

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'We're living in an era of revolution' — Malcolm X

— PAGE 13

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 59 NO. 39 OCTOBER 23, 1995

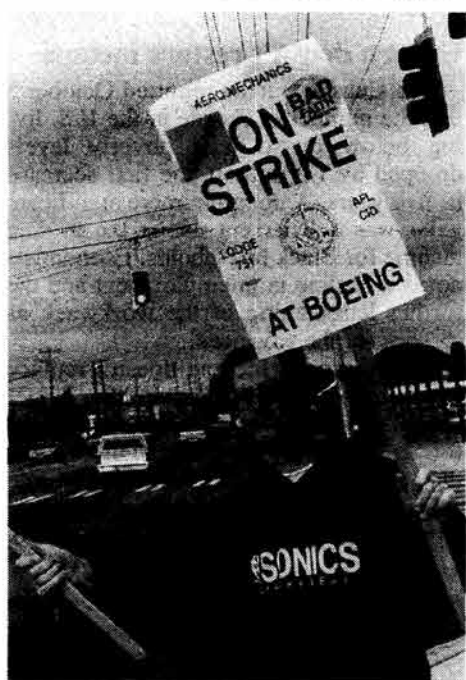
Workers at Boeing strike against takeaways

BY SCOTT BREEN
AND BOB BRUNEAU

SEATTLE, Washington — "This 'World Class Employer' is offering...its workers a 'Second Class Proposal,' read a statement put out by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) summarizing Boeing Company's recent contract offer. In response to the company's proposal, which included health care cuts, paltry wage increases, and lack of guarantees on jobs, IAM members went on strike October 6.

Boeing is the world's dominant aerospace manufacturer with factories in Washington, Oregon, and Kansas. An overwhelming 76 percent of the IAM's 32,000 members who work at Boeing voted against the company's "final offer." Today, thousands of machinists are walking the picketlines.

As the vote totals from around the coun-
Continued on Page 15



Militant/Scott Breen
Boeing worker walks the line in Seattle

Let's get on schedule in sales drive!

BY PAUL MAILHOT
AND NAOMI CRAINE

Let's get on schedule! That's the challenge being made by supporters of the *Militant* in the nine areas that are on target in the international subscription drive to win new readers to the socialist press. Socialist workers and youth in other areas — many of whom are only a few percentage points below the 25 percent "on schedule" mark this week — need to step up the organization of the drive and bring more cities into the "on target" category.

As we enter the third week of the international drive to sell 1,950 subscriptions to new readers of the *Militant*, 525 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 750 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* we stand at 21 percent internationally with 408 *Militant* subscriptions

Continued on Page 5

Mandela: Cuba shared the trenches with us

S. Africa president praises 'unparalleled internationalism'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND ROMAN KANE

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — "Cubans came to our region as doctors, teachers, soldiers, agricultural experts, but never as colonizers," said South African president Nelson Mandela at the opening of a Cuba-Southern Africa solidarity conference here October 6.

"They have shared the same trenches with us in the struggle against colonialism, underdevelopment, and apartheid. Hundreds of Cubans have given their lives, literally, in a struggle that was, first and foremost, not theirs but ours. As Southern Africans we salute them. We vow never to forget this unparalleled example of selfless internationalism."

Mandela was referring to the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who served on internationalist missions in Angola from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s. Cuban volunteer troops helped defeat successive invasions of that country by South Africa's apartheid regime, which was determined to block the Angolan people from realizing their hard-fought independence from Portugal.

The apartheid army was dealt a decisive military defeat at Cuito Cuanavale in late 1987 and was driven out of Angola. This victory paved the way for the independence of neighboring Namibia. By puncturing once and for all the myth of the white supremacists' invincibility, the outcome at Cuito Cuanavale gave another impulse to the battle against apartheid inside South Africa. In February 1990, the regime of F.W. De Klerk announced the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC). That same month Nelson Mandela triumphantly walked out of the Victor Verster prison in Cape Town, free for the first time in over

Continued on Page 8



Mandela at conference displays 1991 photo with Castro in Cuba

March to end the U.S. economic war against Cuba



- End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba
- Lift the U.S. travel ban
- Normalize relations with Cuba
- Respect Cuba's self determination

Saturday, October 14

Chicago

Rally at 11 a.m.
Federal Building (corner
of Dearborn and Adams)

San Francisco

Assemble at 11 a.m.
UN Plaza
Rally at 1 p.m.

Saturday, October 21

New York City

Assemble at 12 noon
42nd St. & 1st Ave. (across from the UN)

In **Chicago**, contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition (312) 663-0527 • In **San Francisco**, contact the October 14 Coalition to End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba (415) 437-5501 • In **New York**, contact the October 21 Cuba Coalition at Cuba Information Project (212) 227-3422.

Paris sends troops to Comoros

Some 1,000 French marines and Foreign Legion soldiers invaded the island nation of Comoros in the Indian Ocean on October 4. The landing followed a coup led by French mercenary Bob Denard six days earlier. The troops freed the captured president, Said Mohamed Djohar, and flew him to the French island of La Reunion for medical tests. Djohar's prime minister announced a new coalition government that excluded Djohar.

Denard agreed to end his third coup in the country and walked out of his headquarters with French soldiers, who took him to the airport. In addition to Comoros, Denard has served French and Belgian capitalist interests since 1961 by instigating uprisings in Zaire, Nigeria, Angola, Zimbabwe, Benin, Iran and Yemen.

UK Labour Party backs nukes

Britain's Labour Party voted on October 5 to support retaining the nation's 384 Trident nuclear missile warheads. The vote at the party's national conference in Brighton was a shift from its long-standing opposition to the weapons. The government carries U.S.-made warheads on four submarines.

Party delegates also voted for measures giving party leader Tony Blair more power over trade union affiliates. They voted to censure France for its nuclear tests in the Pacific and complained about the British government's refusal to criticize Paris.

Qaddafi urges other Arab nations to expel Palestinians

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qaddafi spoke October 4 to thousands of Palestinians stranded on the border with Egypt. Libya began massive deportations of the immigrants the previous month, dismissing many from their jobs and confiscating homes. Qaddafi said that "although it is agony for" the deportees, it was "an international and strategic gain to show that the Palestinian people's issue has not been solved." He called on other Arab nations to stop "taking part in this Zionist plan" to establish limited self-rule areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The United Nations as well as oppo-



Parents in Taiwan protest the deaths of their sons while serving in the military. There were 413 deaths among the 400,000 active-duty soldiers in 1994. Many cases of violence in the armed forces are being exposed. Relatives of soldiers killed while on duty are calling for the arrest of those responsible.

nents and supporters of Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat have asked Libya to stop sending Palestinians to the border with Egypt, which will only allow those with permission to go to Jordan or the Gaza Strip to enter that country. Tripoli says the deportations are voluntary.

Kenya dissident avoids execution

A Kenyan magistrate on October 2, cleared Koigi Wa Wamwere of the charge of an armed robbery of a police station, which carried a mandatory death penalty. The judge ruled that Koigi, his brother Charles, and a third defendant were guilty of trying to steal weapons from police officers, a charge of simple robbery. They each face up to four years in prison and six lashes with a cane.

Members of Safina, a party Koigi

helped to form that opposes the government of president Daniel arap Moi, said that international attention to the case contributed to Koigi's not receiving the death penalty. Defense lawyers said they would appeal the robbery convictions.

Nigerian dictator extends rule

Nigerian military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha announced that he would not allow elections until 1998 in an October 1 speech marking the country's 35th anniversary of independence. Abacha, facing significant international pressure, announced that he had commuted the death sentences of 40 opponents of the military regime. He did not indicate if they would be released from prison, as many Nigerian and international leaders are demanding.

Abacha specifically stated that Moshood Abiola would remain in prison. Abiola was jailed in 1994 for trying to claim the presidency. Abiola won a June 1993 election, which was annulled by the military government.

Guatemalan troops kill peasants

Guatemalan soldiers opened fire and threw grenades at a celebration at a refugee settlement on October 5. They killed 10 peasants and injured 36 others. Witnesses said that the troops came upon a celebration to mark the anniversary of the return of a number of refugees who were in exile in Mexico. When the residents of the "Aurora 8 de Octubre" community asked them not to participate, the soldiers attacked the crowd.

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio traveled to the village the next day. He apologized for the assault and vowed to prosecute the soldiers who were part of the attack. The massacre occurred as negotiations to end the country's 34-year civil war were set to resume, and disrupted United Nations efforts to bring back more than 45,000 Guatemalans who fled the country during the war. More than 100,000 have been killed since the war erupted in 1961.

More jail time for Black youth

More than 827,000 U.S. Black men in their 20s, nearly 32.2 percent, are in prison, on parole, or on probation, according to a study released October 6. The study's authors cited harsher rulings for drug use and tougher laws as contributing to a sharp rise of Blacks who are in the clutches of the criminal justice system. The Sentencing Project, a group that calls for alternatives to imprisonment, based their report on estimates derived from Justice Department figures.

The report notes that Blacks are 12 percent of the U.S. population and 13 percent of monthly drug users. Yet they make up 35 percent of those arrested for drug possession, 55 percent of those convicted, and 74 percent of those sent to prison on those charges. Professor Michael Tonry of the University of Minnesota concurred with the study. He noted that arrest rates for Blacks have held steady since the mid-1970s, accounting for 45 percent of those arrested for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The change, Tonry said, is that Blacks are now seven times more likely to go to prison as whites on those charges.

Upturn doesn't restore income

The Census Bureau reported October 5 that the number of people in the U.S. living below the official poverty levels dropped by 1.2 million, the first decrease in five years. Among the more significant gains was a 5 percent rise in the median income for Black households. Economists noted a decline in unemployment and the further lengthening of the workweek as reasons for the advances.

The improved income doesn't replace what many workers lost in the longer term. Despite this year's gains, the income for 80 percent of the population is lower than in 1989 when inflation is taken into account. Only the richest fifth of the population has more income than six years ago.

—DEREK BRACEY

THE MILITANT

Fight racist attacks

From the campaign to halt the execution of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal to the battles in cities across the country to defend school desegregation and affirmative action, working people have a big stake in the struggle for Black rights. The 'Militant' helps arm fighters in the battle against racist attacks.

