

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Reportback meetings
tell the truth about Cuba

— PAGES 7-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Sinn Fein: British will leave Ireland

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "British troops have every right to be in Ireland — it is a part of the United Kingdom," a Georgetown University student told Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, in an overflowing campus meeting hall here September 13.

"The British government are very slow learners," responded Adams in measured tones. "They used to say that they had every right to be in this country."

That statement brought virtually the entire audience of 750 Georgetown students and faculty to its feet in a prolonged ovation.

"They used to say that about Africa, Asia, about India," Adams continued to hearty applause, "but they're not there any longer. There's no point in arguing about it. Clear as the sun will rise tomorrow, the British government will leave Ireland."

Adams addressed the Georgetown audience during a five-day trip to the United States. The visit included speaking in the New York area, a meeting with U.S. vice-president Albert Gore and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, and a national television interview on "Good Morning America."

The warm response accorded the Sinn Fein president was particularly significant given that until 18 months ago, Adams was completely barred from visiting the United States by both Democratic and Republican administrations, who tarred Sinn

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Cuban youth leader begins speaking tour of Britain

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Cuban student leader, Kenia Serrano, begins a month-long tour of Britain September 21. During her tour, which is organized by the Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC), Serrano will speak at colleges and public meetings, and conduct media interviews throughout the country.

Serrano also plans to take part in the national Hands off Cuba march and rally in London on October 14. Serrano, who is the international secretary of the Federation of University Students in Cuba, is scheduled to be a featured speaker at the action. Other speakers include mineworkers union leader, Arthur Scargill; Labour Party members of parliament, Bernie Grant and George Galloway; and Christine Oddie, member of the European parliament. Many other democratic rights fighters and artistic performers are being sought for the event.

The London demonstration is one of many that will be taking place in October in cities around the world, following the decision of the November 1994 world solidarity conference in Havana to declare 1995 a year of solidarity with Cuba and call an international week of action starting October 7. It will be the first national demonstration in defense of Cuba's national sovereignty to be held in Britain.

The march and rally was called by the

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U.S. Senate passes bill to cut workers' social gains

Votes to end guarantee of support to families in need

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Capitalist politicians continue to advance their assault on the social wage of working people with the recent vote of the U.S. Senate to end guarantees of aid for those who land on the welfare rolls. With an overwhelming bipartisan vote, Democrats and Republicans approved a bill September 19 that would impose a five-year time limit on welfare benefits, require most recipients to get jobs within two years of receiving benefits, and abolish the federal mandate of giving assistance to every family that meets eligibility requirements. The bill passed in the Senate on a vote of 87 to 12.

"I am proud to say that the Senate has kept our promise," crowed Sen. Bob Dole, the majority leader and presidential candidate who pushed the bill through. His counterpart on the Democratic side, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, said, "It is the best bill that we are going to get under the circumstances that exist."

While the Senate was finishing off its assault on workers' rights to public assistance, Republicans in the House of Representatives proposed to eliminate federal entitlement to health benefits for poor, disabled, and elderly people in the Medicaid program. The Medicaid proposal would turn over the health insurance program for poor people to the states and give those governments more power to reduce benefits and decide who gets care and who doesn't.

Some 36 million U.S. residents are en-

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Militant/Greg Rosenberg

Bipartisan assault on welfare is precursor to broader attacks on working people

Detroit newspaper strikers win support as courts and cops challenge picketers

STEVE MARSHALL

DETROIT — Fighting for their unions' survival, some 2,400 newspaper workers entered the 10th week of their strike here September 14 against the Detroit Newspaper Agency (DNA), the joint venture that prints and distributes the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press.

In the face of sharp new attacks from the companies, courts, and cops, the six striking unions continue to win working people to their cause. A September 13 court injunction limited to 10 the number of pickets in the main driveway of DNA's Sterling Heights printing plant, where several thousand strikers and supporters had demonstrated on the previous two Saturdays, delaying delivery of the Sunday edition for many hours.

In response to the injunction, the striking unions and a strike-support coalition called on area unionists to turn out again on Saturday, September 16. The struck newspapers shifted the bulk of the evening's production to their Riverfront plant in downtown Detroit, little used since the strike began on July 13. Anticipating this move, 500 strikers, other unionists, and supporters gathered at the Riverfront plant, delaying truck delivery and forcing the DNA for the second time to fly papers out by helicopter.

Detroit police forced open the plant gate



Militant/John Sarge

Detroit cops attack newspaper workers' picket line at Riverfront plant September 17

at 3:15 a.m., allowing scab trucks and passenger vehicles to exit. Meanwhile, 200 people gathered at the DNA's north plant in Sterling Heights, where picket captains organized compliance with the injunction. The actions were smaller than the outpourings of earlier weekends, but the union

presence still delayed by several hours the delivery of the newspapers' Sunday edition.

Macomb Circuit Judge Raymond Cashen issued his injunction after the DNA and Sterling Heights police repeated

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Sinn Fein leader: space to fight for peace

Continued from front page
Fein as "terrorist."

"I was interned without trial in the 1970s, and later in Long Kesh prison," for Republican political activity, Adams pointed out. "That was the basis of the denial of a visa to come to the United States. But it was more a case of U.S. citizens being denied a right" to hear the truth about Ireland, Adams said. "All we want is the right to put forward our position — and our opponents theirs. You can decide."

The Georgetown meeting was open to students and faculty, along with the media and a dozen supporters of Friends of Sinn Fein. Tickets were so in demand that a protest broke out at the distribution site the day before the event when, some 100 students became angry and stayed for more than half an hour after tickets had run out. They left when a university official promised they would be placed on a waiting list.

"Today we have the best opportunity to build peace in 75 years," said Adams, in the wake of the August 31, 1994, cease-fire declared by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). That cease-fire has yielded new political elbow room for the working people of Northern Ireland to press the fight for the removal of London's occupying army, the release of hundreds of political prisoners in British jails, and the unification of their country.

"But we do not have peace in Ireland," Adams declared. "What we have is the space in which peace can grow." As a result of London's refusal to hold all-party talks, the negotiation process has slowed, and "the optimism which was there a year ago is being replaced with a marked disappointment."

"I'm an Irish Republican. I want to see a united Ireland. But I'm prepared to argue for a negotiated settlement. One would have thought that in 13 months the British



Militant/Heidi Rose

Youth demonstrate in Dublin, Ireland, to mark a year after the cease-fire. Gerry Adams told the audience in Washington, D.C., "British troops will leave Ireland."

government would have agreed to a roundtable conference," the Sinn Fein president said. "I think that the British want a settlement, but one on their own terms."

Adams emphasized that the struggle in Ireland "is not a religious conflict. A section of the people — who happen to be Protestant — look to Britain to defend their interests. The Unionist [pro-British] section of our people have to be involved" in the new political developments.

Dozens of students rushed to the microphone to ask questions and make comments following Adams's half-hour speech. "If you are committed to peace, why doesn't Sinn Fein demand the IRA give up its weapons?" one student wanted to know. "There is no precedent anywhere

in the world that armed groups surrender their weapons," Adams said, pointing out that Sinn Fein does not demand that Loyalist forces or the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) police decommission their guns. "We want to create the conditions where all the guns are permanently taken out of the situation. People have been in the armed struggle because there's no alternative. We want to build the alternative."

Adams pointed out that there are more than 800 Irish political prisoners; that London has renewed the state of emergency in Northern Ireland over the past six months; and that over 300 plastic bullets have been fired at the Irish by the RUC and British forces this year. He said Sinn Fein demands total democratization, the

release of all prisoners — Republican and Loyalist — and total demilitarization of the North through all-party talks.

Another questioner wondered if London's stonewalling on all-party talks would result in some elements of armed groups lashing out violently.

"We persuaded those involved in the armed struggle to stop," the Sinn Fein president said. "I don't think that the peace process is in danger of collapse. But it is under severe pressure."

The Sinn Fein president also scored institutionalized anti-Catholic discrimination, whereby workers who are Catholic are more than twice as likely to face the scourge of unemployment as their Protestant counterparts.

Another student questioned the demand for the release of all political prisoners. Adams reiterated this demand meant Loyalist as well as Republican. "Over 400 civilians have been killed by the British forces. Yet no soldier responsible is in prison at this time," Adams pointed to the example of British army Private Lee Clegg, who was "convicted for the murder of an Irish girl, served two years, is now back in the British army, and has just been promoted."

"The slogan from Falls Road was 'Clegg Out, All Out!' " during street actions protesting his release, Adams reported.

"Sinn Fein and the IRA have the reputation of having a Marxist and socialist ideology," said one student. "Have you moved closer to Clinton and the West?"

"Sinn Fein wants to see an Irish republic," Adams remarked. "Republicanism in the Irish context has been a radical philosophy and should remain a radical philosophy...I consider myself a socialist. Capitalism has done nothing for me. But that's up to the people of Ireland to decide."

Brian Williams contributed to this article.

Help raise \$125,000 for the socialist press

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

Readers and supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* around the world are kicking off a \$125,000 fund-raising campaign for these socialist publications. They are beginning to approach other *Militant* readers they know to ask them to contribute financially to the newspaper that is the working-class voice in politics. The goals adopted in local areas are listed in the accompanying chart.

Several hundred supporters have already made pledges to the Militant Fund. In Philadelphia, "We took a collective goal of \$6,000, and contributors have already paid pledges totaling \$3,000 — half our goal," reported Jon Teitelbaum, local fund coordinator there.

"That makes us confident we'll go over our goal and can raise even more money by reaching out to people we haven't approached yet," Teitelbaum said. He noted that not only longtime readers but a number of new subscribers, as well as workers and youth who pick up the *Militant* periodically, would be happy to make monetary contributions to the paper they support.

The spirit of Philadelphia readers of getting off to an early campaign start is also shared by those in several other cities who are organizing Militant Fund meetings in the first few weeks of the 10-week drive, which concludes December 3.

Those in Des Moines, Iowa, for example, are organizing a fund-raising meeting September 23, the first day of the campaign. The featured speaker at this event is Doug Jenness, who reported for the *Militant* on the recent meetings in Japan on the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-inflicted nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima.

"We also have other people on the panel who really appreciate the *Militant* and want to help explain the value of the paper," said Ardy Blandford of Des Moines. One is former Firestone striker Bob Peters. Another local political activist who wants to speak about his support for the *Militant* is farm activist Larry Ginter.

To publicize the fund campaign and the public meeting, readers in Des Moines have sent a mailing to dozens of local subscribers. "And in the past week we've been going door to door selling the *Militant* and building the fund-raising event," Blandford explained.

"We don't just want to add up the list of existing pledges we have and collect them. We're going to campaign for new contributions from people we never approached before," she emphasized.

The energetic approach taken by Des Moines readers is worth emulating for an added reason. While the overall goal, based on local goals, is \$125,000, the *Militant* actually needs \$130,000 to meet its basic expenses. If contributors pay early and steadily on their pledges, it will be possible to go over the goal and reach \$130,000.

The chart in next week's issue will begin posting the fund contributions received from each city. The deadline for receiving payments to be reflected on the chart is Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

\$125,000

Militant Fund

\$125,000
\$95,000
\$85,000
\$75,000
\$65,000
\$55,000
\$45,000
35,000
\$25,000
10,000

City	Goal
Atlanta	4,500
Birmingham	3700
Boston	5000
Brooklyn	6500
Chicago	7500
Cleveland	2100
Des Moines	3200
Detroit	6750
Greensboro	1800
Houston	3500
Los Angeles	10000
Miami	2500
Morgantown	2600
Newark	6300
New York	7500
Peoria	2000
Philadelphia	6000
Pittsburgh	5000
Salt Lake	3800
San Francisco	10000
Seattle	7000
Twin Cities	6500
Washington, DC	3300
U.S. total	117,050
Greece	50
New Zealand	
Auckland	2470
Christchurch	650
Wellington	80
New Zealand total	3200
Puerto Rico	100
Sweden	750
INT'L TOTAL	121,150

New International no. 7
A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's assault on Iraq
JACK BARNES

Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime
MARY-ALICE WATERS

Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War
SAMAD SHARIF

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

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

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

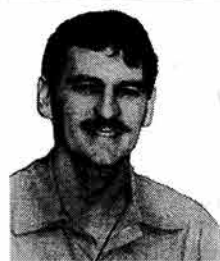
Zip_____

Country_____

Send contributions to The Militant, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Prisoners write support for Mumia Abu-Jamal

FORT MADISON, Iowa — The eyes of prisoners here at the Iowa State Penitentiary, and probably in every prison in the country, have been focused on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal and his fight for his own life. Abu-Jamal's fellow convicts are



Mark
Curtis

watching his case closely for the same reasons that people all over the country and even across the world are: they doubt the evidence prosecutors claimed pointed to Abu-Jamal as the killer of a Philadelphia cop; they are repelled at the arrogance of Judge Sabo, tagged as the "prosecutor in robes;" and they are attracted to Abu-Jamal — the fighter who does not let even

existence on death row discourage him from championing the humanity of the most oppressed.

Inmates here sent a short protest message addressed to Thomas Ridge, governor of Pennsylvania. They hoped that it would also be read at the demonstration in support of Abu-Jamal held recently in Philadelphia. The message reads:

"Sir,
"We protest the scheduled execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Many of us here are familiar with the type of injustice handed out in the court system that prevented Mumia from getting a fair trial. Some of us also have first-hand knowledge of the brutality of the police, like the bullet Mumia received, and of the difficulty in defending oneself against accusations of harming a police officer.

"Mumia's prison conditions, his no-contact visits and being placed in disciplinary for publishing a book about his experiences are offensive to prisoners everywhere and to free speech and humane conditions.

"For these reasons we demand an end to all plans to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal and further that he be granted a new trial."

About thirty men signed the statement, which was sent to the Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The letter was a chance to initiate discussions on the Abu-Jamal case. His book *Live From Death Row* is extremely popular here, with a long waiting list of readers. Most everyone agrees that his commentaries on prison, which are many, are right on the mark. He preaches solidarity among the convicts and recognizes that winning gains in court have a lot more to do with political pressures than good "jailhouse lawyering."

More than anywhere else this has proven true in the fight against the death penalty, which still hangs over Abu-Jamal's head. The recent stay of execution was granted because the government's drive to kill him has been exposed to such a degree that it is a political embarrassment to a state that claims the mantle of "human rights" enforcer of the world.

Like many others, I look up to this man who refuses to crack under the maximum pressure that state can bring to bear. I also note some similarities between his defense campaign and mine: support has materialized from forces broader than those who share his political outlook; it is international; and it has had to contend with a "counter campaign" proclaiming his guilt to potential supporters. This "counter campaign" has not only the police fraternity and state officials in its ranks, but even some liberal and "movement" forces providing left cover.

CORRECTION

The "From Behind Prison Walls" column in issue no. 34 of the *Militant*, titled "Iowa governor and prisons 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.

'You have no idea how valuable these books are'

LONDON — Some 550 book publishers, wholesalers, printers, and distributors participated in the Moscow International Book Fair held in the Russian Exhibition Center September 5-10. Russian publishers were the most numerous, but more than 100 publishers from 27 other, mainly European, countries were also present.

Organized under the theme "Books Serve Peace and Progress," this year's event attracted large crowds, especially on

One librarian said, "It's good to hear Pathfinder is expanding and is now in Russia," as he purchased a copy of the Pathfinder mural poster for display at work.

