

THE MILITANT

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call overtime ban

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Irish rally: 'Our resolve has never been stronger'

5,000 in Belfast demand troops out, free prisoners

BY TONY HUNT
AND ANNE FIANDER

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — "We have proved over the last number of years that we are not cowed down. We are on the march to freedom," said Sinn Fein leader Alex Maskey at a May 7 rally in West Belfast. The rally followed a demonstration marking the 14th anniversary of the death on hunger strike of Irish republican leader Bobby Sands. Maskey's words captured the confident and determined mood of the estimated 5,000 people of all ages who had converged on the rally point from across the city.

That confidence was echoed by the main speaker at the rally, Sinn Fein vice president Pat Doherty. He referred to the historic talks planned for May 10 between British government minister Michael Ancram and Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness. To loud cheers and applause, Doherty explained that McGuinness and Ancram "don't have much in common, but that doesn't bother us. All we want is the Brits out of our country."

The demonstration was disciplined and peaceful. Earlier in the day the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and rightists tried to stage a provocation. A blockade of RUC armored vehicles prevented a feeder march from Twinbrook — the housing estate where Bobby Sands had lived — from taking the route it had followed in previous years. Right-wingers living in a Protestant neighborhood on the edge of the march route called on the RUC to take this action.

This provocation was in response to a campaign by Catholics living in an enclave in South Belfast to reroute tri-



Protesters in front of the British consulate in Chicago on May 5 demand freedom for Irish political prisoners and call for British troops out of Ireland.

umphalist marches by the rightist Orange Order. These have traditionally been deliberately staged through the Catholic neighborhood in order to intimidate working people living there. Maskey condemned the RUC, who had drawn batons and donned riot gear at one point. "We

have never insisted on parading through someone's residential area but we will march through this city," he said. "We will march through this state. That's our right!"

On April 28 in Belfast and May 3 in
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Gov't floats proposals to cut into Medicare

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Republican Party politicians have kicked off another round of debate and sent up trial balloons on how to cut Medicare, the government health-care program for the elderly and the disabled. Almost all U.S. residents more than 65 years old are enrolled in Medicare.

Speaking on the television news program "Meet the Press" May 7, House Speaker Newt Gingrich vowed that the federal budget to be presented by the Republicans during the second week of May, would slash Medicare spending over the next seven years. Gingrich said the proposal would allow retirees to leave the Medicare system voluntarily and enroll in other health-care plans, such as private insurance programs, health maintenance organizations, and medical savings accounts.

"We are going to propose to keep the current Medicare system for anyone who wants to stay in it," said Gingrich. When pressed on whether Medicare's current premiums and benefits would remain, he responded, "I'm not willing today to say no."

On April 30, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole drew back from the fray and suggested the creation of a bipartisan commission to offer recommendations on how to carry out the assault. The commission would be modeled after the Social Security panel created in 1983 when public outrage forced then U.S. president Ronald Reagan to retreat on major benefit cuts he proposed in 1981.

The Clinton administration, with its eyes on the 1996 presidential elections, is not eager to share the political fallout that will certainly come from identifying with

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'We are small, unconquerable nation'

Cubans respond to Helms bill; actions set against U.S. policy

BY LAURA GARZA

While the debate on Cuba unfolds among capitalist politicians in the United States with an upcoming hearing on a bill proposed by North Carolina senator Jesse Helms, millions of Cubans on the island are participating in public discussions on the proposed measures to tighten the economic sanctions against the Cuban people. The debate in the halls of Congress takes place in the framework of all sides agreeing that the Cuban revolution must be brought to an end. The discussion in the schools, workplaces, and popular assemblies in Cuba, however, has as its starting point the sovereignty and dignity of the Cuban people.

Cuba's National Assembly kicked off the nationwide discussion May 3. "Our people have the right to know the most about this bill and to express their opinions on it," said Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly.

Helms was joined by Rep. Dan Burton, of Indiana, in sponsoring the bill, which has the Orwellian name, "The Cuban Lib-



A November conference in solidarity with Cuba drew 3,000 to Havana. Plans are underway to build "Cuba Lives" festival August 1-7 and other activities to counter U.S. policy against Cuba.

erty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1995." The bill would ban imports of sugar and molasses from any country that buys these products from Cuba, cut U.S. government contributions to the World Bank and other international financial institutions if they make loans to Cuba, and cut aid to Russia by \$200 million if

Moscow maintains a communications station on the island.

It would also allow U.S. citizens to sue firms in other countries with the claim that the companies are benefiting from property once owned by current U.S. citizens. This would apply retroactively to people who were Cuban citizens at the time their holdings were expropriated and only became U.S. citizens after departing Cuba. In line with this there is also a proposal to deny entry to executives or shareholders whose foreign companies have investments that could be connected to previously confiscated property.

In a column in the *Washington Post* Helms explained, "If you want to do business in the Cuban and American economies, you have to make a choice."

The bill mandates the president of the United States to seek an international embargo of Cuba. As well, it lays out a series of conditions that must be met before any

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Rail workers, students snap up 'Militant'

BY CRAIG HONTS

LOS ANGELES — Supporters of the *Militant* in Los Angeles completed a highly successful target week April 29-May 6, selling 33 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 7 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 6 copies of *New Internationalist*.

One of the highlights of the effort was the results of a two-person team of rail workers from Seattle and Los Angeles that traveled through rail yards in Cheyenne, Wyoming; Denver; and Alliance, Nebraska. The team sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions, including seven to members of rail unions; and one *New Internationalist*.

The team found rail workers confronting similar conditions wherever they went: pushed to the limit by the demands of carriers facing booming business conditions while operating with shortages of crews, locomotives, and other equipment. Workers wanted to talk about the new attacks rail workers will face with the cur-

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London maintains anti-gay ban

The British government pledged to continue its ban on homosexuals in the military "because it undermines the order and discipline necessary for military effectiveness," said Roger Freeman, defense procurement minister. Speaking in a parliamentary debate, Freeman said the military's policy of discharging homosexuals was "fully supported by the government." Labour Party spokesman David Clark said if the Labour Party took office it would "study the experience of other nations."

Mexico police attack prisoners

Mexican police killed four inmates May 4 at an overcrowded prison during protests for better food and living conditions. Cops stormed the Social Readaptation Center in Guadalajara firing bullets and tear gas. Prison officials admit the facility held more than double the 1,000 men for which it was designed and there were shortages of food, water, and medical care. A day earlier, club-swinging state police broke up another protest in one of the dormitories, injuring 50.

Oil workers strike in Brazil

Workers at Brazil's government-run oil company, Petroleo Brasileiro, walked off the job in early May over pay. Tens of thousands of other government workers went on strike to demand higher wages and an end to privatization.

Bus drivers walk out in Chile

A 24-hour work stoppage by bus drivers paralyzed public transportation in Chile May 3. The drivers were protesting plans for a law that would dramatically raise the amount of fines for traffic violations. The government tried to avoid any strike and the interior minister met with union representatives up until the last minute offering to make some changes in the law. But the drivers refused to call off the walkout, which shut down more than 90 percent of bus transportation. The action occurred after a strike two weeks earlier of 8,000 doctors in public hospitals and with the threat of another strike by 100,000 teachers in the upcoming week.

50,000 students denounce Seoul

Some 50,000 students in a newly formed group, Hanchongryon, demon-



Thousands cheer South African president Nelson Mandela at an April 27 rally in Pretoria marking the anniversary of the country's first nonracial elections.

strated May 5 in Taegu, South Korea. The organization plans to link up with trade unions and opposition parties to defeat candidates from President Kim Young Sam's ruling party in local elections next month. Protesters demanded Washington remove its 37,000 troops from South Korea. They also blamed the government for the death in April of more than 100 people in a gas explosion, which they attributed to lax safety regulations.

U.S., N. Korea gov'ts to talk

North Korea's government announced it will resume talks with Washington at a more senior level to resolve a dispute over the construction of two light-water nuclear reactors. Negotiations broke down at the end of April after the North Korean government said it refused South Korean-designed reactors because they are not safe.

Last October, Washington and Pyongyang signed an accord to begin to open trade and political relations in exchange for changes in the nuclear program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The North Korean government agreed to freeze its nuclear program and accept reactors that produce plutonium less suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Miners killed in China blast

At least 16 coal miners were killed in an April 29 explosion in western China. A flame reportedly ignited gas and coal dust at the Dongfang Mine in the northwestern town of Kuche. China's greater integration into the world capitalist market has spawned a mad rush for profits among international capitalists and middle-class layers of the Chinese population, resulting in disastrous working conditions. China, the world's largest coal producer, employs 5.4 million miners. As many as 10,000 miners were killed on the job in that country in 1993.

Russian police precinct charged with leading prostitution ring

The Russian daily *Moskovsky Komso-molets* reported Moscow's 10th Police Precinct was suspended after its role in organizing a lucrative prostitution ring around the Belarus train station was exposed. A police spokesman confirmed that some of the officers were involved, but said it was too soon to say how many would be discharged. The newspaper reported Moscow's special police force

filmed the cops collecting money and escorting prostitutes to their clients in their patrol cars.

Poverty is world's leading killer

Poverty is the leading cause of disease and death and the gap between rich and poor is widening, said a report issued May 2 by the World Health Organization (WHO). "Vast numbers of people of all ages are suffering and dying for want of safe water, adequate sanitation and basic health care," said WHO director-general Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima. According to the report, one-fifth of the world's inhabitants live in extreme poverty, almost one-third of the children are undernourished, and half the population lacks regular access to the most essential drugs. Thirty-two percent of all deaths last year were due to infectious and parasitic diseases — notably diarrhea, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, malaria, and measles. Many of these illnesses can be treated for less than 20 cents.

Hartford school desegregation

The city government in New Haven, Connecticut, announced it would join efforts to desegregate Hartford's schools. City officials said they disagreed with the Hartford Superior Court ruling that threw out the *Sheff vs. O'Neill* lawsuit, which charged that the Connecticut state government was responsible for massive racial imbalance between the Hartford public schools and those in the surrounding suburbs. The New Haven government will seek to support the plaintiffs' appeal as friends of the court.

N.Y. cops face another scandal

For the second time in little more than a year, a group of New York City cops has been implicated in corruption scandals. Two Bronx special grand juries indicted 16 cops from the 48th Precinct on charges of assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, filing false police reports, and insurance fraud.

About 10 percent of the officers in that Bronx precinct have been implicated. Last year, more than 30 cops from Harlem's 30th Precinct were arrested on charges ranging from assault to drug dealing.

— PAT SMITH

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Clinton embargo of Iran has few backers

BY PAT SMITH

With few open backers among the world's governments, U.S. president Bill Clinton signed an executive order May 8 putting into effect a trade embargo against Iran, which it brands as "terrorist."

Washington has not been able to win support for the move from its imperialist rivals, or from Moscow or Beijing. The once highly touted Gulf War alliance has failed to materialize for Washington as it seeks to carry out an open assault on the sovereignty of Iran. Calling the reaction of governments around the world a "global snub," a May 3 *Wall Street Journal* editorial noted, "Clinton has had a tough time cobbling coalitions of friends for just about anything lately."

Oil-rich Iran, with its population of 70 million, cannot be easily isolated. Many capitalist powers and surrounding nations are moving to increase trade with the Persian Gulf country. A spokesman for the European Union said May 2, "We are not going to respond to this initiative. It is in our interests to continue talking with a country that is a major power in the region."

"Turkey supports further development of economic ties," with Iran, said Turkish energy minister Veysel Atasoy in response to the U.S. government sanctions. Ankara just signed an agreement with Tehran to purchase 2 billion meters of natural gas a year starting in 1998 and 10 billion cubic meters annually from 2002. The two governments also approved the construction of a gas pipeline.

Officials in the United Kingdom said they saw no reason to join Washington in imposing sanctions on Tehran. And Ger-



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Protest in Tehran December 1979. "We will support dialogue with the U.S.," said Ibrahim Abedi, editor of the *Islamist Salam* newspaper in Tehran. But "we oppose going back to the subservience to the U.S. that prevailed before the revolution."

many's economics minister said, "We do not believe that a trade embargo is the appropriate instrument for influencing opinion in Iran." Bonn is Iran's largest single trading partner, exporting nearly \$2 billion worth of goods there last year.

Ottawa's foreign ministry spokesman, Ariel Delouya, sidestepped the U.S. call, arguing, "We have very marginal relations with Iran." Delouya said Canada exported about \$328 million of goods to Iran last year, mostly wheat. "Wheat is not an item that has any strategic value," he held.

"The United States's practice will do no good to a settlement of the problem and will only further strain the relations between the U.S. and Iran," said Shen Guofang, from the China's foreign ministry.

Even Azerbaijan's president, Heydar Aliyev, said his government wanted to avoid any worsening of relations with its neighbor. "Our relations with Iran have run into some difficulties," he said May 5, referring to Washington's success in icing Tehran out of a \$7.4 billion Caspian Sea oil deal. "We had offered 5 percent out of

our 20 percent share to Iran, but the U.S. opposed this."

Clinton's call for governments to stop trading with Iran would especially tighten the screws on Tokyo, which imports 600,000 barrels of oil a day from that country. The Japanese government has declined to act on the recent U.S. government request.

Washington claims that Iran is a "rogue state" that sponsors international terrorism and is trying to build an arsenal of nuclear weapons. But to the contrary, a London *Financial Times* editorial May 2 noted, "The International Atomic Energy Agency has inspected Iran's atomic energy facilities and found nothing amiss."

In Iran, the view promoted by Washington is considered particularly insulting. Many there remember or know the history of the coup organized and funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency that overthrew popularly elected Prime Minister Muhammad Mossadeq in 1953 and helped reinstall the Shah, who led a murderous regime until his overthrow in 1979.

"We will support dialogue with the U.S., providing the ties are based on equal terms," said Ibrahim Abedi, editor of Tehran's *Islamist Salam* newspaper. "We oppose going back to the subservience to the U.S. that prevailed before the revolution."

"Iran has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, while Israel refuses to do so," pointed out Hussein Sheikh as-Islam, Tehran's deputy foreign minister for Mideast affairs. The Iranian government offered to turn over spent fuel rods from the light-water atomic reactors it is purchasing from Moscow to ensure no weapons could be produced.

As Clinton prepared for talks with Russian president Boris Yeltsin focusing on the U.S. policy against Iran, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate majority leader Robert Dole threatened to cut off funds to Moscow if the Russian government honored its nuclear reactor deal with Tehran.

"Unless the Russians are prepared to accept very, very severe safeguards to insure that it's only a reactor for power purposes, that none of the raw material can be used to make a bomb," Gingrich said, "I think this is a very serious problem." Dole said Congress would reexamine finances "almost immediately" if Clinton did not win assurances from Yeltsin that the plan would be modified or canceled.

There have been mixed reviews in the big-business press for the sanctions. Some, such as the *New York Times*, came out immediately in favor, but others have been cool to the initiative. "The likelihood is that Clinton is going to ratchet up tension with Iran, hobble American companies, and get far out of step with America's allies for no achievable purpose," the May 15 *Business Week* complained.

Bolivian gov't negotiates with unions

BY HILDA CUZCO

Massive arrests and a stage of siege imposed by the Bolivian government April 18 failed to break the resistance of striking teachers and other workers. Instead, the government of Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada was forced to the negotiating table and on April 29 reached an accord with leaders of the Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) to end the eight-week strike.

Under the agreement or "memorandum of understanding," signed in a secret meeting, the government pledged to release more than 400 unionists arrested during the previous 10 days. The state of siege — the fourth since 1982 — will continue its 90-day course, although, according to the minister of interior Carlos Sánchez Berzaín, it is "flexible."

The strikes began when 80,000 teachers walked out March 13 to protest the Education Reform Law and demand a wage increase. In response to brutal police repression against a march of 3,500 rural teachers heading to the capital, La Paz, March 21, the COB leadership called for a nationwide strike. The unions that make up the COB had submitted labor demands to the government several months earlier. After initially opposing ending the strike, the teachers unions decided to endorse the memorandum of understanding adopted by the COB, and classes resumed May 4.

Solidarity with the teachers' struggle came from miners, health and social security workers, Bolivian Government Oil Deposit workers, and university employees. Gradually construction, railroad, and some factory workers joined the protests. Clashes with the police occurred daily, leaving scores of people injured and unionists arrested. At one point, 27 teachers were charged with sedition and conspiracy.

