning the meeting that he was "concerned" about the composition of the speakers' panels, and suggested that conference organizers could achieve greater "balance" by inviting him, or other "knowledgeable speakers" of his choosing.

Writing in the April 17 *Hartford Courant*, Joy Gordon, a professor of philosophy at Yale and one of the organizers of the conference, pointed out that Hays "even went so far as to contact, without our permission or knowledge, a speaker more acceptable to the State Department."

"It is incredible," continued Gordon, "that the State Department should tell scholars what we should read, what we should talk about, whom we should speak with, whom we should listen to, and whom we should invite to participate in scholarly dialogue."

Following the conference, Blanco and Díaz-Castañón held meetings on several other nearby campuses, including Cornell University, Brown University, the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Fairfield University, and City University of New York.

Tim Craine from New Haven, Connecticut, contributed to this article.

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# Presidential candidate of Workers Party of Brazil brings campaign to New York

BY PAT SMITH

NEW YORK — Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva, the Workers Party (PT) candidate for president of Brazil, held a press conference here May 9. Lula was in town for several speaking engagements and other meetings as part of a U.S. tour to win support for his election campaign.

Earlier that morning Lula met with U.S. bankers and officials of Bear Stearns & Co. where the candidate said he discussed the measures the PT would implement "to prevent the flight of capital and to make productive investment possible" if he won the elections. The PT candidate is currently the front-runner in opinion polls for Brazil's October 3 presidential elections.

In this campaign, Lula and other PT candidates, have dropped earlier openly anti-imperialist positions. The Workers Party, for example, no longer calls for a fight to cancel Brazil's soaring foreign debt.

Like many Third World countries, Brazil's development is strangled by huge interest payments on loans from capitalist governments and banks from abroad, amounting to some \$12 billion per year. This results in a massive transfer of wealth into the coffers of imperialist financial institutions. Successive capitalist governments in Brazil have shifted the burden of servicing the debt onto the backs of working people by imposing austerity measures.

## Largest debtor in semicolonial world

Brazil is the largest debtor in the semicolonial world. In April the government of President Itamar Franco signed an agreement rescheduling \$49 billion in debt payments. When asked about this debt contract Lula referred the question to PT economist Aloizio Mercadante, who accompanied him at the press conference along with Marco Aurelio Garcia, the party's head of international relations.

"That agreement covers \$49 billion but the debt stands at \$135.4 billion. We want to renegotiate the debt as a whole," Mercadante said. "The new agreement



Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva, Workers Party candidate for president of Brazil, speaking at May 9 news conference in New York.

was the worst agreement for Brazil," he continued. "Because it demands guarantees not compatible with the foreign reserve of \$30 billion and trade income of \$14 billion. We will comply with the agreement, and I see no unilateral measures from the [PT] government. A wholesale suspension of debt payments is only justified," he stated, "if we have capital flight or a massive currency crisis. But we don't see this."

## Encourage foreign investment

The PT's platform calls for "open[ing] Brazil to foreign investments that will foster steady and balanced growth... [and] increased productivity in labor intensive sectors." The Workers Party calls for the development of "a new, refocused and revitalized privatization program which opens the door

to constructive, long-term investment opportunities," said a statement released to the media at the press conference.

Lula said a PT government will oppose selling shares of the state-owned oil and telecommunications industries to private investors. But, he added, "our problem is not with the ongoing privatization." He said he believes the current government has sold these state-owned companies too cheaply, at the expense of the population.

Fueled by tax breaks on profits sent overseas and an end to the ban on imports of a list of goods in the early 1990s, investments by capitalists in Brazil and from abroad have soared. Over the last decade, successive governments have slashed import tariffs from an average 78 percent to 14 percent. As a result, foreign imports jumped 25 percent last year and they are

expected to rise another 20 percent this year.

Brazilian and international companies plan to invest \$45 billion dollars in the South American country in 1994, the highest level in half a decade. U.S. investment bank Goldman, Sachs & Co. recently announced it will open an office in São Paulo, the country's largest city and its biggest industrial center. J.C. Penney plans to start catalog mail service there, and Wal-Mart is expected to open its first discount store in Brazil soon.

## Industrial production up

Industrial production in Brazil rose more than 9 percent last year and the gross domestic product grew by nearly 5 percent. Auto production accounted for one-third of the growth yet only 0.5 percent of the people in Brazil can afford to buy a car.

Despite the partial economic upturn, however, the minimum wage of \$65 a month buys less today than it did in 1940. Sixty million workers and peasants live in poverty, approximately 18 million are unemployed, and inflation currently stands at 45 percent a month. An estimated 23 million people out of a population of 146 million are without land.

Lula said the PT intends to push for a land redistribution program. Currently 1 percent of the population owns 44 percent of the land, while 53 percent own a mere 3 percent.

The PT's platform also calls for affirmative action measures for women and Afro-Brazilians. But when asked whether a PT government would support legalizing abortion, Lula deferred the question to Garcia. "Abortion should not be used as contraceptive," Garcia said. He stated that the 2 million to 4 million abortions recorded as performed each year are too many. "There is a debate in Brazil over legalization of abortion independent of our will," Garcia said.

On the question of foreign policy, Lula said the Workers Party will promote stronger links with Third World countries. He also said that a PT government will normalize trade and economic relations with Cuba.

"I don't see any reason for an embargo of Cuba," Lula said, referring to Washington's trade sanctions against Cuba. "The end of the bipolar situation in the world should mean more flexibility from the United States and others towards Cuba," he stated. "It is the people of Cuba who suffer from the embargo, not the government," Lula continued. "I believe the sentiment is growing in Latin America to open relations with Cuba."

Following his visit in New York, Lula flew to Washington, D.C., where he was scheduled to meet with the Congress Foreign Affairs Committee Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

# Participants at Washington, D.C., conference debate U.S. aggression against North Korea

BY MARY MARTIN AND MARGRETHE SIEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The South Korean government recently announced that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with U.S. forces would be deferred and could be canceled in exchange for North Korea's agreement to further inspection of its nuclear facilities. At about the same time, the Ecumenical Conference on Peace and Reunification of Korea was held here at Wesley Theological Seminary. Participants at the April 19-21 meeting passed a resolution supporting reunification of North and South Korea and calling on the U.S. government to withdraw its troops and Patriot missiles from the South.

"We are deeply concerned by the escalating military tension on the Korean peninsula and by the response of the U.S. government to the disagreement with North Korea over the inspection of nuclear sites," stated the resolution. "We find especially disturbing the U.S. Defense Secretary's talk of a possible preemptive military strike against North Korea." Conference participants called on Washington to reverse "its decision to send Patriot missiles to South Korea" and to suspend "once and for all the Team Spirit joint military exercises with the South Korean military."

The conference, sponsored by the Korea Church Coalition, consisted of panel discussions, an ecumenical prayer service for Korean peace and reunification, and lobbying efforts. Eighty people attended the second day of the gathering, which was devoted to discussions on reunification and the current state of U.S. government relations with North Korea.

Participants included clergy and church members from the Korean-American community in the United States, Korean college students, and other activists supporting Ko-

rean reunification from a dozen different cities.

Panelists presented a range of views on Korean reunification, and U.S.-North Korean relations. Conference organizers announced that for the first time the U.S. State Department had responded to the invitation to speak at this annual meeting.

David Brown, Director of Office of Korean Affairs at the State Department, explained Washington's view that the North Korean government was refusing to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Association's (IAEA) inspections of alleged plutonium processing facilities, in spite of alleged verbal agreements that it would do so.

"Regarding the U.S. view toward the IAEA inspections," asked one participant during the discussion period, "does North Korea always have to bow down to the United States or is there any actual negotiating going on?"

"I'm speaking for the U.S. government," Brown responded, "and we don't think it's negotiable whether the IAEA or North Korea should be the judge of what is necessary to be in compliance with nonproliferation of nuclear weapons."

## Washington's double standard

Dr. Noh Jong-Sun, chairperson of Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea said in his presentation that Washington has a double standard in foreign policy toward countries with nuclear weapons capability.

"Israel has bombs but no one suggests Israel should have surgical strikes," he said. "India has bombs but no one suggests economic sanctions be imposed. And Japan has 26 tons of plutonium. The people of Korea should be the ones to inspect nuclear weapons in North and South Korea. North Korea and

the U.S. must normalize relations without conditions, without manipulation of the IAEA."

Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, director of the Center for Defense Information here, expressed the view that Washington's aggressive policy against North Korea is aimed at creating an enemy in order to justify the military spending needed to fight two wars simultaneously. He also pointed to the recent U.S. Cuba-Friendship caravans and suggested activists should organize "food, money, or tourism to Korea to build a minority in this country who are solidly opposed to U.S. intervention."

Chong-Ae Yu, coordinator of the Korean Program of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, explained that although it has been 40 years since an armistice agreement ended the U.S. government's war against Korea, Washington has maintained a massive military presence in the South.

She invited conference participants to join together to oppose the Team Spirit military exercises and the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea.

The April 19 *Washington Times* carried a lengthy interview with and separate news story on North Korean President Kim Il-Sung addressing the question of North Korea's alleged nuclear capabilities.

"We have neither the need to make nuclear weapons nor the will and ability to do so," he told reporters. "We will never have nuclear weapons, I promise you. Who can we use them against?"

"The mass media claims now that we have nuclear weapons but are trying to hide them. I have had enough of it. There is nothing for me to do when they say we have nuclear weapons and we don't have them," said the North Korean president.

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# Mandela: president of new South Africa

Continued from front page  
and chanted greetings to Mandela and other ANC leaders. Those assembled did their level best to sing both new national anthems, the ANC's *Nkosi Sikele' iAfrica* and the Afrikaans-language *Die Stem Van Suid-Afrika*.

"This is a wonderful day, long awaited," said Anna Ngwenga from Soweto's Orlando West section. "We never thought this could happen. I can't believe it. Now that I'm 80 years old I see a miracle."

Gillian De Gouveia, 18, said, "For the first time in my life I actually feel proud to be a South African."

"We dedicate this day to all the heroes and heroines in this country and the rest of the world who sacrificed in many ways and surrendered their lives so that we could be free," Mandela told the gathering. "Their dreams have become reality. Freedom is their reward."

## High-level delegation represents Cuba

By far the biggest applause of the day for any international guest from the mass of people assembled on the lawns was reserved for Cuban president Fidel Castro. When the communist leader's image appeared on a giant television screen, the crowd roared and chanted Castro's name for several minutes. Cuba's role in southern Africa is sharply engraved in the minds of fighting workers and young people here.

Hundreds of thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers traveled to Angola to fight off Pretoria's invading armies over the course of 15 years from the mid-1970s through the 1980s. Many Cubans shed their blood in those battles. Cuban forces played the decisive role in the historic defeat of the racist regime's armies at the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988, a turning point in the history of Africa and the world.

De Klerk and Gen. Georg Meiring, chief of South Africa's military, were put in the position of welcoming Castro, commander-in-chief of the army that played a central role in smashing the battalions of apartheid, at a lunchtime ceremony during the inauguration.

On his arrival at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport, Castro told the press he had not anticipated he would pay a trip to South Africa so soon. "But events have made it possible for us to be here," Castro said. "It was my duty to make this long trip."