Books attracting the most attention were Russian-language titles by Leon Trotsky, one of the central figures of the 1917 Russian revolution and the communist leadership during the early years of the revolution. Most people who stopped



Militant/Alan Harris

Reporter interviews Pathfinder representative Carl-Erik Isacson at bookfair

He noted that many people at the fair explained that they have been denied knowledge of their own history for over 60 years due to the suppression of democratic rights under the Stalinist regime. Now that this period has ended, those Russian workers and intellectuals interested in politics who visited the stand found it refreshing that books like those published by Pathfinder are now available.

Other titles which attracted special attention were *Lenin's Final Fight*, *To See The Dawn (Baku 1920)*, and *The Truth about Yugoslavia*.

"Several people who were interested in these titles," Harris said, "expressed opposition to the bloody war waged by the Russian government against the people of Chechnya and were concerned about the war taking place in the former Yugoslavia. Their comments led to a discussion on how Lenin was uncompromising in his opposition to national chauvinism and the repression of national rights within the young Soviet Union.

"One older worker explained that the Russian government's attitude towards Chechnya is similar to that of the British government towards Ireland," Harris said, "and he added that the Russian politicians supporting President Yeltsin will never defeat a determined struggle by workers for democratic rights by the use of force and violence."

All the books by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and Nelson Mandela were sold, as were the books on the American labor movement, Black and African studies, the fight for women's equality, and the struggle against fascism.

A Russian youth studying Farsi purchased a copy of the *Opening Guns of World War III*, recently published in Iran.

Several discussions took place on the Mark Curtis case, the socialist and trade

unionist in the United States imprisoned for defending immigrant workers. "He must be a fighter... like us," said one youth who bought a copy of the pamphlet that tells the truth about Curtis's fight.

A few people who visited the Pathfinder stand were openly hostile, Harris noted, including one who said that, "Stalin, Trotsky, they are all communists and murderers." One older man said the Pathfinder stand promoted communist propaganda and that titles by Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X were "Negro propaganda," which amounted to the same thing.

At the bookfair Isacson was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation's World Service. The interviewer was surprised to see the titles and asked why Pathfinder representatives traveled to Russia to sell books by communists when people now are only interested in books about science, computers, royal families, romance, and fashion?

Isacson replied, "We have found lot of interest in Pathfinder books, the because we publish works by revolutionaries and communists in their own words. People, as you can see, stop by our stand, look at the books, and want to discuss their contents. We have sold 60 percent of the books we brought here and will probably be without books before the fair has ended."

All kinds of books and journals are in demand in Moscow. There are large book shops and libraries, and Pathfinder representatives at the fair saw dozens of literature tables on the streets, often with small crowds around trying to browse or purchase items. Permits are not needed by street vendors, including for sales outside the big downtown book shops. Books in general are fairly popular and affordable since printing is subsidized by the government. A hard back book, for example, sells for \$1 or \$2.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Marcella FitzGerald

the three days it was open to the public. Pathfinder Press participated for the first time, represented by Alan Harris of London and Carl-Erik Isacson from Stockholm.

Harris explained in an interview that the Pathfinder table, which featured books and pamphlets by revolutionary and working-class leaders, was "permanently busy, with people buying literature, or making inquiries about the titles on display. Before the bookfair ended every book in English and Russian on the table had been sold — some 70 titles, including *New Internationals*, the five volumes in the *Communist International in Lenin's Time* series," Harris said.

The warm response was at times overwhelming. Dozens of people thanked the two for coming to the book fair, and they were repeatedly asked to return soon. "Have you a Moscow office?" and "How can I get your books after you have gone?" were common questions.

by the table knew Trotsky was a Bolshevik leader murdered in 1940 by the Stalinist bureaucracy, but few had actually read anything by him.

A librarian told the Pathfinder representatives how important the four-volume *Bulletin of the Opposition* was for her readers and how titles like these are "part of our suppressed history." She bought several books and requested Pathfinder representatives visit the library in Moscow on their next visit.

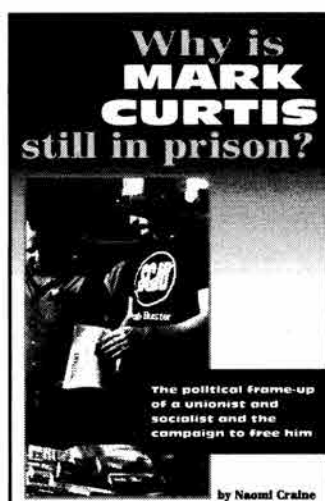
Another librarian who purchased the two-volume work *Stalin* by Trotsky congratulated Pathfinder for making it available. "You have no idea how rare and valuable these books are," she remarked.

It is not accidental that considerable interest was shown in those titles dealing with the early years of the Russian Revolution, the Communist International in Lenin's time, and the struggles of the Left Opposition against the rising Stalinist bureaucracy, Harris said.

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

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

by Naomi Craine



Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa. This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Pamphlet, \$6

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

Reach out for new readers!

Join the Militant
subscription drive

Militant 1,950
Perspectiva Mundial 525
New International 750

S E P T E M B E R 2 3 - N O V E M B E R 1 9

Supporters ready to go on 'Militant' subscription drive

BY NAOMI CRAINE

We're off! With this issue of the *Militant*, supporters of the socialist paper will kick off an ambitious eight-week international drive to sell 1,950 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*. Supporters have also taken goals of selling 525 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and 750 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

To get the drive off to a strong start, socialist workers and youth are mobilizing for a September 23 - October 1 "target week," where a special effort is made to get out to working-class areas, political events, and college campuses.

Supporters in Des Moines report that they are geared up for "a Saturday-Sunday blitz" the first week of the drive, including several regional trips. A team of them will go to Austin, Minnesota, where packinghouse workers at Hormel just rejected a contract offer, to sell the *Militant* door to door.

Another team will be headed for Iowa City, Iowa, to sell at the university there. They will be hitting the trailer parks where many meat-packers live in Perry, Iowa, and travel to Sioux City, Iowa, for a reportback from Cuba by two Native American activists who participated in the recent international youth festival there.

Target week plans

"We've already sold eight or nine subs just setting up Socialist Workers election campaign tables" before the drive starts, said Helen Meyers from Philadelphia. She described some of the issues workers and young people raise at these tables. "There's a lot of discussion about the death penalty and Mumia Abu-Jamal's case," she said. On one recent table "we had a discussion on affirmative action and the fight for jobs for all. Another young woman wanted to discuss the role of Malcolm X — she said the books of his speeches that Pathfinder publishes are just what she's been looking for."

During the target week, *Militant* supporters in Philadelphia plan to travel to York, Pennsylvania, where United Auto Workers members are on strike against Caterpillar. "We'll go to the picket lines, set up tables at a couple of local universities, and also go door to door. The Caterpillar strike has had an impact on the community as a whole," Meyers noted.

While the drive is to sell introductory subs, the campaign atmosphere will encourage many current subscribers to renew. One *Militant* supporter in Philadelphia who sold a subscription to a co-worker at the airport last spring reported the reader gave her his renewal after receiving a notice from the *Militant* that his sub was about to expire. Readers like him will be good candidates to buy the *New International*, which goes more in depth into many questions

taken up in the *Militant*. They are also potential contributors to the Militant Fund, which runs simultaneously with the sub drive.

Supporters in Chicago faxed a note to the *Militant* saying they

chart are planning to take goals. Larry Lane, a laid off General Electric worker said he was sure Albany, New York, will soon be on the chart. "You can see the potential," he said. "I've been in a



Militant/Richard Ariza
Sales table at rally against radar installation at U.S. naval base in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. Supporters around world are taking sub goals.

have taken subscription goals for that week that would put them ahead of schedule in the drive. Several readers there are planning to take a day or more off of work that week to participate in all-day teams.

In Atlanta, Mike Italie reports supporters have been getting into the swing of sales in the week leading up to the drive "by going to working-class areas we haven't been in a long time. For example, last week we sold 14 papers in a short time in one neighborhood where there were a lot of exposures of cop brutality." The Militant Labor Forum the day before the sub drive starts will be on the issue of police brutality.

Young socialists back drive

Tom Alter, a member of the Young Socialists in Bloomington, Indiana, called up the *Militant* to say he and other YS members in that state have decided to take a goal of selling 10 *Militant* subs. "We're encouraging all YS members to get into the drive, including internationally," said Jack Willey, a member of the YS steering committee. Young Socialists can take on their own goal, like in Indiana, "or collaborate with members of the Socialist Workers Party and others if you're in a city where there's already a goal."

The extra strength of young people joining in the drive may mean supporters in some cities can raise their goals.

Militant supporters in several cities who aren't yet listed on the

training program at Hudson Valley Community College with 200 other laid off GE workers. There's thousands of young workers there — the possibilities for political work are almost unlimited." He and other supporters sold nearly \$100 worth of socialist literature at a local Labor Day event. Three workers there bought different issues of *New International*.

"We're going to take our table to a Hispanic fair for the kick-off of the drive and build the October 21 demonstration in New York" protesting Washington's policies against Cuba.

"The Detroit newspaper strike is quite well known around here," Lane noted, discussing other openings for selling subscriptions. "There's a lot happening around Ireland too. Five hundred people came to a commemoration of the cease-fire in Northern Ireland organized by Irish Northern Aid, including a lot of young people," he said.

Supporters in several cities who initially adopted low goals are taking another week to rediscuss them and come up with goals that challenge them to stretch and reach out to new readers for the entire eight weeks of the drive. Readers who are members of various trade unions are also in the process of adopting subscription goals. Members of the United Auto Workers, for example, have taken goals of selling 65 *Militant* subs, 10 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs, and 17 copies of *New International*. Supporters who are

GOALS

	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	New International
United States			
Atlanta	55	18	15
*Birmingham, AL	49	5	15
Boston	40	8	16
Brooklyn	160	50	50
Chicago	65	20	25
Cleveland	40	10	15
Denver	7	3	3
Des Moines, IA	50	25	20
Detroit	65	10	20
Greensboro, NC	55	10	10
Houston	55	20	16
Indiana	10	0	0
Los Angeles	120	75	75
Miami	60	20	30
Morgantown, WV	48	2	
New Haven, CT	5	1	2
New York	120	40	55
*Newark, NJ	126	35	40
Peoria, IL	32	2	8
Philadelphia	75	15	15
Pittsburgh	65	5	15
Salt Lake City	50	15	15
*San Francisco	98	30	60
Seattle	70	15	20
Tucson, AZ	5	2	2
*Twin Cities, MN	74	12	20
Washington, DC	45	15	20
Total U.S.	1644	463	582
Australia	15	3	12
Britain			
London	35	10	25
Manchester	40	1	20
Sheffield	12	1	3
Total	87	12	48
Canada			
Toronto	35	5	20
Vancouver	45	6	20
Montreal	50	12	30
Total	130	23	70
Greece	5	1	4
*Iceland	10	1	3
New Zealand			
Auckland	18	1	5
Christchurch	8	1	3
Wellington	2	0	1
Total	26	2	8
Puerto Rico	2	6	4
Sweden			
Malmö	2	2	1
Stockholm	20	15	20
Total	22	17	21
International Total	1931	527	749

* tentative goal

members of the International Association of Machinists and United Steelworkers of America also sent in their sales targets. Next week's chart will include the goals for sales in the unions.

Get your by-line in this column!

The *Militant* is looking for short articles on how supporters are carrying out the subscription drive.

You can describe where you're selling, who's buying subscriptions, and why they decide to check out a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people.

To get your sales totals into the weekly chart, subscriptions and reports on New International sales must be received in the *Militant* by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

Detroit news strike

Continued from front page

their charges of "picket line violence," which has been their steady chorus since the strike began. The source of continuous violence since the very start, however, has been the lines of police and the company's hired thugs.

Detroit cops joined the battle in large numbers for the first time September 16. Nearly 200 of them — some in riot gear, others in plain clothes and helmets — attacked peaceful pickets at the Riverfront plant, arresting four. "They just came and pushed us against the fence," said Marty Malek, a striking member of Teamsters Local 372. "People were getting clubbed; defenseless people were pushed on top of each other."

Lonnie Spight from United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600 reported being clubbed across the chest. The cops roughed up Jean Godomski, a Newspaper Guild member in her 50s, badly enough to require medical attention.

Meanwhile, to the north, Sterling Heights cops charged repeatedly into the legally assembled crowd. They dragged individuals away for arrest, chased people over lawns and sidewalks in their patrol cars, and prowled the area citing union members on phony traffic violations.

The cops arrested 12 people; several face fines of \$1,500 for allegedly violating the court injunction. The police have turned a blind eye, however, to the criminal actions of professional strikebreakers.

Just like Mark Fuhrman

On two successive Saturdays, DNA thugs drove trucks directly at unionists on the picket lines. Dozens of cops observed these potentially deadly attacks, as well as numerous traffic violations, but made no move to enforce the law. In earlier interviews with the *Militant*, many strikers expressed disappointment and shock at the violent behavior of the companies and the cops. Now, after 10 weeks of picket line experience, they also voice anger.

A popular slogan at Sterling Heights on September 16 was simply "Mark Fuhrman!" — a reference to the Los Angeles officer whose recorded interviews detail the racism, brutality, and frame-up methods that are routine for the cops.

Sterling Heights mayor Richard Nott, a UAW member and a welder at Ford's Mound Road axle plant, is a regular participant at strike rallies. In a picket line interview that night, he defended the city's acceptance of a \$400,000 contribution from the DNA to pay police wages. "If we didn't, the taxpayers would have to bear it," Nott said. "It's better we accept it."

The interview became a debate when striker Ed Zerilli, a Teamsters mailer for 14 years, disagreed with the mayor. "If you didn't accept it, the taxpayers would come down screaming about their money

being used to protect the scabs. But you've let the companies take that out of the equation."

"Treasure Island" — the strikers' name for the Mound Road median strip in Sterling Heights, where cops are stationed for strike duty and draw their overtime pay — was put back into the equation on September 19, when the Sterling Heights city council voted to decline further monies from the struck newspapers. City Manager Steve Duchane, the executive power in Sterling Heights's city government and a strident opponent of the strike, resigned after the vote.

That was welcome news to Teri Sullivan, a mailer at the *Detroit News* and a picket line stalwart. Before the strike she worked 40-hour weeks, but after nine years at the plant she was still designated a "part-time" employee. She thus received no benefits and was not eligible for union membership. Her hourly wage of \$15.97, just shy of what full-timers earn, is one of the DNA's main targets: the papers demanded a 50 percent pay cut from part-time employees. She's represented by the Teamsters local she can't formally join.

'Not winning yet, but hurting them'

On Labor Day, after cops attacked picketers with tear gas and pepper spray, a live television broadcast showed medics flushing Sullivan's eyes. Those images, several people told her, propelled them down to the picket line that night. During a circuit on the picket line, Sullivan assessed the strike this way: "Nobody's winning yet, but we're hurting them."

Many thousands of workers boycott the newspapers, and unionists continue to organize support for the strikers. One Teamsters local maintains a food bank; UAW



Militant/John Sarge

Thousands of strikers and supporters linked arms outside Sterling Heights plant September 2 to block shipment of Sunday paper.

Local 235 at American Axle has scheduled a fundraising fish-fry for September 29. Other labor organizations, including locals of the UAW and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Monroe, Michigan, Labor Council have invited strikers to address their membership meetings.

On September 17 Detroit mayor Dennis Archer and Sterling Heights mayor Nott called for round-the-clock talks to settle the strike. The six striking unions accepted the invitation, but DNA vice-president Tom Kelleher declined. The DNA's refusal to negotiate provoked the strike, and has drawn a finding of unfair labor practices from a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board.