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The Militant

Vol. 59/No. 39

Closing news date: October 12, 1995

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Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Laura Garza, Martin Koppel, Paul Mailhot, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and three weeks in July by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311,2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant Internet: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By

first-class (airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of IMei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

Washington pushes partition of Bosnia

BY LAURA GARZA

After successive NATO bombings of Belgrade-backed forces, and arm-twisting by Washington against all the parties involved, an agreement for a cease-fire in Bosnia has been cobbled together. The accord sets the stage for the massive deployment of U.S. troops and deeper imperialist intervention in the former Yugoslav workers state.

The U.S. government is planning to send up to 25,000 troops into the region — ostensibly to keep the peace — as part of an imperialist occupying force of up to 60,000 under NATO command. U.S. defense secretary William Perry told CNN that U.S. soldiers could be spending Thanksgiving in Bosnia.

The job of the U.S. troops will be to enforce the partition of Bosnia. Negotiations are set for late October in the United States to try and settle on a final division of the former Yugoslav republic.

As the October 10 ceasefire deadline passed, however, fighting ensued in northwestern Bosnia. Each of the warring sides tried to take as much as possible on the ground and jockey for position leading up to any eventual suspension of hostilities.

In the latest wave of "ethnic cleansing," thousands of people were being driven from their homes around Banja Luka, the largest city in Bosnia being held by the armies of Bosnian Serb chauvinist leaders Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic. At the same time, Bosnian government soldiers and Croatian army units massed for an offensive around Jasenica October 9, with their sights fixed on the nearby bigger city of Prijedor.

The warring sides finally announced that the cease fire took effect after midnight on October 12. It is supposed to last 60 days or until completion of planned peace talks.

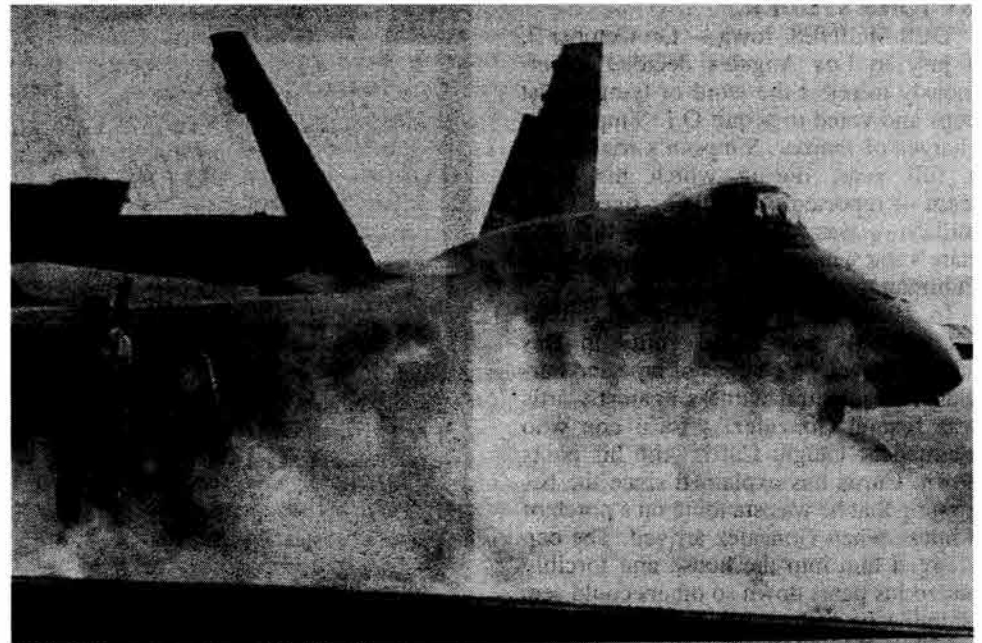
The agreement came on the heels of a two-week NATO bombing campaign in September, directed by Washington, that allowed for portions of territory held by Karadzic's troops to be taken out of their control. In a joint offensive that received Washington's blessing, the Croatian army and Bosnian government troops seized 1,500 square miles of land formerly held by Belgrade-backed Serbs.

The portion of territory controlled by Bosnian Serb troops was reduced from 70 percent to about 50 percent of the republic. This matches neatly with the "peace plan" peddled by Washington, which called for setting the division of Bosnia at 49 percent under control of Karadzic's forces and 51 percent under the control of a shaky alliance of the Bosnian government and the Croatian regime.

Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. assistant secretary of state who has been leading the negotiations for the proposed settlement, has been trying to portray the arrangement as one that preserves a united Bosnia. But the deal is aimed at establishing the division of Bosnia on a more stable foundation.

As *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman noted, "Two separate entities will be created: the Serbian Republic, in the Serb-held territories, and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Muslim-Croat areas. Each entity will have its own president, constitution, parliament and the right to affiliate with its neighbors. That is partition."

The U.S. government has been using its military might, and its central role in the bombing missions against Bosnian Serb positions, as a lever to exert pressure on Croatian president Franjo Tudjman and the government of Bosnia headed by Alija Izetbegovic to hold on as allies and to agree to the terms of the U.S. plan.



U.S. fighter jet takes off. Washington plans to send up to 25,000 troops to Bosnia.

The Tudjman-Izetbegovic alliance, however, is not on the firmest ground. Croatian army units now control 22 percent of Bosnian territory.

While the Bosnian government forces and the Croatian army have joined in military offensives against Karadzic's troops, the control of towns ends up in the hands of one army or another with no joint agreement for what happens to the population. The Croatian flag quickly appears in towns where Zagreb's army takes over and the Croatian currency is introduced. Croatian officers have also refused to allow the return of all those driven from the towns when Karadzic's troops occupied them, especially Muslims.

The troops slated to enforce the partition will be under NATO command according to the U.S.-sponsored accord. The

complete control by NATO forces gives greater weight to Washington, and marginalizes the ability of Moscow to play a direct role in determining what military actions are taken.

Washington plans to take direct control over the training of Bosnian armed forces. Who exactly among the so-called Muslim-Croat federation will receive the training and the new heavy weapons, is one of Washington's main bargaining chips in its push to impose and enforce a deal suited to its goals.

In a bid to get its piece of the action, the government of Germany announced October 11 it will send 5,000 troops as part of the NATO force. It will be the first deployment of German units into former Yugoslavia since the Nazi invasion of the country in World War II.

Fund lets 'Militant' keep up its coverage on Cuba

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

BROOKLYN, New York — Right now many readers of this paper are building the October 14 and 21 protests in Chicago, San Francisco, and New York — and other countries around the world — against the U.S. government's economic war on Cuba. In doing so, you have no doubt found how effective the *Militant* is as a tool to publicize these actions and explain the truth about the Cuban revolution.

The purpose of the Militant Fund campaign is to make sure the *Militant* is able to keep doing just that, as it has since working people took political power in Cuba in 1959.

That makes it all the more important to accelerate the fund-raising effort. The scoreboard on this page shows that, after an initial burst, the campaign slipped a bit in the second week. We have reached 17 percent of the overall goal — but should be at 20 percent.

In many of the areas listed, dozens of supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have already made pledges to the fund. Now is the time to step up the collection of these pledges. The money, in fact, is needed now to meet the expenses of the socialist publications.

The earlier Militant Fund meetings are organized in your areas, the more effective they will be in raising contributions. *Militant* supporters in Brooklyn are gearing up for an October 13 fund-raising event featuring Luis Madrid, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, who will speak on Cuba and world politics. Boosted by the 60 new subscribers we have won to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in the last two weeks, supporters here have invited them to the Militant Fund meeting and sent them a fund appeal.

In preparing an attractive display of historic *Militant* articles for this public meeting, we were graphically reminded of how consistent and irreplaceable the *Militant* has been in its defense of the Cuban revolution over the past 36 years.

For instance, a Feb. 1, 1960, front-page editorial titled "Return Guantanamo to Cuban People!" declared, "Guantanamo

can serve no purpose but to facilitate the landing of marines and armed intervention. Isn't it high time that the government of our country pulled its military forces out of Cuba? Let's give Guantanamo back to its rightful owners."

When Cuban leader Fidel Castro addressed the United Nations later that year, the *Militant* reported, "The bold and honest voice of a people's revolution rang out in the United Nations General Assembly Sept. 26 when Premiere Fidel Castro indicted U.S. policy toward Cuba, and set forth his government's line on national and world affairs."

When Washington brought the world to the brink of nuclear war in October 1962 during the so-called Cuban Missile Crisis, the *Militant* published a statement by the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party urging *Militant* readers to campaign around the following slogans: "Support public demonstrations against the Cuban blockade!" "Halt Kennedy's insane drive toward war!" and "Hands off Cuba!"

The *Militant* also supported and publicized the activities of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, a broad-based nationwide organization that involved young people and others in actions in defense of the Cuban revolution in the early 1960s.

In a feature titled "Fidel, Nicaragua leader stress solidarity," the Aug. 8, 1980, *Militant* reported on the annual July 26 revolutionary celebration in Cuba where Sandinista commander Jaime Wheelock was a guest speaker along with Castro. The *Militant* has published many speeches by the Cuban president over the years.

The *Militant* has regularly sent reporters to Cuba in recent years. Most recently, correspondents were on hand at the historic Cuba Lives international youth festival in August.

This unparalleled coverage of developments in revolutionary Cuba is what makes the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* unique. What better reason to dig deep and make a generous contribution to the \$125,000 Militant Fund and to approach new as well as longtime readers to pitch in too?