In a message presented to Mandela, the Cuban leader stated, "With the same sentiment of solidarity and fraternity with which we supported the just struggle of the South African people against racial segregation, we manifest our readiness to establish diplomatic relations and provide support in this new stage." Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina and National Assembly president Ricardo Alarcón accompanied Castro as part of a large Cuban delegation.

Other international guests included Palestine Liberation Organization chairperson Ya-



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

## 100,000 poured into streets of Cape Town to celebrate opening of nonracial Parliament

sir Arafat and Archbishop Trevor Huddleston from Britain, a longtime anti-apartheid campaigner. Washington sent vice president Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, Jesse Jackson, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell. The heads of dozens of governments from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas attended the event.

## Constituent assembly sworn in

The inauguration followed the May 9 convening of South Africa's constituent assembly in Cape Town. The 400 members of Parliament took the oath in the chamber formerly reserved for an all-white parliamentary body.

At 12:15 p.m. Chief Justice Michael Corbett took the microphone and said, "I now declare Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela duly elected president of the Republic of South Africa." The entire chamber stood up in an ovation. Throughout South Africa millions celebrated yet another reflection of a change that five years ago seemed impossible.

The parliament elected the ANC's Frene Ginwala as speaker of the body, and a National Party member as deputy speaker. Both ran unopposed.

"I deem it a great honor to be elected speaker of this first democratically elected parliament of the Republic of South Africa," said Ginwala, who is of Indian descent. "This parliament differs from its predecessors," she said, pointing out that its members include men and women of all skin colors, national backgrounds, and creeds.

More than 100,000 people jammed the grounds outside Cape Town's city hall shortly after parliament met to hear Mandela speak.

Parliamentary seats are apportioned according to the percentage of votes each po-

litical party received in South Africa's April 26-29 elections. The ANC holds a clear majority of 252 seats in the 400 member body. The National Party holds 82 seats, the Inkatha Freedom Party 43, the Freedom Front 9, the Democratic Party 7, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) 5, and the African Christian Democratic Party 2.

The assembly is charged with drafting a new constitution and is scheduled to be in place for five years. The next national elections are projected for 1999. A two-thirds majority vote is required for decision on the constitution.

The Independent Electoral Commission released final election figures one week after the elections. Of 19,726,579 votes counted, 193,081 were ruled invalid. The commission credited the ANC with 12,237,655 votes, or 62.6 percent of the total; the National Party with 3,983,690 or 20.4 percent; Inkatha with 2,058,294 or 10.5 percent; and the Freedom Front with 424,555 or 2.2 percent.

Among the smaller parties, the Democratic Party received 338,426 votes or 1.7 percent and the PAC 243,478 or 1.2 percent.

## Government cabinet appointments

To hold a position in the new 27-member cabinet, parties must have won at least 5 percent of the vote. Mandela, however, has urged the Freedom Front's Constand Viljoen and the PAC to join the cabinet.

At press time, 23 cabinet members have been announced. The ANC will hold 18 seats, the National Party 6, and Inkatha 3. There may be changes following ANC discussions with the National Party and Inkatha leaders.

The ministries held by ANC leaders at this time include: defense, Umkhonto we Sizwe commander Joe Modise; foreign affairs, former ANC general secretary Alfred Nzo; police, former Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) leader Sidney Mufamadi; labor, Tito Mboweni; housing, South African Communist Party chair Joe Slovo; transport, ANC National Executive Committee member Mac Maharaj; public enterprises, ANC Women's League leader Stella Sigcau; trade and industry, ANC economics spokesperson Trevor Manuel; justice, former United Democratic Front leader Dullah Omar; and minister without portfolio, former COSATU leader Jay Naidoo, who will oversee implementation of the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program. Winnie Mandela was placed on the cabinet as deputy minister of arts, culture, and technology.

The National Party's appointments include Pik Botha as minister of mineral and energy affairs; Roelf Meyer, who will stay in the Ministry of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development; and Derek Keys, who will remain minister of finance. National Party officials were reported to be irked that they would not retain any military or police posts in the new cabinet.

Inkatha chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi will head the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Eight of the nine new provincial legislatures met for the first time May 7. The ANC won clear majorities in six. The National Party emerged on top in the Western Cape province. In the Northern Cape, the ANC received 15 of the 30 seats and won the premiership. Election officials credited

Inkatha with 50.3 percent of the vote in Natal province to the ANC's 32.2 percent.

A poor electoral showing for the Democratic Party and PAC, who claimed they would win greater support, provoked soul-searching among the leaders of these organizations.

Following the announcement of election results, the leader of the liberal Democratic Party, Zach de Beer, quit his post.

## Conflict continues in KwaZulu-Natal

In KwaZulu-Natal, the ANC faces one of its biggest challenges. Buthelezi, former Bantustan ruler and head of Inkatha, built up a substantial military force as a result of funding and other coddling by Pretoria during the apartheid years. Inkatha's paramilitary, police, and terror units are accompanied by a system of political patronage and virtual fiefdoms in many rural areas of the province. While Inkatha drapes itself in the flag of so-called Zulu nationalism, its purpose is to keep privileges alive for Buthelezi and the social layers of which he is a part.

Inkatha's legislative assembly caucus, meeting May 4 in Ulundi, announced the formation of a new organization made up of members of the disbanded Bantustan assembly and former Bantustan cabinet ministers. Dubbed the Iso Lesizwe Society (Eye of the Nation), the outfit, to be headed by Buthelezi, will "advocate and defend self-determination for Zulus," according to the May 5 *Business Day*.

The ANC and many observers reported massive fraud at the polls in Natal, which would benefit Inkatha. But in order to prevent the undermining of the elections and head off more bloody Inkatha assaults, the ANC leadership announced it would take its place in the regional legislature while pursuing claims of fraud.

This threatened to unravel when Harry Gwala, chairperson of the ANC Natal Midlands region based in Pietermaritzburg, said the organization had decided to appeal to the Supreme Court to invalidate the regional poll. Gwala called for a rerun of the election based on a voters' roll. Gwala called the results "a political disaster for Natal."

But Jacob Zuma, the ANC's candidate for premier in the region, declared himself ready to work with Inkatha's premier-elect, Frank Mdlalose.

The KwaZulu-Natal provincial legislature was to meet for the first time May 11.

## Economic and social challenges

In his May 9 speech at the Cape Town Grand Parade, Mandela pointed out, "Today we celebrate not the victory of a party, but a victory for all the people of South Africa." The South African president added, "While we are and shall remain fully committed to the spirit of a government of national unity, we are determined to initiate and bring about the change that our mandate from the people demands."

As a result of ANC initiatives, the new government has been able to win an initial round of commitments for financial aid from governments of the European Community, the United States, Australia, and others.

Immediately following the election, the big-business press here, while heaping praise on the inauguration of Mandela, began pointing to some of the concerns of the capitalist class.

The editors of Johannesburg's *Business Day* wrote May 6 that, outside South Africa, "uncertainty about property rights has played havoc with economic development." Calling for "maturity" in the process of land claims, *Business Day* wrote, "When social engineers — be they Nazis, communists, colonists or apartheid planners — begin tinkering with people's property rights, they set in motion a chain of events which will come back to haunt them or their descendants."

The same newspaper gave a prominent spot to a May 11 wire service article headlined, "Mining policy test for ANC." Quoting several unnamed analysts, it reflects fears over ANC demands to nationalize the mineral wealth of South Africa.

"The most contentious proposal in the [Reconstruction and Development] programme," the article whined, "is the call for 'the return of private mineral rights to the democratic government.' It is a phrase that 'sends a shiver up every capitalist spine,'

Continued on Page 12

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# ANC presents plan for redistribution of land in S. Africa

BY MARIA HAMBERG  
AND PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The African National Congress unveiled its agricultural policy proposal at a May 4 press conference here, along with a document entitled "Policy on the Restitution of Land Rights." These documents describe the ANC's plan to implement measures to address the restitution and redistribution of land stolen under apartheid. They outline a broad perspective to stimulate agricultural production in the interests of working people.

"To tackle poverty, correct historical imbalances, and revitalize the rural economy, an ANC government will redirect spending towards the uplifting of rural people," the ANC agricultural document states.

An estimated 16.4 million South Africans — 41 percent of the population of about 40 million — had incomes below the minimum subsistence level in 1989. Eighty percent of those lived in rural areas. Some 16 million rural South Africans are without operative water supplies.

"A land reform process," the restitution document begins, "will consist of two elements: restitution for those who were dispossessed by apartheid(s) forced removals, and a process of redistribution of land to deal with land hunger and the unequal distribution of land."

"As a priority," it continues, "the new government will propose to Parliament the enactment of a Land Rights Restitution Act." The ANC proposes that this question be addressed in the first session of the National Assembly, and that the restitution process be "quick, effective, and accessible, so as to lay the base for a secure system of property rights for all South Africans."

## Africans dispossessed of land

The great majority of Black South Africans, who comprise 85 percent of the population, had no right to own land under apartheid. The wholesale expropriation of African peasants began in 1913 with the Natives' Land Act — known among South African Blacks as the "law of dispossession."

Under apartheid laws, Africans could own and farm a plot of land only on the 13.7 percent of the country's poorest soil that was set aside in the so-called Bantustans, or homelands, and in a few rural areas known in South Africa as "Black spots." Overcrowding and soil exhaustion on these lands made it impossible for all but a few to barely survive.

While the legal barriers to ownership of land by Blacks have been lifted, most Black

South Africans don't have the means to acquire or develop land.

Derek Hanekom, coordinator of the Department of Land and Economic Planning of the ANC, explained that a land claims commission will try to negotiate and mediate settlements before referring matters to a Land Claims Court. This court would have the power to transfer state and expropriated land to dispossessed people.

## Land Claims Court

Depending on the circumstances of each claim, restoration awards could include providing alternative land and just compensation to people who lost their land. Land expropriated in the past, as well as state land that had been sold to private owners, could be transferred by the Land Claims Court.

Special measures will be taken to ensure that the restitution process is as accessible to all as possible. The Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights will have a number of regional offices. There will most likely be at least one office in each province. Members of the Land Claims Court will travel as a circuit court, so that the judicial body will hold deliberations in areas accessible to those affected. Relaxed rules of evidence will also be introduced, so that proof of ownership can be made without the detailed verification that is often lacking. Without such measures, Blacks would be disadvantaged before the court, because of high rates of illiteracy and lack of written proof of ownership.

The act would require all claims to be filed within three years of the establishment of the new government. The court would deal only with claims of people dispossessed after June 19, 1913.

The ANC estimates that some 3.5 million Africans were robbed of their land, half of whom were farmworkers and therefore not candidates for the Land Claims Court. The restitution process will deal with some 1 million claims.

The ANC's agricultural policy document explains that the Land Claims Court will deal with the minority of Africans who could purchase land in the period after 1913. "For those suffering from past exclusion and the general absence of land rights, any court is not an effective way to secure future rights," the document states. "Thus, a political policy of land redistribution is required."

The ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program, set a five-year target for redistribution of some 30 percent of the land, beginning one year after the new democratic



Militant/Maria Hamberg

Woman in rural Natal province. Under apartheid, Blacks had no right to own land. The ANC plans to tackle widespread poverty in the countryside.

government takes office. This land reform policy would include measures to strengthen tenure rights, increase market opportunities to purchase land, and bolster state subsidies and other assistance to develop land.