Previously-scheduled talks between the DNA and three newspaper unions are set for September 20-22. Al Derey, chairman of the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions, said "If there's light at the end of the tunnel, this is what we'll see first — you have to talk with each other." Derey also said the striking unions, along with UAW members and other supporters, will organize another Saturday protest at the Detroit Riverfront printing plant on September 23.

Steve Marshall is a member of the United Transportation Union and a railroad conductor at Conrail's Sterling Heights yard. UAW member John Sarge contributed to this article.

Judge Sabo rules against new trial for Abu-Jamal; supporters keep up fight

BY HATTIE McCUTCHEON
AND GLOVA SCOTT

PHILADELPHIA — Hundreds of supporters of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal rallied here September 11 and demanded a new trial for the framed up activist. Judge Albert Sabo issued a ruling September 15 rejecting the appeal because Abu-Jamal "fails to prove by a preponderance each and every claim presented to this court."

The September 11 hearing was held in the "mob room," where an intimidating bullet-proof plexiglass wall separates the judge, lawyers, and Abu-Jamal from reporters and spectators. "They wish to convey that there's danger here," Abu-

Jamal's attorney Leonard Weinglass said. "But the only danger, is the court refuses to disarm the police."

During two hours of summary arguments, lawyers for Abu-Jamal presented their case for a new trial. Weinglass noted that all of the prosecution witnesses interviewed at the scene originally testified to seeing a man flee the scene. It was only after making deals with the prosecution that several changed their original statements.

"We expected this," said attorney Rachel Wolkenstein about the ruling. "The judge gave numerous indications and statements during the course of the hearing that he was going to deny it."

The campaign by the cops and government officials against Abu-Jamal continues in this city. The newly formed chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) at Temple University has been a recent target. After planning to show a video on Abu-Jamal's case, leaders of the group were discouraged to go ahead by university administrators.

In an interview with the *Militant*, Chuck Williams, Vice President of the ACLU said he received final approval and encouragement from Arnold Boyd, the program coordinator to have the meeting. Later, Williams was summoned to a late night conference call with Dr. Valeda Walker, vice president of student affairs, and Rita Calicatt, associate director of student life. They said the program coordinator had overstepped his bounds in encouraging the meeting.

"I'm outraged," said Williams, "and will do everything in my power to see that this situation does not happen again."

Students organized an afternoon rally to protest the denial of their rights. Against the wishes of the university administration, they showed the video to about 20 students in the women's studies department. A campaign was launched to win support for the democratic rights of all students to see the video of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and to read his book.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), lodged a protest with the university over the assignment of *Live From Death Row* by Mumia Abu-Jamal in an entry level English class.

James Wheeler, FOP vice president said, "we understand about academic freedom and aren't trying to bully anyone, but we see this as very insensitive and a slap in the face of all police officers."

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Temple Provost James England explained to Richard Costello, president of the FOP, that he understood their position, but the instructor had the right to choose the books for her course. In response, Costello complained on a late night radio talk show that directing students to buy the book was "requiring people to finance the defense of a convicted killer of police officers, not to mention the open support by Temple University for the murder of police officers."

Labor board rules against textile giant

BY JOAN PALTRINERI

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has ordered a new union certification election at seven Fieldcrest Cannon plants in Cabarrus and Rowan counties in this state.

Among the facilities affected by the ruling is the plant in Kanapolis, the largest textile manufacturing operation in the world according to the company. Fieldcrest's union-busting practices at other plants in North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, and Georgia were also covered by the ruling.

The labor board decided that the new election will not be held on company property as is usually the case for certification elections. Instead, the election would have to be held at a public, neutral site. The company's "objectionable conduct are so egregious and pervasive, the reasons favoring a second election on the Respondent's premises have been substantially undermined," the board said.

The NLRB also ordered the company to cease and desist from its most blatant anti-union practices, listing 45 violations of labor law. The company is required to rehire 14 workers fired for union activity. Four workers demoted are to be reinstated in their previous jobs.

According to officials of the Union of

Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), Fieldcrest could be held liable for \$2 million in back pay for some 4,000 workers employed at the company's unionized plants and for those fired during and after the union campaign in August 1991. During the campaign, the company granted a five-and-a-half percent wage increase to workers in nonunion plants while giving unionized workers a four percent pay raise.

The ruling will give UNITE unprecedented access to company facilities to conduct organizing activities, including the right to respond to company statements about the union on company property. The company is specifically ordered to have the vice-president of human resources, O.L. Raines, either read or be present while another company official reads the 45-point cease and desist order to employees.

In the 1991 election, 3,223 ballots were cast against union representation and 3,034 workers voted for the union. A total of 538 votes were challenged, 391 by the union.

B&C Associates, a public relations firm hired by Fieldcrest, was the target of some of the labor board's harshest criticism. The board said that Fieldcrest is responsible for the content of the advertisements and placards which B&C placed around in

mill areas. Among the "objectionable conduct" cited by the board was an advertisement depicting a nuclear explosion with the caption "There's more than one way to destroy a company."

The violations listed in the 45-point cease-and-desist order include:

- threatening employees with loss of benefits, termination, or plant closure if the union is voted in;
- threatening Spanish-speaking workers with deportation or imprisonment;
- promising unspecified benefits to encourage workers to withdraw support from the union;
- restricting prounion employees from having union literature in their possession at the workplace while others are allowed to have antiunion literature;
- ordering employees to wear antiunion T-shirts;
- restricting prounion employees to their immediate work areas while allowing antiunion employees greater freedom of movement.

UNITE officials have been distributing flyers publicizing the victory against Fieldcrest.

The company has announced that it will appeal the NLRB decision.

Joan Paltrineri is a UNITE member at the Kmart Distribution Center in Greensboro.

'It is important time to talk about Cuba'

Minnesota participants in Cuba youth festival speak out on their experiences

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — Sixty people here, including college and high school students, unionists, farmers, and political activists heard brief, powerful speeches on August 30 from 14 of the 17 members of the Minnesota delegation to the August 1-7 Cuba Lives! festival.

The reportback, sponsored by the Twin Cities Cuba Network, featured the impressions of the diverse group and included an extensive question-and-answer period.

Diverse in age, occupations, and experience, the Cuba travelers were united in a common purpose to defend Cuba after coming back from their trip.

Lisa Rottach, a 27-year-old activist who participated in trips to Cuba sponsored by Pastors for Peace, Freedom to Travel Campaign, and the International Youth Brigade in the past two years, compared the changes over that period, as Cuban working people mounted "resistance to the effects of the embargo, and the collapse of trade with the USSR and Eastern Europe."

"Cuba has turned a corner," she said, with "more food available, fewer [power] black-outs, and a small increase in the economy."

"I'm a novice at all this," Todd Patton, a family practice doctor noted, "but anyone can see that the revolution is alive. People don't say, 'what can I do for me,' but 'what can we do for society.'"

Seeing Cuba with their own eyes

Shane Bastien, a 15-year-old high school student, said he was prepared to debate fellow students, "because I saw with my own eyes a true democracy."

Dan Keyser, a community farmer, said he had countered the argument that Cuba is a dictatorship by explaining what "Cubans vote for in their elections. Not parties or personalities, but rights: the right of farmers to land, of students to free education, of women for their rights, of a people to have their own government."

Kim Kochelmeyer, a prison reform advocate, saw a "culture that gives hope, proof that the planet will survive. But you have to go there to see this."

Megan Arney, a 25-year-old airline worker who quit her job for the trip, had already returned to brief former co-workers on what she saw. She reported on the half-million strong demonstration in support of the Cuban revolution, under a driving rain, that capped the festival.

"Everywhere you turned, there were people from other countries. I started talking to someone," the Young Socialists member said, "and he was from Angola. And Cubans were everywhere. It was the energy of internationalism, marching, and hearing all these languages."

Steve Quintanilla, a printshop worker, quoted from a newspaper article which claimed that "Cuba is virtually closed to outsiders."

"But I saw the opposite. Cuba is open, and the United States is closed to 'outsiders,'" he said.

Amy Roberts, a 19-year-old activist, spent time with members of Cuban women's organizations. She detailed achievements from free and legal abortion



Photo display from Cuba Lives festival draws attention at reportback meeting in Toronto. Festival participants around world are helping defend Cuban revolution.

to inexpensive child care, maternity, and job rights, which are being defended under difficult economic conditions. "If women in the United States want an example to learn from," Roberts said, "they should look to Cuba."

"Thousands of Cuban families took us into their homes," explained Michelle Wiegand, director of a community housing organization. This enabled the activists to deepen the experience of solidarity, which should "inspire us to work in behalf of Cuba."

Wiegand urged the crowd to become active in fighting "the internationalization

of the [U.S. economic] blockade" by opposing congressional measures sponsored by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms and U.S. Representative Phillip Burton to tighten the 34 year embargo against the revolutionary government.

That embargo, Tony Lane said, will not be lifted any time soon. Citing recent articles in the *New York Times*, Lane, a Northwest Airlines ramp worker and member of the International Association of Machinists, quoted a top U.S. government official who termed Cuba "a special case" for ongoing hostility from Washington.

"Why is Cuba a 'special case?'" Lane

asked. The answer came from the response at the closing session of the Cuba Lives! festival, when Cuban President Fidel Castro asked, "Is the power in the hands of the bourgeoisie? Is the power in the hands of the capitalists?" The audience shouted, "NO!"

"Castro explained," Lane said, "that in Cuba, 'power is in the hands of the people, the workers.'"

An example for fighters

This fact is why "Cuba is the example to everyone in every country who fights for justice," said Adriana Sanchez, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota. Sanchez represented the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony of the event.

"People ask me, 'since you're Mexican, why do you support Cuba, why don't you support the Zapatistas?'" she said. "I tell them, Cuba represents the Zapatistas. Cuba represents the immigrants, Cuba represents the homeless, Cuba represents women fighting for abortion rights. Cuba is the message of solidarity to all those who live in a system that is not working for them."

"That is why we should work for Cuba," Sanchez said. "That is why we should go to Cuba to learn about it for ourselves, and why we should bring Cubans here to see the capitalist reality for themselves."

Such outreach has already begun. Mary Swenson, a leader of the Resource Center of the Americas, which cohosted the reportback meeting, opened the event with an offer to utilize the organization's vast secondary education network "to get this information out to the high schools. Now is a very important time to talk about Cuba," she said.

Leader of Cuban artists and writers union set to speak in United States

BY VANESSA KNAPTON

LOS ANGELES — Norberto Codina Boeras, a Cuban poet and editor of the magazine *La Gaceta de Cuba*, will be on a month-long speaking tour in four cities in late September and October to lecture on art and culture in Cuba today. A member of the national council of Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba (UNEAC), Codina will speak in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Houston, and New York.

La Gaceta de Cuba, the publication of UNEAC, is the foremost journal of arts and letters in that Caribbean nation. Its has featured articles and exchanges of opinions on topics from the place of art in the Cuban revolution to the debate on gays in Cuba sparked by the film *Fresa y Chocolate* (Strawberry and Chocolate).

Codina's tour is sponsored by a broad array of academic figures. He has been invited to attend the September 28-30 congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Washington, D.C., by the president of that organization, Cyn-

thia McClintock. Some 2,000 scholars are expected to attend that national gathering. Another prominent host who will attend the LASA congress is Wayne Smith, professor of Latin American Studies at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The Cuban writer has received more than 20 invitations to speak at a number of universities and cultural forums. He has been asked to talk about Cuban arts today, as well as the discussions in Cuba on the role of art in politics. Codina, an award-winning poet, has offered to recite some of his poems as well.

Among those academics who have invited Codina are Catherine Allen, director of the Latin American Studies Program at George Washington University in the U.S. capital; professor Tom Kleven of the Texas Southern University in Houston; professor Daniel Fireside, co-chair of the Cuba-U.S. Academic Consortium at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; and professors at the Latin American Center of the University of California in Los Angeles

(UCLA), to name a few. Also involved in the tour is John Shapley, president of the Graduate Students Association at UCLA.

Codina will speak at several universities in the Washington, D.C., area, including George Washington University and George Mason University. In Los Angeles he will address cultural events at two bookstores, Midnight Special and Arroyo Books. His sponsors are planning a reception for him that will be attended by well-known local Cuban-American artists. Other engagements are set for UCLA, California State University, and Glendale Community College.

In Houston, the mayor's office will declare Codina an "honorary citizen of Houston." The Cultural Arts Council of Houston in Harris County, a municipal arts council that provides funding for cultural activities, has expressed interest in the tour. Another local arts group, Inprint, said it would like to host a citywide event including a lecture and poetry reading. Yet another active sponsor in Houston is the Hispanic Cultures for the Arts, a student organization.

Codina, 43, has been the editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, which is distributed in the United States by Pathfinder Press, since 1988. In the past 20 years several collections of his poetry have been published. *A este tiempo llamarán antiguo* (They Will Call This Time Old-Fashioned) won the David Poetry Award in Cuba. This year the publisher *Unión* will print a poetry anthology edited by Codina, *Los ríos de la mañana* (The Rivers of the Morning). He has previously served on the national council of the Saiz Brothers Brigade, an organization of young Cuban artists and writers.

Those interested in the tour of the Cuban writer and editor can contact the Norberto Codina Lectures Committee, c/o John Shapley, Graduate Students Association, 301 Kerchhoff, University of California, 310 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024; tel: (310) 206-8512; fax: (310) 206-7612.

Cuban youth leader begins UK tour

Continued from front page

CSC at its annual general meeting in April. It follows a successful material aid effort called "Containers for Cuba," which sent an estimated £800,000 worth of aid to the people of Cuba during the summer. This effort touched thousands of people who had never before been involved in activity in defense of Cuba. The aid included educational equipment, hospital beds, work clothes, and mining equipment sent by the National Union of Mineworkers.

Support for Cuba in Ireland

Recent activity organized by the CSC reflects the growing interest in the Cuban revolution in the UK. The group has increased its membership by over one third in the last couple of years.

Similar growth has been recorded in Ireland. During a UK tour by representa-

tives of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, Cuban spokesperson Javier Dominguez traveled to Belfast in Northern Ireland where he met with Sinn Féin leaders and spoke at a public meeting. The Cuba Irish Support Group is following up this successful stopover by organizing an all-Ireland speaking tour in October for Danielo Sanchez, an international officer of the national trade union federation in Cuba.

Stuart Halford, of the CSC, reported at an October 9 meeting to prepare the London demonstration, that the action has so far won the sponsorship of 100 organizations and individuals. Prominent among them is the national health workers union UNISON, which over the past couple of years has sent a number of delegations to Cuba.

The demonstration will march past the

U.S. embassy, demanding an end to Washington's economic blockade. When it reaches Trafalgar Square for a rally, the organizers plan to send a giant postcard, signed by march participants, to Downing Street (the prime minister's residence), demanding that the UK government oppose the US embargo. The UK government claims that it is neutral over the issue and has abstained on United Nations votes regarding the embargo.

In recent years there has been a thawing of relations between London and Havana though the UK government continues to refuse to grant export credit guarantees to firms wishing to trade with, or invest in, Cuba.

Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union and an activist in the CSC.

'Cuban people are citizens of the world'

The article below appeared in the September 5 issue of the *Ball State Daily News*, published at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, under the headline "Trip to Cuba great experience for all who attended conference." The paper also publicized a reportback meeting by the author.