\$125,000

Militant Fund

| | Goal | Paid | Percent |
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| \$125,000 | | | |
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| Britain | | | |
| London | | | |
| Manchester | | \$20 | |
| Canada | | | |
| Montreal | | \$7 | |
| Toronto | | \$5 | |
| Vancouver | | | |
| France | | \$4 | |
| Greece | \$50 | | |
| New Zealand | | | |
| Christchurch | \$650 | \$262 | 40% |
| Auckland | \$2,470 | \$767 | 31% |
| Wellington | \$80 | | |
| Puerto Rico | \$100 | \$100 | 100% |
| Sweden | \$750 | | |
| United States | | | |
| Philadelphia | \$6,000 | \$2,510 | 42% |
| Atlanta | \$4,500 | \$1,750 | 39% |
| Twin Cities | \$6,500 | \$2,518 | 39% |
| Salt Lake City | \$3,800 | \$1,275 | 34% |
| Miami | \$2,600 | \$700 | 27% |
| Houston | \$3,500 | \$950 | 27% |
| Birmingham | \$3,700 | \$787 | 21% |
| San Francisco | \$10,000 | \$1,880 | 19% |
| Peoria | \$2,000 | \$345 | 17% |
| Newark | \$8,000 | \$1,217 | 15% |
| Los Angeles | \$10,000 | \$1,487 | 15% |
| Des Moines | \$3,200 | \$471 | 15% |
| Detroit | \$6,750 | \$750 | 11% |
| Pittsburgh | \$5,000 | \$550 | 11% |
| Brooklyn | \$8,000 | \$850 | 11% |
| Boston | \$5,000 | \$475 | 10% |
| Greensboro, NC | \$2,100 | \$170 | 8% |
| Seattle | \$7,000 | \$525 | 8% |
| New York | \$7,500 | \$345 | 5% |
| Cleveland | \$2,100 | \$71 | 3% |
| Washington, DC | \$3,300 | \$60 | 2% |
| Chicago | \$7,500 | \$100 | 1% |
| Morgantown, WV | \$2,600 | \$25 | 1% |
| Other | | \$166 | |
| TOTAL | \$125,150 | \$21,161 | 17% |

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Lying cops at center of Curtis frame-up

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — On October 2, a jury in Los Angeles decided unanimously to reject the word of lying, racist cops and voted to acquit O.J. Simpson on charges of murder. Simpson's trial lasted a full year, during which his legal team — reportedly paid over \$5 million — was able to show that the state's star witness, Los Angeles cop Mark Fuhrman, was a racist and a liar.

In 1988, union and political activist Mark Curtis was found guilty in Des Moines, Iowa, on charges of rape and burglary. The central witness against Curtis was Joseph Gonzalez, a local cop who claimed he caught Curtis with his pants down. Curtis has explained since the beginning that he was standing on a porch of a house when Gonzalez arrived. The cop dragged him into the house and forcibly pulled his pants down so others could see, claiming he had caught a "rape suspect" red-handed.

Gonzalez's charge was repeated in the local newspaper the next morning and innumerable times since by supporters of the cops and prosecutors who put Curtis behind bars.

As recently as last month, Barbara Binnie, vice chairperson of the Iowa Board of Parole, trying to justify the fact that Curtis is still in jail more than seven and a half years after his frame-up began, told the press, "I keep pointing to the fact that he was caught with his pants down."

At his September 1988 trial, Curtis's attorneys attempted to introduce evidence that Gonzalez had engaged in brutality in a previous case and lied to cover it up. Judge Harry Perkins refused to let the jury hear these facts. He refused a defense motion to review the rest of Gonzalez's file to see if there were other instances of brutal, racist, or lying behavior in them.

Simpson was acquitted while Curtis was convicted and imprisoned. Fuhrman and the Los Angeles police department have been rightly branded as racists and liars. In contrast, Des Moines cop Gonzalez was able to keep his record secret and to suppress the fact that he had been suspended for lying and brutality.

One important reason for the difference in the two trials is that Simpson was a star sports figure with million-dollar advertising and TV contracts, while Mark Curtis was a packinghouse worker and a socialist. Curtis was framed for speaking out in defense of 17 of his co-workers from Mexico and El Salvador who worked at the Monfort meatpacking company. The 17 had been seized in an immigration raid at the plant and threatened with deportation and prison.

Fuhrman testified that he had not used the word "nigger" in over 10 years. Simpson's lawyers found lengthy interview tapes in which Fuhrman used the word, and other slurs against Blacks and other working people, dozens of times. The cop also bragged on the tapes about beating up numerous working-class people.

Under the pressure of this revelation, Judge Ito allowed Fuhrman to be recalled to the stand outside the presence of the jury. Simpson's attorneys asked him directly whether he had tampered with any of the evidence in the case. Fuhrman took



1991 demonstration in Los Angeles demands removal of police chief Daryl Gates following beating of Rodney King. Cop brutality and lies are standard procedure.

the Fifth Amendment, claiming that if he answered he might incriminate himself.

Before Curtis's trial in 1988, his lawyers and supporters combed local newspaper records looking for public reports about Gonzalez. The court had denied them access to his police record. Furthermore, police "use of force" and internal affairs records in Des Moines are not considered public documents. The Des Moines cops label these files as "produced in anticipation of litigation," and therefore privileged and secret.

Des Moines cop's record

Curtis's supporters found a 1978 article in the *Des Moines Register* reporting on how one instance of brutality and lying by Gonzalez became public.

A political furor was unleashed when the Des Moines City Council was asked to shell out \$851 to pay a damage settlement to a young worker who had been beaten and subjected to false arrest by Gonzalez and another cop.

A letter was read to the council from the city attorney's office explaining that Gonzalez provoked his suspect into a fight in the city jail and injured his head.

Council members demanded an explanation from then Chief of Police Wendell Nichols.

Gonzalez "was suspended from the police force for four days for using unnecessary force and 10 days for 'lying' about details of the incident," the *Register* quoted Nichols. "I also put Gonzalez on probation for one year," Nichols added, "and if he screws up one more time, I'll fire him. I told him that."

Nichols said that instead of reporting what had happened, Gonzalez and the other cop "covered their tracks."

In Curtis's trial, the jury was denied the right to hear that Gonzalez had been suspended for brutality and lying. The judge ruled that this fact — as well as others that

might be in Gonzalez's secret file — was not "relevant." The jury didn't need to know that he had lied before to make a judgment whether he was lying now.

This wasn't the only instance of cop brutality, racism, and lying kept from Curtis's jury. The judge ruled that they should know nothing of the fact that after Curtis's arrest, he was taken to the city jail and brutally beaten. As they beat Curtis, smashing his cheekbone, officers called Curtis a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

The central question in Curtis's trial was whether the cops had demonstrated prejudice against him, but the judge refused to let the jury hear about the beating. At one point, the prosecuting attorney asked Curtis pointedly why he had not returned to work after his arrest and the judge refused to allow him to answer that he had taken a leave in order to recover from the savagery of the police beating.

Curtis later brought a civil rights lawsuit against the cops who beat him and won. In 1992, Federal Judge Charles Wolle ordered the cops and the city of Des Moines to pay \$64,000 in damages and legal fees to Curtis.

When the tapes exposing Fuhrman were played in the Los Angeles courtroom, head Des Moines cop William Moulder told the *Des Moines Register* that he had not received reports of Des Moines cops using racist language in the 10 years he had been chief.

Moulder was having a bad memory lapse. Over the last ten years there has been ample proof of racist, brutal behavior by Des Moines cops.

Des Moines police officer Deborah Lynch filed a lawsuit against racist and sexist abuse from fellow officers in 1984 and 1985.

In the course of the Lynch trial, it was revealed that Des Moines police officers had donned Ku Klux Klan robes to terrorize a Black police officer. Testimony in the case, quoted in the *Register*, showed that another Black officer was kept out of a social because the cop holding the party said "he would not let a nigger in his house."

At the conclusion of the trial, Judge Michael Streit ruled that the police department and the city were fully liable for "ignorant," "disgusting," "intensely degrading," "crude," and "reprehensible, harassing conduct" against Lynch.

The Des Moines cops' response was to condemn the judge's ruling. In January 1989, Moulder released to the press a copy of a letter he had sent to one of the cops found to have harassed Lynch. "You will not be subject to any criticism or sanction," the police chief wrote. "I believe I am in a better position to make that judgment than the judge was."

In December 1991, Des Moines cops brutally beat Larry Milton, a Black worker. They called him a "nigger" and smashed his head with an extra-large police-issue flashlight. It took 22 surgical staples to close the wounds on his head.

This beating, which came shortly after

the Los Angeles cop beating of Rodney King, caused an outcry in Des Moines. Thousands rallied against the cop violence, calling for the arrest and prosecution of the cops responsible.

Moulder's police department refused to act. Instead they prosecuted Milton. It was in the context of these mobilizations that Mark Curtis won his civil suit against the cops who beat him.

Milton also brought a civil suit against the cops. Milton won a ruling that the cops had violated his rights in brutalizing him. However, in a cynical decision making a mockery of the value of the life of a working person, Milton and his attorneys were only awarded \$1 in damages.

Fuhrman is not an exception

Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and other workers are subjected to racist comments and taunts from the cops on the streets of Des Moines every day, just as they are in every other city in this country. Today in Iowa's prisons, one-quarter of the inmate population is Black, though Blacks comprise less than 2 percent of the state's population.

Police Chief Moulder and the Des Moines cops know these facts as well as we do. But they attempt to cover them up, hoping to minimize the impact of revelations of police racism, violence and frame-ups from Philadelphia to New Orleans, Los Angeles to Des Moines.

Des Moines police spokesperson Sgt. Judy Bradshaw put her finger on the problem. "Three months ago, if a defense lawyer in Iowa suggested evidence was planted by a police officer, people would have found it to be a ridiculous suggestion," she asserted. "Now, who knows what they might think?"

Mark Fuhrman is not only a Los Angeles phenomenon. Nor is he a freak, one bad apple out of a generally good bunch. He is what cops are like.

The one big difference between O.J. Simpson's trial and that of hundreds of thousands of workers who go to court every year is that because of Simpson's high-priced legal team and the widespread distrust of the Los Angeles police department, Simpson was able to get the kind of trial only money can buy in capitalist society. This stands in stark contrast to what working people face when they find themselves in court. In Mark Curtis's case, cop Gonzalez's past brutality and lying were not deemed "relevant."

Curtis's fight for justice is a contribution to exposing police departments for what they are: racist, anti-working class terror machines.

'Of course I support fight of Mark Curtis' says framed-up miner

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Framed up Canadian gold miner Roger Warren, who was railroaded to prison following a bitter struggle against Royal Oak Mines in Northwest Territories, recently sent this reporter a letter about Mark Curtis, enclosing an endorsement card for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Warren writes, "Of course I support the fight to free Mark Curtis as his situation was obviously the result of a frame-up. I must say it was a very sloppy one, but with the forces of the state arrayed against you what chance is there for the average citizen. In most jurisdictions his case would have never gone to court."