The agriculture policy document states that the ANC will "encourage local settlements by the parties involved. At the same time, attempts to evict claimants or sell land will result in contempt of court orders."

The ANC's agricultural policy also addresses the need to improve support for the neglected small-scale farming sector, eradicate hunger and malnutrition, boost rural employment, and promote more sustainable farming practices.

The Freedom Charter, the guiding document of the revolutionary democratic move-

ment that was adopted in 1955, states, "Our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty, and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality. . . .

"The land shall be shared among those who work it," the charter continues. "Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger; The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors, and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers; Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land; All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose; People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labor and farm prisons shall be abolished."



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

MAGGIE PUCCI

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

Distributors of Pathfinder books are mapping plans to reach out to working people and youth with the new edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. This book is now available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or directly from Pathfinder (see ad on the front page for mail order information).

The book is a handbook for the generations of workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, and for young people who are repelled by intolerable social relations reproduced by capitalism on a world scale. It aims to show why only the working class can lead humanity out of the social crisis endemic to capitalism in its decline.

*Problems of Everyday Life: Creating the Foundations for a New Society in Revolutionary Russia* by Leon Trotsky, in its fifth printing since first being published in 1973, has been reissued with a new cover.

The cover, designed by Eric Simpson, is a four-color reproduction of a sketch for a decoration of the Okhtensky Bridge by Ksenia Boguslavskaja, circa 1920. The painting was part of a surge of art for public display by artists inspired by the October 1917 Russian revolution. This sketch depicts electrification.

*Problems of Everyday Life* contains articles from the early Soviet press on social and cultural issues in the struggle to forge new socialist men and women.

New International no. 9, containing the article "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution," has sold 1,640 copies in its first month of publication. *New International* is a magazine of Marxist politics and theory distributed by Pathfinder Press.

Pathfinder sales representatives in many cities are contacting bookstores in their areas to make sure they have enough copies on hand of *Nelson Mandela Speaks: Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa* and related Pathfinder titles to cover the interest in the period following the South African elections.

Mike Shur, a Pathfinder sales representative in Salt Lake City, Utah, reports that a superstore and another smaller bookstore in a shopping mall agreed to set up special displays of *Nelson Mandela Speaks, The Struggle is My Life*, also by Nelson Mandela, and *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Mandela and Fidel Castro.

Mary Lipman, a Boston sales representative, called in an order for those same titles amounting to 16 books from a large independent bookstore serving Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Lipman also reports that a large music store with a growing book department in Boston has sold more than 20 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speaks*.

A teacher at J.F.K. High School in the Bronx, New York, has sold 10 copies of the book to fellow teachers, while a rail worker at Amtrak in New York has sold 9 copies to coworkers.

Press coverage of the book continues. The May issue of *Emergence* magazine included *Nelson Mandela Speaks* on its recommended reading list. Reviews have also recently appeared in *Elliot Bay Booknotes*, the newsletter of the Elliot Bay Book Company in Seattle; *City Paper* of Baltimore; and *Class* magazine of New York.

## Minnesota youth hail ANC victory

BY RYAN KELLY

MINNEAPOLIS — A rally was held on the University of Minnesota campus April 30 to celebrate the victory of the African National Congress in the first nonracial elections in South Africa's history. The event was sponsored by the Student Anti-Apartheid Network (SAAN). Members of the Student Political Organizing Committee (SPOC) on campus have played a central role in the formation of SAAN.

The coalition's work resulted in two speaking engagements at Minneapolis high schools during the elections. Brock Satter, a national coordinator of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) and a leader of SPOC, and August Nimtz, a political science professor at the university, spoke April 28 about the democratic revolution in South Africa to more than 500 students at

Minneapolis South High School. Dozens of students signed up to find out more information about a world youth festival organized by the ANC Youth League in South Africa next year.

Some 40 students attended a similar event at Minneapolis North High School. Mpho Leseka, a member of SYOC, is a South African citizen and had been able to vote in Chicago on April 26. She explained why she voted for the ANC. "The ANC's nonracial policies will bring about the least violent transition," she said.

Seventy-five people attended the April 30 celebration, which began and ended with performances by the Hamline University African Drum group. Councilman Brian Heron was the first speaker at the rally. Other speakers included students from Macalester University, St. Thomas University, Minneapolis Community College, and the University of Minnesota. All three major TV network affiliates in Minneapolis and St. Paul covered the event. Television coverage showed Damon Tinnon, a member of SYOC, saying to participants at the rally, "I think that people here in Minneapolis would enjoy the ANC's Freedom Charter, with jobs and housing as rights for all people."

Ryan Kelly is a member of SPOC and the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee.

## Join Socialist Youth Organizing Committee

To find more information or to join the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee write to:

Socialist Youth Organizing Committee  
Box 113, 561 Hudson Street  
New York, NY 10014



# 'We will fight to end bondage of poverty'

## New South African president Nelson Mandela speaks in Cape Town, Pretoria

Printed below is the speech South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela, gave in Cape Town during the inauguration of the country's just-elected first-ever nonracial Parliament May 9. Subheadings are by the Militant.

Mr. master of ceremonies, your excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, my fellow South Africans:

Today we are entering a new era for our country and its people. Today we celebrate not the victory of a party, but a victory for all the people of South Africa.

Our country has arrived at a decision. Among all the parties that contested the elections, the overwhelming majority of South Africans have mandated the African National Congress to lead our country into the future. The South Africa we have struggled for, in which all our people, be they African, coloured, Indian or white, regard themselves as citizens of one nation is at hand.

Perhaps it was history that ordained that it be here, at the Cape of Good Hope that we should lay the foundation stone of our new nation. For it was here at this cape, over three centuries ago, that there began the fateful convergence of the peoples of Africa, Europe, and Asia on these shores.

It was to this peninsula that the patriots, among them many princes and scholars, of Indonesia were dragged in chains. It was on the sandy plains of this peninsula that first battles of the epic wars of resistance were fought.

When we look out across Table Bay, the horizon is dominated by Robben Island, whose infamy as a dungeon built to stifle the spirit of freedom is as old as colonialism in South Africa. For three centuries that island was seen as a place to which outcasts could be banished. The names of those who were incarcerated on Robben Island is a roll call of resistance fighters and democrats spanning over three centuries. If indeed this is a Cape of Good Hope, that hope owes much to the spirit of that legion of fighters and others of their caliber.

### We have fought since 1880s

We have fought for a democratic constitution since the 1880s. Ours has been a quest for a constitution freely adopted by the people of South Africa, reflecting their wishes and their aspirations. The struggle for democracy has never been a matter pursued by one race, class, religious community, or gender among South Africans. In honoring those who fought to see this day arrive, we honor the best sons and daughters of all our people. We can count amongst them Africans, coloureds, whites, Indians, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jews — all of them united by a common vision of a better life for the people of this country.

It was that vision that inspired us in 1923 when we adopted the first ever Bill of Rights in this country. That same vision spurred us

to put forward the African Claims in 1946. It is also the founding principle of the Freedom Charter we adopted as policy in 1955, which in its very first lines, places before South Africa an inclusive basis for citizenship.

In the 1980s, the African National Congress was still setting the pace, being the first major political formation in South Africa to commit itself firmly to a Bill of Rights, which we published in November 1990. These milestones give concrete expression to what South Africa can become. They speak of a constitutional, democratic, political order in which, regardless of color, gen-

encourage and reward productive enterprise among the disadvantaged communities — African, coloured and Indian. By easing credit conditions we can assist them to make inroads into the productive and manufacturing spheres and break out of the small-scale distribution to which they are presently confined.

To raise our country and its people from the morass of racism and apartheid will require determination and effort. As a government, the ANC will create a legal framework that will assist, rather than impede, the awesome task of reconstruction and development of our battered society.



Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town following Mandela's election by Parliament as president of South Africa.

der, religion, political opinion or sexual orientation, the law will provide for the equal protection of all citizens.

They project a democracy in which the government, whomever that government may be, will be bound by a higher set of rules, embodied in a constitution, and will not be able to govern the country as it pleases.

Democracy is based on the majority principle. This is especially true in a country such as ours where the vast majority have been systematically denied their rights. At the same time, democracy also requires that the rights of political and other minorities be safeguarded.

In the political order we have established there will be regular, open, and free elections, at all levels of government — central, provincial and municipal. There shall also be a social order which respects completely the culture, language, and religious rights of all sections of our society and the fundamental rights of the individual.

### Tasks at hand not easy

The task at hand on will not be easy. But you have mandated us to change South Africa from a country in which the majority lived with little hope, to one in which they can live and work with dignity, with a sense of self-esteem and confidence in the future. The cornerstone of building a better life of opportunity, freedom and prosperity is the Reconstruction and Development Program.

This needs unity of purpose. It needs action. It requires us all to work together to bring an end to division, an end to suspicion, and build a nation united in our diversity.

The people of South Africa have spoken in these elections. They want change! And change is what they will get. Our plan is to create jobs, promote peace and reconciliation, and to guarantee freedom for all South Africans. We will tackle the widespread poverty so pervasive among the majority of our people. By encouraging investors and the democratic state to support job-creating projects in which manufacturing will play a central role, we will try to change our country from a net exporter of raw materials to one that exports finished products through beneficiation.

The government will devise policies that

While we are and shall remain fully committed to the spirit of a government of national unity, we are determined to initiate and bring about the change that our mandate from the people demands.

We place our vision of a new constitutional order for South Africa on the table not as conquerors, prescribing to the conquered. We speak as fellow citizens to heal the wounds of the past with the intent of constructing a new order based on justice for all.

This is the challenge that faces all South Africans today, and it is one to which I am certain we will all rise.

Printed below is the speech Nelson Mandela delivered in Pretoria at his inauguration as president of South Africa May 10. Subheadings are by the Militant.

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, distinguished guests, comrades and friends, Today, all of us do, by our presence here, and by our celebrations in other parts of our country and the world, confer glory and hope to newborn liberty.

Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.

Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans must produce an actual South African reality that will reinforce humanity's belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul and sustain all our hopes for a glorious life for all.

All this we owe both to ourselves and to the peoples of the world who are so well represented here today.

To my compatriots, I have no hesitation in saying that each one of us is as intimately attached to the soil of this beautiful country as are the famous jacaranda trees of Pretoria and the mimosa trees of the bushveld.

Each time one of us touches the soil of this land, we feel a sense of personal renewal. The national mood changes as the seasons change.

We are moved by a sense of joy and exhilaration when the grass turns green and the flowers bloom.

That spiritual and physical oneness we all share with this common homeland ex-

plains the depth of the pain we all carried in our hearts as we saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict, and as we saw it spurned, outlawed, and isolated by the peoples of the world, precisely because it had become the universal base of the pernicious ideology and practice of racism and racial oppression.

We, the people of South Africa, feel fulfilled that humanity has taken us back into its bosom, that we, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

We trust that you will continue to stand by us as we tackle the challenges of building peace, prosperity, nonsexism, nonracialism and democracy.

We deeply appreciate the role that the masses of our people and their political mass democratic, religious, women, youth, business, traditional, and other leaders have played to bring about this conclusion. Not least among them is my Second Deputy President, the Honorable F.W. de Klerk.

