

THE MILITANT

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Conference in China
highlights women's struggles
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Striking unions force bosses to airlift papers

Detroit judge rules to limit pickets as solidarity mounts

BY CINDY JAQUITH

STERLING HEIGHTS, Michigan — The Detroit Newspaper Agency (DNA) was forced to ferry out by helicopter the September 10 Sunday edition of its scab paper as mass pickets kept the gate of its printing plant here closed from late Saturday afternoon, September 9, to 4:15 a.m. the following day.

Six unions are on strike against the Detroit *Free Press* and *News*, which are managed by the DNA.

Some 2,000 people — strikers, other unionists, and supporters — turned out September 9 for what was called "Solidarity Saturday II." The previous Saturday, September 2, about 3,000 strikers and supporters kept the Sterling Heights plant gate closed from mid-afternoon to 8:30 a.m. the next day, rendering delivery of the Sunday edition almost useless.

A broad spectrum of unions from the area were represented on the September 9 picket line. Many union officials were on hand.

Hundreds of members and officials of the United Auto Workers (UAW) turned out, a large number of them serving as marshals. There were members of the United Steelworkers of America from the Great Lakes Steel and McClouth mills, as well as from the union's district office. Unionists also came from the Teamsters,

International Association of Machinists (IAM); Detroit Federation of Teachers; Michigan Education Association; United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

On September 13, Macomb Circuit Judge Raymond Cashen issued an injunction limiting the number of pickets at Gate 1 of the Sterling Heights plant to 10. This is the gate used by the DNA to bring scab vehicles in and out of the facility. The

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Newspaper strikers and supporters at a recent demonstration outside Detroit 'News' building

Hundreds in Los Angeles march for immigrant rights on Labor Day

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Labor Day activities here included an immigrant-rights march and rally in Chinatown. More than 500 people participated in the event, which was sponsored by a coalition of Asian, Pacific Islander, and Latino groups.

Despite searing heat, members of the Korean Senior Citizens Association participated in the action. Banners identified the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Asian Pacific Islanders for Immigration Rights, and the Korean Resource Center.

Latino participants included the Association of Pasadena Day Workers.

A highlight of the rally was the presence of some of the 72 Thai workers who experienced near-slave conditions in a garment sweatshop in nearby El Monte.

Speaking on their behalf was Chanchanit Martorell, director of the Thai Community Development Center. She has played a central role in defending their rights. She spoke of the contributions of immigrant labor to the U.S. economy but said that instead of being welcomed, these workers "are being persecuted and made the scapegoat for every social ill this country has created."

A series of speakers assailed the current immigrant-bashing drive and urged ongoing action against it. They voiced particular anger at moves to deny social benefits to legal permanent residents and to deny entry preference to immediate relatives of citizens and permanent residents.

The entire group of Thai garment work-



Thai garment workers who faced slave-like conditions joined in Labor Day action

ers were the featured guests at the annual Labor Day breakfast of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

The gathering was deeply moved by the account of their experience offered by three of the women through an interpreter. "It was like coming to hell," declared one.

Meeting under a banner that declared, "The new faces of labor," the union gathering was larger than those in recent years. In the port area of San Pedro, a coalition

of unions staged a march and rally with some 2,000 participants. This too was larger than recent ones.

The largest contingent was that of the International Longshore Union, whose members staged a 24-hour strike in August that shut down all West Coast ports. Leading the march was a battery of rigs driven by members of the Latin American Truckers Association, an organization of independent drivers.

Help sell and fund 'Militant'

As U.S. planes bomb Bosnia and the big-business media is busy justifying this escalation of imperialist intervention, a different kind of battle plan is about to be put into action. Hundreds of readers and supporters of this newspaper in several countries will hit the streets September 23, armed with the *Militant*, the Spanish-

EDITORIAL

language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* magazine — powerful political weapons that provide working people with the truth and a working-class perspective on the world.

In this drive, *Militant* supporters will place a premium on selling in working-class communities, introducing the paper to co-workers, joining picket lines, campaigning on campuses, and fielding teams to take the socialist press to regions outside their cities. Organizing a *Militant* army to campaign in this way is the best way to cast a wide net and sell subscriptions to the broadest number possible of first-time readers over the next eight weeks.

We invite every one of our readers to join this effort. In dozens of cities, working-class and young political activists are mapping out their plan for the first eight days — a special target week to get the subscription drive in full swing from the start. The goal of *Militant* readers in every city should be to get ahead of schedule by the end of this first week. This will be a key element in maintaining a

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Tahiti protests oppose nukes, colonial rule

BY MALCOLM McALLISTER

PAPEETE, French Polynesia — Protests erupted in Tahiti and around the world as soon as news spread that the French government had exploded the first of eight planned underground nuclear bomb tests at Moruroa Atoll on September 6.

Two hundred workers at the Moruroa test site were among those who responded to a call for a general strike in Tahiti at midnight that night.

The international airport at Faa'a became the focus of the protesters' "anger, frustration and humiliation," as veteran independence leader Oscar Temaru described it. Faa'a is the territory's second-largest town, just several miles from Papeete, the capital. Its mainly working-class and Polynesian residents are a bastion of the independence movement. The airport is used by the French military, as well as civilian aircraft.

Two thousand protesters attempting to peacefully block the runway were met by three armored cars and French government paramilitary police equipped with riot shields, tear gas, and stun grenades. As the protesters were driven back, anger mounted. Part of the airport and more than a dozen cars in the parking lot were set on fire.

Participants in the actions described the

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Cuba festival draws youth toward communism — page 6



Iraq sanctions extended

The United Nations Security Council voted September 8 to extend its five-year-old trade sanctions against Iraq. The decision came a few weeks after the Clinton administration's failed move to topple the Iraqi government, which included the high-profile defection of two top Iraqi military officials followed by the sending of 1,000 U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf for military "exercises" in neighboring Kuwait. U.S. Ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright indicated at that time that Washington would try to prevent any easing of sanctions, which are reviewed every 60 days, for at least another year.

Chechens protest troops

More than 1,000 residents of Grozny, Chechnya's capital, rallied September 8 at the scene of the killing of a Chechen teenager by Russian troops. Later, several hundred Chechens demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Moscow-backed provisional government, waving Islamic flags and demanding Russian troops leave the city.

The Russian military sent armored personnel carriers and about 200 policemen to the scene and threatened to use force to disperse the crowds. A July 30 military pact mandating disarmament by Chechen rebels and the start of Russian withdrawal has not been carried out.

Street to honor fascist protested

Rome mayor Francesco Rutelli sparked protests when he announced plans to name a city street for Giuseppe Bottai, who was minister of education in Benito Mussolini's fascist government from 1936 to 1943. Rutelli, a former member of the Italian Communist Party who now represents the Green Party, said it was an effort at reconciliation between antifascists and those who supported the Mussolini regime. The fascist National Alliance and the Vatican newspaper applauded Rutelli's proposal.

During the fascist regime, Bottai signed a law in 1938 banning Jewish students and teachers from the schools.



Two hundred people protested outside the U.S. Naval Base Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, August 27. A broad-based coalition, including environmentalists and pro-independence forces, united to oppose the U.S. Navy building a massive radar installation in Vieques and Lajas. The Navy claims the installation is needed to stop drug shipments.

Militant/Rich Ariza

Paris offers Bonn nuke umbrella

Alain Juppé, the French prime minister, said September 7 at an international forum on Franco-German relations that Paris may offer to cover Germany under its "nuclear umbrella." French government officials had previously mentioned extending France's nuclear capability to provide a European nuclear defense policy, but hadn't specified any countries.

"In a world in which nuclear weapons will continue to play an essential role," Juppé said, it was "all the more important to guarantee Germany's security against this threat." German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel said the idea was "interesting," while Defense Minister Volker Rühe was more skeptical.

Deportation for Haitian rightist

A U.S. immigration judge ordered the deportation to Haiti of death squad leader Emmanuel Constant September 5. Con-

stant was charged in Haiti with crimes of murder, torture, and rape for his role in the military government that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991. He was head of the right-wing Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti.

Constant fled to the United States following Aristide's restoration last year. Following international outrage at the fact that he had been granted a tourist visa, U.S. authorities revoked his visa and arrested him May 10.

General strike hits Argentina

Argentina's main union federation, the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), called a 12-hour general strike September 6 to demand relief from record unemployment, which has risen above 18 percent. One hundred thousand workers turned out for a rally in Buenos Aires addressed by CGT leaders. In the cities of Córdoba and Tucumán, unions held a 24-hour strike, shutting down most industry there. It was only the second general strike against the CGT-backed Peronist government of Carlos Menem, which came to power in 1989.

Brazil's banks reeling

The Brazilian government's year-long move to curtail inflation and prevent capital flight has had a harsh impact on the country's banking industry. More than a dozen banks have closed or faced government intervention since the Real Plan was launched and numerous others are expected to merge in order to survive.

Monthly inflation has fallen from 50 percent in July 1994 to 2 percent. Previously, many banks gained up to 40 percent of their revenue from inflationary gains, using customer deposits that paid little or

no interest to invest in government debt instruments that paid back as much as 2 percent a day in inflation adjustments. This year the government has raised interest rates and bank reserve requirements.

Antiabortion laws blocked

Laws restricting abortion access in three states were halted in separate federal court decisions. On August 31, an appeals court ruled that a 1993 South Dakota law requiring doctors to notify the parents of minors seeking abortions was illegal since it didn't give minors an alternative. The three-judge panel ruled that young women should have the option of going before a judge or some other authority to seek authorization for an abortion.

The same day a judge temporarily blocked enforcement of a new Indiana law requiring women to wait 18 hours before obtaining an abortion. Earlier in August an appeals court struck down much of a four-year-old Utah law that barred abortions except in cases of rape, incest, and pregnancies endangering the mother's life.

Merger-driven layoffs rise

Layoff announcements leaped 39 percent in August to more than 32,200 following a recent burst of major corporate mergers. Chief among them was the joining of the Chemical and Chase Manhattan banks to form the largest U.S. bank. Company heads announced that 12,000 jobs will be cut as a result.

Despite the big August jump, the number of layoffs for the first eight months of this year is about 40 percent lower than the same period last year. "Regardless of the total number," the *Wall Street Journal* remarked, "periodic waves of layoffs will heighten worker insecurity and restrain wage growth."

Judge to halt implant settlement

U.S. district judge Sam Pointer announced that he would scrap a \$4.25 billion breast implant settlement by the end of September unless there are "extraordinary developments." Some 440,000 women injured by breast implants have registered to participate in the 1993 settlement, far exceeding estimates.

Several companies agreed to settle the case while denying they had harmed anyone. However plaintiffs' lawyers are pressing the companies for a new monetary agreement as it would now require \$24 billion to give each claimant what they had been promised.

In an attempt to minimize its liability, the largest defendant, Dow Corning, filed for bankruptcy, saying that many women dropped out of the settlement and sued it individually.

—DEREK BRACEY

Rich Ariza from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT

Defend women's rights

The events surrounding the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in China have brought together tens of thousands to discuss the major issues confronting women. 'Militant' correspondents are on the scene to bring eyewitness coverage of the debates and discussions by women's rights fighters from around the world. Don't miss a single issue!



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

Bombing campaign in Bosnia intensifies

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Washington has stepped up its imperialist assault in Bosnia on positions held by Serbs loyal to Belgrade. After two weeks of intense NATO bombing, dozens of warplanes, mainly from the United States, have flown 3,200 sorties pounding military targets but also inflicting increased civilian casualties.

On September 10, U.S. commanders on the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* off the coast of Bosnia upped the ante by firing 13 Tomahawk cruise missiles at positions held by the forces of chauvinist Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic. The sea-based missiles were used for the first time since Washington's slaughter against the people of Iraq in 1991. NATO officials now want to use U.S. Air Force F-117 radar-evading aircraft in Bosnia. The F-117 stealth bombers were also used in the Persian Gulf war.

As it did during the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Washington is posing as a defender of democracy by pointing the finger to a regime in Belgrade and its allies in Bosnia that many working people around the world identify as the main culprit for "ethnic cleansing" and other atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. But the U.S.-spearheaded bombing is nothing but naked military intervention to impose the partition of Bosnia and extend Washington's influence to the detriment of its imperialist rivals. Many Serbian people are paying dearly with their blood for this assault.

Civilian casualties are mounting. An artillery shell fired by the UN Rapid Reaction Force September 9 killed 10 people at a hospital in Ilidza, a suburb of Sarajevo controlled by Mladic's army. The medical director of the hospital said a baby needing advance medical care died September 9, when NATO forces destroyed a bridge to the only road leading to a larger hospital in Belgrade. NATO planes have rendered extensive damage to apartment buildings in the area.

The U.S.-led pounding of the Bosnian Serb positions has deepened rifts among the imperialist powers and sparked howling from Moscow.

Russian officials attempted unsuccessfully September 12 to get the UN Security

Council to call for an immediate end to the NATO bombing. The Russian foreign ministry issued a statement that day charging NATO forces with killing "innocent civilians, including the most defenseless of them all, the children." Moscow declared that "the very survival of the current generation of Bosnian Serbs, who are actually facing genocide, is called into question."

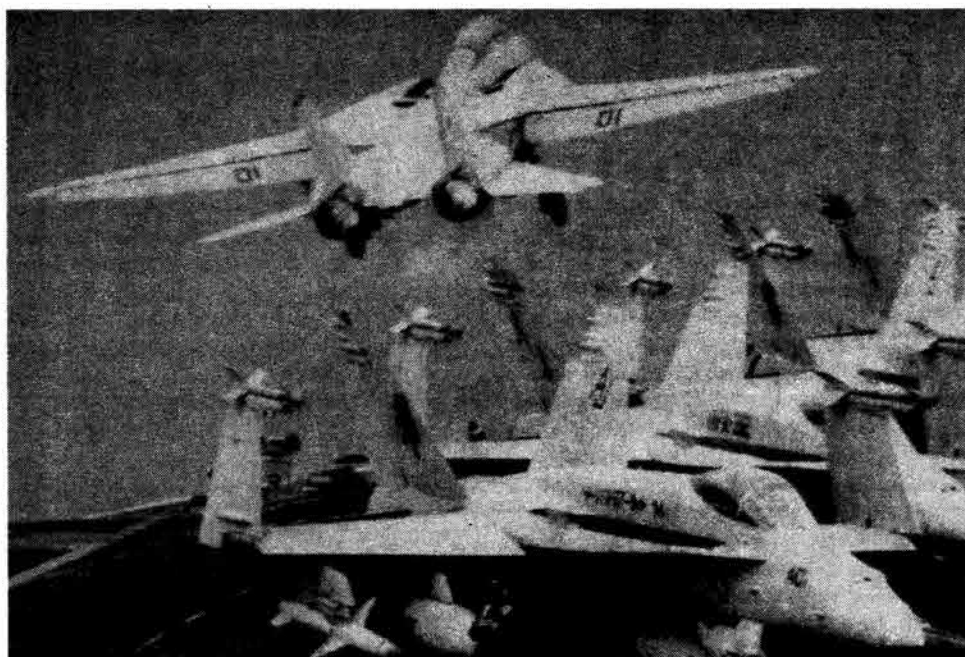
The Russian State Duma passed a non-binding resolution demanding that Moscow suspend its Partnership for Peace program with NATO and break the UN embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro. Russian president Boris Yeltsin stated that the NATO bombing campaign was on a road to "conflagration of war throughout Europe, for sure."

The Clinton administration decided September 11 to send deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott to Moscow to try to soothe the Kremlin's anger over the continued bombing.

The governments of France and Italy, concerned that the bombing escalation could widen the war in Europe, expressed hesitations at using the Tomahawk missiles, which delayed the September 10 missile strike by 24 hours.

Washington's imperialist partners in Rome are balking at allowing the F-117 stealth bombers to be deployed at air bases in Italy, which are being used for the bombing raids. The capitalist rulers of Italy, who want a piece of the action, are miffed at being excluded from the negotiations on the partitioning of Bosnia.

In an attempt to smooth ruffled feathers,



Fighter-bombers take off from U.S. carrier en route to bombing mission over Bosnia. Some 40,000 Serbian civilians have been forced to flee since bombing began.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry told the *Washington Post* that the Clinton administration urged that the "Contact Group" — made up of government officials from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Russia — be broadened to include the governments of Italy, Canada, and the Netherlands. The contact group organizes negotiations on the U.S.-proposed "peace plan."

Washington engineered a shaky agreement in Geneva September 8 that included foreign ministers from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia. The pact would divide Bosnia and Herzegovina into two roughly equal regions.

There are no indications, however, that any of the regimes in the three warring Yugoslav republics are ready to put aside differences, sign a cease fire, and imple-

ment the U.S. plan. In fact, detachments of the Bosnian army and Croatian troops, taking advantage of the NATO bombing, widened their military operations and regained several towns in western Bosnia.

At the same time, Mladic's troops are refusing NATO's demands to remove heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

The recalcitrance of the Serb forces led by Karadzic and Mladic, and the sharpening divisions among the imperialist powers, are causing worries in Washington over the prospects of success for U.S. goals in Bosnia.

Nevertheless, the Clinton administration is for the moment determined to press its military campaign. In an interview on PBS's "Mac-Neil Lehrer Newshour," defense secretary William Perry said the aerial assaults could continue "for weeks."

Powell's presidential bid plays on discontent with two major parties

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Retired U.S. general Colin Powell is on the campaign trail for the U.S. presidency. "My plan right now is to keep my options open," he told *Time* magazine in the September 18 issue as he embarks on a 26-city promotional tour for his autobiography, *My American Journey*. Powell re-

ceived a cool \$6 million advance for the book published by Random House and with excerpts in *Time*.

Reflecting the shakeup in capitalist politics and appealing to the discontent among millions of working people and those in the middle class for the policies of the Democratic and Republican parties,

Powell says, "The time may be at hand for a third major party to emerge." He says neither Democratic nor Republican party "fits me comfortably in its present state."

Calling himself "a fiscal conservative with a social conscience," Powell presents no alternative to the other capitalist politicians running for president. But with so many capitalist politicians discredited because of their attacks on working people, corruption scandals, and other troubles, Powell attracts attention by presenting himself as a figure above politics, someone who is clean and can solve problems like he did in the military.

