

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Caterpillar talks stall as bosses rebuff UAW offer

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Mexican armed forces occupy Chiapas region

BY LAURA GARZA

Six days after unilaterally breaking a cease-fire in the region of Chiapas and launching military operations involving thousands of troops, Mexico's president Ernesto Zedillo announced a halt to the offensive. He urged leaders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) to agree to restart negotiations.

Zedillo also repeated the call for the rebels to lay down their arms and sent a proposal to the Mexican Congress for an amnesty for any of those who agreed to disarm. "For us to talk," an EZLN leader quickly responded, "the government needs to withdraw troops."

Zedillo also announced the resignation of the governor of Chiapas, Eduardo Robledo Rincón, candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who has been in office for only 68 days. The PRI is widely believed to have stolen the recent election there.

Within hours of the February 9 announcement of the offensive, thousands of troops poured into Chiapas, a region in southern Mexico largely populated by poor peasants of Indian origin. The government issued arrest warrants for five people it called prominent EZLN leaders. These included Subcommander Marcos, whom the Zedillo regime claimed to have identified as Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente, a former Mexico City university professor originally from Tampico.

Protests and marches began being orga-



Mexican army convoy rolls into Chiapas. Capitalist rulers in Mexico and in Washington fear unresolved conflict there could upset attempt to stabilize the economy and head off other crises.

nized immediately throughout Mexico demanding a halt to the government's moves. A demonstration in Mexico City the Saturday after the announcement drew 100,000 people, according to a report in the *Washington Post*.

A military force of 80 to 100 troop transports, 33 planes, 40 helicopters, and 30 tanks descended on and occupied the small towns and mountain villages in Chiapas. Government spokesmen said they succeeded in retaking towns that had been

under the control of EZLN forces since a Zapatista-organized uprising began in January of last year. Little direct resistance appears to have been offered to the advancing army forces, as the rebels and many local residents retreated into the jungle areas. Some of the towns retaken were reported to be largely empty.

Area residents and a statement released by the EZLN reported that the army had

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7,000 join union-led demonstration in Montreal against federal cutbacks

BY KELLY LYNN AND JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Marching behind a huge banner demanding "Équité sociale (social equality)" some 7,000 unionists, students, and others demonstrated in glacial weather here against the federal government's threat to carry out massive social service cuts. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is preparing to go before Parliament with a "deficit-cutting" budget in the next several weeks.

The demonstrators, who marched to a federal government building in downtown Montreal, chanted slogans denouncing Chrétien, Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, and Finance Minister Paul Martin along the way.

In a significant show of solidarity, workers from many different unions and workplaces joined the action. Auto workers; machinists; electrical, garment, chemical, and pulp and paper workers; and teachers and other government employees participated, along with hundreds of students and representatives of unemployed groups, women's organizations, and others. Many marchers arrived by bus from surrounding cities and towns.

A message of solidarity from the On-



Union members and students marched behind banner reading "Social Equality"

tario Federation of Labour was read to the demonstrators.

The spirited action was lead by the Ogilvie Flour mill workers who have been on strike since June 1994 to defend their

union, and the SPAR Aerospace workers who have been on the picket line since October 21 after rejecting union-busting concession demands. Hundreds of color-

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Nat'l Network calls actions against U.S. Cuba policy

BY GREG McCARTAN AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK—At a broadly attended meeting here, the National Network on Cuba set an ambitious schedule of activities in defense of the Cuban revolution through October of this year.

"Tell the Truth About Cuba" is the theme of local and regional conferences, teach-ins, and other events to be held from April 7 to May 19. Coalitions in Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere have already begun planning for these activities, and the meeting encouraged similar events in as many cities as possible.

The National Network also voted to sponsor and build regional demonstrations October 14 opposing U.S. policy toward Cuba and demanding an end to Washington's embargo of the country. These actions are slated to take place in Chicago, New York, and either Los Angeles or San Francisco. In addition, there may be an action in the South.

Participants also discussed the escalating cases of harassment by government agents of U.S. residents traveling to Cuba—especially since last August when the White House tightened travel restrictions to the Caribbean island. The meeting set up a task force to facilitate the work of Network affiliates against Washington's travel ban to Cuba and in defense of those harassed by the U.S. government.

Network is growing

The National Network on Cuba (NNOC) is a growing coalition of local and national groups that organize activities in opposition to U.S. policy towards Cuba. Seventy-five people attended the February 11-12 meeting, representing some 45 organizations. Nine new groups

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New 'crime' bill deepens assault on rights by big business parties

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

With bipartisan backing, the House of Representatives adopted a retooled version of U.S. president Bill Clinton's 1994 crime bill in February. The six bills are drawn from a section of the Republican Party's "Contract With America" called the "Take Back Our Streets Act."

At the heart of the proposals is a provision adopted February 8 allowing prosecutors to use illegally obtained evidence in court. This includes items seized by cops without a search warrant. The bill strikes directly at the guarantee against unreasonable search and seizure in the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The death penalty measure restricts the time inmates on death row are allowed to file habeas corpus appeals, thereby auguring a step up in executions. If adopted by the Senate and signed into law, the bill would give inmates six months to file in federal court after exhausting their state appeals and would limit them to a single

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Racist Georgia mayor bars Black youth from stores — page 13



Strikes continue in Germany

Germany's IG Metall engineering union called a one-day strike February 7 in the auto and other industries as part of a series of almost daily strikes during the past several weeks to demand a 6 percent wage increase and a 35-hour workweek. Union officials said a strike vote involving broader action would be discussed February 14 if the employers do not make a serious offer.

A spokesperson for Gesamtmetall, the employers association, proposed to delay the 35-hour workweek, which is scheduled to begin October 1. One member of the bosses' organization threatened to impose lockouts if a full-scale strike does occur.

Seoul threatened with sanctions

Washington is bullying the South Korean government to allow U.S. capitalists to penetrate its telecommunications, computer software, and agricultural markets or face trade sanctions. The disputes involve customs duties Seoul imposes on imports of computer software and the government's certification process for telecommunications systems.

The U.S.-based Computer Associates International Co. complained about Seoul's interrogation of its regional director for allegedly dodging more than \$1 million in custom duties. The telecommunications giant AT&T whined about recertification requirements that may keep its latest switching system off the market for two years.

Somalis protest U.S. troops

Thousands of Somalis demonstrated against the February 8 arrival of 35 U.S. troops in Mogadishu. Some 3,000 U.S. Marines are expected to arrive in the city during the first week of March to "safeguard" the withdrawal of the remaining 7,900 United Nations soldiers in Somalia. Protesters chanted anti-U.S. slogans and carried signs condemning the UN operation as "foreign colonialists."

UN to send troops to Angola

The UN Security Council approved sending 7,000 troops to Angola as part of an accord to end 19 years of civil war. The UN force is to oversee a power-sharing arrangement between the rightist National



Ford workers in southwestern Germany rally on February 7 during a one-hour strike to support demands for a 6 percent wage increase and shorter workweek.

Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi, and the Angolan government.

More than 500,000 people have been killed in the war that began when UNITA — backed by Washington and the apartheid regime in South Africa — waged a campaign to overthrow the new government formed after its victory over Portuguese colonial rule in the mid-1970s. During the 1980s, UNITA received more than \$250 million in U.S. aid to destroy the Angolan government.

Argentina's joblessness growing

According to Argentina's economy ministry, the country's unemployment rate was a record 12.2 percent in January. The high joblessness rate comes at a time when Argentina's economic and industrial growth have been among the world's highest since 1991.

Several hundred thousand workers have lost their jobs since the government began selling off state-owned companies four

years ago. At the state railroads, for example, a workforce of 100,000 was slashed to 10,000 people. One of the proposed labor "reforms" the government will implement is to extend the probationary period of new hires so the bosses can fire them without having to pay them compensation.

Rally held for Qubilah Shabazz

Supporters for Qubilah Shabazz organized a defense rally January 31 at the Riverside Church in New York City. Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, has been indicted by federal prosecutors on charges of conspiring to murder Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. The government's case is based on the word of a self-confessed FBI stool pigeon and provocateur who had previously infiltrated the Jewish Defense League and an anarchist collective in Minnesota.

The January meeting included Betty Shabazz, Qubilah Shabazz's mother; Corretta Scott-King; former New York mayor David Dinkins; Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Rabbi Balfour Brickner; and actress Ruby Dee. Participants expressed support for the newly established Shabazz Support and Defense Fund.

Millions awarded in implant suit

Brenda Toole won \$6 million in damages February 3 against the Baxter Healthcare Corp. for serious health hazards she suffered after breast implants ruptured in her body. Toole had to undergo surgery three times to have the silicone removed.

Toole's lawsuit was one of thousands of breast-implant suits around the country that were merged in federal court in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1992. Many cases were included in an earlier \$4.2 billion

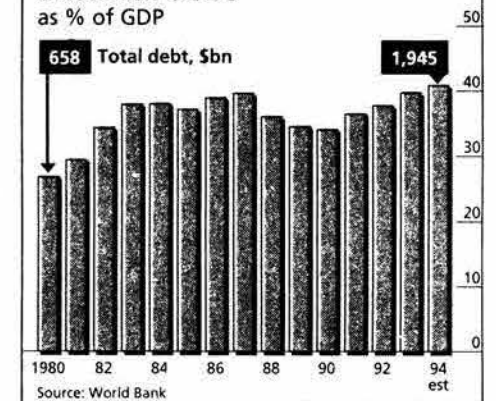
settlement, but hundreds of women opted to have their cases tried separately.

Third World debt still rising

As a percentage of national income, the blood money owed by semicolonial countries to banks and other institutions and individuals in the imperialist world is now higher than at the peak of the 1980s debt crisis, according to the World Bank. External debt as a proportion of the combined gross domestic product of Third World countries reached 39.6 percent in 1987 and, after falling to about 35 percent in 1990, climbed back to 39.7 percent in 1993. The World Bank estimates that the 1994 figure topped 40 percent.

Unlike in the 1980s, when the vast bulk of the debt was to imperialist banks, much of the indebtedness in recent years has taken the form of increased sales of bonds by Latin American governments to wealthy coupon-clippers in North America, Europe, and Japan.

Developing countries' external debt



Miami killer cop wins lawsuit

The Miami City Commission voted January 30 to pay \$950,000 in back wages and attorney's fees to former police officer William Lozano. In January 1989, Lozano shot and killed Clement Lloyd, a Black motorcyclist; the ensuing crash resulted in the death of a second person on the cycle, Allan Blanchard. The killings sparked a three-day rebellion in the predominantly Black Overtown and Liberty City areas of Miami.

Lozano was convicted of manslaughter in December 1989 and later sued the city for \$1.8 million. He was acquitted on the manslaughter charge in 1993 but was fired from the police force.

In December 1994 an arbitrator awarded Lozano money and his job back, but the city refused to pay and the police union filed suit on Lozano's behalf. The city commissioners voted January 30 to pay following a ruling by a Dade County judge affirming the arbitrator's award. Under the settlement, Lozano will not seek to be reinstated as a cop.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

Ellen Brickley of Miami contributed to this week's column.

THE MILITANT

Find out the truth about Mexico

A march of 30,000 people in Mexico City in January protested government attacks on peasants in Chiapas. The 'Militant' tells the truth about efforts by capitalists in the United States and Mexico to make working people sacrifice to stem the fall of the peso. Don't miss a single issue!



Christi Petropoulou

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Nationalism stokes Ecuador-Peru war

BY HILDA CUZCO

After nearly three weeks of fighting, the governments of Peru and Ecuador announced a cease-fire as of noon February 14 with each side claiming victory. The two regimes are contesting a remote Amazon river valley in the border region known as Condor Cordillera.

Each side blamed the other for starting the shooting in late January. Mobilizing troops, artillery, helicopters, and airplanes, both regimes have fought to control the military posts at Cueva de los Tayos, Tiwinza, and Condor Mirador, held by Peru prior to the conflict. Some 150 Ecuadorean and Peruvian soldiers have died or been wounded in the fighting.

Indians living in the border region have also fallen victim to the war. After more than 20,000 Shuar, Ahuar, and Yurumbi Indians were evacuated from areas near the disputed region, Peruvian airplanes bombed the villages of Fátima and Ciramenza.

1941 border war

The conflict goes back to a 10-day border war in 1941 in which the government of Ecuador lost roughly half the country's territory to the government of Peru. A year later, Washington, determined to let nothing stand in the way of advancing its imperialist war aims in Europe and the Pacific, imposed the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which was signed by both Quito and Lima, with the regimes in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil acting as other "guarantors."

In the late 1940s, as the two governments negotiated boundary markers under Washington's supervision, a dispute erupted over a 50-mile stretch of land east of the city of Zamora. The Ecuadorean government declared that the 1942 protocol had been signed under duress and was "null." This region remains the center of the dispute today.

The contested territory, an area with



Ecuadorean soldiers boarding helicopter that will take them to the battlefield on border with Peru. Both governments have mobilized their troops, and promoted an outpouring of nationalism in an effort to defuse resistance to their austerity programs.

virgin forests, deep ravines, and 4,000-foot mountains, is said to be rich in gold, uranium, and oil deposits. "All the world's minerals are there," said José Monje Rodríguez, 72, a veteran of the 1941 war who was born in Chacras, Ecuador. The Peruvian government has "realized it and that is why they want it."

Ecuadorean president Sixto Durán Ballén declared a national state of emergency and imposed new taxes to pay for the conflict. Quito is reportedly spending some \$8 million to \$10 million a day in the war effort. Peru's larger and more heavily equipped armed forces were thrown fully into the fighting as well.

Along the border, Peruvians and Ecuadoreans have grown up with the periodic strife initiated by their respective capitalist governments as the anniversary of the 1942 treaty approaches each year. This time around the fighting was the most seri-

ous since 1981.

Soon after this year's war broke out, government representatives of the four "guarantors" of the 1942 treaty started meeting in the Brazilian capital to mediate the crisis. César Gaviria, secretary-general of the Organization of American States, called on both sides to negotiate a settlement. No accord was announced in connection with the cease-fire, however.

Regimes wave flags, attack workers

Meanwhile, the bourgeois regimes and media in both Peru and Ecuador have stoked patriotic sentiments, organizing marches and displays of flag-waving. The propertied families in both countries hope to use chauvinist demagoguery to defuse resistance by workers, peasants, and youth to the deteriorating social conditions they face.

Just days before the escalation of the

conflict, students in Quito had marched in front of the presidential palace to protest a 33 percent increase in transportation fares and other austerity measures by Durán's government. On the Monday after the weekend fighting, however, students marched again, this time to cheer the president.

Last December, thousands of state oil and electrical workers went on strike against Durán's privatization measures. Shortly after taking office in 1992, the new president eliminated energy price subsidies and devalued the currency, leading to a national strike.

Despite hype in the world capitalist press about an economic miracle under President Alberto Fujimori, Peru — with 24 million people, largely of Indian and mixed ancestry — remains among the poorest countries in South America. Millions of working people in the cities live in overcrowded shantytowns without water and drainage facilities, and conditions are worse in the countryside. Unemployment and underemployment are high; illiteracy is widespread, especially in rural areas; and the infant mortality rate is 81 deaths for every 1,000 births.

Pointing to Peru's economic growth of 12 percent in 1994, the January 31 issue of the *New York Times* praised Fujimori for opening Peru to greater foreign capital penetration since his election in 1990, including the selloff of state-owned industries and natural resources. Privatizations "netted Peru \$2.6 billion last year," the *Times* said, and "assuming Mr. Fujimori is re-elected, he plans later this year to sell the state oil company, the state water company, the state steel company, the state electricity company, the state railroad and the state mining conglomerate." Already, U.S. companies have started drilling for oil and bought up the four biggest copper mines in Peru.

'Don't fall into war trap!'

Some voices have been raised in both countries protesting the war policies of the two governments. For example, a joint statement by two Indian organizations, one from Peru, the other from Ecuador, called on the indigenous people of both countries not "to be swept by false nationalism that will bring nothing good to us or our children."

A joint statement by 18 women's groups from Peru and Ecuador warned against falling "into the war trap" and added, "Let's hold back those who feed violence. Let's not fall into the dirty game of fratricidal struggles."

Mexican army occupies Chiapas

Continued from front page

bombed and strafed at least two villages, Morelia and La Garrucha. Reporters who visited the two villages February 15 — just after the army lifted its six-day ban on the press entering the occupied areas — said they saw no evidence of bombing. But Amnesty International officials said they had confirmed reports of strafing by government planes in the area. During the initial occupation of Chiapas last year, the armed forces' bombing of villages was widely condemned.