We would also like to pay tribute to our security forces, in all their ranks, for the distinguished role they have played in securing our first democratic elections and the transition to democracy, from bloodthirsty forces which still refuse to see the light.

The time for the healing of the wounds has come.

The moment to bridge the chasms that divide us has come.

The time to build is upon us.

We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender, and other discrimination.

### Relative peace

We succeeded to take our last steps to freedom in conditions of relative peace. We commit ourselves to the construction of a complete, just, and lasting peace.

We have triumphed in the effort to implant hope in the breasts of the millions of our people. We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity — a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.

As a token of its commitment to the renewal of our country, the new Interim Government of National Unity will, as a matter of urgency, address the issue of amnesty for various categories of our people who are currently serving terms of imprisonment.

We dedicate this day to all the heroes and heroines in this country and the rest of the world who sacrificed in many ways and surrendered their lives so that we could be free.

Their dreams have become reality. Freedom is their reward.

We are both humbled and elevated by the honor and privilege that you, the people of South Africa, have bestowed on us, as the first president of a united, democratic, non-racial and nonsexist South Africa, to lead our country out of the valley of darkness.

We understand it still that there is no easy road to freedom.

We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all.

Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind, and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves.

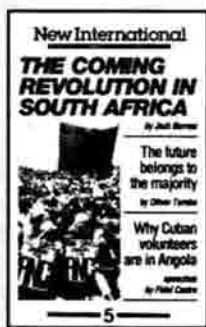
Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world.

The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement!

Let freedom reign. God bless Africa!

### The Coming Revolution in South Africa

BY JACK BARNES



The world importance of the struggle to overthrow the apartheid system and the vanguard role of the African National Congress, which is committed to lead the national, democratic revolution in South Africa to a successful conclusion. In *New International* no. 5. Also includes "Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola": Three speeches by Fidel Castro. \$9.00

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# Teamsters discuss strike achievements

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE — Teamsters here are discussing their experiences in the 24-day national trucking strike while waiting to see the details of the tentative agreement that ended the walkout. Union meetings will be held to discuss the proposed contract, and workers will then vote by mail ballot.

"There's a lot of talk here about all the workers being together as one," said Fred Ellingson, a dock worker at the big Consolidated Freight terminal in Seattle. "Almost everybody was there on the picket line and everyone is still sticking together now that we're back at work," he said. "Before the strike the older workers and the younger workers stayed in separate groups and didn't have much to do with each other. This all changed when we were picketing together, 24 hours a day. We're more together on the job now."

"When we went back to work the company wasn't ringing the bell to send us to break for some reason, so we asked if we could take break later, at a time we chose," Ellingson said. "Next day the bell rang at the old time. But nobody moved, everyone kept on working and went to break at the time we had decided on. I don't think this could have happened before the strike. We saw what we could do when everyone sticks together."

Greg Guerrero, a driver and dock worker at the ABF terminal in Kent, Washington, noted the important support the striking Teamsters won from the other unionists, including longshore workers who honored Teamsters picket lines at Sea-Land port facilities here.

"Sea-Land moved one of their ships over to the Maersk terminal one day," he reported. "So we sent pickets over and shut down five different companies for five hours. Even longshoremen in Vancouver, Canada, honored our picket lines until they were forced back to work by a court injunction."

I interviewed Guerrero during a march and rally of 1,500 nurses and their supporters here May 7. The nurses, organized in District 1199 of the Service Employees International Union, are fighting against attempts by management at Swedish Hospital and other health facilities to impose part-time status and benefit cuts on many nurses.

"I'm here to stand up for these people like they stood up for us," Guerrero said, explaining he had encouraged other workers at ABF to come as well. "We were on strike for the same reason they are having problems negotiating a contract — the companies want to use part-timers instead of giving us full-time jobs."

## Strike affected manufacturing

The strike by 75,000 Teamsters-organized drivers, dock workers, and office workers began April 6 and shut down 22 big trucking companies, including Roadway, ABF, Consolidated Freightways, and Yellow. In some places managers drove trucks or found some nonunion drivers to deliver goods stranded in their terminals when the strike began. But overall the strike halted operations across the country, costing the employers millions of dollars in business each day.

# U.S. unemployment declines

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. economy continued to expand in April. Employers added 267,000 new jobs. The figure would have been 75,000 higher if Teamsters had not struck last month. The nation's unemployment rate went down a tenth of a point, to 6.4 percent. The rate for adult women dropped to 5.6 percent, the same as for adult men.

These figures jolted the stock and bond markets. Interest rates jumped and stock values declined as some investors worried about a possible surge of inflation from a rapidly growing economy. The yield on the government's 30-year Treasury bond jumped to 7.54 percent, the biggest increase since August 1990. The Dow Jones industrial average, which was off more than 50 points in trading May 5, ended down 26.47 points at 3,369.50.

April's 267,000 increase in nonfarm jobs comes on top of the creation of 464,000 new jobs in March and 278,000 in February.

The average workweek and factory overtime remain at record levels, meaning that a number of companies are close to exhausting their ability to avoid hiring additional

The 75,000 strikers usually handle 15 percent of the total truck freight in the United States in less-than-truckload (LTL) shipments. This includes clothing, grocery dry goods, TVs and other electronic items, pipe and other construction supplies, as well as machinery, parts, and supplies needed by industries everywhere.

The April 22 *Wall Street Journal* reported that the Teamsters strike had started to "seriously squeeze some businesses." The *Journal* cited reports from garment and auto parts plants, textile companies, retail chains, and electronics and electrical equipment manufacturers, detailing problems they had due to the strike.

At the Kenworth Truck assembly plant in Seattle, the impact of the strike is still being felt 10 days after the walkout ended. Trucks are rolling off the line with parts missing because production at some Kenworth suppliers fell behind due to shortages during the strike.

Freight handling inside truck terminals is a critical part of the operations of these LTL trucking companies. Dock workers unload trailers coming from distant cities. They then sort and reload the shipments into trucks for local delivery, reversing the process for shipments picked up each day.

These are the workers the employers targeted for a serious assault in their drive to reduce costs and sharpen their competitive position. Since the amount of dock work needed may vary day by day, the companies employ some workers as "casuals" who work only when needed and are guaranteed a minimum of four hours pay whenever called. They are paid \$14.45 an hour, are covered by union health benefits, and are eligible for full-time jobs as they become available.

The bosses sought to hire part-time work-

# Allegheny Ludlum strikers win broad support

BY RONI McCANN AND TONY DUTROW

LEECHBURG, Pennsylvania — On a small median in front of Allegheny Ludlum, six striking steelworkers are greeted with waves, honking horns, and thumbs-up as they pull their four-hour picket duty. Tom Svezeny, a striker with 22 years in the mill, greeted us. The mood was high as he told us of the visit a few minutes earlier of a group of 40 bikers (motorcyclists).

"They roared up to the picket line with their green strike support ribbons and a sign saying, 'We Support Local 1138 and 1196,'" Svezeny said. "It really got your blood pumping! It looked like *The Wild Bunch* movie; they just kept coming!" They left Leechburg and visited all the other picket sites. Each biker donated \$3 to the strike in order to be part of the ride.

"This is OUR cycle time," the striker said. The reference was to Allegheny Ludlum's practice of steel production scheduling. It is a

way of reducing inventories of steel awaiting further processing and keeping material in a "just in time" deliver mode. The company says it assures customers prompt delivery. The union calls this "Disruption of Work Life."

The strikers say this has meant sudden forced overtime beyond what is already scheduled, lengthened workweeks, and canceled vacations. In many departments and many jobs in other departments, 12-hour workdays are now the norm. On some jobs, however, cycle time means reduced hours and even layoffs. This irrational work schedule is one of the major strike issues for the union.

"I was here for the last contract and I know the guys have conceded, conceded, and conceded," said striker Gene Phillips, a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1138 at the Vandergrift plant. "They busted their ass to make this place what it is. The company thought they could wave a signing bonus at us and we would sign any contract."

One of the demands among Vandergrift workers is for the company to hire people to do labor jobs. Phillips said the company is using the excuse of "cycle time" to have production workers perform both minor machine maintenance and general shop labor along with their production duties.

A worker at a GE plant in Schenectady, New York, reported that his plant has laid off about 185 workers due to a lack of Allegheny Ludlum's product.

The Allegheny county court imposed a temporary restraining order May 6 against workers at the Brackenridge plant. According to the *Valley News Dispatch*, "Anyone blocking the



Striking Alitalia airline workers joined Teamsters picket in New York April 28  
Militant/Mark Gilsdorf

ers to do up to 24 percent of the work on the docks. They would have been paid only \$9 an hour and received no benefits for at least the first year of employment.

"If the companies get part-timers there will never be full-time jobs opened up again," said one striker at Consolidated Freight in Seattle. "Who could afford to work for a year or more on those wages, without benefits? And the company wants them to be available both morning and evening, when they have the most work in the terminals, so they couldn't even get another part-time job to make ends meet."

According to press reports on the tentative agreement reached April 29, the employers backed off from this demand for part-timers. In addition, Teamsters members will receive a \$1.35 an hour increase in pay and \$1.85 an hour increase in benefits over the four years of the contract.

The proposed settlement would allow the bosses to ship up to 28 percent of their

freight by rail, which they plan to use to cut the number of long-haul drivers they employ. The companies could also call in casuals instead of paying regular dock workers overtime once the latter have worked 40 hours a week.

Wages for casuals would be frozen, widening the gap between their income and that of regular workers. And the union gave up the right to strike over grievances.

Teamsters in Seattle say they have not yet had reports on all the terms of the contract, and worry that the companies may still get part-timers in some form.

"We're not sure what's up," said Fred Ellingson. "Most people here say they'll vote 'no' if the part-timers are in the contract."

Harvey McArthur is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 289 at Kenworth Truck in Seattle.

path of a truck trying to enter the plant can be arrested. The order allows police to file an array of charges, from disorderly conduct to obstructing traffic, if pickets block the trucks."

Union policy has been to allow trucks in to pick up finished coils. Pickets would first discuss the strike with drivers and attempt to turn them around. But recently, three pickets were hit by a truck and treated for minor injuries. Scores of pickets descended on the gate to demand charges be filed against the driver. To date, however, no charges have been filed.

There are still no contract negotiations between the company and the union. On May 20, striking steelworkers plan to gather at the Allegheny Ludlum shareholders meeting to press their demand for a contract. The same day, USWA Local 8535 is hosting a solidarity rally in New Castle, Indiana.

Roni McCann is a member of USWA Local 9126 in Cleveland. Tony Dutrow is a member of USWA Local 3196 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

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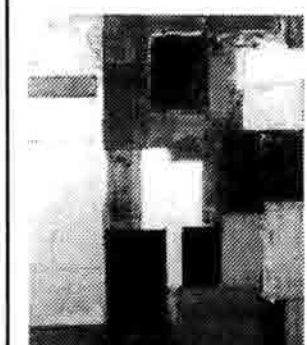
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# Haitian refugees

Continued from front page  
welcomed this change. Randall Robinson, head of the lobbying organization Trans-Africa, ended his highly publicized, 27-day protest fast after the announcement.