Editor's note: Student Amanda Uрман attended Cuba's International Youth Festival this summer. Below, she shares a day-by-day account of her experiences.

BY AMANDA ULMAN
July 31

I am attending the International Youth Festival in Cuba where 1,500 participants are representing 67 different countries from around the world. This festival was organized to protest the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

The United States has maintained an embargo against Cuba for 36 years — since the beginning of the Cuban revolution. Under the embargo, Americans are not permitted to visit Cuba without special permission; fines and jail time of up to 10 years threaten violators.

Furthermore, Cubans may not trade with American companies; the United States will not trade with countries that trade with Cuba. Because of this blockade, Cuba does not receive the aid which the United States offers to other Third-World countries.

Cuba may not turn to other countries for trade because of the pressures the U.S. government places on all countries which depend on trade with the United States. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Cuba lost most of the trade it had in spite of the blockade. Cuba now lacks many material goods — necessities such as soap, toothpaste and medicine.

Aug. 1

I visited an athletic training center today. Built in 1991, this center trains young men and women in judo, boxing, volleyball, basketball and many other events for world competition. Compared to facilities in the United States, this center seemed rather shabby, yet world class athletes are trained here.

We met the women's judo team, which placed first in all eight divisions at the last Pan American Games. While we were visiting, several 9- and 10-year-old girls from Ecuador were training for gymnastics in the facility. They were from a province that had very little experience with this event.

Cuba sent 40 of its best trainers to that province to train young Ecuadorian women for national and international competition. Cuban trainers are helping young athletes in many countries all over the world. I am truly amazed at Cuba's dedication to helping people who don't live in Cuba and its ability to do so in spite of economic hardships. I am learning that Cubans really consider themselves citizens of the world.

Aug. 2

Today the delegates separated into different provinces of Cuba to stay with Cuban families. When five bus loads of us arrived in San Antonio de los Baños, we were greeted by musicians playing African rhythms and by residents dancing through the streets shouting slogans in support of the revolution and their commander in chief, Fidel Castro.

They were welcoming us all to their city, eager for us to understand the Cuban way of life. I talked to many Cubans today. I did not meet one person who did not support the Cuban revolution. One person I talked to, Felipe, told me that he personally did not like politics but that the vast majority of the Cuban population of 11 million was willing to fight for the Cuban revolution which started more than 35 years ago.

Aug. 3

While visiting a cooperative farm, we learned a lesson in history. Before the revolution, a small percentage of the population had a good life, living in mansions, owning most of the land and supporting gambling and prostitution rings. Very few people had steady jobs; even fewer received any kind of formal education. Most Cubans were homeless, and the people who were lucky enough to have shelter lived in shacks. Health care for Cuban citizens was practically nonexistent.

The Cuban revolution brought many benefits of the Cuban people. No one there goes without a job or a home. Rent can be no more than 10 percent of a person's wages. All people are entitled to free medical care of all types. They have one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world. Every person receives a free education — up through college if so desired.

No wonder the Cuban people are so supportive of their revolution. One more benefit of the revolution, which came as a shock to most of the Americans, is that racism in Cuba simply does not exist. Starting in 1959, racism was systematically eradicated. Citizens embrace culture of all kinds.

Aug. 4

During the past few days, we visited many medical facilities. We went to a re-



Militant/Laura Garza

Cuban workers in agricultural contingent talk with participants in youth festival

habilitation hospital which treats many problems but is specialized in treating cerebral palsy.

We went to a complex for dentistry that, in addition to treating people inside the facility, had a strong presence in the community — treating people in their homes or at school who were unable or afraid to visit the center. We visited a standard hospital which had a traditional medicine wing where a specialist used acupuncture to treat different medical problems.

I personally experienced free medical care in the office of a family doctor. In San Antonio, a family doctor has an office every two blocks. I knew I was getting the best medical care I could have. Cuba has some of the best medical facilities in the world. Treatment is free and available for all people, even to those from other countries who survived disasters like the Chernobyl meltdown.

Aug. 5

On Aug. 5, 1994, a failed attempt by a few people to hijack a boat and sail to the United States sparked an impromptu demonstration by Cuban citizens. A few thousand people ran into the streets to show support for the Cuban revolution.

This year, a modest estimate of 500,000 people marched through the streets of Havana to commemorate last year's demonstration, to protest the U.S. blockade, support the revolution and show support for

Fidel Castro, a leader of the revolution.

About 260 people from the United States, the largest delegation of the festival, lead this march through torrential rains. The most popular chants of the demonstration were "Cuba yea, blockade no" and "Long live Fidel, long live Cuba."

Talking to demonstrators, I learned that Cubans do not see Fidel as the strength of the revolution but only as a symbol of its strength. They say that when Fidel is no longer able to serve as commander in chief, there are others just as competent to take his place.

Aug. 6

I learned many things during the past week. Cuba has a lot of problems because of the blockade and because of some problems in government from influences of the Soviet Union. There are parasites of the system who give little manpower and steal from true workers; doctors worry about the nutritional levels of citizens; people need basic necessities such as toothpaste and soap.

Cuba has no comparison to poverty in the United States: all people of Cuba can afford culture, can feed their families and have roofs over their heads. I have never experienced such a strong sense of community as I experienced in Cuba. 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.

— YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD — Detroit strike, Cuba are part of class struggle

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join, write P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009. Tel: (212) 475-6482, Fax: (212) 388-1659.

BY TOM ALTER

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana — On Labor Day weekend September 2-4, members of the Young Socialists from Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit; Bloomington, Indiana; Washington, D.C.; and the Twin Cities, Minnesota, came to Detroit to be a part of the national Labor Day weekend mobilization in support of the Detroit newspaper strike. The labor movement scored a victory that weekend. As members of the Young Socialists, we have visited many picket lines. For many of us though, this was the first time we witnessed the power of labor organized in such a militant and nonviolent fashion as to, in effect, close down a plant for 18 hours. It was a victory that we will never forget.

The actions of the night of September 2 were led by rank-and-file unionists. The strikers were there for one reason: to hold the picket line and prevent the paper from getting out. The over 200 police armed in riot gear were there for one reason: to break the picket line and get the paper out. The strikers, by using their social weight as part of the majority of the world's population — the working class, won the battle.

This was a victory that not only workers will notice, but young people as well. This was seen as dozens of young people stopped their normal Saturday night activities to come to the picket line and help to keep the paper from getting out.

Upon returning to Bloomington at a Cuba Lives reportback meeting held on September 6, I related my experience in Cuba to my experience in Detroit the previous weekend. I stated how in the 1950s the Cuban people banded together to fight against the bosses and now control their own country. I then pointed to Detroit to show what we can do here in the United States when only 3,000 workers bonded together.

The meeting was a success, with 25 people attending. After the meeting a student approached me stating he wanted to go to Detroit to see the strike for himself. That weekend the two of us along with another student from Indiana University (IU) went to Detroit.

Once again we witnessed the strength of the strike. We also saw the solidarity and support the strike had won from the around the area. When we returned to Bloomington we held our reportback meeting on what we saw in Detroit. At the meeting another student was attracted to the strike and joined us in building solidarity on campuses for the strike.

Building solidarity for the strike has become one of our main goals as we participate in events such as the Take Back the Night march here at IU, having a weekly Pathfinder literature table on campus, and continuing to build for the October 21 demonstration in New York to end the blockade of Cuba.

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Youth discuss impact of embargo on Cuba

Major Cleveland daily carries reportback from Cuba Lives! youth festival

The article below appeared in the September 4 issue of the Cleveland Plain Dealer under the headline "Students see effects of Cuban embargo." The author participated in the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival in August.

BY CECILIA ORTEGA

Cleveland Heights High School

More than 1,300 youth delegates from 67 countries participated in the weeklong Cuba Vive (Lives) International Youth Festival that began Aug. 1.

It was organized by the Union of Young Communists, a Cuban national organization of young people between 14 and 26. Among the countries represented were Brazil, Mexico, Italy, Britain and Viet-

nam.

The U.S. delegation was the largest with 250 participants. Many were politically active high school and university students and workers interested in seeing Cuban life. Young workers and students went to Cuba to oppose the U.S. government's economic embargo against Cuba.

For four days festival participants stayed in Havana, where we visited factories, hospitals, cultural centers, sports facilities and schools. For the remaining three days we visited provinces and lived with Cuban families.

Festival participants exchanged ideas and views on employment, education, health, childhood, the environment, cultural and national identity, and democracy.

During my stay in Havana, I visited a construction site. Others visited a ship repair yard, a sheet metal factory, a dairy plant, sugar and flour mills, and a sanitarium for AIDS patients.

At the construction site we talked with workers and learned about the economic problems facing Cubans. This sparked a discussion about the U.S. economic embargo, the immense hardships it creates, and how Cubans are dealing with the economic crisis.

The U.S. government's 35-year embargo restricts the trade of all food, medicines, supplies and equipment of U.S. origin to Cuba. The U.S. government has also threatened to impose sanctions on countries that do business with Cuba.

The economic embargo is at the heart of

U.S. policy toward Cuba designed to isolate the Cuban economy. We witnessed the realities of the economic crisis and how the embargo affects the Cuban people. The economic crisis deepened since the collapse of the Soviet bloc, which provided economic support for Cuba. The most exciting point of the Cuba Viva Festival was a march of about half a million people in Havana to protest the U.S. embargo Aug. 5. Marchers filled the Malecon — the boulevard that runs along the waterfront — with thousands of colorful banners and flags. After the march everyone gathered to hear speakers and enjoy bands.

The festival ended with the participants agreeing to spread the word about their experiences in Cuba.

Reprinted from



COMMUNITY BEAT

For a group of young travelers, 'Cuba Lives'

By NANCY C. MORAN

El Daily News Staff Writer

Jack Willey's raison d'être is to "fight for socialism." The 20-year-old garment worker made good on that promise by challenging the government's travel sanctions on Cuba and heading off to Havana this summer to attend the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival.

"It's a week long event hosted by Cuba in Havana and various provinces," said the young political activist. "I wanted to see what was going on in Cuba and to go to the countryside to meet the people."

The international event is held every six years with the purpose of uniting youth throughout the world to share experiences, discuss different issues — from education to women's issues — meet young Cubans, and of course, participate in a global past time, partying.

This year's festival, which ran from August 1 to 7th, brought together young people from 67 countries, reported San Francisco-based Global Exchange, a non-profit organization advocating the right to travel.

The U.S. Government issued travel regulations, among other asset controls on Cuba, in the Trading With the Enemy Act of July 8, 1963. The basic goal of the sanctions is "to isolate Cuba economically and deprive it of U.S. dollars."

Therefore, legal travel to Cuba may only be routed through Miami International Airport and is limited to journalists, officials of the U.S. Government, foreign governments or intergovernmental organizations of which the U.S. is a member, and specially licensed individuals.

Hamilton Dix, a spokesperson for the Office of Foreign Assets Control, which administers the sanctions, stressed



VENTURERS, Jack Willey (left) and Joya Lonsdale took off to Cuba this summer to attend the 'Cuba Lives' International Youth Festival in Havana.



impression was that of the people. There's was confidence in them. I saw confidence in the kids," said Lonsdale.

But not everyone approved of challenging the travel sanctions. Ninoska Pérez, a spokesperson for the Miami-based Cuban American National Foundation, warned that "the money they spend there goes to the Cuban government, not to the people. The money is used for repression."

"I wanted to see what was going on in Cuba and to go to the countryside to meet the people."

The Cuba Information Project, one of the four headquarters of the National Network on Cuba, an umbrella organization joining political, social and church groups throughout the nation, organized the trip for some 170 youths from the Northeast. Willey admits that most of the travelers used "a third country, like Mexico, or the Bahamas" to reach their final destination, Cuba.

Cuba's President Fidel Castro addressed the visitors on Saturday, August 5th. According to Willey, Castro said the economy is on the upswing and that he was grateful for the youth festival and "proud of the U.S. Delegation."

that "there is no travel ban per se, but rather a ban on financial transactions."

Rodrigo González, Program Director for the group which launched the Freedom to Travel Campaign, informed that the 262-strong U.S. delegation was the biggest with

representatives from every state.

Willey, a Michigan native who first became interested in political issues in high school and is currently a member of the Young Socialists, took time off from his 60-hour-per-week job as a garment presser to at-

tend his first Youth Festival with the New York Delegation.

It was also the first for 24-year-old Joya Lonsdale, a production assistant at a New York publishing house. "I wanted to go simply because I had done some reading about Cuba in college. My greatest

S. African student fights for justice in Utah

Thabo Mzilikazi denied presumption of innocence in sex abuse trial

BY LISA HICKLER

OGDEN, Utah — A two-day trial here ended September 13 when a 2nd District Court jury cleared Thabo Mzilikazi of a felony sex abuse charge, but convicted him of "gross lewdness," a misdemeanor. The jury of five women and three men deliberated five hours before returning a verdict. There were no Blacks on the jury. The sentencing hearing will be held in late October.

Mzilikazi, a 24-year-old Weber State University student, is a member of the African National Congress of South Africa. At the age of 13 he was imprisoned without trial for a year because of his participation in the struggle against the apartheid system. In 1993, just prior to the first democratic elections in South Africa, he was invited by dozens of universities and organizations to tour the United States as a representative of the African National Congress Youth League.

Mzilikazi later returned to the United States as a student at Weber State. He was employed as a counselor on campus at the Quest program which recruits and assists Black, Chicano, and Asian students in science programs at Weber State. Mzilikazi has also been well-known on campus as an artist whose work reflects the themes of the struggle in South Africa. He was chosen by Weber State to become an "artist in residence."

Case rested on word of accuser

Sexual abuse charges were filed against Mzilikazi based on a report made to police by a New York state university student. She visited Utah in June and stayed with a friend in the same Weber State University dormitory where Mzilikazi lived at the time. The student accused Mzilikazi of pushing her onto a bed and groping her body against her will during a visit by her to his dorm room on the morning of June 13. Mzilikazi testified that the woman briefly visited his room to look at his art work and then left without incident.

The prosecution's case rested solely on the testimony of Mzilikazi's accuser, despite numerous inconsistencies in her story. Her testimony at the trial differed in a number of critical points from her testimony at the pre-trial hearing. No evidence was presented to back up her claim.

The defense challenged the scenario presented by the prosecution. For example, by the woman's account the events would have occurred over a span of about 50 minutes to an hour. Witnesses placed Mzilikazi at the dorm for no more than twenty minutes before he left for work. The cramped space in the dorm room and the unusual height of dormitory beds would make it a physical impossibility to push someone onto the bed as she testified.

During the trial it became clear that the police department never considered the possibility that Mzilikazi might be telling the truth in his account of the June 13 events. In the transcript of a police interrogation read to the jury, a cop tells Mzilikazi that the police already know what happened and he should stop lying. In an attempt to coerce a confession, police told



Thabo Mzilikazi (center) with supporters in front of courthouse in Ogden, Utah.

Mzilikazi that the woman's clothes were at the crime lab and contained physical evidence which would tie him to the crime. In the trial, police officer Angie Okamoto admitted that the clothes did not have any evidentiary value for the prosecution. Okamoto also told the jury that the police never interviewed any witnesses who could have corroborated any aspect of Mzilikazi's version of the day's events but instead arrested him immediately after the interrogation.

Prosecutor Les Daroczi said in his closing argument that the key issue in the case

was credibility. He called on the jury members to use their "gut instinct" to decide whether to believe the defendant's testimony or that of his accuser.