Zedillo sought to justify the renewed assault on political rights with the claim that "while the government was insisting on its willingness to hold a dialogue and negotiate, the EZLN was preparing new and greater acts of violence, not only in Chiapas but in other parts of the country." The regime claimed to have unearthed a supply of arms in a raid on a house outside of Mexico City.

Among those arrested in initial raids were Jorge Javier Elborreaga and his wife Maria Gloria Benavides. In a widely publicized statement, the Mexican government claimed Benavides had confirmed the identity of Subcommander Marcos as Guillén. Authorities also claimed she stated that Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristóbal de las Casas was really a long-time guerrilla sympathizer, secretly known as Prince Maya. Ruiz has been prominent in arranging talks between the government and EZLN leaders.

When Benavides appeared in court, however, she said she had been forced to sign a statement while blindfolded and after having been tortured. "The whole story was made up," she said.

Regime in crisis

Zedillo's decision to crack down occurred in the context of a growing crisis for his regime. Within weeks of taking office, the plunge of the peso sent Mexico into a deep economic nosedive. The currency lost nearly 50 percent of its exchange value against the dollar.

By the end of January, the prospect of default on billions of dollars in interest and principle to capitalists holding Mexi-

can government bonds was sending shivers through Wall Street and the entire international banking system. Washington quickly stepped in to arrange a bailout with a \$50 billion loan package — a move International Monetary Fund director Michel Camdessus called necessary to ward off a "systemic crisis." For its part, the Zedillo regime promised international finance capital that it would step up privatizations, slash wages and social benefits, and guarantee bond payments with revenue from state-owned Pemex oil fields and refineries.

Both Mexico's capitalist rulers and the propertied classes in North America, Europe, and Japan, however, fear that the unresolved conflict in Chiapas could upset attempts to patch together a solution to the crisis.

The timing of Zedillo's February 9 announcement was also seen by many as connected to the pending elections in the state of Jalisco, seat of Mexico's second-largest city, Guadalajara. "It is a military decision whose purpose is not to save the nation, but to save the Zedillo presidency," said one member of Congress, Adolfo Aguilar Zinser.

The right-wing opposition National Action Party (PAN) won the vote in Jalisco, only the fourth time the PRI has lost a statehouse election since its founding early in this century. While the PAN played on discontent generated by the severe slash in income suffered by workers and middle-class layers in Mexico over the past 15 years, this capitalist party presents no different course from that of the long-dominant PRI.

Zedillo was also under growing pressure from wealthy ranchers in the Chiapas region to do something to halt land confiscations by poor peasants in the region. According to an AP dispatch, some 2,000 farms and ranches — about 600,000 acres — have been taken over by local peasants since the January 1994 uprising. Capitalist ranchers had met with the governor of Chiapas to demand action to kick the peasants off the land.

The tens of thousands who poured into the streets within days of Zedillo's at-

tempted crackdown sent a signal that the move had failed in stabilizing the situation for the rulers in Mexico.

Zedillo can't stabilize situation

These mobilizations intersect with a series of protests in recent weeks against the austerity measures of the Mexican government. The government is trying to force workers and the unions to agree to limit pay raises to 7 percent, well below the level needed to make up for the devaluation of the peso. Estimates of inflation for this year reach as high as 25 percent to 30 percent.

Thousands of workers who, in response to the devaluation, waged a one-week strike against Thomson Consumer Electronics in Ciudad Juárez in early February won a 20 percent pay hike.



February 10 Mexico City demonstration. Placard reads "Zedillo, you don't keep your word."

'Militant' available on Peacenet

The *Militant* is now available via computer. All articles, columns, and editorials can be picked up on the socialist paper's new Peacenet conference by midday each Friday. Readers will need an account with Peacenet, which is part of the Institute for Global Communications and has affiliates in many countries. In the United States it can be reached at (415) 442-0220. The *Militant's* conference name is: militant.news

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.

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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.

Big push needed in final days of drive for Marxist magazine

BY PAUL MAILHOT

As the sales campaign for the Marxist magazine *New International* no. 10 and renewal subscriptions of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* enters the final push, socialist workers and youth are organizing in cities across the United States and around the world to meet the goals. A substantial challenge remains.

In the past week only 96 copies of *New International* were sold. Supporters of the magazine need to double that figure each of the final two weeks in order to surpass the 1,500 goal. Subscription renewals for the *Militant* are also behind, and the *Perspectiva Mundial* campaign is still not off the ground.

New International no. 10 features an article on the Cuban revolution today, as well as articles on the political implications of the capitalist crisis that is driving that worldwide social system toward fascism and war. The political perspective to fight imperialism's march contained in *NI* no. 10 is important for thinking workers, working farmers, and youth everywhere.

With day-by-day attention to detail, the international goals can be met. Supporters will have to concentrate on this effort for the final stretch of this campaign.

Supporters in Atlanta have adopted a nine-point plan to go over their recently raised goal of 40 issues of *New International*. They plan to send teams to Union Point, Georgia, where an important struggle against racism is taking place. They are also organizing a special sales team to a Spanish-speaking area where interested workers have bought subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* in the past. To date Atlanta supporters have sold 35 copies of *New International* no. 10, including 14 to union members.

Similarly, supporters in Newark, New Jersey, have begun organizing an ambitious count-down drive to make all of their goals. A list of more than 40 people has been drawn up of coworkers,



Militant/John Steele
Young Socialists set up literature table in Montreal at February 12 union sponsored demonstration against social service cutbacks.

ers, students involved in anti-racist protests at Rutgers University, and longtime readers of the socialist press to approach about buying a copy of the magazine. Recent successes in selling the *NI* to coworkers and student activists has bolstered supporters confidence in Newark that they will be able to go over their goal.

A sales team from Philadelphia traveled to York, Pennsylvania, February 11 to meet with former subscribers to the *Militant*. During the trip they talked to a number of Caterpillar strikers and learned more about recent developments in their walkout. John Staggs reports the strikers were also interested in picking up some of the socialist books and pamphlets the team brought with them.

In all, the team sold 20 copies of the *Militant* to strikers. After a discussion over coffee with a striker who had been a subscriber to the *Militant*, he decided to renew and also buy a copy of *New International*.

Southern Pacific (SP) railroad workers bought 19 copies of the *Militant* in the past couple of weeks, reports rail worker Dan Fein from Salt Lake City, Utah. Fein has been on a campaign to

introduce coworkers to the paper, which has featured articles in recent weeks on the struggles of and conditions facing rail workers. An engineer and a conductor saw some of these articles posted on a bulletin board in the SP yard in Grand Junction, Colorado, and, upon arriving in Salt Lake City, looked Dan up and asked if they could get a copy of the whole paper.

Supporters in Christchurch, New Zealand, have also raised their goal, after surpassing their target of 15 copies of *New International*. "Several people bought copies when they renewed their *Militant* subscriptions," reports Patrick Brown. "The feature article on Cuba was definitely an attraction. A number of people who had read *NI* no. 7 with the article "Opening guns of World War III" were especially interested in reading "Imperialism's march toward fascism and war" contained in *NI* no. 10.

These reports from our readers show the political interest that exists among workers and youth, especially those involved in struggle. A big push in the final days of the campaign should get the needed results.

Sen. Helms rachets up bipartisan assault against Cuban revolution

BY GREG ROSENBERG

On behalf of a bipartisan group of 34 members of Congress, Republican senator Jesse Helms unveiled proposed legislation February 9 that would tighten the embargo Washington maintains against the Cuban revolution.

Entitled "The Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act," the bill would punish third countries engaged in trade with Cuba, urge the White House to lobby the United Nations Security Council for an international embargo against the island, and cut the Cuban government off from global financial institutions.

"Let me be clear," blustered the North Carolina senator. "Whether Castro leaves Cuba in a vertical or horizontal position is up to him and the Cuban people. But he must and will leave Cuba," Helms continued. "It's time to tighten the screws, not loosen them."

The proposed measures, Helms's first major legislative initiative as chairman of the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee, are consistent with Washington's more than 35-year-long effort to destroy the socialist revolution through a wide range of economic, political, and military aggressions. Most recently, the Clinton administration invoked further restrictions against Havana last August.

Helms was joined at a Washington, D.C., press conference announcing the bill by Republican Benjamin Gilman of New York, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Democratic representative Robert Torricelli of New Jersey. Torricelli confidently predicted that the bill would be adopted by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton.

The proposed measures would prohibit loans, credits, or other financing from being extended to anyone who purchases previously U.S.-owned property confiscated by the revolutionary government; instruct U.S. directors of interna-

tional financial institutions to oppose the admission of Cuba; and penalize the Russian government for granting credits for its facilities in Cuba.

The measures would upgrade broadcasting of the reactionary TV Marti; prohibit the importation of sugar, syrups, and molasses from any country that imports sugar from Cuba; and deny entry into the United States to anyone who has "confiscated or benefited from U.S. property abroad including corporate officers, principals, or shareholders of an entity" that was expropriated by the Cuban workers and peasants.

The bill says some of its provisions would be mitigated "after free and fair internationally supervised elections."

The Clinton administration has proven to be a dependable enforcer of the course Washington has pursued for three and a half decades in attempting to weaken the workers and farmers government in Cuba, with the aim of

Sold to date: 73% Should be: 80%							
	New International no. 10			Militant renewals		Perspectiva Mundial renewals	
	goal	sold	percent	goal	sold	goal	sold
New Zealand							
Wellington	3	4	133%	5	5	0	0
Auckland	30	26	87%	10	7	1	1
Christchurch*	20	16	80%	8	5	0	0
Total	53	46	87%	8	5	0	0
Australia	16	13	81%	9	6	2	0
Sweden	15	12	80%	7	4	3	3
Canada							
Toronto	50	41	82%	15	12		0
Montreal	45	35	78%		9		0
Vancouver	35	27	77%	8	4	1	0
Total	130	103	79%	23	25	1	0
Britain							
Manchester	40	30	75%	15	6		0
London	55	41	75%	15	8	2	0
Total	95	71	75%		8		0
Iceland	4	3	75%	5	0	0	0
United States							
Houston	25	23	92%	8	4	2	0
Atlanta*	40	35	88%	12	4	2	1
Miami	35	30	86%	13	6	6	3
Philadelphia	50	43	86%	12	6	3	0
Cleveland*	30	24	80%	10	7	3	0
Morgantown, WV	25	20	80%	4	4	0	0
Seattle	40	32	80%	9	6	2	0
San Francisco	90	71	79%	16	19	5	0
Boston	45	35	78%	12	10	4	0
Los Angeles	100	78	78%	20	18	10	0
Twin Cities, MN	50	39	78%	14	5	2	0
Des Moines, IA*	40	29	73%	9	4	4	0
Pittsburgh	40	29	73%	11	8	2	0
New York	100	70	70%	13	9	4	0
Detroit	40	27	68%	11	8	2	0
Salt Lake City	45	30	67%	13	10	3	2
Peoria, IL	20	13	65%	6	4	0	0
Chicago	50	31	62%	15	9	3	0
Washington, DC	45	28	62%	10	10	3	0
Newark, NJ	100	61	61%	12	12	3	0
Greensboro, NC	35	21	60%	7	5	2	0
Birmingham, AL	40	23	58%	8	2	2	0
Brooklyn	100	55	55%	12	3	4	0
Tucson, AZ	5	1	20%				
Other		6			6		0
Total U.S.	1190	854	72%	257	179	71	6
France	20	10	50%				
Puerto Rico	2	1	50%	0	0	2	1
Greece	5	2	40%	4	3		0
Total	1530	1115	73%	313	230	79	11
SHOULD BE	1500	1200	80%	320	256	80	64
In the Unions							
UFCW	5	4	80%		1		
UMWA	10	7	70%				
OCAW	30	16	53%		4		
USWA	20	8	40%				
UAW	60	22	37%		2		
ACTWU/ILGWU	20	7	35%	11	1		
IAM	40	14	35%				
UTU	55	12	22%	24	4		
Total	240	90	38%	35	12	0	0
*raised goal							

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

eventually overthrowing it and reestablishing capitalism.

Last August, amidst large-scale departures of Cubans seeking to escape current economic hardships by reaching U.S. shores, the White House ordered a strength-

ening of the embargo. The new squeeze included halting cash remittances by Cuban-Americans to their families on the island and imposing even more onerous requirements on U.S. citizens wishing to visit Cuba.

Actions will oppose U.S. gov't Cuba policy

Continued from front page
were voted into membership, bringing the number of Network affiliates up to 69.

The newly admitted organizations include the Dominican Friends of Cuba, based in New York; the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice; the U.S. Council of International Friendship; the North America Christian Peace Conference; the International Youth Brigade to Cuba; the Hartford Coalition on Cuba; MADRE; and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Opportunities for reaching out to young people and others with the truth about the Cuban revolution was seen by many participants as an important factor in organizing the month of educational activities.

"Recent protests against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 provided many new openings to reach out to students and get them involved in actions to defend Cuba," said Thabo Ntweng, a representative of the Los Angeles Cuba Coalition. Carol Thomas, of the Boston-based July 26 Coalition, said her group aims to build on a successful conference last October, organizing a class series at Roxbury Community College and a number of public meetings during April.

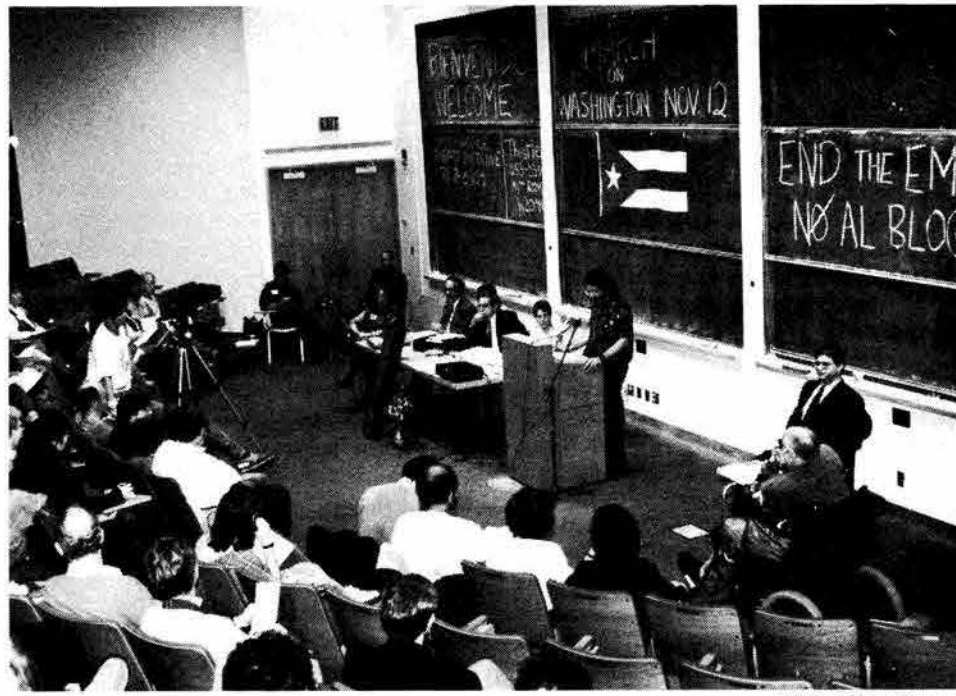
Several participants pointed out that Cuba solidarity activists should reach out to those protesting continued moves by the Democratic and Republican parties to bring the budget ax down on social programs.

1994 balance sheet

The Network meeting drew a balance sheet of activities last fall. These included emergency protests demanding "U.S. Hands off Cuba" in dozens of cities in August and September. At that time, the Clinton administration used the fact that thousands of Cubans took to the sea in rafts seeking to reach U.S. shores as a pretext to launch a series of aggressive measures and issue threats against the revolutionary government in Havana. These street actions culminated in a 3,000-strong national march on Washington in defense of Cuba on November 12.

Participants at the Network meeting also assessed the success of the World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba held in Havana at the end of November. More than 3,000 people from 109 countries attended that gathering, including some 300 from the United States. The conference called for a "World Day in Solidarity with Cuba" on October 10 and for actions on May 19 commemorating the centennial of the death in combat of José Martí, Cuba's foremost revolutionary leader in the fight against Spanish colonialism and rising U.S. domination.

The educational activities and October protests decided at the NNOC meeting were seen as a way to counter continued steps by the U.S. government to violate the sovereignty and independence of Cuba and to seek to overturn Cuba's socialist



The success of the educational conference held in Boston last October (above) points to the political openings that exist to explain and defend Cuba's socialist revolution.

revolution.