The reasons for Powell's current appeal "are no mystery," writes Jurek Martin of the *Financial Times*.

"Americans are as fed up with the two main political parties and their leaders as they were in 1992, when Ross Perot walked away with 20 percent of the vote as an independent," Martin says.

The military commander's moves are especially unnerving to those in the Republican Party who are attempting to mount a campaign against President Bill Clinton.

"Powell's decision will have a big impact," said Congressional house speaker Newt Gingrich. "If he were to decide to run in November, that would make it less likely I would run." Powell would "immediately become the chief rival to Senator Dole," according to Gingrich.

Powell makes no claims to oppose the bipartisan assault on entitlements won by working people during past decades of struggle.

Noting that there is not much difference in how his kindred spirits in Congress and the White House plan to slash Medicare benefits, he complained, "why don't they just figure out" how to carry out the cuts and "lead us there?" Some in big-business circles obviously think his untainted image might help get the job done against entitlements.

In making his entry into the 1996 presidential campaign, Colin Powell has carefully tailored his public positions on disputed issues to avoid controversy for now, attempting instead to focus attention on his image as a figure that stands above

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Every reader can join Militant Fund

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

Readers and supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are busy preparing to kick off an international campaign for the Militant Fund, which starts September 23 and concludes December 3. They are projecting public fund-raising meetings along with other plans to reach out broadly to other readers for support.

The *Militant* would like every reader to join this campaign, make a generous contribution, and raise contributions from others.

The *Militant* is a workers' newspaper. We are proud of the fact that its subscription base and correspondents are mainly working people, and that it depends on workers financially to come out every week. This has been true since the first issue of the socialist paper rolled off the presses in 1928.

"The *Militant* doesn't get money from businessmen, bankers, or commercial advertisers like the capitalist press does," said editor Steve Clark. "Our paper is bound politically and financially only to the working class. As our masthead says, we are 'published in the interests of working people;' and that's where we get our financial support too. We wouldn't have it any other way."

Along with its sister magazine in Spanish, *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant* will need contributions in the vicinity of \$130,000 to help meet basic costs over the next year, from printing to shipping and promotional expenses. These funds will also allow the paper to continue its unique, firsthand coverage of international political developments from around the world.

In July, at a rally held during an international socialist conference in Ohio, several hundred supporters of the socialist press made pledges to the Militant Fund. After returning to their respective cities, they began to discuss and take on collective goals for the fund in their areas. Supporters of the two publications have made plans to systematically approach as many of their co-workers, fellow political activists, and regular readers as soon as possible for contributions to the fund.

Every week, between 4,000 and 6,000 people read the *Militant*, either through their subscription or buying the latest issue. Another 1,000 to 1,500 read the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. Many of these readers would be glad to give money to keep publishing the papers they support.

This sizeable pool of potential contributors will soon grow. The Militant Fund starts at the same time as an international campaign to win thousands of new subscribers to both publications. This expanding circulation of the socialist press is a good opportunity to reach out to even broader numbers of working people for financial support.

To get on a campaign footing, it's important for those who have already made pledges to begin making payments from the very first week, and for local fund coordinators to organize these early collections.

In cities around the country, supporters have begun to plan fund-raising meetings in the first few weeks of the drive to make major progress from the get-go. These public meetings will feature talks on major political issues in the class struggle. Also

on the speakers panel will be other fighters and readers who appreciate the *Militant* and want to explain why. A fund pitch and collection will be an integral part of the program.

Starting off right

Militant supporters in Pittsburgh, for example, are starting off with a bang. They're building a Militant Fund meeting on September 23, the first day of the campaign, "to start raising money right away and give us time to follow up," reported Tony Dutrow from Pittsburgh.

"We're asking three or four subscribers to make brief comments at the meeting, including a Cuba defense activist who is a regular reader of *Perspectiva Mundial* and also a unionist who's a *Militant* subscriber."

Readers in Seattle have adopted an ambitious goal of \$7,000. "We've already collected \$500 of that," said Seattle fund coordinator Chris Rayson. "We're also sending a fund-raising letter to all subscribers and other people in our area, which can then be used as a leaflet."

With the kickoff of the fund approaching, supporters in all local areas plan to send in goals by Tuesday, September 19. Next week, we will publish a chart listing all local goals and the international target for the fund.

We urge readers everywhere to send in reports on the fund-raising efforts in their areas. Who are some of the contributors? What are their comments about the *Militant*? What special steps are you taking to get new contributions? Who is speaking at the Militant Fund meeting in your city?

Sales drive kicks off with next 'Militant'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"We have a big first day planned for the subscription drive," reported Gale Shangold from Los Angeles. Supporters of the *Militant* plan to kick off the sales drive there September 23 at a teach-in on affirmative action at a United Auto Workers hall in Long Beach, an immigrant rights event, and a report-back meeting by young people who recently traveled to Cuba, as well as with sales teams to working-class areas. "We're meeting tomorrow night to discuss the rest of our plans" for selling 120 *Militant* subscriptions, 75 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, and 75 copies of *New International* over the following eight weeks.

Supporters of the socialist press around the world are gearing up for a drive to sell introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. The first eight days of the effort, September 23 to October 1, will be a target week to start the sales drive off with a bang. The campaign will run eight weeks through November 19.

In Miami, teams will spend a full day going door to door in the Homestead community on the first weekend of the target week. The next weekend they will field a two-day team to Gainesville, eight hours north, to participate in a report-back meeting from the Cuba Lives youth festival and organize door to door sales.

Militant supporters in Houston are planning a similar two-day trip to the Rio Grande Valley during the target week to sell to farmworkers there and to students at nearby Pan American University.

Craig Honts, a rail worker in Los Angeles, said a team of socialist rail workers

will travel to Mexico City at the end of the target week, from September 29 to October 2, to meet Mexican rail workers, learn about their struggles, and sell *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions. They will also participate in actions marking the anniversary of the 1968 massacre of Mexican student protesters October 2.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, Marty Boyers reports *Militant* supporters are "putting a bigger emphasis on selling at stores and door to door in working-class neighborhoods than we have in recent years." Their ambitious plan for selling 60 *Militant* subs, 10 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs, and 15 *New International*s will help them reach out to textile workers in the region. "We're going to Kannapolis, where workers recently won a National Labor Relations Board ruling against Fieldcrest Cannon," Boyers said. The NLRB ordered a new vote on union representation at Fieldcrest's giant complex of nonunion textile mills there, stating that the company had engaged in "numerous, pervasive, and outrageous" unfair labor practices during a 1991 organizing drive. The company was also ordered to reinstate 13 fired workers.

Special sales teams in Detroit

"This is my first experience as part of a strike action," said Carol James, referring to the newspaper workers' strike in Detroit. James is a member of the United Transportation Union in Cleveland who participated in the mass picketing with other unionists to stop the Sunday paper from being delivered. After that experience, "I wanted to come back out," she said in a phone interview from Detroit September 13.

James returned to join *Militant* support-



Militant/Laura Garza

Participants at women's conference in China were eager to read socialist literature

ers in Detroit in selling the socialist press on the picket line, at other factories' gates, in working-class neighborhoods, and on campuses.

Militant supporters from Minnesota and elsewhere are also planning to join the sales team. James reported that seven people bought the *Militant* at Wayne State University that morning. She was preparing to go on a plant-gate sale at a Ford plant later in the day. "We're also going to go to Sterling Heights and talk to workers in that community" where the main printing plant is, she said.

"People are interested in the coverage on the strike," James noted, "and also in the reports on Cuba and the cases of Mark Curtis and Mumia Abu-Jamal." She also reported many discussions on the Detroit strike are taking place among workers in Cleveland. "People are glad to get information on it in the *Militant* from the workers' side of the line." Readers who would like to join in the sales effort in Detroit can call distributors there at (313) 875-0100.

Hot off the e-mail is a message from our correspondents at the UN Conference on Women in Beijing, listing the tally of sales of the *Militant* and other socialist literature at the forum for nongovernmental organizations, which just concluded there. Fifteen participants in the event bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, and three subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*. In addition, 71 bought single copies of the *Militant* and 11 picked up a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial*. Participants bought 13 copies of *New International* in English, Spanish, and French, as well as 63 other books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press.

Material on the Cuban revolution was well received; the best-seller was the pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* by Mary-Alice Waters, with eight copies sold. Four people picked up *New International* no. 8, on the theme "Che Guevara and the Road to Socialism." The issues of *New International* contain-

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Delegation meets with parole board on Curtis's behalf

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "What interest would peasants in Brazil have in this case?" Walter Saur, chairman of the Iowa State Board of Parole, demanded of a delegation of supporters of socialist and union activist Mark Curtis September 7. He wasn't the only one to ask the question that day.

In 1988 Curtis was framed up and convicted on charges of rape and burglary. He was arrested by Des Moines cops within hours of speaking out in Spanish at a public meeting in defense of 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers from the Monfort meatpacking plant in Des Moines who had been seized in an immigration raid.

In July of this year, 5,000 participants in the convention of the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers of Brazil (MST) demonstrated outside the United States Embassy in Brazil's capital city. The peasants raised several demands and delivered thousands of letters they had signed calling on U.S. president Bill Clinton to secure Curtis's release. These events received front page coverage in the Brazilian press.

Copies of the letters were sent to the United States to be used by Curtis in his fight for freedom. His supporters deliv-

ered the foot and a half tall stack of messages to the parole board.

Walter Saur and Barbara Binnie, vice chair of the parole board, had agreed to meet with the delegation of Curtis's supporters at the request of Curtis's attorney William Kutmus. The 21-person delegation included Kutmus, Mark Curtis Defense Committee Coordinator John Studer; Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife; long-time defense committee members Hazel Zimmerman, Julia Terrell, Nellie and Bob Berry; farmer and farm activist Larry Ginter; Frankie Travis, a locked out worker from the A.E. Staley plant in Decatur, Illinois; Ken Stuber, the minister of First Presbyterian Church in Des Moines; Bob Peters, a former striker at the Firestone plant here and a member of United Steel Workers of America Local 310; Harold Ruggless, president of United Auto Workers Local 270; abortion rights activist Melanie Williams; and others.

The delegation held a press conference on the steps of the parole board offices prior to meeting with the Board members. When defense committee coordinator Studer was asked by a reporter why Brazilian peasants would be interested in Mark Curtis, he said, "They see him as a kindred spirit. At the time this frame-up began Curtis was involved in a struggle to defend Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers who were arrested by the INS at the Monfort plant here. Curtis was being beaten by the Des Moines police who called him a 'Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds.' Many people around the world identify with Curtis, see him fighting for similar things to what they are involved in."

The news conference was carried on two television stations. The *Des Moines Register* also ran an article on the delegation headlined, "World watches inmate in Iowa." (See reprint on next page.)

Asking for parole hearing

The delegation members packed into a small room for the meeting with Saur and Binnie. Many had to stand. Kutmus began by saying, "I have been Mark's attorney for many years involved in securing his release from prison. We are asking that he be released on parole, but obviously we

need a parole hearing for that to happen. We hope that you will consider his full record in prison and grant such a hearing."

Under Iowa law, prisoners are not automatically granted annual hearings. That decision is left to the discretion of the parole board.

Kate Kaku presented a parole plan for Curtis that included three job offers in the Chicago area where she resides.

Studer then presented the 5,000 letters from Brazil and another 170 collected in Iowa, other parts of the United States, and several from other countries. More than 100 letters were sent to the defense committee in the week before the meeting with the board.

In 1993 Curtis completed the sentence for rape. He is being held in prison on the burglary charge, which was tacked on by the cops several weeks after his original arrest.

"We care more about Iowa than Brazil," responded Saur to the impressive pile of letters on Curtis's behalf.

Binnie added, "Is he (Curtis) still in lockup? I wonder about this model prisoner bit."

In August 1994, Curtis was thrown into punitive segregation at the Iowa State Penitentiary and accused of assaulting another inmate. Kutmus responded that Curtis had been out of lockup since August.

Each delegation member introduced themselves and explained briefly why they were there. Some added to their comments in interviews later on.

"I am here for the same reason I've been here for the past seven years," said Hazel Zimmerman. "I am going to try to convince the Parole Board to free Mark."

"I want Mark freed, but I also want him vindicated," said Julia Terrell who was Curtis's neighbor at the time he was arrested.

"I have been involved in peace and justice issues for many years," said Ken Stuber. "From what I've seen and read, Mark Curtis is a victim of injustice."

"I made the trip from Decatur simply for justice," union activist Frankie Travis said.

Taking a confrontational tone, board member Binnie interrupted one delegation member to demand, "Do you know the

facts of this case? This man was caught with his pants down. Do you know what the victim has to say?"

"I will not be intimidated by authority," said Larry Ginter, responding to Binnie, when it was his turn to speak. "I know the facts of this case, and I know about the Mark Furhman's of the world. And I also know about why peasants in Latin America would be interested in this fight here in Iowa."

Campaign to free Curtis has an effect

Saur attempted to portray the Parole Board as being caught in a "vitriolic fight" between "two sides" over this case. He also stated the state legislature is considering a bill that would mandate that all prisoners serve 85 percent of their sentence with no parole. According to Saur what "troubled" him about this case is that Curtis's backers "try to make this political."

"We are not here to revisit the issue of his conviction," Kutmus said to the board members. "We are here to focus on his eligibility for parole."

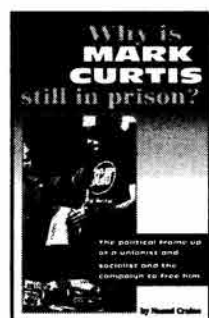
Binnie charged that Curtis's refusal to go through the Sex Offender Treatment Program had slowed down his release. She also said that he had been given no parole consideration last year because he had gotten into trouble "in the institution" and was in lockup when review came due. "We don't prison inmates from lockup," she claimed.

A major feature of the SOTP program is the requirement that an inmate has to admit his guilt, which Curtis refuses to do. Kutmus also said he was familiar with the lockup charges against Curtis and that they "wouldn't pass a smell test."

Binnie acknowledged that Curtis had a generally good record in prison before the

Continued on Page 12

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

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.

CORRECTION

The "From Behind Prison Walls" column in last week's issue of the *Militant*, titled "Iowa governor and prison exploit fear of crime," listed only Mark Curtis as author. The column was co-authored by Curtis and fellow prison inmate Paul Quick. The *Militant* apologizes for the error.

'This travesty of justice should not prevail'

Letters to Iowa Board of Parole call for release of framed-up unionist Curtis

The following are excerpts from several letters delivered to the Iowa State Board of Parole September 7 by a 21-member delegation on behalf of imprisoned union and political activist Mark Curtis.

*Rev. Donell Smith
Birmingham, Alabama*

As a former co-worker of Mark Curtis at Hayes Aircraft Co., I feel I know his character. Mark would be a good candidate for parole. I urge you to parole him.

*Prasong Nurack
Taste of Thailand Restaurant
Des Moines*

As someone who knew Mark Curtis and his wife, Kate Kaku, before he was arrested, as someone who has followed his fate over the last seven years, and as a longtime campaigner for human rights, I would like to add my voice to those asking for his release on parole.

*Max V. Exner
Extension Professor, ret.
Iowa State University, Ames*

I am inquiring into the status of Mark Curtis, who, after serving seven years of a prison sentence, appears to be thoroughly qualified for a parole hearing and parole — this in the light of the more than normal time he has served, his exemplary conduct as a prisoner and his many job offers upon release.

I look forward with concern and anticipation to an early hearing for Mark Curtis and serious consideration of parole and release.

*Michael D. Ray
southern regional vice-president
National Lawyers Guild, Miami*

This letter is written to request the parole of Mark Curtis. It has come to my attention that Mark Curtis has served more than the normal sentence for those convicted of similar crimes. Also, it appears that Mr. Curtis' conduct while in prison has been exemplary.

Several aspects of Mark Curtis' trial appear to raise serious due process concerns, i.e., lack of evidence placing Mark Curtis at the scene of the alleged rape, lack of forensic evidence tying Mark Curtis to the alleged crime, pre-trial rulings disallowing critical evidence to be admitted on Mr. Curtis' behalf, refusal of the trial judge to allow the jury to hear how Mr. Curtis was beaten by the police or that they called Mark Curtis a "Mexican lover" and refusal

of the judge to allow into evidence the fact that Gonzalez (arresting officer) had been suspended from the police department earlier for brutalizing suspects and then lying on a police report.

Based on the above facts as well as the fact that Mr. Curtis did not receive a trial with a jury of his peers, it is requested that justice best be served by paroling Mark Curtis.

*Otis McGowan
member, Grain Millers Local 110
Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

As a concerned unionist and NAACP member, I am writing you on behalf of Mark Curtis for immediate parole consideration.

*Benjamin Dupuy
publisher, 'Haiti Progres'
Brooklyn, New York*

I am writing to urge you to grant Mark Curtis parole. After serving seven years in prison, Curtis is now serving time for the burglary charge tacked on by the cops and prosecutors several weeks after his original arrest.

This travesty of justice should not prevail one day longer.

I call on you to grant Mark Curtis parole.

*Hazel Zimmerman
Carlisle, Iowa*

In the interest of justice, decency, and common sense it is time to end the long incarceration of Mark Stanton Curtis, prisoner #805338 at Fort Madison.

It shouldn't be necessary to remind you that Mr. Curtis has served a longer sentence already than most offenders convicted of greater offenses and with poorer records. Or that the overcrowded conditions of Iowa prisons is increasing the pressure to release those inmates who have the best possibility of reintegration into society without recidivism. Or that refusal to parole Mark Curtis reinforces the claim that his arrest, conviction and imprisonment were all politically motivated.

Mark has now completed seven years in prison on convictions for which other offenders spend an average of slightly over six years (Iowa Board of Parole Statistics for prisoners convicted of burglary charges released in 1994).

In October 1989, at Mark's parole hearing at Anamosa you complemented him on his good attitude and record in prison and made the statement that he would probably have to serve less than the aver-



Militant/Shirley Peña

Meeting with parole board. From left, board members Barbara Binnie and Walter Saur, Curtis supporters Kate Kaku, Hazel Zimmerman, Bill Kutmus, Julia Terrell.

age six years of his 25 year sentence. Mark's attitude has remained steadfastly positive, his employers and counselors in prison commend him for his record, and it appears that the only thing that has shifted over the years is the political winds.

