

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Iowa authorities deny
parole for Mark Curtis

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 58/NO. 38 OCTOBER 31, 1994

U.S. troops pour into the Persian Gulf

BY SARA LOBMAN

As tens of thousands of U.S. troops headed for the Persian Gulf to join the thousands already there, the United Nations Security Council approved a resolution October 15 demanding that the government of Iraq remove some of its military forces from the southern part of the country.

The resolution condemned the recent deployment of 70,000 Iraqi troops to the southern part of the country, near the Kuwaiti border; demanded the soldiers be withdrawn to their earlier positions and that no additional troops be sent south in the future; ordered Baghdad not to use its army or "any other forces" to threaten neighboring countries; and instructed the Iraqi government to cooperate with the United Nations commission that has been permanently monitoring its weapons.

"We recognize this area as vital to U.S. national interests," Madeleine Albright, Washington's representative to the United Nations, declared the day after the Security Council vote. Albright emphasized that the U.S. government would act "multilaterally when we can and unilaterally when we must," to protect these interests.

The U.S. military buildup continued despite the fact that Baghdad began pulling its troops back October 11, just days after they had been deployed. By then there were some 19,000 U.S. soldiers in the area, including more than 7,000 in Kuwait. Defense Secretary William Perry said at least 5,000 more Marines and army troops would be sent to Kuwait in the coming weeks. Hundreds of U.S. warplanes armed with antitank missiles, laser-guided bombs,

Continued on Page 12

5,000 workers join Illinois march against union busting

BY PETER THIERJUNG

DECATUR, Illinois — Shouts of "Solidarity! Solidarity! Solidarity!" and "We are union!" reverberated through the streets here October 15 as more than 5,000 unionists and their supporters marched to protest union-busting drives by three major employers in this town.

The protest was called by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 751 on strike against Caterpillar, United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 713 on strike against the Bridgestone/Firestone tire company, and United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837 whose members have been locked out for 16 months by A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. The three locals together represent more than 3,000 workers. "People who are looking for solidarity are finding each other," said East Peoria, Illinois, UAW Local 914 member Jim Peacock. "Decatur represents something new and important, three unions that are sticking together and drawing people in from other unions."

Union members, many also engaged in battles to defend their unions, arrived from across central Illinois and from as far away as California, Florida, Montana, and Oklahoma.

Continued on Page 10

70,000 march in L.A. for immigrant rights

BY OSBORNE HART
AND HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Seventy thousand people marched through the streets here October 16 to protest Proposition 187, an anti-immigrant measure on the November ballot. The large turnout — it was the biggest such action in years — dealt a blow to the ongoing campaign by capitalist politicians and rightist forces in California to intimidate immigrant workers.

The legislative proposal would deny the right to public education, health care, and social services to undocumented workers and their children.

The great majority of the marchers were Latino, primarily Mexicans, Chicanos, and Central Americans. Large numbers of young people participated — high schoolers, college students, and elementary school pupils.

For the first time in recent immigrant rights actions, there was a significant number of unionists marching. Also noticeable was a greater participation from the area's Asian communities.

The march began in East Los Angeles. Adjacent to downtown Los Angeles, East Los Angeles includes the area's oldest and largest Chicano and Mexican immigrant community. The protesters marched down César Chávez Boulevard to the rally site at City Hall.

At its peak, the march stretched over the entire three-mile route. The crowd jammed the wide two-block area in front of City Hall Park and overflowed into two adjoining streets and the park itself.

The largest group of union members and supporters was from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). Officials estimated more than



Militant/Osborne Hart

October 16 march in Los Angeles dealt a blow to campaign by capitalist politicians and rightist forces to intimidate and scapegoat immigrant workers.

600 workers and their families participated in the ILGWU contingent. As in the garment industry itself, the ILGWU membership is mostly immigrant workers. Union officials and members worked actively for months to build the turnout, both in organized and in nonunion shops.

There were several locals of the Service Employees International Union, with the most participants coming from the building

service local that sparked the Justice for Janitors campaign.

The Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 11 was well represented. Hotel and food workers now organizing at the Los Angeles International Airport participated.

Laborers International Union Local 300 had a contingent of several hundred. Smaller groupings from locals of the

Continued on Page 14

U.S. troops reinstall Aristide in Haiti Washington presses its political, economic plans on new gov't

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 military coup, returned to Haiti on October 15. With 20,000 U.S. troops occupying the country, Haiti's president flew back aboard a U.S. government jet, accompanied by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and other U.S. politicians.

Aristide spoke to an ecstatic crowd of tens of thousands from behind a thick plate of bulletproof glass at the National Palace, heavily guarded by U.S. troops. He repeatedly urged Haitian working people not to take reprisals against the police or the paramilitary thugs, known as *attachés*, who killed some 3,000 people and terrorized the country for the past three years of military rule. "No to violence, no to vengeance, yes to reconciliation," he declared in French, English, and Creole.

Thousands of Haitians celebrated Aristide's return in New York and Miami. New York's Haitian community is estimated at 100,000 people.

The Clinton administration has pressed Aristide to appoint Washington's choices for several top government posts and to carry out U.S.-drafted plans for privatization and other economic measures.

The U.S. government and Haiti's ruling

class want Aristide to select someone who is "capable of attracting international investment and keeping wages low," as the *Washington Post* put it. In particular, the U.S. State Department has pressed the Haitian president to keep businessman Robert Malval as interim prime minister. Malval reportedly has declined to remain at this post. At his first news conference October 19, Aristide pledged, "We should have some key ministers coming from the wealthy."

Reportedly, part of Aristide's deal with the Clinton administration was a promise not to seek reelection in February 1996.

Washington's plans

According to internal documents of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), reported on in the October 25 issue of the *New York Village Voice*, the Clinton administration has prepared plans for Haiti which include postponing the parliamentary elections scheduled for December until 1995, thus allowing U.S. occupation forces to consolidate a more stable regime. USAID plans to spend \$20 million on the parliamentary and presidential elections.

The U.S. plan calls for spending \$216 million on Haiti during the coming year.

Continued on Page 12

Build the National March on Washington

End the U.S. economic
blockade of Cuba!

Normalize relations
Now

U.S. Out of Haiti and
Guantánamo!

Saturday, November 12

11 a.m. Gather at Malcolm X Park
(16th and Euclid streets, NW)

12:30 p.m. March to White House

2:30 p.m. Rally at Lafayette Park

For more information, contact:
November 12 Cuba Coalition at
(202)544-9355 in Washington or (212)
620-0072 in New York City.

Rightist parties gain in Belgium

Ultrarightist parties running on anti-immigrant platforms made big electoral gains in four of the five largest cities of Belgium in early October. In Flemish-speaking Antwerp, the chauvinist Flemish Bloc won 28 percent of the vote, making it the city's leading political party.

In the capital city of Brussels, the French-speaking National Front gained a foothold in the city's 19 districts. In the cities of Liège and Charleroi, in the French-speaking region of Wallonia, the National Front and another rightist outfit, Move, made similar advances.

German union demands raise

IG Metall, the German machinists' union, which represents almost 4 million workers, has demanded a 6 percent pay raise for next year. Klaus Zwickel, a top union official, said that given Germany's current economic recovery and the productivity increases that followed mass layoffs over the past two years, the employers could not justify their refusal to raise wages. Zwickel condemned the bosses' attempt to renegotiate a 35-hour workweek won by IG Metall after a seven-week strike in 1984. The employers' federation, with the agreement of union officials, insists on reducing work hours without a corresponding wage increase.

Beijing boosting its exports

China's expanding electronics and machinery industries are planning to increase exports to \$30 billion by 1995. Capitalists from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea are investing heavily in these industries, which are concentrated in China's coastal provinces. Electrolux, a Swedish maker of household products, plans to invest \$100 million in China over three years.

China currently has one of the world's fastest-growing gross national products. Industrial production jumped 22 percent in September from last year. This was an increase of \$16 billion. In the first nine months of this year production rose to \$133 billion — a 17 percent increase.

Tokyo bank bailed out

As Japan's banking system falls deeper into crisis, Mitsubishi Bank announced



Some 3 million workers marched in 80 demonstrations in cities across Italy October 14 during a half-day general strike. They were protesting cuts in pensions and health benefits by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government.

October 12 that it was spending at least \$2 billion to rescue Nippon Trust Bank, which was plagued by bad real estate loans. The Mitsubishi Bank has invested \$1 billion to bail out two other collapsing financial institutions. Japan's 11 largest banks' total loan balance declined in September for the ninth consecutive month, a sign that the deflationary pressures on the country's real estate prices have not relented.

Israeli troops storm hideout

An Israeli soldier kidnapped by the Hamas Palestinian group was killed October 14 when Israeli troops stormed the abductors' hideout in a village near Jerusalem. Three Hamas members along with another Israeli soldier were killed in the assault. The kidnappers had demanded freedom for Hamas's jailed founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and 200 other Palestinian prisoners.

The Israeli government, with Washington's backing, broke off talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

following the kidnapping. Tel Aviv charged PLO chairman Yasir Arafat with responsibility for the soldier's life, falsely asserting he was held hostage in the Gaza Strip. In reaction to this pressure, Palestinian police raided houses in Gaza on October 13, arresting 200 Hamas members.

Mass arrests in Pakistan

Businesses closed and women blocked railroad tracks October 11 during a general strike led by opponents of the Pakistani government. Nawaz Sharif, former prime minister, who last year lost a close election to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said the strike was called to force elections. The regime arrested 12,000 supporters of the opposition, including 30 legislators, according to an aide of Sharif.

Coal miners strike in Chile

Some 400 coal miners in Chile have occupied the Schwager mine, 340 miles south of capital city of Santiago, demanding compensation for 700 miners who will be laid off. The protest came after two accidents in the mine where 24 workers were killed. Workers who remained outside said the company has cut off the phone lines of the protesting workers, who are two thirds of a mile underground.

FMLN continues to splinter

The former guerrilla organization Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador continues to shatter. The Communist Party urged on October 7 that the Peoples Revitalizing Expression (ERP) leave the FMLN and start its own political organization. In turn, ERP leader Ana Guadalupe Martínez suggested the FMLN should simply dissolve.

The crisis deepened September 28,

when a group of army veterans occupied Congress demanding compensation from the government. ERP leader Joaquín Villalobos accused another FMLN member organization, the People's Liberation Forces, of manipulating the veterans.

Court bars Colorado antigay law

The Colorado Supreme Court voted 6 to 1 against the state's antigay amendment. Colorado's Amendment 2, passed in November 1992, would have struck down ordinances that prohibited discrimination against gay men and lesbians. The state said it will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear the case, it will be the first time an antigay measure would be reviewed at that level. Oregon, Idaho, and Alachua County, Florida, have antigay rights measures on the ballot for the November elections. Earlier this year a federal judge ruled that a similar law was unconstitutional in Cincinnati.

Teamsters sue Disney hotel over discrimination

In a class-action lawsuit filed October 12, the Teamsters union charged a Walt Disney World hotel in Orlando, Florida, with discriminatory policies against Haitian and Hispanic housekeeping and laundry workers.

The complaint filed in Federal court said the Dolphin hotel recruited workers who speak no English, but issued English-only job manuals, safety warnings, and work orders.

The hotel's director of public relations acknowledged that safety warnings that manufacturers post on hazardous products were in English only.

The hotel was earlier embroiled in a bitter union organizing campaign. Management only printed anti-union literature in Spanish and Creole. The suit states that workers were harassed for speaking their native language. The workers voted to bring in the Teamsters last year, but Dolphin is challenging the vote.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Support the Caterpillar strikers

For more than three years United Auto Workers members have been fighting against a union-busting assault by Caterpillar. The stakes in this battle are high for the labor movement. 'Militant' correspondents, active participants in this fight, are on the scene every week, covering major developments and reporting the strikers' point of view. Don't miss a single issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks
RENEWAL

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____
CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A15 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,300 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 58/No. 38
Closing news date: October 20, 1994
Editor: GEORGE FYSON
Managing Editor: ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE
Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Martin Koppel, Sara Lobman, Paul Mailhot, Greg Rosenberg, Pat Smith, Maurice Williams. Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.
The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant Internet email: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org
Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.
Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class

(airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.
Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Explosive political crisis wracks Algeria

BY GREG ROSENBERG

The government of Algeria, seriously discredited by an economic and social crisis, is desperately attempting to repair its legitimacy and prevent the exploding political conflict in that country from descending into open civil war. The crisis in the oil-rich nation of 26 million, the most populous in North Africa, has prompted concern in big-business circles in Paris and Washington.

The conflict unfolding today began in January 1992, when the Algerian government, led by the long-dominant National Liberation Front (FLN), annulled the outcome of the previous month's election. The apparent victor at the polls had been the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), a rival bourgeois party, which lambastes the current regime for the corruption, violence, worsening economy, and social disintegration in the country. The FIS calls for establishing a so-called Islamic state.

Following the government's dumping of election results and a campaign of brutal repression launched against its political opponents, FIS supporters took up arms against the regime. Despite an intense military campaign and fierce repression, the army has failed to crush the opposition.

The Algerian government of President Liamine Zeroual admits that at least 10,000 people have been killed in the conflict over the past two and a half years. London's *Financial Times* puts the number of dead at 28,000 — two-thirds of those in the past year. Government authority has virtually crumbled in some parts of the country where the opposition functions. Hundreds of schools, factories, and plantations have been shut down or destroyed.

The FLN regime has been in power since 1965. It arose out of the overthrow of the Algerian workers and peasants government, which sprung up after a powerful revolution that defeated French colonial rule. The workers and farmers government, headed by Ahmed Ben Bella of the National Liberation Front, was in power from 1963 to 1965, until the FLN's right wing prevailed in a military coup.

Regime tries to polish tarnished image

In mid-September, in an attempt to reverse its flagging fortunes and polish its tarnished image, the government moved two FIS leaders from prison to house arrest. Sixty-three-year old Abassi Madani and his deputy, 29-year-old Ali Belhadj, were released after serving three years of a 12-year prison sentence for their opposition to the government. The regime had begun previously secret negotiations with jailed FIS leaders, although bourgeois commentators fretted that these figures do not command the allegiance of some armed groups.

Gen. Zeroual also ordered the release of three other members of the FIS leadership. The move followed a letter from Madani suggesting that the FIS might consider a truce. Madani also demanded an immediate end to the state of emergency, an end to the army's pursuit of armed groups, and a referendum on the establishment of "an Islamic state." A government statement said the move to the less restrictive house arrest of Madani and Belhadj was taken to convince their supporters to stop their armed attacks.

FIS spokesperson Rabah Kebir said it was "a positive step but not a sufficient one. All FIS leaders must be set free."

The government has carried out massive arrests, jailings, torture, and murders in its campaign against the opposition. "The security forces carry out killings and extrajudicial executions daily and in total impunity," said an Amnesty International report released in March.

Amnesty added that "armed Islamist opposition groups continue to kill civilians targeting a growing sector of the civilian population. The armed opposition groups have primarily targeted government officials, police, and soldiers. Some target non-Algerians and civilian opponents for assassination."

"Every time a policeman is killed here the death squads strike," said a baker in the city of Kouba. "It has become a pattern. We all try to lie low."

On October 12, five car bombs rocked Algiers, the capital city, and a South Korean businessman was shot to death. The vice president of the charity group Orientation and Reform was also gunned down



Antigovernment march of thousands in Algiers in 1990. Discredited by economic crisis, regime has unleashed repression in its conflict with rival Islamic Salvation Front.

outside his home. The government blamed the Islamic Armed Group (GIA). Government troops shot dead GIA leader Cherif Gousmi September 27. The GIA has claimed responsibility for killing most of the 63 non-Algerians assassinated in the past year.

Conditions for working people

There is widespread hatred of the Algerian regime among working people. This discontent has grown since January, when the government announced an austerity program at the behest of the International Monetary Fund. Algeria has a \$26 billion debt to imperialist banks. In 1993, the government spent 83 percent of its export earnings just to cover the interest payments. This year, payments on the debt will absorb all its foreign income earnings.

There is 30 percent inflation accompanied by food and housing shortages. Un-

employment is at least 25 percent, and among youth reaches 75 percent. Living standards for the majority have declined for the past five years. As part of the austerity drive, the government devalued the currency, the dinar, by almost half.

Widespread protests among the Berber population broke out in September. The Berbers, a non-Arab people, constitute more than one-third of Algeria's population. On September 22, Berbers held a one-day strike against the Zeroual regime and demanded restoration of democratic rights. In early October, following the kidnappings of two popular Berber singers and political activists, more than 100,000 joined a demonstration demanding their release and expanded language rights. The Islamic Armed Group was suspected of the kidnapping.

The capitalist rulers are having their doubts about whether the military cam-

paign against their opponents will succeed. "It is too early to say this is the beginning of the end," was the most confident comment one former cabinet minister could muster. He asked to remain anonymous.

The French government, the former colonial power, is heavily backing the Zeroual regime. French foreign minister Alain Juppé says the opposition movement is "extremist, terrorist, anti-European and anti-Western." He said if the FIS took power "the consequences would be incalculable."

Among Paris's worries is that the conflict in Algeria will find an echo in politics in France. An estimated 1 million Algerians live in France — more if undocumented immigrants are taken into account. About 9 percent of France's population of 56 million is of North African origin.

Paris has raised the specter of so-called Islamic terrorism as justification for its crackdown on the rights of immigrants of Arab and African origin living in France.