Defense Attorney Kent Winward argued that the prosecution had not proved its case against Mzilikazi. He pointed out that rape and attacks on women are horrible crimes. But justice is not served if innocent people can be convicted simply because someone points a finger. The law requires a jury to assume a defendant's innocence. Guilt must be established by the prosecution proving its case beyond a rea-

sonable doubt.

A Thabo Mzilikazi Defense Committee was organized in the weeks leading up to the trial. It enlisted the support of fellow students, professors, and civil rights and community organizations.

About twenty supporters attended the trial. One person showed up at the trial after reading about it in the local paper. After listening to the trial for a while she handed a \$100 contribution to a defense committee member.

Buddy Beck, a member of the defense committee, reacted to the verdict by saying, "What we had here was a partial victory. The prosecution was hell-bent on a felony conviction. One of the grossest injustices of the case is the way the cops weren't concerned in any way, shape, or form with granting the possibility of innocence. They didn't bother checking out his alibis. They had this guy, and they were going to convict him."

Beck pointed out that Mzilikazi was initially accused of the more serious charges of attempted rape, attempted kidnapping, and forced sexual assault. The charges were later reduced when supporters began organizing to defend Mzilikazi. His bail, which was initially set at \$40,000, was finally reduced to \$10,000. Mzilikazi spent 31 days in jail until supporters could raise the bail money.

Winward called on Mzilikazi's supporters to continue to rally behind him. "Otherwise," he said, "the whispering voice of one person will land us in jail and require us, not to defend, but to prove our innocence to a society that has lost sight of the precious presumption of innocence."

Lisa Hickler is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1366.

Curtis wins support at women's forum

BY MAGGIE TROWE

HUAIROU, China — "I've heard about this case in Canada," said one participant at the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum on Women as she read the leaflet on the campaign for parole for Mark Curtis. Another said she had helped win support for Curtis in Denmark.

Curtis is a socialist and union activist who was framed up on rape and burglary charges in Des Moines, Iowa. He has been in prison since 1988 and supporters of his case are gathering letters to go before the Iowa Board of Parole to demand Curtis be released on parole.

Many NGO forum participants had never heard of Curtis, but were interested in the case when they received the information Curtis supporters were distributing in the Global Pavilion of the forum.

A student from Hong Kong brought several friends by the Youth tent to see the video on Curtis's case. A few others joined the four youth from Hong Kong in watching the video. After seeing the video they wanted to know more about the conditions of workers in the United States, about how the U.S. justice system works, why a jury would find Curtis guilty and



Curtis supporter at women's conference in China tells of case in Global Pavilion tent

what socialists in the United States do today.

The reaction of a number of women was, "How could this injustice have happened in the United States?"

Curtis supporters described how Curtis is considered a dangerous man by the bosses and the government — he was and remains an active opponent of racism and someone who speaks out for the rights of

immigrant workers, farmers, and victims of police brutality. They pointed to others who have been framed up in the United States in recent years, such as Leonard Peltier, a Native-American activist, and Mumia Abu Jamal.

Thirty-five people signed a letter to the Iowa Parole Board demanding Curtis be released on parole. Several women took extra material on the case to reproduce and distribute when they returned to their countries. This new support for Curtis's parole campaign included women from Pakistan, Venezuela, Tanzania, Ireland, India, South Korea, Morocco, and the United States.

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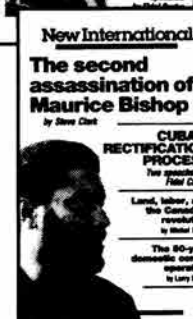
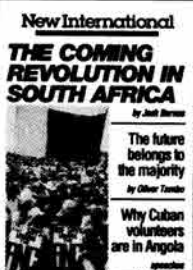
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Locked out workers win support in Ohio

BY SHEILA OSTROW

WARREN, Ohio — Some 1,000 union members and others rallied here September 17 in support of locked out United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union locals 1375 and 6824. The union members were locked out by WCI Steel August 31.

The demonstration was organized by the Women's Committee, which is made up of women union members and spouses of union members. Volunteers of the Women's Committee take four-hour shifts to prepare meals for the pickets, answer phones, and write letters. They are also making black arm bands for union members to wear honoring Larry Jenkins, a co-worker who died after suffering a heart attack on the picket line.

The march was organized from the police station to the WCI gate and back to the Court House. The majority of signs were handmade. "Women of steel, women of iron. We will prevail," read one. Another spelled out the letters "MAUB" meaning Mothers Against Union Busters. Workers belonging to a number of unions were on hand for the protest. One of the most popular T-shirts said "Hear Me Roar, Local 1375."

"We are all united. WCI will never break the union," said Susan Burkhammer, a union member and program coordinator, welcoming everyone. "This is a union town. Solidarity will work."

"WCI was trying to break the union," explained Rosalind, a rally participant

who has worked at the mill for five years. "There has been great support. I never thought it would be like this." Ten percent of the workers in the mill are women.

Several hundred steelworkers mobilized September 13 to shut down the mill after a strikebreaker ran his vehicle into the picket line.

At about 7 p.m. that day, a strikebreaker, Vincent Fayson made an illegal right turn from the left lane of Pine Street into the plant. The rear bumper of his van caught onto the front bumper of a striker's pickup truck in the right lane. Instead of stopping, Fayson ploughed ahead into the picket line and hit striker Walter Mintus, who was pulled under the van and then under the pickup truck and dragged 40 feet. It took five people to lift the truck off Mintus, who is now in fair condition in the hospital.

Workers were outraged by this violence. A large crowd of strikers, joined by Steelworkers from Copperweld, another steel mill in Warren, stopped all traffic in and out of the mill. Police arrested two Steelworkers and two employees of the strikebreaking outfit Nuckles were hospitalized. One of the Steelworkers was released and the other paid a \$50 fine for a third degree misdemeanor. Both were from the USWA local at Copperweld.

This upsurge forced the company to declare a moratorium on moving steel or materials in or out of the plant. The moratorium expired on September 17. The Nuck-



Militant/Sheila Ostrow

March organized by Women's Committee in support of locked out WCI workers

les thugs who were parked in pickup trucks just inside the plant entrance were also forced to retreat about 50 yards back from the entrance. Nuckles Security and WCI security have kept a low profile.

The company is still itching for a fight. Workers on the picket line described how WCI put up \$300,000 worth of new fencing shortly before the strike and brought in washers and dryers to be used by the scabs. "Money was never the issue," explained one picketer. Instead the key issues are ensuring that any new owner will have to recognize the union, and pension rights. Far from losing money, WCI is one of the most profitable steel making outfits in the United States.

Even though it locked the workers out,

WCI is attempting to deny them unemployment benefits. Management sent a letter to the workers asking why they were not showing up for work. Union leaders told the workers to ignore the letter.

On the afternoon of September 15, the courts issued an injunction limiting the union to 18 picketers at the front gate of WCI and eight at the back gate. While this is about how many were normally at the gates, it is far short of the numbers that were needed to stop movement in and out of the plant during the mobilization on September 13.

Sheila Ostrow is a member of USWA Local 1835 in Pittsburgh. Tony Prince of Cleveland contributed to this article.

Auto workers, Caterpillar resume negotiations

BY STEPHEN BLOODWORTH AND DAVID MARSHALL

PEORIA, Illinois — As talks continue between Caterpillar and negotiators representing 9,500 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union, strikers at Caterpillar's central Illinois plants are hopeful that the negotiations will result in a contract that will end their 15-month strike.

Union and company negotiators met September 14 in Peoria. Caterpillar had suspended talks two weeks earlier after shots were fired at the houses of two company executives here August 30.

UAW leaders quickly condemned the shootings. International president Stephen Yokich said in a written statement, "Such actions are completely contrary to the policies of the UAW and the values for which we stand."

"What could any union member have to gain from stopping the negotiations?" asked Tom Cook, a striker with 17 years at Caterpillar's East Peoria facility, at a Labor Day picnic near Peoria. "We want a fair contract and to get back to work."

Negotiations proceed to local issues

After a 10-minute meeting on September 15, the two sides announced that local union and management negotiators would meet in the next week to address local issues at each plant, and that national bargaining would resume in the near future.

UAW members struck Caterpillar in June 1994 over a series of unfair labor practices.

There were a number of major issues left unresolved when negotiations in Indianapolis broke down in March including wages, the duration of the agreement, and the expansion of two-tier wages to plants other than the Morton, Illinois, parts plant, where new hires start at \$7 an hour.

Caterpillar has also demanded that union members returning to work adhere to "Standards of Conduct" that prohibit workers from wearing union T-shirts, participating in rallies on company property, and using the word "scab."

Hours before negotiations were to begin on September 14, the Peoria *Journal Star's* banner headline announced, "UAW may End Strike Without Contract." The paper cited unnamed union sources who said Yokich told the union's central bargaining committee that sending the strikers back to work without a contract might be the best course if the negotiations in Peoria failed to result in an agreement.

"I believe our union will not send us back without a contract," said Bill Wheat, a member of Local 974 who is on strike from Caterpillar's LL Building complex in East Peoria. "The strike would have been for nothing."

"The majority of our members have told me that they don't want to go back without a contract," says Larry Solomon, president of Local 751 at Caterpillar's Decatur, Illinois, plant. "But this is one alternative that we might have to consider if we can't get an agreement," he added.

Solomon says he is hopeful that the

talks Caterpillar and his local will enter into on September 21, will bring the two sides closer to a national agreement. "If we can get consensus on some of the local issues — safety questions, overtime, and so on — then maybe we can make progress on a central agreement," he said.

Strikers at Caterpillar's York, Pennsylvania, plant also expressed opposition to returning without a contract. "I don't think going back is the right thing," Local 786 member Marlin Douglas told the *Militant* in a phone interview.

"It seems to me like we would be caving in to the company. As I understand it, we would be working again under CAT's 'final offer,'" he said, referring to the conditions workers endured during the period they worked without an agreed to contract with the company. "I won't go back under those conditions, even though I've got just two years to retirement."

On September 13, the day before negotiations began in Peoria, Local 974 members presented UAW international officials with a petition stating that the signers did not want to return to work without a contract.

"The membership wanted to let the international know where we stand," Tom Smith, a member of Local 974 from the Mossville engine plant, explained. "The petition said that we don't want to go backwards from our last contract, and that we want them to resolve the unfair labor practices so that we can go back to work knowing that we'll be treated decently."

Teamsters on strike at largest car hauler

BY BOB MILLER

NEWARK, New Jersey — Five thousand members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) at Ryder Systems went on strike September 7 and set up pickets at 80 of the company's terminals. The two key issues in the strike are opposition to the company's expansion of nonunion hauling operations and the introduction of a two-tier wage system for new hires.

The union is targeting Ryder, the largest car hauler for auto companies in the United States. Seven thousand Teamster-organized drivers are continuing to work at seven other major auto transporters represented by the National Automobile Transporters Labor Division (NATLD). Ryder Systems trucks transport about 6 million new vehicles a year, including about 65 percent of over-the-road ship-

ping for General Motors nationwide.

Union members have been working without a contract since May. Negotiations with the NATLD broke off September 1.

The companies' demand for a two-tier wage scale was a major issue for the drivers and their families picketing Ryder's Chicago Heights, Illinois, terminal September 9. If the Teamsters let wages for the new hires drop to 65 percent of the regular rate, they said, the trucking bosses would press to make that the industry standard.

For Bill Roozee, a striker with 10 years at Ryder and a member of IBT Local 710 in Illinois, the company demands were unacceptable. He added, "At one time [car hauling] actually ranked ahead of hauling explosives for the number of drivers hurt. The job of loading and unloading rigs has

become more complex in the last ten years, as the average load increased from seven or eight cars to as many as 14."

Strikers at the Ryder subsidiary Commercial Carriers Inc. in Edison, New Jersey, adjacent to the Ford assembly plant there, emphasized the importance of a contract provision to "follow the work," in order to keep the hauling jobs union if another owner or operator takes over. The IBT charges that Ryder is backing off from a "work-preservation" provision in the last contract, designed to control and limit auto deliveries by nonunion subsidiaries of Ryder and some other companies.

Bob Miller is a member of United Auto Workers Local 980, in Edison, New Jersey. Johanna Ryan from Chicago contributed to this article.

"We've had to fight the cops, the lawyers, the state's attorneys, and the judges on the question of our union rights," Wheat said. "We can't give Caterpillar the right to dictate what we wear and say."

Strikers spirits remain high and they continue to point to the worthiness of their fight. A recent letter to the editor of the Peoria *Journal Star* from Phil Euler, of UAW Local 2096 in Pontiac, Illinois, explained:

"Even though the last 14 months, due to this bitter labor dispute, have meant changing our lifestyles, my family and I have survived," he wrote. "I can hold my head up when I walk down the street. I sleep well at night. I am at peace with myself that I stood for what is right and helped to hold that line! That is what's in it for me! I haven't sold my soul to the devil for 30 pieces of silver."

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.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Truth About Why The United States Dropped the Bomb. Speakers: Rick Walker, member, Transport Workers Union, just returned from Japan as part of a U.S. delegation to the antinuclear conferences to mark the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Frame-Up of Mumia Abu-Jamal. A panel discussion with a new video by the British Broadcasting Service. Speakers: Miami Activists in the fight against the death penalty; supporter of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sept., Fri. 29, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Justice for Joseph Gould! The Fight Against Police Brutality in Chicago and Nationwide.

CALENDAR

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Eyewitness Report Back from Cuba Lives! International Youth Festival. Mon., Oct. 2, 7 p.m. Hear: Shelly Statum, participant in Cuba Lives! Festival from Birmingham. *La Vase Fine Food*, 328 16 St. North. Sponsored by the Birmingham Network on Cuba. For more information, call (205) 324-7420 or (205) 324-1577, or write 1061 Hilltop Parkway #G, Birmingham, AL 35204.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford

Rumba por Cuba. Fund-raiser for the Greater Hartford Coalition on Cuba. Live music, and food. Presentation by Esteban Pérez with video on the international youth festival held in Cuba in August. Proceeds to support October 21 demonstration against the U.S. economic blockade and to send medical aid to Cuba. Sat., Oct. 7, 5 to 8 p.m. Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St. Donation: \$10. For more information, call (860) 286-9963.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Eyewitness Report from Cuba Barbeque. Hear: Robert Shields, member of United Auto Workers who participated in the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival in Cuba in August. Sun., Oct. 1, 3 to 7 p.m. 496 Mellview Rd., S.W. Donation: \$5. For more information, call (404) 728-6075, or (404) 758-1125.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Protest. 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 information, call: (717) 463-4770.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Report from Cuba Lives International Youth Festival. Activists from Philadelphia will speak about their experiences, including participation in march of one-half million Cubans in Havana, August 5. Photo display and excerpt from festival video will be shown. Tue., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. Taller Puertorriqueño, 2557 N. Fifth St. For more information, call (215) 426-0364.

Pittsburgh

Conference on Public Policy in Cuba. Panels and discussion with more than 20 different Cuban scholars from the University of Havana and other institutions. Oct. 1-3. Opening session Sun., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. Sponsors include Center for Latin American Studies and Latin American Studies Association. *Forbes Quadrangle, University of Pittsburgh.* For more information, call (412) 648-7391.

Speakers: John Donahue, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Rev. Tolo Emani, Universal Human Rights Organization; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Why Working People Should Oppose Scapegoating Immigrants. Panel discussion. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Circulate and Fund the Militant Newspaper! Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (corner of Raymond Blvd.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Yugoslavia Today: U.S./NATO Escalate War in Bosnia. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.