Announcement by Jesse Helms

Just prior to the meeting, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, introduced legislation aimed at tightening the U.S. economic and trade embargo against Cuba. "Whether [Cuban president Fidel] Castro leaves Cuba in a vertical or horizontal position doesn't matter to me," Helms said during a press conference introducing the bill. "But he must and will leave Cuba."

Helms was joined at the press conference by Rep. Robert Torricelli, a Democrat from New Jersey, who sponsored the Cuban Democracy Act. The Torricelli bill, signed into law in October 1992 by President George Bush, significantly tightened the embargo at that time.

During an extensive discussion on how to respond to the Helms initiative, several participants pointed to the importance of keeping the focus on the bipartisan character of U.S. policy towards Cuba. Following the discussion, the Network decided to issue a press release protesting the Helms bill.

Travel challenges

Beginning April 7, with a Freedom to Travel Challenge trip to Cuba, numerous groups outlined plans for brigades, reporting trips, and labor tours to see firsthand the revolution in that country. The U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, based in Detroit, is organizing a seminar for trade unionists at the end of April. The Venceremos Brigade will be traveling to Cuba in July this year, and a representative from the International Youth Brigade, which organized 70 students and young workers on

a fact-finding and solidarity trip in January, said a similar contingent will be organized during the last three weeks of July.

Representatives of IFCO/Pastors for Peace also announced plans for the fifth U.S./Cuba Friendshipment, which was endorsed by the Network. The caravan of humanitarian aid will converge in Washington, D.C., for a demonstration and lobbying activities June 17, then proceed to Buffalo, New York, to cross into Canada before moving on to Cuba.

Many of these trips, such as the Freedom to Travel Challenge, are organized in protest of the unconstitutional prohibition by Washington of U.S. residents' right to travel to Cuba. On others, such as the youth brigade, participants are accredited as journalists, whose travel to Cuba is not proscribed, but is increasingly scrutinized by Washington.

Government harasses travelers

A number of participants at the meeting reported on harassment and intimidation of those traveling to Cuba by government officials and police agencies.

A representative of the New Jersey Network on Cuba who also works for Marazul Tours, which charts flights to Cuba, reported a steep drop in the number of people traveling to the Caribbean country since the Clinton administration sharply curtailed the ability of Cuban-Americans, academics, and others to travel to the island in August.

Ten people who attended the World Solidarity Conference in Havana received letters from the Treasury Department demanding details of the individuals' travel. James Van Pelt of the Connecticut Coalition on Cuba was one of the 10. He re-

ported that two U.S. Customs agents came to his home to interrogate him about his trip to Cuba. Van Pelt said that a yearly trip to Cuba by a Connecticut group of senior citizens has been canceled because of concern over U.S. government harassment.

Another example was reported of a participant in the Venceremos Brigade being strip-searched in Dallas upon returning from a trip to the island last year. Holly Fincke, representing the Venceremos Brigade at the NNOC meeting, said that 12 brigade members had their passports confiscated upon returning from a trip to Cuba at Chicago's O'Hare airport last May. U.S. Customs returned the passports just before a press conference the group organized to rally public opposition to the seizure.

Others, such as journalists and academics traveling without licenses, have also been questioned at length on reentering the country and received letters from the Treasury Department.

So far, however, the government has not prosecuted anyone it accuses of violating the travel ban.

Coordinated defense efforts

Ken Riley, representing the International Youth Brigade, reported on a vigorous protest campaign his group is mounting in response to the seizure of the passports of three brigade members who returned from Cuba through Chicago January 21 and 22. "Dozens of letters of protest have already been garnered," he said, and encouraged a similar effort each time the government seeks to victimize those exercising their constitutional right to travel.

Following this discussion the Network decided to set up a task force on travel restrictions and government harassment. Task force members will seek to coordinate efforts to organize attorneys to donate their services for legal work and to mount broader political protest campaigns in face of passport seizures, strip searches, and other government harassment.

An election for national coordinators of the Network was held. Leslie Cagan of the Cuba Information Project, Andrés Gómez of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, Holly Fincke of the Venceremos Brigade, and Ignacio Meneses of the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange were unanimously reelected.

The next NNOC meeting was set for Miami September 9-10.

Protest seizure of passports

U.S. Customs officials seized the passports of three young people returning from Cuba on January 21 and 22 at O'Hare airport in Chicago. The three, Dannen Vance, Sukul Baul, and Aislinn Pulley, were part of an International Youth Brigade to Cuba. All the brigade participants were on editorial assignments for local media from their cities and were covering the economic and political situation in Cuba today. Organizers of the brigade are encouraging letters to be sent to the addresses below protesting the undemocratic passport seizures and demand their immediate return.

Messages can be sent to:

Warren Christopher
Secretary of State
Tel: 202-647-5298
Fax: 202-647-6434

Richard Newcomb
Director
Office of Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Department of Treasury
Annex 2233
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20220
Tel: 202-622-2510
Fax: 202-622-1657

John Shattuck
Assistant Secretary of State
for Human Rights
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Room 7802
Washington, D.C.
Tel: 202-647-2126
Fax: 202-647-9519

—REPORT BACK FROM CUBA YOUTH BRIGADE—

Seventy young people from the United States as well as Britain, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Mexico, Spain, and Sweden participated in the International Youth Brigade to Cuba in January. Brigade participants were on editorial assignment for newspapers and radio stations and are reporting back on the Cuban revolution today. Over the next few weeks the *Militant* will feature reprints and excerpts from those reports.

Following is an excerpt from an article by Sukul Baul, a student at Illinois State University in Normal. Baul is one of three brigade participants who had their passports confiscated by U.S. Customs officials.

BY SUKUL BAUL

I am currently under investigation for the alleged crime of violating a federal law.

My passport was seized by U.S. Customs officials at O'Hare International Airport on Jan. 21. It, along with my personal information is being viewed by the U.S. Department of State.

I am accused of leaving the United States and entering a "hostile" foreign

ISU student experiences Cuba

Daily Vidette correspondent travels abroad on assignment

country without the expressed written consent of the U.S. Department of State.

If convicted, I face a possible sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The country I allegedly entered illegally was Cuba.

I went to Cuba on an editorial assignment for the *Daily Vidette*. My motives were to find out what life is like in Cuba, and to find out what the U.S. government does not want people like me to see....

Communism and the revolution in Cuba have turned the country around. It is not your average Third World country. The masses are not starving. The entire population does not live in shacks. Babies do not die by the thousands each year. Conditions are tough, but livable.

A Personal Look at
CUBA

Part 1 of 3

The Daily Vidette

Tuesday, January 2, 1995

(Illinois State University Student Newspaper)

But, the U.S. government does not want people like me to see that. They want me to think Cuba is a hostile country.

They try to make me believe Cuba is a nation of terrorists by publishing reports like "The role of Cuba in International Terrorism and Subversion."

They want me to think nuclear missiles are pointed at Chicago. They want me to think I might be killed if I go there.

We are made to rely on what the government says is right and wrong. Our information comes from, and is processed by the government.

One of our given rights as Americans is the ability to obtain information for ourselves. But that right has been taken away from us by the U.S.

Feds smear 172 men as 'conspirators' in N.Y. sedition trial

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The trial of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and 11 other defendants charged with violating a Civil War-era sedition law took another twist in mid-February, when federal prosecutors presented a list of 172 men described as "unindicted persons who may be alleged as co-conspirators" of the defendants.

The federal agents who compiled the list delivered it to the federal judge presiding over the trial, and it was presented to defense attorneys during the first week of February. Included on the list is the Sudanese Mission to the United Nations.

According to *New York Newsday*, nearly a dozen Islamic clerics from the New York and New Jersey area are among those listed. On February 9 Muslim and community leaders met in Brooklyn to discuss how to defend themselves against the government slander. Dr. Mohammed Mehdi, head of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, told *Newsday* he was "sickened and insulted" to be on the list.

Another 'mastermind'

Earlier in the month, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef was seized by U.S. officials in Pakistan February 7, allegedly on the basis of an informer's tip. A \$2 million reward had been offered by the U.S. State Department for information leading to the arrest of Yousef.

Now the big-business press is sensationalizing the capture of yet another "mastermind" of the alleged plot to blow up New York-area landmarks. Yousef is facing charges in New York City for involvement in the World Trade Center explosion of early 1993.

Yousef is supposed to have left incriminating evidence in an apartment in Manila in January, including a computer disk with detailed plans to kill the pope during his visit to the Philippines and to blow up a U.S. jetliner flying in the Far East.

Yousef has not yet been indicted by federal authorities in the sedition trial under way in New York City, but they are working over time to squeeze out every last drop of propaganda value from the arrest. Abdel Rahman, a blind Muslim cleric who has already spent 19 months behind bars, is accused of being the "intellectual author" of a plot to wage a religious "war of urban terrorism against the U.S."

On February 6 Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, one of the 11 other defendants in the frame-up, switched his plea to guilty and told the court he had been involved in plans to place bombs at the United Nations building, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels, and the George Washington Bridge. "I was told by the Sheik [the alleged terrorist campaign] was permissi-

ble," Siddig Ali said.

Judge Michael Mukasey told Siddig Ali, who is seeking a reduced sentence, that he could face life imprisonment if he did not deliver the "substantial cooperation" he promised.

Attorneys for the other defendants had not been informed by the prosecutors that Siddig Ali had begun talks with them. Court records show Siddig Ali contacted government authorities January 23, one week before opening statements, to ask for a secret meeting. Without the knowledge of the defense team, Siddig Ali and his own defense lawyers then met in the judge's chambers the next day. The judge appointed another lawyer for Siddig Ali January 24 to begin the plea bargaining process.

Based on such prosecutorial and judicial misconduct, defense attorneys filed a motion for mistrial. By letting them proceed with opening arguments without knowledge of Siddig Ali's forthcoming guilty plea, the lawyers argue, the judge had compromised their defense efforts. "It is unconscionable that [the judge] could proceed with opening statements with Siddig Ali sitting at the table knowing that he



Emad Salem, right, with Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. Rahman is accused of being the 'intellectual author' of terrorist conspiracy. Salem, an FBI stool pigeon and central prosecution witness, received \$1-million government payoff for his testimony.

was going to totally change the game," said Ramsey Clark, one of the lawyers for Abdel Rahman. Clark said the judge was making no attempt "to conduct a fair proceeding."

Siddig Ali is now the one new addition to what beforehand was the government's sole witness — Emad Salem, an FBI informant who infiltrated the group around Rahman and secretly recorded some conversations. Most of the government's case has hinged on the testimony of Salem.

Defense lawyers challenge Salem's credibility and portray him as a highly

paid provocateur determined to entrap the other defendants. On the opening day of the trial January 30, prosecutor Robert Khuzami acknowledged that the government had paid Salem \$1 million in exchange for information about the defendants and that he had previously committed perjury in a traffic-related trial in New York courts.

"We know that he lied under oath on something as small as a traffic case," said defense attorney Roger Stavis at the opening of the trial. "Imagine what he would do when the big bucks were at stake."

U.S. Congress 'anti-crime' bills deepen bipartisan attack on democratic rights

Continued front from page

petition. Clinton's 1994 crime bill expanded the death penalty to about 60 federal offenses. Now Congress is seeking to make it easier for jurors to carry out this new legislation, as well as many state death penalty laws.

Earlier this year the government of Texas executed Jesse Jacobs, after state officials publicly acknowledged Jacobs had not actually committed the murder of which he was convicted. Twice during the week prior to this legalized murder, the U.S. Supreme Court denied Jacobs a stay of execution on the basis that his appeals had gotten a "fair" hearing in state courts. Texas leads the pack in executions today. Eighty-nine inmates have been killed in fewer than 13 years, and 18 more state-sanctioned murders are scheduled for the first six months of 1995.

Clinton: 'Don't touch my cops!'

Clinton has been silent about these and three other add-ons to the reactionary 1994 crime bill. The bills have been adopted with substantial, and in a couple of cases overwhelming, Democratic Party support in Congress.

But Clinton has drawn a line in the sand. No one dare touch the authorization in the 1994 bill to carry out his campaign pledge to put 100,000 more cops on the streets.

"I will veto any effort to repeal or undermine the 100,000 police commitment. Period," Clinton declared in his weekly radio address February 11. Attorney General Janet Reno, rallying to back up the president's posturing for the 1996 election, said that "Congress must not move backward in the fight against crime."

Despite the White House veto threat, however, Congress voted February 14 to replace the \$8.8 billion allocation with a so-called block grant of \$10 billion over five years to local governments to use as they see fit — for more cops, more jails, or other "crime prevention" measures.

More bucks for jails

Another bill approved by the House February 10 increases allocation for prison construction from \$8 billion to \$10.5 billion, on condition that states receiving federal funds guarantee that inmates stay locked away for at least 85 percent of their sentence without parole. According to the Justice Department, the average time spent by inmates convicted for violent crimes has been 55 percent.

As part of this measure, in a move to further dehumanize working people behind bars, the bipartisan gang in Congress adopted amendments to deny federal prisoners musical instruments, weight-lifting equipment, and cable television. The measure also portends a serious curtailment of prisoners' rights by limiting court-ordered settlements in federal lawsuits over prison conditions and violations of civil rights.

Seeking to dismiss such lawsuits as "frivolous," Charles Canady, a U.S. representative from Florida and the bill's sponsor, arrogantly claimed that prisoners "complain about getting only one roll with dinner, having no TV in their room, getting chunky peanut butter rather than creamy peanut butter." And New Jersey representative Dick Zimmer, objecting to prisoners — and presumably U.S. troops — getting a decent meal, offered an amendment "that inmates not be served food above the standard served in the U.S. Army," according to the *New York Times*.

Debtors' prisons

The House voted unanimously — 432 to 0 — February 7 to require inmates convicted of a federal crime to pay full restitution to victims. Compliance would be a

condition of parole, which could be revoked if the parolee were not able to pay. H. Scott Wallace, a spokesperson for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, told the *New York Times* that the initiative would de facto restore debtors prisons, which were abolished in the United States and Britain in the last century as contrary to the right of equal protection under the law.

And by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 380 to 20, the capitalist politicians in Congress laid the groundwork for more assaults on immigrant workers by adopting a bill providing for the immediate deportation of "illegal aliens" convicted of a crime, after their time has been served. The bill also makes it more difficult for such immigrants to reenter the United States once they have been deported.

Mississippi House OKs beatings

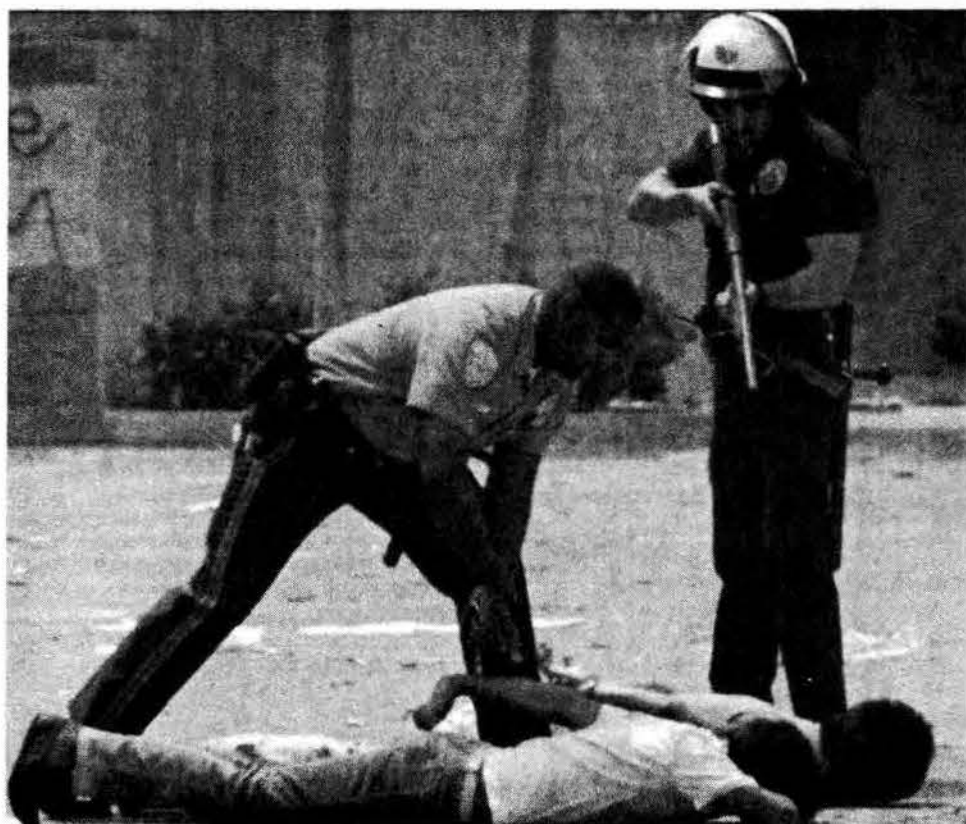
The barbaric practices of whipping, flogging, or caning — used in centuries past against slaves, bonded servants, and other working people in the United States — took a step toward revival February 7 when the Mississippi House of Representatives adopted a bill allowing judges to order "paddlings." The legislation does not spell out how, where, or by whom the beatings will be administered.