Too much is enough, already. Give Mark Curtis his freedom.

*Jean-Pierre Page
director of international relations
General Labor Confederation, France*

The CGT notes with satisfaction that Mark Curtis has been freed from solitary confinement.

In the name of human rights to which our union Confederation is particularly attached we ask you to free Mark Curtis on parole.

This measure of simple justice would put an end to the horrible conditions of imprisonment of which Curtis has been the victim.

*Denis Stephano
president, Oil, Chemical and Atomic
Workers Local 8-234
Linwood, Pennsylvania*

Once more, you are reviewing the case of Mark Curtis. I have followed Mark's case since the beginning. As an officer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers I attended a national convention of my union at which I met and spoke with Mark. I believe that Mark has been framed up and has been unjustly serving time in

prison.

The time Mark has served in the Iowa prisons is more than what is normally served for the crime he supposedly committed. Over the years he has been denied parole; these denials of parole have strengthened my commitment to fight for justice for Mark. Given Mark's commendable behavior in prison, his continuing to stand for the working people of the world, the only just thing to do is to grant his parole now.

Any further delay on your part only highlights the unjustness of the "justice" system.

*John Gilman, executive director
Wisconsin Committee for
Peace and Justice, Milwaukee*

Our committee has unanimously voted to urge you to grant parole to Mark Curtis.

We have received information that Mr. Curtis has been detained for over seven years on a charge of rape which he not only denies but was denied the opportunity to present crucial evidence which would have proved Mr. Curtis to be innocent.

Nowadays, our government has stated that there are many miscarriages of justice in foreign countries. Whether this is true or not, we Americans must be more conscientious of such miscarriages of justice in our country.

We respectfully request your board to grant parole to Mark Curtis.

Reprinted from

The Des Moines Register

CAUSE CELEBRE FOR MARXISTS

World watches inmate in Iowa

The parole board is unmoved by appeals for Mark Curtis, calling him a sex offender 'caught with pants down.'

By WILLIAM PETROSKI
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

After seven years behind bars for sexually assaulting a Des Moines girl, Socialist Workers Party activist Mark Curtis is still drawing international support.

About 20 Curtis supporters met with the Iowa Board of Parole Thursday and presented petitions they said had been signed by 5,000 landless Brazilian peasants calling for his release from the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison.

There were also letters from Tony Benn, a member of the British Parliament; from leaders of a French labor union; and from Des Moines-area residents.

But Iowa Board of Parole officials said they weren't impressed with the worldwide attention that Curtis continues to draw from Marxist-oriented political groups and labor activists.

"It is really not relevant to the issue," said Barbara Binnie of Des Moines, the board's vice chairwoman. "We're more concerned with what the peo-



Curtis
7 years

ple in Iowa feel than what the people in Brazil feel."

Binnie also made it clear that she doesn't accept Curtis' contention that he was framed for the sexual assault by Des Moines police officers because of his political support for immigrant workers at a Des Moines meatpacking plant.

"I keep pointing to the fact that he was caught with his pants down," Binnie said.

John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said Curtis already has served about one year beyond the average for a person convicted of his crime in Iowa. He also noted that Curtis has had a generally good record of behavior in prison and that he has three job offers in Chicago if the Iowa board agrees to parole him to

Illinois.

If Curtis doesn't win a parole, he will be automatically freed from prison in about five years, assuming time off for work and good conduct. But Studer said pressure will continue to grow for a parole for Curtis if he is not released this year.

Studer said the support from Brazil developed after Curtis' supporters met with leaders of the peasants' group and explained the details of his case. "They were inspired and saw a kindred spirit," he said.

According to the Reuter news service, thousands of Brazilian peasants protested at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia on July 26 demanding amnesty for Curtis and condemning American economic policies. In a letter to President Clinton, they urged him to act on Curtis' behalf.

Cuba Lives! festival: a step forward in building revolutionary youth movement

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"U.S. youth say: End the Economic Blockade of Cuba!" That slogan was emblazoned on a colorful banner that identified the nearly 300-strong U.S. contingent during an August 5 march in Havana. Delegates from the United States and many other countries to the Cuba Lives! International Youth Festival joined half a million people in this massive show of support for the Cuban revolution.

The big-business press in the United States either ignored the march or reacted with dismay. But *Militant* reporters found that most Cubans and international guests they interviewed, undeterred by a torrential downpour just as the demonstration began, were heartened. "Cuba Vive!" proclaimed the August 16 Cuban weekly *Granma Internacional*. The front-page headline, accompanied by a big picture of the crowd filling Havana's waterfront boulevard, captured this sentiment.

The march was the highlight of the week-long youth festival, which took place in Havana and other Cuban provinces August 1-7. This gathering brought together youth from around the world who are repelled by the evils of capitalism. It was an important initial step toward building an international revolutionary youth movement.

The event gave a boost to efforts to defend the Cuban revolution in the United States and around the world. Hundreds of young people who were new to politics got a firsthand glimpse of the Cuban revolution. Following their visit, most of these youth decided to get involved for the first time or step up their participation in protests and educational activities to tell the truth about Cuba. And many were attracted to communism as a result of the trip and returned to their countries ready to do something to change the world.

In the United States, for example, dozens of youth are now writing articles for newspapers, participating in radio shows, and speaking at report-back meetings urging a big turnout for the October 21 march in New York and other regional and local actions on October 14 to oppose Washington's policy toward Cuba.

Some 1,300 delegates from 67 countries, including 200 from Cuba, attended. The biggest group came from the United States, with some 260 registered — a decisive factor in the success of the festival.

Bringing the world into Cuba

Leaders of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), one of the main Cuban youth organizations that sponsored the event, crisscrossed the globe in the four

preceding months to build the festival — which was called in April — and to bring the stark reality of the capitalist world into Cuba. The UJC sent delegations to Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, several countries in Central America and the Caribbean, the Philippines, Poland, a few countries in western

with the French Communist Party. The rest, however, were either active in Cuba solidarity organizations or came on their own. The same was true of the delegations from Spain, Brazil, El Salvador, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Chile, and the United Kingdom.

The smallest groups came from several

"I join those who have expressed their deepest and most sincere gratitude for your presence; we truthfully feel honored, we feel happy and we feel encouraged," Castro said in his August 6 speech.

"We will now continue our fight with more confidence than ever, knowing that there are so many good and honest people in the world who understand us, who wish us success, who want to help us, and to put a grain of sand here and there."

During the festival, Castro and other Cuban leaders emphasized several times the importance of the largest group of delegates coming from the United States, despite the travel ban by Washington.

A year ago the Clinton administration tightened the travel restrictions by revoking the right of Cubans living in the United States to visit their families on the island without Washington's permission and to send virtually any cash remittances to relatives there. The White House made it harder for travel by journalists. It also began requiring licenses from the Treasury Department for those traveling for professional research.

The Clinton regulations specifically reject licenses for "general study tours; general orientation visits; student class field trips; youth camps," and "research for personal satisfaction only." Earlier this year, U.S. officials hinted they might consider easing travel for academics and other professionals.

In a July 26 speech, Castro blasted the U.S. travel policy. "They do not allow U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba, to get to know the island and to have a holiday here," he said, "but they are prepared to send sociologists, philosophers, historians, Cuba specialists, English professors, and other academics to 'enlighten' us." This policy, Castro underlined, is pursued by those "who would like to destroy us from within."

Most delegates were picked up politically by Castro's speeches and the massive August 5 march in support of the revolution. On the other hand, those events, added to a stabilization of the Cuban economy for the first time in five years, caused a sour reaction in the big-business press in the United States and elsewhere, which concluded that the prospects for the demise of the revolutionary government are not on the horizon.

"A year after boat exodus, threat to Castro dissipates," was a headline in the August 15 *New York Times*. The article was referring to the so-called rafters crisis last summer, when thousands of Cubans, who wanted to immigrate but couldn't get visas from the U.S. government, took to the sea in hopes of reaching Florida.

U.S. delegation

The U.S. delegation at the festival represented the largest and most diverse number of young people from this country going to Cuba for such a trip in decades.

A number of different U.S. groups organized youth to go to the festival. Some 170 traveled with the Cuba Information Project, which is based in New York. About 20, mostly high school students, were organized by the July 26 Coalition in Boston. The San Francisco-based Global Exchange sent 16 people. A dozen members of the American Friends Service Committee who had been in Cuba since mid-July also participated. Others traveled on their own.

In addition, members of Cuban-American groups — such as Casa de las Américas in New York and the Alliance of Workers in the Cuban Community in Miami — were in Cuba during the festival and joined the August 5 march. The Venceremos Brigade, which organizes annual trips to Cuba from the United States, had a contingent of 80 people doing voluntary work in the provinces prior to and during the youth gathering. Its members



U.S. youth at August 5 demonstration of 500,000 people in Havana in support of the Cuban revolution call for an end to Washington's economic war on Cuba.

Europe, New Zealand, and the United States, among others.

Kenia Serrano, the head of international relations of the Federation of University Students (FEU), did a speaking tour of the United States in March and April. "I am elated to see many of the young people I met on my trip here at the festival," she said in an interview.

The FEU leader said her organization, also a sponsor of the Cuba Lives gathering, arranged speaking engagements on several campuses in Cuba after she returned from the United States, "to let youth here know what I found out by meeting farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, strikers at Caterpillar in Illinois, and young people demonstrating for abortion rights."

The largest delegations at the festival were marked by the fact that many who came were not affiliated to any political organization.

This was true, for example of the U.S. group and of the second-largest international delegation, which came from France. Of the 125 youth from that country, 70 were members of the Movement of Young Communists, which is associated

African countries, most of which had a couple of delegates. South Africa was represented by the president of the African National Congress Youth League.

Among youth who didn't belong to any political organizations one often found the most enthusiastic response to the revolutionary politics presented at the festival. "In my generation we need symbols, symbols of struggle," said Yanelis Delgado, a 20-year-old student from Ecuador. "And for me that symbol is Cuba."

By the end of the week-long event, many more came to identify the socialist revolution in Cuba as the best example in the fight for sovereignty and human dignity today.

"Only Cuba has gained real independence," said Kai Moos, a 19-year-old student from Germany.

This response weighed heavily in the decision of the leadership of the UJC and the Communist Party of Cuba to offer the Caribbean country as the site of another worldwide youth festival for the summer of 1997.

Delegates stayed at the homes of Cuban families in Havana and seven other provinces, participated in discussions and debates in eight different workshops and joined the August 5 march. The demonstration took place on the anniversary of huge pro-revolution mobilizations that were sparked by antigovernment disturbances on Havana's waterfront a year earlier.

Cuban president Fidel Castro addressed the delegates August 6 during the final session of the conference.

"The point Fidel made, that capitalism and social development don't go together, was right on the mark," said Facundo Aznarez, an Argentine youth who lives in Madrid, after Castro's closing speech. "He's right, capitalism only equals plunder and joblessness. Argentina is a case in point. And even in Spain, unemployment is more than 20 percent." His reaction to the address by the Cuban president was typical among many delegates. (For the full text of Castro's August 6 speech see the September 18 *Militant*).

'Honored by your presence'

Castro and other leaders of the Communist Party and the UJC repeatedly pointed to the political importance of the participation of international delegates in the festival.

from Pathfinder

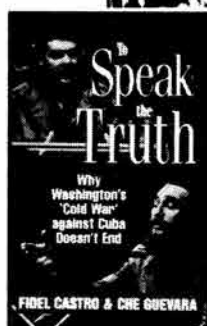
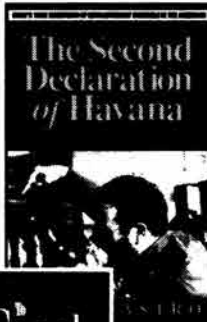
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also joined the August 5 demonstration.

Most made the trip through the Bahamas, Canada, or Mexico because of the travel restrictions. A majority on the U.S. delegation had press credentials and went to Cuba on editorial assignment from campus newspapers and other media to cover the festival.

With all its diversity, the U.S. delegation functioned in a coordinated manner. During four meetings, attended by many of its members, U.S. delegates discussed how to divide up between the eight workshops, what to do in case of harassment by U.S. Customs on their return, and how to report back their experiences in the United States.

In one of their meetings, U.S. delegates discussed how to identify their group during the August 5 march. Some said the contingent should be distinguished by carrying the U.S. flag at the front, as groups from other countries were planning to do. Many others, however, argued that the Stars and Stripes has long served as the symbol of U.S. imperialism and for that reason should not be used.

In the end, a big majority decided to march behind a large banner identifying the contingent as the U.S. youth against the economic blockade. They also decided there would be no censorship of signs, placards, or flags at the demonstration. A few did march with the U.S. flag.

Trip parlayed into activism at home

"I have never experienced such a strong sense of community as I experienced in Cuba," wrote Amanda Ulman, a student at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, who went on the trip. "The spirit of the revolution lives in the people of Cuba. The only way for the United States to crush the revolution is to starve everyone to death."

With these comments, Ulman concluded her "Your Turn" column in the September 5 issue of the *Ball State Daily News*, the student newspaper on campus. She is now actively building the October actions against U.S. policy toward Cuba at her school.

Dozens of articles by festival participants have appeared in U.S. newspapers. These include major dailies like the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Deseret News* in Salt Lake City, Utah; campus publications like *The Daily Cougar*, the student paper at the University of Houston; community newspapers like the Portuguese-language *Independente* of Newark, New Jersey, and the *Community Focus* in Delaware; and labor publications like the *Union Advocate* in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In addition, the trip has generated articles and programs based on interviews with festival participants in many other media. Among them are the *Houston Chronicle*; the *Washington Post*; *El Daily News*, the bilingual publication of a major New York paper; and numerous TV stations.

Participants have reported similar experiences in Canada and other countries.

J-C Calderón, a young architect from New York, spoke on a radio program at WBAI radio in Manhattan about his experiences on the trip. He traveled to Cuba with the group organized by Global Exchange. Since his return he has also become active in the October 21 Coalition in the city, which is organizing a march in

New York on that date to oppose Washington's economic blockade of Cuba.

Calderón will also be speaking at a September 16 report-back meeting at Casa de las Américas in New York. Similar meetings have been organized throughout the United States.

Local Cuba coalitions in many U.S. cities helped recruit youth to go and raise the necessary funds for travel. This in turn has provided new lifeblood for several of these coalitions, with many young people joining on their return.

Adriana Sánchez, a student at the University of Minnesota, said attendance at meetings of the Twin Cities Network on Cuba jumped after a report-back event in Minneapolis by some 15 festival participants.

"We had our best meeting on September 7, with more than 20 people there, including many of the young people who went to Cuba," she said. "Before the festival we would be lucky to get 5-10 people together." The Twin Cities Network, which helped organize a delegation of 17 from Minnesota to the Cuba Lives event, is now focusing on building the October protests.

Sánchez, who spoke for the U.S. delegation at the closing session of the festival, has written a series of three articles for the weekly *La Prensa de Minnesota*, urging a big turnout for the October actions.

Staying with Cuban families

"The family experience was the best opportunity to really interact and to see what life was like for the Cuban people," said Evan Daniel, who visited Cuba for the first time. He was speaking at an August 19 report-back meeting in San Francisco. Many other youth expressed similar views on this experience on the trip.

Each delegate stayed with a Cuban family for three days in one of eight provinces where social events and workshops on various topics were held. Thousands more families volunteered to house delegates that the 1,300 needed, showing the eagerness of many working people in Cuba to take an active part in the gathering.

"We've proved that Cuba has the biggest hotel capacity in the world — the Cuban people," said Luis Alberto González Nieto, second secretary of the UJC.

This was a conscious attempt by the organizers of the event to reach out and involve as many Cubans as possible in the revolutionary politics of the festival.

"Between the visits in the provinces, staying with the families, and the daily coverage in the press, up to 3 million Cubans got involved or got a piece of Cuba Lives," said Leyde Rodríguez Hernández, a member of the international relations department of the UJC in Havana, who participated in the workshop on democracy and participation in Villa Clara.

While the themes of the workshops varied from childhood to culture and employment, discussion on world politics and how to advance the defense of the Cuban revolution worldwide took place at all of them.

In several of these commissions, delegates agreed to continue organizing speaking tours of Cuban youth in their countries. UJC and FEU leaders are now scheduled to tour Canada, Iceland, the United Kingdom, and Sweden this fall, among other countries.

Delegates from the Cuban Coordinating Committee in Spain, the Proletarian Anti-Imperialist Movement in Italy, the Young Socialists, Global Exchange, and other groups in the United States, and several organizations in Latin America, agreed to coordinate efforts to build an international youth brigade to Cuba in the summer of 1996.

Participants also pledged to organize material aid campaigns and construction brigades when they returned to repair or build child-care centers, schools, and recreational facilities in several Cuban provinces.



Participants at Cuba Lives festival watch video on the life of Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara in Santa Clara, Villa Clara, August 3, as part of workshop on "Democracy and Participation."

Many delegates exchanged addresses, phone numbers, and E-mail addresses to keep in touch and collaborate on these projects.

World youth festival

Most delegates responded enthusiastically to the offer made by Fidel Castro that Cuba could host a world youth festival.

"The youth of the world will meet again, and if they can't meet somewhere else, or if a country doesn't offer itself for a festival organized like this one, then a world festival can be organized," Castro said in concluding his speech at the August 5 march.

"What's lacking is not money, what is needed is modesty, generosity, good will, like that of the families that hosted you, like that of the neighborhoods that welcomed you and greeted you everywhere. Millions are not needed, so it can be organized like this festival, in which each person made an effort and paid for their own trip."

"After this experience, if world festivals don't continue, then here in Cuba, under a special period and a blockade, we have enough generosity, common sense and organizational capacity to hold an event of this kind."

The last time a world youth festival took place was in Pyongyang, North Korea, in 1989. That gathering was sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

WFDY, founded in 1945 in London, was for decades composed primarily of youth groups affiliated with Communist parties that looked to Moscow for political direction and sustenance. The 13 world festivals it sponsored were to a large degree financed by these parties.

The disintegration of the regimes and parties that controlled the governments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union beginning in 1989 brought rapid changes among the youth affiliates of WFDY as well.