The striking unionists voiced their opposition to the privatization of state enterprises, the education reform law, and the forced eradication of coca plantations in the Chapare, state of Cochabamba.

The evening of April 18, as the state of siege went into effect, more than 100 hooded police and civilian agents, all heavily armed, forced their way in the COB building in La Paz, just as the union federation's national meeting was adjourning. Firing tear gas, the cops raided the meeting hall and arrested all participants, including COB secretary-general Oscar Salas and other union leaders. Radio and television reporters who were cov-

ering the meeting were also beaten and arrested. Journalists took to the streets April 25, defying the stage of siege, to demand freedom of the press and the release of their colleagues.

Similar raids were carried out at the San Andrés University, where the rural teachers were staying, and the Mine Workers Union headquarters. The cops arrested everybody present. According to witnesses, these operations were repeated in all the buildings where unionists were lodged. The hundreds of arrested workers were sent to various distant detention centers in the jungles and Andean foothills.

In Copacabana, the police disrupted a meeting of the Andean Council of Coca Producers, which the government had branded as subversive. This organization assembles coca producers from Bolivia, Colombia, and Perú. Its president is Evo Morales, the central leader of the General Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers (CSUTCB). The gather-

ing — the fifth annual meeting of producers and their advisers — was to assess the 1995 coca harvest at a national and international level. Twenty-three peasant leaders were arrested, among them Morales and five other leaders of the CSUTCB, 12 Peruvians, 2 Colombians, 1 Brazilian, 1 Cuban, and 1 European citizen. The international participants were expelled or left the country, while Morales was detained and sent to La Paz.

Meanwhile, the military has deployed more than 80 soldiers in Chapare, announcing they will stay until late this year. Angry at the military presence, peasant unionists set up barricades and clashed with the military personnel, resulting in several injured and 150 arrested. At Washington's demand, the Sánchez de Lozada regime agreed to eradicate 4,300 acres of coca plantations by the end of June. In the meantime Morales, from prison, called for the suspension of the voluntary eradication of these crops.

Meeting questions U.S. policy on Korea

BY MARY MARTIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A symposium on Korea held here May 1 attracted 60 people. Participants at the meeting called on the U.S. government to support peaceful reunification and a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula.

The symposium, part of an annual conference organized by the Korea Church Coalition for Peace, Justice, and Reunification, took place during a breakdown in the "Agreed Framework" negotiations being carried out by the governments of the United States and North Korea, which began Oct. 21, 1994.

This framework calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to freeze its nuclear program and allow International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) inspections in exchange for improved diplomatic ties with the United States and procurement of a new light-water nuclear reactor for energy use in North Korea. Prior to the accord, the U.S. government threatened to militarily assault North Korea for refusing to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear program. Then-president Kim Il Sung maintained North Korea had no need or desire to acquire nuclear weapons capability and denounced U.S. belligerence.

An aspect of the Agreed Framework negotiation breakdown has been the insistence by Washington that Pyongyang accept light-water reactor technicians and hardware from South Korea. Harold Sunoo of the American Committee on Korea told the conference that officials of the DPRK had not agreed to this, fearing South Korean technology would be antiquated, unsafe, and inferior to technology available from U.S. or Western European firms.

In his address to the symposium, Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said U.S. policy aimed "to do what we can to bring North Korea into the community of civilized nations." He went on to say that "it is unacceptable to the United States that North Korea become a nuclear power. Our position is that North Korea's nuclear program cannot continue unless under IAEA inspection to make sure it doesn't become a nuclear weapons program. North Koreans have to realize limits on their activities."

His talk drew sharp questions from the audience of Korean-American church coalition members, students, journalists, and others. Asked how Washington's plans for continued joint military exercises with South Korean military forces could

possibly help increase trust on the part of the North Koreans Hubbard said, "You are asking should we be fair and honest brokers in relations with both North Korea and South Korea, I say no, that's not realistic — we have an alliance with South Korea, born in blood."

"North Korea, as a society, stands for things we fundamentally oppose," Hubbard answered to another question critical of U.S. policy. "We can't abide a nation that exports materials to the Middle East. It must modify its behavior to have a clear place in the community of nations."

Speakers at the symposium touched on harassment faced by public figures and others who make statements about the DPRK or South Korea that are at variance with U.S. policy.

Kongdon Oh, formerly of the Rand Corp. "think tank" began her presentation by announcing she was a "victim of McCarthyism." She explained she had written an article "posing South Korea's independence and responsibility in the peace process" separate and apart from U.S. interests. She said she was accused by a colleague of disloyalty to the United States and to the Rand Corp.'s client, the Department of Defense, and subsequently asked to resign.

Labor in Canada backs framed-up unionist

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER — Delegates attending the Northwest Territories Federation of Labor (NWTFL) convention in Yellowknife April 29 adopted a resolution in support of framed-up unionist Roger Warren. The NWTFL represents 10,000 workers in Canada's north. "The union movement can't abandon its own," NWTFL president Jim Evoy said.

Warren is currently serving a life sentence at the Stoney Mountain Institution in Manitoba on trumped-up charges of second degree murder. He is appealing the verdict.

The resolution was submitted by Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 2304, which represents the gold miners at the Royal Oak Giant Mine in Yellowknife and is Warren's union. The resolution stated in part that "Whereas the Warren family is a strong union family...and whereas the trade union movement supports fair play and justice...be it resolved that the NWTFL and its affiliated unions conduct an immediate appeal to raise funds for the Warren family fund and that the NWTFL take this campaign to the national level."

The resolution will be presented to the Canadian Labor Congress for support.

Frame-up case

Warren was convicted of the murder of nine replacement workers killed in an explosion at Royal Oak's Giant mine in Yellowknife in September 1992. The blast occurred during a bitter 18-month strike against company union busting.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) occupied Royal Oak mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, June 1992. The company used the RCMP to harass strikers and try to break the union.

For 13 months after the explosion, hundreds of strikers, family members, and supporters were interrogated and harassed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Their phones were wiretapped. Some had their houses searched. Warren was interrogated 12 times.

The company used this cop "investigation" to wear down strikers and undercut community support for their fight. One year after the blast, Royal Oak owner Margaret Witte announced she refused to negotiate with the union until an arrest

was made.

The RCMP was not able to come up with one shred of evidence linking Warren to the blast. In the trial, presiding judge Mark de Weerd admitted that all evidence in the case was "circumstantial."

The centerpiece of the government's case was a false confession given by Warren one year after the blast. Despite the gaping irregularities in the false confession, the judge basically instructed the jury to convict the miner.

Warren's appeal

Warren's attorney, Glenn Orris, has submitted an 18-point appeal of the conviction. It states that Warren's rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms were violated with police searches of his apartment; that the defense was refused the right to refer to certain statements elicited from Warren by the cops; that the refusal of the judge to allow testimony on the psychology of false confessions was an error; and that the judge erred in challenging Warren's credibility and instructing the jury that his false confession was a true statement of incrimination.

In mid-February officials transferred Roger Warren to Edmonton Institution from the Yellowknife Correctional Institute where he had been since Oct. 18, 1993. In a letter to this *Militant* correspondent, Warren explains, "I was in Edmonton for two months. The first 10 days I was in what they call the hole. It's a 23-hour-a-

day lockdown with one-hour yard exercise and a shower every two days. Meals are passed through the door. The cell was about 7' by 9' and I had an Inuit cell mate from Iqualuit....

"Then they put us in reception....In this reception area the cell wasn't bad. We had TV and it was a 'disabled' cell so it was a little bigger, maybe 8' by 10', and double-bunked. We were allowed to pick up our trays and get coffee or juice and return to our cells to eat locked down. Then at 6:00 we had gym. I used to walk the track in the yard for two and a half to three miles. Nice to be outside, I can tell you. Then in the evenings we were allowed out for one hour and 15 minutes to shower, do laundry, and make phone calls. One phone call for 10 guys so you have to be fast (6-7 minutes max).

Hands, feet, waist in chains

"On the 12th of April they put us on a bus in chains, hands and feet and waist; and on the bus you're locked in a cage around each seat. It took 16 hours to get to Prince Albert [PA], Saskatchewan.... The PA pen is something else. Real old with barred cells and individual locks, 1911 style. We were on 23-hour lockdown and a shower every two days with a closed yard walk for an hour, but it rained lots.

"We left there the 19th [April] and got here [Stoney Mountain] around 7:00 the same day, about 12 hours but better than the first leg....This place has been here since 1873.

"It's about 60 percent to 65 percent Native here and I was invited to view their offices (Native Brotherhood Association) with a young guy serving life. I've been invited to join the Pegasus lifer's club but haven't went yet. Apparently they have pool table, TVs, etc. and no one is allowed in except lifers. Quite the club, eh?

"So far I've been doing a lot of reading and now I just started reading *Ivanhoe*. I'm going to lightly delve into the classics as they have quite a good library here. Of course I've read a lot of classics already, but now I'll read the ones I've missed."

Letters and messages of support can be sent to Roger Warren, Stoney Mountain Institution, P.O. Box 9250, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3W9.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 692.

Roger Warren writes to Mark Curtis: 'Justice sure isn't about truth in Iowa'

Winnipeg, Manitoba
April 25, 1995

Brother Mark,

I first learned of your plight in 1990, but being naive at the time figured this kind of thing would never happen here. Wrong. Over the last few years a lot of naive people have had their eyes opened, including me.

Of course the best thing to charge a person with today is sexual assault. You're convicted out of hand and if you're an honest nonviolent activist it's about the only way they can effectively muzzle you. I can't believe that some of the women's rights groups haven't noticed that they're being used here. I guess some do see it, but once someone is convicted it's hard to get the courts to admit they were fools to pursue such a specious case in the first place. Also there are parallels to the frame-up of [Pedro] Gonzalez in an earlier epoch.

The most telling thing in your case is the diligence of the FBI in trying to find things in your past. Nothing makes one fearful except the thought that some

prosecutor could pursue such a farce of a case with a clear conscience. Are these people completely amoral? Justice sure isn't about truth in Iowa.

I'm still optimistic you'll be vindicated eventually. I hope it's soon. I just passed my 25th wedding anniversary here and know a little of how you must feel. A person can't let them get the best of you. Never give them an inch is my motto.

We're pursuing my appeal and my lawyers are quite optimistic as we've found out a few things since the trial that we should have been made aware of. But would the judge have admitted it? I doubt it.

This travesty here was totally avoidable, because I know the whole strike was engineered by the company, with union tampering, federal and local government complicity, and in the end a judge who had no business trying my case. I'm sure in the end we'll be treated to a scandal of some import. Wishing you luck.

In Solidarity
Roger Warren

Available from Pathfinder

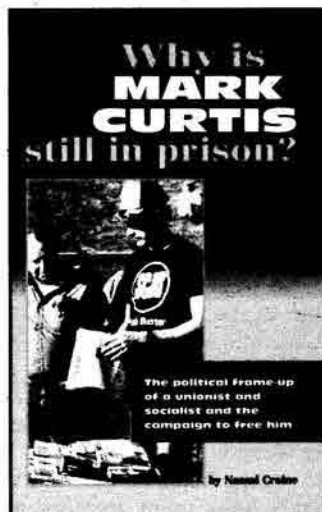
Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

by Naomi Craine

Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa.

This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release. Pamphlet, \$6



Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Hundreds march against police killing of a young Native American in Iowa

BY DICK MCALESTER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Policeman Tim Blum shot and killed Kimberly Frazier, a 29-year-old Santee Sioux Indian, on the porch of her Sioux City, Iowa, home March 1. The shooting has drawn outrage from Native Americans in this part of the country.

More than 300 Native Americans from Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and South Dakota, along with their supporters, marched through downtown Sioux City in mid-April protesting Frazier's killing.

Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement from Minneapolis, said at the protest, "within 28 seconds, a marksman targets the heart of Kim Frazier and she's a victim of Sioux City's death squads masquerading as police officers."

The cops claimed they were responding to a disturbance at Frazier's home after a report of a kidnapping and that she lunged at them with a knife. Police prevented a nurse who sought to give aid to Frazier after the shooting from reaching her.

The police department, the county attorney's office, and the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Affairs all released whitewash reports clearing the police of any wrong doing.

Lousia Frazier told the media her daughter was holding a knife above her head and never made a move toward any of the 10 cops that surrounded their house. "There were cops all over with guns drawn and Kim was saying, 'leave me alone, I didn't do anything.'"

"The police report is nothing more than a blatant attempt to further vilify my daughter," she said. "And justify the poor judgment and indiscriminate use of deadly force that led to her death."

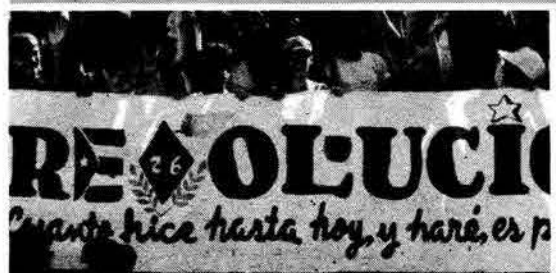
"There are six unsolved cases involving the death of Indians in Sioux City," protest leader Ron Thomas said in a phone interview. Thomas is a vice-chairman of the Santee Tribe of Nebraska. He recalled the stabbing death of his brother, Anthony Thomas, in 1991. "The police let him lie there until he died."

"The American Indian Movement wants to bring national attention of the shooting of Kimberly Frazier and shed light on how the police, the media, and the city officials dragged her name through the mud to justify the killing," Thomas emphasized.

Native American activists have held weekly vigils at Sioux City's War Eagle Monument to protest the killing of Kim Frazier.



international campaign to win new readers



Militant 2,950
Perspectiva Mundial 675
New International 1,200

sold 38%
should be 50%

Rail workers snap up 'Militant'

Continued from front page
 rent mergers taking place. They were interested in the *Militant's* coverage of a range of issues from affirmative action to the attacks on democratic rights coming after the Oklahoma City bombing.

Many of the rail workers who had only recently been hired were astounded by the grueling 72-hours-or-more workweek and the forced "promotions" that make new hires become conductors or engineers in a matter of a few

supporters of the socialist press set up a literature table at the University of Otago in Dunedin, where 2,000 students recently demonstrated against rising fees. Six students purchased subscriptions to the *Militant* and NZ\$125 (US\$1=NZ\$0.67) worth of literature was sold. One new subscriber bought *Nelson Mandela Speaks* and joined the Pathfinder Readers Club. His brother bought *How Far We Slaves Have Come*, by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela, and

come true," said one young participant who wants to get involved.

Many supporters of the *Militant* in the United Kingdom are planning to participate in a march for Irish national rights in Northern Ireland the weekend of May 20-21, and are encouraging others to attend. The march, from Dungannon to Coalisland, will retrace the steps of a 1960s civil rights march. Readers who would like to help sell and report for the *Militant* there, or who want more information on the demonstration, can contact *Militant* distributors in London at the number listed on page 12.

Salespeople from Salt Lake City, Utah, traveled to Kemmerer, Wyoming, twice in the past two weeks to sell the *Militant* to coal miners. Sixteen papers were sold on the first trip and five the following week to members of the United Mine Workers of America at the P & M mine. The miners' contract there expired May 9.



Militant distributor selling the paper to McDonnell Douglas workers at contract vote by United Auto Workers in Longbeach, California, April 23.

weeks or months.

Another high point of the target week was a Cinco de Mayo celebration at Citrus College where three Young Socialists spoke on affirmative action, the crisis in Mexico, and the Cuban revolution. Four subscriptions were sold along with other books and pamphlets.

Another team participated at the California State Convention of the National Organization for Women in San Diego, where three *Militant* subscriptions and three copies of *New International* were sold.

Right before the target week a team sold nine copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and two issues of *Nueva Internacional* at the contract ratification vote that celebrated the successful Justice for Janitors union organizing drive in Los Angeles.

In Christchurch, New Zealand,

borrowed a copy of the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*. He offered to show the video to others who might be interested in the case.

The team also visited the Fisher and Paykel factory in Dunedin and sold seven papers to workers at the plant gate.