None of the 32 Black members of the Mississippi State House voted for the proposal. Mississippi state senator John Horn told National Public Radio that the bill "harkens back to the days of sharecropping and slavery."

Over the past year, bills to reestablish corporal punishment in one or another form have been introduced and failed in state or local legislative bodies in New York, California, Missouri, New Mexico, and Louisiana. Currently a bill proposing a punishment of public caning on courthouse steps is before the state legislature in Tennessee.

In a related development, Connecticut governor John Rowland presented a plan February 6 that would allow minors to be automatically tried as adults if accused of murder or selling illegal drugs. If convicted, minors would be subject to the death penalty.

— M.W.



Los Angeles police terrorizing two youths after acquittal of cops in Rodney King beating in 1992. President Clinton proposes putting 100,000 more cops on the streets.

Australia tour features Cuba youth brigade

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 MARNIE KENNEDY

SYDNEY, Australia — A Militant Labor Forum February 11 was the highlight of a three-day whirlwind visit to Sydney by Bill Estrada, a member of the Young Socialists in Los Angeles. Twenty-six people, including 10 youth, heard Estrada's report from the International Youth Brigade to Cuba that took place in January.

Eight of the forum participants were refugees from Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. One of them had met the Young Socialists six months ago at a picket protesting U.S. aggression against Cuba outside the U.S. consulate. He and his friends stayed for an

hour afterward to talk more about world politics with Estrada, and, as a result, decided to buy several books by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin.

"The U.S. government uses the embargo to punish the Cubans for having a workers and farmers government," Estrada explained. There was a very diverse mix of people at the forum, including longtime supporters of the Cuban revolution and those learning about Cuba for the first time. Some asked about what effect the workers parliaments and formation of farm cooperatives have had on people in Cuba. Others wanted to know if Cubans have access to international news and whether or not democratic rights exist there.

Many people at the forum had questions about the anti-immigrant law passed in California last November, Proposition 187, when they learned that Estrada had been involved in the protests against it. He answered questions on how the demonstrations were organized and talked about

the high school walkouts that took place throughout Los Angeles.

A collection at the door and an appeal for donations raised US\$109 towards the cost of Estrada's visit to Australia.

The young socialist spent Friday morning campaigning with Communist League candidate Bob Aiken, who is running in elections in New South Wales. They visited a Hoover factory gate and the Fort Street High School. Estrada met up with a student who reads the *Militant* newspaper and has come to a YS class.

Lengthy interviews were held with two local radio stations, 2RSR and 2SER. Estrada went to lunch with two interviewers to learn more about politics in Australia and continue the discussion with them about the Cuban revolution. He answered questions regarding conditions in Cuba today, why people left the country last August, and how workers are dealing with the economic crisis.

Later that evening, Estrada had dinner with a young person about the Young So-

cialists and what campaigns the YS is involved in. Estrada also talked about what he saw on his recent trip to Cuba.

A 16 year old who came to the Pathfinder bookstore looking for *Militant* articles on the workers parliaments in Cuba, met with Estrada for two hours. They talked about a range of topics, including how to build a communist organization and how communists carry out political work in the trade unions. They also discussed the character of the Cuban revolution and its leadership.

Estrada used every opportunity to encourage young people to sign up for future international youth brigades to Cuba. Getting young people from Australia on these trips, as well as organizing a May speaking tour of Australia by a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, will be central priorities of the Young Socialists in Sydney in the coming months.

Marnie Kennedy is a member of the Young Socialists in Sydney, Australia.

Caterpillar talks stall, as company rebuffs auto union proposals

BY MARTIN DUNNE

PEORIA, Illinois — Talks aimed at ending the seven-month-long United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against Caterpillar Inc. broke down recently. After four days of meetings with a federal mediator, company officials claimed the union was offering only a "dusted off" version of its 1991 contract proposal the company already rejected. Both Caterpillar and the UAW agreed to meet again.

The union issued a strike bulletin February 6 condemning Caterpillar for "posturing" rather than attempting to negotiate a contract. The company continues to demand major concessions from the union on health care, job security, two-tier wages for new workers, contract length, and the resolution of charges against fired and disciplined workers.

"Caterpillar is not telling the truth when they say the new UAW proposal is a 'rehash' of earlier union offers," the strike bulletin notes. It goes on to explain, "In health care, for example, we removed 25 items from previous proposals, which requested expanded or improved coverage. On wages, we offered a lower starting wage for new employees — the first time ever such an arrangement would be included in a UAW-Cat agreement."

The company is pushing for new hires to start at roughly half what older workers make, with no possibility of achieving wage parity. Caterpillar claims this is a

must in order to maintain its competitive edge on the world market.

Despite record profits of \$279 million during the fourth quarter of 1994 and the best overall year in company history, Wall Street signaled its concern about the long-term effects of the strike when the company's stocks plunged \$3.88 a share on January 19 and another \$2.12 the following day.

Caterpillar's rejection of the UAW's proposal has met with an unusually critical response from the local media. "UAW offer not 'same old proposal,'" read the page 1 headline of the *Peoria Journal Star*, February 7. "Outline showed movement on several major contract issues."

Meanwhile, Glenn Zipp, the National Labor Relations Board region 33 director, issued another unfair labor practices complaint against Caterpillar February 10. The charge alleges the company violated the National Labor Relations act when it threatened to impose new "Standards of Conduct" for employees in January.

These new workplace rules would include a prohibition on wearing buttons or clothing depicting the strike, a ban on distributing or displaying signs with messages relating to the labor dispute, and a ban on participating in rallies on company property.

"There is no legal precedent to justify such wholesale infringement of employees' statutory rights," said Zipp.



Militant/John Sarge

Caterpillar UAW members and their supporters rally in Peoria, Illinois, May 1994.

400 in N.Y. mark achievements of labor historian Philip Foner

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NEW YORK — More than 400 attended a memorial meeting here February 5 for Philip Foner. A historian and the author or editor of more than 100 books on labor, social, and Black history, Foner died in December at the age of 84.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of District 1199 of the hospital and health-care workers union, heard from more than a dozen speakers, including Manhattan borough president Ruth Messinger, actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, and singer Ronnie Gilbert.

Foner's brothers Moe, Henry, and Jack told the story of how all four of them were among several dozen employees fired from posts at City College in 1941 in the anticommunist witch-hunt conducted by the Rapp-Coudert Committee of the New York State legislature.

Following the firings, 25 years were to pass before Philip and Jack Foner were able to find employment again in teaching. Moe and Henry Foner went on to become union officials. In 1981 the Board of Trustees at City University issued a formal apology to those who had been victimized for their views, acknowledging that academic freedom had been violated.

Philip Foner was the author of a 10-volume history of the labor movement in the United States. Other books he wrote or edited include selections from the works of Thomas Paine, Frederick Douglass, José Martí, and W.E.B. Du Bois; a history of political and diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba; and an eight-volume documentary history of Black workers in the United States.

Foner's two-volume selection of the

works of Du Bois is published by Pathfinder Press, as are three other of his works: *Autobiographies of the Haymarket Martyrs*, *The Great Labor Uprising of 1877*, and *Mother Jones Speaks*.

Ronnie Gilbert, formerly a member of the singing group the Weavers along with Pete Seeger and others, drew applause and laughter at the gathering as she performed several sketches from her one-woman show based on the life of Mother Jones. Gilbert said she had drawn material for the show from Foner's collection of works by Mother Jones. Also present at the meeting and recognized from the podium were Jan Peerce, an international vice president of the Communication Workers of America; Haywood Burns, head of the City University law school; and Victor Navasky, publisher of the *Nation*.



Philip Foner

Available from Pathfinder

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By Philip Foner

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Advancing the revolution in the Americas

Account by Bolivian leader highlights internationalism of Che Guevara

BY SARA LOBMAN

Printed below is an excerpt from "My Campaign with Che," the account by Bolivian revolutionary Inti Peredo, a veteran of the guerrilla struggle led by Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia in 1966-67. Peredo's memoir appears, for the first time in English, in the new edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, published recently by Pathfinder. A narrative pulled together from recollections of the surviving veterans of the campaign, it provides a fascinating and useful complement to Guevara's day-by-day journal of the 11-month struggle.

Peredo points out that the Bolivian campaign was, from the beginning, conceived as being continental in scope. It aimed at creating a fighting movement of workers and peasants throughout South America that could win the fight for national sovereignty, wrest power from the landowners and their governments, and advance the socialist revolution in the Americas opened in Cuba less than a decade earlier.

In the course of explaining this struggle, Peredo adds substantial information to Guevara's notes regarding relations with the Bolivian Communist Party, the guerrillas' political functioning, Che's views on forging political leadership, and the events following his capture and death. His account sheds light on the course the campaign took as combatants responded to the concrete challenges that unfolded in what they had planned to be only the initial stage of a prolonged revolutionary struggle.

Peredo had joined the Communist Party of Bolivia in 1951 at the age of 14 and was secretary of the La Paz region of the party prior to joining Che's group. He was a leader of the guerrilla unit led by Guevara and a member of its general staff. Following Guevara's murder in October 1967 by the Bolivian army — with the direct involvement of the U.S. government — Peredo and four others managed to escape the military encirclement. In 1969, while living clandestinely in La Paz, he wrote the narrative of his experiences.

On Sept. 9, 1969, however, before the book could be published, the house he was staying in was raided by police, who had been tipped off by an informer. After resisting for an hour, Peredo was wounded by a grenade, captured, and murdered.

A copy of the manuscript was smuggled out of the country and in September 1970 circulated in mimeographed form in Bolivia. That same month excerpts were published in the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*. "Mi campaña con el Che" was subsequently published in book form in several Latin American countries. Ex-



Above, left, participants in the Bolivian campaign resting after a march. Inti Peredo is second from the left. Che Guevara is second from right. Above, right, Che Guevara with villagers in Picacho, Bolivia. Bolivia was one of poorest countries in Latin America. Attacks on trade union leaders provoked a general strike in 1965 and the military dictatorship unleashed a wave of repression. These were the conditions in which the guerrilla campaign was prepared.



cerpts appeared in the Cuban journal *Pensamiento Crítico*, as well.

"My Campaign with Che" is reprinted in *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* by permission of Matilde Lara. The translation is © Pathfinder Press and is reprinted here with its permission. Subheads are by the *Militant*.



BY INTI PEREDO

The following day [Che] called Coco, Loro [Bolivian revolutionaries Roberto Peredo and Jorge Bigotes], and me over to discuss the character of the struggle. This was my first political discussion with him, and like all the ones we had during the war, it was interesting and profound.

Extending the revolutionary struggle

The first concept that came through clearly and categorically was the continental nature of the struggle. With his usual frankness, Che explained that the struggle would have the following characteristics: it would be long, harsh, and cruel. Therefore, no one should set their

minds on a "short-term" perspective. He then went on to explain why he had chosen Bolivia as the theater for the war.

The choice, he stated, was not an arbitrary one. Bolivia is located in the heart of the southern cone of our continent, bordering five countries, each with a political

and economic situation becoming increasingly critical. Bolivia's geographic position thus makes it a strategic region for extending the revolutionary struggle to neighboring countries.

It must be kept in mind, he went on, that Bolivia cannot win its liberation alone, or



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Mike Taber

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary fighters whose struggles against capitalism, racism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression point the way forward for humanity. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Two Pathfinder titles are now back in stock. *The Marxist Theory of Alienation*, by Ernest Mandel and George Novack, argues that social alienation from one's fellow human beings is rooted in the development of class society. It can be overcome, they write, only through the revolutionary fight for a society on a world scale both free of domination by the capitalist class and with complete democratic control of the government and economy by working people — that is, a socialist society.

James P. Cannon: A Political Tribute features five interviews with the longtime leader of the U.S. and world communist movement conducted shortly before his death in 1974. Cannon draws from more than six decades of experience in the working-class struggle to discuss the fight against frame-ups, winning youth to the communist movement, and other questions.



Pathfinder will be represented at several upcoming book fairs around the world. These include the London International Book Fair March 19-21, and the Mexico City Book Fair February 24 to March 6. The latter event will be attended by Pathfinder volunteers from

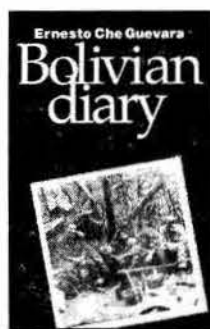
Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Atlanta.

One additional event Pathfinder will be attending over the next few weeks is an exhibition of U.S. books, to be held in Havana February 28 to March 15. This activity — the first of its type since before the 1959 revolution — is being sponsored by the Association of American Publishers and the Cuban Book Chamber. Representatives from Pathfinder will be part of a delegation from a number of U.S. publishing houses, and Pathfinder books will be among the several thousand titles on display.



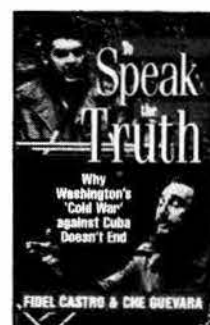
Following a mailing to several hundred college bookstores, Pathfinder has begun to receive orders for an assortment of titles for Women's History Month in March. Included on the list are books by Evelyn Reed; *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters; *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels; *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes; and *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

A similar promotional effort for Black History Month resulted in 38 orders, for a total of almost 950 books. Leading sellers were *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro (85 copies), *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X (81), *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* (77), and *To Speak the Truth* by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara (76). Also selling well was *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* (65).



The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account, newly translated, of the 1966-67 guerrilla 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 edition includes material published in English for the first time. \$21.95



To Speak the Truth | Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End

By Fidel Castro and Che Guevara

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at least it would be very difficult to do so. Even after the army and the state power are defeated, the triumph of the revolution is not assured. The servile governments, led by imperialism — or imperialism directly, with the collaboration of the servile governments — will try to destroy us. Nevertheless, if in the course of the struggle we are faced with the opportunity of taking power, we will not hesitate in assuming that historic responsibility. Clearly this would entail a great quota of sacrifice on the part of the Bolivian revolutionaries.

'Message to Tricontinental'

Later, Che explained to us what he meant by "quota of sacrifice" on the part of the Bolivian revolutionaries. He told us he had written a document for the Tricontinental meeting of the peoples that would be held in Havana in July 1967. In that document, he stressed, the following ideas are spelled out:

"We will be able to triumph over this army only to the extent that we succeed in undermining its morale. And this is done by inflicting defeats on it and causing it repeated sufferings.

"But this brief outline for victories entails immense sacrifices by the peoples — sacrifices that must be demanded starting right now, in the light of day, and that will perhaps be less painful than those they would have to endure if we constantly avoided battle in an effort to get others to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for us.

"Clearly, the last country to free itself will very probably do so without an armed struggle, and its people will be spared the suffering of a long war as cruel as imperialist wars are. But it may be impossible to avoid this struggle or its effects in a conflict of worldwide character, and the suffering may be as much or greater. We cannot predict the future, but we must never give way to the cowardly temptation to be

the standard-bearers of a people who yearn for freedom but renounce the struggle that goes with it, and who wait as if expecting it to come as the crumbs of victory." [See "Vietnam and the World Struggle for Freedom: Message to the Tricontinental" in Pathfinder's *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*.]

For Che the "quota of sacrifice" signified the Bolivian people's role as standard-bearers of the guerrilla struggle, and never the postponement of the seizure of power.

In other words, we were becoming a vanguard people that would obtain its liberation in battle, and not as a "crumb of victory."