The 13th assembly of member organizations of WFDY, which took place in De-

cember 1990 in Athens, Greece, made a number of important changes to the constitution and policies of the federation. A previous practice that a member organization from any country could veto affiliation of another youth group from the same country was dropped.

A number of new organizations joined WFDY as a result, including the Young Socialists in the United States. The Athens assembly, after vigorous debate, reaffirmed the anti-imperialist character of WFDY "as an essential part of its identity."

This was important since a number of member groups began challenging the anti-imperialist character of the federation and turned to social democracy or to other bourgeois parties. Komsomol, for example, the youth organization of the Communist Party in the former Soviet Union, supported the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 1991.

Following an unsuccessful coup attempt in the former USSR in August 1991, Komsomol dissolved its national structure. Representatives of its successor, the Coordinating Committee of Republican and Regional Youth Organizations, resigned from all leadership bodies of WFDY in 1992. A number of other youth groups affiliated with former pro-Moscow Communist parties did the same.

WFDY, however, has been politically unable to organize another world youth festival.

In his August 6 speech at the closing of Cuba Lives, Castro said that up to 10,000 people can be organized to come to such a world event in Cuba. After the Havana gathering, UJC leaders said the tentative date for such a worldwide festival is the summer of 1997.

Laura Garza, a staff writer for the *Militant* who participated in the Cuba Lives! festival, and Diana Newberry in Brooklyn and Brock Satter in New York — both leaders of the Young Socialists who participated in the international gathering — contributed to this article.

'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from Page 4

ing the articles "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War" and "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's assault on Iraq" were popular, as was the *Communist Manifesto*. Six participants bought the pamphlet *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, and four purchased *Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?*

Janet Roth reports from Auckland, New Zealand, that sales of the *Militant* there have been combined with campaigning for Communist League candidates in the municipal elections. A recent Saturday morning began with a visit by campaign supporters to a picket by strikers at Carter Holt Harvey's roofing division. The workers there are demanding a bigger raise than what the company is offering, as well as opposing attempts to bring in casual workers.

The campaigners also set up a table at a nearby shopping center, where a number of people stopped to buy the *Militant* and discuss the campaign with the socialist candidate for mayor of Auckland, James Robb.

The sales drive and socialist campaigning are also linked in Salt Lake City, where Socialist Workers mayoral candidate Nelson Gonzalez just spoke at East High School sponsored by the Socialist Club. Several students plan to help campaign at the high schools and in the community during the target week. Supporters in Salt Lake are also planning a two-day team early in the subscription drive to sell the *Militant* at mine portals and door to door in Price, Utah.

Next week's issue will carry a chart of the goals *Militant* supporters have adopted for the subscription campaign and will project an international goal for the drive. Supporters of the *Militant* who would like to set a goal should fax it in right away.

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China meeting highlights women's rights

BY LAURA GARZA
AND MAGGIE TROWE

BEIJING — More than 26,000 women from throughout the world successfully held the largest forum ever of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss women's rights near this city. The forum in Huairou, China, included more than 5,000 workshops, and ended as the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing with official government delegations was still under way. The NGO gathering, which drew many women's rights activists, was testimony to the fact that the fight for equal rights for women is a part of discussions and struggles occurring throughout the world. Most of the governments at the official conference have felt compelled to portray themselves as trying to advance women's status.

What came through in the myriad informal discussions and formal presentations was the fight women are forced to wage in country after country for equal legal rights, decent pay, and against exploitive working conditions. These struggles are spurred on by the greater integration of women into the workforce worldwide.

"In Japan women earn 52 percent of the wages men earn," said Michiko Hiroki. "There are many cases now of women suing big companies for discrimination. The three big national union confederations, for the most part, have not fought for these women. Forty percent of working women are in part-time, temporary, or sub-contracted jobs. Immigrant women come from Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Iran, Bangladesh, and Iraq. Many are illegal and work the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs."

Hiroki works with the Asian Women Workers Center in Tokyo, part of a network of groups in the Committee for Asian Women. The association is headquartered in Hong Kong and includes affiliates in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal.

Women in the workforce

The growth in export-oriented manufacturing in Asia and Latin America has contributed to a rise in the number of women working in garment and other light industries, as bosses seek to find labor at the lowest possible cost. At the same time many women face high unemployment. In Venezuela, explained one delegate in a workshop on the impact of the economic crisis in Latin America, the reorganization of many industries has meant layoffs and a massive rise in joblessness. Some 51 percent of the economically active population has been forced into the informal sector, selling items in the street or other such work that offers no stable income and no benefits. Many women are being pressed into taking in homework, such as sewing, for companies that pay little for the items they produce.

Shirji Akter, a member of an organization that supports garment workers in Bangladesh, described conditions for that

country's 1.2 million garment workers. "The workday is 12-15 hours for these workers, most of whom are women," she said. "Child labor makes up 7-10 percent of the workforce. Garment exports make up more than 60 percent of the foreign exchange that comes into Bangladesh."

For many women the conference was an opportunity to bring pressure on their own governments. Ruth Manorama, a Dalit woman from India, spoke at a tribunal on human rights. She explained that Dalits are the indigenous people of India



Demonstration at the conference against U.S. government embargo of Cuba

classified by the caste system as untouchable. Many are agricultural laborers. Manorama described the case of some laborers who fought for a raise; the landlord responded by burning down their huts, killing 42 women and children. Dalit women are more subject than others to abuse and rape by government functionaries and police, she said.

Expressing a common sentiment of the women at the forum, many of whom were participating in such an event for the first time, Adjoa Therese Akakpo, a member of La Colombe in Togo, said, "In getting to know the problems of women all over the world, I found many problems are similar, despite cultural differences. This was my first opportunity to meet women from Latin America and share experiences with them."

As the official UN Fourth World Conference on Women got under way there were 17,000 people in attendance, including some 4,000 NGO delegates who went into Beijing to join in discussions and express their opinions about the issues — from abortions rights to marriage and divorce laws — that are being debated as the conference drafts a platform of action.

Most of them encountered a very different atmosphere than in Huairou, as the discussion shifted from one of activists involved in fighting for women's rights, to

the more muted and formal scene of government representatives discussing how to administer programs that affect women.

The picture that has emerged here too, though, reflects the economic crisis facing the world capitalist economy and the toll being taken on workers and farmers, with the heaviest burden being borne by women.

Speaking at a plenary session Diakite Fatoumata N'Diaye, Minister and Commissioner for the Promotion of Women of Mali, noted that ten years after the last

stance is that governments should work on reallocating existing resources to achieve the goals of the conference.

A number of right-wing forces, in most cases under the guise of defending religious rights, have attacked the draft platform of action for failing to condemn abortion, describe women's central role as that of mother, and give greater weight to the family as a solution to women's and society's ills. Groups such as Real Women from Canada and Right to Life from the United States have been joined by representatives from the Vatican, and countries including Iran and Guatemala, in repeating these themes.

They have not succeeded, however, in pushing back the discussion on reproductive rights, or in a wholesale attack on the conference. They have had to attend, participate, and couch their attacks on women's rights in a way that portrays them as defending equality for women, while maintaining that women should have different roles than men in carrying out their responsibilities.

During the exchange of views at the plenary session Rosalyn Hazelle, of St. Kitts and Nevis, argued, "Women must have autonomy over their sexual and reproductive rights if they are to protect themselves from unwanted and unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases."

Cuba's delegation is headed by Vilma Espín Guillot, president of the Federation of Cuban Women. Speaking at the event she stated Cuba's stand in favor of a woman's right to control her body, noting abortion is safe and legal in Cuba. She continued, "The independence and sovereignty we conquered is something the United States tries to punish us for with the illegal and aggressive policy, imposed 33 years ago, of the harsh economic, financial, and commercial blockade."

Bassam S. Kuba, of Iraq, called for an end to the sanctions imposed against that country by the United Nations at the urging of Washington. "Owing to inflation," she said, "wages earned by women are not enough to pay the costs for transportation." The high prices, and lack of food and medicine have taken a harsh toll on the civilian population she stated.

Nuclear testing condemned

As the conference met, news of the protests against French nuclear testing in the Pacific made headlines around the world. Most of those who spoke from countries in the Pacific raised their voices against nuclear testing, including representatives from the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu. A few governments, such as New Zealand, also expressed opposition to the nuclear test China carried out recently.

"The leading cause of death for women in the Marshall Islands is cancer of the reproductive system," said Neijon R. Edwards. "We also have a high incidence of birth abnormalities, stillbirths, and miscarriages. We know the problems of environmental contamination, and we demand an end to all nuclear testing," she said to applause. "Nuclear testing is a crime against humanity which has been thrust on the Pacific region."

The resumption of nuclear testing has highlighted the growing instability in the world, contrary to the assurances from capitalist spokespeople who proclaimed an era of peace with the end of the Cold War. The war in Bosnia, and the conflicts in Africa that have created tens of thousands of refugees were also mentioned throughout the conference and served as further confirmation that the danger of war is greater, not diminished, today. In this context many women began discussing whether anything done at the conference can have an impact on advancing the fight for women's rights.

The overwhelming view of the thousands who participated in the NGO forum was that holding the massive event, with the attention of the world focused on women's rights, was a triumph. The large turnout was also proof that the battle for women's rights will continue to be central to the fight to defend the interests of workers and farmers throughout the world.

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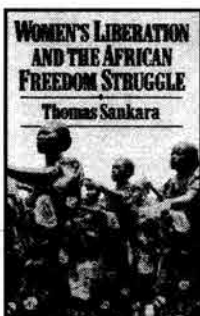
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China forum hears about struggle of 'comfort women'

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

HUAIROU, China — Militant demonstrations were held during the Non-governmental Organizations Forum on Women '95 to protest the World War II practice of the Japanese government to organize "comfort women" for their military troops. The issue was also the theme of several workshops.

"Comfort women" was the name given to women from Korea, the Philippines, China, and the Netherlands who were turned into sexual slaves for Japanese soldiers. It is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 women were forced into this condition. Many of these women were between the ages of 11 and 18, and most came from Korea.

Chung Seo Woon, described her ordeal to Forum participants. "In 1940, at the age of 18, I was drafted and taken first to Shimomoseki, Japan, and later sent to Jakarta, Indonesia, where I underwent an operation for sterilization by a Japanese military doctor," she said. "After that I was used as a military sexual slave. I was not infected by venereal disease, but addicted by drugs. We did not receive any money. Instead military tickets were given, which were never exchanged for money."

In several workshops women from Japan took the lead in organizing protests to condemn the actions of their government. They described the practice as a crime against humanity and declared that it must never be allowed to happen again.

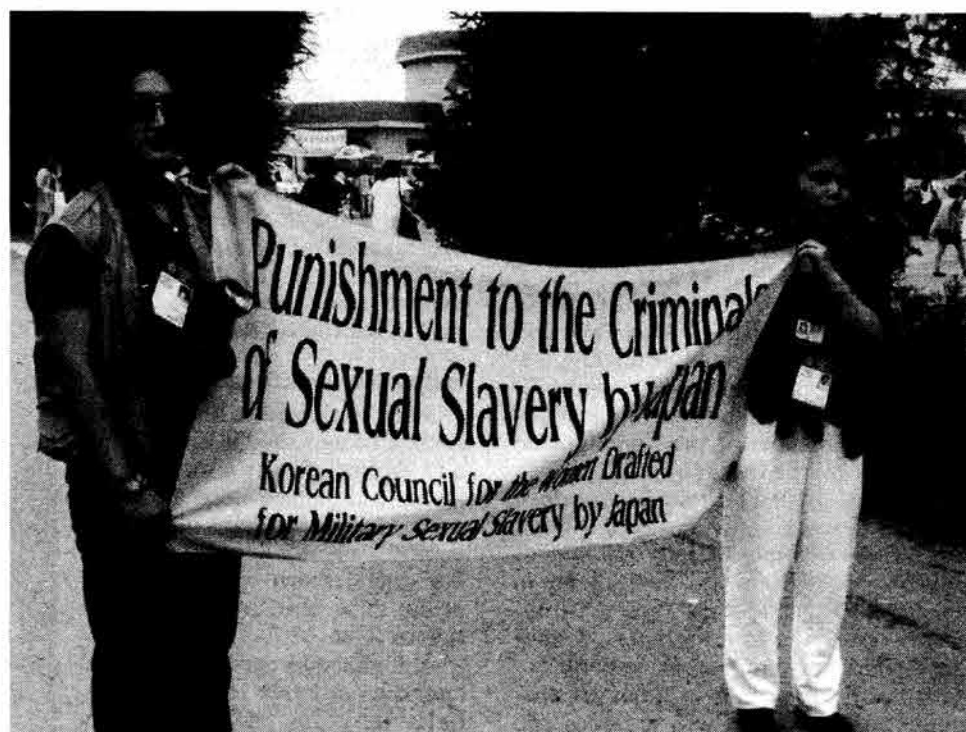
At a special meeting organized with the Japanese ambassador to the United Na-

tions, an angry exchange broke out. In response to his suggestion that the Japanese people bore responsibility and expressing regret on their behalf, many of the women from Japan shouted that regret was not adequate. One after another rose to say that it was the Japanese government and not the people who should be held responsible for these crimes, and that young women in Japan should be told the truth about what happened.

The women also objected to a proposal from the meeting chairperson that the proceedings be conducted in Japanese. "This is an international conference" the women insisted. "We will speak in English so that we can be heard by everyone."

A document titled "Japanese Women — Present Situations and Actions" that was circulated to NGO Forum participants by women from Japan states, "We are strongly urging our government to assume responsibility for this issue and apologize and pay compensation to each 'comfort woman' who was the victim of the aggressive war. The fact that the Japanese government has not assumed the responsibility for its aggressive war is the fundamental reason why the comfort women issue has not yet been resolved up to now."

In Korea, this issue has brought women together from both the South and the North. A brochure issued by the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, based in Seoul, demands that the Japanese government "acknowledge the crime against the Korean women drafted for sexual slavery



Militant/Laura Garza

Women demonstrate at the conference in Beijing, China, against the Japanese government's sexual slavery of Korean women during World War II.

by Japan, reveal the whole content of the crime, apologize formally, pay legal reparations, and punish the criminals."

"Women from both the South and the North have been working together since 1993 on the comfort women issue," said Heisoo Shin, a member of the Korean Council and chairperson of the International Relations Committee in Seoul, South Korea. "We did a seminar together in Japan, and every time we go to Geneva to raise this issue we always include a North Korean delegation."

The Korean Council holds a demonstration every Wednesday in front of the Japanese embassy in South Korea. August 16, 1995 marked the 178th consecutive demonstration. As a result of these protests the South Korean government has formed a "Relief Policy" to support the surviving comfort women financially. These women are provided with free med-

ical care, counseling, and a support group.

The Japanese government recently announced the establishment of an "Asian Peace Fund for Asian Women," though the fund takes no legal responsibility for what happened to the victims. Along with this fund the Japanese government has stated that it is planning to provide "sympathy money," raised through private donations.

Some of the Korean women argue that this totally ignores their legal rights to fair treatment and reparations according to international law. They are opposed to the Japanese government's attempts to conceal the truth and avoid any legal obligation.

Heisoo explained that outside of Korea there are groups involved in the "comfort women" campaign in New York and Washington D.C., in the United States, as well as in Canada.

Tahiti protests challenge nuke tests, colonial rule

Continued from front page

events to this reporter several days later. Groups of youths taunted police all day from behind steel barricades, hurling rocks and Molotov cocktails. They made masks from tee shirts or diving goggles and rigged up hoses to wash away the tear gas from their eyes. Helpers piled up mounds of rocks for the demonstrators to throw. Taunts were interspersed with the rhythmic banging of rocks on the steel barricades and metal roadside barriers.

At nightfall up to 200 demonstrators traveled to downtown Papeete and attempted to torch and stone the Territorial Assembly and French High Commissioner's residence. They smashed windows in some shops and offices in the swanky western end of the town, setting fire to a perfume shop, the tourist center, and other buildings. Most shops and offices in Papeete are French or Chinese owned. Clothing stores were looted.

Fifty people were left homeless and 16, including two police, were injured in the upheaval. One demonstrator had his hand blown off by a tear gas grenade. Damage was put at over US\$20 million. The next day riot police from New Caledonia, one of France's other Pacific territories, and Foreign Legionnaires from the Moruroa test site were flown in to supplement the 300 gendarmes in Tahiti as the airport protest continued. More paramilitary police and troops were dispatched from France. On September 8 Temaru called for calm and by the following day the clashes had dwindled.

French government and local authorities were quick to blame the outburst of anger on Tavini Huiraatira No Te Ao Maohi (Servants of the People), the main independence party, led by Temaru. Tavini holds four of the 41 seats in the Territorial Assembly, double the number it won in the previous election. In the 1993 elections for the National Assembly in Paris, when faced with only one opponent, Temaru received 41 percent of the vote. Temaru is the mayor of Faa'a and his party controls the town council.

French authorities arrested Nelson Or-

tas, another Tavini leader, and accused Tavini activists of masterminding the events. The French High Commissioner said "instructions were given" to the demonstrators. "Don't try telling me it was a natural protest movement," he said.

The vast majority of people in Tahiti outside the military brass and pro-Gaullist elite are against the tests. Even Gaston Flosse, head of the territorial government, calls them "inevitable" rather than endorsing them. Tahitians have protested them ever since rumors swept the islands in the early 1960s that French president Charles de Gaulle was moving the French testing program to the South Pacific from the Sahara after France's defeat at the hands of the Algerian masses.

The latest protests came just four days after a march of 2,500 protesting the resumption of the tests after a three-year lull. On September 2, marching behind antinuclear banners and independence flags, and singing independence songs, the protesters converged on Tarahoi Square outside the Territorial Assembly building. Welcoming the demonstration, Temaru declared, "Our aim is to gain our freedom from this colonial power and this nuclear power. They are linked."

The core of the protest march had been on the road for five days, marching north to the capital in two groups along the east and west coasts of Tahiti. Each night local villagers made the marchers welcome and fed them. Nightly meetings were held in local churches. Numbers swelled September 1 as the east coast marchers reached Faa'a. Following the march, around 1,000 people stayed on for an open forum to hear speeches by antinuclear and independence activists from around the Pacific. Speakers also included members of parliament from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Europe, and Brazil who had traveled to Tahiti for the march.