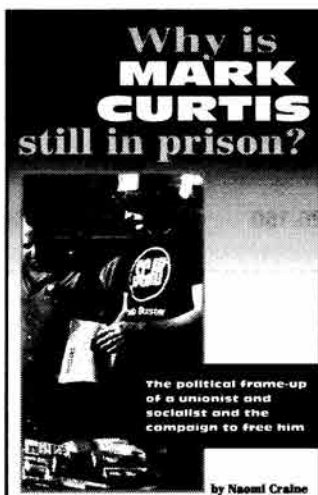
"The one thing I find astounding is that despite seemingly overwhelming evidence in Mark's favour, most of which was kept from the jury, he hasn't been granted a new trial.... Public pressure must be relentlessly applied to affect his release. This sort of state arbitrariness bodes ill in a nation that purports to be the freest in the world."

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

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

Nine-day target effort will help get ahead on sales drive

Continued from front page
sold, 174 new subscribers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 98 copies of *New International* sold.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, socialist workers noted mid-week they were falling behind and decided to organize the extra push needed to get out evening teams during the week and a big day Saturday going door-to-door in student dormitories and apartments. By Sunday they were back on target. Beverly Bernardo said the coverage of the referendum on Quebec sovereignty and articles on Cuba helped engage people in discussions and interest them in getting a subscription.

They plan to have a team at a demonstration in Victoria, British Columbia, to protest cuts in education funding and are joining with activists heading to San Francisco for a regional demonstration on October 14 against the U.S. government's embargo of Cuba. Along with plans for more door-to-door sales, campus tables, and attending political events, they aim to come out of the third week of the drive ahead of schedule.

Nine target days for sales blitz

The *Militant* is asking its supporters in every city to join in making special plans to target Saturday, October 28, through Sunday, November 5, for subscription sales to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and single copy sales of *New International*. We can start now to plan regional teams to regional areas where important strikes or political activities are taking place and coordinate taking days off work to get as many people as possible geared into these special opportunities to win new readers to the socialist press.

The most important preparation for the target days, though, will be to head into them with a good percentage of our goals sold and use the added time we devote to sales in those days to come out ahead of schedule in the international drive. This will give us the needed momentum to close out the subscription campaign two weeks later on November 19, in full and on time.

While the scoreboard shows we have our work cut out for us in most places, reports coming in indicate that where we organize ourselves we get results.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party in many cities have been successful in getting large numbers of *Militant* supporters out on weekend teams to campaign with the socialist press. In Newark, New Jersey, 21 people formed six teams to spend Sunday, October 8, introducing the paper to people and passing out flyers for the October 21 demonstration in New York City calling for an end to Washington's embargo of Cuba. One team also went to Englewood, New Jersey, where a fight over desegregation is shaping up, and found a lot of interest in the *Militant*'s coverage of desegregation fights around the country.

The Newark teams concen-

trated on going door-to-door, as well as visiting areas they had been to the week before where people had signed up to have someone call back to collect money for a subscription. Nine

Accurate reports of sales on the job and the latest figures of what has been sold to fellow workers in our unions haven't made it in to the *Militant* office yet. Socialist workers in the different unions



Militant/Patrick Brown
Supporter sells *Militant* at rally in Dunedin, New Zealand, protesting government attacks on education rights in August.

new readers of the *Militant* and one for *Perspectiva Mundial* subscribed from these teams, including several who had asked to be called back.

Daily attention to the drive, and a plan for teams throughout the week, has been key to the success in Philadelphia. Socialist workers use their weekly meetings to sign people up to participate in teams and set a plan to meet the weekly goal. Organizers of the sales effort review the sign-up sheet during a break in the meeting to make adjustments in the number or size of teams to insure that the plans that have been mapped out can be accomplished.

The daily attention to the sales effort in Philadelphia has helped boost circulation of the press among co-workers. Socialist Workers Party city council candidate John Staggs sold four new subscriptions and a renewal to members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) before being laid off from his job at Ford Electronics. Mayoral candidate Deborah Liatos sold two subscriptions to co-workers who are members of the International Association of Machinists at USAir.

More organized efforts to get the press out on the job is one of the goals of the subscription drive. Supporters in many areas are taking advantage of the final push to get people to attend the regional actions in defense of Cuba and against the U.S. government's embargo as a way to reach out to more co-workers.

need to send in reports of what has been sold by noon on Tuesday each week to be included in the scoreboard. This is the same deadline for reporting all the figures from each city for sales of *New International*. Reports on experiences in the sales campaign can be faxed in at any time.

Below is a recent report from Boston supporters:

BOSTON — After receiving our papers on Friday night we sold 43 copies and had to order 25 more. Over the weekend we sold the paper at an immigrant rights protest where someone subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*, at a dinner featuring families of Irish hunger strikers, door-to-door, and on street tables. Striking workers from the Detroit *Free Press* and Detroit *News* toured Boston this week. We sold four singles at the Boston *Herald* plant gate while helping to leaflet for their meeting and we sold two *Militant* subscriptions at meetings where they spoke in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island.

We took advantage of the Columbus Day holiday to get all-day teams out with tables to build the October 21 march in New York demanding an end to the embargo of Cuba. We found real interest in the article on the Quebec referendum in a neighborhood with many Haitian immigrants who have lived in Quebec and one *Militant* subscription was sold there.

Mary Nell Bockman

END OF WEEK TWO

| City | goal | Militant sold | % | PM goal | PM sold | NI goal | NI sold |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Canada | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver | 45 | 12 | 27% | 6 | | 20 | 3 |
| Montreal | 50 | 12 | 24% | 12 | 5 | 30 | 7 |
| Toronto ^ | 50 | 8 | 16% | 10 | 2 | 25 | 3 |
| Total | 145 | 32 | 22% | 28 | 7 | 75 | 13 |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| Indiana | 10 | 4 | 40% | 0 | | 0 | |
| Philadelphia | 75 | 26 | 35% | 15 | 1 | 15 | |
| Salt Lake City | 50 | 17 | 34% | 15 | 3 | 15 | 2 |
| Houston | 55 | 17 | 31% | 20 | 9 | 16 | 1 |
| Chicago | 65 | 19 | 29% | 20 | 11 | 25 | 3 |
| Birmingham, AL | 49 | 14 | 29% | 5 | | 15 | |
| Seattle | 70 | 19 | 27% | 15 | 3 | 20 | 3 |
| Brooklyn | 160 | 41 | 26% | 50 | 19 | 50 | 18 |
| Twin Cities, MN | 70 | 17 | 24% | 12 | 2 | 20 | 4 |
| Cleveland | 40 | 9 | 23% | 10 | 3 | 15 | |
| New York | 120 | 27 | 23% | 40 | 28 | 55 | 14 |
| Atlanta | 55 | 12 | 22% | 18 | 7 | 15 | |
| San Francisco | 98 | 20 | 20% | 30 | 3 | 60 | 9 |
| Boston | 40 | 8 | 20% | 8 | 4 | 16 | 5 |
| Miami | 60 | 12 | 20% | 20 | 7 | 30 | |
| Newark, NJ | 130 | 25 | 19% | 35 | 15 | 40 | 1 |
| Greensboro, NC | 55 | 10 | 18% | 10 | 1 | 10 | |
| Los Angeles | 120 | 21 | 18% | 75 | 24 | 75 | 3 |
| Des Moines | 50 | 8 | 16% | 25 | 8 | 20 | |
| Peoria, IL | 32 | 5 | 16% | 2 | | 8 | |
| Denver | 7 | 1 | 14% | 3 | 1 | 3 | |
| Washington, DC | 45 | 6 | 13% | 15 | 1 | 20 | 4 |
| Detroit | 65 | 8 | 12% | 10 | 2 | 20 | 1 |
| Pittsburgh | 65 | 7 | 11% | 5 | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| Morgantown, WV | 48 | 5 | 10% | 2 | | | |
| Albany | 7 | | 0% | 1 | | 5 | |
| Cincinnati | 8 | | 0% | 2 | | 2 | |
| New Haven | 5 | | 0% | 1 | | 2 | |
| Tucson | 5 | | 0% | 2 | | 2 | |
| Total U.S. | 1659 | 358 | 22% | 466 | 153 | 589 | 69 |
| Greece | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 1 | 20% | 1 | | 4 | 1 |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | |
| Auckland | 18 | 3 | 17% | 1 | | 5 | 1 |
| Christchurch | 8 | 1 | 13% | 1 | | 3 | |
| Wellington | 2 | | 0% | 0 | | 1 | |
| Total | 28 | 4 | 14% | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| Sweden | | | | | | | |
| Stockholm | 20 | 3 | 15% | 15 | 6 | 20 | 4 |
| Malmö | 2 | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Total | 22 | 3 | 14% | 17 | 7 | 21 | 4 |
| Britain | | | | | | | |
| Manchester | 40 | 9 | 23% | 1 | 1 | 20 | 4 |
| Sheffield | 12 | 1 | 8% | 1 | | 3 | |
| London | 35 | | 0% | 10 | 1 | 25 | 3 |
| Total | 87 | 10 | 11% | 12 | 2 | 48 | 7 |
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | | 0% | 3 | 3 | 12 | 3 |
| France | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | | 0% | 5 | | 20 | |
| Iceland | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | | 0% | 1 | | 3 | |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | | 0% | 6 | 2 | 4 | |
| International Total | 1979 | 408 | 21% | 541 | 174 | 785 | 98 |
| Goal/Should be at | 1950 | 488 | 25% | 525 | 131 | 750 | 188 |

^ increased goal

IN THE UNIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| AWU-FIME | 2 | | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | | | | | |
| USWA | 5 | | 0% | 0 | | 2 | |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | |
| EU | | | | | | | |
| MWU | 2 | | 0% | 0 | | 0 | |
| New Zealand total | 2 | | 0% | 0 | | 0 | |
| Sweden | | | | | | | |
| Metal union | | | | | | | 1 |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| IAM | 59 | 3 | 5% | 9 | 1 | 17 | |
| OCAW | | | | | | | |
| UAW | 65 | | 0% | 10 | | 17 | |
| UFCW | | | | | | | |
| UMWA | | | | | | | |
| UNITE | | | | | | | |
| USWA | 28 | | 0% | | | | |
| UTU | 58 | | 0% | 3 | | 17 | |
| U.S. Total | 210 | 3 | 1% | 22 | | 51 | |

Socialist candidate demands 'jobs for all'

St. Paul initiative is a diversion from struggle against unemployment

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — During my recent election campaign as the Socialist Workers candidate for city council, which ended after the "non-partisan" primary on September 12, I was often asked what the main issue for St. Paul is. In each case I said the biggest questions aren't those confronting St. Paul as a whole, but those that are a challenge for working people. Top on the list for workers — but not for employers — I explained, is the same problem we face nationally and internationally: unemployment.