U.S. Senate joins attack on welfare

Continued from front page

rolled in Medicaid programs, which cover about 75 percent of all nursing home residents. Nearly 18 million children depend on medical treatment through Medicaid. The Senate measure would give each state a predetermined lump sum or "block grant" dubbed "Medigrants" to use at its discretion.

Commenting on the bipartisan assault on Medicaid, Stephen McConnell, of the Alzheimer's Association told the *Washington Post*, "No one. No matter how frail, how impoverished, will any longer have any guarantee of help."

The welfare legislation bars almost all immigrants from receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits and prohibits new immigrants from taking part in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs for five years. A similar, but even more restrictive, version of the bill was already approved by the House.

Scapegoat women on welfare

The Senate voted to exclude provisions that prohibit cash assistance to unmarried mothers under 18 as well as denying additional benefits to mothers who have more children while on welfare. This will be left up to state administrations to determine the policy. Both measures are a part of the House version of the bill.

Aiming to scapegoat women on welfare for the capitalist government's budget crisis, Senator Phil Gramm, a presidential ri-

Classes: Sun., Oct. 1, 1 p.m. Discussion of the speech of Fidel Castro at the Cuba Lives festival in August. Starting on October 8, each Sunday there will be discussions on the new Pathfinder book *Lenin's Final Fight*, which discusses the fight against Stalinism. All events held at 1906 South St. Donation: Forum: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

BRITAIN

London

The Fight for Women's Rights Around the World - Report back from Beijing. Speaker: Shellia Kennedy, member of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers Union. Sat., Oct. 7, 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.

GREECE

Athens

The World Economic Crisis and the Fight for Immigrant Rights. Speakers Samsideen Iddrisu-Pan African Association of Greece; Ronald McCarthy, Representative of the Philipino garment workers at Alexander Fashions; Georges Mehrabian, International Forums; Kostas Argalotis, Immigrant and Refugee social Support Network. Sat., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. *Alkamenous 171/Thiras, Atikis Square.* Auspices: International Forums & Pan African Association of Greece.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Struggle of Tamils in Sri Lanka Today. Speaker: Victor Ragupathy of the New Zealand Tamil Society. Fri., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. *La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road.* Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

val of Dole, said he would fight to include these draconian measures. "We've got to get a provision that denies more and more cash benefits to women who have more and more babies while on welfare," he said.

The Aid to Families with Dependent Children was one percent of the 1995 budget U.S. president Clinton submitted to Congress.

Clinton lauds legislation

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Clinton lauded the legislation as a way to "promote work and protect children." Clinton, who pledged in his election campaign to "end welfare as we know it," has made "reform" of entitlement programs a center of his domestic policy since coming into the White House. At the same time he continues to posture as a defender of the poor by threatening to veto a final welfare bill if it contains the more restrictive provisions passed in the House bill.

Clinton also vowed to veto the Republican led effort to cut \$270 billion on Medicare spending, the program that guarantees health care costs for retired workers and others. He called the plan "a load of bull" that would finance tax cuts for the wealthy. "I would have no choice but to veto them," Clinton said September 16 at a meeting of senior citizen activists invited to the White House.

A few days later, at a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raiser of 600 campaign supporters in Philadelphia September 19, Clinton

stressed that Medicare costs must be cut. The big business politician, who promotes an image as a champion of health entitlements, has proposed to cut \$124 billion from Medicare.

The Republicans' Medicare projection involves making automatic cuts in payments to doctors, hospitals, and health plans, as well as attempting to push elderly people into health maintenance organizations (HMO) and other private insurance plans.

Both ruling class parties are pushing for cuts to Medicare, which benefits 37 million people. But they have not been able to generate much support from working people or middle class layers for these attacks and are wary of possible political fallout.

A major overhaul of the Medicare system is "absolutely at the heart of what we're trying to do," Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich told *Newsweek* recently. But even in his home district of Smyrna, Georgia, he received a lukewarm response to that idea. On September 16, Gingrich asked a crowd of 200 there how many backed his views on cutting back the Medicare entitlement and only about half those at the meeting raised their hands.

"I think they're going to drive most of us into H.M.O.'s and H.M.O.'s are inherently a poor system of medicine," Virgil Rogers a 68-year-old retiree at the meeting told the *New York Times*. "They seek to save costs at the expense of quality," he added.

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Quote of the week — "It is generally said that the Constitution dies a little bit each time Judge Sabo walks onto the bench." — An evaluation of the judge in the Abu Jamal case by



Harry Ring

Bruce Franzell, head of the Philadelphia Bar Association's commission that rates judicial performances.

Probably so — "I think Sabo should be elected to the judicial hall of fame." — Richard Costello,

pres of Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, of which Sabo is an former member.

Someone to salute — Kim Sun-myung was released from a South Korean prison in August after doing 43 years, including solitary, beatings, and torture, for refusing to recant his support for North Korea. Taken on a tour of Seoul, he said, "These tall buildings are the labor of poor people. Did you ever see rich people digging on a construction site? The fight against poverty goes on."

Creamed chicken — A Virginia judge ruled that Marshall Lineberry was entitled to jobless benefits even though Volvo suspended him for fighting. Volvo has a person in a rooster costume to "playfully" hassle workers who

are late. One day he went after Lineberry, who grabbed him by the gullet. The judge said the workers so hated the practice that someone else would have gone for the "rooster" if Lineberry hadn't.

How about passenger/crew life cycle? — A September 14 AP dispatch said: "With a patched-up computer and crossed fingers, federal aviation officials hoped for a better day at [Chicago's] O'Hare International Airport. For the sixth time in the past year, controller of a six-state air traffic region struggle...with a major computer failure." A fed explained that the primary computer, 25 to 30 years old, has "lived beyond its normal life cycle."

Enlightened blood-suckers — A recent socially concerned mar-

keting book: *Marketing and Consumer Behavior Research in the Public Interest*. It grapples with "troublesome consumption issues such as substance abuse, grieving consumers and marketing to the poor." (We're not sure if "grieving consumers" are in mourning, or have a grievance.)

Be well — In 1988, Samuel Hernández had an operation in a Miami hospital for internal bleeding. The bleeding stopped, but not the pain. In 1990, he went back and the surgeon said it was gas. In 1993, an x-ray by another doctor showed a surgical towel had been left in his stomach. Hernandez is suing, charging negligence and cover-up

A really great society — In New York's impoverished South

Bronx, hospitalization and death rates for asthma are eight times the national average. At one elementary school an estimated 40 percent of the children are afflicted. Assertedly, the most important factors are such pollutants as roach feces and body parts, and rodent urine. Doctors point to an area medical waste incinerator. Officials assure that it's safe.

Don't give him any ideas — A British mag claims the Queen of England is really "worth" \$3.4 billion, not a mere \$245 million. That's because she holds title to Buckingham Palace and other royal residences. An aide scoffed that this was ridiculous, asserting, "The Queen can no more sell Buckingham Palace...than President Clinton can sell the White House."

D.C. gov't and financial board seek big job cuts

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Since beginning operations in early June, the five presidential appointees who comprise the powerful financial control board here have been seeking to implement deep cuts in jobs and social services.

The board, which has been empowered by the federal government to run the District of Columbia affairs into the next century, has final authority over city budgets, contracts, and loans, with ultimate power to veto any measure that has a fiscal effect. According to the *New York Times*, "no previous control board" anywhere in the country has "had such power."

Most members of the board are wealthy businessmen. Chairing the board is Andrew Brimmer, an economist who served on the Federal Reserve Board from 1966 to 1974.

Brimmer receives hundreds of thousands of dollars a year as a director of more than a dozen major corporations. In an interview with the *Washington Post*, Brimmer spelled out how he expects this board to function. "I see no advantage in trying to do this in public," he stated.

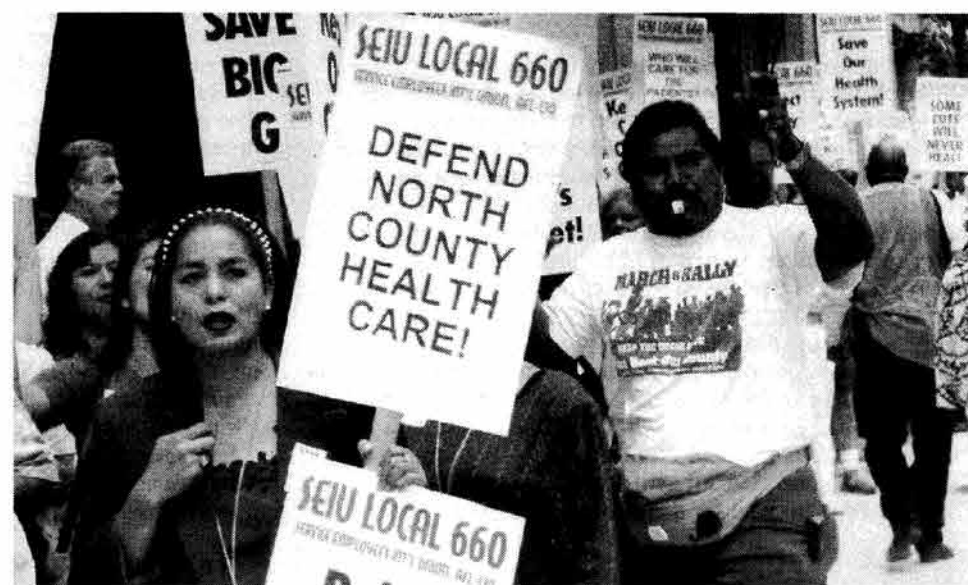
The board has won support from leading Democratic politicians in the city. Eleanor Holmes Norton, the nonvoting D.C. delegate to Congress, praised the control board as "the only thing that stands between the District and the loss of home rule." Jesse Jackson stated that the board might even enhance the prospects for

statehood by helping the city overcome its financial problems.

In mid-July, the control board presented its first major ultimatum to Mayor Marion Barry and the city council: eliminate 5,600 city jobs by October 1. In addition, all future city labor contracts will have to be approved by the board before they are signed. In response, Mayor Barry presented his alternative plan, calling for cuts of 1,500 jobs over the next two years. The city council, for its part, approved a plan July 29 to remove more than 3,600 jobs from the city payroll by privatizing D.C. General — the city's only public hospital — school cafeterias, and other services. In addition, the council proposed contracting out the jobs of more than 1,500 city workers and weakening union seniority rights.

Unsatisfied with the response to its demands by city officials, the financial control board August 12 began carrying out the job cuts itself. They slashed 460 jobs from education programs at D.C. public schools and the University of the District of Columbia, and gave the council one month to fire 715 others.

Declaring the city out of cash, Mayor Barry at the end of August ordered a halt to Medicaid payments from July until October. A week later, the mayor reversed this unpopular move, promising to cover bills through mid-August. One in four Washington residents receive health care through Medicaid. According to a recent



Health-care workers in Los Angeles protest budget cuts. The federal and state governments across the country are pushing to cut jobs and social services.

study, half the children in the district are living in poverty, double the proportion five years ago. The district's infant mortality rate is double the national figure.

While taking aim at jobs and vital social services, city officials together with the control board place top priority on maintaining their commitments to the

wealthy bondholders. Some \$180 million was scheduled to be placed in an escrow fund for bondholders at the end of August.

Brian Williams is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27 in Cheverly, Maryland.

Thai workers file 'slavery' suit against L.A. sweatshop

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Charging involuntary servitude, sixty-four of the workers from Thailand held in near-slavery conditions have filed a damage suit against the operators of the El Monte garment sweatshop who held them.

The legal action was discussed by Chanchanit Martorell at a September 9 Militant Labor Forum panel discussion on the case. She is executive director of the Thai Community Development Center, one of the main groups organizing the defense of the Thai workers.

Martorell said the center acts on behalf of mainly low-income Thai immigrants. A large number of these, she added, are garment workers, so the center is quite familiar with the harsh sweatshop conditions.

She said the working conditions and illegally low wages of the El Monte workers are widespread throughout the industry. "The only difference," she added, "is that these workers couldn't leave at night."

Otto, a student from Thailand, offered graphic figures explaining the large Thai immigration to this country.

In 1973, he said, the minimum wage in Thailand was 64 cents a day. By 1993, it had increased to \$5.80 a day. "But that's not the real wage," he emphasized. "Take off 50 percent for inflation." And, he noted, many employers ignore the mini-

mum wage law.

In 1970, he continued, 70 percent of the labor force was in agriculture. By 1990, this had dropped to 50 percent. With large numbers flocking to the city and unable to find jobs, many are forced to emigrate.

"We must show the workers here what the real situation is," he said. "These workers don't come because they want to compete with them." The root problem, he declared, "is the system, the capitalist system."

Gale Shangold of the Socialist Workers Party who is a union garment worker, saluted the fighting spirit of the El Monte workers in resisting their situation and the heroic act of the worker who escaped through an air-conditioning duct and over barbed wire to blow the whistle.

While the conditions suffered by the El Monte workers were extreme, she said, "there are elements of it in out every-day life." She pointed to the employers' push to drive down wages, speed up production, and lengthen the working day.

She declared that the restrictive U.S. immigration laws, made possible what happened to the Thai workers and urged a fight to "open the borders."

Noting that the Thai workers still face the threat of deportation when government action against their employers is ended, Shangold demanded there be no deportations.

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SEATTLE — On Friday morning, Sept. 11, a group of about 150 Black workers closed down three Seattle construction sites to dramatize their struggle for jobs. By early afternoon the militant action had forced a federal judge to hand down a ruling that contractors must hire at least 90 Black workers by Oct. 1.

Last fall, exactly the same series of events took place: after demonstrations by Black workers, the same judge made a court ruling that 90 jobs must be provided for Black workers. But this ruling was never carried out or enforced. This time the Black workers, under the leadership of the newly formed United Construction Workers Association, have vowed to take further actions, if the government does not immediately enforce the legal ruling.

In a meeting with the contractors prior to the Friday shutdowns, the Black workers were told "there is a lull in the economy and Black people will have to wait in line." Lionel Hampton, chairman of the United Construction Workers Association, replied that the economy was always in bad shape as it related to Blacks and that it would obviously be necessary for the Black workers themselves to enforce the law, since the government has proven incapable of enforcing either the federal judge's rulings or the 1965 presidential executive order concerning minority hiring practices in the construction industry.

The demonstrations at the three construction sites on Friday were carried out with a conscious attempt not to alienate the white workers. At the largest site there was not even a single token Black on the job. All but a few of the white workers left their jobs readily when the Black workers called upon them to close shop.

THE MILITANT
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September 29, 1945

More than 25,000 workers went on strike in Colombo, Ceylon on September 19 to enforce demands for increased pay, greater employment opportunities, an 8-hour day and old-age security, according to a United Press dispatch.

Ceylon is an island colony situated off the southern extremity of India. Its British ruled economy has been largely confined to agriculture, with emphasis on export crops, principally tea, rubber, and coconut.

Like India, Ceylon was plunged into World War II in 1939 by the British imperialists. Also as in India, the industry and agriculture of the islands were made to serve the war needs of British imperialism to the serious detriment of the already low living standards of the masses.

The United Press report on the Colombo strike states that, in addition to economic demands, the strikers demand "political freedom." Thus, as in all the colonies, the fight for improved living conditions fuses with the political struggle against the foreign overlords of the country.