Capitalist politicians from Australia and New Zealand have used widespread antinuclear sentiment to further the interests of their respective ruling classes in the Pacific. Both countries are former colonial powers with investments and trading inter-

ests in the region. When their interests have been threatened by popular struggles or instability — from Vanuatu to Fiji to Bougainville — the New Zealand and Australian governments have exerted diplomatic and military pressure to keep the lid on and maintain the status quo. They view the South Pacific as their "backyard," in which their larger rival, France, is an intruder.

A right-wing member of New Zealand's ruling National Party government, John Carter, recently demoted by the Prime Minister for mocking unemployed Maori on a radio talk show, joined the march in Papeete. At least one reporter commented on the irony of him marching alongside young Polynesian nationalists with "bandannas on their heads, tattoos on their arms."

The demagogic leader of the New Zealand First Party, Winston Peters, who is Maori, saw mileage in being there. His greeting in Maori, a very similar language to Tahitian, drew a warm response from the crowd.

People speaking out

The depth of antinuclear feeling in the territory was reflected at a march in late June, soon after French president Jacques Chirac announced that Paris was restarting the tests. Between 10,000 and 15,000 demonstrated then, up to 7 percent of the country's population, making it the biggest march in Tahiti's history.

"That was the first time I had seen so many people openly speaking out," Marie-Thérèse Danielsson told the *Militant*. Danielsson and her husband Bengt are prominent authors and long-time antinuclear campaigners in Tahiti. "For me it was the birth of a new kind of people. Many young people came and that is very important because the old people have always been a little bit afraid of retaliation or to speak up. But the young ones were in it completely," she explained.

Around 40,000 Europeans, mostly French, live in the territory along with 8,000 soldiers and transient officials. Seven percent of French Polynesia's

220,000 people are of Chinese descent. Brought over last century as indentured laborers, they gradually became dominant in local commerce. Shut out of political life by the French colonial rulers, they were denied the right to be citizens until 1964.

The economy of French Polynesia is relatively developed, though distorted. The colony comprises 130 islands spread over an area of ocean more than half the size of Australia. Economic development is centered on Tahiti, the largest island, where 80 percent of the population lives.

While the local Territorial Assembly has some powers, French Polynesia continues to be ruled in all important matters from Paris. For the Tahitian working class, life can be tough, especially for those in minimum wage jobs, the 20,000 unemployed, or the 20,000 newcomers from the outer islands crammed into plywood shacks in the valleys near Faa'a and Papeete. Every year 3,000 young people turn 18 and begin competing for scarce jobs.

Although wages are tied to the French minimum wage of US\$1,500 per month in the public sector and US\$850 in the private sector, and are higher, for instance, than in New Zealand, prices are astronomical, fueled by high import tariffs. Rent is 50 percent higher, at US\$780 per month for a three-bedroom house. Gas is US\$9.60 a gallon. Food, clothing, and the monthly phone bill are roughly double what New Zealand workers pay.

Frustration with the underlying issues of youth unemployment, the high cost of living, and growing social inequality has clearly added heat to the latest wave of protests in Tahiti. But the overriding issues are the wishes of large numbers of Tahitians to govern their own country and the offense dealt to their national dignity by the nuclear tests conducted by Paris. One banner in the flag-adorned protest village, permanently occupied in Tarahoi Square since June, sums it up. It reads: "Our country is not a garbage can."

Malcolm McAllister is a member of the Engineers Union in Auckland, New Zealand. He visited Tahiti August 15-22.

Event honors life of SWP leader Mayhew

BY MIKE TABER

NEWARK, New Jersey — Howard Mayhew, a veteran leader of the Socialist Workers Party, had an unshakable confidence in the capacity of working people to change society. For over half a century, from the 1930s to the 1990s, he was a builder of the Socialist Workers Party and of union, antiracist, and antiwar struggles.

Seventy people attended an August 20 meeting here to celebrate the life and political contributions of this fighter, who died earlier this year at age 86.

SWP leader Elizabeth Stone described how Mayhew's experiences in the 1930s depression — "when literally millions of workers around the world were joining in revolutionary and trade union struggles" — won him to a life-long commitment to building a revolutionary party.

"Howard knew that in times of economic crisis, workers will organize and fight," Stone said. "He also knew that for these struggles to be effective, revolutionary leadership is necessary."

Mayhew began to learn this when he first came into contact with socialists in 1936 and joined the Socialist Party. Debate in the party focused on Spain, where powerful revolutionary workers' struggles were being crushed by fascists due to misleadership by anarchist, social democratic, and Stalinist forces.

Break from Socialist Party

Stone described how Mayhew was one of many younger members who joined the left wing of the Socialist Party and put forward revolutionary positions on Spain and other issues. In 1938, after these forces were expelled from the Socialist Party by conservative party leaders, they helped form the Socialist Workers Party.

Shortly after joining the SWP Mayhew faced another decision, Stone pointed out. While working at a newspaper in Chicago he found himself in the middle of an American Newspaper Guild organizing drive. Joining the drive meant putting a job he had held for 10 years at risk, in depression conditions when he had a family to support. Howard threw himself into the battle, Stone said, soon becoming head of an emergency committee to respond to company attacks. He wrote years later that this decision to join the fight was "a fork in the road... that marked the time when I became a revolutionist."

During and following World War II, Mayhew worked at a General Motors locomotive plant in McCook, Illinois, organized by the United Auto Workers union. He helped lead workers at the plant in the nationwide GM strike of 1945, which was the biggest strike of the massive post-World War II strike wave.

Stone noted that, like all revolutionaries, Mayhew wanted to be part of big workers' struggles and victories. But, as it turned out, his biggest political contributions were during the 1950s and 1960s when the workers movement was in retreat in the United States.

Helped build antiracist struggles

Stone explained that as a leader of the Chicago SWP in those years, and as part of a national team of leaders, he helped keep the party going as a fighting, out-turned workers' organization involved in the struggles that were advancing at the time, most importantly antiracist fights.

A high point was the election campaign of Black community activist Rev. Joseph King, which Mayhew helped organize in 1958. It was a socialist campaign organized jointly by the SWP, the Washington Park Forum, a predominantly Black organization strongly influenced by the Communist Party; and others. The campaign helped win some members and supporters of the Communist Party, which had been especially strong in the Black community in Chicago, away from the Communist Party's support to capitalist politicians in the Democratic Party.

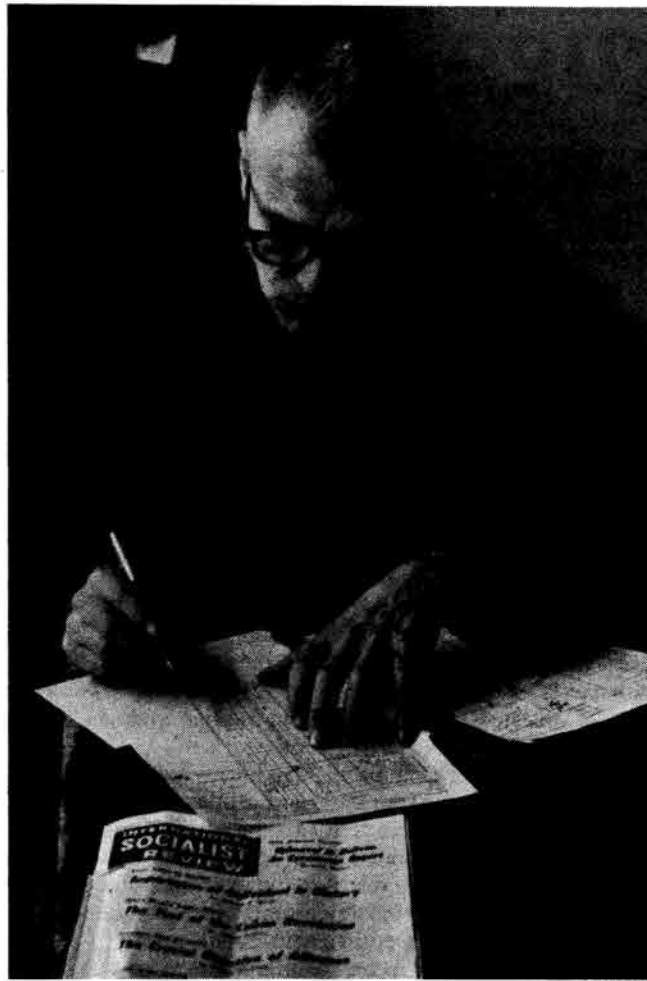
"The campaign advocated labor as well as Black political action," Stone explained, reading from an interview with Rev. King in the *Militant* where he proclaimed, "The unions should help build a party to fight for the emancipation of the human race. The capitalists can't do that. In the meantime, we're campaigning for Negro representation in the Second District, which has never had a Negro congressman."

Braiding of generations

Joel Britton, a member of the SWP Political Committee who joined the party in Chicago in 1962, spoke of Mayhew's leadership capacities in the "braiding of generations so essential to building a combat party of the working class vanguard," a genuine communist party.

"Howard probably directly worked with, and served on branch executive committees with, more young members who went on to serve on the SWP's Political Committee than any other leader of his political generation," Britton said.

Britton noted that SWP founder James P. Cannon had stated that national leaders of the party must have "prestige" not only "in the party, but as the party tasks de-



Howard Mayhew at work in printshop in mid-1960s

velop, they must have it outside."

"Howard Mayhew was an example of such a party member," Britton said, explaining that his prestige was earned in union battles, the fight for civil liberties, antiracist, and other struggles, and as a candidate for public office for the party. "This prestige came from serious involvement, activity, and leadership."

Britton pointed out how in the early 1950s, in the midst of the postwar prosperity and anticommunist witch-hunt, Mayhew quit his job, with nearly ten years' seniority, to participate in the party's leadership school for six months.

In 1954, at the age of 46, he was elected by convention delegates to be an alternate member of the SWP's National Committee. He was elected a regular member at the following convention in 1957.

Britton reviewed some of his experiences as a new member of the party in Chicago, noting the serious nature of branch discussions and Mayhew's role in driving through a transition of leadership from older to younger generations.

At the party's 1963 national convention, Mayhew set an example for other veteran

leaders by accepting nomination for the newly established advisory membership on the party's National Committee.

After a half-decade of central leadership responsibility helping to organize the party's expanded printshop in New York, Mayhew again set an example in 1971 by declining nomination to the advisory committee. This action, Britton noted, helped lay the basis for ending the advisory committee a few years later when the transition in leadership was completed.

Later, Mayhew was active in the party's Albany branch. Larry Lane, SWP candidate for governor of New York in 1994, spoke of how Mayhew's political experience and judgment helped the Albany branch's participation in massive protests in 1981 when the South African rugby team came to Albany.

Ray Parsons, SWP candidate for mayor of Chicago earlier this year, spoke of meeting Mayhew in the early 1980s as an 18-year-old recruit to the Young Socialist Alliance in Albany. Howard "embodied in flesh and blood the party's continuity," he said. Parsons described how Mayhew campaigned for socialism into the early 1990s, selling the *Militant* and Pathfinder books, and opposing U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, Libya, and Iraq.

Young Socialists member Janine Dukes, a volunteer in the party's printshop and participant in the recent Cuba Lives festival, gave a fund pitch in honor of Mayhew for the Capital Fund to help maintain the long-term printing and publishing of Marxist literature. A total of \$757 was donated.

A display of photographs, articles, and other materials chronicling Mayhew's political activity was featured. A number of these items were contributed by Astrid Mayhew, Howard's wife, who attended the meeting.

In upcoming issues of the Militant

Successful meetings to celebrate the lives and political contributions of long-time SWP members Robert DesVerney and Rob Cahalane, both of whom recently died, were held in San Francisco and Boston respectively in late August. Full reports on those meetings will appear in the next two issues of the *Militant*.

Detroit strikers block newspaper deliveries

Continued from front page

judge placed no restrictions on the size of picket lines anywhere else around the plant.

A "Solidarity Day III" rally has been called for September 16 to mobilize further labor support for the strikers. As the *Militant* goes to press, the striking unions were still discussing what form the demonstration would take in light of Cashen's injunction.

Twenty-five hundred workers at the two Detroit papers walked out July 13 when the company reneged on its promise to negotiate jointly with all six unions. The DNA is demanding deep job cuts, increased workload without adequate compensation, contracting out of work, and the right to hire nonunion labor at lower wages.

The company's goal was nakedly stated by Detroit *News* editor and publisher Robert Giles in an interview with the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* September 2. "We're going to hire a whole new work force and go on without unions, or they can surrender unconditionally and salvage what they can," he declared.

The company's open union busting and the strikers' resistance has aroused the Detroit-area labor movement. "The area is coming alive in support of the strike," said Gary Stuglin, who was at the September 9 picket. He works at a nearby auto plant.

"If they break the newspaper unions in Detroit, they can break unions anywhere,"

commented Cherie Boeneman, a grocery store worker and member of the UFCW.

Three Northwest Airlines workers who belong to IAM Lodge 141 turned out September 2 and again on September 9. Local vice-president Joyce Hilgendorf told the *Militant* she had also been to Camp Solidarity in West Virginia to support the United Mine Workers of America strike against Pittston Coal in 1989.

Confronted with the large turnout at the plant gates, the police made three initial probes to see if picketers would part to let through the convoy of scab trucks that normally passes through Gate 1 every hour.

At 7 p.m., 50 cops in five columns, without riot helmets or shields, advanced halfway across Mound Road, which borders the plant. Two squad cars stopped traffic.

"Union! Union!" the crowd began chanting. After about a minute, the cops returned to the median strip on Mound Road.

Twice more, the police marched halfway out, then withdrew. Each time, the motorists backed up on Mound Road and saluted the strikers' victory with loud honking.

At 8 p.m., two helicopters approached and landed inside the plant gates on company property. Ten minutes later, the cops directed the scab truck convoy that had been lined up to enter the gate to instead leave the area, to cheers of demonstrators.

At 8:22 p.m., the first helicopter, loaded with copies of the Sunday edition, took off from the plant. Helicopters continued to ferry papers out through the night.

The company claimed the airlift "was a way to reduce tension and conflict."

"We just thought that using helicopters was a way to get papers out and cause less threats to people and property," said Susie Ellwood, vice-president for market development at the DNA.

The DNA's real attitude toward working people was revealed at 4:15 Sunday morning. Suddenly, the police put on full riot gear and five trucks driven by strike-breakers charged out of the gate. They gave no warning to some 200 picketers still blocking the driveway. Workers jumped or dove out of the way, within seconds of being run over and seriously injured or killed.

The outrage of working people over the DNA's disregard for human life has also been directed against the police. At a September 5 meeting of the Sterling Heights City Council, angry words were exchanged over the cops' assault on the picket line at Gate 1 the night before. Twenty-three strikers and supporters were arrested. Twelve were charged with unlawful assembly; five with inciting to riot; and others for disorderly conduct or resisting arrest.

Sterling Heights police chief Thomas Derocha defended the police actions that night, including blanketing the area with

pepper and tear gas. He argued the cops had to "upgrade on the force continuum," according to the Detroit *Journal*, published by striking journalists.

'A public relations nightmare'

"This has been a public relations nightmare for us," said Derocha. "We are in a no-win situation, but there is nothing we can do about it. Our job is to enforce the law." City councilwoman Elaine Jankowski Arnold countered that the cops had provoked violence by gassing the protesters.

"Why wasn't he concerned for the neighbors who live across the street from the plant?" she asked. "Why no concern for the people driving by on their way home from a holiday? He didn't worry about children or infants in those cars who might get pepper spray and tear gas."

In another blow to the company's union busting, William Schaub, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, Region 7, has issued an unfair labor practices finding against the DNA. Should Schaub's finding be upheld by the board, all strikers will be legally entitled to return to their jobs once the walkout has ended.

Cindy Jaquith is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1299 in Ecorse, Michigan. Also contributing to this article was Dave Salner, a member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union Local 3-276 in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Nat'l Network calls actions to protest U.S. policy on Cuba

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MIAMI — At a September 9-10 meeting here, the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) discussed plans for building a national mobilization October 14-21 in opposition to U.S. policy toward Cuba, and stepping up other efforts to defeat legislation pending in Congress that would tighten the economic embargo of Cuba.

"End the U.S. Economic Blockade of Cuba," "Lift the Travel Ban," "Normalize Relations with Cuba," and "Respect Cuba's Right to Self-determination" are the main demands of the national actions, called earlier this year by the Network. There will be regional mobilizations October 14 in Chicago and San Francisco and October 21 in New York City. Local actions in Atlanta, Miami, Oklahoma City, and several other places will also occur on the 14th.

The New York march was originally scheduled to take place October 14 as well. The date was changed in July when it became known that both U.S. president Bill Clinton and a representative of the Cuban government would address the United Nations General Assembly October 22 in New York City at the opening of the UN's 50th anniversary commemoration. Holding the march the day before Clinton's speech will help focus the fire of the protest on Washington's policies, organizers decided.

Participants in the NNOC meeting voted to use the activities around the country on the 14th to encourage the maximum numbers possible to take part in the New York march.

Leslie Cagan of the Cuba Information Project, and one of the four national coordinators of the Network, reported that the executive board of Local 1199 of the hospital workers union in New York has endorsed the October 21 action.

The National Network on Cuba is a coalition of local and national groups that organize activities in opposition to U.S. policy toward Cuba. Some 55 people attended the Miami meeting, representing 37 different organizations. Four new groups were voted into membership, bringing the total number of affiliates to 73.

The newly admitted organizations are the Cuba Coalition of Houston; the Peace for Cuba Task Force—South Bay in the San Francisco area; the Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba in Salt Lake City, Utah; and the Greensboro Cuba Committee in North Carolina.

Helms-Burton bill

A major point of discussion at the meeting was on organizing lobbying of congresspeople in local areas to defeat legislation, introduced in Congress by Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton, that would significantly tighten Washington's economic embargo of Cuba. The bill could come to a vote before the end of the year.

The October actions and the lobbying effort were also the focus of a press conference Network coordinators gave here September 9. Most participants at the meeting were also present. The event was covered by *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language edition of the *Miami Herald*, the main daily here, as well as three TV channels.

"A national coalition that advocates the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba announced on Saturday in Miami a campaign to oppose the economic embargo against the island and the Helms-Burton bill that would tighten it," said the *Herald* article, which also reported on the October actions.