In addition, Algeria is a large oil and gas producer. Its share of the European gas market ranks third, with 19 percent of the total, after the former Soviet bloc and the Netherlands.

Washington is concerned that rising instability throughout the Maghreb imperils imperialist domination of the region.

In September 28 testimony before the U.S. Congress, Robert Pelletreau, secretary of state for Eastern Affairs, outlined the Clinton administration's position. "Beyond the far-reaching consequences for Algeria itself, further radical Islamist gains there could embolden extremists in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco — key U.S. allies in the region."

"Instability in Algeria could provoke an influx of refugees into France and elsewhere in Western Europe," he said. "The goal of U.S. policy toward Algeria is to avoid such developments."

Worried that the regime will fall, Washington has pressed Algeria's rulers to coopt sections of the FIS into the government and clean up its public image. Paris has so far backed more closely the government repression against the FIS.

Washington dumps trade guarantees for Caribbean and Central America

BY GREG ROSENBERG

A recent move by Washington that deals an economic blow to Caribbean and Central American nations shows that, despite the Clinton administration's rhetoric, the much-touted North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have little to do with free trade.

In early October, the U.S. government announced it was reversing a trade agreement with governments in Central America and the Caribbean. The accord, known as the Interim Trade Program (ITP), was supposed to guarantee those countries parity with Mexico in exporting to the United States and Canada.

Garment and textile exporters from the region, who share about 14 percent of the U.S. market, say they will be hard hit. Several hundred thousand workers are employed in the industry. José Orive, trade negotiator for the government of Guatemala, called the decision "a bucket of cold water." He said some businesses were already beginning to relocate to Mexico.

Other Central American officials said they felt betrayed after all the talk of "Pan-American solidarity" the U.S. government has used to build the December summit in Miami. That meeting will involve all governments in the hemisphere except Cuba, which has been excluded in a further attempt by Washington to isolate the revolutionary government.

In May, U.S. vice president Al Gore announced the ITP would be attached to "fast-track" legislation on GATT, following months of lobbying by exporters from Central America and the Caribbean.

The administration abruptly dumped the agreement when it ran into opposition to a speedy vote on GATT in Congress. The House of Representatives put off consideration of the trade pact until November 29.

NAFTA, approved by the U.S. Congress last November, is aimed at deepening the penetration of Mexico by U.S. capital and at establishing a trade bloc against Washington's rivals in Europe and Asia. Most Mexican capitalists have also strongly backed NAFTA, partly because it gives them an edge over their regional rivals in access to U.S. markets.

With customs duties eased for some goods produced in Mexico destined for export to Canada and the United States, capitalists in Central America and the Caribbean are having a rough time competing. Without parity with exporters based in Mexico, these businesses must pay tariffs of between 17 percent and 21 percent. Tex-

tile tariffs Mexican firms must pay for U.S. or Canadian export are being reduced to zero in 1997.

Earlier this year, Washington excluded garments and textiles from its Caribbean Basin Initiative. The 24 governments which participate in the 10-year-old agreement with Washington are allowed to ship some products duty free to the United States. However, textile and garments were excluded after some U.S. apparel and textile capitalists demanded protection from the competition.

In the first quarter of 1994, garment exports from Mexico grew by 39.2 percent, compared to only 9.9 percent for Caribbean exporters.

Now get the 'Militant' on Peacenet

For the first time — with this issue — articles from the *Militant* are available via computer. This week readers can pick up six major articles on the *Militant's* new Peacenet conference: all four front-page stories — on the 5,000-strong labor solidarity rally in Decatur, Illinois; the immigrant rights march in Los Angeles; and on U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf and Haiti — as well as the two editorials.

In another week or two, we plan to make virtually the entire issue available in this way. Many readers don't get the paper for up to a week after it goes to press Thursday night. It will be available electronically by Friday morning.

Readers will need a Peacenet account, for the time being, to get the *Militant* via computer. Peacenet, which is a part of the Institute for Global Communications, has affiliates in many countries. In the United States it can be reached at (415) 442-0220. The *Militant's* confer-

ence name is: militant.news. We are also working on making the paper available on the Internet in the near future.

Here's how to get articles from the *Militant* conference (Type *enter* after each step): First dial into Peacenet or its affiliate and type your account name and password. Pick "c" for conference. At "conf?" type g militant.news

The screen will ask "conf?" again. Type "i" for index. Type the number identifying the article you want to read. To print the article type "c" for capture at the "conf?" prompt. Type "d" for download and "t" for topic. Then pick your modem protocol. (At the *Militant* we use z-modem.)

Pick a file name. To read or print another article, type its number. If you don't remember it, you can always type "i" for index. To exit Peacenet, type "q" for quit and then type "bye." The articles will be in the directory where you saved them.

Supporters raise goals for the Pathfinder Fund

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Nearly \$12,000 came in for the Pathfinder Fund this week, as the pace of collecting on pledges is picking up in many cities. To be on schedule local areas should be at 69 percent or better.

With only four weeks remaining to collect on pledges and get new contributions, participants in many areas are building Pathfinder Fund rallies, which will feature presentations about the books published by Pathfinder. These volumes include the writings and speeches of the central leaders of the revolutionary and working-class movement from 1848 to today.

Supporters of the fund in New Zealand are in the forefront of the drive to go over the international goal of \$125,000 by November 15. Early Pathfinder Fund rallies in three cities, followed by detailed weekly attention to reaching out and collecting on pledges, has put every area in New Zealand way ahead of schedule. Sweden is also now at the top of the chart.

A successful Pathfinder Fund event took place in Washington, D.C., October 15. Greg Rosenberg, a *Militant* staff writer who recently returned from a reporting trip to South Africa, spoke on political developments there. He highlighted the broad range of Pathfinder titles that address the challenge of building communist parties worldwide, and the importance of these books for advancing the democratic revolution unfolding in South Africa. Some \$700 was collected toward the fund and another \$200 in new pledges were made.

"We are reaching out to those who recognize the importance of keeping Pathfinder books available to those seeking a better road for the future of humanity than the war, racism, and economic depression offered by the failed system we currently live under," explains a letter written by Derek Bracey, director of the Pathfinder Fund in Atlanta. The appeal, under the headline "Help Produce the Books the Workers of the World Need Now!" is being sent to a large group of potential contributors to the Pathfinder Fund.

Bracey reports "we are raising our pledge to \$5,200 and expect to be able to raise again next week." Another \$850 came in by Federal Express from Atlanta, bringing their total up to \$2,920 and moving

ing them up on the scoreboard. Pathfinder supporters in Philadelphia decided to raise their goal by \$1,500 and now have one of the highest local targets at \$8,000. Fund organizers in Salt Lake City, Utah, have also raised their goal. Their new target of \$5,700, and the others listed above, will be included in next week's chart.

In the next several weeks Pathfinder Fund events are planned in Birmingham, Alabama; Salt Lake City; New York; Philadelphia; Miami; Seattle; San Francisco; St. Paul, Minnesota; Des Moines, Iowa; Greensboro, North Carolina; Los Angeles, and several other cities. These events are crucial to successfully organize to complete the drive by November 15 and go over the top of the \$125,000 goal.

A Pathfinder Fund event in Seattle on November 5 will feature Mary-Alice Waters, author of the introduction to the new Pathfinder book, *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. Joining Waters on the speakers platform will be Fred Dube, a professor at Evergreen State College and longtime member of the African National Congress; Sara Goodacre from Vancouver, British Columbia, who recently participated in a brigade to Cuba; and Michelle Jacobsen a teacher in Seattle and activist in the movement in defense of Cuba.

Che's 'Bolivian Diary' off the press

Readers of Pathfinder books have been eagerly awaiting the new English-language edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. And now it is hot off the press.

Guevara's account of the 1966-67 guerrilla struggle in Bolivia is a day-to-day chronicle, by one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution, of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of contending for power.

This newly translated edition of *The Bolivian Diary* includes material published in English for the first time. It also contains a host of attractive and detailed maps that help the reader follow the Bolivian campaign.

Publishing this new edition of the *Bolivian Diary* required months of translation and editorial work. As well as significant resources to assemble the material to com-

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Total Paid	Percent
\$125,000			
Australia	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
Britain	\$1,500.00		12%
London		\$70.00	
Manchester		\$0.00	
Sheffield		\$105.00	
Canada			
Vancouver	\$500.00	\$182.00	36%
Montreal		\$120.00	
Toronto	\$2,000.00	\$137.00	7%
France		\$275.00	
Greece	\$100.00	\$0.00	
New Zealand	\$2,500.00		88%
Wellington	\$100.00	\$119.00	119%
Auckland	\$1,850.00	\$1,657.00	90%
Christchurch	\$550.00	\$417.00	76%
Puerto Rico	\$75.00	\$75.00	100%
Sweden	\$710.00	\$660.00	93%
United States			
Albuquerque	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Denver	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Philadelphia	\$6,500.00	\$4,950.00	76%
Brooklyn	\$8,000.00	\$6,030.00	75%
Salt Lake City	\$5,000.00	\$3,370.00	67%
Cincinnati	\$150.00	\$100.00	67%
Portland	\$150.00	\$100.00	67%
Atlanta	\$5,000.00	\$2,920.00	58%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500.00	\$3,096.00	56%
Birmingham	\$2,800.00	\$1,500.00	54%
Des Moines	\$3,000.00	\$1,540.00	51%
Detroit	\$5,000.00	\$2,545.00	51%
Newark	\$6,500.00	\$3,005.00	46%
San Francisco	\$10,000.00	\$4,410.00	44%
Twin Cities	\$7,500.00	\$3,130.00	42%
St. Louis	\$3,300.00	\$1,260.00	38%
Miami	\$2,900.00	\$1,076.00	37%
Los Angeles	\$8,500.00	\$3,020.00	36%
Seattle	\$5,000.00	\$1,665.00	33%
Chicago	\$7,400.00	\$2,415.00	33%
Greensboro	\$2,200.00	\$550.00	25%
Cleveland	\$3,500.00	\$680.00	19%
Boston	\$5,000.00	\$930.00	19%
Washington, DC	\$3,000.00	\$526.00	18%
New York	\$7,500.00	\$1,265.00	17%
Houston	\$3,250.00	\$460.00	14%
Morgantown	\$2,175.00	\$25.00	1%
Edinboro	\$625.00	\$0.00	0%
Peoria	\$750.00	\$0.00	0%
Other		\$14.00	
TOTAL	\$125,000.00	\$54,598.00	44%

Enclosed is \$_____ I pledge ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

Zip_____

Country_____

Send contributions to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014

plete the book. Only generous contributions by supporters of Pathfinder's publishing program make the *Bolivian Diary* and other important books put out by Pathfinder possible.

To make a contribution to the Pathfinder Fund fill out the coupon and send it in with your check. To find out about upcoming Pathfinder Fund events in your city contact the Pathfinder bookstore listed on page 12.

Build November 12 march against Cuba embargo

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Efforts to build the November 12 demonstration here calling on the U.S. government to "End the U.S. Economic Blockade of Cuba" got a big boost as activists in dozens of cities began distributing new leaflets and posters, and organizing events to encourage participation in the protest action.

Teams of volunteers from this and surrounding areas posted up hundreds of posters for the national march. The blue, red, yellow, and white posters and leaflets list many of the nearly 100 sponsoring organizations and state the demands of the protest action: End the U.S. Economic Blockade, End the Travel Ban, Normalize

Relations Now, and U.S. Out of Guantánamo and Haiti.

Volunteers at the Washington office of the November 12 Cuba Coalition are focusing their efforts on building the event here by seeking press interviews and public service announcements, arranging presentations to student organizations, speaking before church congregations, and leafleting in busy community areas. They also report that calls are coming in from people who want to help build the event.

To raise funds the coalition will hold a Halloween party. On October 25, the coalition will host a meeting for Ben Dupuy, editor of the Haitian newspaper, *Haiti Progrès*, and a former ambassador of the Aris-

tide government. Dupey will speak at the Washington Peace Center on the U.S. invasion of Haiti and threats against Cuba.

Marchers will gather Saturday, November 12, at Malcolm X Park in Northwest Washington, D.C., at 12 noon, march to the White House and rally in Lafayette Park at 2:30 p.m. The march will include vehicles carrying food and medical supplies to Cuba as part of the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan, which will converge there from routes across the country.

March builders in Philadelphia report that three buses have been chartered for the November 12 march. As part of getting out the truth about the Cuban revolution and U.S. policy towards that country, activists

there have scheduled a city-wide meeting at Temple University on October 26 to be addressed by a representative of the Cuban Interests Section.

In Miami, the local Cuba solidarity group has already chartered a bus and organized a house party to raise travel funds. New York supporters of the march chartered 10 buses and are getting posters up around the city. Weekly meetings are being held at Casa de Las Américas at 104 W. 14th Street in Manhattan.

For information on the march, to become a sponsor, or to order leaflets and posters contact the Washington office at (202) 544-9355 or the New York office at (212) 620-0072. Volunteers are needed.



Opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba protest September 6 in Salt Lake City

New England organizations host conference on Cuban revolution

BY KAREN RAY

BOSTON — Organizations that promote solidarity with Cuba from throughout New England are hosting a conference on the Cuban revolution at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The October 22 conference is cosponsored by the MIT newspaper the *Thistle*, which recently ran a front page story publicizing the event.

The one-day conference opens with a panel discussion on the "Cuban Revolution and 35 Years of Continuing Hostility." The event will feature Miguel Núñez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.; Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and editor of *Areito* magazine; Lucius Walker, a leader of Pastors for Peace; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the newly released

Pathfinder edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara* and the editor of the *New Internationalist* magazine.

The panel will be followed by a series of workshops: on the history of Cuba's internationalist foreign policy, the fight for Cuban independence and the July 26 movement that led the 1959 revolution, the impact of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, and political work among Cuban-Americans.

Organizers of the conference have built the event on campuses, at demonstrations against the U.S. occupation of Haiti, and other political events. This has helped publicize the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., which will protest the U.S. policy against Cuba. Bus tickets for the demonstration have been sold and will be available at the conference.

Campaign sets plan for final push

BY GREG ROSENBERG

As we go to press, participants in the international sales campaign for the working-class press have three and a half weeks to sell 1,722 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 420 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 915 copies of *New International* magazine. With a battle plan in each area and strong organization all the goals can be met.

Sales campaign organizers in two areas — Houston and Minneapolis/St. Paul — have set the pace by raising their goals for *Militant* subscriptions.

The *Militant* has announced a special target sales period to help get the campaign on schedule. The special effort begins Saturday, October 29 and runs through Tuesday, November 8. This time span dovetails with the final efforts of campaigners for the socialist alternative in this year's elections to get out the word about the Socialist Workers candidates.

Workers and young people participating in two major demonstrations this past week gave the socialist publications a warm reception. In Decatur, Illinois, where 5,000 union members and their supporters marched in solidarity with three labor battles, Frank Forrester reports that "we sold 140 single issues of the *Militant* and 14 subscriptions. The *Militant* is seen as a paper that accurately covers battles and developments in the labor movement."

At the Los Angeles march for immigrants rights, eight subscrip-



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Fighting workers and their supporters at Decatur, Illinois, labor rally were interested in working-class struggles and ideas covered in the *Militant*.

tions to the Spanish language socialist monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold, along with eight *Militant* subscriptions.

Miami distributors sold 20 copies of *New International* and the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale* last week. Seventeen *Nouvelles* were snapped up at a celebration of 10,000 in the Little Haiti section of the city, where people were celebrating the return of Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Port-au-Prince.

Seth Galinsky reports that 1,000 copies of a Socialist Workers campaign statement calling for U.S. troops to get out of Haiti were distributed. The statement explained that the U.S. occupation does not advance the struggle of the Haitian people. This brought a diverse reaction from many in the crowd.

One older Haitian told a campaign supporter, "No, you are wrong. God bless America for bringing back Aristide." Some took the statement but were unwilling to discuss the U.S. role on the island. Some participants liked the material. "You are right," said one young Haitian. "I know you are right."

This week's scoreboard does not include figures from all of the sales reported above, as some subscriptions arrived too late to get on the chart. Several distributors are shipping materials overnight to arrive on Wednesday mornings, but they must arrive at the *Militant* business office no later than Tuesday at noon, New York time, to get included.

Along with subscription cards and checks, we encourage salespeople to send brief notes from successful sales, including comments and questions from people who decide to pick up the working-class publications.

way to build support for the march. The book contains speeches by two central leaders of the Cuban revolution, Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. The campaign has been extended until November 12 with a new goal of selling 600 books to complement the protest action.

Jon Hillson, who works at the Canadian Pacific railroad and is a member of the United Transportation Union in Minnesota, reports some good experiences using this campaign to counter Washington's lies about Cuba's socialist revolution. Hillson said, "I've sold three books, two with the special offer of a subscription to the *Militant*. The books were sold at two recent meetings to people relatively new to Cuba solidarity activity."

Hillson continued, "The common selling points were the absence of honest, factual information about Cuba in the big-business media and the *Militant*'s unique coverage. Then I explained how they could learn more about the reasons behind Washington's hatred of the Cuban revolution from the consistent stance taken at the United Nations by Guevara, Castro, and more recently, [Cuban foreign minister] Roberto Robaina, in refusing to use 'socialism as a bargaining chip' for favors from imperialism."

Floyd Fowler, an activist in Atlanta, reports, "We met our goal of selling 20 copies of *To Speak the Truth*. We reached our target by selling two books — along with

introductory *Militant* subscriptions to students at the University of Georgia in Athens. Last week they both attended a campus meeting for Jose Ponce, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section. We will begin a class series with them and others on the campus next week."