Fight gov't attack on social gains

The recent "welfare reform" bill passed by a bipartisan majority in the U.S. Senate, like similar legislation previously passed by the House of Representatives, is an attack on working people. The labor movement should campaign against it, and demand that President Clinton veto the legislation — whatever version ends up coming across his desk.

If the cuts are imposed more hospitals will close, the deterioration of public health care will deepen, and important social services will be eliminated.

President Clinton is fond of describing himself as the president who will "end welfare as we know it." And every day it becomes clearer that the attacks on welfare are not only aimed at creating a pariah class of scapegoats for capitalism's ills, but also are preparation for the broader assaults planned against working people.

As Democratic and Republican party politicians combine proposals for cutting Medicaid with posturing over cuts to the Medicare system — the Republicans' \$270 billion vs. Clinton's \$124 billion — the bottom line is the social wage that working people have fought for over past decades is the real target of the bipartisan plan to make working people pay for the crisis of the capitalist system.

With a small degree of candor, Congressman Newt Gingrich told *Newsweek* the attacks on Medicare are "absolutely at the heart of what we're trying to do."

But the fireworks that may spark a fire if they launch a frontal assault on Medicare and other aspects of Social Security is unnerving for the capitalist politicians. The working class is a fighting class and they are not in a hurry to take us on in battle. "The problem for the Republicans is not that they're squeezing health care programs," but "that they're trying to squeeze them too hard," warns an editorial from the *Washington Post*.

In an article entitled 'Mediscare,' *Newsweek* characterizes an ad run by the AFL-CIO as "hysterical" because it states "more people will die." The article claims "timing is all in medical-care reform." They applaud Gingrich's "game plan" of using "political soundings" to "stall for time" to wait for the "trauma unit frenzy gener-

ated by the need to enact a budget and raise the ceiling on the national debt."

This cynicism is repugnant. More people will die as a result of the decrease in medical services and other cuts that are being proposed and implemented. Working people should reject the entire framework of the so-called budget deficit debate. The labor movement has no stake in solving the capitalist government's budget crisis.

Big-business politicians scapegoat immigrant workers while the bosses impose slave-labor conditions in sweatshops across the country. They attempt more and more to portray Medicare and Social Security as hand-outs for the elderly and a burden for the working class.

Meanwhile, the bosses continue to attack workers who are employed, trying to cut wages and gut pensions, speed up production, and impose unsafe conditions and more working hours at less pay. Strikers at Caterpillar, Detroit newspapers, and other work places are waging important battles that are part of answering the anti-working class campaign that is embodied in the attacks on welfare, Medicaid, Medicare, and other entitlements.

The bosses seek to divide working people as their economic system continues to decline. On the contrary, we should fight for our own solutions to the capitalist crisis by supporting workers' battles wherever they break out around the world.

The capitalist "welfare reform" program has nothing to do with putting people back to work. Capitalists thrive when a good percentage of workers are out on the streets hunting for jobs, competing with their brothers and sisters.

The union movement should fight for jobs for all, which means fighting for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, and massive public works programs. Trade unionists should defend affirmative action programs to unite the working class and oppose scapegoating of immigrant workers and those on welfare.

Ultimately working people must fight for a workers and farmers government that will replace this dog-eat-dog system and build a socialist society free of exploitation and degradation of human beings.

Help advance Irish struggle

"Clear as the sun will rise tomorrow, the British government will leave Ireland," Gerry Adams confidently declared, speaking to students and others at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The *Militant* urges our readers to join in the actions to bring that day to pass by getting behind the campaign to free Irish political prisoners and pressure the British government to quit stalling on all-party talks.

The fact that the Sinn Féin president and other leaders of the Irish freedom struggle, until recently barred from the United States, have gotten a warm response at meetings of hundreds of workers and young people in this country is one reflection of the fact that the momentum is on the side of the democratic revolution in Ireland.

During the year since the cease-fire in Northern Ireland, growing numbers of workers and young people, both inside of Ireland and abroad, have found the space to join in the struggle to end the British-imposed division and occupation of that country. Thousands are standing up to say "no" to the systematic anti-Catholic discrimination and abuse perpetuated by the British government and its supporters. There are more demonstrations and actions against the imprisonment of hundreds of supporters of the struggle for Irish self-determination in British, Irish, U.S., and other jails.

Working people around the world can take inspiration

from this upturn in the Irish freedom struggle and the weakening of British imperialism.

At the same time, the London government does not intend to give up its oldest colony easily. Just as the apartheid government in South Africa held on as long as possible, British imperialism will keep trying to hold back the course of history and make working people in Ireland pay as high a price as possible for winning their independence and sovereignty.

The U.S. government, while trying to wear the mantle of peace broker, has no love for the working-class fighters and youth who are the backbone of the Irish struggle. As U.S. businessmen try to take over a piece of the pie from their British rivals in Ireland, Washington's cops and courts continue their harassment, arrests, and deportation proceedings against Irish activists living in this country. Like their counterparts in London, the U.S. rulers fear the impetus a victory for the democratic movement in Ireland would give to other revolutionary struggles around the world.

Working people and all fighters for democratic rights should join with the democratic forces in Ireland demanding:

Free all Irish political prisoners!

Stop the deportations!

All-party peace talks now!

Canadian gov't sits on facts of mining disaster

BY ROGER ANNIS

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — A long-delayed inquiry into the 1992 Westray coal mine disaster will begin public hearings on November 6 in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, within sight of the shattered mine. But it may have to proceed without vital information on the operating and safety record of the mine, including how the explosion that killed 26 miners could have been avoided.

The Canadian and Nova Scotia governments refuse to hand over documents relating to the financing and operation of the mine.

The two governments were involved at the highest level in promoting and financing the Westray mine, owned by the now-bankrupt Curragh Resources Inc. The federal government is withholding 540 documents while its provincial counterpart is keeping 750.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada's federal police force, is also refusing to hand over documents. The RCMP conducted a criminal investigation of the disaster. Charges of manslaughter and criminal negligence were laid in 1994 against Curragh and two managers. The trial ended abruptly in June 1995 when the judge, citing a technicality, took the unusual step of staying the charges.

The Westray mine opened amid considerable opposition because the coal field on which it sat is notorious for large concentrations of methane gas. The mines there have a long and deadly history of explosions. The last one before Westray closed in 1967.

Westray began production in July 1991. Its backers included then Nova Scotia premier Donald Cameron and Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney.

After the explosion, an avalanche of media reports documented safety violations that were the norm at Westray — frequent roof collapses, buildups of methane gas and coal dust, use of unsafe mining equipment underground, and tampering with safety equipment. The reports confirmed that labor department inspectors knew what was happening but let the mine owners continue production.

The inquiry has the power to subpoena the secret documents as well as the politicians and businessmen who promoted the mine project. Its head, a Nova Scotia supreme court judge, has not indicated such a plan.

A glimpse into the world of cabinet secrecy was offered on August 29 when the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* reported on a one-page memo from Nova Scotia labour minister Leroy Legere to officials in his department in October 1991. The newspaper obtained the document following a challenge under the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information Act. Other documents for which it asked were denied.

In response to an October 17 roof collapse at Westray, the fifth since the mine's opening four months earlier, the memo asked for incriminating dirt on the safety record of rival coal mines in Cape Breton, an island region of Nova Scotia.

Legere's department was responsible for enforcing mine safety laws. It came under considerable heat following the Westray mine opening as reports of unsafe conditions underground leaked out.

Legere was looking for information to back his public claims that conditions at Westray were typical of the coal mining industry. He couldn't find any dirt because miners in Cape Breton are members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and have used union power to improve safety conditions over the years.

Presently, 2,200 coal miners work in Cape Breton. They are employed at DEVCO, a federal government corporation.

There was no union at Westray. Miners voted against joining the UMWA shortly after the mine opened. Those who protested the unsafe work conditions were threatened with dismissal or other disciplinary measures.

The public hearings of the inquiry are expected to last several months and will feature the testimony of former miners as well as members of the families of the miners who died. The families have fought for a full public accounting.

Roger Annis is a member of Local 841 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada in Montreal.

Reports on meetings for Rob Cahalane and Robert DesVerney in upcoming issues of the *Militant*

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

Kenworth strike: 'To make gains we have to push'

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

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

to the recent talks, the company stated, "In agreeing to meet, the company warns the union that all counter proposals that directly or indirectly contain the retirement formula 'age 55 and 30 years of service,' will be unacceptable and nonnegotiable."

In an attempt to demoralize the strikers the letter concluded, "Work from Ste. Therese has been transferred to other Kenworth plants in the United States. Due to

goals of the office local were different from the plant local, said Jean-Pierre Guay, chairperson of the union which represents the 100 office workers on strike. "Now we are working together more."

Mine bosses forced to back down

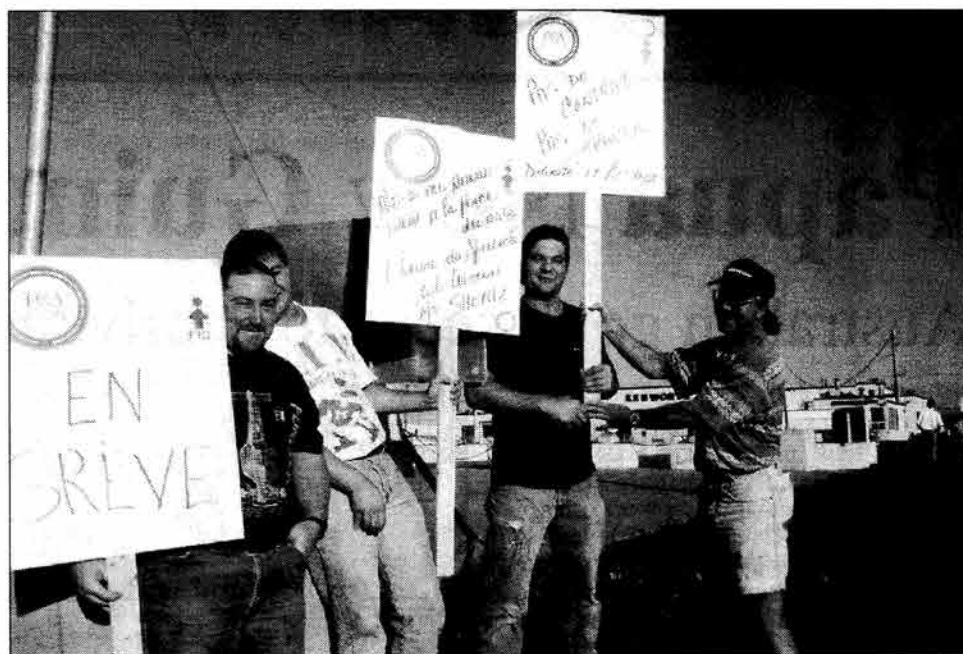
Following an all day arbitration hearing on August 30, David Greek and members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2397 received official word that they had won a victory in a week-long dispute with the management of Jim Walters Resources (JWR) Number 7 Mine.

Greek was reinstated with full back pay, nullifying his firing. Members of UMWA at this mine in Brookwood, Alabama, went on strike beginning August 22 for five days immediately following the suspension of Greek, a former local union president and the highest seniority worker at the mine.

Greek was suspended with intent to discharge after attempting to carry out standard procedures for operating the cage that carries workers and supplies underground. The policy agreed to in a Labor Management Positive Change Policy meeting allowed for miners to be transported underground every half hour. In between these times, supplies could be lowered.

An assistant mine foreman demanded that Greek hoist him underground during the time that supplies were being lowered. When Greek questioned this, he was suspended.

The next day at the hearing that is required under the UMWA contract within 24 to 48 hours follow-



Militant/Monica Jones

Canadian Auto Workers members on picket line at Kenworth truck assembly plant

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Four weeks into a strike at the Kenworth truck assembly plant in Ste. Therese, Quebec, there is no end in sight and the 850 workers are digging in their heels.

Local 728 of the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) stopped work August 8 to back demands for a better pension plan. The workers want the right to retire with full pension at age 55, once 30 years of service is reached. They also want increases in monthly payments.

"If we're going to retire at age 55, the pension has to be decent enough to live on," striking worker Jean-Guy Dejardins explained.

"To make gains these days," he added, "we have to be prepared to push."

Yves Riel stressed, "It is important that we have the choice to retire earlier. This will make room for more younger workers to have jobs."

The company is assembling a small number of trucks using management personnel. Quebec labor laws prohibit companies from hiring replacement workers during a strike. Kenworth claims it is meeting its production goals using its factories in the United States.

Talks between the company and union were held September 6 and 7, the first since August 3. But in a letter mailed to strikers prior

a softening in the market, the three American plants are able to absorb this work from Ste. Therese without any overtime."

The company's claims, however, seem doubtful. Workers at the assembly plant in Renton, Washington, told the *Militant* they are working lots of overtime. Most strikers in Ste. Therese remain firm in their resolve to win improvements.

Kenworth is a subsidiary of Paccar, based in Bellevue, Washington. Kenworth trucks are built in Seattle and Renton in Washington, Chillicothe, Ohio, as well as in Australia, Mexico and Quebec.

Paccar produced 22 percent of heavy-duty Class 8 trucks in 1994. The company reported a net income of \$204 million in 1994, up from \$142 million a year earlier. First quarter figures in 1995 show Paccar will match or exceed its 1994 profits.

Before the strike, 26 trucks a day were built in Ste. Therese, approximately 20 percent of Kenworth's output. The factory has several months of back orders.

The intransigence of Kenworth and the fact that there have been no union meetings since the strike began has prompted considerable discussion by strikers on the picket line.

"I'm for the strike but we need to have more information from the negotiating committee," Ali Khadir explained. "I don't care if the news is negative or positive, but I want to be kept informed."

"When negotiations began, the

ing a discharge of this kind, Federal marshals served union officials with a temporary restraining order issued by a U.S. district court judge in Birmingham.

The document "ordered that defendant United Mine Workers of America Local No. 2397, and its agents, members, officers, servants, representatives, employees, and all persons acting in concert or participation with it, be and hereby are restrained from, in any manner, either directly or indirectly" instigating, encouraging or assisting the strike or any picketing."

The order was written to include not just members of UMWA Local 2397 but any supporters of the union who might also take action in solidarity. On August 24 the strike expanded to include members of the UMWA working at JWR's Number 4 and Number 5 mines, the Central shop, and members of UMWA construction workers Local 1867 who were working at JWR mines.

Local and district officials began urging miners to go back to work the next day. Following an intense discussion at the afternoon shift local meeting of UMWA 2368 at the Number 5 mine, miners decided not to go back to work, since they would not have been part of the strike otherwise.

"Whose going to want to work in these mines 20 years from now," one member of the local said in explaining why the action was necessary. Miners at the Number 4, Number 5, and Central shops went back to work after 24 hours.

UMWA Local 2397 did not return to work until August 27. The local faces contempt charges filed by Jim Walters for refusing to comply with the restraining order.

A large layoff took place at the Jim Walters mines in 1992. During that time safety and working conditions have deteriorated. And the company has cranked up the pace of work by cutting crews.

These conditions and new miners being called back after long lay offs have put union members in a bit more of a fighting mood. The strike at JWR is only the latest in a flurry of brief work stoppages at other mines. There have been four short walkouts at the new Shoal Creek mine owned by Drummond company.

Monica Jones, member of CAW Local 728 on strike at Kenworth in Ste. Therese, Quebec; Alyson Kennedy, member of UMWA Local 2368 at the JWR no. 5 Mine, and John Hawkins, member of construction workers UMWA Local 1867 contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Bosnia self-determination

In an editorial issue No.30 the *Militant* called on working people around the world to support "the fight of the Bosnian people for self-determination and their right to live in peace."