A sales team of *Militant* readers from Washington, D.C., participated in the Latino Community Congress in Arlington, Virginia, May 5-6. Five subscriptions and several copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and two copies of the Marxist magazine *Nueva Internacional*, were sold to the 100 people in attendance.

Several young people at the conference were excited to hear about plans for the August 1-7 international youth festival in Cuba and signed up for more information. "This would be my dream

Even with the target week, which helped a number of areas get back on track, sales of subscriptions to the *Militant* continue to fall behind schedule. But the successful efforts led by teams in Los Angeles and other cities show that many working people, youth, and those involved in political struggles are attracted to the working-class and socialist perspective advanced in the *Militant*.

Following the example of supporters in many cities who are organizing special teams to visit new areas and participate in political struggles, and reaching out to workers facing contract battles and students organizing around social issues, the sales campaign can get back on schedule.

Contributing to this article were Ruth Gray from New Zealand, Janice Lynn and Brian Williams from Washington, D.C., and Dan Fein from Salt Lake City.

Iowa authorities respond to Curtis appeal

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa attorney general's office responded April 27 to a legal challenge filed in January by political activist Mark Curtis.

Curtis is seeking to overturn his victimization by prison authorities at the Iowa State Penitentiary in a legal petition asking for post-conviction relief. He was found guilty of assaulting another inmate in a kangaroo prison hearing last September 12 and sentenced to 30 days in the "hole" and one year in lockup.

"Respondent respectfully requests the Court to enter an order dismissing the Application in the above-entitled case and assessing the costs of this action to the Applicant," William Hill, assistant attorney general, wrote in his answer filed with the Iowa District Court in Fort Madison. Under Iowa law, if prisoners fail in challenging a prison victimization, they are assessed the costs of confronting it in court.

Curtis's lawsuit points to the fact that he was shackled throughout his hearing, that he was unable

to challenge the witnesses against him, that there was no evidence to sustain his being found guilty of anything, and that numerous legal and prison regulations were ignored, leading to a violation of Curtis's right to due process. In addition, his suit seeks relief from the harsh sentence meted out.

Curtis's challenge now will be considered by a district judge. Under the special section of Iowa's statutes covering prisoners, the judge has the power to dismiss the case without further ado as well as assess costs against Curtis.

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial			New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%
Sweden	25	40	63%	9	15	37	40		
Iceland	9	15	60%	0	1	1	3		
Puerto Rico	1	2	50%	3	8	0	5		
Canada									
Vancouver	36	70	51%	5	8	11	20		
Montreal	28	75	37%	2	25	9	45		
Toronto	39	85	46%	7	15	23	45		
Total	103	230	45%	14	48	43	110		
Greece	4	10	40%	0	1	4	4		
Australia	15	40	38%	4	6	7	15		
New Zealand									
Auckland	27	80	34%	1	6	4	20		
Wellington	6	10	60%	—	—	2	4		
Christchurch	16	40	40%	2	2	4	10		
Total	49	130	38%	3	8	10	34		
United States									
Greensboro	41	70	59%	2	8	4	20		
Atlanta	51	90	57%	11	20	7	25		
Los Angeles	99	180	55%	38	90	37	90		
Seattle	45	90	50%	9	15	6	25		
Houston	39	80	49%	3	15	13	20		
Boston	47	100	47%	9	30	17	35		
Washington, DC	37	80	46%	13	30	14	35		
Peoria	23	50	46%	2	2	11	20		
Salt Lake City	46	105	44%	11	20	8	35		
Pittsburgh	42	105	40%	4	12	8	30		
Detroit	37	95	39%	2	10	15	28		
Morgantown	21	55	38%	1	2	3	20		
Twin Cities	45	120	38%	14	17	12	35		
Philadelphia	42	115	37%	3	30	8	45		
Miami	36	105	34%	17	45	30	60		
San Francisco	48	150	32%	7	45	26	75		
Des Moines	25	85	29%	11	36	5	30		
Brooklyn	35	130	27%	12	40	19	65		
Cleveland	15	65	23%	5	12	4	50		
Chicago	30	130	23%	6	30	1	20		
Birmingham	14	70	20%	5	5	1	20		
New York	27	135	20%	7	30	18	75		
Newark	22	130	17%	8	35	5	60		
Tucson	4	10	10%	1	2	2	5		
Cincinnati	0	12	0%	0	2	0	3		
New Haven	0	15	0%	0	3	0	3		
Total U.S.	871	2357	37%	201	586	274	929		
Britain									
London	29	70	41%	5	5	15	30		
Sheffield	3	10	30%	0	1	0	10		
Manchester	8	60	13%	1	4	6	25		
Total	40	140	29%	6	10	21	65		
France	2	10	20%	0	5	13	20		
Belgium	0	3	0%	0	4	0	10		
Other	14	—	—	1	—	—	—		
International	1133	2977	38%	241	692	410	1235		
Should be	1475	2950	50%	338	675	600	1200		

IN THE UNIONS									
AUSTRALIA									
AMWU (Food)	0	—	0%	0	—	0	0		
AMWU (Metal)	0	1	0%	0	1	0	0		
AWU-FIME	0	2	0%	1	1	0	0		
Total	0	3	0%	1	2	0	0		
CANADA									
CAW	1	—	—	1	—	0	—		
CEP	2	—	—	0	—	0	—		
IAM	1	—	—	0	—	0	—		
USWA	1	—	—	0	—	0	—		
Total	5	—	—	1	—	0	—		
NEW ZEALAND									
EU	3	5	60%	0	1	0	2		
MWU	0	4	0%	0	0	0	1		
Total	2	9	33%	0	1	0	3		
SWEDEN									
Metalworkers	1	2	50%	—	—	2	2		
Transport	0	1	0%	—	—	1	3		
Foodworkers	0	2	0%	—	—	3	4		
Total	1	5	20%	—	—	6	9		
U.S.									
IAM	32	75	43%	5	15	3	33		
UTU	36	85	42%	1	7	1	44		
USWA	16	40	40%	2	3	1	7		
UAW	32	100	32%	2	10	9	25		
OCAW	11	55	20%	0	6	3	25		
UMWA	4	23	17%	—	—	0	12		
ACTWU/ILGWU	8	30	17%	4	24	0	18		
UFCW	2	15	13%	3	25	0	12		
Total	141	423	33%	17	90	17	176		
UNION TOTALS									
	149	439	34%	19	92	23	188		

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU(Food)-Australian Manufacturing Workers Union; AMWU(Metal)-Australian Manufacturing Workers Union; AWU-FIME-Australian Workers Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

Elections don't stem struggles in France

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — "A President for a Divided France" read the cover of the mass circulation weekly magazine *Le Point* in the days leading up to the second round of France's presidential elections. During his election campaign, Jacques Chirac, France's newly elected president, presented this "social fracture" as the country's number one problem. Chirac, candidate of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic, beat Socialist Party candidate Lionel Jospin 52 percent to 48 percent May 7 in the second round.

Some 60,000 people, including many young people, filled Paris's Place de la Concorde to welcome his victory. Polls showed Chirac with a clear majority among young people, attracted to his promise of "real change."

The social polarization in France, and the skepticism with which many workers viewed the election, was evident as strike actions continued unabated throughout the campaign, including during the two weeks between the first and second rounds of voting. Riot police attacked several of these strikes. At the Elf oil refinery in Donge, where 250 workers had walked out, cops occupied the plant allowing gas tank trucks to be loaded.

The leaderships of the three main union confederations have all stated that strikes will continue as workers press for higher wages.

Without waiting for the results of the second round of voting, unions announced new strike actions. Workers in Paris's large department stores will walk out and hold a demonstration May 11. Air Inter workers will launch their seventh strike in two months on the same day. Social workers will strike May 12, and social security workers May 23. Railroad workers have announced a national demonstration in Paris for May 31, the day after projected one-day strikes by gas, electric, postal, and telecommunication workers.

Racist murder

Fascist presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen, who received 15 percent of the vote during the first round, tried to mobilize his supporters at a May 1 demonstration in honor of Joan of Arc. Around 15,000 attended, about the same number as were on hand for the traditional workers' May Day demonstration.

During the course of the right-wing action, skinhead supporters of Le Pen pushed Brahim Bouarram, a 29-year-old immigrant worker from Morocco, into the Seine River, where he drowned. The at-

tackers then rejoined the Le Pen action and melted into the crowd.

This was the second racist killing by Le Pen supporters during the election campaign. On February 21, Ibrahim Ali, a young person from the Comoro Islands off the coast of Africa, was shot and killed in Marseilles by members of the National Front who were putting up Le Pen posters. That racist murder was quickly followed by an angry protest demonstration with many young people and immigrants participating.

Le Pen justified this first murder saying that the National Front members had been attacked, although all witnesses denied this. "At least this unfortunate incident," he said, "has brought to everyone's attention the presence in Marseilles of 50,000 Comorians. What are they doing here?"

By the time of the second killing five weeks later, Le Pen was forced to be more careful. On May 3, protests were held throughout France condemning Bouarram's murder. Called on 24 hours notice by a number of unions and political organizations, the Paris demonstration drew 20,000 people. Even Chirac's party sent an official delegation. Dominique, a 26-year-old production worker at Citroën, said he regretted not being able to attend the May 3 protest. But in the first round,



February protest in Marseilles against racist murder of Ibrahim Ali by rightists

he had hesitated between voting for Le Pen or for Arlette Laguiller, candidate of the Trotskyist organization Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Struggle).

When a racist joke was made about Arabs "not knowing how to swim," many workers at Peugeot's large auto plant at Poissy near Paris were incensed. Philippe, a young production worker, said the killings "resembled racist crimes in World War II." A sharp exchange took place and

the author of the racist joke was isolated.

Under pressure, Le Pen retreated on his initial efforts to justify the second racist murder. "The people who did this are criminals and should be arrested by the police," he finally said.

Nat London is a member of the General Confederation of Workers (CGT) at Renault. Jean-Louis Salfati, a CGT member at Citroën, also contributed to this article.

'We celebrate victory for democratic rights'

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — "We are here to celebrate a victory in the fight to defend democratic rights," Young Socialist leader No-jan Emad told participants at the Militant Labor Forum in Montreal April 30. "The RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] thought they could break me or buy me and they failed."

Ten days earlier plainclothes cops from the National Security Investigations Section of the RCMP barged into the Pathfinder bookstore in Toronto, pushed and shoved bookstore staffers, and forcibly dragged Emad into an unmarked van. They parked the van on a side street and interrogated Emad about his political views and activity for more than an hour.

Emad, 19, who is a Canadian citizen of Iranian descent, was never charged with any offense and never placed under arrest. Using the pretext of the April 19 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, the cops claimed they had the right to in-

terrogate him in the interests of "national security." He was released only after lawyer Bob Kellerman contacted Emad by cellular phone in the police van.

The political police were most interested in Emad's activities in support of Cuba's socialist revolution. In January, Emad spent two weeks in Cuba with 70 other young people from Canada, the United States, and other countries.

Emad is currently helping to build a tour for two Cuban youth leaders across Canada next October. He is also publicizing a "Cuba Lives" youth festival that will take place in Havana August 1-7.

Alexandre Popovic, an activist in the coalition against Human Life International (HLI), came to the forum to express his solidarity with Emad. HLI is a right-wing and antiabortion political organization. Popovic and Emad participated in a 2,500-strong demonstration April 18 outside the HLI convention in Montreal. During the protest Popovic and others were arrested

by the cops.

Popovic was unable to address the Montreal forum because he was released from prison on condition he not attend demonstrations or speak publicly.

Broad support

"Because of the wide publicity and broad support I have received the RCMP has been silent. They can't justify what they did to me. We've pushed them back and strengthened the fight to defend our rights," said Emad.

"They couldn't intimidate me and other defenders of democratic rights," he said. "Supporters of the Pathfinder bookstore, representatives of organizations like the Canadian Arab Federation, Cuba solidarity organizations, and others held a press conference two days after the RCMP raid. So the news got out fast in newspapers, on radio, and through the Internet across the country and around the world."

Students, unionists, and others in cities across Canada and the United States, and from as far away as New Zealand and Australia, sent messages of protest to the RCMP and Canadian solicitor general Herbert Gray.

"I am very concerned that the RCMP would violate the basic legal rights of No-jan Emad in this way," said New Democratic Party member of Parliament Svend Robinson in his message.

"This also appears to be further evidence that Canadian authorities, including CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service] and the RCMP, are harassing individuals who have made legitimate working visits to Cuba," said Robinson. He urged an investigation of the cops.

"We must protest these violations," wrote Lisett Barsallo and Andrew Adler of the Committee for Equality for Immigrants and New Canadians in Vancouver.

Stuart Russell, a lecturer in law at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, condemned the attack as "a case of politically motivated harassment."

Support was also expressed by callers to the Pathfinder bookstore following a story about the RCMP attack aired on radio CIUT from the University of Toronto. One person came by the bookstore to express his solidarity. Another came in to buy a book as a protest against the RCMP. A third person called to say she had phoned the RCMP to protest.

In addition to mass circulation dailies, stories and editorials on the RCMP attack appeared in student papers, the Toronto-based Spanish-language weekly *El Popular*, and *Shahrvand*, a Farsi-language weekly.

Carole Caron is a member of the International Association of Machinists in Montreal and production manager of *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Marxist magazine in French is off the press

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — Issue no. 5 of the French-language Marxist magazine *Nouvelle Internationale* is hot off the press and ready to be promoted, sold, and studied internationally — from Montreal to Port-au-Prince, and from Paris to Beirut.

This new issue of the magazine is a powerful weapon for working-class and

young fighters around the world who are trying to understand the growing economic instability of the world capitalist system, and to learn how to resist its effects on working people.

It features three important articles: "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution" by Mary-Alice Waters; "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War" by Jack Barnes;

"What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," a resolution adopted in 1988 by the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. Also included is "The Curve of Capitalist Development," a 1923 article by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky.

The publication of this new issue of *Nouvelle Internationale* has been possible thanks to the work of an international team of volunteers working over the last year in Miami, Montreal, Paris, and Toronto.

These volunteers are auto, garment, aircraft, and other workers, as well as students and other youth who devoted their spare time to help translate, edit, proofread, and lay out the magazine. Others helped to set up computer and software equipment, which enabled the editorial team based in Montreal to do the final editing here.

With the publication of *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 5, the articles it contains are now available in English, French, Spanish, and Swedish in various editions of *New International*. The four-language magazine is distributed by Pathfinder Press.

Distributors in France have already sold more than 30 copies of the new issue of *Nouvelle Internationale* as part of a pre-publication special offer they launched a few months ago.

NOW AVAILABLE IN FRENCH!
also in ENGLISH, SPANISH, and SWEDISH



New International

Defending Cuba, Defending
Cuba's Socialist Revolution
by Mary-Alice Waters

What the 1987 Stock Market
Crash foretold
1988 resolution adopted by SWP

Imperialism's March toward
Fascism and War
by Jack Barnes

The Curve of Capitalist Development
1923 article by Leon Trotsky

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel.: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Add \$3 for postage when ordering by mail.

Clinton expands anti-immigrant efforts

BY LAURA GARZA

After attending a celebration of the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo — to mark the day Mexicans defeated French colonial occupation — President Bill Clinton promptly announced he would step up efforts to deport immigrants. Specifically, he promised to expedite deportation of any immigrant who has simply been charged, not yet tried or convicted, with breaking U.S. laws. In a bid to take the lead in acting against the rights of immigrant workers and fueling a campaign to justify more border cops and quicker deportation proceedings, Clinton said the United States government "must be able to control our borders."

His announcement was saturated with references describing immigrants as lawbreakers, people crowding jails, and causing backlogs in courtrooms. There are 100,000 people awaiting some form of deportation hearing. The *Washington Post* cited a pledge by Clinton to "streamline" this process, thereby speeding up the pending deportations. Clinton also asked the Justice Department to identify what he estimated as hundreds of thousands of people ordered out of the United States but who "then disappear back into the population."

"Our nation was built by immigrants," Clinton said. "But we won't tolerate immi-

gration by people whose first act is to break the law as they enter our country," he went on. "We must continue to do everything we can to strengthen our borders, enforce our laws, and remove illegal

tem, speed up the deportation process, and authorize border-crossing fees if the individual states agree to them. The proposals are similar to others recently submitted by Republican and Democratic officials.

undocumented persons would be subject to deportation. Moreover, it included \$650 million for the federal government to reimburse states for the cost of jailing people. This is one of the measures also being pushed as part of the "Contract With America."