Fowler added, "We discussed politics for several hours with two Puerto Rican students who were central organizers of the Cuban leader's meeting at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Both of them bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and the monthly Spanish magazine, *Perspectiva Mundial*. *To Speak the Truth* was a 'bonus' they could not resist." Across the country, participants in the campaign are finding young people in high schools and college campuses who want to study this book.

Beverly Bernardo a garment worker and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Vancouver, British Columbia, writes, "We sold 14 copies of *To Speak the Truth*, way over our goal of 10. And we just had our third session in a series of classes on the book, which involved four young people. One of the youth, Sarah Goodacre, will be speaking at a Pathfinder Fund rally in Seattle November 5."

Participants in the campaign are finding continuing interest in the book as Washington deepens its war moves. So far 468 copies of *To Speak the Truth* have been sold.

WHERE WE STAND end of week six

SOLD 49 %

SHOULD BE 60%

	Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New International	
	sold	goal	sold	goal	sold	goal
Belgium	2	2 100%	0	2	0	1
France	4	4 100%	2	5	12	20
Greece	7	11 64%	0	1	3	6
Sweden	25	40 63%	12	20	11	15
Australia	21	35 60%	0	8	5	18
Canada						
Vancouver	48	75 64%	4	10	8	20
Toronto	46	90 51%	2	17	14	40
Montreal	35	80 44%	8	25	20	45
Canada total	129	245 53%	14	52	26	105
New Zealand						
Wellington	9	10 90%	0	0	1	4
Christchurch	18	35 51%	1	1	4	8
Auckland	35	75 47%	4	5	4	30
NZ total	62	120 52%	5	6	9	42
Puerto Rico*	1	2 50%	7	10	4	6
United States						
Portland, OR	4	2 200%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH	10	10 100%	0	5	0	4
Denver, CO	5	5 100%	1	3	0	2
Albany, NY	8	10 80%	1	1	1	3
Houston*	52	70 74%	7	12	13	16
Seattle	52	80 65%	8	12	7	23
Hartford, CT	3	5 60%	0	1	0	4
New Haven, CT	6	10 60%	1	2	3	8
Boston	64	115 56%	20	36	25	52
Salt Lake City, UT	61	110 55%	4	16	19	35
Des Moines, IA	47	85 55%	11	36	4	35
Twin Cities, MN*	74	135 55%	5	17	10	35
Washington, D.C.	43	85 51%	20	30	12	35
Edinboro, PA	3	6 50%	0	1	1	3
Detroit, MI	50	100 50%	4	11	7	27
Philadelphia	57	115 50%	9	30	9	47
Greensboro, NC	32	65 49%	3	4	3	15
Pittsburgh	51	105 49%	5	12	6	26
St. Louis	38	80 48%	1	6	4	22
Atlanta	49	105 47%	5	15	6	25
Albuquerque, NM	3	7 43%	0	2	0	2
Birmingham, AL	32	75 43%	1	5	1	15
Los Angeles	96	230 42%	40	101	21	105
Cleveland	39	95 41%	7	16	0	20
Peoria, IL	12	30 40%	0	2	2	10
Brooklyn	44	110 40%	17	36	34	65
San Francisco	59	150 39%	11	42	14	70
Miami	47	120 39%	24	55	36	70
Morgantown, WV	19	55 35%	0	1	0	17
New York	50	145 34%	12	40	5	70
Chicago	48	145 33%	11	32	2	50
Newark, NJ	36	140 26%	11	35	10	50
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2 0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	1194	2602 46%	239	619	256	965
Britain						
London	35	70 50%	1	3	5	37
Manchester	17	50 34%	0	3	2	20
Sheffield	14	40 35%	0	1	0	14
Britain total	66	160 41%	1	7	7	71
Iceland	5	13 38%	0	1	2	4
TOTAL	1578	3234 49%	280	731	335	1253
SHOULD BE	1980	3300 60%	420	700	750	1,250
IN THE UNIONS						
AUSTRALIA						
FPU	2	3 67%	0	1	1	2
AWU	1	3 33%	0	0	0	1
BRITAIN						
TGWU	2	7 29%	0	0	0	0
RMT	4	22 18%	0	0	0	0
AEEU	0	6 0%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2 0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	6	37 16%	0	0	0	0
CANADA						
CAW	10	12 83%	1	0	1	1
USWA	5	9 56%	0	1	0	3
IAM	7	18 39%	1	1	0	1
ACTWU	1	2 50%	0	3	0	7
CEP	1	5 20%	0	1	0	3
Canada total	24	46 52%	2	1	1	3
NEW ZEALAND						
UFBGWU	2	5 40%	0	0	0	1
MWU	1	4 25%	0	0	0	1
EU	1	6 17%	0	1	0	1
N.Z. Total	4	15 27%	0	1	0	3
SWEDEN						
Food workers	1	3 33%	0	0	0	2
Metal workers	0	2 0%	0	0	0	2
Sweden Total	1	5 20%	0	0	0	4
UNITED STATES						
UFCW	12	15 80%	10	17	0	5
UTU	54	85 64%	1	10	0	25
OCAW	20	46 43%	2	6	0	15
UAW	58	135 43%	2	15	0	30
IAM	29	80 36%	2	3	1	14
USWA	22	87 25%	1	3	1	19
ILGWU	5	20 25%	11	20	2	15
ACTWU	7	25 28%	6	11	0	14
UMWA	5					
U.S. Total	167	493 34%	35	85	4	137

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-Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of 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.

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	12
Birmingham	15	10
Boston	20	14
Brooklyn	40	34
Chicago	30	9
Cleveland	20	9
Des Moines	20	18
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	13
Houston	17	16
Los Angeles	40	26
Miami	25	19
Morgantown	10	10
New York	50	36
Newark	30	18
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia	22	9
Pittsburgh	20	26
Salt Lake City	20	9
San Francisco	30	33
Seattle	25	25
St. Louis	12	6
Twin Cities	25	14
Washington D.C.	20	17
France	2	1
Auckland	10	11
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland	2	2
Sydney	10	6
Montreal	10	5
Vancouver	10	11
Total	601	412
Unions	Goal	Sold
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	9
ILGWU	10	2
OCAW	24	3
UAW	35	5
UFCW	6	2
USWA	20	6
UTU	35	23

Iowa board denies Mark Curtis parole as protests pour in

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Your case was reviewed by the Board of Parole on 10/05/1994 and its decision was to deny parole/work release," read a notice delivered to imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis from the Iowa Board of Parole. "The Board does not feel that a parole at this point in time would be in the best interest of society."

Meanwhile, on October 18 Curtis completed a 30-day term in "the hole," the disciplinary detention unit of the Iowa State Penitentiary. He was put there after being convicted September 12 in a prison trial on trumped up charges of assaulting a fellow inmate. Curtis is now sentenced to serve an additional year in lockup, confined to his cell 23 hours a day and restricted to two phone calls a month.

Curtis was given the maximum sentence allowable under prison regulations, even though the hearing officer found that the evidence against him was "not the best." The investigation against him was conducted under the cloud of a prison report — repudiated at the beginning of the trial — claiming that he had confessed. The prison guard on duty where Curtis was charged with hitting another inmate never reported hearing or seeing anything.

The only evidence presented against Curtis was a statement from a prison investigator claiming to quote a nurse and a statement from a "confidential informant" that Curtis was not allowed to see. Curtis was not allowed to confront these witnesses or to consult with or be represented by his attorney. His feet were chained and his hands shackled behind his back for the entire hearing.

Victimized while preparing parole fight

At the time of the latest victimization, Curtis was collaborating with the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, to prepare a campaign urging the parole board to release him.

Curtis was framed up and beaten by Des Moines cops in 1988 while participating in a public fight to win freedom for 17 coworkers at the Monfort packinghouse

who had been seized in an immigration raid on the plant. He was arrested and convicted on false charges of sexual assault and burglary.

Curtis has been in state prison for more than six years. He is an excellent candidate for freedom on parole. His work and behavior evaluations have been excellent, he has no prior criminal record, and has widespread community support. Last year he served out his conviction on the sexual assault charge.

This year Curtis was not given a chance to appear before the parole board. Prison authorities did not even meet with him to prepare a "parole plan," in which inmates indicate the arrangements they have made if they are released, a step required each year for review by the parole board.

"Supporters of political activist Mark Curtis have swamped the Iowa State Penitentiary with about 500 letters protesting his recent assignment to a prison lock-up unit for allegedly punching another inmate," began an article in the October 11 Des Moines Register entitled "Activist's backers denounce treatment."

"As they did when he was arrested and convicted, Curtis' supporters have reacted angrily," the article adds. "[Prison spokesman Ron] Welder said the prison has been inundated with letters sent via fax machine and regular mail from people who argue that Curtis is being wronged. Letters have arrived from as far away as South Africa."

Backers demand reversal of conviction

Curtis appealed his prison conviction to the state Department of Corrections. Chandler Halford has until October 31 to rule on the appeal.

The word about Curtis's campaign for justice continues to spread. The September-October *Spirit of Crazy Horse*, newsletter of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, printed a supportive article on Curtis entitled "Union and Political Activist Sentenced to 30 Days in the 'Hole' and a Year in Prison Lock-Up."

A group of unionists set up a table with literature on Curtis's case at the October



Militant/John Sarge

Workers at October 15 labor rally in Decatur, Illinois, introduced fellow unionists to campaign to win justice for Mark Curtis against victimization by prison authorities.

15 rally in Decatur, Illinois, in solidarity with workers at Caterpillar, Firestone, and A.E. Staley. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed and 20 workers signed up on the mailing list to send letters in support of Curtis's appeal. A number of workers locked out by Staley said that they were already familiar with Curtis's fight from a video on his case that was shown at their union meeting.

More letters are needed

Letters demanding justice for Curtis were sent, among others, by Annick Coupé, general secretary of the Federation of Postal and Telephone Workers of the Democratic and Unitary Union, in Paris, France; Robert Verdier, president of the International Commission of the League for the Rights of Man in France; Jackie Vaughn III, associate president of the Michigan State Senate and chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission; Daniel McCarthy, president, United Auto Workers Local 417 in Troy, Michigan; and Dr. John Walton Cotman, assistant professor, Department of Political Science at Howard University.

The defense committee is asking that letters urging the reversal of Curtis's conviction and sentence be sent to Sally Chandler Halford, Director, Iowa Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, fax number (515) 281-7345. Copies of messages,

as well as financial contributions, should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, or faxed to (515) 243-9869.

BY HARRY RING

Los Angeles — Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee held a successful event here September 25. Some 75 people attended a Sunday afternoon meeting and barbeque at the home of Nick and Charlene Castle. A Hollywood director, Nick Castle produced the video, *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*.

Those at the gathering contributed more than \$5,000 for the defense campaign.

Tyrone Gauthier, chairperson of the civil rights committee of United Steelworkers of America Local 8065 in Fontana, California, made a declaration of support for the fight to win Curtis's release. He and his local have been consistent supporters of Curtis since 1988.

Gauthier said, "I'm a civil rights activist, and I'm an organizer. That's why I got into the Mark Curtis defense. I've been with this struggle since 1988 when I came up here to a 'Jobs with Justice' march."

"From all our union members, I bring to you their support. We'll be sending in whatever help we can. Whenever you need us, call on us," he added.

There was also a statement of support from Don White, a leading Central America-Caribbean solidarity activist.

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

Decatur union rally 'educates on class society'

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 475-6482.

BY DAMON TINNON

DECATUR, Illinois — Young Socialists from around the country rallied and marched here with thousands of trade unionists and youth in solidarity with striking workers at A.E. Staley, Bridgestone/Firestone, and Caterpillar. YS members organized to come from as far as Los Angeles and New York to solidarize with the October 15 rally and to link up with other youth looking to do the same.

The event began with representatives from other unions donating funds and giving words of support from their locals. A busload of workers from Flint, Michigan, received rousing applause. The workers, members of the United Auto Workers union, had just won a three-day strike against General Motors' back-breaking speedup and overtime. The company was forced to hire hundreds more workers. During the rally young people bought and wore union T-shirts and wore poster boards printed by the unions organizing the march.

One young activist from St. Louis explained why he attended the rally. "My dad has been a machinist for more than 20 years and has been getting the same treatment that the Caterpillar workers are get-

ting now." He further explained that "wherever workers are getting a raw deal, it's totally necessary that they get support from workers and young people alike."

Young Socialists from New York visited the picket lines at Firestone and Caterpillar before the rally. A retired worker picketing the Caterpillar plant told them, "It looks like they're asking for a class war out here — between those who have everything and those who don't."

Some students drove eight hours or more to Decatur to show their solidarity. Ellen Scheitzer from the University of Michigan came with two other classmates.

"This rally teaches you about class society," Scheitzer said. "I think youth should see this before they make an investment on who's side they're on." She explained that she had just returned from Cuba and that the trip had increased her consciousness of class society. Young Socialists encouraged her and other marchers to participate in the November 12 action in Washington, D.C., protesting Washington's trade embargo and travel ban on Cuba.

As the rally began to march towards Staley, then down to Firestone and Caterpillar it became difficult to differentiate the workers from their supporters.

One student from the University of St. Louis said, "I'm proud to wear this [union] shirt. These workers have some real guts."

As the march began, it was difficult to see the beginning or end of it. Slogans like "We are union," "Union in, scabs out," and "Solidarity" were led by spirited unionists and youth throughout the march.

Commenting on the size of the march,

new YS member Nissa Rothman of Minneapolis said, "This is really great. I never imagined so many people would be here. I want to come to more things like this." She explained that this was the first demonstration she had ever attended.

Floyd Taylor, a young rail worker and member of the United Transportation Union from Richmond, California, was also at his first labor rally. "This is the most exciting thing I've ever been to," he said. "It's things like this that make a difference, and I intend to be a part of it."

As a layer of marchers began to sit in the street in an act of civil disobedience, a few sought to break the unity of the action. They attempted to organize workers and themselves to march to the gates of Caterpillar with no stated purpose, screaming at workers to accept their demands for this. Young Socialists were among the workers who stepped in to argue against this action, which would have opened the demonstration up to victimization by the cops. Police helicopters hovered above all day.

This minority sensed defeat and continued to shout at workers for not understanding their struggle as they made a timely exit. This opened up more discussion with workers and youth there about what to do to strengthen the strike.

All out to build Cuba demonstration

Young Socialists were able to build the November 12 march on Washington, D.C., against U.S. government policy toward Cuba among participants at the Decatur labor rally.

This is a cue for all Young Socialists and

other defenders of the Cuban revolution to follow. The rally will be an opportunity to draw new layers of workers and youth into speaking out against Washington's attempts to strangle the Cuban revolution and show solidarity with the millions of toilers in Cuba who are defending their sovereignty and the socialist road they have chosen. For the next month, the rallying cry of the Young Socialists will be "All out for November 12!"

Damon Tinnon is a member of the United Steelworkers of America and the Young Socialists in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A note to all Young Socialists

Please send in your articles to the Young Socialists office in New York. We are looking for reports from political activities the YS is involved in and articles on important issues of the day. Be sure to get quotes from participants in activities you are writing about, and send in pictures too.

Since the *Militant* goes to print on Thursdays, all contributions to the column must be received on the previous Saturday to give us enough time to edit and get back with the writer if there are any questions. Articles can be sent by electronic mail to 73323.1177@compuserve.com, or faxed to 212-388-1659.

Capitalists debate Quebec sovereignty

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Judging by the sound and the fury generated by the capitalist politicians and media over a projected referendum on Quebec's future relation to the Canadian state, its outcome would appear to be of crucial importance for working people.

The newly elected Parti Québécois (PQ) government proposes to hold the referendum next year to establish what it calls a "sovereign" Quebec in this predominantly French-speaking province. It argues that this is essential both to defend the French language and culture and to defend "Quebec's national interests" in face of the worst economic crisis since the 1930s.

The dominant, federalist wing of the ruling class led by the government in Ottawa is waging a massive "national unity" campaign to convince working people to unite with it against the PQ's efforts to "destroy Canada." They claim that a strong and centralized federal government is essential for resolving the economic crisis and combating unemployment levels which have remained above 10 percent for much of the past decade.

Debate spurred by economic crisis

In fact, "the economic depression has nothing to do with how power is shared between the governments in Ottawa and Quebec," explained Michel Prairie, one of three Communist League candidates in the September 12 Quebec elections. It is the product of the worldwide crisis of the capitalist system driven by falling profit rates and intensified competition between the world's wealthy rulers, he said.

Through their fight over the powers of the federal government in Ottawa and the provincial government in Quebec, the capitalist politicians on both sides of the debate are simply trying to place themselves in the best position to defend their profits against their competitors in Canada and internationally. They use demagogic arguments combined with either Canadian or Quebec nationalist rhetoric to try to convince working people that it is in our inter-



1989 rally in Montreal for rights of Quebecois. Only working class has an interest in fighting oppression of Quebecois and other working people. Quebec capitalists try to use workers pro-independence sentiments to bolster their own position.

Militant/Jim Upton

ests to support one wing of the ruling rich against the other.

"On the one side," Prairie explained, "the federal government, supported by the majority wing of this country's wealthy rulers, argues that all 'Canadians' need to unite together to defend 'our' country."