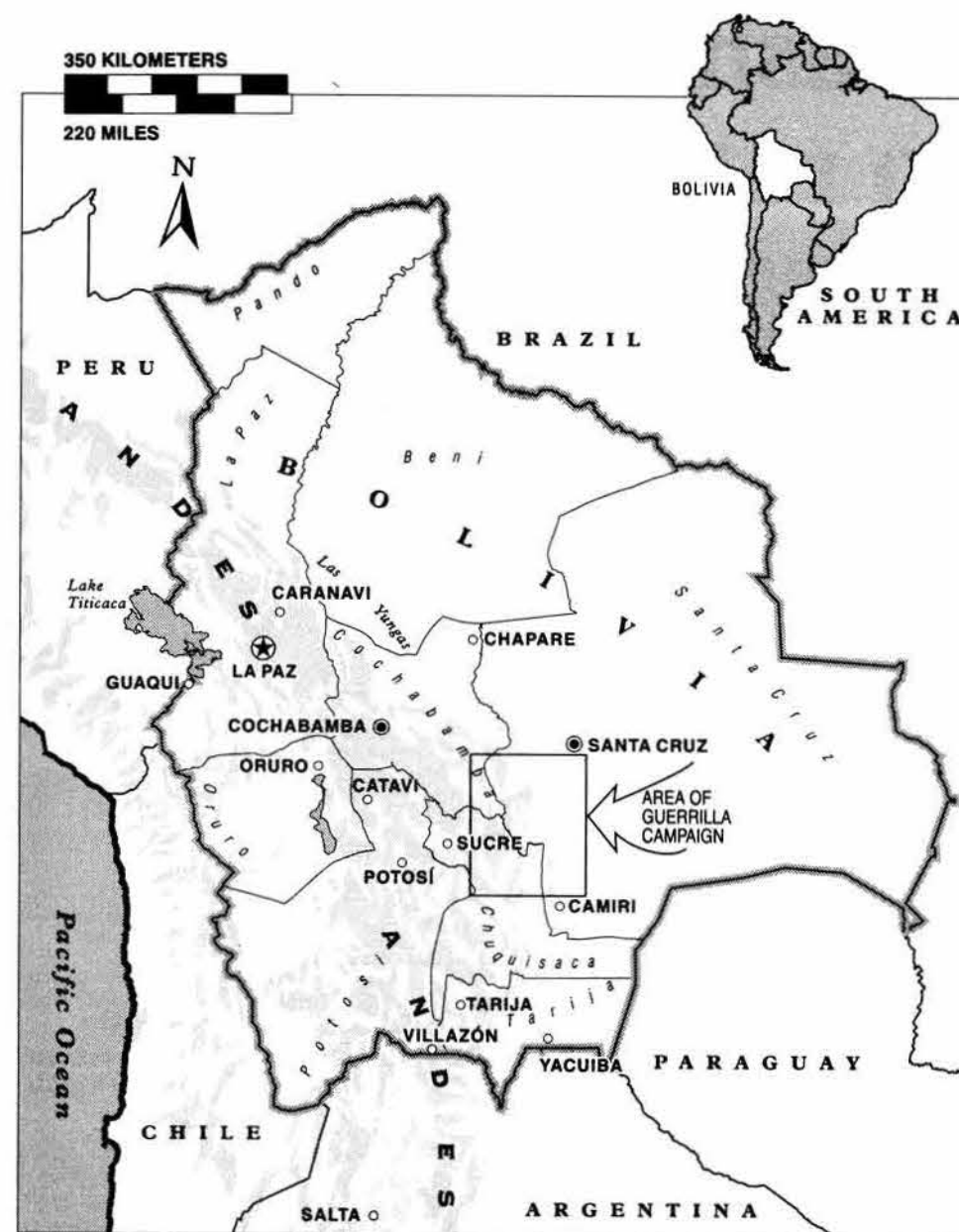
Toward a new Vietnam

Che was also correct in spelling out for us the relationship between the struggle of the heroic people of Vietnam against U.S. imperialism and the guerrilla war in our continent. The war in Vietnam, he stated, is one part — although the most important — of the worldwide struggle against imperialism. The war in Vietnam is our own war. Imperialism has converted that heroic country into a laboratory experiment, so that the techniques of military destruction developed there can later be used against the peoples of our continent.

In Vietnam one can see clearly how imperialism not only violates a country's borders, but erases them entirely, claiming its "right" to chase after the patriots of the armed forces of the peoples of Indochina through Cambodia or Laos, bombing villages in these countries, and extending its brutal genocide with impunity.

Break down borders through action

The same thing will happen in Latin America, Che explained. Borders are artificial concepts imposed by imperialism to keep the peoples divided. Any people that recognizes these borders is condemned to



isolation, and their liberation will be slow and painful.

The concept of borders must be broken through action. As our guerrilla movement develops, governments in neighboring countries will first send arms, advisers, and supplies, and will try to surround us. Later they will coordinate their actions, uniting in battle against the guerrillas. As they become incapable of defeating us, the

U.S. Marines will intervene, and imperialism will unleash all its deadly power. Then our struggle will become identical with the one being waged by the Vietnamese people.

The revolutionaries will understand, even if they do not yet feel this imperative, that it is necessary to unite to confront the oppressors in a coordinated manner, as a single force.

F E B R U A R Y

Black History Month

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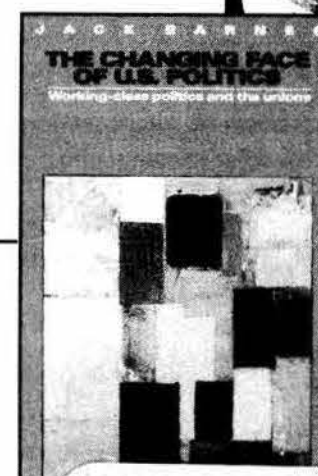
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Washington forces Haitian refugees to return as death squads remain intact

BY MAUREEN COLETTA

MIAMI — Heavily armed U.S. soldiers oversaw the forcible repatriation of nearly 300 Haitian refugees who were brought from the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, in early January. Altogether nearly 4,500 Haitians have been repatriated since the beginning of the year.

Resisting their return January 7, two men were handcuffed. One was carried down the gangplank by U.S. soldiers, who told him, "This is your country. Be a man." The man replied, "I don't want to come back to a country like this and die in the streets."

After nearly 90 percent of the 4,468 Haitian refugees held at Guantánamo turned down U.S. promises of temporary jobs and a paltry sum of money, the Clinton administration began the process of forcible return. Only 560 of the refugees took Washington's offer and departed voluntarily. Those forcibly returned were given \$13.50 in Haitian currency and a bag holding toothpaste and soap.

At its high point in August 1994, Guantánamo held 21,428 Haitian refugees. Following the return of Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide October 15, about 16,000 returned to Haiti. Three hundred fifty-seven unaccompanied minors are still being held at the camp. Their cases are to be decided separately.

Those not returning voluntarily cited their continued fear of violence. U.S. immigration officials claimed Haiti is safer now and that democracy has been restored. Yet some U.S. officials, asking not to be named, admitted that "some problems remain," especially in the countryside.

Meanwhile, in Miami, a press conference and two protests have been held in January and February to demand the humanitarian parole of the unaccompanied minors still being held at the U.S. naval base. Many of these children have family members who have been killed, or have themselves been victims of violence, and do not want to return to Haiti. All of them possess signed support affidavits from family members living in the United States or from other families willing to support them. The Clinton administration so far refuses to admit these children to the United States.

In an interview, Marleine Bastien of the Justice Coalition and the Haitian Women of Miami — the groups that organized the Miami protests — explained the conditions of the children she visited at Guantánamo January 17-20. She saw children barefoot and said that some have been placed in military isolation and handcuffed as disciplinary measures. Some children have attempted suicide.

"None of the notorious criminals who



Soldiers carry a protesting Haitian refugee ashore in Port-Au-Prince in early January. The United States forcibly repatriated thousands of Haitians from the U.S. base at Guantánamo.

killed thousands of people, maimed young children, raped hundreds of women has so far been brought to justice" in Haiti, Bastien said. Instead, she remarked, they are "still armed and dangerous, and U.S. soldiers have been the ones preventing these people from being brought to justice, even pressuring the Aristide government to release criminals who have been arrested."

Aristide has so far steered clear of the issue of bringing to justice those responsible for human rights violations during the

three years following the coup when an estimated 3,000 people were killed. A common slogan raised today is "Reconciliation AFTER Justice."

Such views have been reinforced by the news in mid-February that rightist death-squad leader Emmanuel Constant, founder of the hated Front for the Advance and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), had been admitted to the United States after twice ignoring summons to testify at judicial hearings on FRAPH's involvement in politically motivated murders, torture, and

rapes. It was revealed following the U.S. occupation of Haiti last year that Constant had long been a paid informer for the CIA.

"I don't know if there was a conspiracy, but all of a sudden, one day we hear that Constant is in the United States," commented Necker Dessables, director of the Commission for Justice and Peace in Haiti.

Many South Florida Haitians have recently returned from visits to Haiti and are expressing their opinions of the situation there on the numerous Creole radio stations.

"People still support Aristide," said Leslie Jacques, who has a call-in radio program called "Haiti Amerique" in Miami. "They say it's much safer, and a majority of the people say the invasion was a good thing. But they are getting angry now that the Americans are telling Aristide everything he has to do...or they are frustrated with him because nothing appears to be improving."

In an interview Lavarice Gaudin, a leader of the Miami Haitian rights organization Veye Yo and longtime backer of Aristide, explained his point of view. "We don't have political problems that cause us [Haitians] to leave the country. FRAPH is not as powerful as before. Before, people couldn't have demonstrations."

U.S. troops are expected to hand control of their operation to the United Nations March 31, claiming Washington's self-appointed mission of creating a "secure and stable environment" has been accomplished. The international UN peacekeeping force of 5,000 to 6,000 (including 2,500 U.S. troops) are expected to stay in Haiti through the December presidential elections and February 1996 inauguration.

Canada's rail bosses want more cuts

BY JON HILLSON
AND ROGER ANNIS

More than 1,000 angry railway workers rallied in Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 28 to protest an ongoing restructuring drive by Canada's three national railway companies that could cost thousands more jobs. "Workers on the floor are angry to no end. There'll be wholesale layoffs across the country if job security is lost," said Ed Fullerton, who works at the Canadian National Railways (CN) Transcona shop.

The rally was organized by the Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW), which represents some 20,000 workers who repair locomotives and rail cars. Collective agreements have expired for the 38,000 workers at Canadian National and Canadian Pacific (CP Rail), the two national freight-carrying railways in Canada, and

for 3,200 workers at Via Rail, the passenger rail network.

The central issue in negotiations is the rail bosses' drive to cut jobs. Limited job protection clauses for senior workers were introduced in agreements in the mid-1980s. Repair workers with eight years seniority, for example, retain their salary if their positions are eliminated, provided they agree to take another job that opens up in their region of the country. The job-protection clauses were used by the railway bosses to obtain support from union officials for concessions on wages and pensions.

The railways are now trying to set aside these agreements. CN and CP are trying to further reduce the size of crews on trains.

Negotiations with the CAW have broken off in anticipation of a nonbinding report by Allan Hope, a mediator appointed by the federal government. The workers can legally strike seven days after the report is made public. Strike authorization votes were adopted by large majorities at both CN and CP Rail and a similar result is expected at Via. Nine thousand members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, who maintain and repair track, will vote on a strike mandate later in February.

The companies are continuing negotiations with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the United Transportation Union (UTU). The UTU represents train operating workers, including switchpersons, brakepersons, and conductors. The two unions are bargaining for approximately 12,000 workers. A process taking months would be required before these two unions would be in a legal strike position.

CP is training 1,500 management personnel to replace its repair and track maintenance workers in the event of a strike. UTU officials have instructed local unions to report for work if CAW members walk out. The railways' job-cutting drive has the full backing of the Canadian government. Ottawa is trying to divide and weaken potential support for the workers. "I think that when Canadians learn that workers at

CN and CP with eight years of seniority are protected against layoffs, most will be outraged. They will say, 'I don't have that kind of protection, so why should others?'" Transport Minister Doug Young said during a CBC Radio interview February 7.

Thanks to job cuts and other cost-cutting measures, profits of Canada's rail bosses are rising sharply, topping \$329 million in 1993. CP Rail earned \$277 million in 1994, up from \$245 million in 1993. CN and CP have expanded their operations in the United States and are engaged in heightened competition with U.S. railways in an increasingly North American-wide transportation market.

The lack of unity and coordination among railworkers is a source of deep concern to many unionists. The last nationwide rail strike was in 1987. Fifty thousand workers struck for five days in August seeking to improve job security. The strike shut down all rail traffic in Canada. Federal government legislation ended the walkout and no improvements were won.

Some 3,000 repair workers struck CP the following year for two months. Deep concession demands on job security and trades "flexibility" were the main issues. The railway continued to operate but workers beat back company demands.

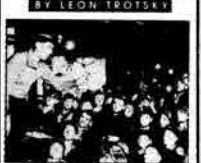
Since the strikes, the rail bosses have cut thousands of jobs. Between 1989 and 1994, Canadian railways cut their staff by 24 percent to 57,000.

CAW officials have said that if a strike happens, they will pick one company as a target and then use that agreement as a basis for negotiations with the other two.

Dropping industry-wide bargaining in other industries in Canada and the United States over the past 15 years has led to a weakening of union power.

Jon Hillson is a member of UTU Local 1882 at the CP-Soo Line in St. Paul, Minnesota. Roger Annis is a member of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 841 in Montreal.

TRADE UNIONS
IN THE EPOCH OF
IMPERIALIST DECAY

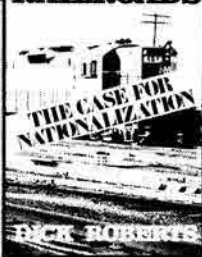


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Georgia town bans young Blacks from local stores

BY LINDA JOYCE

UNION POINT, Georgia — Twenty-one Blacks, ranging in age from 15 to 31, have been publicly banned from 90 percent of the businesses here. The prohibition was initiated by Ben Stewart, the mayor and a local business owner, allegedly to reduce shoplifting and vandalism in this town of 2,000, nearly half of whom are Black. None of the young people has ever been convicted of stealing from the stores.

Stewart worked together with the police and city council to decide which young people should be kept out of more than two dozen stores and businesses. Local merchants — including owners of banks, pharmacies, groceries, video stores, and other shops — signed on. Only Morgan Furniture Co. declined. Later a Black owner of an arcade withdrew his support as well.

According to Charlotte Hunt, a garment sewer and leader of a recent union organizing drive at a local hosiery plant, the ban goes further than a prohibition on shopping. "One of the people on the list, Tim Allen, had to get permission from city hall to even go to work at his job in the plant," Hunt said.

Reginald Howard, an unemployed construction worker, told reporters he now has to travel 10 miles to another town to do his laundry and shopping.

Mayor Stewart, who owns the local finance company and several other businesses, denies the hit list has anything to do with racial discrimination. He says merchants are dealing with a "behavioral problem."

Young people interviewed in Union Point say that cops here hassle them all the time. A brother of Morris Moon, one of those on the banned list, explained that his brother has been in jail for two months after an incident where a local cop harassed a group of five youths standing on a street corner. The police searched them and then sent them home. Later that evening the cops arrested Moon, claiming drugs were found in a ditch near where the youths had been standing.

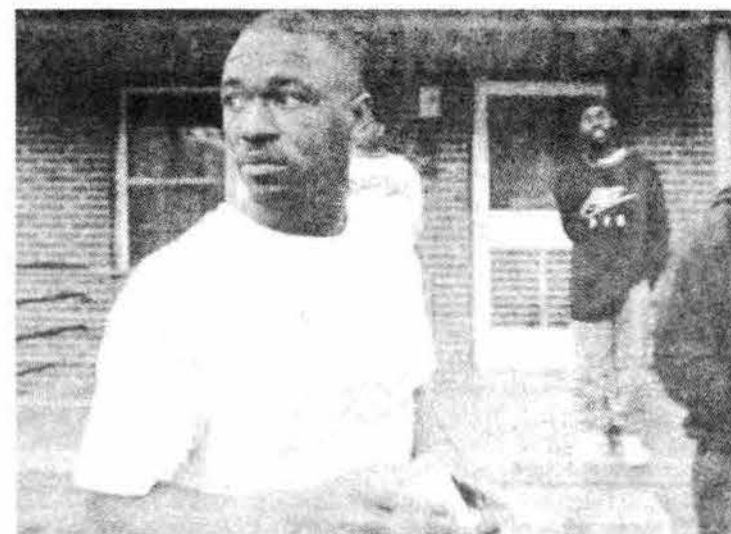
The family has been unsuccessful in getting him out of jail. Moon and another blacklisted person, Michael Jackson, remain behind bars. Four other young people have to appear in court March 13 for violating the ban, under which they have been charged with criminal trespass for entering local stores.

People here in town have mixed reactions to the ban. Rumors were spread that the banned youth were going to "shoot up" the high school. But most people in the Black community see the mayor's actions as a sharpening of racist policies that have always existed in the town and that fall heaviest on Black youth. Town officials and the cops are under growing pressure from a federal lawsuit filed by 12 of the young people, charging that the ban is racially discriminatory and a violation of their civil rights, and from the media attention the racist ban has drawn around the world. The mayor has started to back pedal, saying that the blacklisted youth might be able to attend a series of "classes" to get off the list. But he refuses to admit the town has done anything wrong.