I cited an International Labor Organization report issued earlier this year on world employment. It stated that 30 percent of the worldwide labor force was without a job or underemployed at the end of 1994. This is the highest global joblessness level since the worst period of the 1930s Great Depression.

These are depression conditions that are going to get worse as the mounting glut of commodities on the world market drives the capitalist predators into even more intense rivalry and imposing more draconian cost-cutting measures.

In the United States the official joblessness rate has been hovering around 5.6 percent for some time, a level that has come to be accepted by the bosses and their economic experts as "normal" for an upturn in the business cycle. But this represents about 8 million workers and is higher than most years between 1941 and 1975.

In St. Paul, as elsewhere, the highest levels of joblessness or underemployment are among youth and workers who are Black, Latino, or Hmong.

The harmful effects on those who are out of work, with only meager jobless benefits or none at all and no medical benefits, is pretty evident, especially if months drag on before they can get another job, usually one that pays less. But unemployment is also a serious problem for those who are still hanging onto their jobs. Not only are they tormented by the possibility that they might be next, but the employers use high levels of joblessness

to press us to accept no wage increases or even cuts and worse working conditions.

According to a recent report from the Economic Policy Institute, in the last six years, hourly pay, when adjusted for inflation, has remained the same or declined for all but the top 20 percent of male wage-earners and the top 30 percent of women in the work force. Overall, in the last 15 years the average wage has declined.

The bosses also use unemployment to pit employed and unemployed workers against each other, reinforcing the greatest chasm between workers. Employed workers are told that the jobless are too lazy to find work. Certain categories are branded as inferior — Blacks, Latinos, immigrants, youth, women — and thus less deserving of jobs or of better-paying jobs. These pariahs, we are told, are out to steal the jobs of those who are currently working. Each worker is thus backed into a corner trying to defend my job, in my plant, in my city, and in my country. The ruling rich foster this divide to undermine the possibility of workers recognizing our common exploitation and common enemy and joining forces to fight collectively.

Labor must lead campaign for jobs

"But what can be done?" I was asked. "What does the Socialist Workers Party propose?"

"Electing me to the city council won't solve the problem," I pointed out. "The real challenge is for the organized labor movement — the trade unions — to lead a campaign for jobs."

It's out of current battles and those that are coming that workers will press for this fight. In the Twin Cities, for example, some 2,000 bus drivers are now out on strike resisting efforts by the ruling rich to increase the proportion of part-time drivers.

In my campaign I outlined the key proposals that must be part of this fight:

1) Reduce the work week to 30 hours, with no loss in weekly pay, in order to spread the available work to more work-

ers;

2) Launch a government-financed public works program to build, repair, and adequately staff schools, hospitals and clinics, parks, libraries, public transportation, and child-care centers.

3) Establish and enforce affirmative action, including quotas, to achieve preferential hiring and upgrading of workers who are Black, Latino, Asian, or women. Maintain dual seniority lists to prevent erosion of past gains when layoffs hit.

4) Substantially increase wages, Social Security benefits, and pensions and institute cost-of-living escalator clauses to keep up with inflation.

One can readily see that these steps can't be implemented simply on a plant-wide or even a city- or state-wide level. They will require action by the national government. This means unions have to go beyond fighting for better contracts to also establishing a political movement.

This can't be done by ringing doorbells for the "friends of labor" in the Democratic Party. This lot were never truly champions of workers, and a growing number of those who pretended to be on our side are openly thumbing their nose at labor. A rude lesson was served earlier this year in Minnesota when labor-backed Democrats in the state legislature joined with Republicans to slash workmen's compensation benefits by 33 percent.

The next giant step for working people is to establish our own political instrument, a fighting party that is based on the organizational strengths of revitalized unions.

During the city elections another approach to the problem of unemployment has been posed. A "Jobs and Fair Wage Initiative" has been placed on the ballot for the November 7 elections that would place some restrictions on private corporations receiving more than \$25,000 in aid from city or port authority coffers — tax credits, grants, etc., as well as all affected contractors, subcontractors, and leaseholders. To receive public aid they would need to produce a net increase in jobs

within two years; pay employees at work sites in the city at least a poverty-level wage for a family of four (currently \$7.22); and to the extent possible fill all job openings with unemployed or underemployed St. Paul residents referred by a community hiring hall to be established.

This initiative was placed on the ballot through the petitioning efforts of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) and the Twin Cities Area New Party. It is being promoted by liberal Democratic city council members and a wing of the city's union officials. At its August meeting the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly voted to support the measure, but reversed this position at its September meeting when building trades officials mobilized a big turnout to oppose the ballot initiative.

The editors of the city's main daily, the *Pioneer Press*, denounced the measure for its "unreasonable wage and job-growth mandates on city businesses." This, the paper claims, would "cause a rapid business exodus from St. Paul into the suburbs and Minneapolis."

St. Paul Mayor Norman Coleman, who has been leading the charge to slash medical benefits for city employees, echoed this line at a news conference a few days later, dubbing the measure "dumb and dangerous."

'Jobs' initiative is diversion from fight

What stand should working people take on the ballot measure?

The Socialist Workers Party is urging a vote against it. In no way does the proposal seriously address or offer any remedy to the problems of unemployment and low wages. Nor does support for it even take the first step toward resolving these problems. In fact, it is a diversion from labor launching the kind of working-class fight for jobs and wages that is necessary.

Instead of a government-financed and operated public works program it accepts the framework of doling out public funds to profit-gouging real estate sharks, construction companies, and land developers. These are grants and tax breaks that they get above payments received in city contracts through a normal bidding process.

Moreover, the initiative accepts, and in fact promotes, the notion that poverty-level wages are all right. Naturally, the construction companies and other profiteers, backed by their mayor, yelp that \$7.22 is too high, because they are currently trying to drive down workers' wages and lower expectations. But this is well below the union scale currently paid to city employees and construction workers. To the extent that the St. Paul city government enforced such a wage policy, it would be used as a bludgeon to put downward pressure on union construction and industrial wages in St. Paul, not to raise the wages of the worst-paid workers and thus the working class as a whole.

Even though unemployment is highest among the Hmong from Laos and Vietnam, recent immigrants from Mexico and Central America, and Blacks, there are no proposals for affirmative action. Instead the measure advocates hiring residents of St. Paul through "community" hiring halls. This is a narrow-minded, reactionary notion that would bolster divisions between workers in St. Paul and those from Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs who are part of the same job pool.

Hiring halls set up and run by a bourgeois municipal government are not an improvement for any section of the working class, including Blacks, women, and others who are often denied equal employment opportunities by job trusts imposed by the trade union officialdom. They in no way point toward independent working-class action and organization.

The main problem is that the proposal leads to counting on trying to make, in a very limited way, the bosses accountable. If they refuse, and move somewhere else as the mayor and the *Pioneer Press* editors warn, then where's the jobs program?

All of this underlines the need for working people to count on our own strength through an independent organized political movement that can fight for the government to implement the measures that are needed as the social and economic crisis deepens.

World youth federation meets in S. Africa

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND ROMAN KANE

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — "Our struggle is global. Because racism and exploitation exist throughout the world. And youth have a particular place in the struggle for a just world order alongside the working class. That has been the case with the ANC Youth League, which was at the center of the battle against apartheid since its founding in 1944."

With these words, Walter Sisulu welcomed participants at the meeting of the General Council of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), which took place here October 1-4. Sisulu, a long-time leader of the African National Congress, made a particular point of thanking Ibis Alvisa González, representative of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba, for attending the meeting. "The bonds between the people of Cuba and South Africa have been forged in blood and are unbreakable," the ANC leader said.

The meeting, which was hosted by the ANC Youth League, agreed to a proposal by the UJC that Cuban youth organizations issue a call for a world festival of students and youth to take place in Cuba, most likely in the summer of 1997. The idea was first raised by Cuban president Fidel Castro and leaders of the UJC during the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival that took place in Havana and other Cuban provinces August 1-7.

"We aim to organize 10,000 young people to come to Cuba," Alvisa González said. "Such a festival can unite all the progressive and anti-imperialist youth forces around the world." The event will be open to all international, national, and local youth organizations interested to participate.

WFDY has organized 13 world youth festivals since it was founded in 1945. The last one was in Pyongyang, Korea, in 1989. Participants at the General Council



WFDY participants from left: José Antonio Parente, Oct. 8 Revolutionary Youth of Brazil; Ibis Alvisa González, UJC; Walter Sisulu, ANC S. Africa; Mohammed Beisat, Polisario Western Sahara; Ramesh Kumar Silwal, DNYF of Nepal.

meeting agreed that WFDY views the 1997 world gathering as a continuation of previous festivals.

Thirty-five people attended the meeting here, representing 26 youth organizations from 25 countries. In addition to the UJC of Cuba and the ANC Youth League, these included the Movement of Communist Youth of France (MJCF), Young Communists of Portugal, Communist Youth of Greece, General Union of Palestinian Students, All India Youth Federation, Socialist Youth League of Japan, Socialist Working Youth League of Korea, Sudanese Youth Union, Polisario Youth of Western Sahara, South West African People's Organization Youth League of Namibia, October 8 Revolutionary Youth of Brazil, and Young Socialists of the United States.

The meeting decided to launch a worldwide campaign in solidarity with Cuba, which will include efforts by member or-

ganizations to collect and send school supplies to Cuba, and a WFDY work brigade to the Caribbean island next year with representatives of as many member organizations as possible.

The program of activities adopted by the federation council includes organizing mobilizations against unemployment, and actions condemning the NATO bombing in Bosnia and demanding a halt to the nuclear testing by French imperialism in the Pacific.

The meeting approved a proposal by the representatives of the MJCF of France to urge affiliates to campaign for the freedom for Mumia Abu Jamal and Mark Curtis, both of whom have been framed up by the police in the United States.

The General Council also voted to ask member groups to organize meetings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of WFDY in as many countries as possible.

'Art, literature are a priority in Cuba'

BY CANDACE WAGNER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Art and literature continue to be a priority in Cuba, despite our economic difficulties," declared Cuban poet Norberto Codina Boeras to an audience at George Washington University (GWU) the evening of October 4. The event was sponsored by the International Cultural Affairs, Multicultural Affairs, and Arts committees of the university's program board.