"This argument is a total political fraud," said Prairie, who is also the editor of *Nouvelle Internationale*, a Marxist political magazine. "Workers and exploited farmers have nothing in common with the billionaire rulers of this country, who oppress and exploit us. It goes completely against our interests to defend the Canadian capitalist state, which defends the

bosses' profit system at the expense of working people in Canada and around the world."

Ottawa has backed every single imperialist military intervention over the past several years, from Iraq to Yugoslavia, Somalia and Haiti. On the domestic battlefield, Ottawa announced its intention October 5 to implement a new round of major cuts in unemployment insurance and education spending, with other cuts to come in health care and pensions.

Similarly, in Quebec, the PQ and its ally the Bloc Québécois argue that working people should join with the capitalists who are Quebecois to establish a supposedly

sovereign Quebec. The Bloc Québécois functions in the federal Parliament; the PQ within Quebec's National Assembly.

"The truth is, however, that neither the PQ nor the Bloc Québécois put forward any proposals to combat national oppression," Prairie explained. "They never even mention its existence. They speak instead of promoting French language and culture against 'the English', against immigrants, and against Native people."

"Their aim is not to fight for the rights of working people, whatever their nationality; but to promote the interests of the tiny layer of Quebecois capitalists and wealthy middle-class layers that they represent while at the same time pitting workers of one nationality against another."

Apart from their disagreement on the relative powers of the governments in Ottawa and Quebec they share the same basic program: capitalist austerity, sharp cutbacks, and attacks on the rights of working people.

Quebec capitalists divided

Quebec's capitalists are divided over whether an independent or autonomous Quebec would be better for business than a centralized federal state. The *Globe and Mail* points out that most of the biggest companies, especially those with major sales and investments across Canada and internationally, "have reaped enormous profits from the current system" and support even "greater economic and political integration of the Canadian federal state."

The Quebec Chamber of Commerce, which represents many smaller, Quebec-based companies, argues that the interests of these smaller companies would be better served by a strong government in Quebec rather than in Ottawa. This is the perspective behind the PQ's proposal to establish a "sovereign" Quebec.

PQ leaders have never concretely explained what it means by sovereignty. However they have made it clear they are talking about something that falls far short of an independent country. The PQ proposes to rely on the existing Canadian army rather than form a new one and to continue to utilize the Canadian dollar, and other national financial institutions, like the Bank of Canada.

However its "sovereignty" proposal ends up being defined, it has nothing to do with fighting for the national rights of Quebecois. Communist League leader Prairie argues that Quebecois capitalists have no interest in waging this fight. Not only do they not face the oppression to which most working people are subjected — lower incomes, worse housing, education and health care — they profit from it just like other capitalists.

"Working people do have an interest in supporting the demand for more powers for Quebec in order to fight against the oppression of Quebecois and other working people," he stated.

"This is the only class that can lead a fight for the democratic rights of Quebecois and all other layers of the oppressed and exploited. That means opposing Ottawa's chauvinist campaign against Quebec and demanding that Quebecois be allowed to freely decide whether or not to remain within Canada," he argued.

"This democratic perspective is essential for forging the working-class unity needed to defeat the rulers' cutbacks and attacks on our rights."

U.S. government takes initial steps to implement Cuba immigration accord

BY LAURA GARZA

The U.S. government has taken a few steps to begin implementing the accord on immigration matters signed September 9 with Cuba. Under the agreement Washington will grant 20,000 visas a year to Cubans wanting to emigrate to the United States.

Meanwhile, Havana notified Washington that it captured a group of seven armed terrorists from the United States who landed in Cuba and fatally shot a fisherman October 15.

The U.S. government signed the immigration accord in an effort to stop the uncontrolled flow of Cubans leaving by raft to the United States in August and September. On August 20, the Clinton administration, reversing a long-standing policy of granting asylum to all Cubans who reached the United States, ordered the detention of "rafters" at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The Cuban government pointed out that Washington's policy of refusing to grant more than a few thousand residence visas each year, while granting automatic asylum to those who entered with no visa, encouraged people to risk the dangerous ocean crossing. In reaching the accord, Cuba dealt a blow to the U.S. propaganda war against the Cuban revolution.

Visa lottery

U.S. officials announced October 12 they would hold a lottery to pick 5,000-6,000 people who could receive visas without having to qualify as political refugees or relatives of U.S. residents. Spouses and minor children of those who win the visas will also be granted entry. The U.S. government broadened its definition of "refugee" as well, to double the number of such visas it would grant to 6,000. The remaining visas will presumably be granted to those with relatives in the United States.

Frustration and protests are growing

among the 31,000 Cubans being detained in tent camps at Guantánamo and in Panama. Detainees report there is little medical attention, and an unrelenting stench from the overflowing portable toilets, which the army claims they cannot empty regularly enough because of lack of trucks. Lice, skin disease, and pink eye are widespread in the camps.

One diabetic told the *Miami Herald* he requires two insulin injections every day, at regular intervals. Others join him in the daily wait for rides to the military clinic. "We line up at 7 a.m., and sometimes it's 2 p.m. and no one has come for us. We get our injections at different hours every day, and most of the time we get only one. How long can we go before we start going blind or dying?" Cubans said the response by U.S. soldiers to their complaints is, "Go tell it to Castro."

In Panama, where some 2,800 Cubans are being held, 96 launched a hunger strike in early October demanding the right to be processed for entry into the United States and the immediate release of women, children, and elderly people.

Recently the U.S. government announced it will allow unaccompanied children, those over 70, and the ill in the detention centers to enter the United States while repeating its stance that the bulk of those being held will not be allowed entry. According to a U.S. official this would affect less than 300 of those currently being held.

Simultaneously, they announced steps to improve nutrition and hygiene in the camps, as well as the promise to soon begin mail and newspaper delivery. This may temporarily ease the tension but the unresolved plight of tens of thousands who remain in the camps is still a potential powder keg. The Cuban government has accepted an initial group of 17 who returned voluntarily. Dozens more escaped from the camps and back to Cuba across the mine

fields surrounding the base, resulting in one death and several injuries. Cuban authorities have widely disseminated information about the dangers of the mined areas. They have also distributed all available information on relatives being held and are collecting cards for detainees, to be given to the Red Cross.

Cuban fisherman killed by terrorist

Cuba's Interior Ministry reported that seven heavily armed Cuban-American terrorists dressed in camouflage landed in a motorboat near the north-central town of Caibarién and shot to death a fisherman, Arcelio Rodríguez, 34, as he and three other fishermen tried to stop them from stealing a car. The attackers were quickly captured.

The ministry condemned this "attempt at armed infiltration from the United States, which occurs in the midst of efforts aimed at the strict implementation of the New York accords."

SPECIAL OFFER

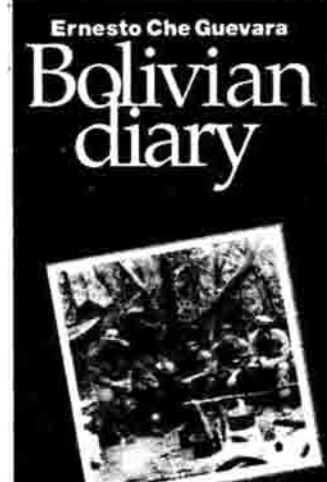
25% OFF FOR MEMBERS OF THE PATHFINDER READERS CLUB OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31, 1994

THE BOLIVIAN DIARY OF ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Guevara's account, newly translated, of the 1966-67 guerilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle by one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of contending for power. New translation includes material published in English for the first time. \$21.95

SPECIAL OFFER \$16.45

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, add \$3 for postage and handling.



CAPITAL

Karl Marx explains that capitalism is a specific stage in the development of class society; how large-scale modern industry draws men, women, and children into the factories and into the industrial reserve army that competes for jobs. And how at the same time this produces the insoluble contradictions that make possible the transformation of society into one ruled for the first time in history by the majority, the producers. Volume 1, Paper \$13.95 (special offer \$9.35)

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains how capitalism arose as a specific stage in the economic development of class society and how it will be superseded through revolutionary action on a world scale by the working class. Booklet \$2.50 (special offer \$1.65)



SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels In their correspondence, "Marx and Engels return again and again to the most diverse aspects of their doctrine, emphasizing and explaining — at times discussing and debating — what is newest (in relation to earlier views), most important, and most difficult." — V.I. Lenin, 1913. Cloth \$19.95 (special offer \$14.75)

SELECTED WORKS

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels A 3-volume set, the most complete selection available. Cloth \$50.00 (special offer \$33.50)

ON COLONIALISM

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels In articles and letters on the fight for freedom in India, China, and Ireland, Marx and Engels explain how "the so-called liberty of English citizens is based on the oppression of the colonies." Cloth \$17.95 (special offer \$10.75)

THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ENGLAND

Frederick Engels Written in 1845, this pioneering work explained how the conditions of life capitalism imposes on the modern working class would drive it to fight for its emancipation. Cloth \$17.95 (special offer \$11.95)

Collected Works of Marx and Engels
43 volumes available,
\$25.00 per volume, \$1075 set (special offer \$16.75 per volume, \$715 per set)

WAGE-LABOR AND CAPITAL

Karl Marx Booklet \$3.00 (special offer \$1.95)

IRELAND AND THE IRISH QUESTION

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels For workers in Britain, Marx and Engels explain, "the national emancipation of Ireland is no question of abstract justice or humanitarian sentiment, but the first condition of their own social emancipation." Cloth \$19.95 (special offer \$13.35)

ANTI-DÜHRING

Frederick Engels Modern socialism is not a doctrine but a working-class movement growing out of the establishment of large-scale capitalist industry and its social consequences. Engels explains why in this defense of materialism and the fundamental ideas of scientific communism. A "handbook for every class-conscious worker" — V.I. Lenin. In Marx and Engels Collected Works vol. 25. Cloth \$25.00 (special offer \$16.75)

Basic tools of communism for today's fighters

33% DISCOUNT

TO MEMBERS OF THE PATHFINDER READERS CLUB

SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31

Pathfinder Press has just added to its stock thousands of volumes of the works of the founders of scientific socialism, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and of the central leader of the Russian revolution, V.I. Lenin. The books, in English and Spanish, are among the last known supplies of this quantity available. All were printed in the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, before the ruling bureaucratic caste there dropped its remaining pretensions to communism. Most have been hard to find for several years. Now for sale alongside the work of other revolutionaries published by Pathfinder — from Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky to James P. Cannon, Farrell Dobbs, Ernesto Che Guevara, and Fidel Castro — these books and pamphlets offer a treasure trove of concentrated politics.

JOIN THE PATHFINDER READERS CLUB
For a \$10 annual fee you can take advantage of special offers like these and get a 15 percent discount on all other Pathfinder titles.

THE PEASANT WAR IN GERMANY

Frederick Engels Cloth \$12.95 (special offer \$8.65)

THE FIRST INDIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1857-59

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Assesses the social and economic roots of the first generalized uprising against British rule in India. Cloth \$10.95 (special offer \$7.35)

ON THE PARIS COMMUNE

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Writings, speeches, and letters on the first revolutionary government of the producers. Charts Marx and Engels's defense of the Commune and their efforts to explain the lessons of its rise and defeat. Cloth \$15.95 (special offer \$10.65)

ON THE UNITED STATES

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Articles assessing the development of U.S. capitalism and the challenges facing the emerging working-class movement. Indispensable for understanding the economic roots and consequences of the Civil War. \$15.95 (special offer \$10.65)



THE WAGES SYSTEM

Frederick Engels Booklet \$2.00 (special offer \$1.35)

SOCIALISM: UTOPIAN AND SCIENTIFIC

Frederick Engels Explains why modern socialism is not primarily a doctrine but a working-class movement growing out of the establishment of modern large-scale industry and its social consequences. Booklet \$3.00 (special offer \$2.00)

Collected Works of V.I. Lenin

47 volumes, \$500 (special offer \$335)
Many individual volumes available, \$15.00 each (special offer \$9.95)

THE ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THE STATE

Frederick Engels, introduction by Evelyn Reed Traces the original forms and institutions of private property, how they arose, and their consequences for women — from then until today. Paper \$16.95 (special offer \$11.35)

ARTICLES ON BRITAIN

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Cloth \$17.95 (special offer \$11.95)

LETTERS ON CAPITAL

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Paper \$15.95 (special offer \$10.65)

KARL MARX: A BIOGRAPHY

P.N. Fedoseyev and others Cloth \$19.95 (special offer \$13.35)

MARX, ENGELS, MARXISM

V.I. Lenin Booklet \$4.00 (special offer \$2.65)

ON THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN

V.I. Lenin Booklet \$4.95 (special offer \$3.35)

ON THE TRADE UNIONS

V.I. Lenin Cloth \$17.95 (special offer \$11.95)

ON YOUTH

V.I. Lenin Cloth \$8.95 (special offer \$5.95)

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

V.I. Lenin Paper \$6.95 (special offer \$4.65)



TITLES IN FRENCH

LE CAPITAL

Karl Marx CAPITAL. 3 vols., Cloth.
Vol. 1 \$21.95 (special offer \$14.75)
Vol. 2 \$21.95 (special offer \$14.75)
Vol. 3 \$21.95 (special offer \$14.75)

MANIFESTE DU PARTI COMMUNISTE

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO Booklet \$5.95 (special offer \$3.95)

TRAVAIL SALARIÉ ET CAPITAL

Karl Marx WAGE LABOR AND CAPITAL. Booklet \$4.00 (special offer \$2.65)

L'ORIGINE DE LA FAMILLE, DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ PRIVÉE ET DE L'ÉTAT

Frederick Engels ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THE STATE. Cloth \$9.95 (special offer \$6.65)

TITLES IN SPANISH

OBRAS ESCOGIDAS

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels SELECTED WORKS (3 volumes) Cloth \$50.00 (special offer \$33.50)

LA GENESIS DEL CAPITAL

Karl Marx GENESIS OF CAPITAL Booklet, \$3.95 (special offer \$2.65)

CORRESPONDENCIA

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE. Cloth \$21.95 (special offer \$14.70)

EL ORIGEN DE LA FAMILIA, LA PROPIEDAD PRIVADA Y EL ESTADO

Frederick Engels ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND THE STATE. Paper, \$9.95 (special offer \$6.65)

EL MANIFIESTO COMUNISTA

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO. Booklet \$5.00 (special offer \$3.35)

CRÍTICA DEL PROGRAMA DE GOTH

Karl Marx CRITIQUE OF THE GOTH PROGRAM. Booklet \$3.00 (special offer \$2.00)

DEL SOCIALISMO UTÓPICO AL SOCIALISMO CIENTÍFICO

Frederick Engels SOCIALISM: UTOPIAN AND SCIENTIFIC. Booklet \$4.00 (special offer \$2.60)

ACERCA DEL COLONIALISMO

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels ON COLONIALISM. Paper \$7.00 (special offer \$4.65)

OBRAS ESCOGIDAS

V.I. Lenin SELECTED WORKS (12 volumes) Cloth \$100.00 (special offer \$66.95)

Special offer

Purchase \$100 or more of these titles and have your Readers Club membership extended for a full year at no charge.

PATHFINDER 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014. TEL. (212) 741-0690. FAX (212) 727-0150.

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL PATHFINDER BOOKSTORE, LISTED ON PAGE 12, OR WRITE, CALL, OR FAX PATHFINDER AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE. VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED (MINIMUM CHARGE, \$30). FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING, PLEASE ADD \$3.00 FOR THE FIRST BOOK AND \$0.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK.

NY socialist candidate: labor must fight to reduce workweek to win jobs for all

BY ABBY TILSNER

ALBANY, New York — Larry Lane, a machinist at the General Electric plant in Schenectady and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New York, participated in the first gubernatorial debate October 14 along with four of the five other contenders.

The debate was televised nationally on C-SPAN, as well as on public television and radio stations. This was the most prominent coverage received since campaign supporters collected 22,000 petition signatures in July and August, putting the socialist candidates on the ballot. Naomi Craine, a leader of the Young Socialists and candidate for U.S. Senate is also on the ballot, as is auto worker Mary Nell Bockman, candidate for lieutenant governor.

The other candidates in the gubernatorial debate were Mario Cuomo, the incumbent Democrat; Bob Schulz, from the Libertarian Party; Bob Walsh, from the Right to Life Party; and Thomas Golisano, from the Independence Fusion Party. Republican George Pataki did not attend.

Buddy Diotte, a teacher here and one of Lane's newer campaign supporters, was one of many who watched the debate on television. His response was that out of all the candidates, Lane "was the only one who addressed the real problems and was pointing toward possible solutions."

The next day, Diotte campaigned against the U.S. war drive against Iraq with Lane and Bockman.

Campaign supporters discussed and debated Washington's military buildup in the Persian Gulf with working people and youth at campaign street tables in New York City as well as Albany. At one table in Manhattan, a passerby, originally from Pakistan, stopped immediately when he saw the *Militant* headline "U.S. hands off Iraq!" After much discussion, he bought a subscription, two issue of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, the book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro*, and *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East*.

The Socialist Workers candidates have

been actively campaigning in defense of the Cuban revolution, including on several radio stations. On one popular morning talk show, senatorial candidate Craine spoke of Cuba as an example for working people, sparking a heated on-air debate with the show's host.



Militant/Barbara Graham
Larry Lane, socialist candidate for New York governor, at campaign rally.

The day following the gubernatorial debate, the local *Times Union* reported that Lane, a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers, "often used his time to criticize the economic and social structure of the nation." The socialist began the debate explaining, "Everything we say can't be separated from the capitalist crisis." The paper quoted Lane stating, "What all my opponents are trying to do is shift the burden onto the working class and working farmers of this state."