Because the ban is such a flagrant violation of civil rights, the U.S. Justice Department has been compelled to enter into the dispute. They have sent in a mediator who is trying to get the lawsuit quashed and the town authorities to back off.

The local NAACP has called a march to protest the ban for February 25 in Union Point. It is also seeking approval from the national office of the NAACP to initiate a boycott of local stores until the ban is lifted.

Linda Joyce is a member of United Auto Workers Local 882 in Atlanta. Ellen Haywood, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 2490, and Ed Hill, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1996, also contributed to this article.



Reginald Howard, an unemployed construction worker, is among 21 people Union Point officials won't allow into stores.

Kansas City school desegregation under fire in lawsuit

BY RICH STUART

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — How long does a school desegregation plan have to stay in place before it is discontinued? What standards should be used to measure whether desegregation has been achieved? Are the wages of school workers relevant to such standards? These were some of the questions argued in the case of *Missouri vs. Jenkins* before the U.S. Supreme Court in January.

The court is expected to decide by July the fate of the 10-year-old school desegregation program now in place here. Officials representing the state of Missouri argued that enough has been done to desegregate the schools. Attorneys representing the schoolchildren, parents, and Kansas City school district countered that the plan has not been in effect long enough to overcome generations of inferior, segregated education. They argue that the state of Missouri should not be relieved of its obligation to guarantee an equal education for the 37,000 children in Kansas City schools.

The outcome of the case could affect some 200 other school systems in the United States now under court-ordered desegregation plans.

All-Black schools

The Kansas City desegregation plan was the product of a long struggle against many decades of inferior, segregated education for Blacks. Even the landmark 1954 Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision outlawing segregated schools had little impact.

By the 1980s Kansas City schools were virtually all-Black. As many white parents sent their children to private or suburban schools, the Kansas City school system was left underfunded and in a state of growing deterioration. For example, the last year that a majority of Kansas City schoolchildren were white, in 1969, was the last year that a bond issue to finance schools had been passed.

Jan Behrend, a Kansas City school teacher, told this reporter about conditions in her school prior to the desegregation order. There was one drinking fountain for 500 students, Behrend said, and sewage was leaking from one floor to the next. Students had only outdated books, and Behrend used her own funds to pay for her students' paper and pencils.

In 1985 a federal court ruled that the state of Missouri and Kansas City School District must provide funding for the desegregation of city schools. The court ordered that state and local funds be used to improve the school system, including rebuilding the schools themselves.

More than \$1.4 billion has been spent under the plan to build modern new schools and upgrade old ones. The desegregation plan also reduced class sizes at every level.

Arthur Benson, an attorney representing Kansas City schoolchildren and parents, told the *Militant* that a ruling in favor of the state's arguments would "gut the new programs" and "result in the collapse of the school system." The full desegregation plan has been in place only three years. Benson said the program needed "at least another 10, 15, or 20 years to be successful, with gradually less funding, since most of the building programs are completed." As the schools have improved, he said, more and more white parents have been keeping their children in the Kansas City system.

Under the desegregation plan, the federal court has ordered pay to be increased for teachers, teacher's aides, custodians, cafeteria workers, secretaries, and other school workers. State officials objected to the pay raises, especially for non-teaching employees, saying they have nothing to do with the desegregation plan.

Overcoming legacy of inequality

Another issue argued before the Supreme Court in January was whether standardized test scores should be used as a gauge of the desegregation plan's success. The widest gap in test scores between minority and white students here in Kansas City occurs in secondary schools, where students began their education under the old segregated system.

Arguing for the state, however, Missouri's assistant attorney general John Munich told the court that using test scores as a way to measure progress in desegregation is not "relevant" and is "impractical."

Judy Clause of Kansas City Federation of Teachers Local 691 said, "It is insane to argue that test scores are irrelevant! Fixing the buildings is a start, but what we're trying to do is educate kids. The reality is that it takes money. We can't undo 50 years of segregated schools in less than 10 years."

Rev. Nelson Thompson, president of the Kansas City Southern Christian Leadership Conference, made the point that, "Desegregation is needed to right past wrongs. We have to keep it going until the wrongs are righted."

Packing bosses pressure Iowa politicians to ease regulation of giant hog producers

BY MICHAEL LANTRY

DES MOINES, Iowa — IBP, the world's largest meatpacker, recently issued a blackmail warning to Iowa state officials: either support modernized large-scale pork production or lose a big chunk of the industry.

Robert Peterson, chairman of IBP, sent a letter to Gov. Terry Branstad and members of the state legislature urging adoption of "reasonable" environmental regulations governing so-called mega-hog facilities. The IBP chief demanded that new laws provide better protection for owners of large hog-producing facilities against lawsuits over air and water pollution. Peterson also demanded that state officials modify laws that ban the packing bosses from owning farmland or raising livestock.

"Iowa has a very large problem," Peterson said. "It's going to affect taxes...big time." Peterson threatened that unless Iowa lawmakers embrace large-scale hog production more enthusiastically, the state will lose market share to North Carolina, Missouri, Utah, and other states. Currently IBP has five pork slaughter plants in Iowa.

Hogs, which have traditionally been raised by small- and medium-sized family farmers in the United States, are increasingly being produced by a few specialized corporations that build giant facilities around the country. Agribusiness giants like Murphy Farms and Premium Standard Farms loan small farmers money to build state-of-the-art hog confinement facilities and to provide them with a steady stream of hogs. The farmers become virtual debt slaves to these corporations. Sixteen percent of the hogs slaughtered in the United States in 1993 were either raised directly by these corporations or by farmers under contract to them.

These modern hog confinement facilities can produce thousands of hogs a year that are leaner, healthier, and of a more standardized size than ever before. The big meatpackers like IBP hope this development will help them introduce more labor-saving technology into the packing plants and guarantee a cheap and plentiful source of hogs.

The growth of these large hog-producing facilities has been hampered in Iowa by laws that allow neighbors to sue owners of these operations for fouling the air and threatening the water table with the massive waste produced by thousands of hogs confined to such small areas.

The growth of these operations nationally is already having a profound impact on the structure of the pork industry. In 1994, North Carolina, a state where hog production is dominated by large confinement operations, became the second leading hog producer after Iowa, eclipsing Illinois.

Many small farmers blame the growth of these large operations for the disastrous drop in live hog prices they experienced during the last half of 1994. In the last six months of the year, the prices farmers received from the packers for hogs dropped 50 percent to a 14-year low. While farmers were forced to liquidate herds and many are facing bankruptcy, working people did not see a comparable drop in pork prices in the supermarkets. In fact, during all of 1994 retail pork prices declined by less than 4 percent.

The packing bosses made a killing off the misery of the farmers. IBP announced its 1994 net earnings were \$182.3 million, or \$3.79 a share, on revenue of \$12.1 billion. That was double the previous year's earnings of \$90.1 million, or \$1.88 a share, on revenues of \$11.7 billion.

While farmers were feeling the pinch, IBP packinghouse workers were working six days a week putting in as many as 10 hours a day as the company tried to maximize its profits.

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Labor rally in Montreal protests cuts

Continued from front page
ful union banners and signs called on Ottawa to tax the rich, not the poor.

The union-led action took place three weeks after a Canada-wide day of student protests against Ottawa's plans to cut back post-secondary education funding and drastically raise university tuition fees. The January 25 actions, which involved some 75,000 students, was the largest student mobilization in the country's history.

On February 7, thousands of students in cities across Quebec participated in another round of actions. Two thousand participated in a Montreal rally that received messages of support from representatives of pensioners, union federations, and others.

"Demonstrations like this build solidarity," said Benoit Bélair, a union steward at SPAR Aerospace who marched on February 12. "We need that today."

Jean-Yves Charland, a member of the Communications, Energy and Paper Workers said, "There is something major happening here. The government should pay attention to us before it's too late."

The rally, shortened by the deep-freeze temperature, was addressed by leaders of the three main trade union federations in Quebec — the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ), the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), and the Quebec Federation of Teachers (CEQ). They called on the government to cut the federal budget by raising taxes on banks, multinational corporations, and stock-market profits.

"We have a government that tells us there is not enough money for education, welfare, unemployment insurance, or old-age pensions," Lorraine Pagé, CEQ president, said. "They forgot to tell us that the corporate tax breaks cost almost as much as these social programs."

Students join union members

Student spokesperson Francois Rebello also called on the government to keep its hands off social spending. He said that tax shelters for the rich represent billions of dollars that could be going to education and social services. Unionists applauded the efforts by students to challenge government cutbacks in the school system.

Students who marched in the protest were inspired by the unity of demonstrating with union members. "This is a cause!" said Penny Colbourne, a reporter for the Concordia University *Link*. "Not just students, not just workers, but a united front."

Responding to the growing protests against the impending cuts, Federal Revenue Minister David Anderson said last week that demonstrations will not change the content of the budget. Ottawa's approach will not be altered "simply by protests here or protests there," Anderson said. "We have objectives we must achieve."

Longtime secondary school teacher Monique Crevier expressed the determination of many at the march to defeat those objectives, saying, "We are demonstrating for the future. If we don't stop the government now, our children won't have anything."

Labor unions and others in the western province of British Columbia are now discussing possible action against the cuts. A February 17 rally has been endorsed by the British Columbia Federation of Labour and a wide array of union and community organizations.

Kelly Lynn is a member of the Young Socialists in Montreal. John Steele is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 in Toronto.

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Malcolm X: The Importance of His Ideas for Young Fighters Today. Speaker: John Hawkins, member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 803 Peachtree St. (between 5th and 6th Streets in Midtown). Donation: \$3. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

ILLINOIS

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The Fight for Civil Rights Today. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Steelworkers of America Local 1011. Sat., Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. Dinner: 5 p.m. Class: Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, and member, United Steelworkers of America Local 3247. Sat., Feb. 25, 3 p.m. Both events at 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$10. Each session: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

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Malcolm X and the Fight Against Racism Today. Speakers: Frankie Travis, member, United Paperworkers International Union;

Jonathan Lackland, member, Black Congress, Bradley University; Brian Taylor, member, United Transportation Union and Young Socialists. Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Bradley University, Baker Hall (on Main St.). For information, call: (309) 671-2201.

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Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War. Speaker: Greg McCartan, *Militant* reporter to the 1994 convention of the African National Congress in South Africa, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, Washington, D.C., and member, United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dinner: 6 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$6 for program, \$6 for dinner. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

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Malcolm X: How His Ideas are Relevant to Today's Struggles. Speaker: Maceo Dixon, former Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston; video presentation of speeches by Malcolm X. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

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The Political Legacy of Malcolm X. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (east side of Route 280 on 16A bus line). Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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The Fight for Immigrant Rights: Lessons of the Battle Against Proposition 187. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

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Celebrate Black History Month. The Political Contributions of Maurice Bishop and Thomas Sankara: Lessons from the Grenada and Burkina Faso Revolutions.

Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary of Maurice Bishop, prime minister of Grenada during the 1979-83 revolution. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., NW. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

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Lebanon: Working People and Youth Confront the Politics of the 1990s. Speaker: Paul Davies, recent visitor to Beirut. Sat., Feb. 18, 6 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 071-928-7993.

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Toronto

Death in the Workplace: Labor's Role in Defending Health, Safety, and the Environment. Speaker: John Steele, Communist League, member, International Association of Machinists. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. W. (between Christie and Ossington). Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

Which Way Forward After the Successful January 25 National Day of Protest Against Cuts to Social Services. Speakers: Michelle Kemper, president of the Canadian Federation of Students (B.C. Chapter); Oscar Cerritos, student at Simon Fraser University, and member, Young Socialists; Vivian Hoffman, student at Lord Bing Secondary School, and member of High School Students against the cuts; Jason Phelps, member of the SFU coalition against the cuts and the Greater Vancouver Alliance against the cuts; Paul Kouri, Communist League, member, United Steelworkers of America Local 2952. Sat., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

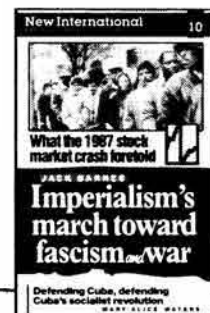
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Working Farmers Under Attack. Speaker: Lars Ericson, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road, P.O. Box 3025. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

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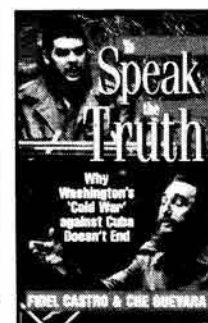
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A truly great society — "A graduate student at the University of Rochester fed radioactive milk to children, one of whom developed thyroid cancer...according



Harry Ring

to new data about government radiation experiments." — February 10 news item.

'How well will it kill?' — Con-

trary to initial claims, University of Rochester researchers did not select terminally ill people as guinea pigs in early atomic experiments. An unearthed memo said that those who were to be injected with uranium or plutonium had to have relatively healthy kidney and liver functions to assure "a metabolic picture comparable to that of an active worker."

Behind the peso crisis — Some big-time investors were convinced that Mexico's Zedillo administration could keep the country's economy afloat because key cabinet members boasted doctorates from top U.S. universities. But, sadly, it turns out that like many

another job-hunter, several of them had doctored their resumes with nonexistent doctoral degrees.

Coalition-building — Surprisingly, 75 people turned out at a San Francisco public hearing supposedly to back a controversial planned energy project. It was disclosed that they were homeless folks who were paid \$10 each to attend. A utility company chap assured the \$10 wasn't to buy their attendance at the hearing but merely to provide them dinner.

The morality boys — Modern power plants can provide energy more cheaply than the old ones. What to do? One way to go, utility

magnates say, is to take the billions invested by stockholders and, instead of paying dividends, use it to rebuild.

But, they say, that would be immoral. Another way, they suggest, is to make the cheaper energy from new plants available to big industrial users, leaving householders and small businesses to pay higher rates to support existing grids.

IBM a counterculturenik — Dumping a long-enforced tradition, IBM will permit employees to wear informal dress at the office. John Molloy, author of "Dress for Success," deemed it a setback for women and short men,

who are not recognized as business leaders. "If you put on a \$400 suit, you become establishment," he explains. "The suit adds status."

As with lunch, no free press — The Miami Herald channels unsolicited faxed press releases to a 900 number (user pays), while reporters give a free number to "sources."

Thought for the week — "A peach may give you certain vitamins that a soft drink does not, just as the soft drink gives you more liquid than the peach does." — Children's poster from the National Soft Drink Association.

Canada 'anti-tax' protests take aim at social gains

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The right-wing Reform Party, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, and other groups are organizing rallies across Canada to protest projected tax increases in the federal budget to be presented at the end of February.

The Liberal Party government in Ottawa has raised the possibility of tax increases as well as major spending cuts. Raising the specter of the need to "reduce the deficit," Finance Minister Paul Martin's aim is to slash more than \$6 billion in the upcoming budget as part of a two-year package of some \$15 billion in cuts.

"Canadians have just had it up to here with taxation," said Reform Party leader Preston Manning at a rally in this Pacific Coast city January 26. The Reform Party shot up from one seat to 52 in the 1993 federal election. Now it is trying to arouse hostility toward social programs — won by working people through struggle — by capitalizing on widespread opposition to tax increases, especially in the middle class and among relatively better-off layers of workers.

Manning spoke the day after 75,000 students rallied across Canada against threatened cuts in federal funding of higher education that could lead to the doubling of tuition fees. "Until the taxpayers' passion about tax increases exceeds

the passion of special interest groups about spending reductions," Manning proclaimed, "we're not going to see a tax freeze."

The Canadian Taxpayers Association is also organizing 17 tax protest rallies across Canada. Pensioner Elsie Dean was shouted down at a February 4 rally of 1,000 in Vancouver when she suggested spending cuts would mean lost jobs and higher unemployment insurance costs. The crowd cheered speakers who suggested eliminating multicultural programs and selling the government-run Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In Kelowna, British Columbia, 400 turned out, and a rally in Toronto drew 1,200.

The *Globe and Mail*, Canada's national newspaper, added its voice in a January 30 editorial stating, "Canadians...want a balanced budget by cutting spending, not raising taxes." Industry associations have been placing advertisements opposed to tax increases as well.

In addition to proposed cuts in education, the Liberals have raised cutting unemployment insurance for "frequent users," transferring all responsibility for social services and schools to Canada's 10 provinces, eliminating at least 30,000 public service jobs, and eliminating grain transportation subsidies for farmers.