But many Haitian activists and refugee advocates are more skeptical. "Are they doing this just to temporarily silence their critics?" asked Steve Forrester, of Miami's Haitian Refugee Center. He called the U.S. asylum program "a fig leaf and a sham."

Meanwhile, Haiti's military rulers appear to be more confident than ever that their hold on power is not threatened. On May 11, a sham session of Haiti's Parliament, with legislators loyal to the military present, swore in Judge Émil Jonassaint, 80, as president of the country. This move and the accompanied repression will most likely prompt more Haitians to flee the country.

Since the 1991 coup that overthrew the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, more than 55,000 asylum applications have been filed and at least 40,000 Haitians have fled the island. From 1981 to 1990 less than 30 of 22,000 refugees interviewed at sea were allowed into the United States to pursue asylum claims. So far this year only 5 percent of the 1,300 Haitians picked up at sea have qualified as political refugees.

The widespread political terror and more than 3,000 murders since the 1991 coup have long been ignored or downplayed by Washington.

An April 12 secret cable from the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, made public by the *Miami Herald*, charges that reports of torture, rape, and other abuses were fabricated for pro-Aristide propaganda. No evidence of lies or exaggerations were cited in the 10-page "analysis" of Haiti's human rights situation.

Washington has pushed for further sanctions against Haiti. The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously May 6 to tighten the trade embargo, setting a May 21 deadline for Haiti's military rulers to step down.

But previous sanctions have been evaded by Haiti's rulers and have resulted in more hardships for the island's working people. Unemployment is at 70 percent. Most factories and stores are closed. Exports are at a standstill.

Some capitalist politicians are calling for sending U.S. marines to Haiti. While there is some support for dispatching U.S. troops, most Haitian activists here oppose U.S. military intervention. "The intervention would be only for American interests," said a young Haitian activist in an interview. "It would bring a negative impact on the economy, worse than now. They would crush the popular neighborhoods just like they did in Panama. It would be against the interests of the Haitian people."

## Mandela: president

Continued from Page 8  
says one South African equities analyst."

Some 9,500 gold miners struck Goldfields of South Africa's Kloof mine May 5 after the company fired Jackson Mafika, a local leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, for the second time this year. The company said the strike was illegal and that it would seek a court order forcing miners back to work.

The May 8 *Weekend Argus*, published in Cape Town, revealed that millions of South African rands were diverted to a secret police slush fund to finance disinformation about the ANC as late as the end of 1993. Among the operations the cops carried out after all covert actions were supposed to have been stopped were interceptions of ANC mail and faxes, as well as attempts to smear the ANC in South Africa and internationally.

Since a recent series of arrests of rightists, who carried out a dozen bombings in a desperate bid to prevent the elections from taking place, there have been no new large-scale terror attacks.

The little-known underground Afrikaner Volkstaatbeweging (AVB) announced May 9 it was giving up its terror campaign to join the banner of Viljoen's Freedom Front.

Viljoen told the *Weekly Mail and Guardian* he is still pursuing the idea of a *volkstaat*, or Afrikaner minstate. "We will have to convince Mandela that self-determination is the real desire of the Afrikaner," Viljoen told the newspaper such a minstate must become an Israel to Afrikaners living outside its borders.

The ANC, while agreeing to consider the principle of a *volkstaat*, has vowed it will never accept such a place within the borders of a unitary South Africa.

# MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**The Plight of Haitian Refugees and the Fight for Democracy Today.** Panel discussion. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Socialist Educational Weekend.** Sat., May 21. **Class: Challenges Facing the Cuban Revolution Today.** 3:30 p.m. **Forum: Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** Speaker: Aaron Ruby, recently returned from a *Militant* reporting trip to Cuba. 7:00 p.m. Fund-raising dinner, 6:30 p.m. **Class: Eyewitness Report from South Africa.** Opening presentation by Patricia O'Beirne, recently returned from *Militant* reporting trip to South Africa. Sun., May 22, 10 a.m. **Meeting to discuss opportunities to form socialist youth group.** 12 noon. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass. Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Union Resistance to Takebacks Step Up:**

# 15,000 rally to support Caterpillar workers

Continued from front page

Caterpillar workers of some 35 fired for union activities — opened the rally to a standing ovation.

Masching and Dunne presented UAW International President Owen Bieber and Secretary-Treasurer Bill Casstevens with group photographs of the discharged workers. These are to "show you our enthusiasm," Masching said. "We're going to fight these [Caterpillar] people to the very end. We will never give up!"

"We will not be forgotten," Dunne said, "we will be back." Casstevens pledged that the reinstatement of workers illegally terminated by Caterpillar will be the "number one issue when we get back to the bargaining table."

Marcello Malentacchi, general secretary of the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), pledged the support of his organization which has 8 million members in 17 countries.

Representatives from IMF-affiliated national metalworker unions in Belgium, Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, and South Africa were introduced to great applause. A standing ovation greeted the South African delegates. The unionists had just completed a two-day conference here to discuss organizing international support for the Caterpillar workers.

"I see no divisions here," Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974 in East Peoria, Illinois, told the crowd. "We are more united than ever, united across the Caterpillar chain and across the United States." The *Peoria Journal Star* recently ran editorials and articles claiming that UAW locals in the Caterpillar chain are divided between those advocating a strike to win a contract and those opposed to such action.

For more than two years now some 15,000 members of the UAW employed by

**The Fight for Union Rights at Caterpillar.** Speaker: Susan Anmuth, United Auto Workers Local 980, attended May 7 rally in Peoria, Illinois. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 59 Fourth Avenue (corner of Bergen, near Atlantic and Pacific subway stations). Donation: \$4 Tel: (718) 399-7257.

### Manhattan

**The Rise and Decline of the Nicaraguan Revolution.** An evening to celebrate and benefit the New International Fund featuring Martin Koppel, editor of *Nueva Internacional* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. Buffet dinner: 6:30 p.m. 214 Avenue A (between 13th and 14th streets). Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 388-9346.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**The South African Election: An Eyewitness Report.** Speaker: Kavin Naidoo, member, African National Congress Youth League and former vice president of South African National Student Congress. He was part of Philadelphia delegation of observers to the recent South African election. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation

\$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Roots of the Conflict in Rwanda: Not a Tribal War.** Speakers: Alameda Harper, regional director for Central Africa region for Africare; Ezekio Pajibo, African Faith and Justice Network; Richard Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., N.W. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

## BRITAIN

### Manchester

**Women, Capitalism, and the Working Class.** Sat., May 21, 6 p.m. 60 Shudehill, first floor. Donation: £2. Tel: 061-839 1766.

### Sheffield

**The Fight Against Police Racism and Racist Attacks.** Sat., May 21, 6 p.m. Speaker: Susan Smythe, Communist League. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £2. Tel: 0742-765070.



Militant/John Sarge

May 7 rally in Peoria, Illinois.

Caterpillar have been working without a negotiated agreement. Following a more than five-month strike in 1991 and '92, workers were ordered back to work by top union officials after the company threatened to hire scabs. Under a "final offer" imposed by management, workers have faced harassment by bosses, denial of union rights, speedup, and worsening working conditions. Meanwhile, Caterpillar has posted historic profits and sales are booming.

Since the end of last year, tensions in the plants have been growing as workers have sought ways to fight back, often organizing protests inside production facilities.

The UAW secretary-treasurer commended the workers for their determination and called

on them to continue their struggle inside the plants. "Keep doing what you are doing," he said. "Do it right. Do it on the inside. Maybe we won't have to do it on the outside," he said referring to the possibility of a strike. Some workers, expressing the mood among many in the crowd, shouted "Let's go out now!"

"I'm glad to see all the support and to know that unions around the world know what's happening here," said Don Cutler, who has worked at Caterpillar in East Peoria for 30 years. Cutler refuses to exercise his option to retire until the struggle at Caterpillar comes to a successful conclusion. The struggle is about what younger workers will face if the company succeeds in its assault on the union. "Future generations need my help," he said.

"I'm sick and tired of the company's law-breaking and would just as soon walk out now," Cutler said. "Maybe it's just that I'm an impatient person, but I was hoping to hear something more today."

"This is the first time I've ever been to anything like this and it's really great," said Neil Dalida, a 24-year-old UAW member from Fremont, California. "It shows a lot of solidarity. The company didn't want me to come to this rally. They didn't cover me for the time off, so I took it anyway and it was really worth it."

Dannen Vance of UAW Local 270 in Des Moines, Iowa, said he was impressed by the large crowd and the enthusiasm evident at the rally. "Anytime the company gets to take something away, they will," Vance said. "We all need to stand together to show that we are not going to be intimidated."

Peter Thierjung is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland. Amy Husk Sanchez, a member of UAW Local 2000 in Avon Lake, Ohio, contributed to this article.

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**Probably was writing a jay-walking ticket** — A nine-foot alligator made it onto a Florida highway and was confronted by a cop. "It came after me with its mouth wide open," the cop said. He scurried behind his squad car and the frustrated gator allegedly chomped a chunk off of the car.



**Harry Ring**

way and was confronted by a cop. "It came after me with its mouth wide open," the cop said. He scurried behind his squad car and the frustrated gator allegedly chomped a chunk off of the car.

**He can spot a liar** — Twenty-four students were expelled from

the U.S. Naval Academy for allegedly cheating on exams. Their cases were reviewed by ex-admiral Frank Kelso who was recently retired with four stars and top pension. He's the chap who didn't see a thing at the Tailhook convention.

**National security program** — A Newport News, Virginia, mall is modifying its ban on teens coming in on Friday and Saturday nights. ID cards will be issued to "good [white?] kids." Meanwhile, a major Miami mall is barring school-age youth on school days unless they're accompanied by a parent or guardian or have a work permit.

**"Keeps them out of the malls too..."** — State law in Washing-

ton permits youth 14 and 15 to work a 21-hour week in agriculture. Growers are pressing to make it at least 31 hours. Says one grower: "The best cutters are the younger kids. It's easier on their bodies." Another adds: "When the whole family is able to work together, they're more contented."

**Save your strength for the boss** — With two dissenting votes, the Des Moines, Iowa, city council decided not to enforce a 1952 ban on public dancing after 2 a.m. This will permit "raves," the popular all-night youth dances, to continue. A news report said council member Michael McPherson voted no because "the all-night dances could sap the industrial output of America."

**Malicious rumor** — "Baby Doc" Duvalier, Haiti's ousted despot, took off with millions but is now reportedly broke. His wife and kids split, he moved out of his mansion near Cannes, France, and has no company except his chauffeur and a dog. Neighbors said he had offered to do their gardening. But the idea that he's ready to do honest work strikes us as pure gossip.

**"Grows hair on a billiard ball"** — The feds accepted a \$2.4 million settlement from General Nutrition, plus a promise to stop claiming that its various products build muscles, shed pounds and prevent hair loss. The company also promised to keep two previous promises.

**This we believe** — "We make no nutritional claims for soft drinks. . . . Our strategy is ubiquity. We want to put soft drinks within arm's reach of desire. We strive to make soft drinks widely available, and schools are one channel we want to make them available in." — A Coca-Cola spokesman arguing against moves to restrict school sales.