The rapid and devastating events of the past two months in the former Yugoslavia have registered the widening of the war between the rival gangs in the region, and the deepening of imperialist intervention: In July rightist Serbian forces overran the Bosnian towns Srebrenica and Zepa with mass murder, rape, and the expulsion of tens of thousands. In the beginning of August the Stalinist misleaders of Croatia took over Krajina and carried out their own "ethnic cleansing" in that region. Then the new massacre in Sarajevo by the Serbian rightist gangs was followed by massive imperialist intervention by NATO's air forces and British, Dutch and French troops comprising the Rapid Reaction Force.

It is clear that the above events are further steps taken by the Stalinist regimes in Zagreb and Belgrade backed by imperialists in Washington and Bonn to partition Bosnia. This has been the aim of both the Milosevic and Tudjman regimes since the beginning of this bloody war of conquest. This is also Washington's latest so-

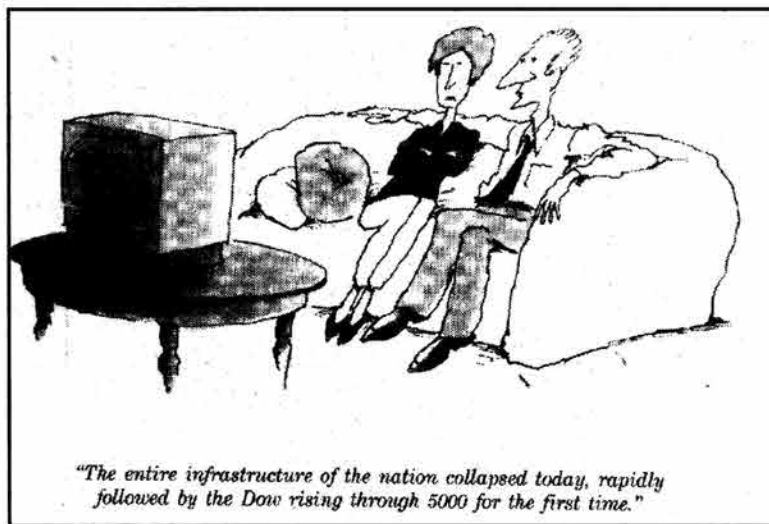
called "peace plan" to be enforced by sending tens of thousands of US imperialist troops.

But have these events shown that the character of the war in ex-Yugoslavia has changed? In interviews with refugees from Krajina, reporters of the Greek TV station "Sky" asked them who they thought is responsible for this bloody war. They answered with anger in the following order: "Milosevic, Tudjman and Izetbegovic."

I believe that this answer points to the roots of the war in former Yugoslavia. Milosevic and Tudjman are leaders of rival bureaucratic forces of the former privileged ruling caste who use the banner of nationalism to wage this ruthless gang war for control of land and resources.

It is true that workers and farmers in Bosnia "have faced the most prolonged and bloodiest battles" as the *Militant* points out. On the other hand, the Izetbegovic regime in Bosnia is also one of the warring factions of the old Stalinist apparatus that has dragged working people into this war. It has refused to mobilize resistance by working people in Bosnia against the rightist Serbian attacks. Instead, it has been calling on imperialist forces for further military intervention as the road to peace.

We considered the united resis-



tance of working people of different ethnic and religious background during the early stages of the war, especially in Sarajevo and Tuzla, as an expression of the legacy of the Yugoslav revolution in the consciousness of workers and farmers in Yugoslavia as a whole, as they continued to identify themselves as "Yugoslavs".

We don't have much of the facts that shows a struggle being waged by working people in Bosnia for self-determination. Very little information that points to deepening national identification and consciousness as "Bosnians" in face of continued brutal aggression by the Serbian forces. We have not seen mass re-

sistance by working people in Bosnia against the rightist Serbian onslaught, such as that of the Chechen people put up against Moscow's brutal attacks. In fact, Srebrenica for example was taken without much resistance. Providing the above information that workers of the world need in order to obtain political clarity is the task of the *Militant*.

Bobbis Misailides
Athens, Greece

Crisis in Puerto Rico

I am a technician with the U.S. Geological Survey in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I am a member of the American Federation of Govern-

ment Employees, the largest union of federal workers. Federal workers are being told that there is a very real possibility that with the coming of the new fiscal year on October 1 that the government will be shut down until President Clinton and the Congress can agree to a new budget. At this time nobody knows what will happen.

We have been told that it may only a few days or it may be a month or more. We were also told that nobody knows if we can receive unemployment, which may also vary from state to state.

In the federal government these type of short term layoffs are called furloughs. If 2 million federal workers are without paychecks and cannot receive unemployment then the social crisis in the United States will heat up a notch or two.

My main reason for writing is to alert you that struggle may flare up very quickly in the weeks to come.

Ron Richards
Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico

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.

Papua New Guineans fight for land

Australian gov't seeks to deprive landholders of compensation rights

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Large rallies and marches took place throughout Papua New Guinea in July in defense of traditional land rights that the vast majority of people there still claim. Very little land in Papua New Guinea is owned as private property, with about 97 percent still held as "custom land" by family and clan groups.

These protests have become intertwined with resistance to the austerity drive being demanded of Papua New Guinea's neo-colonial government by its international capitalist creditors.

Pollution from a giant gold and copper mine at Ok Tedi in the highlands of western Papua New Guinea has devastated the traditional gardening, hunting, and fishing grounds of the surrounding communities and along the 700-mile Fly River.

Owned by BHP, Australia's largest corporation, the mine dumped some 80,000 metric tons of mining waste into the river system each day.

In May 1994, representatives of these communities filed a lawsuit against BHP in Australia for \$A4 billion (\$A1 = \$US.75) in compensation. The Supreme Court in the Australian state of Victoria has not yet ruled on whether it has jurisdiction in the case.

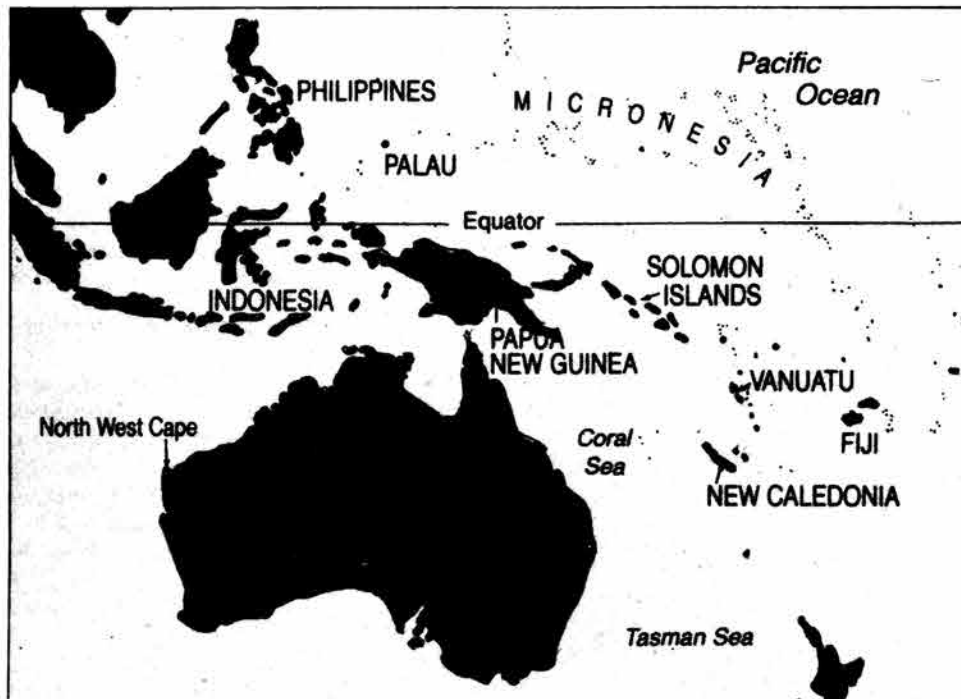
Recently, BHP moved to use Canberra's domination of Papua New Guinea, its former colony, to deal a blow to this and all other claims by "customary" landholders for compensation against major capitalist developments there.

A unilateral compensation agreement signed by Ok Tedi Mining and the Papua New Guinea government August 4 provides for 14 million kina (K1 = \$US.75) compensation to the landholders up to the end of 1994, and a package estimated at K110 million in additional benefits over the remaining 15-year life of the mine.

Australian corporations call the shots

The agreement is part of a bill, that BHP's lawyers drafted, due to be ratified by the Papua New Guinea Parliament in September. The bill aims to make it a criminal offense to seek compensation outside strict guidelines set by the government, or assist with any legal action outside these guidelines. Constitutional challenges to the new law are also prohibited in the draft bill.

Slater and Gordon, the Melbourne-based law firm handling the Ok Tedi landholders' case in Australia claims the firm



Map showing countries in South Pacific. Workers and peasants in the region are fighting for land rights and against imperialist domination.

could face criminal charges in PNG under this law. Fines for initiating court action are to be set at up to K100,000, plus up to K10,000 per day that the offense continues.

"It almost defies belief that an Australian company could seek to deprive the liberties of the people of another country," a spokesperson for Slater and Gordon said in a statement August 10.

Since granting independence in 1975, Canberra has led in imposing harsher conditions on the ongoing financial bailouts of the Papua New Guinea government in recent years.

Currently it is providing \$US68 million of a \$US300 million World Bank "rescue package" for Port Moresby in addition to its regular annual grant of around \$A300 million.

The Australian rulers' goal is stable conditions for the exploitation of Papua New Guinea's natural resources — which include gold, copper, oil, natural gas, and timber — in which Australian companies still have by far the largest stake.

Landholders fight for compensation

Australian mining corporation CRA was forced to close its Panguna copper mine on the island of Bougainville in 1989 following armed actions by landholders

demanding compensation for environmental devastation. The brutal response of the Papua New Guinea army to this rebellion sparked a movement in Bougainville for secession from Papua New Guinea. Despite the backing of Canberra, Port Moresby has not been able to bring the situation under control and the mine remains closed.

Later, CRA also shelved its Mount Kare gold mine in the Papua New Guinea highlands in the face of hostility from landholders in the area.

The Papua New Guinea government is wracked by financial crisis. Currently the World Bank is making its loan package to Papua New Guinea conditional on Port Moresby carrying out the sharpest austerity drive in the country's history, called the Structural Adjustment Program.

The plan includes introducing a consumption tax, lowering trade and investment barriers, and slashing government expenditure, with the budget in April projecting cuts of 4,500 public-sector jobs. The kina was devalued by 12 percent at the end of 1994 as part of a package that included a wage freeze for government employees and a freeze on new expenditures.

Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, told critics of the Struc-

tural Adjustment Program that "beggars can't be choosers." The measures have sparked significant opposition. At the end of March, the country's 18,000 teachers staged an eight-day strike over wages. More recently, the PNG Trade Union Congress announced plans to call stop-work meetings over the planned cuts in public-sector jobs.

And in mid-July explosive student-led marches and rallies took place in Port Moresby and a number of other towns against plans to register title to ownership of all "custom land."

On July 18 about 4,000 students and others took part in a public forum at the Waigani campus of the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby to protest against the government's policies on land registration and "economic reform." They then marched to the Parliament building where a delegation of 55 met with government ministers. Seventy placard-bearing soldiers from the Murray Barracks, who were protesting against their reduced food ration, also joined the forum and march.

Two people were shot dead as police tried to break up protests in Goroka, July 21, at a rally of some 10,000 people. Other land protests have taken place recently in Kundiawa, Mt. Hagen, and at Lae.

Matthew Papep, president of the National Union of Students, vowed that because there is "no opposition" in Parliament, the students will step up the fight for the "silent majority."

In face of the protests, the government was forced to back down from beginning the land registration program. Some 85 percent of Papua New Guinea's 4 million people live on "custom land." Most of the 5 percent who live in towns, and the 10 percent who live in shanty towns have retained their rights to traditional land use.

The customary land tenure system has long been seen by capitalist interests as one of the main barriers to stable and profitable investment in Papua New Guinea. But most traditional landholders see registration of title to all custom land, and the complex and ultimately arbitrary process of deciding who the "owner" of a piece of custom land is, as a major step in making land a marketable commodity, and thus an alienable right.

Ludger Mond, executive secretary in Papua New Guinea of the Catholic Commission for Justice Peace and Development, wrote in the March edition of *Pacific News Bulletin* that, "Today, a Melanesian can simply quit a formal employment whenever s/he wishes, or when employment conditions and wages are not agreeable, and go home to the village. There is land and s/he can survive without money as do the other 85 per cent of the population."

Custom land is the only form of social security in the country, where 60,000 who leave school are competing for 5-6000 new jobs each year. There are virtually no immigrants allowed into Australia from Papua New Guinea.

Underscoring the social upheaval unfolding in Papua New Guinea today, and the problems big capitalist investors are having in dealing with customary landholders, the August 7 Papua New Guinea *Post-Courier* reported on a riot at the country's newest gold mine at Tolukuma in the Central Province.

Construction at the mine was halted after the water supply had been cut off by landholders, the *Post-Courier* reported. A public meeting between the Australian developers, Dome Resources, and the landholders erupted into fighting with a company boss and the local Member of Parliament assaulted, and extensive damage of mine property. Police and company security guards were sent in to guard company property and restore the water supply.

Australian gov't conducts its largest ever war maneuvers in the Pacific

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY — The final phase of the Australian government's largest ever war maneuvers took place throughout August. The Kangaroo '95 maneuvers involved 15,750 regular and reserve personnel from the combined land, sea, and air forces of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Troops and equipment from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States participated, while the New Zealand government sent observers.

Malaysian, Singaporean, and Indonesian troops participated in Kangaroo exercises for the first time. Bilateral maneuvers and training of Indonesian troops in Australia has occurred regularly over the last three years. Indonesia has militarily occupied East Timor for 20 years with the complicity of the Australian government.

In the face of decades-long and growing rivalries, the *Sydney Morning Herald*

noted that "careful planning" was involved in keeping the forces of the three Southeast Asian countries separated during Kangaroo '95.

In all, some 17,000 troops, 16 ships and 110 aircraft took part at an estimated cost of \$A65 million (\$A1=\$US.76). The exercises take place every three years.

The ostensible purpose of the war games was to repel an invasion of the Northern Territory by 400 troops from "Orangeland," a mythical nation to the north supported by "Cerise," a fictitious world power.

Australian troops have been sent to intervene in every major military conflict this century that involved defense of either the interests of the British, U.S. or Australian ruling classes.

Canberra's army includes some 25,000 regular troops, 2,500 Ready Reserves, and more than 26,000 general reservists. There were some 65,260 active-duty personnel

in all branches of the ADF in 1994.

Kangaroo '95 took place in the context of the November 1994 release of the government White Paper Defending Australia, the first official statement of military policy since 1987. It called for "modest" increases in military spending toward the end of the 1990s. The 1996 military budget is \$A10 billion or about 2 percent of the annual gross domestic product.

Attempting to justify Canberra's imperialist policy the White Paper noted, "Ethnic and national tensions, economic rivalry, disappointed aspirations for prosperity, religious or racial conflict or other problems could produce an unstable and potentially dangerous strategic situation in Asia and the Pacific over the next 15 years."

Doug Cooper is a member of the AWU-FIME at Capral Aluminum in Sydney.