The Reform Party says an additional \$25 million in cuts are needed over the



Militant/Monica Jones

Students protested across Canada January 25 against proposed government cuts. Even harsher assaults on social spending is goal of rightist "anti-tax movement."

next three years. While the party pledged prior to the 1993 election that medical programs wouldn't be touched, its health care critic Dr. Grant Hill explained to the *Cambridge Reporter* recently, "Now, I have to look you in the eye and say there must be spending cuts and program reductions in

all areas."

A primary concern of the *Globe and Mail*, Reform Party, and big business is the continued payment of interest on the federal debt. These payments take one-third of the budget and go directly into the coffers of banks and wealthy bondholders.

Boeing to slash 7,000 jobs in cost-cutting profit drive

BY EMILY FITZSIMMONS

SEATTLE — Boeing Co., the world's largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft, announced recently that it will cut 7,000 jobs — 6 percent of its total workforce — in 1995. This latest reduction in jobs comes as USAir, Continental Airlines, Air France, and All Nippon Airways have canceled or postponed orders for Boeing planes.

The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* reported February 11 that the job cuts will hit the aerospace giant's engineering workforce the hardest. The article suggests that the layoffs are primarily a consequence of Boeing's drive to reduce costs and increase productivity, rather than simply a response to postponement of airplane purchases. The *Post-Intelligencer* notes management has demanded "radical cost-cutting measures for the past three years." Their stated goal is to cut aircraft production time in half and reduce costs by 25 percent.

Charles Bofferding, executive director of the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association (SPEEA), has called on the company to consider "alternatives other than layoffs." The SPEEA represents 25,300 Boeing engineers and technicians.

Sixty-five hundred jobs will be eliminated in the Seattle area, where 70 percent of Boeing's workforce is located. Eight hundred jobs at Boeing Helicopters near Philadelphia and 500 jobs in Wichita, Kansas, will also be cut. The workforce at other Boeing plants will increase by 800 the company said. Boeing spokespeople claim many jobs will be eliminated through retirement and other attrition. But

in 1994, when Boeing cut 9,305 jobs, more than 73 percent of the workers were laid off.

This is the fifth year of downsizing at Boeing and the fourth straight year of profit losses in the U.S. commercial airline industry. Production rates at Boeing have declined sharply from 32 planes a month in early 1993 down to 18.5 planes a month in the beginning of 1995.

The latest cuts were deeper than anticipated by many industry analysts, but reflected "improved productivity and manufacturing efficiency" at Boeing, according to William Whitlow of Pacific Crest Securities. Wall Street registered its approval of the Boeing move by lifting the price of its stock 37.5 points February 2.

In another announcement, aerospace giant McDonnell Douglas said February 6 that it may temporarily halt production of its MD-11 jumbo jet, due to a shortage of orders. Thousands of workers would be affected by layoffs.

In efforts to cut costs and increase profit rates, many major airlines are opting to keep their fleets flying longer instead of replacing them with new aircraft. Northwest Airlines, for example, has decided to refurbish its aging DC-9s at a cost of \$6.2 million per airframe, rather than paying \$30-\$35 million for new planes. Northwest projects extending the life of these planes from an average of 67,000 pressurization cycles (takeoffs and landings) to 105,000 cycles and flying them for an average of 41 years instead of the previous 26 years!

Emily Fitzsimmons is a member of the United Transportation Union in Seattle.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
February 27, 1970 Price 10¢

FEB 18 — A strike wave is sweeping across the Flemish-speaking section of Belgium, bringing with it the most acute labor unrest in nearly a decade. It is the latest manifestation of a broader European strike wave that has appeared in several countries in the last six months.

The strike wave was initiated by the coal workers at Winterslag in the eastern province of Limbourg who went on a "wildcat" strike Jan. 5. Within 24 hours it had spread to three other mines in the region, involving a total of about 23,000 miners. Yet another mine, scheduled to be shut down at the end of 1970, joined after the first week. By Jan. 14, all the coalpits in Limbourg were closed. The miners are demanding an immediate 15 percent wage increase to help meet the increases in the cost of living.

Then on Jan. 30, the strike spread to the auto industry, when 9,000 workers at the Ford plant in Genk went out on strike demanding a hike in pay and a 40-hour week. On Feb. 2, 5,000 workers at the General Motors plant in Antwerp also struck. Today, around 50,000 workers are on strike, with the possibility that it may spread.

In an interview soon to appear in *Intercontinental Press*, Francois Vercammen, a leader of the JGS [Socialist Young Guard], explains the strike support activities of the young socialists. The JGS has distributed about 300,000 leaflets in the

factories, mines, universities and schools throughout Belgium. By going to other mines together with other revolutionary groups and with striking miners, the strike has been spread to additional mines, including several in Wallonia. The students have helped build two mass demonstrations in support of the strikers.

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As public indignation mounted in protest against the monstrous death penalty imposed a week ago on 27-year-old Private Henry P. Weber of Vancouver, Wash., his sentence has been progressively cut down. On Feb. 14 the Camp Roberts Military Court revoked the sentence of death by hanging and changed it to life imprisonment at hard labor.

When progressive and labor organizations continued to condemn this savage punishment of Weber for his Socialist views, and several senators asked about his case, the military authorities were forced to retreat still further. The reviewing board changed the sentence from life imprisonment to 20 years. Finally the Judge-Advocate in Washington set the sentence at five years at hard labor.

The present penalty inflicted upon Weber is not only unduly harsh in view of the offense with which he is charged, refusal to drill, but has been imposed in violation of the War Department's own regulations. There regulations instruct officers to assign draftees like Weber, who object to bearing arms, to non-combatant work without punishing them.

Join in actions to defend Cuba

The so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act was presented at a bipartisan press conference February 9 by Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, Democratic congressman Robert Torricelli, and others. This reactionary proposal builds on the actions of the administration of President Bill Clinton last August in tightening Washington's 35-year-old economic and trade embargo against revolutionary Cuba.

Whether or not this particular legislation is adopted by Congress and signed into law by the White House, as Helms and Torricelli both predicted, one thing is for sure. It helps pave the way for Washington to ratchet up pressure on the Cuban revolution a step or two further in coming weeks and months.

Last August, Clinton banned cash remittances from Cuban-Americans to their families in Cuba and imposed even more onerous restrictions on U.S. citizens wishing to travel to the island. At the same time, the administration established a concentration camp at the U.S. naval base on Cuban soil at Guantánamo Bay, holding tens of thousands of people who had taken to homemade rafts seeking to emigrate to the United States.

A substantial ruling-class majority in the United States today is acting on the judgment that now is the time to step up their decades-long efforts to weaken the socialist revolution in hopes of eventually overturning it. They know the social tensions that have built up in Cuba

in recent years as a result of economic hardships caused by the embargo and cutoff of preferential trade agreements with the former Soviet Union.

This is why U.S. officials, for example, are increasing their harassment of visitors to Cuba, including participants in the recent International Youth Brigade, members of the last Venceremos Brigade, and a group of academics returning from Cuba in January. Washington cannot brook the idea of young people, union members, and others writing and speaking to help get out the facts about what they saw there.

As eyewitness reports carried in the *Militant* recently have pointed out, the revolutionary government and working class in Cuba have now made some important progress in easing the food crisis of recent years. That kind of information is not easily discerned from the pages of any major newspaper or magazine in the United States.

The nearly year-long schedule of actions called by the February 11-12 meeting of the National Network on Cuba deserves the support of the labor movement, working farmers, and young people. Starting with a series of conferences and teach-ins in April and May under the banner of "Tell the Truth About Cuba," right up through regional actions on October 14 demanding an end to the embargo, there are numerous activities to be organized and built by all those seeking to defend the Cuban revolution. We urge all our readers to get involved.

Congress, criminals, and victims

The recycled version of the Clinton administration's 1994 "crime bill" is a broadside assault on the democratic rights of working people.

One of the bills adopted by the House of Representatives in February, for example, limits the rights of inmates to file lawsuits against violations of their civil rights and against intolerable prison conditions. The indecent character of that proposal was underlined by a recent story in the *Manchester Guardian Weekly* about the maximum security prison at Pelican Bay, California. Prison guards there gave a scalding hot bath to a handcuffed, mentally ill Black inmate who had smeared himself with feces. As the skin fell off his buttocks and legs, one of his tormentors remarked, "Looks like we're gonna have a white boy before this is through."

February 21 marks the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. It's always useful to look at what Malcolm had to say about crime when the capitalist rulers and their politicians crank up racist, anti-working-class hysteria around this question.

Five days before his murder in 1965, Malcolm explained in a speech in Rochester, New York, how the media is used to portray working people and Blacks as "thieves" and "hoodlums," while in fact it is the businessmen and politicians who grow wealthy off the exploitation of working people who actually "are nothing but thieves." "The press is used to make the victim look like the criminal and the criminal look like the victim," Malcolm said.

Today, amid the depression conditions spreading

throughout the capitalist world, the U.S. rulers are preparing the cops and courts for the struggles they know will be fought by working people to defend our living and working conditions, our unions, and our political rights. That's why the bosses' parties want more cops, more jails, more executions, and fewer protections of the constitutional rights of the accused and convicted.

The function of the cops — who are themselves up to their eyeballs in the drug trade, corruption, theft, brutality, and murder — is not to deter crime and protect the citizenry, as they proclaim. Their role is to serve and protect the handful of owners of capitalist property. Their job is to mete out punishment on the spot to working people who get out of line — whether strikers on a picket line, or young Blacks and other workers harassed at random day in and day out in order to set an example of "who's boss."

It is the dog-eat-dog values of capitalism, and the breakdown of human solidarity this social system breeds, that produces crime. And it is through struggles by working people and their organizations against the class injustice, racism, oppression of women, and wars endemic to capitalism that solidarity among the toilers can and will be strengthened.

It is that revolutionary perspective, as Malcolm explained, that will awaken the oppressed and exploited "to their humanity, to their own worth" — and to the need to build a fighting movement to replace the biggest crooks in human history sitting on Wall Street, in the White House, and on Capitol Hill.

Right to abortion is the law

According to the law, women in the United States have the right to an abortion. But if you note some of the recent goings-on in Washington, one might have some doubts.

Women won the right to choose an abortion through struggle. This right gives women more control over their lives by making it possible for them to decide when and if to have children. The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision was an important gain for the whole working class. Before then, tens of thousands of women were forced to bear unwanted children or put their lives at risk in the hands of back-alley butchers.

While the right to abortion is the law, few capitalist politicians act as if it is. A good example is the political storm over the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as U.S. Surgeon General.

Foster acknowledges that he has performed abortions — something hardly surprising for a longtime obstetrician. But this fact immediately put his nomination into question — among Republicans and Democrats alike — and the clamor grew after the nominee said he had performed more abortions than he had initially stated. Democratic senator Joseph Biden called the White House choice "a political blunder in the extreme." The *New York Times* editorial board urged President Clinton to drop Foster.

But disqualifying a doctor for public office because he or she has performed a medical procedure is an outrage.

Similarly, an amendment tacked on to a recent "anti-crime" bill, which would have allowed local communities to use federal funds to protect abortion clinics from

terrorist assault, went down to defeat in the House of Representatives. The entire "crime" package is a reactionary assault on democratic rights, for reasons explained in the editorial above. But why should an amendment be needed to mandate protection of clinics that perform abortions? That's simply enforcement of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

And recently Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, warned Republican Party officials they had better not entertain thoughts of putting someone on the 1996 ticket who supports abortion rights. Three contenders for the party's presidential or vice-presidential slots have publicly said antiabortion language should not be included in the Republican platform — Governor Pete Wilson of California, Governor William Weld of Massachusetts, and Governor Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey.

There is majority support for abortion rights in the United States, and rightist antiabortion forces have been pushed back in recent years by effective counter-mobilizations against their efforts to shut down clinics and intimidate patients.

But opponents of a woman's right to choose gain encouragement from the federal government's weak-kneed defense of the law. The recent murders of clinic workers in the Boston area is a deadly reminder of that fact.

Only continued mobilization by supporters of women's equality can safeguard abortion rights. That's how those rights were won and that is the only way to ensure the continued availability of abortions to those women who choose them.

Malcolm X: his revolutionary legacy for today

February 21 marks the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. Reprinted below are excerpts from a speech given by Jack Barnes, on behalf of the leadership of the Young Socialist Alliance, at a memorial meeting for Malcolm X in New York City shortly after his death. Barnes is currently national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

The talk can be found in *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. It is reprinted by permission of Pathfinder, copyright © 1991.

BY JACK BARNES

Though Malcolm X came from the American ghetto, spoke for the American ghetto, and directed his message to the American ghetto first of all, he is a figure of world importance, and developed his ideas in relation to the great events of world history in his time.

If Malcolm X is to be compared with any international figure, the most striking parallel is with Fidel Castro. Both of them belong to the generation that was shaped ideologically under the twin circumstances of World War II and the monstrous betrayals and defaults of the Stalinized Communist parties. These men found their way independently to the revolutionary struggle, bypassing both Social Democracy and Stalinism.

Each started from the struggle of his own oppressed people for liberation. Each embraced the nationalism of his people as necessary to mobilize them to struggle for their freedom. Each stressed the importance of the solidarity of the oppressed all over the world in their struggle against a common oppressor.

Fidel did not start out as a thoroughgoing Marxist or as a revolutionary socialist. Like Malcolm, he was determined to pursue the national liberation of his people by "whatever means necessary" and without any compromises with those with any stake in the status quo.

Fidel Castro's dedication to political independence and to economic development for Cuba led him eventually to opposition to capitalism. So, also, Malcolm's uncompromising stand against racism brought him to identify with the revolutions of the colonial people who were turning against capitalism, and finally to conclude that the elimination of capitalism in this country was necessary for freedom. Just as Fidel Castro discovered that there can be no political independence and economic development in a colonial country without breaking from capitalism, so Malcolm had come to the conclusion that capitalism and racism were so entangled in the United States that you had to uproot the system in order to eliminate racism.

Malcolm's Black nationalism was aimed at preparing Black people to struggle for their freedom. "The greatest mistake of the movement," he said in an interview in the February 25 *Village Voice*, "has been trying to organize a sleeping people around specific goals. You have to wake the people up first, then you'll get action."

"Wake them up to their exploitation?" the interviewer asked.

"No, to their humanity, to their own worth, and to their heritage," he answered.

Everything he said to the Black people was designed to raise their confidence, to organize them independently of those who oppressed them, to teach them who was responsible for their condition and who their allies were. He explained that they were part of the great majority — the nonwhites and the oppressed of the world. He taught that freedom could be won only by fighting for it; it has never been given to anyone. He explained that it could be won only by making a real revolution that uproots and changes the entire society.

Thus it is not surprising that many who considered themselves socialists, radicals, and even Marxists could not recognize and identify with Malcolm's revolutionary character. They could not recognize the revolutionary content of this great leader clothed in the new forms, language, and dark colors of the American proletarian ghetto.

Even with all his uniqueness and greatness as an individual, he could not have reached this understanding unless the conditions in this country were such that it was possible. Even though no one can fill his shoes, the fact that he did what he did, developed as the revolutionary leader he was, is the proof of more Malcolms to come.

He was a proof as Fidel was a proof. Fidel stood up ninety miles away from the most powerful imperialism in the world and thumbed his nose and showed us, "See, it can be done. They can't go on controlling the world forever." Malcolm went even further than Fidel, because Malcolm challenged American capitalism from right inside. He was the living proof for our generation of revolutionists that it can and will happen here.

Our job, the job of the YSA, is to teach the revolutionary youth of this country to tell the difference between the nationalism of the oppressed and the nationalism of the oppressor, to teach them to differentiate the forces of liberation from the forces of the exploiters; to teach them to hear the voices of the revolution regardless of the forms they take; to teach them to differentiate between the self-defense of the victim and violence of the aggressor; to teach them to refuse to give an inch to white liberalism and to reach out to Malcolm's heirs, the vanguard of the ghetto, as brothers and comrades.

Workers in Mexico win strike for higher wages

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

Plant officials agreed less than an hour into the shift to negotiate a settlement with the 20-member committee that had been elected by the workers as their representatives.

The walkout in Mexico forced Thomson to shut down operations in three U.S. plants that make television components related to those made in Mexico.



RCA Thomson workers in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, walk off the job January 31. Strike forced company to raise wages and offset loss of income from peso devaluation.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

After a one-week strike demanding higher wages to offset the steep devaluation of the Mexican peso since the end of last year, workers at Thomson Consumer Electronics in Ciudad Juárez won a 13 percent pay increase February 8. More than 5,000 workers are employed at the RCA Thomson factory, just across the Mexican border from El Paso, Texas.