"One of the most reprehensible ideas being floated is the workfare program, which forces people to work below the minimum wage," the socialist pointed out during the debate.

Lane pointed to working people as the

solution. He hailed the successful recent strike by auto workers in Flint, Michigan, against General Motors, which forced the company to agree to hire more workers.

"They created more jobs than the New York legislature has in a long time," Lane said of the GM workers. The socialist candidate advocated a fight by the labor movement for full employment by reducing the workweek to 30 hours at 40 hours' pay.

Several of Lane's coworkers at GE brought televisions to work and watched parts of the debate despite a greater than usual presence by the bosses.

Their reactions to the positions expressed by the Socialist Workers candidate ranged from disagreement to enthusiasm punctuated at times with applause. One coworker told Lane, "You painted a broad picture."

1994 Socialist Workers candidates

Office	Candidate	Member of**
ALABAMA		
U.S. Congress: 6th CD	Kay Sedam	USWA
7th CD	George Williams	UAW
CALIFORNIA		
U.S. Senate	Kathryn Crowder	UTU
Governor	Ken Riley	ILGWU, YS
Attorney General	Thabo Ntweng	IAM
Treasurer	Ned Measel	UAW
FLORIDA		
U.S. Senate	Ernest Mailhot	IAM
Governor	Francisco Picado	ACTWU
U.S. Congress: 21st CD	Laura Garza	
17th CD	Maureen Coletta	OCAW
ILLINOIS		
Governor	Catherine Sedwick	USWA
Lt. Governor	Raymond Parsons	UTU
Comptroller	Brian Taylor	YS
Treasurer	Johanna Ryan	USWA
Attorney General	Tom Fiske	USWA
University of Illinois		
Board of Trustees:	Sandra Nelson	OCAW
	Robert Kissinger	CTU
	Robin Kissinger	YS
IOWA		
Governor*	Mike Galati	UFCW
Lt. Governor*	Shirley Peña	UAW
U.S. Congress: 4th CD*	Angela Lariscy	UAW
MICHIGAN		
U.S. Senate	John Sarge	UAW
Governor	Mark Gilsdorf	YS
U.S. Congress: 15th CD*	Cindy Jaquith	
MINNESOTA		
U.S. Senate*	Marea Himelgrin	USWA
Governor*	Jon Hillson	UTU
Lt. Governor*	Leah Finger	UAW
Secretary of State	Damon Tinnon	USWA, YS
MISSOURI		
U.S. Congress: 2nd CD	Richard McBride	USWA
NEW YORK		
U.S. Senate*	Naomi Craine	YS
Governor*	Larry Lane	IUE
Lt. Governor*	Mary Nell Bockman	UAW
Comptroller*	Brock Satter	YS
Attorney General*	Nancy Rosenstock	IAM
U.S. Congress: 8th CD	Ruth Robinett	UTU
12th CD	Eleanor Garcia	
15th CD	Ed Warren	UFCW
NEW JERSEY		
U.S. Senate*	Joanne Kuniansky	UTU
U.S. Congress: 10th CD*	Maurice Williams	
NORTH CAROLINA		
U.S. Congress: 6th CD	Martin Boyers	UAW
12th CD	Susan Skinner	UTU
PENNSYLVANIA		
U.S. Senate	John Cox	UTU
Governor	Deborah Liatos	OCAW
Lt. Governor	Gerardo Sánchez	UFCW
U.S. Congress: 1st CD	Hattie McCutcheon	
14th CD	Edwin Fruit	IAM
UTAH		
U.S. Senate*	Nelson González	USWA
U.S. Congress: 3rd CD*	Barbara Greenway	
State Rep.: Dist. 23*	John Langford	USWA
Dist. 24*	James Gallanos	
State Senate: Dist. 3*	Eileen Koschak	
VIRGINIA		
U.S. Senate	Gregory McCartan	USWA
WASHINGTON		
State Senate	Harvey McArthur	IAM
WASHINGTON, D.C.		
Mayor*	Aaron Ruby	
Council Chair	Sam Manuel	UTU
Council-at-large	Margrethe Siem	UTU
U.S. House of Rep.*	Bradley Downs	IAM

*On the ballot

**ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CTU — Chicago Teachers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; IUE — International Union of Electronic Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union; YS — Young Socialists.

Minnesota socialists condemn Haiti invasion, threats to Cuba

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Two Socialist Workers candidates explained to scores of students at Mankato State University on October 5 why they opposed Washington's military occupation of Haiti and stepped up threats against Cuba.

Speaking at a student-government-sponsored "Soapbox on the Mall," Jon Hillson, socialist candidate for governor, stated, "Washington aims to set up a reliable Haitian client government that serves U.S. business interests, while escalating military pressure on nearby Cuba."

Damon Tinnon, the Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state, urged youth to protest the U.S. government's "hostile actions against revolutionary Cuba" in Washington, D.C., November 12.

The 20-year-old candidate and a leader of the Young Socialists, said, "*Time*, *Newsweek*, and the rest of the media call us generation X and say we have no future, we have no cause, no issues to fight for, but they're wrong. More and more young people are interested in what's happening in the world and want to stand up and fight for what's just."

Young Socialists distributed campaign literature and sold the *Militant* newspaper and other socialist literature. At the peak, 100 students stopped to hear the socialists and other candidates. The campus and local media covered the meeting.

The following day Hillson appeared on the Barbara Carlson show, the most prominent talk show in the area. Among the supporters who went with him to the interview was one of his coworkers from the Soo Line railroad. The workers on the rail line recently returned to work after a 46-day strike. During the interview Hillson blasted Democratic and Republican legislators in Washington "for joining together to keep

Soo Line workers from going back on strike until February 28."

Carlson asked why the socialist candidate was running when he had "no chance of winning." Hillson explained, "Workers need our own voice. We need our own representatives. And the socialist candidates are the only ones speaking to the needs of working people. It's a victory when we can reach more people with our ideas."

In a recent full-page interview in the *Twin Cities Reader*, a local weekly distributed free, Hillson explained why John Marty, the Democratic-Farmer Labor Party candidate for governor, doesn't deserve the support of working people. Marty has been endorsed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

"Marty's main reason for running, he explained in an interview in the *Pioneer Press* several months ago, was to 'restore confidence in government,'" Hillson said. "I want to deepen the lack of confidence in government because it's well-deserved and I want to increase self-confidence among working people that we can govern."

Hillson and Marea Himelgrin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, report that this interview has sparked discussion at work. Himelgrin, who works in a plant producing circuit boards, is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

Supporters of Hillson and Himelgrin have launched a major effort to include the socialist candidates in two televised debates for gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates.

The League of Women Voters in conjunction with WCCO-TV is sponsoring a debate on November 1; and KTCA-TV and the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* are cosponsoring debates on October 21 and 28. The socialists were told they cannot participate unless they get 10 percent support in "independent" opinion polls.

Thousands rally for embattled workers in Decatur, Illinois

Continued from front page

homa. There were members of dozens of industrial and building trades unions on hand. "This was dynamic!" exclaimed Floyd Taylor, a 28-year-old railroad engineer from Richmond, California, participating in his first political protest. "The unity among so many from diverse backgrounds is incredible."

Groups of students from several Mid-west campuses also joined the action. Bacar Mohammed, an international student from the Comoros Islands near Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, said he was inspired to see workers in the United States fighting for their rights and likened it to the struggles of workers in his country. He said international solidarity was needed to strengthen the impact of local struggles.

Bosses' attacks bring strikers together

A 65-car caravan of Caterpillar strikers and supporters from East Peoria made the hour and a half trip south to Decatur. "This rally is remarkable!" beamed Lynn Tolson, a member of UAW Local 914's Families in Solidarity. "These people are builders. The companies' attacks, no matter what they throw at us, have brought us together."

All three Decatur employers decided to shut down their facilities for the day of the protests, which buoyed the spirits of the crowd. "Shutting down production today is a victory for labor," declared Dave Walls, president of UPIU Local 7837.

As police helicopters hovered overhead, marchers began to gather on the grounds outside the UAW union hall. Speakers rallied the growing crowd. Unionists and others brought messages of support. Financial contributions to help strikers were also presented.

A big cheer greeted a speaker from UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan, where some 11,000 workers recently won their demands against General Motors to hire 500 additional workers after a brief strike that crippled the auto giant. Some 50 members of Local 599 arrived by bus and in a car caravan.

Discussions about strikebreakers

The demonstrators marched from the union hall to an overpass leading to the Staley plant. A banner renaming the structure "Workers' Memorial Bridge" was hoisted and dedicated to the memory of Jim Beals, a Staley worker who was killed on the job in 1990. The demonstration then moved on to the Bridgestone/Firestone plant and concluded at an intersection near the Caterpillar facility. Hundreds sat down in the intersection to hear speakers before dispersing for celebrations at union halls.

How to counter employers' attempts to use strikebreakers to bust unions was one of the main topics of discussion among strikers here. Caterpillar and Bridgestone are driving to get production back up with scab labor. Staley is operating with strikebreakers. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article trumpeted Caterpillar's exaggerated claims to have surpassed pre-strike production levels using strikebreakers, UAW

members who have crossed picket lines, and salaried personnel.

Kyle Horner, a UAW Local 914 member, challenged Caterpillar's claims. "Isolated areas may be running at 100 percent," he said, "but production lines on either side of that area are down. In some cases, three or four workers are doing the job done by one before the strike. And the company has reduced production rates." While many agreed that the companies' assertions about production are exaggerated, the large turnout for the October 15 solidarity action showed how serious union members see the stakes involved in the Caterpillar, Bridgestone, and Staley fights. Many unionists pointed to more solidarity actions as the way to beat back the companies' union-busting moves. This sentiment was expressed by many of the rubber workers who came in several contingents from striking locals around the country.

"We came here because we have to stick together," John Johnson URW Local 670 member on strike against the Pirelli tire company in Goddlettsville, Tennessee, said. "The current wave of strikes are a wake up call to all labor."

A group from URW Local 998 on strike at the Bridgestone/Firestone plant in Oklahoma donned olive green camouflage combat fatigues for the rally. "We're not fighting for money, we're fighting for our lives," said member James Reed. "If we can stay out and remain solid, we can win."

Luther Freeman, a member of URW Local 884 at Bridgestone-Firestone in Russellville, Arkansas, where workers continue to work under a "no-strike" clause came to the rally because of the deteriorating con-



Unionists marching October 15 in Decatur, Illinois, in support of Caterpillar and Firestone strikers and locked-out A.E. Staley workers.

ditions at his plant and the need for workers to come to the aid of their fighting brothers and sisters. "These people are fighting our battle," Freeman said of the Decatur-area strikers. "If they beat those people, they beat us."

UMWA members join action

Coal miners also found their way to Decatur. When asked whether coal bosses were making miners work six days a week, Steve Norman, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1969, replied that he worked "five days. You have to use your sixth day for this — solidarity." He described how UAW and UPIU members had extended solidarity during visits to the coal fields during the 1993 coal strike.

Many workers at the rally were encour-

aged by the broad support that had been put together for strikers in Decatur. Some unionists are now planning to take the success of the October 15 march and extend further solidarity efforts for these important labor battles.

"We're beginning to wake up," said Rochel Robert, an assembly worker and member of UAW Local 2000 at Ford in Avon Lake, Ohio. "I'm going to report everything we see hear today. Coworkers have no idea what is happening here."

Peter Thierjung is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland. John Sarge of UAW Local 900 in Wayne, Michigan; Arlene Rubenstein from Peoria, Illinois; and Janet Fisher, of the USWA in Toronto, also contributed to this article.

Auto workers reject Deere's 'final offer'

BY ANGEL LARISCY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union overwhelmingly rejected Deere & Co.'s "final offer" October 16. John Deere is the world's largest producer of agricultural machinery with some 11,000 UAW workers nationwide. It is the largest manufacturing employer in Iowa with 8,100 workers in eight facilities.

Deere is demanding a two-tier wage system for new hires. These workers would start at 70 percent of full pay. The company is not offering any wage increase, instead workers would get lump sum payments of 2 percent of wages in the second and third year of the contract. A more lean "Continuous Improvement Pay Plan" would replace the current incentive pay plan.

Deere sent letters to all employees to sell the company's proposal as a fair deal. The offer "preserves and enhances [the situation] for all current employees," according to the company, while setting a "market competitive schedule of wages and benefits for new employees."

"This is just a nice way of saying they're going to stick it to the new guys," said David Appelhans, a member of UAW Lo-

cal 450 at the Deere plant in Ankeny, just outside of Des Moines. Appelhans noted that it will take new hires seven and a half years to reach the top pay rate.

The UAW reported a heavy turnout for the balloting on the contract with "no" votes making up more than 90 percent of those cast. Union negotiators unanimously recommended that workers reject the company offer. At the same time, union officials are urging UAW members to continue reporting to work. The current three-year agreement expired September 30. When negotiations reached an impasse earlier, Bill Casstevens, secretary-treasurer of the UAW, proposed a one-year extension of the current agreement. Deere flatly rejected the suggestion stating that their final offer was now on the table.

The company is especially pressing for the two-tier wage setup because they are producing at a high rate and need to hire new workers. Appelhans, who was laid off in September 1984, after working at Deere for 11 years, was just called back in August. He reports that 16-hour days are not uncommon.

Looking to cut jobs

The "Continuous Improvement Pay Plan" (CIPP) is being pitched by management as a new form of work relations with employees, encouraging them to use their talent and take initiatives. Workers at the Moline, Illinois, plant, where the plan has been tested, report CIPP is a way to reorganize production and eliminate jobs. The company sets production levels and when a group of workers exceed the set level, or "trip the trigger," the company moves to make the work group smaller.

The company's proposal also aims to chip away at other gains of the union. The plan will take back five cents of the cost of living allowance to offset the costs of benefit improvements and make workers start at the lower pay scale when they change jobs on a bid.

While Deere announced workers would receive a \$5,000 bonus if they ratify the contract, 80 percent of this money was already owed to union members for vacation days they were forced to work and their profit sharing checks.

Appelhans reports that most union members are unsure of what will happen next. Many are wondering if the company will lock them out or if there will be a strike. Deere has yet to say if they will reopen negotiations with the union.

"People know what's going on at Caterpillar," Appelhans said, "and they're glad to see them fighting." At the same time many workers "are worried because what's happening there affects us and if Cat wins that's a big blow."

Deere is expected to post record profits, exceeding \$500 million, this year and is close to making record sales as well.

Angel Lariscy is a member of UAW 270 in Clive, Iowa.

Brian Williams leaves 'Militant' for new assignment

Brian Williams, a *Militant* staff writer since September 1991, is leaving to take on new responsibilities in building the revolutionary workers movement in Washington, D.C.

Before joining the *Militant* staff, Williams, 42, worked in a garment shop in Price, Utah, and was a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. During his years on the staff, Williams carried out a range of editorial and business responsibilities.

Williams traveled to several Caribbean countries in 1992 to cover news developments and a tour of the region by James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. In the past three years, Williams covered a wide array of developments in the class struggle. He wrote extensively on the former Yugoslavia, the democratic revolution in South Africa, the struggle by working people in Haiti for democratic rights, and the U.S. invasion of Somalia, as well as U.S. politics.

Williams contributed to the recent work by the *Militant* staff to take advantage of computerization in upgrading the paper and carried out numerous other responsibilities in the paper's business office.

SPECIAL OFFER

\$20

BOOK AND 12-WEEK SUBSCRIPTION TO THE 'MILITANT'

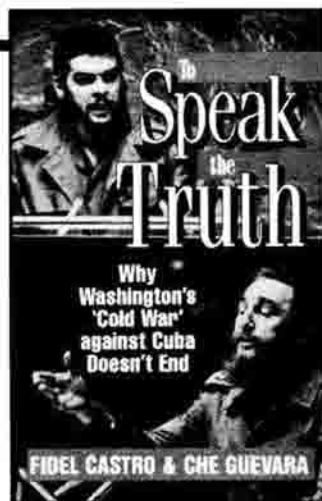
To SPEAK THE TRUTH

Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End

FIDEL CASTRO AND CHE GUEVARA

Why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by the socialist revolution in Cuba and why its effort will fail. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.

\$12 book only (normally \$16.95)



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212)727-0150. If ordering by mail please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.

The fight for jobs and against overtime

BY CINDY JAQUITH

DETROIT — We all had dazed looks in our eyes as we walked into the personnel office. Here we were — 20 unemployed workers — sitting in the offices of Ford Motor Co., hoping to get a job.

We had been plucked out of the line at a Detroit unemployment office and given referrals to get a job at Ford. None of us could believe it was true. We were all nervous, asking each other for help in filling out the application. After we finished the applications, everyone calmed down a bit. Someone opened up the Detroit *Free Press*. The front-page story was on the strike at General Motors' Flint Buick City complex.

AS I SEE IT

"Hey, they're saying the auto companies should hire more people!" said one applicant.

"I know that's right!" responded another. "That's all we want — a chance to do the job."

That was all we wanted. And for once, a United Auto Workers (UAW) union local was standing with us — saying "yes" to more hiring, and "no" to the oppressive overtime we have all come to hate. UAW Local 599 was fighting for more jobs — and a few days later they won. More than 500 jobs were added to the Buick City complex in Flint.