Codina, editor of the prominent cultural magazine *La Gaceta de Cuba*, had been invited by the Latin American Studies Association to attend its September 28-30 congress here. He then began a four-week speaking tour in this city, Los Angeles, Houston, and New York at the invitation of numerous academic figures and institutions in those areas.

He was welcomed at the GWU meeting by American University professor Eileen Findley and other professors who have been working with the Norberto Codina Lectures Committee, which is coordinating his four-city tour.

The Cuban poet opened his talk, attended by about 65 students and others, by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to "get to know each other a little better. Both you and us have been operating on the basis of stereotypes. We need to break through those stereotypes."

Codina pointed out the historical interrelationship of culture in the United States and Cuba. Ernest Hemingway, who spent years living on the Caribbean island, "is Cuba's greatest writer," he said. "You sent Hemingway to us — a tall adventurous white man. We sent a small Black man to you — Chano [Pozo] — who made a revolution in jazz."

"Today, music from the United States is very popular in Cuba and 90 percent of the films shown are from the United States." This fact was surprising to some in the audience who had heard through the U.S. media that the revolutionary government denied Cubans access to U.S. culture and politics.

Despite the severe ongoing shortages of artistic materials, including paper, Codina told of a "great flourishing of Cuban culture" today. He encouraged the audience to attend the showing of the Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate* the following

night at the university. "The film is a reflection of the many other developments going on in literature and art in Cuba. It deals with the most sensitive issues — homosexuality and emigration. It is a film about dogmatism and the struggle against it. Most of all it is a message against intolerance."

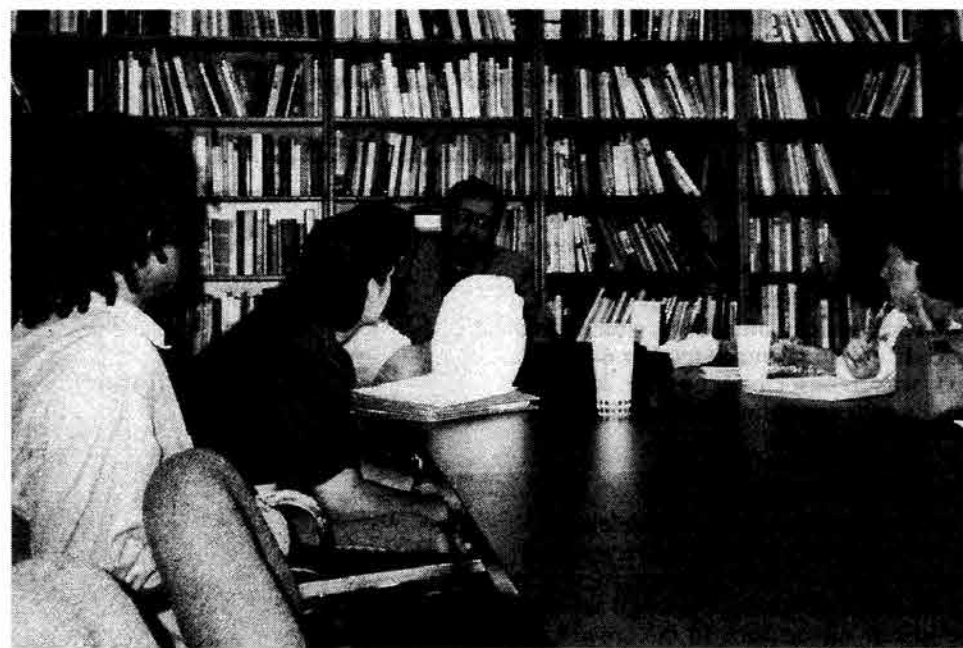
La Gaceta published an interview in its September-October 1993 issue with Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, director of *Strawberry and Chocolate*, whose two main characters are a young gay man and a Union of Young Communists militant. The film is very popular in Cuba.

"The most important cultural event in Cuban history," Codina explained, "was the literacy campaign" launched immediately after the victory of the 1959 revolution. "The fact that we were able to wipe out illiteracy immediately was a first for a poor country like Cuba. It was the first step for a country to have access to literature and art. Prior to the revolution we had no printing capacity, only tiny workshops that usually would print no more than 500 copies of a title."

In 1959 the revolutionary government printed 50,000 copies of the classical novel *Don Quixote* by Cervantes. "This book was a banner leading us forward in Cuban cultural development," Codina noted. An effort was also made from the beginning of the revolution to bring culture into the factories and further into the schools.

During the discussion period, Codina highlighted some of the history of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, which is published by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC). The magazine has published for 33 years, with a hiatus in 1990-92 due to the limited paper supplies precipitated by the collapse of trade at preferential prices with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries. Since then the magazine has been financed largely through donations from Cuba solidarity committees abroad, the French ministry of culture, and individual contributors. Selling subscriptions to the magazine and the controversial step of including advertising are part of the effort to make the publication self-financing.

La Gaceta has gone through different stages over the years, Codina explained.



Militant/Janice Lynn

Norberto Codina (center) talks with students at George Mason University

"At times it has been an important forum for debate and discussion, at other times a top-down publication — very dogmatic," he said. "In the last four years it has been full of constant discussion and debate over ideas, exchanges, breaking down taboos, reconsidering mistakes of the past."

While, as a magazine dedicated to art and culture, the debates published in *La Gaceta de Cuba* are not primarily on political subjects, "pure art and literature don't exist," said Codina. "We humans are political animals. It is clear that in any society art and literature are elements that pick up the pulse beat of the population. They have a catalyzing effect — they are the finger in the sore."

In one controversial but popular move, *La Gaceta de Cuba* has featured interviews with and articles by a range of Cuban writers living in the United States.

Even during the 1970s, which Codina referred to as "the gray years" of Cuban culture, "the revolutionary government never exercised measures like the banning of films from capitalist countries as did governments in China and Romania, for example," he said. "Even in that period Kafka was published and Cubans could view Fellini films that were unknown to many North Americans."

Members of the audience asked Codina a number of questions. "Won't the lifting of the blockade cause more problems in Cuba?" one asked.

"There is nothing more urgent for the Cuban people than the complete halt of the U.S. embargo," answered Codina.

"While this would mean new challenges, the most important thing is stopping the blockade."

Brian Adams, coordinator of the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition, chaired the meeting. He urged all participants to buy bus tickets for the October 21 demonstration in New York opposing U.S. policy toward Cuba. Similar actions are being held October 14 in Chicago and San Francisco.

Earlier in the day, Codina held a discussion with a dozen students and faculty at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. The Center for the Studies of the Americas and the departments of foreign language, literature, and art history hosted the event.

The following day, half a dozen activists from Local 82 of the Service Employees International Union who are involved in the Justice for Janitors campaign met with Codina. They told him of their efforts to organize the cleaners in office buildings in the Washington area, many of whom are from El Salvador and other Central American countries. Codina asked the union activists questions with great interest.

A discussion ensued on questions ranging from the role of trade unions in Cuba to how Cuba will maintain its socialist course as foreign investment is opened up, as well as Cuba's cultural policies.

A poetry reading and reception at El Centro de Arte, (Latino Art Center), was another highlight of the tour here. Along with Codina, Efraín Inurreta Díaz and Ana Noriega Olarte of the Academia Ibero-Americana de Poesía opened the program with their poetry. Later, others read poetry and sang. A broad range of regional cultural experiences were represented, from Puerto Rico to Argentina and Peru.

The Cuban also spoke to students at a Latin American studies class at George Washington University.

At Codina's speaking engagements, supporters of *La Gaceta de Cuba* sold 15 copies of the magazine. A number of people also signed up to be contacted about subscribing to the bimonthly.

Candace Wagner is a member of the United Transportation Workers Union in Washington, D.C., and active in the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition.

'Gaceta de Cuba' is forum of culture, politics

BY LUIS MADRID AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

The ability to engage in political discussion and debate within the Cuban-American community in Miami "is opening up somewhat," says Achy Obejas in an interview appearing in the latest issue of *La Gaceta de Cuba*. The magazine interviewed her and fellow Cuban-American writer Cristina García in Havana following their participation in the conference held there last June on National Identity and Culture.

Obejas is author of *We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?* — a collection of short stories in which all the main characters are gay. She also writes on culture for the *Chicago Tribune*. García wrote the novel *Dreaming in Cuban*, one of the best-known books by a Cuban-American writer. The interview was conducted by Waldo Leyva and Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta*, and appears in its September-October issue.

Obejas's comment referred to the differing reactions she got to her book while on a promotional tour in Miami. As she explained in the *La Gaceta* interview, one major bookstore canceled a reading after discovering that her stories, which are not primarily political, did not openly take a position against the Cuban revolution, and some rightists threatened her over the radio; an event held at another major bookstore was a success.

Cuban-American literature "is still in its infancy," continued García. "Perhaps in about a decade we will have an interesting, experimental literature." But, according to Obejas, this literature "is already becoming part of the Latin American culture within the context of the United States."

Published by the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC), *La Gaceta de Cuba* is the leading journal for discussion and debate on culture, politics, and the challenges facing the Cuban revolution today. The latest issue contains a wide array of articles, reviews, interviews, essays, and poems.

In an interview, editor Codina, who is presently on a U.S. speaking tour (see accompanying article), noted other highlights of the new issue. "In particular there is a dossier devoted to Severo Sarduy, one of the most outstanding Cuban writers. He emigrated to France in the early 1960s and died there in 1993." The dossier includes articles on Sarduy by Brazilian essayist Irlemar Chiampi and a young Cuban author, Jorge Fornet, as well as a little-known, 1986 work by Sarduy himself.

"Despite his literary stature, Sarduy is not known very much in Cuba," Codina emphasized. "His work — novels, essays, and poetry — was ignored for many years because he lived outside Cuba, although he was never hostile to the revolution. This was due to the then-prevalent idea, very Stalin-like, that if you leave Cuba, you are no longer a Cuban writer."

Embracing Cuban writers and artists abroad as part of the nation's living cultural wealth, as *La Gaceta* does, is one of the changes taking place in revolutionary Cuba today, Codina underlined.

Other articles in this issue include:

- A discussion of the work of Roberto Fabelo, "considered by many the best graphic artist in Cuba today," as Codina put it. This includes a piece by distinguished Cuban writer Miguel Barnet.
- An essay on the music of the late Ernesto Lecuona, Cuba's premier popular

composer.