"We are very happy," Guadalupe Ramirez told the *El Paso Times* after the strike victory. In addition to higher pay, workers won improved conditions in the cafeteria and a guarantee against reprisals. Workers will also be paid for the days they were out on strike. The wage increase comes on top of a 7 percent pay hike that has been mandated by the Mexican government.

The company tried to resume production February 7. Hundreds of workers showed up but refused to enter the plant. Other workers who went inside the plant decided to occupy their work stations and disrupt production by refusing to work.

'Since the strike we've become a unified group'

"There's no place I'd rather be," Shelley Brundage, a nurse on strike at Mercy Hospital in Port Jervis, New York, said February 9 as she walked the picket line. She was celebrating her 38th birthday.

The nurses have been on strike for nearly six months over wages and benefits and have maintained a 24-hour-a-day picket line. The strikers have recently traveled to New York City for a rally in support of their walkout and have gone to Detroit to picket the corporate headquarters of Sisters of Mercy. This hospital business has \$3 million in annual revenues and operates several facilities in the Midwest.

The picketers describe their strike as a fight for dignity. "We were told never to tell each other how much money we were paid," recounted Joyce Wyka. "We received 20 percent-40 percent less than other nurses in the area."

Mercy Hospital has hired a strikebreaking outfit called Nursecorp, which brings in nurses by vanloads from the Best Western Hotel. But strikers remain confident that, with the support they are getting and their determination,

they will win.

"Before the strike, nurses worked in separate departments and we knew each other, but not very well. Since the strike we've become a unified group," said Christina Maloney. "They can never take that away from us."

Workers in Sweden halt anti-immigrant move

In December the management at the Goman meatpacking plant in Stockholm, Sweden, sent a letter to all workers at the plant with non-Nordic-sounding names demanding that they "urgently show the management a valid visa and work permission." Those with Swedish citizenship were told to show their passports.

The bosses said they were obligated to help police keep a register of all "foreigners" at the plant.

Many workers told the bosses they had no right to demand such papers and refused to follow the orders. "I have worked here for 23 years and have never done it be-

fore and shall not do so now," a female worker from the former Yugoslavia responded.

The divisive management move became the topic of discussion in most plant departments. Many Swedish-born workers joined the discussion and said the bosses had gone too far. "This is pure discrimination," said one worker. "I didn't get a letter, why do they not want to see my passport? Is this a way of singling out people to fire later?" Another Swedish-born female worker said, "There is no law you have to have a passport if you are a citizen. My father does not have one. How can they demand such a thing?"

The number of workers refusing to obey orders, and the degree of support they received from Swedish-born workers, resulted in the union filing an anti-discrimination complaint with the ombudsman, who sent a note to the company. This note and management's long, evasive answer were passed out to all workers at the

end of a January union meeting. After getting an outraged response from workers, the company didn't dare take action against those who refused to show their papers. And the workers maintained their demand that the company apologize for the insult.

On February 1 the workers got a personal letter of apology signed by two bosses. Word of the victory spread quickly around the plant.

Berkeley, California, nurses protest layoffs

Some 200 members of the California Nurses Association, other hospital workers, and their supporters rallied here in front of Alta Bates Hospital to protest management plans to replace hundreds of Registered Nurses with lesser-trained workers. Those RNs remaining would be used as supervisors, while direct patient care would be left to others.

Marilyn Pon, an RN at Alta Bates, explained to the crowd that over the last several years the workload on RNs has increased steadily as the quality of patient care has gone down. This new attack would mean that in emergencies, the first person responding to the light would probably not know what to do.

Alta Bates has attempted to silence nurses' protests by disciplining those who speak out. One nurse was fired and two others reprimanded for speaking to reporters about the reorganization.

Contributors to this column include: Maria Hamberg, a member of the Swedish Food Workers Union at Goman Meat in Stockholm; George Chalmers and Nancy Rosenstock reporting from Port Jervis, New York; and Mindy Brudno reporting from Berkeley, California.

LETTERS

Striker writes

I'm a Pirelli Armstrong worker from Hanford, California. We've been on strike since July 15, almost six months and really rough times. Forty-three people have crossed the picket line out of 519. Not bad. People are still hanging tough. The company hired scabs to replace us after the second month. Keep up the good work!

Ken Neves
Lemoore, California

Mexico crackdown

Action Alert! At 6:00 this evening, Mexican president Zedillo went on television and announced that the government had discovered Zapatista National Liberation Front (EZLN) arms caches in Veracruz City and Mexico City. He identified Subcomandante Marcos as "Rafael Santiago Guillén Vicente." He proceeded to brand the EZLN "terrorists" and announced that he had ordered the Mexican army to "capture" them, i.e., to attack.

This appears to be the attack that we have all feared was coming. The velvet glove of peaceful negotiations has been cast off and the mailed fist of the Mexican state has once more been bared. Zedillo's branding of the EZLN as "terrorists" is a return to the language used by [former president Carlos] Salinas a year ago in his first reactions to the uprising.

The only thing that stopped the military then, and the only thing that will stop it now is massive mobilization against the government's actions. Therefore, all who have mobilized in solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Mexico should organize immedi-

ate action. If we can, once again, create an international wave of protest against the Mexican state's actions perhaps we can bring this new offensive to a stop. If we do not so organize we will share responsibility for the murders and tortures the Mexican army and police have probably already begun.

Harry Cleaver
Austin, Texas

Financial manipulations

I have been a longtime subscriber to the *Militant* and one of the most impressive attributes of your paper is the in-depth analysis of important world events that are an integral part of every issue.

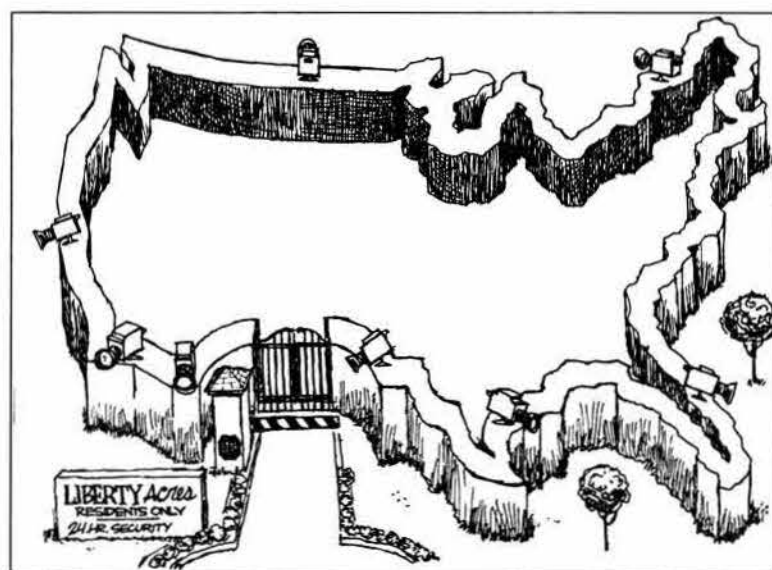
I would really appreciate more in-depth analysis of financial manipulation in the world today. Why do interest rates go up? Why do countries devalue their currencies? What would be the effects of a country, such as Mexico, to renege on its debt payments?

The big-business mass media never tries to educate its readership. Its purpose is to manipulate and herd its readership through the manifestation of lies, half-truths, and deceptions. This is why I have come to depend on the *Militant* for in-depth coverage and debate and why we need more of it in the future.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Opposes Israeli army

Today, Feb. 5, 1995, Nathan Krystall was arrested for refusing — on political grounds — to enlist in the Israeli army. His decision was largely based on his experience as a political activist in



Israel and the occupied territories. Although Nathan has not yet been sentenced, it is likely that he will be subjected to a difficult and perhaps lengthy process of harassment, isolation, and imprisonment. The following is excerpted from a letter that Nathan Krystall wrote to the Israeli prime minister and minister of defense, explaining his reasons for refusing to enlist in the Israeli Defence Force.

To the Minister of Defence,

First and foremost, I now totally oppose the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, which is antithetical to the establishment of any kind of democratic state here. After living in this country, it is clear to me that the preservation of Israel as a Jewish state will always mean upholding the rights of Jews at the expense of Palestinians. As such dominance can only be achieved and maintained by the use of force; the IDF [Israeli Defence Force] — like its predecessor,

the Hagannah — is a central instrument of this violent rule.

In the short time that I have been here I have witnessed how the IDF, upon the orders of the government and its commanding officers (which ultimately emanate from the same place, namely yourself, being both the prime minister and the minister of defence) will stop at nothing to silence any voice that cries out against this oppression, and to smash any action aimed at guaranteeing the full rights of Palestinians. This I have witnessed every single day, through accounts related via the media, stories told to me personally, and with my own eyes.

The continuing, and even increasing, expropriation of Palestinian land, settlement expansion, and road building in the West Bank, particularly in the Greater Jerusalem area, along with the IDF and settler presence in the Gaza Strip, West Bank (including

East Jerusalem), the Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon, only reinforces my resolve to refuse army service.

If there existed here a popular army that protected equally the lives and rights of everyone, regardless of religion, race, sex, or class, I would gladly enlist and serve. However, for the above reasons and more, I am unwilling to serve in the IDF even for one day.

Nathan Krystall
File #309960805

You can fax letters to Nathan at 972-2-253151, or send letters via email to aic@baraka.gn.apc.org (Subject: For Nathan) or write the Alternative Information Center, POB 31417, Jerusalem, Israel (attention: Nathan Krystall).

Get Militant on line

Is it possible to get the *Militant* on line instead of paper?

Kim O'Brien
Willimantic, Connecticut

Editor's note: Yes, the *Militant* is available on line. Check the box on page 3 for details.

In his bones

Please begin sending a 12-week subscription of the *Militant* to my father. He'll love it. He's got that kind of stuff in his bones.

Annette Barnett
Fresno, California

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

90,000 teachers and youth in France protest gov't assault on education

BY JEAN-LOUIS SALFATI

PARIS — Some 90,000 teachers and university and high school students demonstrated February 7 in dozens of cities across France — 25,000 in Paris alone — against budget cuts and proposed education "reforms." The teachers' United Trade Union Federation (FSU), which initiated the action, called on all teachers, from those in child care to the university level, to go out on strike and take part in the demonstrations.

Reacting to the national mobilization and several days of student strikes and demonstrations, Prime Minister Édouard Balladur on February 10 backed away from one of the reforms, suspending a decree limiting the ability of technical school students to pursue university-level studies.

'Keep education a public service'

Many schools were shut down completely February 7. According to the union, more than 60 percent of all teachers took part in the strike. The main demands focused on the education budget. The FSU called on the government to "keep education a public service, that is, to provide the financial support needed for education." Oversized classes; deteriorating buildings; and shortages of materials and teachers in the grade schools, high schools, and universities — these are the norm in France today.

Several unions representing teaching assistants joined the protests, raising their own demands for financial aid.

The teachers and students were angry over a recent report drawn up for the government proposing a number of attacks on

education. Such reports are trial balloons used by the government to cloak its belt-tightening plans as the work of so-called independent experts.

The report questioned the need for social assistance to students, while calling for stiffer requirements for entry into the university system. It also suggested a direct role for employers in the "university structure," including oversight of the content of education and standards for granting degrees. The report speaks of "reforming" Special Housing Assistance. This is a stipend granted by Social Security to all students who no longer live with their families and pay for their own housing. The amount is the same for everyone — FF610 (FF1=US\$0.19) a month — no matter what the income of the family.

The government calls such an entitlement "unjust, because it benefits a section of the student population without regard to family income or academic standing." It also proposes converting scholarships into bank loans, payable several years after graduation. These attacks are part of a broader assault against Social Security, in the name of "reducing the deficit."

Hoping to stave off further protests

The report recommends an increase of more than FF2,000 in student enrollment fees, which currently run between FF600 and FF1,500.

Following the February 7 demonstration, both the press and the government



Students join striking teachers in Paris against government moves to cut education funding and restrict the rights of students to pursue university-level schooling.

took note of the size of the mobilization. In an interview with the newspaper *Libération* the following day, Education Minister François Fillon began a retreat. "The Laurent report [named after its main author] is only a report," he said, "nothing to protest or demonstrate against."

Hoping to head off further actions, he continued, "Students should read the report. They have a year ahead of them. No decision will be taken before spring 1996." Concerning the increase in enrollment fees, he told *Libération*, "No government would implement such a proposal

without a minimum of consensus. The question is therefore not one of immediate action."

The government's caution reveals the capitalists' fear that a challenge to student social assistance and, more broadly, to Social Security, may set off too big a response among young people and workers. Balladur, who is widely seen as the front-runner in the upcoming presidential race, has been criticized by some campaign opponents for caving in too quickly to anyone waving a picket sign, whether striking airline workers or protesting students.

Maoris reject land payoff scheme in New Zealand

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT AND MALCOLM McALLISTER

WAITANGI, New Zealand — "Treaty rights are not for sale!" chanted 700 demonstrators, mainly young and overwhelmingly Maori, as they marched from the marae (tribal meeting area) to the treaty house lawn here. Governor general Catherine Tizard, representative of the British crown, was to preside over official celebrations of New Zealand's national holiday, Waitangi Day, February 6.

Protesters surrounded the flagpole, lowering the three official flags and raising their own flags for Maori unity and sovereignty. The governor general refused to proceed with the ceremonies unless they took place under the official flags, and the speeches and concert were duly canceled.

The march, many times the size of Waitangi protests of recent years, followed angry clashes with government ministers and officials on the marae at Waitangi. National (Conservative) Party prime minister Jim Bolger was booed, the governor general was spat on, and a leading government official who is Maori, Wira Gardiner, got into a scuffle with protesters.

Struggle for land rights

The demonstrations were sparked by a government plan to impose a settlement for all Maori claims for the return of stolen or confiscated land and resources guaranteed to the Maori people under the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. The centerpiece of the plan is a NZ\$1 billion (NZ\$1=US\$0.63) compensation fund. Tribal elders and other Maori leaders denounced the proposed settlement in speeches during the Waitangi Day action.

Grievances have simmered for generations among the indigenous Maori people over land seizures following British colo-

nization. Over the past 40 years, the great majority of Maoris have become part of the urban working class, while retaining links with their rural tribal regions.

During the mid-1970s Maoris and their supporters organized several occupations and protests to defend Maori land rights. The most famous, at Bastion Point in Auckland, lasted 507 days. In 1975 the government set up the Waitangi Tribunal to defuse these protests. Since then, this advisory body has made recommendations on only 109 cases out of more than 400 brought before it. The government has moved to settle even fewer.

In an effort to push Maori grievances aside, the government has made a couple

of large settlements. One agreement in 1992 gave Maori tribal representatives claim to 50 percent of the country's fishing quota and a majority share holding in Sealords, a leading fisheries company. Leaders of the tribal Tainui Trust Board are due to settle on a NZ\$170 million deal with the government in compensation for land confiscated last century. These two settlements will be deducted from the NZ\$1 billion package.

Only 2 percent of value of claims

Maori objections to the proposed deal have centered on how the government cooked it up, after consulting only a handful of Maori leaders. There has also been

opposition to the government's attempt to pit representatives of various Maori tribes against each other in a scramble for the NZ\$1 billion payout, which is estimated to be a mere 2 percent of the value of claims currently before the Waitangi Tribunal. Some Maori political figures not involved in drawing up the proposal have suggested alternatives such as "more consultation" or "partnership" between the government and tribal authorities — more shares in state-owned enterprises, for instance.

Conservative political forces condemned the "chaos" at Waitangi. "Nursing historical grievances helps nobody," the *New Zealand Herald* arrogantly proclaimed.

The *National Business Review* proposed more Maori capitalism, urging that "sensible Maori should accept the offer and make it work." Right-wing columnist Frank Haden mocked "the promoters of the absurd idea of a bicultural society...who have been prostrating themselves ridiculously...in front of the Maori gimme-gimme movement."

The protests around the settlement have attracted a layer of young people keen to discover that working people in other countries have fought similar battles for equality and justice. A team of distributors of the *Militant* newspaper and Pathfinder books from the Communist League in New Zealand participated in the Waitangi Day protests. Young Maoris were interested in discussions with Bill Estrada, a member of the Young Socialists from the United States who recently participated in the International Youth Brigade to Cuba and was in New Zealand speaking about his trip.



More than 700 Maoris and their supporters marched in Waitangi Day protest against New Zealand government's attempts to scuttle land claims of Maori people.

Annalucia Vermunt and Malcolm McAllister are members of the Engineers Union in Auckland.