California senator Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, proposed the Illegal Immigration Control and Enforcement Act of 1995, which includes many provisions similar to the package submitted by the White House. It also included a proposal to grant courts the authority to force immigrants seeking probation to "consent" to so-called voluntary deportation as a condition of probation.

"Too many people are still able to illegally cross our borders, and too few states, most notably California, carry the burden of having to support, educate, and often incarcerate the hundreds of thousands who enter this country illegally," she said.

Alongside the bipartisan campaign in Washington to limit the rights of immigrant workers, state and local politicians have chimed in and begun pushing further proposals in a number of areas. In Florida, two groups are organizing efforts to place an anti-immigrant proposition on the ballot modeled after California's Proposition 187.

Meanwhile the state House of Representatives passed a law aimed at restricting the ability to obtain a drivers license by demanding proof of citizenship or legal immigration status.

The general framework of all these capitalist politicians pursuing limits on the rights of immigrant workers gives a wider berth to more right-wing figures, like Patrick Buchanan, Republican presidential candidate. Buchanan has called for a moratorium on legal immigration, for building a fence along a 70-mile stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border, for 10,000 more border cops, and for use of the military to crack down on workers crossing the border. He also issued a call to make English the official language of the United States. These proposals are to deal with what he termed, "an invasion of the country."

Using the same scapegoating rhetoric as Clinton and Feinstein, Buchanan said, "It is outrageous that American taxpayers, as hard-pressed as they are... have to provide social welfare benefits for those whose accomplishments are to break the laws to get into the United States and to get on welfare."



Supporters of immigrant rights protest Proposition 187 in Seattle February 25. Democratic and Republican politicians are working overtime on tougher anti-immigrant laws.

aliens from our country."

Earlier in the week, the White House sent Congress legislation that includes proposals to add 1,500 Border Patrol cops, establish a pilot worker-identification sys-

Congressional representatives passed a bill in February that would hasten the deportation of undocumented workers who have been convicted of crimes. It also expanded the number of offenses for which

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD— Youth demand release of Irish prisoners

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 SEAN GARLAND

BELFAST — More working people are getting out onto the streets here since the cease-fire, fighting for the release of all political prisoners, the troops to get out, and the disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. On Sunday, May 7, a crowd of 5,000 marched through west Belfast to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the

Maze Prison hunger strikes. In 1981 10 Irish prisoners died after going on hunger strike to demand political status.

A lot of young people were out demanding the release of political prisoners and the withdrawal of British troops. Many were wearing green ribbons in support of the political prisoners and carrying Saoirse placards. More young people were on this year's march than previous ones. The *Militant* attracted the attention of rally participants. People around the world now know that the British government is treating the Irish people unfairly.

I can see peace coming to Ireland only if British prime minister John Major's government talks to all parties. I also see more people getting out in the streets to

take action.

There have been other actions in the last few months that I have taken part in. One was a counter-protest against right-wing groups picketing the Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate*. The movie was shown despite the protest. Another counter-picket happened when the Free Presbyterians, a right-wing Protestant group, and Youth Defense, a right-wing Catholic group, picketed at the "Mr. Gay UK" contest at a gay nightclub in Belfast. Two dozen people came to the counter protest, chanting, "Homophobia no way, gay rights are here to stay."

Sean Garland is a member of the Young Socialists in Belfast.

Socialist candidate in New Jersey discusses release of Cuban detainees



Militant/Phil Duzinski

Toni Jackson, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in New Jersey, campaigning in downtown Union City, an area in northern New Jersey with the highest population of Cuban-Americans outside Miami. Asked about the release of the Cubans held in the camps at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, one passerby commented, "They shouldn't have been held there in the first place." A Cuban-American agreed, "But what about the Haitians who are still there?" Although most saw the release of the Cubans in Guantánamo as positive, opinions differed widely on the Cuban revolution itself. "It is important that the U.S. government is not able to maintain the provocation of prison camps on Cuban soil," said Jackson. "It is important for human rights, but it is also a victory for Cuba's sovereignty." Bob Miller, a United Auto Workers member, is a Socialist Workers candidate for State Assembly in New Jersey.

'Operation Jobs' in Chicago means raids and deportation of undocumented workers

BY MARILEE TAYLOR AND JOHN VOTAVA

CHICAGO — Since early February, the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided almost a dozen workplaces in the Chicago area, picked up 390 undocumented workers, and sent 290 of them back to their country of origin. In most cases officials deported the workers less than 12 hours after their arrests.

More than 100 people protested outside the INS offices in downtown Chicago after an April 21 raid at Web Finishers in Elk Grove Village. Immigration cops raided the factory, which produces notebook binders, at 5:00 a.m. and detained 75 Mexican workers. By 3:00 p.m. 59 of them had been loaded onto a plane headed for El Paso, Texas. The INS claims that all detainees were given the right to contact one family member and that those deported signed affidavits asking to be sent back to their native country.

Family members and some of those detained gave a different story. Francisco Delgado, 20, was not allowed to speak to two cousins who went to visit him, though they were able to pass him money, according to a report in *25 La Raza*. Later he spoke by telephone with María Díaz, his cousin, who told him not to sign anything. But, she said, "they [INS] told him if he did not sign they would put him in jail for

five years." She added, "Not even criminals are treated like they are treating them."

A.D. Moyer, regional director of the INS, explained that the agency's campaign against undocumented workers was launched February 1. It is cynically code named "Operation Jobs." When Moyer was asked about violations of constitutional rights he said, "I don't know what you are talking about." He went on to say that, "The roundups were carried out to protect the jobs of legal immigrants."

Moyer was asked why the sweeps, sometimes 10 a week, were taking place at factories where workers are paid below the minimum wage. "Those who are here legally are not going to accept a job that pays less than minimum wage," he said. "They look for jobs that pay 5, 6, 7 or 10 dollars an hour and those are the workers we are trying to protect." He further claimed that he is receiving letters and calls everyday saying that undocumented workers are taking jobs away from legal residents.

The Chicago Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Protection is planning further protests, according to Carlos Heredia-Ortiz, including bringing attention to the situation facing undocumented workers by participating in a May 13 protest against the "Contract With America."

José Martí speaks on the fight for freedom in the Americas

BY NAOMI CRAINE

May 19, 1995, marks the centennial of the death of Cuban revolutionary José Martí. Meetings and commemorations are planned around the world to celebrate the life of this independence fighter and what he represented in the struggle for sovereignty and dignity for Cuba and all oppressed peoples.

When the first war for Cuba's independence from Spain broke out in 1895 Martí, age 15, actively supported it. He was imprisoned for political reasons in 1869 and exiled to Spain in 1871. He lived for a time in Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, and from 1880 to 1895 in the United States, working as a journalist. In 1892 Martí founded the Cuban Revolutionary Party, with the immediate purpose of fighting for the independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the longer-range one of preventing U.S. expansion in the Antilles and then in the rest of Latin America. He returned to Cuba when the second war for Cuban independence began in February 1895, and was killed in combat with Spanish forces on May 19 of that year.

When Martí first arrived in the United States he wrote glowingly of "a country where everyone seems to be his own master." As he saw the struggles of working people unfold and the capitalist rulers in Washington begin to look hungrily southward at Latin America, however, his view shifted. "What is becoming apparent," he wrote in 1889, "is that the nature of the North American government is gradually changing its fundamental reality. Under the traditional labels of Republican and Democrat, with no innovation other than the contingent circumstances of place and character, the republic is becoming plutocratic and imperialistic."

Martí wrote for various newspapers in Latin America about life and politics in the United States. Among other things his articles covered labor struggles, racism and oppression faced by Blacks and Indians, and the fight for women's suffrage. He spoke out against colonialism around the world.

In 1883 Martí condemned "the pretext that civilization, which is the vulgar name given to the current state of the Europeans, should have the natural right to seize foreign land belonging to barbarism, which is the name those coveting someone else's land give to the current state of any people not from Europe or from European America; as if head for head, heart for heart, someone who crushes Irishmen or blows away sepoys [Indians in the British military service] tied to cannon, were worth more than one of those wise, loving, and

unselfish Arabs who, undaunted by defeat or intimidated by numbers, defend their homeland with faith in Allah, a lance in each hand and a pistol between their teeth."

Below are four excerpts from Martí's writings. The first, on the rise of the labor movement in the United States in the 1880s, was published in *La Nación* in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The second is from a letter to the *New York Evening Post* responding to columns in that paper and in the *Philadelphia Manufacturer* debating whether Washington should attempt to annex Cuba. The third item was published in *Patria*, the semi-official organ of the Cuban Revolutionary Party edited by Martí. The last excerpt is from an unfinished letter written the day before Martí's death.

Many of Martí's articles and letters can be found in English in *Inside the Monster: Writings on the United States and American Imperialism and Our America: Writings on Latin America and the Struggle for Cuban Independence*, both edited by Philip Foner and published by Monthly Review Press.

BY JOSÉ MARTÍ

There is no longer a city without as many associations as trade unions. The workers have gathered into a colossal association known as the Knights of Labor. By the thirty thousands, as at this moment in Pittsburgh, they stand with folded arms, steadfast and spirited, before the iron foundries that stubbornly deny them the wages they demand. As in New York, the trains are stopped, the ships are at rest, produce is piled up on the loading platforms of railroad stations, and commerce throughout the nation is suffering a severe slowing down, and all because the freight loaders are asking the railroads for a wage that will let them eat meat.

They are asking for twenty cents an hour, plus the assurance of two dollars' worth of work per day, because a man who must travel many miles to and from his job, must eat away from home, has a wife and children there, and must live in a costly city in order to work, cannot live a city life on less than two dollars a day....

Formerly, if the country's workers decided to strike, the employers would approach the Italians, who were willing to work for a low wage. But now, since the Italians are resisting because they realize that if better working conditions are achieved for others, they will be achieved for themselves, the employers will have to yield to the just demands of the employed.



José Martí (third from right) with other fighters in the war for Cuban independence

For it is incredible that because of just demands, a worker whose fortune lies in the strength of his arms should run the risk of leaving his desolate house in hunger and misery.

July 15, 1882

This is not the occasion to discuss the question of the annexation of Cuba. It is probable that no self-respecting Cuban would like to see his country annexed to a nation where the leaders of opinion share towards him the prejudices excusable only to vulgar jingoism or rampant ignorance. No honest Cuban will stoop to be received as a moral pest for the sake of the usefulness of his land in a community where his ability is denied, his morality insulted, and his character despised. There are some Cubans who, from honorable motives, from an ardent admiration for progress and liberty, from a prescience of their own powers under better political conditions, from an unhappy ignorance of the history and tendency of annexation, would like to see the island annexed to the United States. But those who have fought in war and learned in exile, who have built, by the work of hands and mind, a virtuous home in the heart of an unfriendly community; who by their successful efforts as scientists and merchants, as railroad builders and engineers, as teachers, artists, lawyers, journalists, orators, and poets, as men of alert intelligence and uncommon activity, are honored wherever their powers have been called into action and the people are just enough to understand them; those who have raised, with their less prepared elements, a town of workmen where the United States had previously a few huts in a barren cliff; those, more numerous than the others, do not desire the annexation of Cuba to the United States. They do not need it.

They admire this nation, the greatest ever built by liberty, but they dislike the evil conditions that, like worms in the heart, have begun in this mighty republic their work of destruction. They have made of the heroes of this country their own heroes, and look to the success of the American commonwealth as the crowning glory of mankind; but they cannot honestly believe that excessive individualism, reverence for wealth, and the protracted exultation of a terrible victory are preparing the United States to be the typical nation of liberty, where no opinion is to be based in greed, and no triumph or acquisition reached against charity and justice. We love the country of Lincoln as much as we fear the country of Cutting.

March 25, 1889

The spectacle of our unity, and the meeting of free wills in the Cuban Revolutionary Party, would be worthless, even if the Party were to completely understand the country's internal problems and how to treat the wounds they cause, if it failed to take into account the even greater mission made obligatory by the times in which it comes into being, and by its position at the crossroads of the world. Cuba and Puerto Rico will enter freedom with very different structures, and in very different times, and with far greater responsibilities than have the other Spanish American nations. It is necessary to have the courage of greatness, and to understand one's obligations....

The Antilles lie astride the pivot of America; if enslaved, they would be nothing but a pontoon bridge for an imperialist republic's war against the suspicious and superior world already preparing to deny it power; they would be merely a fortress of an American Rome. If free — and deservedly so by order of an equitable and industrious liberty — they would be the guarantee of a continental balance, of independence for a still threatened Spanish America, and of honor for the great republic of the North. The United States will find more certain greatness in the development of its own land, unfortunately feudal and divided into two hostile parts, than in the ignoble conquest of its lesser neighbors, and in the inhumane struggle — once it has them in its possession — that it will unleash against the global powers for world domination.

Not with a light hand but with a consciousness developed over the centuries one must restore new life to the liberated Antilles. This great human responsibility should be undertaken with awesome respect. A person reaches tremendous heights through nobility of purpose, or falls to abysmal depths because of failing to understand. It is a world we are holding in balance, not merely a couple of islands we are about to free.

April 17, 1894

I am in daily danger of giving my life
Continued on Page 12

Cuba solidarity events planned in Canada

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — A series of events in solidarity with the Cuban revolution and against the U.S. embargo imposed for 35 years on the workers and farmers of that country is being organized across Canada around May 19. This day marks the 100th anniversary of the death in combat of José Martí.

Some 3,000 participants to an international conference in solidarity with Cuba held in Havana last November issued a call for such actions around the world.

In Montreal a whole week of activities is being planned by various Cuba solidarity organizations.

On Thursday, May 18, the Committee in Solidarity with Cuba is sponsoring a round table on "Cuban women and Martí's principles" at 7:00 p.m., 5359 Park Ave. There will be a presentation on the recent convention of the Federation of Cuban Women and the showing of a video on the conditions Cuban women face today.

A picket line against the U.S. blockade has been called for May 19 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in front of the U.S. consulate in Montreal, on the corner of St-Alexandre

St. and René-Lévesque Blvd. It is sponsored by Alternatives, the Carrefour de l'amitié Québec-Cuba, the Cuba Si Coalition, the Cuban Youth Tour Organizing Committee and the Québec-Cuba Friendship Caravan. Political and cultural gathering with well-known personalities and artists organized by the same groups will follow the picket line at 7:00 p.m. at 1205 Visitation.

On Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. a symposium on "The disinformation campaign against Cuba and the Cuban reality" will be held at University of Québec in Montreal, 315 Ste-Catherine St. East, room RM-110. Juan Nicolas Padron from Casa de las Americas in Cuba and Luis Nieves Falcon from Puerto Rico will speak. The latter will discuss "The violation of human rights of political prisoners in the U.S." The event is organized by the Cuba Study and Cooperation Center and sponsored by the university's Teachers Assistants Union, with the support of various other Cuba solidarity committees.

Two other events of a more cultural character will be held earlier in the week.

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, May 14, a cantata "José Martí, Wings of Freedom" will be performed at 5290 Côte-des-neiges Rd. And at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, the South Cultural Project is organizing reading of poems by José Martí in French, Spanish, and English at 2080 Clark St.

In Toronto, the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, the Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee, the Cuban Youth Tour, the Cuba Solidarity Coordinating Committee, and Worker to Worker/Canada-Cuba Labor Solidarity are organizing a joint political and cultural event on May 19, at 7:00 p.m., at University of Toronto, Sandford Fleming Building, room 1105, 10 King's College Rd.

Finally, on his first visit to Vancouver, the Cuban ambassador to Canada, Bienvendio Garcia, will give a public talk on Sunday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Hall, 805 E. Pender. The meeting is sponsored by the Vancouver Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association.

Michel Prairie is a member of the Executive Committee of the Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba in Montreal.

1. Francis Cutting was one of the leaders of the American Annexationist League.

Rallies in Britain, U.S. back Irish struggle

BY MARTIN HILL

LONDON — More than 250 people attended a rally here May 7 commemorating the lives of James Connolly, a leader of the fight for Irish self-determination in the early part of this century, and republican prisoner Bobby Sands. Many participants were longtime activists, but others were young people newly involved.