The news conference took place on the first anniversary of the immigration accord signed by the governments of the United States and Cuba. The agreement ended Washington's policy of denying visas to Cubans who wanted to emigrate to the United States while at the same time encouraging illegal entries. Cubans who hijacked boats or planes or crossed the

Florida Straits in homemade rafts were welcomed for decades as heroes when they reached U.S. soil.

After a series of boat hijackings and other provocations in Cuba last summer, Havana said it would lift all restrictions on those who wanted to leave without a U.S. visa. Some 30,000 took to the sea in rafts hoping to reach the shores of Florida. This created a crisis for the Clinton administration.

The White House tightened travel restrictions to Cuba, sent U.S. Navy ships that intercepted the rafters, and then incarcerated the Cubans on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo. But as the rafters continued to leave the island and hundreds of thousands of Cubans poured into the streets in huge mobilizations to counter the U.S.-engineered provocations, Washington conceded and signed the immigration accord with Havana.

After repeated protests against the concentration camp conditions to which the Cuban detainees were subjected on U.S. bases, Washington was forced to sign a second treaty May 2. This agreement, which registered another small step toward normalizing relations between the U.S. and the Cuban governments, allowed all detainees at Guantánamo to eventually immigrate to the United States.

So far, the U.S. government has stuck with the accord, granting visas to some 20,000 Cubans in the last 12 months.

Changes among Cubans in Miami

"Since last year there have been more positive changes in the relations between the United States and Cuba than in the previous 35 years," said Andrés Gómez at the press conference. Gómez is the chairperson of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Miami-based organization of Cuban-Americans who support the Cuban revolution, and one of the NNOC national coordinators.

During the news conference and at the meeting itself, there was discussion on the changes in the Cuban community in Miami.

Gómez said right-wing Cuban organizations in Miami have experienced political fissures in the last year, opening up more elbow room for those who oppose the U.S. embargo and seek normalization of relations with Cuba.

Gómez announced that the Cuban American Defense League (CADL), a civil rights group, has launched a campaign to press the federal government to bring charges against three Cuban-Americans who were caught in November 1994 attempting to firebomb the offices of the Alliance of Workers in the Cuban Community (ATC) in Miami. The three are members of the November 30 Movement, a paramilitary group based in Florida, which was infiltrated by the FBI.

Colin Powell tests campaign waters

Continued from Page 3

political wrangling in Washington.

In an interview with ABC-TV's Barbara Walters, Powell said he supports a woman's right to choose abortion. "That's her choice," he said.

Powell says he favors affirmative action but opposes quotas. "What we shouldn't do is say we're going to have six Blacks, or because you're Black, you're coming in." The retired general piously stated, "I benefited from affirmative action in the Army," but not as a "quota promotion." At the same time, Powell is a supporter of the death penalty.

Imperialist war maker

Powell was national security advisor to former president Ronald Reagan and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff during the Bush administration. He led Washington's war against Iraq, helping organize the slaughter of an estimated 150,000 human beings. When asked about the num-



Militant/Lorena Gaibor

Press conference at National Network on Cuba meeting. Seated from left: network coordinators Ignacio Meneses, Andrés Gómez, Holly Fincke, and Leslie Cagan.

The ATC is an organization of Cubans living in the United States who are opposed to the embargo.

"Even though the FBI knew in advance about the attack, and caught the perpetrators 'red handed,' no one has been charged with any federal offenses," said a September 8 press release by the CADL. "These thugs and the organization they belong to violated federal civil rights laws, and should be charged with criminal offense" under federal law.

The rightist Cuban American National Foundation, headed by Jorge Mas Canosa, fully backed Clinton's measures last year, including the internment of Cubans at Guantánamo and the prohibition of family visits to the island. "For this reason," Gómez said, "they lost support among Cubans who are opposed to the revolution."

Gómez pointed to the formation of Cambio Cubano last year, an organization of Cuban-Americans who oppose the revolution but also oppose the embargo. The group is headed by Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo, who recently visited Havana, where he had a meeting with Cuban president Fidel Castro.

Menoyo, who participated in the armed struggle against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, turned against the revolutionary government that came to power after the overthrow of the U.S.-backed regime. Menoyo left for Miami in the early 1960s and formed the Alpha 66 paramilitary organization. He was captured in Cuba in 1968 while carrying out terrorist acts; he was convicted and imprisoned for 22 years, returning to Miami after his release.

"Many others like Menoyo have begun to raise their voices against Mas Canosa," said Gómez. "Even though their aim remains the demise of the revolution, they are against the embargo and the travel restrictions."

Future solidarity projects

The Network meeting also discussed the impact of the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival, which took place in Havana and several other Cuban provinces in early August. Among the solidarity cam-

paigns decided on by festival participants were the organization of speaking tours of Cuban youth leaders around the world and international work brigades to Cuba.

The NNOC meeting agreed to encourage Network affiliates to support and build these campaigns.

The NNOC also decided to set up a task force to organize a youth brigade to Cuba in the summer of 1996. A dozen different political organizations and local coalitions that belong to the Network volunteered to be part of this task force.

Representatives of several member groups, reported on plans for other trips and material aid campaigns to Cuba. The Detroit-based U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, for example, is organizing delegations of trade unionists to Cuba in November and in April. The spring trip will coincide with the national convention of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers. The Venceremos Brigade is also organizing its 27th contingent to Cuba in April.

The IFCO/Pastors for Peace Friendship is planning its next caravan of humanitarian aid to Cuba in late January. This time, the trip will concentrate on the West Coast.

A representative of the Freedom to Travel Campaign reported that the lawsuit initiated by the Bay Area group to challenge the constitutionality of U.S. travel restrictions was scheduled to be heard by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on September 11.

In June 1994, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control blocked the Freedom to Travel Campaign's \$50,000 account, just days before the group's scheduled departure for Cuba. The Campaign responded by bringing the lawsuit, which was dismissed by a federal district court last December.

Although the group's funds were subsequently released, the plaintiffs, represented by a team of lawyers headed by attorney Michael Krinsky, decided to appeal the lower court's decision and move forward with the suit on constitutional grounds.

The NNOC set its next national meeting for February 10-11 in Los Angeles.

ber of Iraqis killed in the massacre, Powell replied with imperial arrogance, "It's not a number I'm terribly interested in."

Powell admits drawing up plans to use nuclear weapons against the Iraqi people at the behest of former secretary of defense Dick Cheney. He says that he recommended to stop the war against Iraq because the bloodbath was looking too much on television like "we were engaged in slaughter for slaughter's sake."

Not all bourgeois commentators are so convinced of Powell's abilities to help maintain capitalist rule and are wary of his posturing with third party rhetoric. In an article entitled "Third Party Madness," *New York Times* columnist William Safire says, being known as "the man who covered up the My Lai massacre," in Vietnam to "the man who...didn't want to seem cruel on TV" during the Iraq war may be a tough to handle for "Candidate Feel-good." Safire adds, "I'm not sure Powell has the stomach for the hard shots."

Fearing the "chaos in our electoral system" a third party could create, syndicated columnist Donald Lambro admonishes New Jersey senator Bill Bradley and Powell and directs them to "enter the primaries and show there is support for their ideas, rather than tilting at windmills at third party adventures." Powell is still testing the waters. When asked how he would run, Powell replied, "If I were to decide to enter politics and run for the presidency, the easier way to do it, I think, would be as a Republican." At the same time he suggests he may run as an "independent."

The Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't afford to pay for them. Please send your contribution to the Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Canada Natives

Continued from Page 16

government has taken the same position against those occupying the military base.

Harris labeled the Native protest an "illegal occupation" and a "criminal matter for the police."

Harris's racist attitude towards native people is well known. In 1994, before he became premier in last June's provincial election he stated that "too many [Natives] spend all their time on courts and lawyers and they just stay home and do nothing."

Harris has stated he won't talk to any of the Native people until the occupation is ended. Mercredi accused him of wanting to negotiate "out of the barrel of a gun."

Contrary to the impression given by the capitalist media that non-Native residents don't support the protests, a peace march was called for September 11. At the request of the George family it was postponed until after the funeral.

Scott Ewart, one of the peace march organizers, explained that the rally would have laid the responsibility for the confrontation on Ottawa. "They had 50 years to solve this problem. What we see today is the result of 50 years of frustration." While a number of non-Native residents explained to *Militant* reporters their support for the OPP actions others expressed their anger at the massive police presence in the area.

Following the cop assault at Gustafsen Lake in British Columbia, the RCMP claimed they were only returning fire after being attacked by three Native protesters in a truck. However, there is no evidence that this is what happened. The Natives explained that their truck was disabled by a land mine as they attempted to break the tight police siege of the occupation in order to get fresh water. As police using armored personnel carriers opened fire, the truck burst into flame and the protesters fled into the woods.

The day after the killing of George at Ipperwash, British Columbia premier Mike Harcourt called on the protesters at Gustafsen Lake to "surrender" and warned that if they didn't their protest could end in a "tragedy" like the death of Anthony George at Ipperwash.

Ahmad Haghighat is a member of Local 1295 of the International Association of Machinists. Steve Penner is a member of Local 5336 of the United Steelworkers of America.

Curtis parole

Continued from Page 4

lockup charges were handed down, and had done well in the two months since his release from lockup. Despite her hostile tone throughout the meeting, she insisted that she had not made up her mind yet on what to do in regards to granting Curtis a hearing and stated that she had no prejudice against him because of his political activities before and since entering prison.

Saur concluded the meeting by stating that Curtis will have served out his entire sentence in the year 2000. "We'll get him out of there before then," he said.

Curtis has served 84 months in prison. The average time served by inmates paroled in 1994 who were convicted on the same charges was 76.2 months.

Curtis will be informed by mid-October whether or not he will be granted a formal 1995 parole hearing.

After the meeting with the board, Curtis's supporters met to evaluate their efforts. They vowed to continue to reach out to win broader support for the long-term fight to win Curtis's freedom.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is continuing to gather letters to the board urging that Curtis be freed until October 1.

"The board members claimed they couldn't care less about the letters from Brazil and that their view of Curtis is not political," defense committee coordinator Studer told the meeting. "The truth is you could see they hate the letters and the fact that this is a public fight. It is their repeated refusal to free Curtis, who more than meets the legal criteria for parole, that is making more and more people see this case as political."

For further information on how to help, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Send letters for the Iowa Parole Board to the MCDC at the address above or by fax at (515) 243-9869.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Mark Fuhrman Tapes and the Fight Against Police Brutality. Speakers: Armando Martínez, Committee for Justice for José Antonio Gutiérrez; Kamal Hassan, member of Coalition to Stop the Lynching of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Reina Aparicio, Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party, member of Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers Union; and Sam Mistrano, American Civil Liberties Union. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2546 Pico Boulevard. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Irish Freedom Struggle Today. Speakers: Jim Panaro, Chairperson, Desmond Grew Southern Florida Unit of Irish Northern Aid; and Maureen Coletta, Socialist Workers Party, member of the International Association of Machinists, who visited Ireland in June. Sept., Sat. 23, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

What the Fuhrman Tapes Reveal About the Role of the Police. Speaker: Representative. Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Report Back from the "Cuba Vive" International Youth Festival and Venceremos Brigade Trip - Slide Presentation. Sat., Sept. 23, 7 to 10 p.m. Loyola Law School, 1441 W. Olympic Blvd. (enter through the parking structure on Columbia St., parking: \$2.). Donation: \$5. For more information, call (213) 387-7448.

IOWA

Sioux City

Cuba Forum. Topics: International Youth Festival in Havana; U.S. Blockade Against Cuba; How Cuba Relates to the Indigenous Experience. Presenters: John Cox, Socialist

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MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel:

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Great Spirit Within "The Hole." The fight by Native American prisoners to be able to practice their religion in U.S. jails. A film by Chris Spotted Eagle. Followed by a discussion with the filmmaker. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Av. Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Beijing Women's Conference: A Participant's Account. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, *Militant* correspondent at conference. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner of Raymond Blvd.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Militant Fund Drive Rally and Educational Weekend. Fund Drive Rally: Sat., Sept. 23, reception 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. **Classes:** Sun., Sept. 24. "Fighting Imperialism and the Role of the Trade Unions in World War II" at 11 a.m. "Post World War II Anti-Communist Witchhunt and the Maritime Unions" at 2 p.m. Classes given by Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party, who sailed on Liberty ships during and after World War II. Donation: rally \$5, classes \$2 each. Classes sponsored by Pittsburgh, and Morgantown, West Virginia, Socialist Workers Party.

All events held at 1103 E. Carson St. on the south side. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

No to Nuclear Weapons! No to Nuclear Testing! Speakers: Diana Lee Hirschi, member, Utah Peace Test, activist for halt to nuclear testing in the Pacific; Jeanne Tuomey, Young Socialists, who participated in the anti-nuclear weapons conferences and activities held in Japan on the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Fri., Sept. 22, 7:30. 147 East 900 South. Donation: \$3. Tel:

Workers candidate for mayor in Des Moines; Roxanne Gould, Grand Traverse Band/Odawa, activist and educator; Gabriel Siert, Sisseton/Wahpeton Dakota and Grand Traverse Band, Student. Sun., Sept. 24, 2 p.m. Lincoln Center Auditorium, Morningside College. For more information, call Roxanne Gould at (712) 279-6075.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Rally to Free Irish Political Prisoner in U.S. Jails. Stop the Deportation of Irish Activists. Speaker: Congressman Peter King. Sat., Sept. 30, 1 to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Irish Political Prisoners Amnesty Coalition. 26 Federal Plaza, Broadway and Worth Sts. For more in-

(612) 644-6325.

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

NEW YORK: Albany: P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585. **Brooklyn:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064.2642. **New York:** 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 388-9346; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Av.). Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407.3345.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461.2544.

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

(801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Working Class Resistance on the Rise in the Americas: Eyewitness Report from Argentina and Brazil. Grand opening of the Pathfinder Bookstore at its new location. Speaker: Martin Koppel, editor of the Spanish language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*, member, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat. Sept. 23, Open House 12 noon to 6 p.m., Forum 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St., N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Av.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

BRITAIN

London

The Fight for Women's Rights Internationally — Report from Beijing. Speaker: Shellia Kennedy, member of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Union. Fri., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 0171-928 7993.

CANADA

Vancouver

50 Years After Hiroshima: An Eyewitness Report from Japan. Speaker: Ken Kawakubo, trade unionist and socialist who participated in the anti-nuclear conferences held in Hiroshima to mark the 50th anniversary of Washington's bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23 and 24 Av.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

New Zealand Government Upgrades Military Striking Power and Steps Up Involvement in World Conflicts Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

formation, call: (717) 463-4770.

CANADA

Vancouver

Cuba Today. Break the Information Blockade! Hear reports from participants of Pastors for Peace Friendshipment, Canada Cuba Volunteer Work Brigade, and Cuba Lives International Youth Festival. Sat., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Riley Park Community Centre, corner of Ontario and 30th Ave. (2 blocks west of Main St.). Sponsored by: Amigos de Cuba, (604) 254-0663, Canadian Cuban Friendship Association, (604) 940-0420, Cuban Youth Tour Committee, (604) 327-6224, and Vancouver-Cuba Friendshipment (604) 737-1299. For more information, call the above numbers.

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

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

FRANCE

Paris: MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502.

NEW ZEALAND

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

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

SWEDEN

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

How touching — Members of the Los Angeles city council bleated that the furor over the Mark Fuhrman tapes was battering the morale of all the "good" cops.



Harry Ring

One council member told about a cop who held the hand of a youth, 15, dying of gunshot wounds, so "he would not die alone." A report on this didn't mention if the cop was the shooter.

A few more 'bad apples' — "Since 1992, 30 of New Orleans' 1,500 police officers have been arrested. In just the last year, four have been charged with murder, including an officer who allegedly ordered the execution of a woman who accused him of misconduct....critics say it will take years to uncover all of the department's skeletons." — News item.

'Just don't let me hear no Spanish' — That Texas judge who told a mother she was dooming her daughter to life as a housemaid by speaking Spanish to her at home has apologized to housemaids. "We entrust our personal possessions and our families' welfare to these hard-working people and I hold them in the highest esteem," he advised.

team," he advised.

Another fine judge — In Salinas, California, Armando Martinez, a worker in a doughnut shop, was shot and paralyzed in a holdup. His boss dragged him outside so he could say he didn't work there. Reportedly he was concerned he'd have to foot the medical bills. A judge reduced the charges against the boss, fined him \$1,000, and said, "I'm sure it was a frightening experience for you."

Nothing's perfect — Allen Wilhelm spent five days without food in the holding cell of the Spotsylvania, Virginia, courthouse after being sentenced to two days for driving with a suspended license. The bailiff apparently

took a long Labor Day weekend.

Inspector Clouseau — The Washington Park, Illinois, chief of police was suspended for two weeks for issuing police IDs to three ringers to join his East St. Louis soft-ball team in a police tournament. Apparently, a keen-eyed TV viewer spotted one of the ringers as Bryan Cox, a Miami Dolphins linebacker.

Land of Opportunity — About the boat that sank, leaving one person dead, in that failed sea provocation against Cuba by right-wing exiles. The boat had not been inspected since 1986.

The owner had paid the captain and mate to bring it to Miami for major repairs. Flotilla organizers said they paid \$2,000 to hire the

boat. The captain asserted he got nothing and the mate conceded he took \$500 — but only for fuel.

Half-witted is just right — In a poll, 90 percent of executives agreed a good sense of humor is key to advancement. But, one exec cautioned, "A sense of humor must be appropriate for the professional setting of an office."

Thought for the week — "...of more than 2,000 complaints of excessive force filed by members of the public against the police from 1966 through 1990, only 2 percent were sustained.... When will the Los Angeles political establishment stop pointing to Mark Fuhrman as if he sprang out of a vacuum or just dropped from Mars?" — Author Joe Domanick.

New desegregation fight is shaping up in Boston

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

BOSTON — In a packed court room, Federal judge Arthur Garrity Jr. denied a request for a preliminary injunction August 28 that would have allowed Julia McLaughlin, a white student entering the seventh grade, into Boston Latin School at the start of the school year. Michael McLaughlin filed a lawsuit on August 11, charging that his daughter was denied admission to this "examination school" because of "reverse discrimination." Admission policies for Boston Latin, considered Boston's most prestigious school, set aside 35 percent of the school seats for Black and Hispanic students.