Since I was laid off, I had a chance to join the Local 599 members on their picket line. The company has not hired for 15 years. Most workers are 40 and over and GM wanted to squeeze the max out of these workers before hiring anyone new. The company was demanding 7-day workweeks of 9-to-12-hour days. It had pushed the line speed up to 77 cars an hour and wanted to go to 80.

Union power stopped bosses' squeeze

Union power stopped them. We need that kind of power in Detroit. There has been a frenzied hiring in Detroit-area auto parts plants, in order to create the inventory needed by Ford, Chrysler, and GM.

Lear Seating, which makes seats for GM trucks, is hiring both permanent and temporary workers for 7-day workweeks. Lear is considered a premium employer, paying more than \$13 an hour for permanent workers and \$9 for temporaries.

TRW Steering and Suspension, also a GM supplier, pays new hires only \$7.25 an hour. Everyone is urged to put in 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. Many older workers at TRW are struggling to make the 84-hour workweek. Their pension benefits are so low they feel they cannot afford to do less.

At Hawthorne Metals, a stamping plant, workers are also putting in seven days. As they are at DeStaco, the company that produces industrial clamps. Both companies pay \$7 an hour or less.

Perhaps the ultimate is A.G. Simpson, which makes bumpers. New hires at AGS are required to work seven days a week and pay for their own physical.

Thirty hours' work for 40 hours' pay

All these are UAW-organized shops. And no matter how bad the conditions or low the pay, any unemployed worker here would jump at the chance to work in one of these plants. But the employers are determined to keep their hiring within strict limits by drastically increasing the overtime — condemning tens of thousands to the unemployment lines or temporary or part-time work.

There's never been a better time for labor to fight for a shorter workweek. GM workers in Flint showed this is possible. They stood up for all of us. And they won. If the union movement campaigned for a



UAW members strike GM in Flint, Michigan. The September strike forced company to hire more workers.

30-hour workweek, at 40 hours' pay, we could create millions of new jobs. It would strengthen us in the fight against speedup, job combinations, and the steadily eroding health and safety conditions on the job.

Bosses know this. An article by John Liscio in the October 3 *Barron's* financial paper admitted, "Employing a strict 40-hour workweek in the auto industry, for example, would result in 135,000 more jobs. In fact, 1.5 million new jobs would be created if all U.S. production workers toiled for no more than 42 hours a week (the length of their current — and record — average workweek) with no overtime. And we're not talkin' hamburger-flippers here; these are high-paying jobs."

The fight to shorten the workweek should be linked to demanding the government launch a massive public works program to provide union-scale jobs constructing housing, schools, hospitals, and roads. We must demand affirmative action quotas be enforced in all these jobs programs to guarantee preferential hiring and upgrading of workers who are Black, Latino, and women.

Were labor to wage such a campaign, we could unite workers victimized by overtime and speedup with those workers who are unemployed or forced into temporary and part-time jobs. With such a fighting social movement, unions could win unemployed workers to join their picket lines. This is the working-class answer to the bosses' chauvinist propaganda blaming unemployment in the United States on fellow workers in other countries, like Mexico.

The UAW officialdom is a major voice in echoing this reactionary campaign, which seeks to convince us that jobs are being stolen by Mexican workers rather than by the capitalist companies that exploit us — and lay us off — in this country. Instead, the labor movement should demand cancellation of the huge foreign debt burdening Mexico and other Third World countries, to provide relief for fellow working people squeezed by U.S. and other bankers.

The Flint strikers aimed their fire directly at the real enemy — GM and corporations like it — and set an example for all workers. Their experience deserves thoughtful discussion in the labor movement as a whole.

An aid to that discussion is the pamphlet called *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* by Pathfinder Press. This small booklet outlines the political program put forth by Socialist Workers candidates in the November elections in the United States and socialist candidates in other parts of the world. It elaborates in depth the ideas suggested in this article about the struggle for a shorter workweek. Every fighting unionist should get a copy.

Cindy Jaquith is a laid-off UAW member in Detroit and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 15th District.

Congress, presidential board gang up on rail workers

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA — In a blow to organized labor, Congress approved a measure October 5, signed by President Bill Clinton, forbidding United Transportation Union (UTU) members on the Soo Line railroad from resuming their 46-day strike until Feb. 28, 1995. The rail line is owned by Canadian Pacific (CP).

On October 15, the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB), appointed by Clinton, issued a report recommending the reduction in crew size demanded by the rail bosses. The board said the reduction was "required to meet the carrier's critical need for improved and more flexible operations."

The PEB also approved upgrading workers' pay scales to the level of the national rail settlement imposed by Congress in 1992.

Following Congress's decision, some UTU members here voiced opposition to the action. "It's a pro-company decision," said Rich Vitek, a vice-local chairperson of UTU Local 1882. "That's our slack time, we lose our leverage. The government gave the company just what it wanted."

Clinton orders end to strike

Railroad executives were pleased. "We have not opposed the legislation that is moving through Congress," said John Bergene, a CP spokesperson. Top union officials accepted the government's extension prior to the vote. "Whatever suits Congress," stated Jim Beyer, a UTU general chairperson. "There's really no problem with it from our standpoint."

The CP-Soo Line strike, which began July 14, grew into the longest major rail strike in 16 years. It involved 1,100 UTU members in 11 Midwestern states on the former Soo Line. The carrier, purchased by CP Rail several years ago, is the ninth

largest U.S. railroad. UTU picket lines were honored by an additional 3,000 workers in 16 craft unions.

Clinton, using a statement by UTU officials that the strike "might" be extended to other railroads, invoked provisions of the anti-union Railway Labor Act, directing the strikers to go back to work. Union officials ordered strikers to comply. The edict also began a "cooling off" period of up to 60 days. Clinton then appointed a PEB to come up with new contract recommendations. The extension of the back-to-work order postpones until March 1 the date when the UTU can formally act against PEB recommendations. It also temporarily prohibits the carrier from unilaterally imposing its wage-cutting concessions package.

Company demands endanger workers

CP-Soo UTU members have gone without a pay hike for nearly seven years. The rail bosses' proposal to slash crew size in half to one person would throw workers out of a job, double work, and multiply the likelihood of accidents, injuries, and death on the job.

Just days before the congressional action, UTU members' indignation here was fueled when they learned from a *Wall Street Journal* article that the CP had made a \$1 billion offer for the eastern operations of the Canadian National railroad, "largely in cash." In contract negotiations and a high profile public relations campaign, the CP claimed it was losing money, and was unable to infuse capital into its Soo Line entity. While a series of disputes between Democrats and Republicans blocked agreement on other legislative measures as Congress recessed, politicians of both parties sped the anti-strike legislation through both houses.

"The cooling off period ends November 11," stated Democratic senator Kent Con-

rad, "Obviously, that would put us still in the middle of the hauling of grain." Another Democrat, Senator Paul Simon, stated that it "is clearly essential that we move ahead on this, and I can't think of any reason why anyone would object."

If a strike is eventually called, said UTU member Vitek, "we should take everybody else out with us and not go back until we get something. That's the only way rail labor is going to get back on its feet again."

"I'm totally convinced that this happened because the union and the company wanted it," said UTU member Elmer Verhasselt, expressing the hope that the lengthy stay means "both labor and management are serious about a negotiated settlement. They've both used the Railway Labor Act to their advantage in the past. But I don't like having another four months added to the six and a half years [since the previous contract ended] this whole thing

has dragged out. Nothing's going to be implemented until we can act on it."

On September 23, officials of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) announced an agreement with the CP to submit the potential strike issue of contracting out work to nonunion firms to a federal board for binding arbitration. BMWE members had been preparing for a strike set to begin September 26. The BMWE, like all the other CP unions, begins contract negotiations with the carrier Jan. 1, 1995, coinciding with the expiration of the UTU's national rail contract. BMWE workers gave strong support to UTU picket lines and other activities during the recent UTU strike.

Jon Hillson, a CP switchperson, is a member of UTU Local 1882 and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Minnesota.

from pathfinder

THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS

WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AND THE TRADE UNIONS

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality that will accompany the arrival of the twenty-first century. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. \$19.95
By Jack Barnes

An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis

A PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLE TODAY

How a program to fight for jobs, cancellation of the Third World debt, and for affirmative action is crucial to uniting working people internationally in the face of employer and government attacks that are mounting with the capitalist crisis of the 1990s. \$3.00.

Edited by Doug Jeness

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail please include \$3 for postage and handling



U.S. troops install Aristide

Continued from Page 1
including millions in bribes to military officials not chosen for the reorganized armed forces.

USAID will supervise the financial assistance, which also includes \$32 million for revamping the police force, \$45 million to shore up the Haitian currency and \$25 million to guarantee payments to bankers on the country's foreign debt.

The USAID documents also outline a privatization plan detailing some of the state assets Washington wants the Haitian government to sell off to U.S. investors. The list includes Haiti's main seaport, the telephone company, and the Port-au-Prince airport.

The lifting of the United Nations economic embargo set the stage for the return of many U.S. companies. U.S. capitalists were the major private employers in Haiti up until six months ago, and are anxious for stability to resume their highly profitable operations.

For example, a Vermont manufacturer who sells artisan giftware for high-priced U.S. catalog companies pays Haitian workers \$5 to \$20 dollars a day. The minimum wage is one dollar per day.

Land seizures

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere with a per capita income of \$250 a year. Unemployment is 70 percent and illiteracy more than 50 percent. Thousands of peasants are landless. Recently, working people have carried out a series of land seizures. On October 8 dozens of people laid stakes to a prime, green hillside near the Port-au-Prince airport.

"This is my land now, the people's land," said one man. "I have no house. I have no money. And now this is mine."

"Before, I could get killed for this," said another man referring to the military which brutally defended the landlords and businessmen. Commentators in the international big-business media have expressed concern about expectations among working people that their pressing social needs will now be met under the Aristide government.

U.S. troops refuse to disarm thugs

Most Haitian working people have welcomed the presence of the U.S. troops, who they believe are on their side. But many people are increasingly frustrated by the refusal of U.S. forces to disarm and arrest the paramilitary gunmen, who continue to carry out acts of terror. According to the *New York Times*, Lieut. Gen. Hugh Shelton, U.S. troop commander, defended this policy of nonaction saying that apprehending attachés was beyond the scope of his mission.

In his arrival speech Aristide told the Haitian people, "If you see an attaché with his gun, bring him to the American military, who will give you security."

A Haitian student told the *New York Times*, "We must not kill them because President Aristide told us that, so we drove them" to the nearest U.S. military post. Scores of the thugs were captured and delivered to the U.S. authorities, who promptly turned them over to the police, who for years have worked hand-in-glove with the attachés.

The seizures of the attachés started October 16 following a report that there was a coup attempt against Aristide. The rumor stemmed from a scheduled visit to the National Palace by the interim army commander, Maj. Gen. Jean-Claude Duperval, whose car was searched revealing a pistol and a grenade launcher.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials continue to try to assemble an interim cop apparatus, since the Haitian police force has collapsed as a functioning institution. When U.S. authorities tried to organize Haitian cops in the security arrangements at Aristide's arrival ceremony, the crowd hooted and jeered at them. "Kick them out!" the crowd shouted. "Get them out of the palace."

The specter of Somalia, where the initial popular welcome to U.S. troops soured as their repressive role became more apparent, is beginning to loom in the minds of some U.S. soldiers. "We've got to get out of here soon or its going to be another S-O-M-A-L-I-A," one GI told the Times.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

End the Embargo Against Iraq. Speaker: Karen Ray, former Socialist Workers candidate for Boston City Council. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont Street (corner of Massachusetts Avenue). Donation \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Pathfinder Fund Rally: The Class Struggle Intensifies in South Africa. An Eyewitness

Report. Speaker: James Harris, long-time activist in the United Auto Workers and participant in a recent *Militant* reporting team to South Africa. Sun., Oct. 30, 2 p.m. Brunch and reception 1 p.m. 7414 Woodward Avenue (a block and a half north of East Grand Blvd.) Donation \$10 for brunch and forum, \$5 for forum only. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Celebrate the Publication of 'The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara.' Speaker:

Naomi Craine, business manager of the Militant, and national committee member of the Young Socialists. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$5. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Celebrate the Publication of 'The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara.' Speaker: Michael Taber, part of the team of translators of Guevara's account of the guerrilla struggle in Bolivia. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., NW Donation \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

U.S. pours troops into Persian Gulf

Continued from front page

and other war matériel is already there.

Fully-armed U.S. bomber jets have been making provocative incursions across the Kuwait border into Iraqi territory to swoop down at various targets and "do everything but actually release their bombs and missiles," the *New York Times* reported October 18.

U.S. troops have also been conducting training exercises in the Kuwaiti desert, including along the road that connects Kuwait City to Basra, Iraq. It was along this highway in February 1991 that Washington systematically slaughtered tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers who were attempting to surrender as they fled the Kuwaiti capital.

Washington is using the developments in the Gulf to beef up its troop presence and augment its stockpiles of military equipment for further interventions in the region. Armored vehicles and gear for a brigade of several thousand have been warehoused in Kuwait since the end of the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

The U.S. government hopes to add new stockpiles in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "Prepositioning works," Perry said at a press conference October 16 during a visit to Kuwait. "It is the key to the ability to respond rapidly with ground combat forces."

Diverging interests in Security Council

The unanimous vote for the UN resolution papered over diverging interests among the 15 members of the Security Council. In recent months, Paris, Moscow, and Beijing, three of the five permanent members of the council, have been pushing hard to ease the four-year-old economic embargo against Iraq that was imposed during the Gulf war. A high-level French trade delegation of oil, food, and construction companies returned from Baghdad in August with an estimated \$600 million in contracts that will take effect if the embargo is lifted. The Iraqi oil minister visited Moscow in October to discuss possi-

ble contracts worth \$2.5 billion. The Russian government also hopes to collect some of the \$10 billion debt it is owed by Baghdad.

These differences have surfaced more and more openly. French defense minister Francois Léotard, speaking after a weekly cabinet meeting October 12, accused the Clinton administration of using the situation in the Persian Gulf in a way that "was not unconnected to domestic politics," in an apparent reference to the November elections in the United States.

"There is nothing illegal in the movement of Iraqi forces inside Iraq," Léotard added. "There is nothing that violates United Nations resolutions." Albright responded by telling reporters that Léotard was "ill-informed" and "giving comfort to a brutal dictator."

For its part, Moscow sent its foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, to Iraq and Kuwait to work out a deal whereby Baghdad would accept Kuwait's sovereignty and borders in exchange for a phasing out

of the embargo over a six-month period.

"The Security Council must be ready to take yes for an answer if Iraq really complies with all the demands in all the resolutions," Kozyrev said on his return.

At the United Nations, the Russian delegation argued that the Security Council resolution did not authorize force.

In contrast, U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher said lifting the embargo — which is devastating working people in Iraq — was out of the question. "We don't see any occasion for easing up on the sanctions," Christopher said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Christopher emphasized that the U.S. government reserved the right to invade Iraq in the future. "I think next time we'll probably not wait."

We will take action, strong action" against Iraq. Christopher also stated that he believed it was "quite improbable" that Hussein could comply with the UN resolutions and remain in power.

For further reading

U.S. Hands off the Mideast

Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations

Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcon, Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.



The case against Washington's 1990-91 embargo and war against Iraq, as presented by the Cuban government at the United Nations. \$10.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.

In *New International* no. 7

Opening Guns of World War III Washington's Assault on Iraq

By Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's blockade, bombardment, and invasion of Iraq heralded sharpening conflicts among imperialist powers, more wars, and growing instability of international capitalism. \$12



IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, New International, Nouvelle Internationale, and Nueva Internacional.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. Compuserve: 74642.326. Internet: 74642.326@compuserve.com **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 688-5418.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 803 Peachtree NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018. **Peoria:** P.O. Box 2817, East Peoria. Zip: 61611. Tel: (309) 672-6443.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

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

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Albany: P.O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585 **Brooklyn:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257; **New York:** 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 388-9346; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1802 Belmont Rd. N.W. Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

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

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

AUSTRALIA

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

BRITAIN

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

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

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

CANADA

Montreal: 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

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

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

FRANCE

Paris: 8, allée Berlioz 94800 Villejuif Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21

ICELAND

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

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

SWEDEN

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

Like one another and the folks on Capitol Hill? — "We often have to deal with unsavory characters," shrugged a CIA official responding to the disclosure that Emmanuel Constant, head of Haiti's murderous "attaches" was — and remains — on the CIA payroll.



Harry Ring

Sure, just snip out the Jews — Utah's Brigham Young University canceled a screening of *Schindler's List* when the producer

of the holocaust film vetoed it being edited. Explained a BYU spokesman: "We had assumed that we would be able to edit it, that we would be able to present the heart of it without the starkness, the nudity, or the violence."

Maybe they meant their Colombia aid program — According to columnist Alexander Cockburn, Washington barred a shipment of Colombian chickens to Cuba "Because their diet consisted of American-made chicken feed."

Free market, it brings out the best — In China, a restaurant owner was sentenced to death for killing a waitress by twice pouring boiling water on her for not work-

ing fast enough. The murder was seen as an extreme example of rising brutal abuse of women workers in private and foreign-backed enterprises. An AP report observed that "market reform" has spawned "a greedy and get-rich-at-all-costs mentality."

Could be a good program for cops — Northern California's Contra Costa County is offering three hours of free psychotherapy to anyone who hands in a gun.

The first day, there were no takers. Maybe gun toters had the same thought as the comic who inquired if the therapy doesn't work, do you get your gun back?