"Britain denies it has any political prisoners," said Mairead ni hAdhmaill, speaking for the Saoirse campaign to free the prisoners. Her husband is held at Full Sutton Prison. "But this begs the question why their treatment is different. Why are families visiting them harassed at the airport under the [Prevention of Terrorism Act]? Why is it that decisions about their treatment are taken at the highest political level?"

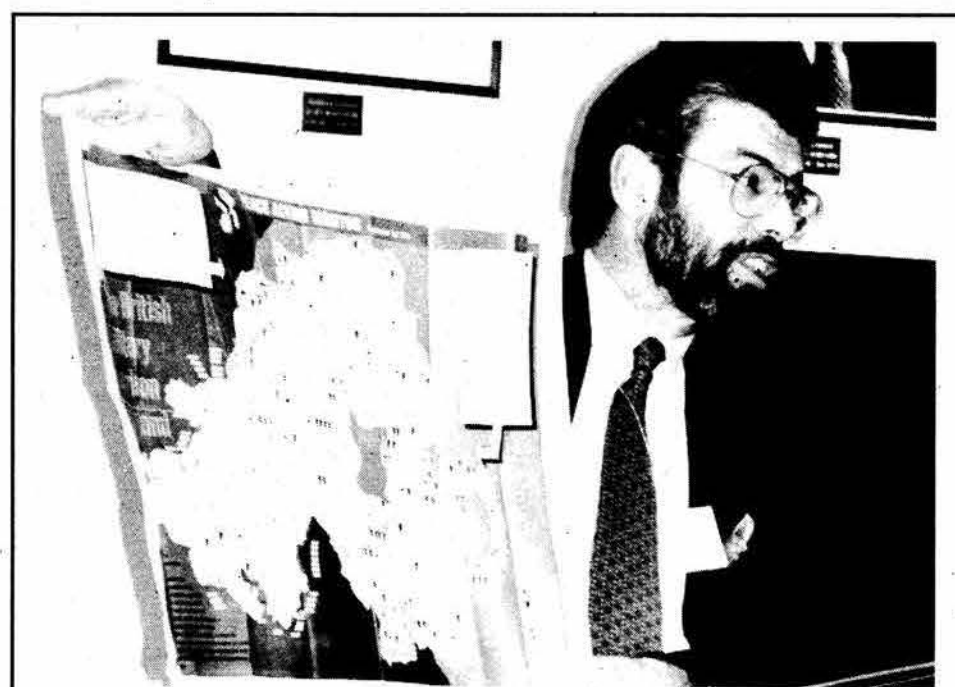
Statements were read out from Irish prisoners in jails in Britain.

Patricia Campbell talked about the difficulties experienced by the families of Irish prisoners in British jails. Some relatives have spent hundreds of dollars traveling to visit prisoners, only to have officials deny that a visit had been booked, or to find that their relative had been transferred without notice to a different prison.

Campbell contrasted the treatment of Lee Clegg, a British soldier jailed for shooting a young Irish woman. He was sent at once to a prison near his home in England. "I don't complain about that," she said. "I don't want another family to have to travel like we do. But there's a double standard. Republican prisoners should be transferred to Irish prisons."

Among messages read at the rally was a statement from the Communist League in Britain that said, "Today the fruits of 25 years of mass resistance are coming through. Westminster can no longer prevent the world from hearing the voice of Irish freedom. We pledge ourselves to double our efforts with you to take advantage of this historic breakthrough to campaign to remove British troops from Ireland, to release all political prisoners, and for self-determination for Ireland."

Earlier that day, more than 40 people joined a spirited picket at Downing Street — the British prime minister's official residence.



Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams began a 12-day tour of the United States May 8. Some 300 people, many of them workers and students, heard him speak May 9 in Portland, Maine. The next day Adams displayed map of British troop deployments in Northern Ireland at United Nations press conference.

Saoirse plans to hold regular pickets there. Saoirse has also begun a campaign of selling green ribbons as a symbol for the release of Irish political prisoners. A major rally in London is planned for August 31.

BY JENNY BENTON

CHICAGO — The Irish-American Student Organization (IASO) and Irish Northern Aid kicked off a week of activities with a May 5 march at the British Consulate here. About 50 people turned out for the action.

Tom Terranova, an organizer of the march and an IASO member, stated the demands for the march were three-fold: the British government immediately begin negotiations with Sinn Féin; the government set a reasonable deadline for the removal of British forces from Northern Ireland; and all Irish political prisoners be released.

When asked about London's pre-negotiation demand that the Irish Republican Army decommission its armed forces, Erin Maher, a member of IASO, replied, "It is just another tactic to stall talks with Sinn Féin. If they want to talk about decommissioning, they should decommission the British troops currently occupying Northern Ireland."

The demonstration also attracted members of other organizations. Jose Ruiz, a member of Guatemala en Lucha (Guatemala in Struggle), said he came to the march because, "The Irish struggle is a just one, and I support Irish self-determination." Members of the Young Socialists in Normal, Illinois, traveled to Chicago to attend the action.

BY SARA LOBMAN

LONG BRANCH, New Jersey—Fifty

people from throughout northern New Jersey participated in a commemoration here of the death of Bobby Sands. The event was sponsored by the Irish Northern Aid Committee, which organizes support for the almost 800 Irish political prisoners and their families in Ireland, the United States, and elsewhere.

Eugene McElroy read a message to the gathering from Irish political prisoner Pól Brennan, who is currently being held at the Oakland, California, city jail while awaiting extradition hearings. He is one of 38 opponents of British rule in Ireland who escaped from the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in 1983.

"The legacy of the death of Bobby Sands and his nine comrades 14 years ago was a turning point," Brennan noted in his statement. "One hundred thousand people attended the funeral of Bobby Sands from all over the world, paying tribute to his courage, and this [helped] to launch a severely weakened resistance movement on a political revival."

Brennan noted that the current ceasefire and talks in Ireland have "afforded an opportunity for peace like no other in the past 25 years."

BY PETER THIERJUNG

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — About a dozen opponents of the British occupation of Northern Ireland picketed outside the Marriot Hotel here May 2. Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of Britain, was slated to speak at the hotel along with Don Fites, the chairman of Caterpillar, Inc. Members of the Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) organized the protest.

"We believe her running around the United States denigrating Gerry Adams impedes the peace process," said Robert Linnon, national president of the IAUC, said. Thatcher has compared Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, to those accused of bombing the federal building in Oklahoma City.

During the picket, Raleigh resident Terri Jackson told of FBI and cop attempts to chill efforts by activists to speak out during Thatcher's visit. Jackson had called the president's office at Elon College to protest Thatcher speaking on that campus and publicized the event on the Internet, expressing her opinion that the former prime minister was the "world's worst violator of human rights."

Two FBI special agents came to Jackson's workplace April 26 and questioned her in the supervisor's office. They asked her if she was happy that Gerry Adams had received a visa to visit the United States.

A few days later Charlotte police called Linda Dyer Hart, an organizer of the picket at the Marriot. Inspectors from the Special Information Bureau asked her to come to their offices for questioning regarding the plans for the picket.

Billy Mulligan, who went with Hart to the police station, reported that the police inspectors claimed to have been called by Scotland Yard and were urged to investigate organizers of the protest.

"Don't let them in. Don't talk to them. They'll twist everything you say," said Linnon about the FBI. "We have a long history of problems with FBI harassment."

Belfast protest demands release of prisoners

Continued from front page

Derry, the RUC attacked demonstrators staging "Equality Pickets." These actions are protests against the British government for its refusal to treat Sinn Féin equally with other political parties involved in talks about the future of Northern Ireland. The May 3 protest occurred during a visit to Derry, the second largest city in Northern Ireland, by British prime minister John Major. After the incident Major hinted at calling off the proposed ministerial talks with Sinn Féin but rapidly retreated from this.

Irish tricolors flew from many lamp-posts May 7, and placards promoting Saoirse — the campaign to free all political prisoners — lined the parade route. Saoirse is the Irish word for freedom. Painted murals and signs on the walls of houses and banners on the demonstration called for the withdrawal of British troops occupying Northern Ireland. Soldiers were neither visible on the demonstration nor are they patrolling the streets of Belfast any longer, but they continue to have a heavy presence in rural areas and other towns.

Other slogans targeted the police, such as "RUC: 93 percent Protestant, 100 percent loyalist, disband the RUC!" A traffic sign at the entrance to the Lenadon housing estate said simply, "RUC Keep Out!"

Many marchers wore a green ribbon showing their support for the prisoners and the Saoirse campaign. Contingents from local Saoirse groups were prominent on the march, including from the Irish Republic.

"The British government put in the troops, instituted the loyalist veto, instituted anti-Catholic discrimination, jailed the political prisoners, and armed the RUC as a sectarian force," said Tom Holland, in prison for 17 years until 1991. "They can

put an end to these things and bring the Catholics and Protestants together."

Michael Doherty, aged 65 and a trade unionist for 45 years, said he was on the march because, "All my life I've been a second-class citizen." He explained the only jobs Catholics could ever get in Northern Ireland were those with the worst pay and conditions and longest hours. The struggle in Ireland, he said, "is not about guns, it's about the people of Ireland having a say in how Ireland should be run."

Brendan McAvoy, a flute player in one of the bands on the march, said, "I work, but I have six brothers who are unemployed. The only jobs they have had are government work schemes — not real jobs. I was lucky."

The mother of Gary Breslin, who is serving 18 years, was with several other prisoners' relatives from Strabane marching behind the Strabane Saoirse Committee banner demanding, "Free the prisoners now!" Each relative carried a sign bearing a prisoner's name and their sentence. "There are marches every week," Breslin said. "I go on all of them." Her comment was a reflection of the increase in protest activity in Northern Ireland today.

Pat Doherty said in his rally speech that the 1981 hunger strike had sparked many demonstrations. "We had a visible sign" he said "that throughout Ireland people did care and wanted to get involved. That is something that is happening once again today."

Meanwhile, John Hume, leader of the predominately Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, called on Sinn Féin to "rethink" the holding of street demonstrations. Protest actions have increased since the declaration of a ceasefire by the pro-British loyalist death squads, subsequent to the ending of the

military campaign by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). While some marchers disagreed with the IRA's cease-fire, many people welcomed the new situation. "There are more people taking to the streets today," said McAvoy. That was why the police attacked the Equality Pickets he said.

Other speakers who addressed the rally included Maura Pryors representing Saoirse, former prisoner Teresa McCardle, and Margaret Doherty, whose son Kieran Doherty died in the 1981 hunger strike. "Our resolve has never been stronger," Pryors said. "Our prisoners will be freed."

Tony Hunt and Ann Fiander are members of the Amalgamated, Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) in Manchester, England. Paul Davies, a member of the AEEU in London, contributed to this article.

For Further Reading

Ireland and the Irish Question

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

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

The Right of Nations to Self-Determination

V.I. Lenin

The working class advances the right of all nations to secede, Lenin explains, but it "values above all the alliance of the proletariat of all nations and assesses any national demand from the angle of the workers' class struggle." \$4.00

MARX
ENGELS

Ireland
and the
Irish Question

PROGRESS Publishers

Rubber workers in Decatur offer to end strike

BY BETSY FARLEY

DECATUR, Illinois — After 10 months on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., members of United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 713 voted to take down the picket lines and make an unconditional offer to the company to return to work.

Local 713 president Roger Gates told the local media that ending the local's strike was recommended by international union officials following a negotiating session last week between the union and the company. "We have reason to believe there will be a decertification vote in a couple of months," Gates reported.

The 1,200 members of URW Local 713 who struck Bridgestone/Firestone were among 4,400 strikers at the company's plants in five states. More than 300 union members in Decatur have crossed the picket lines and are working in the plant alongside hundreds of "permanent replacement workers" who have been hired over the past several months.

"Last week the NLRB rejected the union's charges that the company committed unfair labor practices," explained URW Local 713 member Thom Welsh. "I hate to crawl back in there and work next to a scab, but it's something we had to do to block the decertification vote. If we don't offer to go back, the union people that stayed out will have no vote, only the line crossers and the scabs."

Gates delivered the union's proposal to company officials May 8. Bridgestone/Firestone spokesman Trevor Hoskins said the company is reviewing "how many strikers we can take back." So far, no former strikers have been recalled.

"If we could have kept people from crossing the line, this never would have happened," said strike activist Sue Watts, whose husband is a striker. "But most people felt this was something we had to do to keep the union intact."

But not all rubber worker members look at it that way. URW Local 713 member Harland Smith called the local's decision

"an injustice to our brothers and sisters in the other locals on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone across the country."

"A proposal like this should have been discussed and decided on together. Hopefully it won't be a blow to the entire labor movement," he stated.

The former strikers who are called back will return to work under the company's "last and best offer," which includes a 7-day 12-hour work schedule, and increased expenses for medical benefits.

Locals in Noblesville, Indiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Des Moines, Iowa, remain on strike. Local 310 in Des Moines has had 350 of its 1,300 members cross the picket line. There are no plans to vote on whether



Bridgestone/Firestone strikers march to the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa, last January. United Rubber Workers union locals in Indiana, Oklahoma, and Iowa remain on strike.

or not to return to work at that local, however the union will hold informational meetings May 10 and 11 to discuss the latest developments.

URW Local 310 members will be joining other unions and community groups in a Mothers Day protest May 14 at the Iowa governor's mansion in Des Moines.

Metalworkers in Sweden halt overtime

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The metalworkers union in Sweden began an overtime ban May 2. The unions representing white collar workers and engineers in the auto and steel industries, the mines, and the electronics and machine shops quickly followed. Nearly 300,000 workers are involved.

The union action is aimed at forcing the employers to grant a modest wage increase of 4 percent for 1995. The employers and the government have said no to any general wage increases. The bosses argue they cannot afford an across-the-board wage increase, and that pay demands should be negotiated company by company. The employers also want to get rid of the minimum wage in national contracts.

The employers want an overall national contract to their liking before the start of company-by-company negotiations, because then the unions will not have the right to strike over local disputes. Swedish laws, in place since 1928, guarantee the owners that advantage over the workers. "This is an all-out attack on the unions," Berra Ahnberg, chairman of the metalworkers union at the Saab-Scania truck plant in Södertälje, said at a May 2 union meeting.

Workers at the meeting were outraged that mediation by a state commission was to take place during the week and urged union officials to stand strong in the conflict with the employers.

The unions rejected a mediated contract offer of a 1.2 percent wage increase May 7. The employers agreed to this proposal.

Negotiations between the unions and the employers will continue this week.

The construction workers' unions announced a selective strike beginning in mid-May. The paper mill workers just signed a two-year contract with a 3.8 percent wage increase each year.

The current wage round and the first outbreak of union resistance in some time are taking place as the social democratic government is attacking the social wage and the export industry is making record profits.

Carl-Erik Isacson is a member of Local 30 of the metalworkers union at Saab-Scania in Södertälje.

'Rosa Luxemburg Speaks' is reprinted

BY SARA LOBMAN

Pathfinder Press has just reprinted *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks*, which contains the writings of one of the most outstanding Marxists of the 20th century.

Born in tsarist-occupied Poland in 1871, Luxemburg joined the revolutionary movement as a high school student in the 1880s. For more than four decades—until her assassination in Berlin in 1919 during the German revolution—she was a proletarian revolutionist. The lectures, articles, essays, and resolutions included in this collection address the central questions confronting the working-class movement in her—and our—epoch: reform versus revolution, imperialist war, and the fight to transform the trade union movement.

In "Reform or Revolution," written in 1899, the 28-year-old Luxemburg takes

on Eduard Bernstein, then one of the most established and respected spokespeople of the Socialist International. Bernstein argued that capitalism had reached a new stage that would allow it to develop unimpeded by economic and social crises. Because of this, he said, the working class should limit itself to fighting for reforms within the framework of capitalism; over time these reforms would lead to socialism.

Luxemburg rejected this theory, noting that it was a "program of reaction." Communists participate wholeheartedly in the struggle for the "amelioration of the conditions of the workers," she said. But those who "pronounce themselves in favor of the method of legislative reform in place of and in contradistinction to the conquest of political power and social rev-

olution, do not really choose a more tranquil, calmer, and slower road to the same goal, but a *different* goal....Our program becomes not the realization of *socialism*, but the reform of *capitalism*: not the suppression of the system of wage labor, but the diminution of exploitation."