This case is shaping up as a major fight around the questions of desegregation and affirmative action.

Garrity was chosen to be the judge in this case because he originally presided over the desegregation of the Boston schools which began more than 20 years ago. Between 1974 and 1976 a pitched battle was fought involving thousands in a mass movement for school desegregation led by Black students and parents. That movement won the right to equal education and the end of segregation that existed in the Boston public school system. Before then a dual school system existed which relegated Black students to schools inferior to those of white students. This pattern of intentional segregation, addressed in Garrity's 1974 ruling, included the examination schools. Garrity presided over the Boston schools until 1990. That year the administration of the school system was returned to the Boston School Committee with the specific order that it could not be resegregated.

McLaughlin complained that his daughter scored higher on the exams than 149 students who were accepted, and that the admission of 103 Black and Hispanic students instead of her was unconstitutional discrimination against her because she is white. He argued in court that his daughter had been preparing since the first grade for Boston Latin, and that test scores should be the only factor for admission. He has another daughter currently attending Boston Latin.

Preventing resegregation

The city and school department lawyer, Henry C. Dinger, defended the current admission policy and the 35 percent quota, pointing out it that it prevents the resegregation of Boston Latin.

An affidavit submitted by Latin School headmaster Michael G. Contompasis said: "If we did not set aside a portion of the seats...we would substantially resegregate Boston Latin School" by reducing Black and Hispanic enrollments by more than half. This, he said, "would diminish the quality of education that all students receive."

Thomas Atkins, the NAACP attorney who filed the original desegregation suit that Judge Garrity ruled on in 1974, sat at the defense table with Dinger. Atkins is seeking to intervene in the case as *amicus curiae*.

Judge Garrity stressed that this case is separate from the 1974 desegregation case. His denial of McLaughlin's request for an injunction pointed out that if Julia was admitted that week it would throw



The NAACP led a march of 50,000 people in Boston May 17, 1975, in support of efforts to desegregate the city's public schools.

school assignments not only at Boston Latin, but possibly throughout the system into "chaos." He indicated that Boston Latin is the most "over-chosen school" in the city, meaning more students choose to go there than there are seats available, and that this year there are 24 "over chosen schools" on all levels. Garrity explained, "Others, because of race, are denied other schools, not just whites, and that denial of preference works both ways."

In his ruling Garrity said the case is the "cutting edge" in issues about the constitutionality of using race-based admissions formulas.

Larry Overlan, president of the New England Public Policy Institute, wrote in the *Boston Globe*, "About 65 percent of the white and Asian students and about 40 percent of the black and Latino students attended private schools before attending Boston Latin. Since only 12 percent of students in Massachusetts attend private schools, it appears they have a much higher probability of gaining admission to Boston Latin than do those applying from public schools."

Many of the private or parochial schools prepare students specifically to take the entrance exam. While test scores are one of the considerations for admission into Boston Latin, other factors are considered. McLaughlin conveniently leaves out the fact that 46 of the "lower-scoring children" admitted instead of Julia where neither Black nor Hispanic.

Students' opinions

Five Boston Latin School students gave their reactions to the lawsuit and to the issues it raises in a *Boston Globe* article August 22. They said they hoped the policy of reserving 35 percent of the seats for Blacks and Hispanics can be eliminated some day, but pointed out that such a day is far off, because some discrimination continues and because of the inequality between students whose parents can afford to send them to private schools and those whose parents can't. "If it were fair-square-even, we wouldn't need it, but the kids who go to private schools have a better chance," said Meghan Sullivan.

Deborah Milstein stated, "I don't think the country's ready" to abandon affirmative action "because the problems go a lot deeper because of prejudice."

Jay Lynch, a Black mother on the par-

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
September 25, 1970 Price 10¢

In the past few weeks, white male politicians in the Senate have been waging an attack on the whole concept of women's equality. What is at stake in the debate over the women's Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is whether women are finally, for the first time, going to be recognized as full human beings and citizens in this country.

Senator Sam Ervin (D-N.C.), the leader of the campaign in the Senate to defeat the amendment, summarizes his position by saying that it is necessary to keep the responsibility for support of women and children "where the good Lord put it — on the man."

Sen. Ervin inserted into the Congressional Record an editorial from the Aug. 14 Durham (N.C.) *Morning Herald* to indicate support for his position. The editorial reads:

"The consideration given women are based on their anatomical and physical differences from men and the biological requirement that women be the bearers of children and in consequence the nurturers of children.... These factors have been determined by nature and the long experience of the race; to upset them even to the degree proposed in this amendment will be deleterious to emotional health and to the welfare of children."

If this amendment is defeated without a big fight by the women's liberation movement, the whole concept of women's

equal rights will be undermined and the struggles we are carrying out in all spheres will be more difficult. If the amendment is passed, on the other hand, it will help inspire the movement with a confidence based on scoring a long-delayed victory.

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

September 22, 1945

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 7 — For months the worst-paid employees of the Republic demanded a raise. The government aided by the Alianza Democrática (Democratic Alliance — made up of Radicals, Democrats and Stalinists) and the Department of Public Welfare, denied these raises. September 2 at 11 a.m. the 2,000 hospital workers of Valparaiso declared a total strike. The same night the Medical Society of Valparaiso and the Medical Association of Chile, which includes the majority of the hospital medical personnel in the country, declared their support of the strike.

Thursday night public assemblies were held throughout the whole country. In Santiago 5,000 hospital workers demonstrated in the streets, demanding satisfaction of their demands, full civil liberties, complete legality for their trade unions, and cancellation of the indictments served against their leaders.

Tonight the strike triumphed. The government has turned over \$18,000,000 to the Department of Public Welfare. The Department has promised not to take reprisals and not to attempt the dissolution of the unions. Tomorrow the strikers will return victorious to the hospitals.

All out for October actions!

Young people, workers, farmers, and all others opposed to the U.S. government's policies toward Cuba have an opportunity to take up the call by the National Network on Cuba to build the October 14-21 national mobilization against Washington's goals.

Organizing for the regional mobilizations in Chicago and San Francisco on October 14, building local activities in many cities that week, and maximizing participation in the October 21 march in New York City should become the central priority of all those who despise Wall Street's attempts to bring the Cuban people to their knees.

Students and other youth who recently returned from the Cuba Lives! international youth festival have already set an example. Dozens of these young people are writing articles, doing radio shows, and speaking at report-back meetings across the United States urging a big turnout for the October actions.

Washington continues to act on its almost 36-year-long strategic goal to weaken, divide, and ultimately overthrow the government and communist leadership in Cuba.

Travel restrictions imposed by the Clinton administration a year ago remain in force. The violation of the constitutional right to travel of all those living in the United States is one more proof of how much the U.S. rulers fear the powerful example of the Cuban revolution. Congress is debating legislation that would significantly intensify the U.S. economic war against the people of Cuba. And the big-business press continues its campaign of lies and slanders against the Cuban revolution.

From the day the socialist character of the revolution

became clear in 1960, the main problem for the U.S. rulers has been the fact that the working class in Cuba has confidence in itself and its communist vanguard. Today that working class in its majority still remains capable and determined to defend the revolution's course and its government.

The outpouring of half a million Cubans on August 5 was a bitter reminder of this fact for Wall Street and its imperialist allies the world over. In fact, the big-business press has expressed its discouragement over this huge march, a stabilization of the Cuban economy for the first time in five years, and recent speeches by Cuban president Fidel Castro defending the revolution's working-class course.

For the same reasons that Clinton, Helms, and company hate and fear the determination of the Cuban people to make decisions affecting their lives and set their own course, working people and youth should defend Cuba and its socialist revolution.

The best way to do this right now is to join the National Network, its dozens of local affiliates, and other organizations and individuals in building the protests in October.

We must reach out to striking workers, other trade unionists, working farmers, defenders of women's rights, youth demanding freedom for Mumia-Abu Jamal, and every democratic-minded person and urge them to join the actions demanding:

- End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba!
- Lift the travel ban!
- Normalize relations between the two countries!
- Respect Cuba's right to self-determination!

Canada: gov't is the criminal

Brutal police attacks against Native rights protesters in Ontario and British Columbia have left one person dead and at least four more injured by cop bullets. Hundreds of cops and some Canadian army personnel, armed with assault rifles, land mines, and other weapons are being used in a blatant attempt to intimidate and terrorize native people and their supporters.

Widespread protests are needed to counter the government campaign, get out the truth about these vicious assaults, and help prevent further attacks by the cops.

In Ontario, 38-year old Anthony George was killed when the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) attacked native people from the Kettle and Stony Point Chippawa band who are occupying a sacred burial ground at Ipperwash Provincial Park on the shores of Lake Huron. The standoff by native people against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at Gustafsen Lake in northern British Columbia is also about unsettled native land claims. This summer native people have erected barricades and occupied land at seven different points across the country.

The federal and provincial governments along with the cops are waging a racist campaign to paint the native fighters as outlaws and criminals and the cops as defenders of law and order.

Ontario premier Mike Harris rejected out of hand Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi's demand that he negotiate with the protesters at Ipper-

wash. "It's a matter for the police," he said with indifference toward the lives of Natives.

We are "criminals in relation to who?" asked Steve Wolfe, a Stoney Point band councilor. "Who did the shooting? Who died?"

The Native fighters are not intimidated. Over one thousand from across North America attended the funeral for Anthony George at the Ipperwash camp. Demonstrations in support of their struggles have been held in cities across the country.

Native people justifiably reject the cop investigations of their own actions and are demanding an independent inquiry into the killing of Anthony George.

The government armed forces should immediately withdraw from the areas claimed by the Native protesters.

The trigger-happy cops that murdered George and wounded others should be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law.

The land claims of Native people across the country should be recognized and settled without further delay.

It is urgent for all working people to support these demands. In the context of the deepening political and economic crisis facing Canada's capitalist rulers the state force used against Native people today will be turned against strikers on picket lines tomorrow, or working people and students fighting cuts to education and social services.

Help sell and fund 'Militant'

Continued from front page

steady campaign pace, week by week, to the last day.

This is a favorable time to broaden the readership of the socialist press. One sign is the positive response to young people who took part in last month's Cuba Lives! festival and are now getting out the truth about the Cuban revolution to a wide audience. Struggles by working people today, from the anticolonial upsurge in French-controlled Tahiti to the Detroit newspaper strike, are further indications of the political openings available to working-class campaigners.

In recent weeks *Militant* supporters have found a warm reception everywhere they go, as sales at numerous Labor Day actions indicate. Selling the socialist press is an important way to test the breadth of this political space.

To reach readers who have never been introduced to the *Militant* before, campaigners are taking a number of special steps. They are placing a bigger emphasis on selling the paper door to door in working-class neighborhoods. They are going to new areas or places they haven't been to in a while; targeting neighborhoods with many Spanish speakers with *Perspectiva Mundial*; and going to outlying regions to reach farm workers, city

workers, farmers, students, and others.

Experiences in areas that have done well show that organizing special efforts early in the drive is key to building the necessary momentum throughout the eight weeks. Another vital ingredient for a campaign atmosphere is picking a weekly "movement day" in each area, such as Saturday or Sunday, when the maximum number of *Militant* supporters are able to go out in several teams and campaign together.

The *Militant* Fund is being launched simultaneously with the subscription drive and goes hand in hand with it. As with the sales campaign, the key to success in the effort to finance the socialist publications is to reach out broadly for contributions among working people and youth who agree that the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are essential.

Payments on pledges to the fund are needed now. Public fund-raising meetings in the early weeks of the drive will maximize these efforts.

It's now up to all of us as *Militant* readers to get the socialist press into the hands of thousands of working people and to raise the necessary funds to sustain its publication. Onward to making both of these campaigns a success!

No common ground with rightist groups

Ed Meredith, in his letter on the opposite page, argues that socialists should seek common ground with right-wing organizations that pose as defenders of the Bill of Rights and that denounce the government. He chastises the *Militant* for stating, as Naomi Craine does in her July 24 column, that groups like the Michigan Militias "are reactionary, fascist-minded outfits that have nothing to do with the working-class movement."

Meredith says Craine doesn't "address the real issue," which he insists is government infringement on the U.S. constitution's Second and Fourth Amendments. He con-

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

veniently ignores the unambiguous stance of the *Militant*, which as Craine notes, opposes attempts by the government to curtail any democratic rights under the cover of going after the Oklahoma bombers.

More importantly, however, he ignores the warning in the letter by Roy Inglee that he refers to. In response to an earlier letter (see the June 5 *Militant*) where Meredith spoke of his efforts to "build bridges" by being active in an anti-gun control group that is clearly right-wing, Inglee replied, "Ed, I would be careful with who I hung out with....Bridges have been known to be two way." In fact, Meredith's most recent letter indicates he's already on the bridge and crossing over toward these rightists.

Times of capitalist economic crisis and insecurity like today's are breeding grounds for ultraright groups, which tap the fears and prejudices of panicky layers among professionals, small businessmen, farmers, and some workers. The emerging fascist groups attract these layers through their radical rhetoric. Among other things, they assail mainstream politicians, both liberals and conservatives, playing on resentments against these politicians' corrupt and arrogant behavior. They rail against government abuse of "the little guy." They spout antigovernment and, yes, even anticapitalist demagoguery. But the ultrarightists work to turn anticapitalist sentiments into reactionary nationalism. Today we often hear them denounce "multinational corporations" and "foreign bankers" who are selling out "American" workers. Such chauvinist appeals are typical of fascist politician Patrick Buchanan as well as the so-called militias.

Some people "are attracted to these groups," Meredith writes, "because they represent a challenge to the standard fare being served up in both political parties and the mass media. People don't trust the government and are sick and tired of governmental tampering and manipulation of our Constitutional rights."

That's a pretty good description of the demagogic appeal of those rightist outfits.

It may be possible at their meetings to denounce the outrageous actions committed by bankers, corporate executives, and "the powers that be" against working people. Anticapitalist rhetoric was not uncommon at meetings of the Nazi party in Germany in the early 1930s.

Today, some liberals and leftists are attracted to the antigovernment and anticapitalist radicalism — and militant "toughness" — of budding fascist groups. Those who cross the bridge to fascism are sick and tired of working-class politics, which appeals to the capacity of working people to think and act; they are drawn to the rightists' emotional appeals and politics of resentment.

There are many cases in history of individuals who passed through the socialist movement on their way to fascism. Benito Mussolini, for example, evolved from a leader of the left wing of the Italian Socialist Party before World War I to the fascist gangs that began to assault the workers movement in 1919. In the United States, the fascist Lyndon LaRouche began as a socialist. The New Alliance Party, has also evolved from a self-proclaimed left-wing party to a formation that has now fused with the rightist fringe around Ross Perot.

While radical rightists harangue about what they are against, working-class revolutionists are guided by what we are for. Communists are not primarily against the government or capitalists, but for the fight by working people to create a socialist society and to begin to transform themselves in the process.

Communists share no common ground with the rightists' hatred of the FBI, taxes, government wiretapping, gun control, or repressive legislation. The revolutionary movement doesn't form a bloc with fascists, as Meredith seems to advocate, in order to "focus our main fire on the government for now" until the moment when "the fascists openly attack the workers' organizations."

Instead, class-conscious workers and working farmers are distinguished completely from such right-wing groups and individuals by their everyday political activity. They are publicly known as proponents of equal rights for immigrants, affirmative action quotas, women's rights, and gay rights. They are identified as partisans of the Cuban revolution. They are known for their opposition to the death penalty, America First propaganda, and all kinds of prejudice. In other words, they are known as people whose views are incompatible with any right-wing formation. The communist movement can only be built in uncompromising opposition to the politics of right-wing groups like the one in which Meredith is active.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL

London rail workers stage third one-day strike

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.

bitration service.

Kmart workers step up fight for new contract

"Coins make noise we do not need — Give us more dollars got families to feed!" were the words to a song workers began singing at a protest recently inside the Kmart distribution center in Greensboro.

ON THE PICKET LINE

"Tube strike chaos 'worst yet'" was the headline in the September 4 issue of the London Evening Standard. Some 6,000 striking members of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) brought the London underground rail system to a halt September 4. The labor action was the third in a series of one-day work stoppages.

Train drivers, station staff, signal workers, and maintenance workers joined the walkout.

The RMT is demanding higher wages and better working conditions, especially fewer work hours. Management has offered a 3 percent wage increase (below the current level of inflation) and vague promises of a reduction to 40 hours a week in August 1996. Station staff currently work a 41.25 hour week.

The strike has been successful on all three days. Around 50 percent of the normal service failed to run overall. Six out of the busiest nine lines were effectively disrupted by the strike. Some important lines on the system were even more badly hit; the Piccadilly line which serves London's Heathrow Airport could run only a 25 percent service. The Waterloo to City line, serving the important City of London area, was completely closed down during each strike.

To keep stations open and some trains running, safety regulations were flouted. Unqualified persons, including a manager's secretary at one station and personnel office staff, were drafted. Trains ran that had not been checked and prepared by maintenance; signal cabins were operated by unqualified staff.