- An article by Esther Suárez Durán that according to Codina "rescues the legacy of Cuban *teatro bufo* [popular comic theater], which flourished at the turn of the century but was long considered a 'minor art' through elitist or dogmatic prejudice."

- A literary piece, "The Circle and the Cross," that comments on the Cuban electoral process.

- An interview in which Brazilian novelist Nélida Piñón draws on her own experience.

Continued on Page 14

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'Internationalism contributed to victory'

South Africa president Nelson Mandela addresses Cuba solidarity conference

Following is a speech by South African president Nelson Mandela to the opening of the Southern Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference, which took place in Johannesburg October 6-8. The text was transcribed by the *Militant* from a tape recording. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY NELSON MANDELA

Comrades, chairperson, and delegates,
Some time ago, in the past five years, an African leader visited a country, I won't say on which continent, but I will say that the visitor waved back to the crowds as their host head of state had them tour through the streets. There were huge crowds. And they cheered the two leaders.

At that moment the host just laughed and said to the visitor, "These cheers are not meant for you, they are meant for me." [Laughter]

I went to Cuba in July 1991, and I drove through the streets with Fidel Castro. There were a great deal of cheers. And I also waved back believing that these cheers were for me. [Laughter] Fidel was very humble, he smiled but he never said a word. [Laughter] But when I reached the square where I had to make some remarks to the crowd, then I realized that these cheers were not meant for me, they were meant for Fidel Castro. Because everybody forgot about me, and was really aroused by Fidel Castro.

Then I realized that here was a man of the masses. Because he went around shaking hands of a large number of people in the crowd. And all of them rejoiced in the excitement of the time.

Those are the impressions I have about Fidel Castro in Cuba. [Applause]

Fidel was one of the first heads of state whom we asked to pay a state visit to our country.

We expected him in June or July, which was the time we had mutually agreed upon. But unfortunately, due to commitments at home, he was unable to honor that invitation.

We have now extended an open invitation to him because it is one way in which we can show our gratitude and indebtedness to him and to the people of Cuba. [Applause]

Deeply indebted to Cuban people

Comrades,

We have come together as Southern Africans to acknowledge a history of struggle and the legions of internationalists who contributed to our victory. In this sense, this first-ever Southern Africa-Cuba Solidarity Conference constitutes an expression of the region's fulfillment: that at last we can meet not merely as victims



Oscar Gutiérrez

South African miners are among those who have backed Cuba, Mandela explained.

of colonialism, apartheid, and underdevelopment seeking the solidarity of others.

Rather, we meet as free peoples, to acknowledge that our freedom and sovereignty as nations are incomplete if others are subjected to privations. Our efforts to build a better life are the poorer if others are denied the environment to pursue their aspirations.

It is both opportune and natural that among the first beneficiaries of our humble act of solidarity should be the people of Cuba. As Southern Africans, we are deeply indebted to the Cuban people for the selfless contribution they made to the anticolonial and antiapartheid struggle in our region.

I am sure that this conference will convey our sense of friendship, admiration, respect, and concern to the people of Cuba. They are going through an exceptionally difficult period. We extend our hand of friendship to them, just as they were with us through the terrible years of war that ravaged the southern region of our continent.

I would like, therefore, to salute the South African solidarity groups that have worked hard to convene this path-breaking conference. [Applause] There are now several Cuba Friendship Associations throughout our country, from Pietersburg to Cape Town, from Gauteng to Durban, and Port Elizabeth. These

groups have emerged from the soil of a genuine popular sense of solidarity with Cuba.

Through these activities, you are confirming that international relations are not merely about inter-state engagement. They are first and foremost relations among peoples. As such, a robust civil society is critical in the formulation of foreign policy.

Example of mine workers

I have heard, with a sense of real emotion and pride, of how poorly paid mine workers have collected money for Cuba. I have read that they have donated their own overalls and boots, and bought mine-lamps and safety gear for their Cuban brothers. [Applause] These workers on South African mines come from several countries of our region.

We therefore greet with pride the delegations that have come from all over Southern Africa and beyond to attend this conference. Your presence in our country, for such an occasion, honors us. It underlines the common debt we feel towards Cuba.

Comrades and friends,

Cubans came to our region as doctors, teachers, soldiers, agricultural experts, but never as colonizers. [Applause] They have shared the same trenches with us in the struggle against colonialism, underdevel-

opment, and apartheid. Hundreds of Cubans have given their lives, literally, in a struggle that was, first and foremost, not theirs but ours. As Southern Africans we salute them. We vow never to forget this unparalleled example of selfless internationalism.

We wish also to record our indebtedness to Cuban hospitality. In particular, tens of thousands of young Southern Africans have been trained, and some are still training, in Cuban schools and universities. Today, in many different fields — in the health sector, in government, and in the army — there are many young professionals, contributing to the development of our country, who owe their skills to the generous training provided to them by Cuba. [Applause]

The bonds acknowledged through this campaign were therefore forged in struggle, in sacrifice, and in the many concrete benefits that we enjoy as a region today. Our solidarity acknowledges the past as much as it expresses a morality in international relations: underpinned by equality, sovereignty, and the right of peoples to choose their own destiny.

We have noted with appreciation that, in the past months, a number of very large and established South African corporations have joined European and other companies to become actively involved in trade and major industrial joint ventures in Cuba. There are many areas as well, in which South Africans will gain from our relations with Cuba. We welcome all this, precisely because of the mutual benefits that it will bring.

The majority of South Africans reject an approach to foreign relations premised on nostalgia for the Cold War. They reject the notion that Cuba should be starved to ideological submission. As government, we are firm in our view that it is in the interest of South Africa to have diplomatic relations and multilateral ties of co-operation with Cuba. [Applause]

Our foreign minister, comrade Alfred Nzo, is now in the United States of America. He will visit Cuba on Monday, next Monday [October 9]. We are doing so because we want it to be known all over the world that we remain committed to friendship and solidarity between Cuba and South Africa. [Applause]

Pressure to condemn Cuba

Many people, many countries, including many powerful countries, have called upon us to condemn the suppression of human rights in Cuba.

We have reminded them they have a short memory. [Laughter]

For when we battled against apartheid, against racial oppression, the same countries were supporting the apartheid regime. [Applause] A regime that represented only 14 percent of the population, while the overwhelming majority of the people of the country had no rights whatsoever. They supported the apartheid regime. And we fought successfully against that regime with the support of Cuba and other progressive countries.

They now want to be our only friends, and dare to ask us to renounce those people who made our victory possible. That is the greatest contempt for the morality and the principles which are the basis of our relations, not only with the various population groups in this country, but with the entire world.

And I wanted to make a commitment that we will never let our friends down, friends during the most difficult period of our struggle, especially Cuba. [Applause]

Friends and comrades,

Let me assure you that the African National Congress, and the great majority of South Africans, will never forget those who stood by us in the darkest years of our struggle against apartheid. Along with the majority of humanity, we are determined to be active participants in the noble effort for a just world order.

I wish this conference every success. I am sure that you will translate your deliberations into practical work in the coming months and years.

Thank you.

South Africa-Cuba solidarity conference

Continued from front page
27 years.

In his speech at the conference, Mandela referred to his trip to Cuba in July 1991. During that visit, Mandela and Cuban president Fidel Castro appeared on the same platform for the first time, explaining why the struggles being waged by the people of South Africa and Cuba are the best examples for those everywhere seeking to rid the earth of racism and exploitation. (The speeches by Mandela and Castro on that occasion are available in the Pathfinder book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* — see ad on page 9.)

Mandela said in his presentation here that his government has extended an open invitation to Castro to visit South Africa.

Some 150 delegates participated in the October 6-8 conference, which was initiated by the South Africa-Cuba Friendship Association. The meeting was part of worldwide activities in defense of Cuba this month, which were called by a 3,000-strong World Meeting in Solidarity with Cuba that took place in Havana in November 1994.

Participants at the meeting came from Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Dele-

gates from Australia and the United States also participated as observers.

Delegations included leaders of national and local Cuba coalitions, members of parliament, trade unionists, religious figures, and representatives of political parties and student groups. The largest delegation of some 100 from South Africa included representatives of the ANC, the South African Communist Party, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the National Union of Mine Workers (NUM).

Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and Angel Dalmau, Cuban ambassador to South Africa, headed a 10-member delegation from Cuba.

In his opening speech, Mandela praised the formation of several friendship associations throughout South Africa. "These groups have emerged from the soil of a genuine popular sense of solidarity with Cuba," he said.

The South African president also pointed to the NUM campaign to raise funds for safety equipment for Cuban miners as an example to be emulated. NUM president Kgalema Motlanthe, who attended the conference, said in an interview that miners volunteered for overtime and

donated the extra pay to the campaign to purchase mine lamps and other safety equipment. Motlanthe said the NUM got the idea for this voluntary work from the Cubans.

Mandela condemned pressures by Washington and other imperialist powers on the South African government to curtail relations with Cuba. He announced that Alfred Nzo, South Africa's foreign minister, will visit Cuba. (The full text of the speech is printed above.)

Mandela's address was covered by the Johannesburg *Star*, the *Citizen*, and other dailies, and by South African television. It was a significant policy statement since it came after months of a concerted campaign of pressure by the U.S. government.

Aziz Pahad, deputy minister of foreign affairs and an ANC leader, also spoke at the conference during the first plenary session October 7. He said that the head of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Africa sent a letter to the South African government this summer "raising concern about the invitation to Castro to visit South Africa and the planned opening of the South African embassy in Cuba."