Luxemburg was among the first leaders of the communist movement to point to the accelerating drive toward the first imperialist slaughter and to challenge those who were inclined to buy into the nationalist rhetoric of the bourgeoisie. "We, who base ourselves on the materialistic conception of history and on scientific socialism, are convinced that militarism can only be abolished from the world with the destruction of the capitalist class state," she wrote in 1911 in an article titled "Peace Utopias."

"What is Economics?" was intended as the first chapter of a book based on a series of lectures Luxemburg gave to participants at the German Social Democratic Party school in Berlin between 1907 and 1912. "An ordinary mortal reading [the typical economics texts] can't help wondering why his head is spinning like a top," she jokes before offering her students a lively and clear explanation of the subject.

Included in *Rosa Luxemburg Speaks* is "Organizational Question of Social Democracy," where Luxemburg explains her views on the revolutionary party; "Socialism and the Churches"; "The Mass Strike, the Political Party, and the Trade Unions"; "Against Capital Punishment"; and "The Junius Pamphlet: The Crisis in the German Social Democracy," one of the initial policy statements of those who rejected support for the German government in the war and continued to fight for an internationalist perspective.

Western miners face new contract fights

BY DAN FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Navajo coal miners, members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1332 at the P&M McKinley mine in New Mexico, voted to go on strike May 5. Picket lines went up at midnight after miners rejected a proposed contract by a 214-to-55 vote. After three days on strike the UMWA members went back to work under an extension of the old contract, while negotiations on a new agreement continue.

P&M bosses want to eliminate the eight-hour day and premium pay for weekend work. Lawrence Oliver, president of UMWA Local 1332, told the *Militant* in a phone interview, "All we need is a contract that is fair. There should not be unneeded proposals by the company making inroads on our work schedules."

The company has proposed that miners begin working four 10-hour shifts a week, with no overtime pay after eight hours of work. They also want to cut coal at the strip mine facility seven days a week, with miners who work Saturdays and Sundays doing so at straight-time pay.

Meanwhile, UMWA Local 1307 members at the P&M mine in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and Local 6778 members at the company's mine in Oak Creek, Colorado, are also working under extensions of the old contract. Their contracts expired on May 9.

Negotiations between P&M and the UMWA are taking place in Denver. Contracts covering more than 100 other UMWA members at the FMC coal mine and coke plant in Kemmerer expire on May 14 and June 1 respectively.

FROM PATHFINDER

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Edited by Mary-Alice Waters

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'We are a small, unconquerable nation'

Continued from front page

lifting of sanctions could take place. These include organizing so-called free elections under international supervision, disbanding all organs of state security, setting up a judiciary deemed suitable by the U.S. government, and no matter what, Fidel Castro and Raul Castro could not be part of any new government.

One Havana radio commentator described the Helms bill as, "Punishment, punishment, and more punishment for Cuba."

An editorial in the weekly paper of the Cuban trade unions, *Trabajadores*, stated, "Only through brute force would it be possible to evict every Cuban from his individual and collective properties, impose the authority of the U.S. president on all our actions, and abolish the most genuine values of every one of us." The editorial concluded, "They could try to transform the blockade into a siege, but they would have to face all our generations, present and future ones, without succeeding in subduing us. We are a small unconquerable country."

Clinton shares goals

Initially, Clinton administration officials stressed that they shared the goals of the bill's sponsors, though expressing reservations about specific provisions. But the reaction of capitalist governments around the world, sharply rejecting further U.S. moves to limit the business prerogatives of other countries, has caused the White House to distance itself from many of the proposed measures in the Helms bill.

Canadian ambassador Raymond Chrétien sent a letter to leading members of Congress warning that \$500 million in exports from Canada would be endangered. "Should these bills become law, the legislation would constitute an objectionable attempt to extend U.S. measures against Cuba beyond U.S. jurisdiction and would constitute an illegitimate intrusion upon third countries," said another communication from the Canadian government to the U.S. State Department.

The European Union also warned in a letter to U.S. government representatives, "the collective effects of these provisions



September 1994 demonstration in New York. Opponents of Washington's policies against Cuba are planning a series of further actions this year. Militant/Eric Simpson

have the potential to cause grave and damaging effects to bilateral E.U.-U.S. relations."

Recently, the State Department released a letter making clear the administration opposes the bill in its current form. In particular, the administration cited objections to the broad reach of the trade restriction provisions. "We recognize we may face criticism from certain domestic political quarters, but the potential foreign policy troubles this bill will create outweigh those concerns," said one administration official.

Clinton has stressed that current U.S. policy already "provides the necessary framework" for dealing with Cuba, citing the existing embargo, and the measures that were passed under the Cuban Democracy Act in 1992 further tightening the embargo. The State Department letter expressed willingness to come to a settlement on passing some form of the bill, though. "We believe that most of the concerns we have identified can be resolved through consultation with Congress," the letter stated.

The bipartisan policy of the U.S. gov-

ernment has been consistent in its hostility toward Cuba, but the current discussion reveals the frustration in some quarters at the lack of results.

Washington's policy comes up short

The U.S. government has had some problems of its own in attempting to apply further pressure on the Cuban people. Most notable has been the large number of Cubans who sought a way out of the harsh economic conditions by emigrating to the United States, assuming they would be welcomed as Washington's propaganda had always led them to believe. Clinton finally had to give up on the attempt to break the spirit of 20,000 Cubans he had incarcerated on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo for the past nine months, and allow them into the United States.

Five years after the disintegration of the Soviet Union it has also become apparent that predictions of the Cuban government's imminent fall are premature, to say the least. As a result, a number of capitalist spokespeople have entered the debate on U.S. policy toward Cuba on the side of easing some aspects of the current U.S.

Reactions vary in Miami to U.S.-Cuba pact

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — "We see the recent immigration accord negotiated between the United States and Cuba as positive," stated Andres Gómez at a well-attended press conference here May 9. Gómez is the coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade (BAM), an organization of Cuban-Americans who support the Cuban revolution.

Gómez pointed out approvingly that the agreement "permits the entrance to the U.S. of thousands of Cubans who since last August have been jailed under conditions of extraordinary cruelty in the concentration camps at the military base the U.S. maintains at Guantánamo Bay."

When asked whether he supported the part of the accord that would disallow Cubans automatic entry to the United States, he reminded reporters that since a 1984 agreement allotting 20,000 entry visas annually for Cubans, only a tiny percentage of those have been granted. "This has encouraged the rafters and unsafe travel," he said. "This accord will end the horrible spectacle of Cubans crossing the Florida Straits in make-shift rafts. But this doesn't mean that we're glad that Cubans are not allowed to come to the U.S."

BAM, the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC), the Cuban-American Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association, the Afro-Cuban Culture Rescue organization, and the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba organized the press conference.

Gómez condemned right-wing organizations that encourage rafters. "Why have we never heard any of these counter-revolutionary organizations propose the establishment of an airlift between the two countries," he said. "They are not really concerned about the welfare of Cubans not being allowed to enter the U.S., but they are concerned that the migration agreement is a first step to the normaliza-

tion of relations."

Gómez demanded that three Cuban-Americans — Reinaldo Aquit, Angel Suárez, and Jorge Valdés, members of the right-wing paramilitary November 30 Movement — caught and arrested while attempting to blow up the headquarters of the ATC Nov. 2, 1994, be charged and tried for terrorism.

As a U.S. Coast Guard cutter carrying 13 Cuban rafters, picked up after the immigration accord was signed, prepared to sail into the port of Cabañas, Cuba, small groups of right-wing Cuban-Americans protested here daily. A May 7 demonstration closed off the road to the Port of Miami for a short time.

Several hundred demonstrators marched in downtown Miami May 8 and 9.

During the lunch hour May 8, demonstrators waving Cuban flags from about 20 cars blocked off toll booths on the Dolphin Expressway, one of the most congested in the city, causing a traffic jam that backed up cars to the Miami Airport.

Five Cuban-Americans, including two professors from Miami Dade Community College, are on a hunger strike outside the offices of the *Miami Herald* where others joined them to confront publisher David Lawrence following the *Herald's* editorial supporting the accord as the "least worst" of all alternatives.

Cuban youth and students invite the youth of the world to the

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City of Havana and Cuban provinces

Topics to be discussed in the provinces:

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government embargo.

The Helms-Burton bill is one part of the effort to counter that view and push to keep the discussion in the framework of maintaining the course of ratcheting up the pressure against the Cuban people whenever possible.

Discussion in Cuba

In Cuba, workers, farmers, and youth are taking the opportunity to hold public hearings, educating on the content of the proposed legislation, and discussing the history and longstanding goals of U.S. imperialism in Cuba since the revolution triumphed in 1959.

In a speech before the first hearing in the National Assembly, Alarcón said the introduction of the bill is an admission that in spite of all the efforts to hurt the revolution, which have caused real damage to the Cuban people, none of the steps "have managed to achieve full success."

He ended by stating, "There should not be the slightest doubt, however, that neither this bill nor a thousand bills enacted in Washington will decide our destiny for us. Nothing will be taken away from us, regardless of the many bills that might be approved in Washington."

"To recover your little farm, our plantation owner, you must come here, not with a law in your hand, but preferably with a machete, because you will encounter a few peasants who will defend this land which is theirs. And the same can be said of every piece of this country."

Many in the United States who oppose the embargo against Cuba plan to take advantage of the stepped up discussion around Cuba to publicize actions condemning U.S. policy.

Recently, four successful regional gatherings were held in Chicago, Miami, New York, and San Francisco to call coordinated actions October 14 protesting U.S. government policy toward Cuba. Other actions leading up to the October actions were also endorsed.

The New Jersey Network on Cuba recently mailed a flyer to 400 people alerting them to upcoming activities they can join in defense of Cuba and inviting their participation in a May 20 planning meeting of the group.

Among the events listed is the "Cuba Lives" international youth festival taking place in Havana and other regions on the island August 1-7. People from all over the world are invited to see Cuba for themselves and meet others who have been active in defending the Cuban revolution at the festival. Participants will also have a chance to visit a province outside of Havana city and see life in Cuba.

On a recent tour of the United States Cuban youth leaders Rogelio Polanco and Kenia Serrano invited those who attended their meetings to travel to Cuba for the festival. In a number of cities dozens of young people signed up expressing interest. Activists are mapping out plans to hold events, raise money, and have educational discussions to build towards putting together a delegation of participants from the United States.



For more information contact: Union of Young Communists - International Relations Department, Avenida de las Misiones 5 y 7, Havana, Cuba. Tel (537) 625-644 or 625-672

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The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

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FLORIDA

Miami

The U.S.-Cuba Immigration Accord: Vic-

tory for Cuba, Defeat for Washington. Panel discussion. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

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Robert McNamara and the U.S. Government's War Against the Vietnamese People. Speaker: John Studer, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers Local 270. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3 Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

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The Crisis in Russia and the War in Chechnya. Speaker: Doug Hord, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St.

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In Defense of School Desegregation. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (east side of Hwy. 280, on 16A bus line). Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

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Celebrate the Release of Cubans Held at U.S. Prison Camps. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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The Irish Freedom Struggle. Speaker: Ken

Knudsen, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway #250. (Woodridge Dr. exit off I-45 at 610 south). Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

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Stop Police Frame-Ups, Defend Democratic Rights — The Cases of Mark Curtis and Nojan Emad. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison? Showing of video *The Frame Up of Mark Curtis*, documentary about the case filmed by Hollywood director Nick Castle. Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., N.W. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

Capitalist politicians float plans to cut Medicare

Continued from front page

the Republicans' proposals. But in 1993 Clinton created the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, headed by Democratic senator Bob Kerrey and Republican senator John Danforth, to come up with the same type of proposals that Republicans are now trumpeting.

Their recommendations included raising the age at which individuals become eligible for Medicare and Social Security without penalties from 65 to 70. Another idea was to cut the annual cost-of-living adjustment. At the time, former Social Security commissioner Robert Ball said these measures would amount to a 44 percent reduction in benefits for workers who have earned average wages over the course of their lives.

Clinton shelved the commission's proposals, recognizing the potentially explosive opposition that could develop. Today, White House officials coyly criticize Dole and Gingrich for getting cold feet and looking for political cover in order to slash Medicare.

"When your party puts a detailed budget on the table, when they explain that they are not slashing Medicare to pay for it," we will talk, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala told Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee.

No honor among thieves

The Republicans are fuming over Clinton's grandstanding, and especially his playing friend to the elderly when he addressed the White House Conference on the Aging May 3. "I believe it is wrong simply to slash Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for people who are well off," Clinton told the audience.

"Instead of searching for solutions, the president and his staff are searching for votes," Dole and Gingrich piously declared in a joint statement. Clinton "is hoping to gain some sort of advantage with America's seniors," they complained.

Republicans in Congress are discussing plans to reduce Medicare spending by an average of \$35 billion to \$45 billion a year over the next seven years, slicing up to \$300 billion. They also promised not to touch Social Security or lower the military budget. Some \$1 trillion is allocated for the war budget from 1994-97.

At the same time that capitalist politician are targeting cuts in entitlements that affect working people most dearly, not a word is uttered about reducing interest payments to the wealthy bondholders of the national debt. The Clinton administration's budget projections for 1995 include a payout of \$234 billion in interest payments alone to these well-to-do welfare recipients.

The Republicans' attack on Medicare centers on the scare story that the program is about to run out of money. They claim their goal is to save health care for the elderly.

Some Republicans have suggested proposals to give Medicare recipients a fixed sum for medical care — \$5,000 a year has been suggested — and let them choose a program of their choice or keep the money.

Such an allocation would not go far when the cost of treating even minor heart failure can run anywhere from \$6,000 to \$12,000, according to a survey of 500,000 bills for acute care in Georgia hospitals from 1990 to 1992. Treatment for pneumonia averaged \$11,864 at one of the

state's hospitals.

With the Clinton administration keeping an arms length from forging a bipartisan policy on Medicare cuts, the Republicans are "so nervous about Medicare" that they can't even draft a resolution on paper, noted the *New York Times*.

Medicare seen as a right

Pollsters for the Republican Party found that most working people see Medicare as an entitlement fundamentally connected to Social Security. Going after Medicare "is not so politically simple" as gutting "anti-

poverty programs" like welfare said one *Times* reporter.

"They can't do everything they promised to do without taking a big whack out of Medicare," Geoffrey Garin, a Democratic Party pollster, said gleefully. "They can't live up to their promises."

But the *Washington Post* chided the twin parties of big business in an editorial titled, "The Medicare Buzz Saw" to "stop jabbing at one another and start talking instead about how" to execute the bipartisan assault on Medicare "as both know they eventually must."

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José Martí

Continued from Page 8

for my country and duty, for I understand that duty and have the courage to carry it out — the duty of preventing the United States from spreading through the Antilles as Cuba gains its independence, and from overpowering with that additional strength our lands of America. All I have done so far, and all I will do, is for this purpose. I have had to work quietly and somewhat indirectly, because to achieve certain objectives, they must be kept under cover; to proclaim them for what they are would raise such difficulties that the objectives could not be realized.

The same general and lesser duties of these nations — nations such as yours and mine that are most vitally concerned with preventing the opening in Cuba (by annexation on the part of the imperialists from there and the Spaniards) of the road that is to be closed, and is being closed with our blood, annexing our American nations to the brutal and turbulent North which despises them — prevented their apparent adherence and obvious assistance to this sacrifice made for their immediate benefit.

I have lived in the monster and I know its entrails; my sling is David's.

May 18, 1895

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But not to worry — Environmental scientists report that a new species of plant and three new species of insects were found during inspection of the grounds at the government's Hanford nuke



Harry
Ring

reservation in Washington.

No time payments on sewing machine? — The Clothing Connection, a \$4.25-an-hour Santa

Ana, California, garment shop is charged with making some 500 sewing workers pay \$126.75 a month for scissors, needles, bobbins and other sewing tools. The company said it was an antitheft measure.

Crime to be poor — The California Supreme Court upheld a Santa Ana ordinance which provides for up to six months in jail for using a sleeping bag or blanket on public property. Santa Ana is the seat of Orange County, which has up to 15,000 homeless people, with some 975 beds available to them.