**Thought for the week** — "I don't think you'll ever find anything that my husband or I said that in any way condemns the importance of making good investments. . . . What I think we were saying is that, like anything else, that can be taken to excess." — Hillary Clinton, commenting on the Whitewater scandal.

## 2,500 protest cop killing of Aborigine in Australia

BY MANUELE LASALO AND RON POULSEN

BRISBANE, Australia—Up to 1,500 supporters of Aboriginal rights, a majority of them Aborigines, staged a demonstration here April 20 to demand an end to the death of Blacks in police custody.

The protest was directed against the official report covering up the cops' responsibility for the death of teenage Aboriginal dancer Daniel Yock last year.

Demonstrators marched through lunch-hour traffic in central Brisbane to the main courthouse and police buildings. Chants ranged from condemnation of racist cop violence and demands for justice to calls for Aboriginal land rights. Many wore T-shirts in Aboriginal flag colors of black, red, and yellow with the inscription "Is it justice or just us?"

The day after Yock's death in November 1993, some 200-300 people organized by the dancer's family and supporters, had gathered outside the Brisbane police headquarters. The cops attacked and dispersed the protesters. The following week a larger demonstration of nearly 6,000 people, overwhelmingly Black, demanded that the cops who caused Yock's death be sacked [fired] and punished.

The report by an official inquiry referred to the first demonstration as "a violent street brawl" between Aborigines and police, which "gave rise to considerable public disquiet." These protest actions and the public outrage over widely publicized reports of Yock being "kicked to death by police," forced the government to rapidly shift the investigation out of the hands of the cops. The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), assumed responsibility for the so-called independent inquiry.

The April 20 protests began with a press conference on the steps of the CJC office led by Lionel Fogarty, Yock's brother. Fogarty burnt a copy of CJC commissioner Lew Wyvill's report in front of a wall of TV cameras to express the contempt of the Aboriginal community and Black rights supporters at the findings. Fogarty condemned this as a "whitewash of the cops" by Wyvill and asserted that "the police kicked my brother to death."

The press event was followed by a rally in Musgrave Park, a traditional meeting place of Aborigines in Brisbane. It is the "last piece of dirt in Brisbane we can call our own," said one of the speakers and is subject to a traditional land claim under recent native title legislation.

### How cops killed Yock

This was also the spot where Yock was arrested by the cops and brutalized before he died.

On the evening of Nov. 7, 1993, 18-year-old Yock was drinking beer in the park with some fellow members of the Wakka Wakka Aboriginal Dance Troupe. A police van circled the park several times, keeping the youths under surveillance. Transcripts presented at the inquiry of cops calling for backup were reminiscent of the cop beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles. "I just thought you might be around 'cause you love that type of stuff," one said.

As police moved in, Yock and the others started running. One burly cop brought the lightly built Yock crashing to the ground in a football tackle, hitting the youth's head on the curbside. The cops then handcuffed Yock's wrists behind his back. According to some of Yock's friends who were on the scene, a policewoman then repeatedly kicked Yock in

the head. Yock laid semi-conscious, shaking and foaming at the mouth in a fit. While the cops — and later the inquiry — brushed off his obviously sick state as "intoxication," one of Yock's companions tried to aid him, pleading with the cops for help.

After several minutes, the police slung him, still handcuffed, face down into the back of the paddy wagon. The cops then cruised around for half an hour, ignoring pleas for help from another arrested friend of Yock who could not get a response from him. When the cops removed the youth's still-handcuffed body at the police station, an attempt was made to revive him while others reportedly stood around laughing. Then the body was taken by ambulance to a hospital where Yock was pronounced dead.

### The Wyvill whitewash

The Wyvill inquiry supported the police actions in arresting the group of young people, denied that any racism was involved, cleared the cops of using excessive force, and denied that the arresting officers had neglected to care for Yock. Their conduct is clearly viewed as normal by the ex-police officers and lawyers of the CJC.

The release of the report was accompanied by a heavy police presence in Aboriginal areas of Brisbane, including mounted police and tracker dogs. A statement released by Yock's family and the Brisbane Aboriginal community condemned the "Wyvill whitewash" and called for a National Day of Action "against racist police and the corrupt political systems that use them." The family is planning to take further legal action against the six police officers involved in Yock's death.

The report dismissed as "contradictory" much of the evidence presented by Aboriginal witnesses. It used the undeniable finding of the investigating doctors — that Yock had a diseased heart condition and was drunk — to exonerate the police of any blame in his death. Seizing on the release of the report, the police commissioner, backed by Queensland premier Wayne Goss of the Labor Party, called for an apology from Aborigines who had accused the cops of murdering Yock. In the words of Sam Watson, of the Brisbane Aboriginal Legal Service, this was "tantamount to asking the Jews to apologize for Auschwitz!"

Speaking at a Militant Labor Forum in Sydney on April 23, Ray Jackson, a representative of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee, said that the police should be charged "with murder, not manslaughter." He explained that during the life of the Royal Commission, which was set up to investigate deaths of Blacks in police custody, 99 Aborigines and Torres Strait islanders died in police hands. Since May 1989, when that commission ended its work, another 56 such deaths have occurred, an increase in the fatality rate. Not a single one of the Royal Commission's 170 recommendations to refine police behavior have been implemented, nor has a single police officer been charged over deaths of Blacks in their custody.

During the April 20 National Day of Action another 500 people demonstrated in Canberra, 150 in Sydney, 150 in Townsville, and more than 100 in Melbourne.

*Manuele Lasalo is a member of the National Union of Workers at Uncle Tobys, and Ron Poulsen is a member of the Food Preservers' Union at Streets Ice Cream, in Sydney.*



Mourners gather behind chain-link fence at a police compound in Brisbane, Australia, to protest the death in custody of Aboriginal dancer Daniel Yock on Nov. 7, 1993.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

**THE MILITANT**  
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Ahmed Evans, a prominent Cleveland black nationalist, has been sentenced to die in the electric chair on Sept. 22 in connection with the death of three Cleveland policemen and a civilian during the police attack on the black community in July of last year.

Following the trial, which featured "scare" stories about "nationalist plots to bust out Ahmed Evans," and displays of overt racism on the part of the prosecuting attorney which were featured in the local press, an all-white jury found Evans guilty on seven counts of first-degree murder — two counts for each cop, and one for the black civilian.

Before sentencing Evans to death, the judge heartily endorsed the verdict of the jury, and accused Evans of being responsible for the recent events at Cornell University by saying, "these children [!] are really following the example you set."

He was echoing the sentiments of the prosecuting attorney, who demanded that the jury "protect our American way of life"

by bringing in a verdict which would result in Evans' execution. Prosecutor Corrigan revealed the real attitude of the cops, the city administration and the judge in his closing remarks to the jury. "Let the young people in our community realize that if they join with the likes of Ahmed Evans. . . ." said Corrigan, "they, too, will go to the electric chair."

**THE MILITANT**  
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May 20, 1944

Once again the U.S. Senate has buried the anti-poll tax bill. The poll tax senators from the "Solid South" embarked on their filibustering rampage, against the bill, which would make unlawful the requirement by any State of a poll tax as a prerequisite to voting in a primary or other election for national officers.

The poll tax system is a bulwark of reaction and an integral part of Wall Street's domination over the economic and political life of the nation. By disfranchising the overwhelming majority of Negro and White workers, the poll tax system serves to remove all restraint from the political caste which functions as the open and direct agent of Big Business.



# Teamsters win one for labor

After a solid 24-day strike, the Teamsters pushed back the trucking bosses' attempt to institute part-time work in almost two dozen trucking firms. In doing so, the 75,000 drivers, dock workers, and office workers scored a victory for the entire labor movement.

The Teamsters return to work with increased confidence in themselves, their coworkers, and the strength of union power. "We saw what we could do when everyone sticks together," a dock worker in Seattle said aptly.

Although the union has not yet officially presented details of the settlement, workers returned to their jobs based on summaries that reported the four-year contract would increase wages and benefits. Most importantly, workers were told, the trucking companies were forced to back off from their plans to use part-time workers, who get paid less and receive no benefits, for up to a quarter of the work done in the freight terminals.

The Teamsters union only organizes a small percentage of workers in the U.S. trucking industry. But the strike hurt the employer class. The *Wall Street Journal* said the strike had started to "seriously squeeze businesses," including in auto, garment, textile, retail, and electronics. The *New York Times* reported that auto plants were getting low on crucial parts. And *Militant* reporter Harvey McArthur writes that even 10 days after the strike ended, the bosses at the truck plant where he works were still forced to let unfinished vehicles roll off the line.

The impact of the strike was even greater because of the "just-in-time" inventories many companies have instituted as part of their drive to stay lean, mean, and profitable in the midst of an economic depression.

The Teamsters aren't the only workers who have decided it's better to fight back than give in to concession demands. From Steelworkers at Allegheny Ludlum plants in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Indiana, to members of the United Auto Workers at Caterpillar plants, workers have pushed up a few notches resistance to the bosses' antiunion offensive. The current upturn in the business cycle in the United States — which brings with it more hiring, including of some younger workers — has helped boost workers' confidence, while making the employers more vulnerable. A recent article in *Busi-*

*ness Week*, for example, complained that Caterpillar has orders coming out its ears, low costs due to recent restructuring, and a "grassroots rebellion" on the shop floor.

Two months before the Teamsters threw up their picket lines, fellow union members at UPS waged a one-day strike against unsafe working conditions. The big trucking firms hold UPS up as a model — lots of part-time workers, low wages, few benefits — a preview of their plans for the rest of the industry. But the UPS drivers were able to beat the company back. They returned to work after being assured they would not be forced to lift packages weighing more than 75 pounds. When the Teamsters launched their nationwide strike, Mike Bodily, a UPS driver from Salt Lake City, reported that support for the strikers among his coworkers was "overwhelming."

The Teamsters pushed back the trucking bosses with the help of workers across the country who used their unions to support the strike and honor the picket lines. In some cities, students and other young people also sent delegations to join the pickets. In doing so these workers and students put flesh and bone on the old union cry, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Dock workers in Tacoma, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada, who are members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), honored Teamsters picket lines, preventing Sea-Land cargo ships from unloading for a day. In Atlanta, when bosses at ABF tried to ship struck freight by rail, workers at CSX railroad joined Teamsters on the picket line. From garment workers in Los Angeles to coal miners on tour in Seattle, fighting workers saw this as their battle.

Like other labor struggles today, the Teamsters didn't win all their demands. But the strike puts them in a stronger position to keep fighting. Most importantly, it sets an example for all labor that working people, by using their unions as tools to fight, can take on the bosses' offensive. The 75,000 battle-tested Teamsters are now a resource for the entire working-class. Their experiences during the 24-day strike can be drawn on in the battles to come.

# On the workers side in Canada

The growing confrontation between tens of thousands of government workers in Atlantic Canada and three provincial governments over wage freezes, wage rollbacks, layoffs, and union busting in the name of "deficit cutting" bears big stakes for working people across Canada and elsewhere. These workers need and deserve the active solidarity of working people and the organized labor movement.

Forty thousand government workers in Nova Scotia are voting on strike action against the wage freeze and wage cut contained in the new provincial budget.