The RMT has called for a 48-hour stoppage on September 21. In the meantime, they are planning talks with management under the auspices of the government ar-

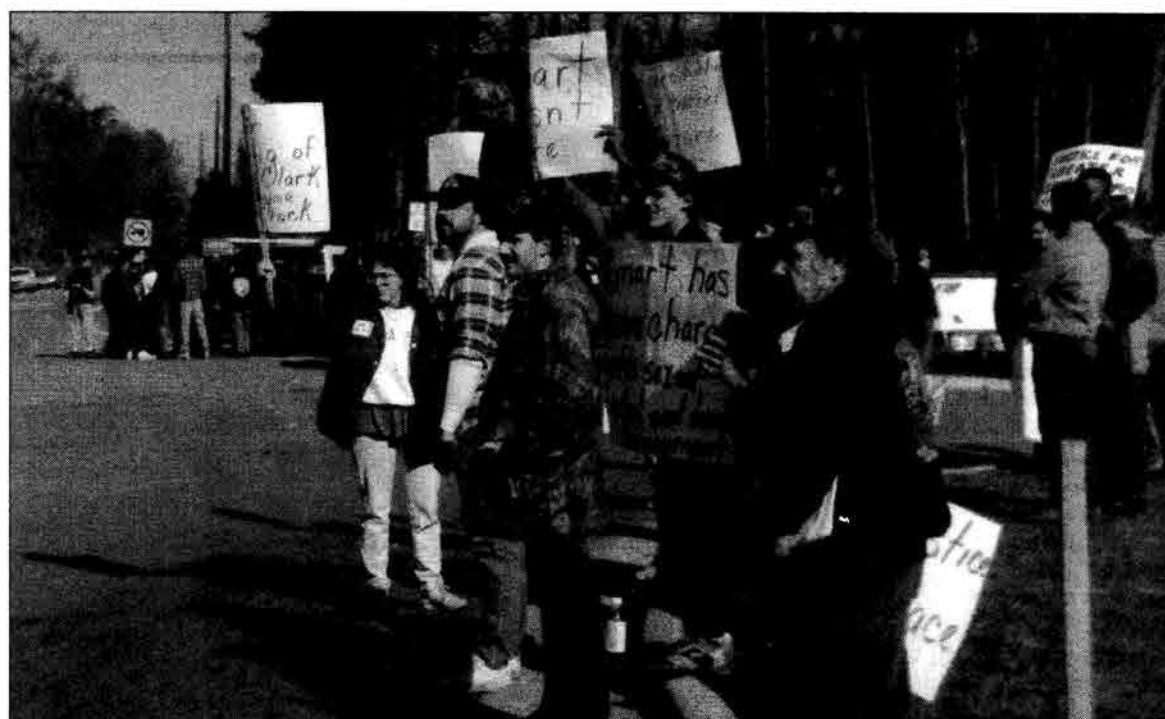
The action brought together 100 workers, many of whom left their work stations to participate in the rally. This event was part of a series of protests inside and outside the plant to increase pressure on the company to negotiate a first contract.

"I was proud of everybody who took part in the rally, including many who usually don't go to union meetings," said Yvonne Peasely, a first shift worker and a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) negotiating committee. "It was our best rally in a long time."

Last November the company offered a 5-cent an hour raise for workers with 2 years seniority. This was seen as a slap in the face by the workers who are not only fighting for better wages but for dignity on the job. Workers responded with a week long unfair labor practices strike. This June, union members staged a rally outside the plant demanding parity with the other distribution centers run by Kmart around the country on the issue of sick time off.

There are 12 such centers around the country. The warehouse in Greensboro allows the least amount of sick time and has the lowest wages. In Greensboro the work force is majority Black, with a growing number of Latino workers. At the August negotiating session the company put a 20-cent raise on the table as being in the "ball park that Kmart has in mind."

In August the company announced a decertification drive in the local newspaper hoping the threat would convince some workers to help them get rid of the union. Several leaflets were passed out in the name of one supervisor who was publicly spearheading the anti-union effort,



Militant/Robert Dees

Kmart workers on strike in Greensboro, North Carolina, in November 1994. The union has carried out a series of protests as the workers seek their first contract with the company.

claiming the workers would be better off without the union. But after two weeks they had to drop their petition effort.

The National Labor Relations Board has found Kmart guilty of dozens of violations at the Greensboro center including firing and harassing union members, refusing to provide health and safety information, and bargaining in bad faith. Recently, additional charges were filed by two workers who were falsely accused of illegal drug use and fired, even though they tested negative for drugs.

In the last few weeks, rank and file workers from all three shifts have visited postal workers union locals, the Greensboro AFL-CIO labor council, members of the Greensboro City Council, the NAACP, and community organizations like the Poor People's Organization to win support for their fight. UNITE members have also been invited to set up an information table at the statewide AFL-CIO convention at the end of September.

"I went to my first demonstration when I was fifteen years old, that was in 1955 around voting rights," said Alonzo Russell, a freight shipper at Kmart. "Some people died in that fight. But we didn't bow down then, and I'm not about to bow down now."

"We feel great," say new union meatpackers

Workers at Washington Beef in Toppenish voted more than two to one for joining the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union August 25.

"We feel great. It's a great victory for the workers," Kevin Williams, an organizer for the UFCW told the Yakima Herald Republic after the 253-118 vote.

In 1985, the meatpackers at Washington Beef's Toppenish and Union Gap plants struck for a union contract, after the company refused to negotiate a contract with the UFCW. The company hired replacement workers and broke the strike. For the last nine years, the plants have operated non-union.

Washington Beef is the largest independent beef processor on the West Coast. The Toppenish plant has both slaughterhouse and processing operations, employing about 600 workers, with \$250 million in sales during 1994.

Last year it spent \$10 million expanding the plant, increasing production capacity by 40 percent.

Earlier this year, nearly 85 percent of the 425 eligible employees signed union authorization cards earlier this year. Company management has not decided whether

to challenge the election.

Steelworkers locked out at Ohio plant

Some 1,700 steelworkers set up picket lines after being locked out at Warren Consolidated Industries (WCI) in Warren, Ohio, August 31. The WCI bosses closed the gates when negotiations broke down with United Steelworkers of America Locals 1375 and 6824. WCI has contracted the union-busting outfit Nuckols, Inc., to bring in strikebreakers.

The strikers say that the future of their union and pensions are at stake in this battle. The company has been sold twice in the last two decades and rumors are floating that the current owner wants to sell also. WCI, formerly owned by LTV Steel, is a specialty steel maker producing nearly 1.7 million tons of steel a year.

Phil Waterhouse, member of the RMT, and Martin Hill, member of the Transportation and General Workers Union, in London; Joan Paltrineri and M.J. Rahn, members of UNITE Local 2603 at the Kmart distribution center in Greensboro; Scott Breen, member of International Association of Machinist Local 289 in Seattle; and Tony Prince in Cleveland contributed to this column.

LETTERS

On gun control, militias

I read both the editorial in the *Militant* by Naomi Craine [July 24 issue] and the letter by Roy Inglee about the issue of gun control, militias, and the fascist influences that abound in the militias and gun-rights groups. [August 7 issue].

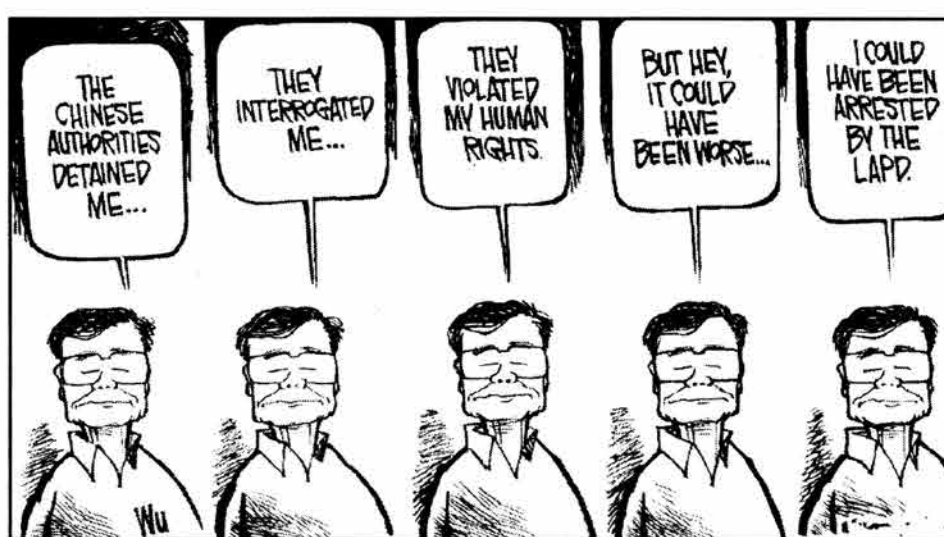
I think it was fortunate that Roy Inglee wrote an explanation of the *Militant's* and the SWP's historical stance on the issue of gun control and the ability of workers to organize in defense of themselves. The editorial by Ms. Craine falls into the same trap that most liberal politicians do when they dismiss all gun-rights advocates as neo-Fascist crack-pots without addressing the real issue, which is the government's unconstitutional infringement not only on 2nd Amendment rights but also the 4th Amendment with elements contained in the recently passed bipartisan Crime Bill.

I fully realize that the militias and many gun-rights groups contain people who spout a lot of generalizations on freedom and protection of Constitutional rights but at the same time advocate the for-

mation of closer ties with the Fraternal Order of Police and such "crime" fighting organizations. But I also know there is a far greater majority of people who are attracted to these groups, initially at least, because they represent a challenge to the standard fare being served up in both political parties and the mass media. People don't trust the government and are sick and tired of governmental tampering and manipulation of our Constitutional rights. They see the hand-writing on the wall and they are upset.

By not addressing the issues succinctly and clearly and by not stating our position on the issues we are also cast into the air of suspicion that surrounds most politicians.

Also we have a lot of smoke, lies, and distortions yet to overcome which the big-business mass media has used to attempt to discredit Socialists and Communists through the years. By not



declaring our position on all pertinent issues clearly and distinctly and by joining the attacks on the militias and their supporters we are feeding these suspicions instead of eliminating them. We must always focus our main fire on the government for now. But when the Fascists openly attack the worker's organizations now and in the future, then we focus our fire on both and their common links.

I know that there are a lot of folks who are drawn to gun-rights because they have a pistol, rifle, or shotgun and enjoy hunting or collecting firearms. Why should the government be regulating these people? What right does the government have to pass legislation that allows cops to break down doors and search private residences for "illegal" firearms? These are justifiable concerns of the majority of the people in gun-

rights groups. And these are good questioning people who we shouldn't so casually dismiss.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Inspired by politics

I am an incarcerated inmate who's been inspired by political affairs the world over and seek to enhance my political consciousness. I was introduced to the *Militant* paper by a Brother who shares his political consciousness with other Brothers.

I am indigent, but I will very much like to receive the *Militant*.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

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

'British gov't is not able to break us'

Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness discusses Irish struggle on U.S. tour

BY ANDY BUCHANAN
AND NAOMI CRAINE

NEW YORK — Speaking to an enthusiastic and mainly young audience in Woodside, Queens, September 8, Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness said that despite attempts by the British government to stymie the peace process in Ireland, "We are in a highly advantageous position."

"While progress has not been made in negotiations on a number of issues," McGuinness said, "the spotlight is on the British government. Over 25 years of bitter struggle with the British state they never defeated us — that's what's hurting them now." McGuinness has been Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in talks with the British government.

In his first visit to the United States, McGuinness spoke to audiences in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Hartford, Connecticut. In New York, in addition to the meeting of about 300 in Woodside, the Sinn Fein leader spoke to students at Columbia University and at a fund-raiser at the Plaza Hotel. That event pushed fund-raising for Friends of Sinn Fein in the United States over the \$1 million mark since last February.

The British government is demanding that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) "decommission" its weapons before Sinn Fein, the leading party in the struggle to end British rule in Ireland, can be included in all-party negotiations. McGuinness said this demand, which "requires the actual surrender of the IRA and, by extension, of the nationalist people," is not acceptable. He said the republican movement is prepared to discuss decommissioning of the IRA's weapons as part of talks to discuss the "decommissioning of the weapons of the British army, the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary), and the loyalist death squads."



Militant/Top: Marc Lichtman, Bottom: Heidi Rose
Demonstrators in Dublin August 26 demand British government quit stalling on Ireland peace talks. Inset, Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness speaks in New York.

"We can also talk about the decommissioning of the injustices, of the inequalities, and of the humiliations which British rule has meant for our people. Ultimately we want to talk about the decommissioning of British rule in our country," he said.

British government is under pressure

Responding to written questions submitted by members of the audience, McGuinness addressed various issues about the stage of the struggle in Ireland. One questioner asked if more progress was being made in secret negotiations, or if not, was a sell-out being prepared. The Sinn Fein leader replied, "What is going on is what you see." He said the members

and supporters of the nationalist movement are being fully informed and consulted. "We go back and forth between the negotiating table and our people. Nobody has the right to accuse us of selling anyone out."

"The reality is that at this point we still have a viable peace process," McGuinness continued. "But we also have the direct refusal of the British government to engage in that process." He reiterated that it is London that is under pressure. "This process has a life of its own. The world expects the British government to move."

Speaking to some 200 students and others at Columbia University September 6, McGuinness compared the situation un-

folding in Ireland to the democratic revolution in South Africa. He noted that "900,000 people in the north of Ireland consider themselves British. This isn't a problem, but the British government sets a bad example. We have to accommodate this reality, but change is coming, which they see. They may not like this, just as [former South African president F.W.] DeKlerk didn't, but they can't stop it."

Another participant asked whether a Labour Party government in Britain would help the situation in Ireland. McGuinness replied, "While workers in Britain may need a Labour government, we in Ireland don't." He pointed out that some of the worst Northern Ireland Secretaries were part of Labour governments and noted that the current Labour Party leader Tony Blair refuses to meet with Sinn Fein.

McGuinness answered many similar questions at a community meeting of 250 in Boston September 5.

Growing involvement of youth

Tom Laffey, a veteran activist who spent a year in prison in Texas as one of the Fort Worth Five in the early 1970s, pointed to the significance of the large number of youth who turned out for the meeting in Woodside. "There's been an enormous change, especially since [Sinn Fein president] Gerry Adams came to the United States" on a speaking tour, he said. "It's great to see young people have interest" in the Irish struggle. He also noted the movement against the British occupation in the North has grown in the Republic of Ireland since the cease-fire.

"Bobby Sands and the other hunger strikers rekindled the pro-republican support" among Irish-Americans in the early 1980s, noted Pat Williams, a 22-year-old worker at UPS in New Jersey whose parents are Irish. "I think the same thing is happening since the cease-fire."

A young construction worker who came to New York from the town of Fermanagh in Northern Ireland three months ago, commented, "Things have changed a little [there], but not enough," noting that only one year has passed since the cease-fire. He described the discrimination and abuse that workers who are Catholic face in British-occupied Northern Ireland. "If you go through a checkpoint and they see a Catholic name on your drivers license, they take you out of the car and hold you for two or three hours," he said. A few years ago "the cops came to my parents' house at 6:00 a.m. There had been a robbery and we were the only Catholics in the neighborhood, so they tried to put the blame on us."

"I never had any problem getting on with Protestants," he continued. But workers who are Catholic face systematic discrimination in everything from housing to employment. "We don't just want the army off the roads," he said. "We want opportunities and jobs."

Another participant, who emigrated from Ireland eight years ago, said he thought some of the questions asked of McGuinness reflected the fact that supporters of the Irish struggle in the United States "are 3,000 miles away. All the information is filtered through the media," so people get frustrated by not knowing what is happening.

Immediately following McGuinness's speaking tour, Gerry Adams will be in the United States again for five days. The Sinn Fein president will be meeting with Clinton administration officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss the peace process in Ireland. He is also scheduled to speak at Georgetown University September 13 and at the Irish American Center in Mineola, New York, September 15.

Jeff Jones in New York and Andrea Morrell in Boston contributed to this article.

Protests challenge government assault on Native rights activists in Canada

BY AHMAD HAGHIGHAT
AND STEVE PENNER

IPPERWASH, Ontario — The September 6 killing of Native protester Anthony George by Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) here, and the September 11 armed assault by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on Native protesters at Gustafsen Lake in British Columbia that left at least one wounded, represent a major escalation of the attacks on Native people by this country's capitalist rulers and their police agencies.

The OPP assault on a group of unarmed Native rights activists also seriously wounded 16-year-old Nicolas George. Bernard George, who was savagely beaten by police, had to be hospitalized.

Hundreds of OPP and RCMP cops armed with assault rifles, stun grenades, and other weapons surrounded Native protesters at the two occupations. At Gustafsen Lake, the Canadian army drove the RCMP in armored personnel carriers. The provincial governments, with the complete backing of Ottawa, have both threatened further police action against the protesters who they characterize as "lawless criminals."

Native rights fighters across the country have begun to mobilize against the government's attacks. Over 1,000 Native people from across Ontario, from other provinces, and from the United States attended the September 11 funeral of Anthony George to express their solidarity. Demonstrations protesting the cop attacks were held in a number of cities including

Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Ottawa. A round the clock vigil numbering up to 100 people at any one time is being held at Queen's Park in Toronto at the Ontario provincial legislature.

Anthony George, 38, and other Native rights activists began an occupation of 907 hectares of the Ipperwash Provincial Park on September 4, Labor Day, after the park had been closed for the season. They demanded that the Ontario government return the land which it had taken over in 1942. They consider it a sacred Native burial site.

The park sits next to the Ipperwash Military Reserve, about 25 miles east of Sarnia on the shores of Lake Huron. On July 29, Native activists took over the main buildings on the base. Natives have been fighting the Canadian government for over 50 years over return of the land, which was taken from them in 1942 under the War Measures Act.

The provincial cops tried to justify the cold-blooded murder of George by claiming that the "occupants... of two vehicles fired on police officers and subsequently police returned fire."

Expressing skepticism of the government's story, the *Toronto Star* pointed out, "OPP Chief Superintendent Chris Coles has refused to say how many shots were fired at police, nor have the OPP shown any weapons that they say were used in the shooting, or any damage caused by the alleged shooting by Chippewa."

"Our people had no weapons," Steve Wolfe, a Kettle and Stony Point First Na-

tion band councilor told the *Militant*. "They only had sticks and stones to defend themselves against the cop attack."

"One of our band councilors (Bernard George) was beaten even before they started shooting," said Wolfe. The cops knocked him to the ground, kicked and beat him while calling him a dog and a savage. He was hospitalized for three days.

Wolfe also explained that the cops had called in ambulances just before they launched their attack. They refused to use the ambulances, however, to transport the wounded for medical care after the shooting. Anthony George's sister Carolyn had to take him to the hospital by car. The OPP wouldn't even help me lift him," she explained. She believes he might have survived his wounds had the police provided aid.

On arriving at Strathroy Hospital, Carolyn George and another woman were jumped on by police, pushed to the ground, handcuffed and arrested on charges of the attempted murder of her brother. They were released from jail only after doctors confirmed that the bullet that killed her brother came from a police rifle.

Ontario gov't refuses to negotiate

Following the shootings, Ontario Conservative premier Mike Harris, rejected the demand of Ovide Mercredi, head of the Assembly of First Nations, that the government negotiate with the Native protesters occupying the park. The federal

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