Déjà vu — "The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as

well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread." — 19th century writer Anatole France.

The silver lining — Not everyone at the Tyson chicken company works for starvation wages. Last year, chairman Don Tyson collected \$723,756 just for travel and entertainment expenses.

The company also leased his fishing boat for \$60,000 and some of his farm property for \$759,000.

Advises bloodsuckers to suck less — U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich said that since 1978 almost all of the increase in family income has gone to the richest fifth of the U.S. population. He

urged business to help narrow the rich-poor gap which, he warned, "threatens to tear our society apart."

Nobody even thinks about it — A Quebec school administrator concedes university tuition hikes could be a problem. But, he assures, "studies have shown that a student's decision to go to university is so fundamental a thing that it is not influenced too much by the level of fees."

For aspiring mercenaries? — Starbucks and Pepsi will test-market Mazagram, a carbonated coffee drink. It's named after a beverage that was popular with members of the French Foreign

Legion in Algeria — until a popular liberation war drove them out.

Robe not included — Back-Saver Products says orders have been rolling in for its \$1,000 Executive BackChair since it was reported that it's the chair in which Judge Lance Ito presides at the O.J. Simpson trial.

Cancel that guilt trip — If you're coping with the problems attendant on having more money than you know what to do with, subscribe to *More than Money*.

It offers tips for handling the "feelings of isolation, confusion and lack of self-worth" that may come with too big a bundle.

Kent State killings: work of capitalist warmakers

May 4 marked the 25th anniversary of the massacre at Kent State University in Ohio, where four students were shot dead and nine others wounded by Ohio national guardsmen. The students were protesting U.S. president Richard Nixon's escalation of the war in southeast Asia into Cambodia and the bombing of North Vietnam.

The following excerpts were taken from *Militant* articles covering the protests in response to the escalation of the war in Indochina and the slaughter at Kent State. The first excerpt is from a statement issued by the national campaign committee of the Socialist Workers Party and printed in the *Militant*.

Allison Krause, Sandra Lee Scheuer, Jeffrey Glen Miller and William E. Schroeder are dead — victims of the same capitalist government that has killed hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and more than 50,000 American GIs.

With millions of Americans mourning their martyrdom, a decisive new chapter is being written in American history.

Who is responsible for their murder? The individual most directly responsible is Richard Nixon himself. Nixon and his cohorts have created the kind of atmosphere where a National Guard commander can order his men to fire into an unarmed assemblage — because "we were out of tear gas." But while Nixon bears the central personal responsibility for the crime committed at Kent State University, his responsibility is not individual. He bears the burden of guilt as the principal political spokesman for American capitalism. The four Kent students fell victim to the same violence being directed against the people of Indochina.

Stop the war. Bring every single GI home. End all capitalist violence at home and abroad. Move toward a socialist society cleansed of barbarism — a society where for the first time freedom, justice and humanity will prevail.

MAY 5 — When President Nixon, with unmatched cynicism, announced his decision to order the invasion of Cambodia, he unleashed a storm of antiwar opposition that will close down nearly every college and university in the United States, and has the potential for reaching millions more Americans not on the nation's campuses.

This phenomenal reaction to the escalation of the war in Indochina has been com-

pletely spontaneous. It is unprecedented in its scope. And both by its breadth and by its spontaneity it is qualitatively different from anything that has ever occurred before in the history of this country.

Of the close to 150 universities contacted by the Student Mobilization Committee as the strike movement was just getting underway at the beginning of the week, for instance, only one had no plans to call a strike....

One of the most striking indications of the enormous potential of this antiwar wave came in several mass meetings on Boston-area campuses where more than 15,000 students voted May 4 to strike and support a mass rally at the State House called by the Student Mobilization Committee to protest the invasion of Cambodia and the Kent massacre and to demand a statewide vote on the war.

Typical of the current surge of protest was the size of these mass strike meetings: 5,000 at Harvard; 2,000 at Boston University; 1,000 at Tufts; 1,800 at Northeastern University; 2,000 at Brandeis; 2,500 at MIT; 1,100 — two-thirds of the student body — at Clark University.

A mass meeting yesterday evening at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland voted on a strike that will shut down all campuses in the state of Ohio. Following the meeting, 3,000 participated in a midnight memorial march for the four Kent State University students killed by Guardsmen earlier in the day.

The millions of students who are participating in the actions today speak for millions of other Americans who in no way support Nixon's escalation. These actions represent the most dramatic manifestation thus far of the mobilizable mass antiwar sentiment that exists in the United States.

At Kent State, after the killing of the four students, 600 faculty members met in a church near the campus and passed a resolution vowing they would refuse to teach under conditions of military occupation of their campus.

They stated: "In this moment of grief, we are pledged that in the future we shall not teach in circumstances which are likely to lead to the death and wounding of our students. We cannot keep civil authorities from assuming control of our campus, but we can and do refuse to teach in a climate that is inimical to the safety of our students and the principles of academic freedom."



Antiwar rally of 25,000 in Boston, May 5, 1970, protests killings at Kent State.

WASHINGTON, May 5 — At a press conference here today plans were announced for a national day of mourning Friday, May 8, for the four Kent State University student victims. The announcement was made by Carol Lipman, national executive secretary of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, and Charles Palmer, president of the National Student Association. The slated action was endorsed by the Washington Federation of Teachers.

The national day of mourning was

backed this afternoon by a Boston rally of 25,000. Called by the Boston SMC, the rally at the State House was addressed by speakers from the entire antiwar coalition.

At one point the moderator called upon the governor, who was watching the rally from his office at the State House, to lower the American flag in front of the building to half-mast in honor of the four murdered students. A chant to this effect broke out. Within minutes it was lowered to half-mast, during which everyone stood in silence with fists raised.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

May 19, 1970

Price 10¢

As the strike wave on the nation's campuses spread, there were indications that antiwar sentiment within the ranks of organized labor was also deepening and beginning to break through to the surface: Striking students are clearly making every effort to reach out to the broader forces.

Without question the most dramatic sign of this occurred on May 7 when the national convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, meeting in Denver, adopted a resolution calling for the immediate and total withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Southeast Asia.

The resolution was adopted by a more than two-thirds majority of the 1,400 delegates.

AFSCME, with 460,000 members, is the eighth largest union in the AFL-CIO. It is the fastest-growing union in the country (1,000 new members per week).

In Los Angeles, AFT Local 990 at the University of California at Los Angeles accepted a motion at an emergency membership meeting May 6 demanding the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia.

THE MILITANT

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

May 19, 1945

Everybody knows about the 102-story Empire State Building, tallest and showiest in the world. Tourists visit it. A wealthy corporation owns it. The rich occupy it. But who knows anything about the cleaning women who toil and sweat throughout the nights to keep its swanky offices clean and shiny?

"They don't care nothing about us poor scrub women," said one of them to me when I interviewed a group of them on May 11, at the offices of their local union 32-J, AFL Building Service Employees, at 250 West 57th Street, New York City. "We asked for only a nickel an hour raise, and the War Labor Board turned it down — after giving us the run-around for months!" The women were tense and fighting mad. Last week, they said, they demanded a strike. But they were prevailed upon to wait another ten days pending further negotiations.

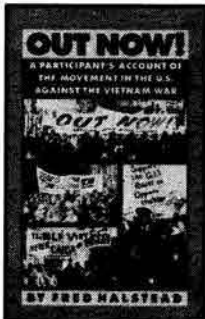
Her black eyes flashing, one of the women told me about their working conditions and pay. "We get 55 cents an hour straight time for seven hours and 96 cents with overtime. All of us work twelve hours because we just couldn't live without overtime. All of us have kids — some as many as six or eight and you can't feed them on \$19 a week."

OUT NOW

A Participant's Account of the
Movement in the United States
Against the Vietnam War

By Fred Halstead

The story of the U.S. component of the international anti-Vietnam War movement; how it refuted Washington's rationales for the war and mobilized opposition to it; and how the antiwar movement, gaining momentum from the fight for Black civil rights, helped force the U.S. government to bring the troops home, thus spurring struggles for social justice and changing the political face of the United States. \$30.95



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Support Irish struggle...

The advances being made today in the fight for Irish self-determination give working people and defenders of democratic rights around the world cause to celebrate and get involved. Those who want to put an end to centuries of Irish oppression and more than 70 years of outright partition of their nation have the initiative. They deserve worldwide support in this struggle.

"All my life I've been a second-class citizen," explained one 65-year-old worker demonstrating May 7 in Belfast. Working people in Northern Ireland have been subjected to institutionalized anti-Catholic discrimination, denial of political rights, and since 1969 direct military occupation by British imperialism. Workers who are Catholic have been kept out of many jobs and face high levels of unemployment. For years, before the Irish civil rights movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, districts were gerrymandered to prevent Catholics from being elected to office.

British soldiers, and the heavily armed pro-British Royal Ulster Constabulary police force, made sure working people didn't get out of line, and right-wing paramilitaries, often armed directly by London's agents, terrorized nationalist communities. Thousands have faced arbitrary arrest and detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and other undemocratic measures, often simply for the crime of being Irish. Hundreds of political activists remain in prison today. Those speaking for the republican movement were banned for years from the airwaves in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

None of this succeeded in breaking the resistance of working people in Ireland, however. And every upturn in the struggle, like the campaign in defense of the political prisoners on hunger strike in 1980-81, has won the solidarity and admiration of working people internationally. Today, forced by the weakness of British imperialism and the determination of the Irish people to decide their own future, London has no choice but to sit down and negotiate with Sinn Fein, the leading party speaking for the democratic struggle in Ireland.

The cease-fire and peace talks open more space for discussion and debate today. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, who for years was refused a visa by the U.S. State Department, is currently on tour raising financial and political support in the United States. Elected representatives of Sinn Fein and the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party for the first time debated publicly before 1,200 people in New York May 8.

The door is open for more workers and youth to come into political action, and a growing number are starting to walk through it. "There are more people taking to the streets today," explained one participant in the Belfast rally. These actions will play a decisive role in the final effort to push London out of Ulster and unite Ireland. Workers, young people, and supporters of democratic rights around the world should join our sisters and brothers in Ireland in demanding:

British troops out now!
Free all Irish political prisoners!

...and Cuba's sovereignty

"Nationalization carried out by the revolution still stings them," is how one Cuban explained the latest proposal up for discussion in Congress on tightening the U.S. embargo. That act, of a people taking control of their nation, their resources, their land, is the one thing Washington finds unforgivable.

The U.S. rulers have imposed an embargo and have tried invasion, military threats and incursions, sabotage, terrorist attacks, and more. But they have not succeeded in forcing Cubans to hand their country back to those who once ruled over an island of illiteracy, malnourishment, and widespread poverty. Cuba may be small, but the determined resistance of the Cuban people has shown it is a country that cannot be conquered, as an editorial in the Cuban weekly *Trabajadores* reminds us.

The Clinton administration has stated current U.S. government policy — a long-standing embargo, with even tighter restrictions imposed in 1992 and again in 1994 — is sufficient to deny the Cuban people any relief. North Carolina senator Jesse Helms argues that now is the time to tighten the screws even more, while a few capitalist figures argue that the best approach to undercut the Cuban revolution is to ease up on some of the current restrictions.

Whatever the outcome of the current round of discussion in the halls of Congress, the heightened focus on U.S. government policy toward Cuba provides an opportunity to raise another voice — one of opposition to Washington's unrelenting hostility toward Cuba.

Now is a good time to turn with more energy toward organizing actions, educational events, and discussions opposing U.S. government policy. In many cities around

the world events are scheduled to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Cuban independence fighter José Martí, May 19.

Recently, four regional conferences were held in the United States to plan actions protesting Washington's campaign against Cuba. These successful meetings of the National Network on Cuba and its member groups set activities for the next few months and called for demonstrations to take place in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco on October 14.

One important event taking place this summer is an international youth festival in Havana around the theme "Cuba Lives." The invitation to visit Cuba and attend the August 1-7 festival is extended to all those who are "opposed to the blockade against Cuba and cherish the right of peoples to self-determination, sovereignty, and independence." The international festival will be a chance for thousands from around the world to discuss what can be learned from the example Cuba has set and how to weigh in on the side of the Cuban people in defense of their revolution.

There are a few months to do the work of publicizing the Cuba Lives event, finding those interested in attending, and organizing the educational work and fundraising that will be necessary to put together a broad delegation.

With more social protest actions attracting young people and workers, and the steadfastness of the Cuban people in defending their revolution, there are certain to be plenty of opportunities to find those who will want to be a part of efforts to protest U.S. policy; and take part in the Cuba Lives festival.

World War II was many wars in one

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Touted as the war against fascism, governments around the world are holding grand commemorations of this imperialist slaughter of working people.

The following excerpt, taken from "Washington's Third Militarization Drive" in *New International* no. 7, explains the truth behind the war that left as many as 60 million human beings dead. This excerpt is reprinted with permission of *New International*. Subheads are by the *Militant*.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Contrary to popular belief both then and now, World War II was not a war to stop fascism. It was much more complex than that; it was at least three wars in one, as the SWP [Socialist Workers Party] explained at the time.

It was an interimperialist war in which the defeat by Washington and its allies of Germany, Japan, and Italy did nothing to eliminate the economic and social roots of fascism nor the causes of imperialist oppression. Fascism, the most virulent form of maintaining imperialist rule, will again attempt to raise its head in any period of deep capitalist crisis and accelerating class polarization and combat.

It was a war to roll back the Russian revolution and reestablish capitalism in the Soviet Union. With enormous sacrifice the workers and peasants of the first and at that time only workers' state turned the tide against German imperialism's invading armies. They prevented the imperialist powers from realizing this historic objective, which none of them have ever abandoned from October 1917 to this day.

It was a multifront war for national liberation in which the colonized and oppressed nations of the world took good advantage of the interimperialist conflict to advance their interests from India to China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea, the Mideast, Ireland, and Québec.

A fourth war also took shape as the imperialist bloodletting continued: the war carried out by resistance forces — many organized by the workers' movement — in the occupied countries of Europe. That was a war against the fascist dictatorships imposed by Hitler's National Socialist movement. It was also a war by the workers to create the most favorable possible conditions for the working classes in Europe to emerge victorious over their own bourgeoisies, whether fascist or democratic imperialist, as the conflict unfolded.

'We are going home'

After Japan's surrender in August 1945, the U.S. rulers, who came out on top of the pile in 1945, found themselves confronted with a disintegrating army. Workers and farmers in uniform, particularly those in the Pacific theater, demanded to be brought home immediately. They saw no reason to stay in uniform once the war they were fighting, the war against fascism, had been won.

The rulers in Washington, however, wanted to reap the harvest of victory over their rivals by taking control of Asia. In particular, they aimed at keeping China under imperialist control. As GIs throughout Asia started demonstrating by the thousands, the Democrats and Republicans in Washington howled, "But we are losing China!"

The GIs answered, "You may be losing China. We are going home!" They simply refused to continue under arms. Demobilization was accelerated and go home they did, by the millions. The U.S. armed forces had ceased to be an effective fighting force for imperialist interests.

That's how the postwar period began in the United States: with a GI going-home movement that no class on earth could have stopped, as well as a massive strike wave that brought nearly two million workers, many of them newly returned vets, onto the picket lines demanding an immediate end to the wartime wage controls.

New militarization drive

In response to the victory of the Soviet Union in World War II, the advance of the colonial revolution as the imperialist powers warred against each other, and the resulting shift in the international relationship of forces to the detriment of imperialism, Washington had to take steps to put back together a military force to use against struggles by workers and peasants around the world. With World War II barely over, the U.S. rulers needed a new militarization drive.

At the same time, the employers still had to housebreak the labor movement that had been born in the giant struggles of the rise of the CIO industrial union movement in the second half of the 1930s. They also had to try to prevent a massive movement for Black equality from arising on the basis of the civil rights militancy that had emerged during the war. The witch-hunt and anticommunist reaction of the end of the 1940s and the 1950s were aimed at accomplishing these goals.

Correction:

The article "Caterpillar strikers rally in Peoria" in the May 15 issue of the *Militant* contained an error. Caterpillar strikers from Pontiac, Illinois — not Pontiac, Michigan, as indicated in the article — attended the rally.