Government employees in Prince Edward Island are organizing a massive protest rally May 11 to fight a government-imposed wage cut of 7.5 percent. In Newfoundland, 31,000 government workers, whose union contracts have expired, are resisting a cut of Can\$50 million in salaries. Teachers there voted May 10 for strike action.

"By the laws of Nova Scotia, I know we cannot strike," John MacDonald, president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, said to a meeting of Halifax County teachers. "By moral law, I believe that we can strike, and by the law of necessity, I believe that we must strike... it is indeed ironic that as we celebrate the birth of full democracy in South Africa we suffer a suspension of democracy here at home."

These teachers, health-care, education, municipal, and other government workers are now in the front lines of the fight to defend health care, public education, unemployment insurance, and social assistance against the efforts of Canada's capitalist class to slash social programs. Liberal, Conservative, and New Democratic Party governments, with the support of other capitalist parties such

as the Reform Party and Parti Quebecois, are driving to cut government deficits at the expense of working people.

By their actions, government workers in the Atlantic provinces are refusing to take responsibility for the so-called deficit-cutting campaign led by Ottawa. The government rationalization for the cutbacks is aimed at widening divisions among working people and convincing them to lower their living standards to help the wealthy capitalist families jack up faltering profit rates.

Workers across Canada and elsewhere need to throw their weight on the side of the embattled workers in Atlantic Canada. Working-class solidarity can tip the scales in this fight, as the recent struggles of youth in France against the subminimum wage and the U.S. Teamsters strike have proven.

Tours can be organized so that representatives of the workers can tell their story to working people in every major city. Delegations from unions and labor federations can go to Atlantic Canada to express their solidarity and bring back the truth about the challenges they face. Discussions need to take place in every union local on how to build broad support for the struggle. College students and working farmers can be organized to join in as well.

The biennial convention of the 2.3 million-member Canadian Labour Congress in Toronto May 16-20 is a good place to initiate such a solidarity campaign. The battle lines have been drawn. Labor must decisively stand on the side of workers in Atlantic Canada.

# Canada protests

Continued from front page

ment because they did this to us and it's time we did the same thing to this new government!" another member of the union said, at an event in Sydney that same evening.

The latest cuts follow a 2 percent wage reduction and two-year wage freeze imposed on workers by the previous Conservative Party provincial government. That government was defeated in an election last year.

The presentation of the budget in the Nova Scotia legislature on April 29 was broken up when hundreds of angry construction workers occupied the legislature gallery and shouted down all attempts to present the document. They were protesting a new law that opens up construction sites to nonunion companies and will lead to a sharp drop in their wages.

Two thousand health-care workers marched in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, May 3 to protest a 7.5 percent wage cut for public sector workers. Two thousand teachers had protested on April 21.

The Prince Edward Island Union of Public Sector Employees is organizing a protest May 11. The wages of members of that union are slated to be cut, even though workers won a new collective agreement only months ago.

According to union spokesman Mike Butler, the rally is expected to be the largest labor protest in the province's history. "We have received support from unions in private industry, including the United Food and Commercial Workers union and the telephone workers union," Butler said. "They are coming under the same pressure for wage cuts from their employers as we are."

The provincial government in Newfoundland has announced it will cut some \$50 million dollars from salaries paid to more than 31,000 workers. Collective agreements for these workers have expired. Votes by provincial and municipal government workers and nurses in April have given overwhelming mandates to their union officials to call strikes to protest the cuts. Teachers voted on strike action on May 10.

Public sector workers in other parts of Canada are also facing deepening attacks. In Alberta, wages have been cut by 5 percent. In Ontario and Quebec, wages have been frozen. Wages of federal government workers have also been frozen.

The local and federal governments claim that cuts in workers' wages are needed to maintain social services. They say that declining tax revenues and growing government deficits leave them no choice. But while cutting wages, they are also making sharp cuts in education, health care, and other social services and further reducing the taxes that companies and the wealthiest capitalist families pay.

There are growing calls by capitalist politicians to institute compulsory work-for-welfare programs and labor camps for unemployed young people.

## Attacks on unemployment insurance

Meanwhile, the federal government is continuing to attack the unemployment insurance program.

These cuts hit especially hard in eastern Quebec and Atlantic Canada, which are the poorest regions of Canada. Thousands of workers have protested the insurance cuts, including 4,000 fishermen who marched in St. John's, Newfoundland, on February 27.

Fishermen and fish processing workers are disproportionately victims of the government offensive. Thirty thousand have been thrown out of work since 1992 by the destruction of fish stocks off the coast of Canada. The stocks were destroyed by the greed and overfishing by Canadian and European companies.

On April 19, the government announced major cuts to a special unemployment insurance program for these workers. The program was won by the workers and is supposed to remain in place until the recovery of the fish stocks, expected to take many years.

The government has also set a limit on the duration of payments to fishermen. It says the program will end in five years, at which time it aims to have only 6,700 recipients. This will mean driving 50 percent of all fishermen out of the industry. The government then plans to force permanently unemployed fish processing workers off the unemployment program within two years and cut the benefits of those who remain.

Even today, to be eligible for further payments, recipients must enroll in compulsory "retraining" programs. These are supposed to encourage workers to abandon the industry and find new jobs. The government however, doesn't guarantee anyone further employment.

## CORRECTIONS

An article in the May 9 *Militant*, titled "Cuban diplomat tours New Zealand," incorrectly stated that Marcelino Fajardo, Cuba's consul-general to Australia, joined the Cuban army in the late 1950s. In fact, Fajardo joined Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces in 1963.

An article titled "Utah youth celebrate ANC victory," which appeared in the May 16 *Militant*, incorrectly stated that "promoters of the [April 28] event included the Utah AFL-CIO, United Steelworkers of America locals 2701 and 8319,..." The presidents of both Steelworkers locals sent greetings to the rally. In fact, the president of Local 8319 presented the greetings in person. But neither union local was an endorser of the event.



# Aerospace workers in Montreal fight concessions

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or at other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

After a week of protests more than 2,300 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 712 at Bombardier-

unionist said Bombardier was not the only company to demand that its workforce help it to be competitive and that these companies are supported by the governments in their drive for profits. She said that in voting "no" we were joining other workers who resist these perspectives like the Nova Scotia workers whose enthusiastic demonstration recently stopped the minister of finance from reading his anti-worker budget. □

## Striking Alitalia airline workers win solidarity

Chants of "Boycott Alitalia" rang through the air as some 50 striking members of International Association of Machinists Local 1894 ral-



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg  
Unionists and students in Boston protest outside Jessica McClintock store April 16 as part of the Garment Workers Justice Campaign. The nationwide campaign grew out of workers' fight for back pay from the now defunct Lucky Sewing Co. in California. Protests continue to demand better wages and benefits and improved working conditions for garment workers.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

Canadair in Montreal rejected the latest company contract proposals May 2. More than 4,000 unionized workers at this aeronautics plant have been working without a contract for five months.

Workers walked out during their coffee breaks at different plants prior to the contract vote. In one department, which has a lot of newer and younger workers, almost the entire second shift walked out at the first break. The assembly plant workers announced to the local press that they would take an extended break the next day and they did. Some 1,500 workers walked out of the main production plant at their break to explain their concerns to the local press.

Although Bombardier made record profits in the first trimester, the company refused any wage increase in the first year of the contract, citing their need to be competitive. They offered a meager 1.5 percent and 2 percent raise over three years. All proposals by the union to improve the much-criticized pension plan were rejected by the company.

A lively discussion followed the presentation by union negotiating committee leader Claude Boisvert, who explained why the union executive committee recommended rejection. One worker said that after 20 years of service his pension was almost worthless.

Workers applauded when a

lied outside the International Arrivals Building at JFK International Airport in New York on April 29. The unionists have been on strike since Alitalia locked them out eight months ago.

The company is demanding wage cuts of 40 percent, a lower starting pay for new workers, decreased medical benefits, and elimination of pension contributions.

The strikers were joined at the rally by members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants at American Airlines who themselves were on strike last November. □

## British miners force inquiry into accident

An outcry from miners and their supporters forced a public inquiry into the deaths of three miners killed in a roof collapse, Aug. 18, 1993. An open hearing began May 3 at Queen's University in Nottinghamshire, England. The investigation will conclude in London on a date to be announced. A closed inquest last year returned a verdict of accidental death.

Dave Shelton, Bill McCulled, and Peter Allcock were killed when a tunnel roof gave way at the Bilsthorpe colliery in Nottinghamshire. Two thousand feet below ground, miners were developing a new tunnel — using roof bolting as the only tunnel support — when

tons of rubble suddenly crashed down on them.

Roof bolting is a method of holding together layers of strata above the coal seam. Eight-foot steel rods are drilled up into the rock and secured with resin. The technique, favored by management, is estimated to cut development costs in a pit by at least 50 percent. But miners argue that only girders — which are more costly — can contain the rubble and roof above, not roof bolts.

Brian Langdon, head of the government's Health and Safety Executive inquiry, claimed the main cause of the roof collapse was that the new tunnel was too close to a preexisting tunnel. Both he and Principal District Mines Inspector Norman Revell praised the standard of workmanship in a roadway inspected and found to be in good condition just hours before the fatal cave-in. □

## Framed-up coal miners sentenced in W. Virginia

Seven union coal miners, including United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 5958 president

Ernie Woods, were sentenced April 29 in Logan, West Virginia, to serve 120 days in jail after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges of rock throwing. The charges stemmed from the government's attempt to frame up the miners for the July 22 shooting death of Eddie York, a nonunion contractor, during last year's seven-month strike.

Arch Mineral Corp. also announced that the miners no longer had jobs at the Ruffner mine in Yohyn, West Virginia.

The seven were indicted last November on federal charges of conspiring to disable trucks used in interstate commerce. The government dismissed those charges in exchange for guilty pleas to the state misdemeanor charge of destruction of property.

As part of the plea bargain arrangement, the miners agreed to testify for the prosecution against fellow miner Jerry Lowe, whose trial started May 2. He is accused of firing the shot that killed York.

The courtroom was packed with miners and their supporters. "Peo-

ple were disappointed" at the sentence, said Joe Stanley, president of UMWA Local 93 at the newly organized Marrowbone mine in Mingo County. "It was a pretty tough verdict for misdemeanors. We anticipated they would get suspended sentences. The union introduced [evidence] showing that the company organized systematic harassment of the miners through the security firm they employed."

York was leaving Arch Mineral's Ruffner mine, traveling in a convoy when he was shot from behind. The shot came from company property prior to the caravan reaching the picket line where the miners were stationed. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Annette Kouri, member of IAM Local 712 in Montreal; Nancy Rosenstock, member of IAM Local 1056 in New York; Jim Spaul, member of National Union of Mineworkers in Sheffield, England; and Bernie Senter, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8957 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

## LETTERS

### Japanese Americans

In Patti Iiyama's review of *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II* in the April 18 *Militant*, she notes regarding Roosevelt's internment order that "few spoke out for the constitutional rights of the Japanese. The only union to oppose evacuation was the International Warehousemen's and Longshoremen's Union." I believe, however, that there was more resistance to this than we know.

A photo of Japanese workmen leaving a sawmill in Oregon in 1942 was reproduced in the *Portland Oregonian* newspaper a few years ago with the brief caption, "These men returned shortly, after co-workers voted to retain them." The original article in the Feb. 25, 1942, *Portland Journal* is headlined "Japs stay On the Job."