Maybe they'll make puffing mandatory — We reported the

finding of Canada's Imperial Tobacco that smoking saves society money by shortening lives and thus trimming retirement benefits and medical costs.

This is now confirmed by the French government, which found that smokers die six years earlier than others and, in 1990, saved the government some \$3.5 billion.

"Fragrant as a pine box" — We were touched by the R.J. Reynolds plan to introduce a new cigarette paper that will assertedly reduce stale smoke and make the coffin nails smell sweeter.

The share-the-wealth system — In Auckland, New Zealand, tugboat workers served strike no-

tice. They were offered a 2 percent wage increase this year and 1.5 percent the next. (In the past four years, they got a total of 2 percent.) Meanwhile, company profits jumped from NZ\$22 million to NZ\$31.5 million. Oh, also the directors have asked stockholders to increase their pay from NZ\$135,000 to NZ\$200,000.

Political gymnastics — "You have the law and public policy and then you have reality. There's a big gap." — Federico Matheu, director of Puerto Rico's General Council of Education, on the finding that despite a law that public school pupils receive at least three hours of gym a week, only 37 percent are actually getting it.

Book explains why Wall Street hates Cuba

To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. 232 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1994. \$16.95

BY MARK CURTIS

It might be in some exclusive country club, or it might be in the basement of the White House. But somewhere there must be a room where the ruling class slips goggles on and drools over their fantasy of a

General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). Guevara and Castro both explain how these institutions and pacts are instruments that the ruling rich use to suck wealth from the labor of peoples in much of the world.

In a speech appropriately labeled "Freedom of competition or 'A free fox among free chickens'?" Guevara explains how foreign investment coming into a Third World country actually ends with even more money being drawn out.

"This penetration [of capital]," he said, "takes various forms: loans granted on onerous terms; investments that place a given country under the power of the investors; almost total technological subordination of the dependent country to the developed country; control of a country's foreign trade by the big monopolies; and in extreme cases, the use of force as an economic power to reinforce the other forms of exploitation."

Words ring true today

Guevara's words ring true today as U.S. troops occupy Haiti to reinforce the forms of exploitation that have made that country one of the world's poorest.

The Cuban people broke out of the grip of U.S. imperialism and the poverty and devastation that came with it by making a socialist revolution. They nationalized industry and the enormous plantations. The new government mobilized the power of the workers and peasants and quickly moved to build schools, put doctors in the fields and mountains, and outlaw racial discrimination.

Just as it did at home, the revolutionary government based its foreign policy on the interests of the working people and oppressed. Right in the middle of what imperialism considers its "home turf" — the United Nations headquarters in New York — Castro and Guevara denounced U.S. interventions in Vietnam, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and elsewhere.

"I speak on behalf of the children of the world who do not even have a piece of bread," Castro said in a speech to the United Nations on behalf of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries in 1979.

Cuba's leadership inspires millions

The Cuban revolutionaries are among the few who have the right to honestly make that audacious claim. Their leadership has inspired millions to break from the past and boldly fight for a future of socialist solidarity. *To Speak the Truth* makes clear that U.S. president Bill Clinton's attempts to strangle Cuba express the real hatred and fear of the millionaire class towards the socialist revolution.

The book concludes with a description of the meeting between Fidel Castro and Malcolm X in 1960. The Cuban delegation to the United Nations received a wild welcome in Harlem, where they stayed, and the two anti-imperialist leaders exchanged views on such common concerns as defense of the Congo.

To Speak the Truth can go a long way to answering the slanders and lies of the U.S. government that are used to justify the provocations and attacks against Cuba. I urge readers of the *Militant* to continue selling this book even after Pathfinder's campaign ends.



Che Guevara at United Nations in 1964. The Cuban revolutionary leader explained that breaking Washington's grip was necessary to advance the interests of the toilers.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 31, 1969

Price 10¢

"A handful of U. S. soldiers took part today in the protest against the war," is the way the *New York Times* reported the reaction of GIs in Vietnam to the Oct. 15 Moratorium. The clearly suggested idea was that the GIs really weren't interested.

That just isn't so, according to *Life* magazine. *Life* assigned reporter Hal Wingo to interview "young draftees and enlisted men who had been in combat recently" throughout South Vietnam about their reaction to "M-Day."

"Many soldiers regard the organized antiwar campaign in the U.S. with open and outspoken sympathy," Wingo reported.

"The protests in the U. S. are not demoralizing the troops in the field."

"Nearly all feel that the Paris peace talks are a fraud."

Wingo also found a sympathetic response among the GIs to Nixon's troop withdrawals. Here are the reactions of some of the GIs quoted in the Oct. 24 *Life* article:

"Outside our families, I think the protesters may be the only ones who really give a damn about what's happening" — Pfc. Chris Yapp, 4th Division civil affairs team member in a Montagnard village.

"I came partly for revenge, but now I have lost all faith. The demonstrators are right to speak up because this war is wrong and it must be stopped." — Pvt. Jim Beck, 19, 101st Division medic, whose brother was killed at Khe Sanh.

THE MILITANT

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

October 28, 1944

LOS ANGELES — On October 11 more than 90 percent of an eligible 11,000 production and maintenance workers of the Douglas Aircraft Plant at Santa Monica, California, voted in an NLRB run-off election between the United Automobile Workers (CIO) and the International Association of Machinists (AFL). The "run-off" was made necessary because a vote taken the week before (October 4) had failed to produce a majority between the IAM which received 36.5 percent of the vote, the UAW which received 38 percent, and no union, 25 percent. Despite an intensive campaign in the week intervening between the two votes, the UAW-CIO failed to win the support of the "non-union" votes and even lost part of its original support to the IAM-AFL.

Thus the great Douglas open shop fortress finally fell after ten years of effort to organize this important plant. This significant fact stands out as the most important aspect of the election. It took three consecutive NLRB elections in 1942, 1943 and 1944 to swing the Douglas plant into the fold of organized labor.

'Not in anyone's orbit'

This nightmare came to an end on Jan. 1, 1959, when working people in Cuba overthrew the U.S.-supported dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

As part of the 35-year fight to defend the socialist revolution in Cuba, Pathfinder Press is completing a campaign to promote *To Speak the Truth*.

"We are not in anyone's orbit — we are out of orbit," Guevara declared to the U N General Assembly in 1964.

As a leader of economic planning, Guevara helped pilot Cuba out of the orbit of U.S. monopolies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the

Workers have no borders

"The working class has no borders," declared a placard carried in the October 16 march in Los Angeles to defend the rights of immigrants. Exactly right. That slogan should be the clarion call of the labor movement today.

The march, 70,000-strong, dealt a blow to the campaign by the employing class and politicians of both capitalist parties to restrict the rights of working people born outside the borders of the United States. In California, one form this campaign takes is Proposition 187, which is up for a vote on November 8. The measure would bar undocumented workers and their children from public schools, hospitals, and social services — a serious attack on basic gains of the working class that must remain universal. Who would be excluded next?

The campaign in favor of Proposition 187 is not peculiar to California. It is part of the efforts by capitalist parties from North America to Europe and Japan to scapegoat immigrant workers for the social crisis caused by the capitalist system itself, which, despite a momentary upturn in the business cycle, is in a protracted economic depression worldwide.

In the United States, the anti-immigrant campaign is completely bipartisan. All Democratic and Republican politicians, as well as reactionary forces such as followers of Ross Perot, are America Firsters. They all tell working people to identify with their "fellow American" bosses against "them," meaning working people who live or were born in other countries. But workers and farmers have exactly the same interests and the same enemy: the tiny class of employers who profit from the labor of the vast majority. As workers, we can only defend ourselves by uniting across frontiers and nationalities.

The common framework of the Democratic and Republican parties — to defend the profits and prerogatives of the employer class — explains why both agree on scapegoating immigrants for the ills of their system. The California measure, initiated by rightist forces, is championed by Republican governor Pete Wilson. Democratic politicians don't disagree with the false premise that immigrant workers must be "controlled." They only quibble over how to do it, proposing to crack down more forcefully at the border and supporting the use of immigration cops to intimidate working people everywhere.

The aim of the anti-immigrant offensive is not to drive all undocumented workers from the United States. It is to establish a pariah layer of the working class — so-called "illegals" — with few or no rights. The bosses want to superexploit the labor of these workers, paying them sub-minimum wages, enforcing inhuman working conditions, and refusing them basic social rights.

The labor-hating outlook of those pushing Proposition 187 was clearly expressed in a letter by Linda Hayes, Proposition 187 media director for southern California, that was printed in the October 15 *New York Times*. "Those who doubt that Mexican illegal aliens steal jobs are not familiar with the Paperhangers' Union during the late 1980's," she wrote, referring to a strike by drywallers

led largely by workers originally from Mexico. "Illegal aliens slowly undercut wages and entered the work force. They seized the union and demanded the wages that were previously received by United States citizens. Those citizens now collect aluminum cans and glass bottles to survive."

The accusation that undocumented workers steal jobs and undercut wages is an attempt to divert workers from the real offender. It's bosses who lay off workers, eliminate jobs, and cut wages in their drive to maximize profits. Workers who have recently gone on strike against employers from General Motors to Canadian Pacific railroad know this from their own experience and have organized to fight these employer attacks. It was the owners of southern California's multibillion dollar home-building industry who cut average wages for drywallers from \$15 an hour to \$5 an hour between 1982 and 1992, and waged an assault that severely weakened the Carpenters' union.

What scares the likes of Linda Hayes is the fact that immigrant workers, as they enter the workforce, are increasingly "seizing" — that is, joining, unions. The example of the drywallers' strike is a good one. In that case, immigrant workers led a fight to organize and build a union in the construction industry. More than 4,000 drywall hangers waged a five-month strike, culminating in a November 1992 victory that won union recognition, a pay scale, and other measures in the face of police violence and government deportations of dozens of strike activists. They set an example of combativity and solidarity for the entire labor movement.

This example underscores the fact that the growing multinational composition of the working class inside U.S. borders strengthens the fight of all working people for better pay, safety on the job, and improved working conditions.

It is in the interests of the labor movement to fight for rights and union-scale pay for all workers today — union or nonunion — because wages under capitalism are set from the bottom up, not the other way around. If the employers can get away with paying some workers the current minimum wage, the pressure on wages for the rest of the class is downward.

Working people born in Latin America, Asia, and other parts of the world who have moved to the United States are fighting the same battle as workers at Caterpillar, A.E. Staley, and Firestone/Bridgestone. Their battle reinforces today's union struggles, and helps combat the attempt by employers and the government to create a rightless, unequal section of the working class.

The substantial union participation in the Los Angeles demonstration was an important step forward. It shows that the organized labor movement can and must join the fight to protect the rights of the entire working class.

The labor movement needs to take a strong stance for the defeat of Proposition 187 and in defense of full rights for immigrants.

Cat strike needs solidarity now

As the strike by nearly 14,000 members of the United Auto Workers against Caterpillar enters its fourth month, the stakes in this battle for the entire working class, farmers, youth, and all fighters for social justice are greater than ever. The outcome of this battle, which is closely linked with strikes by rubber workers and others and the fight against the lockout of hundreds of unionists by A.E. Staley in Illinois, will have an impact on the entire labor movement. The UAW strike remains the most important labor struggle in the United States today.

Caterpillar, the world's largest manufacturer of earth moving equipment, is committed to its goal of breaking or severely weakening the UAW at its plants across the United States.

A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* underscores the company's commitment to this goal. The *Journal* article contends that the strike has had little impact on Caterpillar's ability to produce and that striking workers have failed in their fight for basic human dignity and union rights on the job.

Although Caterpillar's claims — dutifully echoed by the *Wall Street Journal* — are exaggerated, the earth moving equipment giant has been able to restart production at a number of its plants. More importantly, as many strikers recognize, the company over time has the ability to train replacement workers to perform the tasks they once carried out.

While Caterpillar welcomes the propaganda assist it received from the big-business mouthpiece, it is not relying on premature predictions of the union's defeat to win the day. Instead, the company is pursuing serious efforts to resume production at these facilities as one element in its quest to break the unionists' resolve.

The entire labor movement, farmers, youth, and all fighters for social justice have a big stake in helping the Caterpillar strikers prevail in this battle. This strike is part of a series of labor battles across the United States through which workers have already scored significant gains.

One of the most important gains is that a growing number of embattled workers are linking their fights in practice and beginning to see each labor skirmish as part of the class war between those who toil for a living and the wealthy minority of exploiters who live off our sweat. This is graphically demonstrated in Decatur, Illinois, where UAW members, rubber workers, and unionists at Staley have joined picket lines, marches, and rallies to support, learn, and gain strength from each other's fights. The thousands of workers and others from many states who mobilized October 15 for a labor solidarity rally there gave a good example of what the working class needs to emulate in the fight to beat back the attacks by the bosses.

Caterpillar and the U.S. ruling class hope to reverse this trend. A victory for labor on the other hand could add momentum to the strike wave and put wind in the sails of all those resisting attacks on democratic rights, wages, working conditions, and union organization.

The Caterpillar strikers are in a position to win this fight. Morale remains high. The willingness to act in defense of the union continues to grow. Moreover, a small but significant number of union members and others who have crossed the picket lines continue to come back out.

But the new air of optimism about the UAW strike by the enemy's mouthpieces, like the *Wall Street Journal*, should serve as a warning to the labor movement.

What the strikers need is a stepped-up campaign of solidarity. Striking UAW members have gone out to speak to unions, students, and other organizations. Other unionists can help make this strike a cause of the entire labor movement by inviting a striker to speak to their local. Solidarity is needed as well on the picket lines in Peoria, Decatur, Aurora, and Pontiac, Illinois; York, Pennsylvania; and Denver. Rallies like the one in Decatur and joint tours by UAW members, striking rubber workers, Staley Road Warriors, and other fighters can reinforce each of these battles and ultimately play a decisive role in tilting the scales on the side of labor.

70,000 march for immigrant rights

Continued from front page

United Electrical Workers, the Steelworkers, the United Food and Commercial Workers, and the International Association of Machinists also marched.

Members of the Latin American Truckers Association, an independent truck operators group, drove a number of giant flatbed trucks which served as floats for the demonstrators.

Banners identified the Asian Pacific Labor Alliance and the United Hispanic Association of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

There were groups of United Farm Workers members from several agricultural areas in Central California.

Many union teachers carried placards responding to the Proposition 187 provision to bar undocumented pupils from public schools and mandate a check on the status of their parents. Teachers' placards declared: "We're teachers, not Immigration Agents."

Young Koreans United, which had participated in earlier immigrant rights demonstrations, mobilized a good number more people for this one, with other Korean organizations joining in as well. A group of Koreans in traditional garb drew big cheers.

A coalition of Filipino organizations opposing 187 also worked to build the action. Others included Asian Pacific Islanders, and a group of Chinese opposed to 187.

Some neighborhood school groups included pupil, parents, and teachers. All of the major college campuses were represented, with the biggest turnouts coming from the community colleges. Numerous college and high school groups carried banners of the Chicano student group MEChA.

High school students walk out of class

There were high school students from many schools. The Friday before the march, about 1,500 students from high schools and junior high schools in half a dozen communities staged "No on 187" walkouts. At one school, 200 students walked out of classes at 9:00 a.m. and marched for two miles. They waved banners and signs with such slogans as "No to 187," "Viva la Revolución," and "Down with Wilson," referring to Gov. Pete Wilson.

At South Gate High School the principal suspended students for two days for their walkout. In Orange County, officials suspended two students for trying to get hundreds of other pupils to follow them to a rally.

The youthful, militant character of the marchers at the October 16 action was reflected in many of their signs. One group of high schoolers carried a banner that almost stretched across the avenue, and declared "the Nazis would have voted for 187."

Another declared "If your eyes aren't blue and 187 passes, you're suspect."

'We are all illegal'

One sign in Spanish declared: "We are all illegal," Another said, "The working class has no borders."

Backers of the Democratic candidate for governor, Kathleen Brown, distributed placards that said, "No on 187, Yes on Brown." Earlier, in a debate with Republican incumbent Wilson, Brown had asserted that "illegal" immigration was "a huge problem that has to be dealt with," adding that Prop. 187 was not the effective way to do it. She favors a stronger crackdown at the border.

Marchers held aloft the flags of many nations — Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, and Puerto Rico among them.

Juan Jose Gutierrez, spokesperson for the National Coordinating Committee for Self-Defense and Citizen Participation, the principal organizer of the march and rally, gave the main address.

A *Los Angeles Times* report on the demonstration noted polls indicating that a majority of those who will vote favor Proposition 187. On the other hand, the paper observed, most of the marchers were not voters.

The coalition is proceeding on the basis that whatever the outcome of the vote on 187, the immigrant-bashing drive will continue and the fight against it will also continue. Plans are already being discussed for future demonstrations.

BY JIM KENDRICK

FLORIDA CITY, Florida — One hundred farm workers, family members, and supporters rallied here to protest the scapegoating of immigrants, including California's Proposition 187. The action was sponsored by the Farmworker Association of Florida.

Baltazar Castro stated at the rally, "They say the government spends a lot of money on immigrants. But what they don't say is that immigrant workers pay taxes. What does the federal government do with the tax money paid by immigrants?"

Tirso Moreno, president of the Farmworker Association, said the organization was fighting basic problems faced by farm workers such as no guaranteed wages, no unemployment insurance, abysmal working conditions, dangerous pesticides, and high rent in the camp housing.

Maureen Coletta, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, advocated a united fight by workers against anti-immigrant attacks. She also called for an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba and withdrawal of U.S. troops from Haiti and the Persian Gulf.