Boss class seeks Medicare cuts

A recent article in the *Financial Times* complained that neither the Republicans nor President Bill Clinton are "yet willing to take on the sacrosanct 'entitlement' programmes — Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid." This has been a constant theme among the big-business press, as capitalist politicians in the United States bicker over how far to go in cutting programs that working people correctly view as social rights.

But while Clinton and the bipartisan gang on Capitol Hill sharpen their knives over proposals to slash medical care for the elderly, disabled, and poorer sections of the working class, there is not a peep about the interest payments to the wealthy bondholders of the national debt. In fact, it is so rarely mentioned one would not even know it's part of the capitalist government's national budget.

Capitalists are determined to protect the value of their massive bondholdings and the huge interest payments they collect on this debt, about \$1 trillion for 1994-97. Their cut of government spending greatly exceeds combined projected outlays for agriculture, the environment, housing, transportation, education, and job training.

The *Financial Times* also groans that payments for entitlement programs are "three times as much as is devoted to" the war budget. Working people, whose labor

creates all wealth, have no stake in even one penny being spent for the imperialist war machine.

The social programs the boss class seeks to roll back today are a product of the struggles of workers and the unions in the 1930s and the labor upsurge in the United States and other capitalist countries following World War II. Subsequent fights, such as the movement for Black rights and women's equality, increased the social wage for the working class as well.

Working people have come to consider Social Security, Medicare, unemployment benefits, and Medicaid, to be social rights, not gifts, so the employers face big obstacles in trying to take away these "sacrosanct" entitlements. That's why the Democrats and the Republicans are "so nervous about Medicare."

But the wealthy class is determined to press ahead. The recent debate on cutting Medicare introduced by Republican Party politicians — a warmed-over version of earlier Clinton proposals — is another indication of this fact.

The labor movement must add its voice to those protesting proposed cuts in Medicare. Resistance by working people to the bipartisan offensive on our rights will be decisive in determining how far the rulers can go.

Detroit rally says: 'Defend immigrant workers'

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

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

Maryann Mahafey, and David Martinez, an executive director of the UFW.

A highpoint of the event came when rally organizers recognized groups of workers from Mexican Industries and Crown Industries who were greeted with roaring applause. Workers at Mexican Industries, the majority of whom are women from Mexico, are currently engaged in an organizing drive with the UAW. Workers at



Militant/Mark Gilsdorf

Marchers in Detroit April 30 commemorate life and struggle of César Chávez of United Farm Workers

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Crown Industries just won a union certification vote at their plant.

Printing workers in New York City show unity

Workers at Admiral Photo Offset in New York City went through a new experience in a recent contract battle. Admiral is a printing and mailing house whose customers include some of the major Wall Street investment firms.

The 70 union members in the plant belong to International Union of Allied Novelty and Production Workers (NPW) Local 139. They are the only printing trades workers in this union. Wages at Admiral are on the low end of those in the industry, and there are no wage scales. Workers are hired at whatever the company offers, and some are given raises other than those in the contract. In past years, union members in the plant were involved in contract talks only to the extent of electing some co-workers to serve on the negotiating committee along with the union officials, and voting on the contract.

With the contract expiring May

1, negotiations began April 20. As voted on at a shop meeting, union T-shirts were given out that day, and worn by virtually every member. Since the union didn't have a T-shirt, workers in the shop designed their own. It said: We Are the Union/ We Are United. Voluntary contributions of \$5 and a raffle financed printing the shirts. Workers continued to wear them throughout the negotiations.

Another shop meeting decided on a job action for Monday, April 24. On Mondays, many workers are asked not to take lunch, because of a major job that's printed and mailed every week. That day, in accordance with New York State law, which guarantees the right to lunch breaks, workers took an hour lunch at noon and held a picket outside chanting, "no contract, no work," to show that the workforce would go on strike if there was no contract by the deadline.

Negotiations went on beyond the deadline, but there was a contract to vote on by the afternoon of

May 1. It provides for an immediate increase of 3 percent, with another 2 percent in six months. Over the next two years, increases of 2 percent on May 1 and another 2 percent November 1 are required.

The vote was held without the night shift present, and with almost no time for discussion. At the last minute workers found out that new hires would not get their health benefits until after six months, instead of the previous three.

The contract passed by a vote of 34 to 15. While a number of workers felt more could have been won, the most important thing was the dramatic change in workers' confidence through wearing the T-shirts and participating in the job action.

London bank workers protest low pay offer

Workers at Barclays Bank held a protest outside the annual general meeting of the bank in Lon-

don. The protest came after the membership of Unifi, which represents 32,000 clerical workers at the bank, voted in favor of strike action for the first time. The workers held signs protesting the offer of a 2.75 percent raise at the same time as the pay of Andrew Buxton, Barclay's chairman, was increased by 18.6 percent bringing his salary to \$847,260. No actual strike has been called yet.

Over the past five years layoffs and downsizing have eliminated 80,000 jobs in the banking sector in Britain. The strike vote came after Barclay's reported record profits last year of £1.86 billion (£1=US\$1.60). "We have had four years of rises in basic pay which have all been under the retail price index and our members have said, 'Enough'," said Unifi's general-secretary, Paul Snowball.

Contributors to this week's column include: Mark Gilsdorf in Detroit and Marc Lichtman, a member of NPW Local 139 at Admiral Photo in New York.

LETTERS

Mexico police attack

On May 1, Labor Day, Fidel Velázquez, the leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, canceled the traditional workers parade fearing that it would get out of control.

This however did not stop more than 200,000 people from demonstrating down the central avenue and up to the main square in support of the Ruta 100 city bus drivers (who have been fired arbitrarily by the city government) and the EZLN in Chiapas and also demanding an end to the emergency economic plan.

Shortly after the demonstration arrived at the Zócalo (the main square), several provocateurs tried to burn down the door of the National Palace and cause a confrontation with the riot police. Demonstrators made a human barrier between the provocateurs and the police and stopped what could have turned into a bloody battle. This seemed to have solved the problem.

A while later, some members of the Antiauthoritarian Revolutionary Youths (JAR,) decided to go home. Many of them had no idea of the confrontation. While on their way home they were arrested by the police, beaten, and accused of having committed acts of vandalism.

A witness to the police brutality informed other members of the JAR, who went to the subway station where their comrades had been arrested and attempted to get more information from the subway police. They decided that a small group should go to the police station while others waited at the subway. Suddenly, two of the three exits were closed and police rushed in. These were members of

the riot police and the canine division, who began kicking and clubbing the members of JAR. Those who ran were attacked by the dogs while the police kept beating the others. Some people were able to escape. The others were taken to the police station (where the first group had also been taken) and beaten again. Later that night, some were freed after paying 180 pesos (not a fine) and others were let go the next day.

However, 11 people are still under arrest and formal charges have been brought against them. The older ones have been transferred to a jail. One of these, Enrique Huerta Salazar, was beaten and tortured to force him to sign a confession.

We therefore ask for your cooperation in building an international campaign to free them. We need your solidarity. Stop all discrimination and repression against young people! We demand the immediate liberation of our comrades! Being young is not a crime! *Foro Socialista, JAR, Colectivo Acción Libertaria, Juventudes Libertarias Ricardo Flores Magón, Acción Virus, Colectivo A.N.I.M.A.L. Mexico City*

'Coupon clippers'

Enclosed is my check for a six-month subscription renewal; lately, the paper's coverage seems more comprehensive than it has for some time. All the reporting from Cuba, Mexico, etc. is excellent.

In the past few issues, I've encountered the term "coupon clippers" used to refer to wealthy bondholders and the like. I don't understand this formulation at all; to me, a coupon clipper is some-



one who clips coupons out of the Sunday paper, because they're thrifty or to scrape by and decrease their expenses. I can't fathom what this has to do with parasitic bondholders. Can you explain? Thanks. *Marty Michaels Washington, D.C.*

Editors note: Wealthy bondholders collect interest on their holdings, and to do so they literally clip coupons on the bonds they hold. Hence, the term "coupon clippers" is used to refer to those who derive their wealth from doing no work, but simply send in coupons from their bonds and collect money.

Prisoners' rights

I was interested to read the column by Mark Curtis on the way phone companies and other capitalist concerns find ways of making profits out of the prisoners' situation.

Here in New Zealand a new

policy was announced recently by the Justice Department in respect of prisoners' rights to use telephones.

A new computerized system is being introduced into the prisons, whereby prisoners will be permitted to make calls to only 10 phone numbers nominated by the prisoner and approved by the authorities beforehand. All calls will be monitored.

The department justified this policy by claiming that prisoners have been obstructing the course of justice by making threatening phone calls to trial witnesses from prison. (Presumably, then, the policy will even apply to those prisoners remanded in custody and therefore not convicted of any crime.)

In response to criticism from civil libertarians that this system will restrict the ability of prisoners to publicly expose abuses in the prisons, the justice department agreed that if prisoners nominated phone numbers of press reporters,

they would be "unlikely to be approved."

James Robb

Auckland, New Zealand

Solidarity event

Perhaps it was an inadvertent oversight that the April 2 solidarity rally in Perry [Iowa] wasn't included in your recent article on the Des Moines area support activities for the Bridgestone/Firestone strike. Although small, only about 50 persons, half of whom were strikers and their families, it was an important meeting. The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1149 strike support committee organized the gathering, which was supported by three local unions and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

UFCW Local 1149, which represents workers in the local IBP pork plant, and the moulders and glass workers donated funds from their local accounts in the collection taken at the meeting.

At the meeting a lively discussion occurred covering such issues as the Caterpillar strike, the minimum wage, foreign-owned companies and international solidarity and others. One United Rubber Workers strike leader said his experience in the strike had convinced him that unions need a labor party.

Cleve Andrew Pulley, Des Moines, Iowa

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.

Maori land fight: 'Time is ripe'

BY FELICITY COGGAN

TAKAHUE, New Zealand — At 6:30 a.m. on the morning of March 29, a group of Maori from this small Northland settlement moved into the local schoolhouse. The several dozen protesters who have occupied the school since then are demanding that the title to the land on which the school stands be returned to them.

The six acres they are claiming are part of 4,500 acres purchased by the government in 1875, in a transaction the protesters, descendants of the original owners, regard as invalid. The school has been closed since the mid 1980s and used as an army training camp and for community activities since then.

Once their title is established, the protesters plan to ask the local community to manage the site as a *marae* (meeting place) for the people of the area. Takahue is just south of Kaitiaki, a town of 8,000 in the far north of New Zealand.

Bill Perry, a spokesperson for the protesters, explained to *Militant* reporters who visited the occupation April 22 that the land they are claiming has been set aside in a government controlled Landbank together with other property in the region. This Landbank allegedly protects lands currently subject to claims under the Waitangi Tribunal from sale pending settlement of the claims.

Reject leasing land they own

However, the protesters are concerned that sales and leases of these lands are in fact proceeding, and without the required consultation with the claimants. Perry explained that they recently rejected a proposal to lease the site believing they should not be required to lease land they already own.

Many of the participants here have been

involved in other political protests. An ex-seafarer described how, while in Australia with his ship, he had participated in demonstrations for Aboriginal land rights. He said the school occupation here was inspired by the example of the occupation of Moutoa Gardens in Wanganui. "The time was ripe," he said.

Representatives of the Takahue protest have visited the Wanganui occupation and two leaders of the Wanganui protest recently spent a day and night at Takahue.

Involved in other protests

Other protests have taken place in the Far North over the past few months and many of those occupying the school wanted to talk about their participation in these activities. All had joined the demonstration of 6,000 in Kaitiaki in February, which succeeded in forestalling government plans to downgrade the local hospital. "That was a great day," said Perry.

Many had also been part of a series of protests last December against the dropping of 1080 poison to kill opossums in nearby forests. Groups of up to 70 protesters confronted a large police deployment, setting up camps, marching in Kaitiaki, and successfully foiling one air drop, although others went ahead.

As well as being concerned about the environmental effects of the poison on the forests where local people gather food, they were demanding the government set up a scheme to hunt opossums for processing as pet food, which would create jobs in the area.

Northland has the highest level of unemployment in the country and has been hard hit by job losses in farming, fishing, forestry, and meat processing.

Another group of 30 Northland Maori occupied the mineral baths at Ngawha



Militant/Malcolm McAllister

Maori land occupation in Wanganui at Moutoa Gardens, renamed Pakaitore. This protest has helped inspire other land occupations throughout New Zealand.

Springs April 24, about 60 miles south of Kaitiaki. Despite the Waitangi Tribunal recommending two years ago that the baths be returned to them, no action had been taken and the baths and buildings had fallen into disrepair. The group forced

the local council to demolish the buildings the same day and plan to clean up the baths.

Felicity Coggan is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Auckland.

Chernobyl nuclear plant again scheduled to close

BY JON HILLSON

In response to continuing pressure from European capitalists, the government of Ukraine announced, again, in mid-April that it would close down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000.

The decision was hailed as "courageous and important" by French environment minister Michael Barnier, speaking for the 15-nation European Union.

It would be hard to find a more cynical compliment.

The pro-capitalist architects of Ukraine's crisis-racked "market" economy were reduced to raising the threat of a new catastrophe at Chernobyl, site of the horrific 1986 nuclear explosion and core

meltdown, as a bargaining chip for loans from the International Monetary Fund and other imperialist banking operations.

Possibility of new catastrophe

Since Chernobyl generates at least 6 percent of the nation's energy, the Ukrainian government has sought billions in assistance for the shut-down operation, unemployment compensation for thousands of workers who would be laid off, and construction of a natural gas power plant to provide energy.

The government already spends 5 percent of its national budget for ongoing Chernobyl clean-up operations. It is unable to purchase natural gas and oil from

Russia, whose rulers demand hard currency to pay off over a billion dollars in overdue energy bills.

Europe's ruling rich responded to the Ukraine government's dilemma, and the real potential of another Chernobyl disaster, by tightening the squeeze, refusing all loans until Kiev agreed to close the power plant. The Ukrainian parliament voted in 1992 to shut Chernobyl, but reversed itself in 1993.

After Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma's announcement on the renewed decision to seal the plant, Barnier said Europe's bosses would press the governments of the United States and Japan to help with the costs of the closing.

Speaking for the Group of Seven, the exclusive club of the world's major capitalist powers, Canadian legislator William Chambers said a natural gas power plant "is pretty much a condition" assumed in the decision to terminate the Chernobyl operation.

More deaths acknowledged

Meanwhile, the facility's two surviving reactors keep chugging away, each in dilapidated condition, while the nuke destroyed in 1986 houses massive amounts of lethal plutonium waste. The ruined chamber is entombed in a concrete sarcophagus, which scientists worldwide contend is another accident waiting to happen. A fire destroyed an adjacent reactor several years ago, collapsing part of its roof and leaving it beyond repair.

These conditions are all the more chilling in light of an April 25 announcement, on the eve of the anniversary of the 1986 dis-

aster, by Ukrainian health minister Andrei Serdyuk.

Some 125,000 people died from illness contracted from the huge radiation cloud the Chernobyl blast spewed across Ukraine, Belarus, other parts of the former Soviet Union, and sections of Europe, Serdyuk stated.

Previously, the most commonly quoted official figure was 7,000 deaths.

Anniversary marked by protest

The government found the highest rate of fatalities among children, pregnant women, and rescue and clean-up workers — many of them Soviet soldiers.

Hundreds of these despondent former troops began killing themselves several years ago, as treatment for their diseases — along with other benefits promised by the Gorbachev and Yeltsin governments — failed to materialize.

The Ukrainian Health Ministry also reported a 16 percent increase in the death rate in the country's northern region, where Chernobyl is located.

At a memorial service at the Moscow graveyard where the first 27 Chernobyl victims are interred in lead coffins, Vyacheslav Grishin, chairman of the 300,000-member Russian Chernobyl League, stated the final toll from the nuclear catastrophe has yet to be reached. The League brings together Russians involved in the Chernobyl clean-up.

"Doctors expect the peak of oncological diseases [cancers] in those people [exposed to radiation] in the second decade after the disaster," Grishin explained at the tombstones.

In Moscow and Kiev, opponents of nuclear power mounted protests to mark the anniversary of the nuclear calamity.

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Crew cleans up Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Clean-up workers suffered high death rates from radiation. Many committed suicide after promised medical care was not provided.