It related one incident at West Oregon Lumber Company. During the morning shift that day, "there was a meeting to discuss what should be done about some 40 Japanese working at the sawmill. . . . Members of the plant committee of the CIO union spoke out bluntly urging that there be no hysteria and persecution of members of the Union because of color," the *Journal* reported.

The photo shows a big crowd of workers. One worker is quoted as

saying, "These men have been good union members and we want no playing off of members against members." Another wanted the "enemy alien" situation left to the government.

The outcome of this "unscheduled" meeting by the workers in this Oregon sawmill? "The men voted unanimously to go back to work with the Japanese workmen," the paper reported.

By the time the internment orders were carried out, there wasn't much resistance. Unity in the face of attacks on their coworkers and solidarity with those facing this racist internment had broken down. But in this one sawmill at least, and I think in other mines and plants as well, there were those who saw the anti-Japanese campaign for what it was and stood up against it as best they could.

Floyd Fowler,  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Prisoner on hunger strike

Dan Cahill, a prisoner at Lebanon (Ohio) Correctional Institution, is on a hunger strike to protest "the prison administration's retaliation against prisoners who organize non-violently for prison reform." Cahill, who has taken only water since February 1st was put in "the hole" (disciplinary isolation cell) in



early January after he was told that he was being investigated for "gang activity" in the prison. Even though the Lebanon administration never formally charged Dan with organizing a gang, they have refused to release him back into the prison population, continuing to keep him in the disciplinary lock-down cell.

Cahill, who is well-known in and out of the prison system for his written and verbal non-violent protests of prison conditions, had written to us in early January stating that Lebanon's Deputy Warden Ron Campbell had threatened that Cahill's "activities would not be accepted at Lebanon."

Like Cahill, many advocates for prisoners' rights are gravely concerned that the "gang activity" charges (Rule 31 of Ohio's Administrative regulations) are being used to stifle all non-violent attempts by Ohio prisoners to inform the public about conditions in prison and to retaliate against prisoners who challenge the system on constitutional grounds. Rule 31 equates "disruptive group activity including the possession of materials" (such as writings) with gang activity.

Call the Director of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Reginald Wilkinson (614) 752 1150 and let him know that

you're concerned about the life of Dan Cahill. To send letters of support to Dan, write him at:

Dan Cahill 251 641  
P.O.B. 56  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036  
Justice Watch,  
Prisoners' Rights Committee  
Cincinnati, Ohio

### Cuba coverage

I want to give special thanks for the three-part series on Cuba. I just came back from the Friendship caravan as a driver, and saw Cuba for myself for the first time. As important as this is, the *Militant's* series was much more helpful in understanding what is going on there. You can be sure I will be borrowing heavily from those articles in my reportback talks!

Peter Link  
Detroit, Michigan

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.



## Britain: youth protest police frame-up

BY TONY HUNT  
AND SUSAN SMYTHE

SHEFFIELD, England — "Whether you're Afro-Caribbean, Yemeni, Somali, Pakistani, Bengali, or Indian you're not getting fair treatment from the police. Instead we have to put up with racial taunts and police provocations. It's about time we did something about it." This is how, Nissar Ahmed Jaffar opened, to loud cheers, a spirited protest meeting of 500 people here May 7. Jaffar is the chair of the newly formed Darnall Defence Campaign. Darnall is an area of Sheffield where a large number of families from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other immigrant workers live. The May 7 meeting was called to protest frame-up charges brought by the police against youth from the area, both Black and white who were arrested by cops following attacks on residents by racist thugs during the May Day public holiday here.

The Darnall Defence Campaign has called a mass picket of Attercliffe police station in Sheffield May 16 to demand the dropping of the charges and an independent investigation into the actions of the police. A mass lobby of Sheffield City Council and a demonstration at the court hearings is also being organized for June 1.

According to a statement by the defense committee, "White racists... went on the



British cop brutalizes Black youth

rampage attacking the local community [May 2]. The following day many Black residents were out on the streets to discover what had happened and to assert their right not to be intimidated by the presence of

racist thugs." The police then arrived and arrested both Black and white youth. They say that police officers subjected them to racist abuse, physical assaults, and denial of their legal rights during their detention.

One of those arrested told the May 7 meeting he had been out driving when a gang of racist thugs attacked his car with baseball bats. He narrowly escaped and sought assistance from the police. Instead of help from the cops, he found himself arrested and charged with threatening behavior. "They treated me like a criminal even though I was a victim," he said. "I'd always respected the police till this."

Another youth described how police grabbed him and handcuffed him behind his back. They tried to bash his head against a lamppost before pushing him into a police car where he was punched. A 13-year-old Bengali, was also arrested.

"We felt like it," the police told him when he asked them why he was being arrested. "You Black bastards are like mice when two coppers come up to you." He was kept 15 hours in police custody without access to a lawyer or his family before being charged with breach of the peace.

Kashaf Wallayat, one of those arrested, is the son of a local Sheffield City councillor. A young man who is white was arrested after being attacked by a police dog. He described being the target of anti-Semitic abuse from police because of his Jewish name.

Jaffar was among those arrested May 3. He was followed by police to the parking lot of a local mosque where he had gone to get mosque elders to help defuse the situation. Jaffar said at the protest meeting that what happened on May 2 and 3 was part of a pattern of police racism in Sheffield. "The terminology they use make our people look worse than the dog shit on the streets," he said. One of the demands of the defense campaign is an end to police harassment.

The superintendent of Attercliffe police station came to the meeting but left early after receiving a hostile reception. He said no prosecutions would take place unless there was a "prima facie case."

"The only way we get anything is if we stand on our feet and fight back," said Sultan Mohammed from the Newham Monitoring Project, a London-based anti-racist group.

A lively discussion followed among participants at the meeting concerning the next steps forward. A call to immediately march on the police station was countered by those who wanted an effective, disciplined, and peaceful campaign. Some criticized the involvement of groups calling themselves socialist in the defense effort. But others argued that the best way to fight racism is to unite everybody who is willing to take part in the struggle. One or two of the participants drew comparisons with events in South Africa.

Jaffar closed the meeting calling for the biggest possible protest action on May 16 to win the campaign's demands. "If there's no justice there's no peace," he said.

*Tony Hunt is a member of the Bakery, Food, and Allied Workers' Union in Sheffield. He was the Communist League candidate in recent Sheffield City Council elections. Susan Smythe was the Communist League election agent (chairperson) in the campaign.*

## Conservatives lose British local elections

BY PAMELA HOLMES

LONDON — "Tories bruised, battered, humiliated," read the headlines of London's *Evening Standard* as the results came in from the local government elections covering two-thirds of England, Scotland, and Wales on May 5.

The Tories, the ruling Conservative Party, lost 429 seats, leaving them in control of only 15 of the 198 councils up for election. Gaining only 27 percent of the vote, the Tories failed to win or hold a single seat in big industrial cities like Manchester, Newcastle, and Sheffield. They lost more than 200 seats in London as well as control of eight boroughs, including areas like Croydon that they had controlled for more than a century.

The social democratic Labour Party received 41 percent and the Liberal Democratic Party 28 percent of the local government vote. In Scotland, the Scottish National Party won 27 percent, pushing the Tories into fourth place.

Many deposed Tory councillors have blamed Prime Minister John Major for the astounding defeat of their party. MP [Member of Parliament] John Carlisle has already said he is prepared to stand against Major in a Tory leadership contest.

Despite excited extrapolations in the bourgeois press of what the voting percentages

would mean in a general election, there is no real evidence that any of the main parties received a clear mandate. "The country, in short, has given the Conservative Party a slap in the face but has not wholeheartedly embraced its opponents," said an editorial in the *Evening Standard*. "They [the Tory party] have an economic success on their hands; perhaps it's time they gave some thought about how to do it... justice." Unlike most other countries in Western Europe, Britain is in the middle of an economic recovery.

"John Major and other capitalist politicians make much of the recovery," said a statement by the candidates of the Communist League. "This may be true for a handful of rich ruling families, but most workers are not seeing any

of the profits the bosses are raking in. The worldwide economic depression gripping Britain is being paid for by working people: through harder work, more redundancies, attacks on safety, and now higher taxes.

"Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrats all start from the same view — to defend and protect the capitalist system," the statement continued. "They are united in backing Britain's growing rivalry with other capitalist powers; rivalry which, as the Iraq war signalled, will lead to more wars... We need fighting answers that unite us, instead of the bosses' 'divide and rule' policies."

*Pamela Holmes is a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union.*

## Pathfinder books in demand at Tehran book fair

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

TEHRAN, Iran — Despite pouring rain and crowded aisles, hundreds of people stood in long lines to buy books on the first day of the seventh Tehran International Book Fair.

More than 1,000 people were waiting before the gates opened at 8:30 a.m. on May 4, some 100,000 people poured into the exhibition halls throughout the day in search of

books on every field of culture, politics, and science. This year 1,236 publishers from 26 countries have brought 59,500 titles for sale at the fair.

The annual book fair is an opportunity for people in Iran to buy books at around one-third the free market price due to government subsidy of the book fair sales. This is necessary because the exchange rate of 2,500 Iranian rials to one U.S. dollar makes it impossible for working people to buy books from publishers from abroad.

Many of those who came to the fair were young students from Hamadan, Khuzistan, and other provinces across Iran — some with their own allowance for subsidized books, others in groups assigned to buy books for their university library. For the first time special buses and lodging are being provided to bring interested people from around the country to visit the fair.

U.S. publisher Pathfinder Press has a booth at the fair. As it became clear that Nelson Mandela would become the new president of South Africa, attention of most visitors at the Pathfinder stand was focused on *Nelson Mandela Speaks: Forging a Democratic Nonracial South Africa*. This Pathfinder title contains speeches by the ANC leader since he was released from prison in 1990. A number of people came by who had visited the stand at last year's fair. "These books are about reality," one visitor commented.

"This is great" said a young student from Borazjan as she read from *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of East*, Pathfinder's new title on the impact of the Russian revolution on the peoples of

Central Asia.

"What else have you got by Evelyn Reed," asked another visitor. Two students walked away discussing whether they could pool their allowance and buy the *Collected Works* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. By 6:00 p.m. it was decided to keep the book fair open for a further two hours in order to satisfy those still lining up to pay for their books. The fair will last another nine days.

Pathfinder representatives have already been interviewed by national television, CNN, *Kayhan Hava*, and the *Fair Newsletter*. The *Islamic Republic*, a Tehran daily, ran a story based on an interview with Mahmoud Sayrafiezadeh, one of Pathfinder's representatives.

"For the second consecutive year, Pathfinder press of America, based in New York, is having an exhibition of political and revolutionary books in booth #215, Hall #6, under the directorship of Mahmoud Sayrafiezadeh," the article said.

"According to Mr. Sayrafiezadeh, this year, this company has presented books which mainly consist of speeches by revolutionaries, such as Nelson Mandela, Ernesto Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and other freedom fighters..."

"Mr. Sayrafiezadeh has referred to Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III, which discusses the false policies of American imperialism under the New World Order, as one of the best sellers in his booth. *Nelson Mandela Speaks* is another best selling title in the fair, he mentioned."

Sayrafiezadeh also appeared on national television.

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