Colorado meatpackers win union contract

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 other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Meanwhile, the UFCW lost a union organizing drive at the huge Smithfield pork slaughter plant in Dublin, North Carolina. The union is contesting the election results and filing unfair labor practices.

N.Y. textile workers win strike, union recognition

"We are still on a fightback footing," said Manuel Vázquez after workers won a contract and union recognition at Fiber Dye in Brooklyn, New York. "We not only did this for us, but in solidar-

Gammon, the local's business agent. "They came in and wanted to reduce health benefits and vacation. They wanted to eliminate cost-of-living [pay increases]." Reynolds demanded cuts in wages and benefits totaling more than \$2 an hour, he said.

The strike has virtually halted production at the aluminum beverage can plant. Only salaried employees are entering the factory. "We've had a lot of support from people from electrical supply and the telephone company. They've driven up and said 'No way,' and turned around. Some have even gotten out and walked the line with us," said striker Kevin Anderson.

"Union members should keep in mind we're trying to pave the way for them too," Mark Williams pointed out on the picket line. "It's not just the Teamsters."

Grocery workers in Northwest win solidarity

Area unions are organizing to support members of UFCW Local 555 and Teamsters Local 162 who have been on strike against Fred Meyers grocery stores in Portland, Oregon; Vancouver, Washington; and other towns in southwest Washington state since August 17.

Different unions are sponsoring days of picketing or barbecues to back the strike and workers hold solidarity rallies each weekend at different Fred Meyers stores. Longshoremen in Portland and Tacoma, Washington, refused to load Fred Meyers containers bound for Alaska. The company was forced to haul the merchandise over land.

The UFCW members are asking for language in their contract that

ity with our coworkers who were fired." The bosses fired two workers who were helping to lead a drive to bring the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union into the plant.

The company also threatened to call the INS to the factory. Antonio De León said he thought the contract was a victory for the workers. After six days on the picket line, the 100 workers, mostly immigrants from Latin America, won a wage hike and benefits, including health care. "I thought it would take months to win," said another textile worker.

N. Carolina Teamsters strike Reynolds Metals

Members of Teamsters Local 391 in Reidsville, North Carolina, walked out at 12:01 a.m. October 6 after voting 187 to 7 to reject Reynolds Metals Co.'s takeback demands. "This company forced us out on strike," said Vernon

ON THE PICKET LINE

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 7 at Monfort Inc.'s beef slaughter plant in Greeley, Colorado, voted September 15 to approve a four-year contract and an all-union shop. The vote follows a decade-long struggle to organize the plant. Monfort had closed the packinghouse in 1979 following a bitter strike and reopened it nonunion three years later.

The UFCW won a union representation vote there in April 1993. The new contract, which was approved 1,137 to 259, includes a 75-cent-an-hour raise in the first year and a bonus payment of 75 cents an hour retroactive to September 1993.

Workers at the Monfort beef plant in Grand Island, Nebraska, will decide October 20 if they will be represented by the UFCW. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raided the plant in September 1992, arresting and deporting more than 300 workers.



Militant/Scott Breen

Some 300 strikers and supporters rally against Fred Meyers in Orchards, Washington, in early October.

will guarantee full-time hours and a guarantee of 20 hours a week for part-time workers, enabling them to receive benefits.

The Teamsters are also asking that Fred Meyers give them full-time work and not assign their routes to part-time employees. Workers say the company uses its power to award hours to penalize workers it doesn't like.

Contributors to this column include Mary Walter in Denver; Mike Galati, member of UFCW Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa; Jorge Ledesma in Brooklyn; Robert Dees, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Greensboro, North Carolina; and Scott Breen, member of International Association of Machinists in Seattle.

LETTERS

Haiti invasion

The Militant responded effectively to a reader, who, like many progressive-minded activists, believes Washington's leopard has changed its spots in Haiti. The predatory essence beneath the image of imperialist charity will be revealed sooner than later.

The article answers "no" to the question of whether "the U.S. occupation somehow expanded the political space and [gave] self-confidence to the Haitian fighters." A more effective way of getting to that point, however, might be to pose the question this way: has the U.S. occupation fed illusions held by many Haitian fighters that it has a friend in the White House?

The answer to that question is "yes." While the Cédra's dictatorship did not annihilate the worker and peasant movement of resistance, it dealt it massive blows, so much so that in the past period it was unable to mount significant protest mobilizations against the regime.

It's a fact that the presence of U.S. soldiers, in some cases, emboldened ordinary Haitians to take to the streets, in the realization that the dictatorship was on the way out.

Likewise, on a couple of occasions, U.S. troops meted out modest punishment to brutal Haitian cops. So? This is useful public relations, on the cheap. It does not change the character of the occupation nor the necessity to oppose it one iota.

Such actions do not undermine, but rather reinforce, the false face of Washington as "emancipator." In fact, they are necessary to achieve imperialist aims, including the lancing of the Cédra's boil. This paves the way, the U.S. hopes, for more effective repression of work-

ers, peasants, and youth in the future, once the blush is off the occupiers' rose.

More than being militarily disarmed, the Haitian resistance was politically derailed by the active effort of the Aristide forces to look for and seek imperialist intervention as the way to restore the deposed president, and to rebuild democracy and national sovereignty.

Washington now backs the former to deny the latter. It will take a social revolution against Haitian capitalists to genuinely secure such rights for the Haitian masses

The single biggest political blow against forging a movement, and leadership to achieve social emancipation, is the illusion that freedom can be given by the oppressor, indeed that the oppressor is not the oppressor.

This is no minor detail. The difficult process in the school of experience to reverse this illusion has just begun.

Jon Hillson
St. Paul, Minnesota

Sexual harassment

Recently, an incident of sexual harassment occurred at the tannery where I work. The reaction to it among the mainly male workforce registered the gains that women have made in their fight to be regarded as equal workers and unionists.

A male worker came up behind a women cleaner and grabbed her breasts. She complained to the company. After a hearing, the worker was transferred to another



increasingly be used until the workers of all nations take power in their own hands.

Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario

Gerry Adams

Gerry Adams entered the Wyndham Plaza Hotel ballroom October 2 to the cheers of 1,200 or more supporters of Irish freedom. The main thrust of the Sinn Féin president's speech was a call for the friends of Irish freedom to "enlist in the struggle to move the peace talks forward" by bringing pressure to bear on the Clinton administration and the Major [British] government.

During the course of his speech, Adams called for a boycott of Ford Motors, to protest their discriminatory hiring policy in their plants in Northern Ireland. As a step to combat antiwomen prejudice in the Republican movement, an affirmative action program was announced. At least 25 percent of all leadership positions must be held by women members.

In response to a question about the "border busters," Adams declared that this direct action campaign to reopen the closed border crossings was a model of the kind of nonviolent mass action strategy that the Republican movement will follow in the future. The audience responses reflected support for and confidence in the peace process initiated by the IRA's cease fire.

Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware

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

factory that the company owns across the city.

The worker said he did it just for a joke. But no one on the job that I talked to agreed with him. "The guy should go. Sexual harassment is not funny," said one male worker, expressing a typical opinion.

At the same time, not many workers thought there needed to be a union meeting to discuss the matter. The tannery is organized by the Meat Workers Union.

Terry Coggan
Auckland, New Zealand

Brutality of ruling class

The past few months have again shown the brutality, cynicism, and deceit of the ruling classes in their attempt to retain their exploitation of working people.

The French government, while furnishing arms to murder Rwandans in order to maintain their sphere of influence in Africa, sends troops there to provide

"humanitarian aid" and "peace-keeping." The U.S. administration feeds bullets to Somalians and Canadian "peacekeepers" torture them.

The U.S. ruling class, after urging Cubans to leave the island they have been trying to starve into submission with an illegal 30-year blockade in the name of democracy, now sends them to an illegally occupied concentration camp in Cuba. The U.S. "Operation Restore Democracy" occupies Haiti in order to maintain the brutal oppression of Haitian workers, ignoring a previous agreement it imposed on the democratically elected president of that country.

Mark Curtis, a political activist and fighter for social justice and democratic rights is framed-up in the name of justice. The cover-up and lies by these powerful minorities that rule our lives indicate that they can no longer afford the carrot to keep us quiescent. Capitalism is in crisis and the stick will

Ruble crisis shakes Russian gov't

BY SARA LOBMAN

The mid-October plunge in the value of the ruble, and the panic it set off among government officials and large sections of the population, highlights the political and economic instability in Russia. It also draws into sharp focus the barriers that continue to confront officials in both Moscow and Washington as they try, so far unsuccessfully, to push Russia down the road to capitalism.

On October 11 — dubbed "Black Tuesday" — the ruble fell more than 21 percent, sending the price of imported goods skyrocketing. Drove of people in Russia and surrounding republics flooded the exchange houses to turn in rubles for dollars, German marks, and other currencies. In the week preceding the ruble's fall, stock market prices also plummeted after a year-long climb.

The sharp decline in the ruble capped weeks of decline for the Russian currency, which lost some 35 percent of its value against the dollar since mid-September and more than 66 percent since the beginning of the year. Less than three years ago it took 90 rubles to buy one dollar. By the end of Black Tuesday, it took close to 4,000.

Central bank intervenes

Only the intervention by Russia's Central Bank, which spent \$90 million dollars to purchase rubles, began to reverse the free-fall, allowing the rate to climb back up to its pre-October 11 level.

In the aftermath of the ruble's roller coaster ride, President Boris Yeltsin fired acting finance minister Sergei Dubinin and demanded the resignation of Central Bank chairman Viktor Geraschenko. The bank chief relinquished his position October 14. The Russian president also suggested that the crisis could have been the result of an intentional act of sabotage. He appointed a special commission, headed by the director of the former Soviet secret police, to investigate the supposed conspiracy. The committee's initial report, however, leaked to the press October 17, blames fears about

the underlying weakness of the economy for the ruble's fall.

"There is considerably more stability than a year ago, when tanks were firing at the Parliament and monthly inflation was over 20 percent a month," an October 13 news analysis in the *New York Times* pointed out. However, "there is continuing fragility as well."

No amount of assurances can hide the

housing, water, and heating are heavily subsidized and largely retained as part of the social wage.

Conditions continue to deteriorate for the great majority of Russian workers and farmers. Unemployment stands at 4.6 million, according to the International Labor Organization. Hundreds of state factories have no resources to pay wages and are either closing or drastically reducing staff.



Moscow residents offer bottles of vodka for sale on street as ruble's fall sparks anxiety among population. Foreign capitalists are concerned about Russia's instability.

economic and social crisis confronting working people in Russia. Industrial production is down 25 percent from a year ago. While according to some surveys the number of people living below the official poverty line has fallen, there are still some 16 million trying to live on monthly incomes of less than \$26. Russian workers live somewhat better than that figure suggests because basic necessities such as

Some 2,000 workers at Avtovaz, Russia's biggest car maker, are on strike because they have not yet received their August or September pay. Lumberjacks at the Yarensky logging company near Arkangelsk were recently given job-lots of tampons, which they could then try to sell, in lieu of their pay.

Inflation, which decreased from 26 percent a year ago to about 4 percent in June,

doubled over the summer, hitting workers' pocketbooks hard. In August, a Russian worker had to put in an average of 29 minutes on the job to buy one pound of sugar, compared to just 3 minutes for his or her counterpart in the United States.

The economic crisis has resulted in a growing social differentiation among the population. A recent editorial in the *New York Times*, claimed that "Russia's economic revolution is, so far, basically succeeding." However, it went on to report, "The standard of living seems clearly to be rising on average, although not for everyone." A report prepared by the Russian labor ministry in September illustrated this point, noting that heads of both private and state-run companies were raking in huge salaries, even where factories are technically bankrupt and employees are not being paid. At the same time, "There were huge disproportions between the pay received by the directors, which was 10 or more times that of the average pay of the workers," according to the report.

In the midst of the currency crisis, Moscow is trying to reschedule payments on part of its \$90 billion debt to banks, other governments, and trade creditors. An initial agreement on the debt owed to some 600 banks was reached October 5. However, Washington and other imperialist governments in the Group of Seven say they will not reschedule any of Russia's debts unless Moscow controls inflation and reaches a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

Investment in Russia is increasing somewhat as capitalists in the United States and other countries weigh the risks against the potential profits. Mark Mobius, president of the Templeton Emerging Markets Fund, which manages \$6 billion of assets, said he would "rank Russia very highly among emerging markets because of its size and potential." The Templeton Fund is opening an office in Moscow.

First Boston bank estimates foreign portfolio investment may exceed \$3 billion this year, compared with about \$1 billion in 1993. This is relatively low when compared to similar investments in Mexico in 1993, which totaled \$15.6 billion. Capitalist investors are also primarily interested in Russia's oil, gas, and mining industries where increases in worldwide commodity prices could possibly make for a quick return on the dollar.

"The amounts flowing into Russia are only a fraction of what is needed to rebuild its industry," said an article in the *New York Times* on the eve of the ruble's fall. "The flow of foreign capital to Russia could dry up or quickly reverse if the relative political and economic stability of late dissipates. The sharp fall in the ruble...have made clear that Russia's economic overhaul has a long way to go."

Capitalists demand austerity

The IMF and the capitalist governments it represents insist that Yeltsin step up the pace of so-called economic reforms by reducing inflation and cutting government spending. The "only choice" Russia has is "between a Big Bang stabilisation and social and economic collapse," a London *Financial Times* editorial threatened just days before the ruble's plunge. But the government faces a dilemma. Moscow, for example, which cut government spending from 35.3 percent of the gross domestic product in the fourth quarter of 1993 to 32.8 percent in the first half of 1994, felt compelled to issue some 10 trillion rubles between July and September to keep state-owned industrial and agricultural enterprises open.

The Russian government "has been trying to carry out a tricky economic balancing act," an October 12 *New York Times* article pointed out. "On the one hand, it has sought to reduce inflation and Government spending by reining in subsidies and credits. On the other, it has tried to avoid the widespread unemployment and unrest that such cuts could bring."

Speaking in London, Cuban youth leader blasts U.S. invasion of Haiti

BY MARTIN MARRIOTT

LONDON — "The most important achievement we have in Cuba is our popular revolution," said Pável Díaz, a leader of Cuba's Union of Young Communists (UJC). "Compare our 35 years of revolution to what capitalism has achieved anywhere. Our generation is probably more critical than previous generations and we say what mistakes are being made, but we say it from the point of view of defending the revolution."

Díaz was speaking during a series of interviews and public meetings here October 10-15, as part of a month-long speaking tour in Britain organized by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign. The events included a rally of 200, where he spoke alongside trade union officials and a member of Parliament, and a picket line of 150 people at the U.S. embassy in London.

At two town meetings and four college events during the week, Díaz spoke out against the British-backed U.S. invasion of Haiti. He told an audience of 40 in South London that "the invasion is just beginning. I can't imagine any Haitian can leave his house, see the marines, and be happy with their deal with [military ruler Raoul] Cédras. The world is going to realize what's really behind it."

At the University of North London, 60 students listened intently as Díaz described his experiences in Africa in the late 1980s, in combat against the South African invasion of Angola. "My experience was not unique," he pointed out. "Some 300,000 young Cubans volunteered and fought

against apartheid. I was very proud when Nelson Mandela came to Cuba to thank us for our solidarity."

At the same meeting, students applauded when he spoke of the large demonstration of young people in London a few days earlier protesting the British government's crime bill, which aims to increase police powers. "I was fortunate to be able to witness the demonstration, and I was angry when I saw how the newspapers reported it. The same newspapers also lie about Cuba."

At the meetings, Díaz answered questions ranging from the influence of the U.S. dollar to religious worship in Cuba. A frequent question was about the shortages of food in Cuba.

Three blockades against Cuba

"In Cuba we face three blockades," Díaz told a dozen workers, when he spoke at an airport local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union. "We face a trade blockade by the United States, a blockade from the collapse of the USSR, and the third 'blockade' by our own mistakes. For example, our national dish is pork, rice, and beans. But if you came to my house five years ago, you would have eaten pork from Bulgaria, beans from Russia, and rice from China. Our soil is good, and pork has no country, but we never developed food production to meet our own needs."

"Today, defense of the revolution means making sure there's enough to eat, transport to work, electricity in the house and medicine for the children. History has

forced us to take steps that we don't like. For instance I'm not a friend of tourism but I recognize we need the hard currency that it brings," he told 30 students at Middlesex University.

Díaz was often asked about the U.S. trade embargo. "A U.S. president once said that Cuba was an internal problem of the United States," said Díaz in South London. "It's hardly likely the United States will support the building of socialism in Cuba, or encourage the socialist alternative for Latin America. I hope I'm wrong and they lift the blockade but it's hardly likely. But the revolution is not going to die because of the blockade. There are things we can do to begin to resolve our problems."

A common question from young people was the one asked by a student at a meeting of 40 at the School of Oriental and African Studies: "I hear that Cuba is crumbling, and young people are trying to leave. Is that true?"

"In August," Díaz responded, "as 30,000 people were trying to leave Cuba, 120,000 young Cubans were taking part in voluntary agricultural work. When 2,000 people demonstrated in Havana, Cuba, against the revolution, 100,000 came out to defend the revolution," he said, referring to an August 5 antigovernment riot and subsequent pro-revolution demonstrations. "Though many of those who left on rafts were young, it is still young people who stay behind to continue to build the revolution. And we're not waiting for someone to hand us the shovel or the rifle — we're doing it right now."