Pahad announced that in the face of Washington's pressures, John Nkadi-

Continued on Page 14

The Cuban Revolution in World Politics

The Second Declaration of Havana

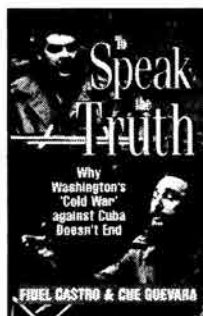
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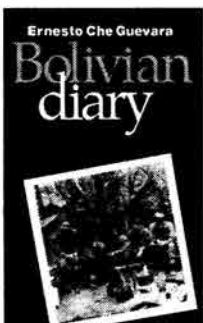
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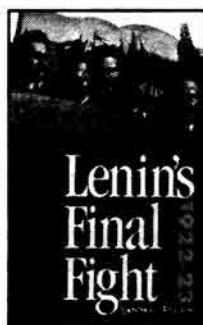
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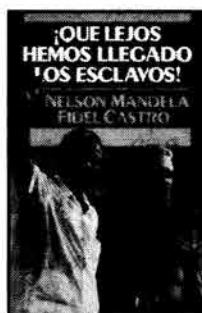
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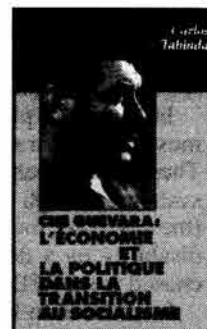
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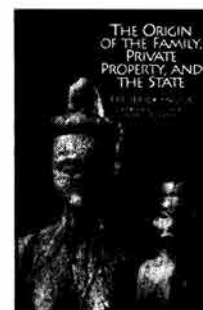
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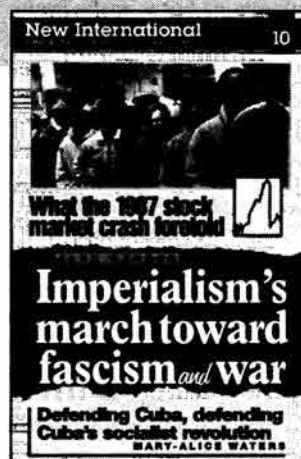
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Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail please include \$3.00 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover shipping and handling.

Pathfinder features offer on Cuba titles

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary and working-class leaders. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

This month Pathfinder is offering 25 percent off selected titles on the Cuban revolution for members of the Pathfinder Readers Club or with the purchase of an

Pathfinder is the largest English-language publisher of the speeches and writings of Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara. It is also the U.S. distributor of *La Gaceta*.

In addition to the sale items, Pathfinder is highlighting several issues of *New Internationalist*, a Marxist magazine of politics and theory that it distributes. "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution" in *New Internationalist* no. 10 provides an essential analysis of Cuba's place in the



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Sara Lobman

introductory subscription to the *Militant*. (See ad on page 9)

The special offer coincides with actions around the world calling for an end to the U.S. government's embargo of Cuba and supporting the island nation's right to self-determination, as well as the U.S. tour by Norberto Codina, a Cuban poet and editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, the magazine of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba.

world today and how workers and farmers in Cuba are using their own power—and the power of their government and state—to resist the depression conditions confronting working people worldwide.

These titles, along with books by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, and other revolutionary leaders, will be available at many of the demonstrations

Communist arsenal reaches the blind

BY TOBA SINGER

The Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB) currently carries 48 Pathfinder titles, reported Ellen Ogden, the organization's director of public affairs. Ogden recently helped gather facts and figures on RFB's Pathfinder holdings.

The most requested Pathfinder titles are *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*, by Nelson Blackstock; *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; and *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*. Each has been taken out at least six times in the last two years.

Other popular titles include *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East*; *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes; and *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon.

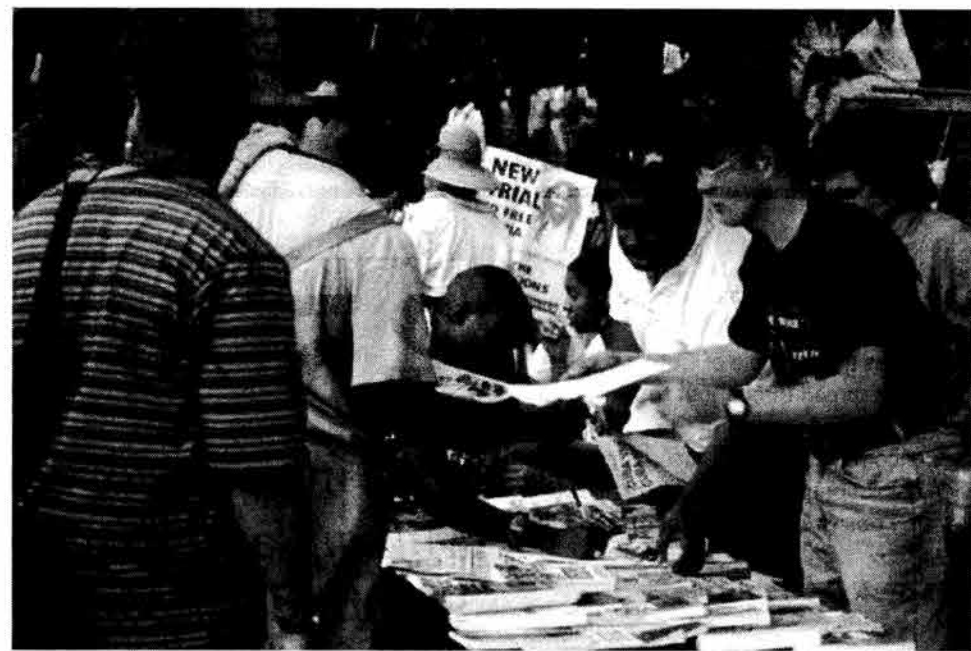
The 48 titles have been requested 75 times between July 1993 and June 1995.

Only 14 of the Pathfinder titles have not been asked for at all in this period. The remaining titles have been requested an average of two times.

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In addition to blind and low-vision borrowers, 61 percent of RFB members are dyslexic, a disability which is not consid-



Militant/Nancy Cole

Pathfinder books draw attention at rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal in Philadelphia

and Codina tour stops, including the October 14 protests in Chicago and San Francisco and the October 21 march and rally in New York. They are also available from local Pathfinder bookstores and can be ordered directly from Pathfinder in New York.

Volunteers at Pathfinder bookstores around the world are also organizing to increase the number of regular hours the bookstores are open, so working people, youth, and others can come by more often to buy books and discuss politics.

Ray Parsons from Chicago reports that the

bookstore there has increased its weekend hours. It is now open every Friday afternoon, as well as Saturday and Sunday. In the last two weeks of September, some \$300 worth of books were sold, a marked increase from the preceding months.

Titles sold included *Leon Trotsky on China*, *The Origins of Materialism*, and *On the Jewish Question*. In addition, Pathfinder books have been sold from tables set up at five colleges in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, and one high school in Chicago. Students bought copies of *Socialism on Trial*, *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It*, *The Communist Manifesto*, and several issues of *New Internationalist*, among other titles.

"We have taken a number of steps recently to improve the bookstore here," Jeff Hamill reports from Seattle. These include a improved lighting system and a special display devoted to the Pathfinder Readers Club. Regular hours five days a week have led to increased sales; more than half the \$535 worth of books sold in September came from people coming by the bookstore. Some \$80 worth of titles were sold by a regional team to eastern Washington and the rest were bought from tables at a book fair.

Now is a good time to join or renew your membership in the Pathfinder Readers Club. For an annual fee of \$10, members of the Readers Club get a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder publications, as well as being eligible for even higher discounts on selected titles—like the Cuba titles this month. To join, stop by the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you or send \$10 to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Solidarity helps break slave chains on Thai workers

BY GALE SHANGOLD

LOS ANGELES — Outrage greeted the August 2 news of 72 Thai workers living and working in slave-like conditions in El Monte, California.

Sewing garments, often 19-20 hours a day, the workers averaged 69 cents an hour, much of which went to pay for their travel from Thailand to the United States and for their living expenses at the apartment complex that was also the factory. They were not allowed to leave the barbed-wire surrounded premises, which had plywood blocking the windows.

Chances are that the workers would still be enslaved today if it were not for their own courage and resistance.

A woman escaped by crawling through air-conditioning ducts and over razor wire before alerting government officials.

The officials never lifted a finger to deal with this situation, even though the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had been aware of this complex for more than three years. In March 1992 the INS received a report from a Thai-speaking police officer that "40 females and 5 males ... are being detained, controlled and held against their will in a condition of involuntary servitude."

This was not the first time that a worker had escaped, even though the bosses continually threatened the workers by saying that if they escaped and were caught the penalties would be severe.

After the raid, the government then had the gall to send the workers from one prison to another. They were taken to an INS detention center in shackles and held

for nine days.

The public support they received was instrumental in their release.

According to Chanchanit Martorell, director of the Thai Community Development Center, which is coordinating the financial, legal, job, and housing related aid for the Thai workers, the support has been tremendous. "The vast majority of it is coming from mainstream, white Americans," she told me.

Support from other workers

About 20 unions have contributed funds. A number of churches and community groups have also supplied funds as well as housing.

The Thai workers were the featured guests of the Labor Day event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. At that event Jim Wood, executive secretary of the County Federation of Labor, presented the workers with a \$2,500 check for their legal defense fund. They received standing ovations by a deeply-moved audience more than once.

The factory where I work hired three of the Thai workers. The Latino workforce there welcomed them. Some of the Spanish-speaking co-workers are attempting to learn some key words in Thai.

I think that the response to the Thai workers reveals three greater trends going on in society today.

First, the capacity and potential for solidarity among working people is still strong despite the fact that the government and the corporations pit us against each other, especially in this period of advanc-

ing economic and social crisis.

We are forced to compete against each other for a piece of a supposedly shrinking pie—the biggest division being between those of us who are employed and those of us who are unemployed.

We are taught to blame each other for the worsening conditions instead of the wealthy few who rule this country.

But despite the sharp divisions in society, the capacity for solidarity is strong and there are many examples of this.

Nowhere have I heard workers say that the Thai workers got what they deserved for being here illegally or that they should be immediately deported. The response for the most part has been the opposite.

In other words, the victory of the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in California last year was a limited one. The lives of immigrant workers have not changing significantly since its passage.

In fact, the immigrant rights mobilizations combined with everyday experiences, as workers of all nationalities live and work side-by-side, has a positive impact on attitudes and consciousness.

Secondly, you may not have slavery, barbed wire, and the intensity of the exploitation of the Thai workers in El Monte, but elements of it are everyday life for more and more working people.

A longer and longer work day for less money; brutal, degrading work conditions; speed-up; fewer and fewer rights on the job—all are the everyday workings of capitalism.

There are even factories that routinely lock in their workers. In 1991, 25 poultry

workers died in a factory fire in North Carolina because they could not get out.

Working class is more international

And thirdly, the earth is more and more a single world, as workers from every continent in search of survival become part of the working class in cities and towns across the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and to a smaller but growing degree, even Japan. The borders are porous, the working class becoming more international and stronger as a result.

It is the anti-immigrant policies of both the Democratic and Republican parties that put immigrant workers in jeopardy.

The goal of the politicians' scapegoating is not to get rid of anyone but to make immigrants pariahs so they can be easily exploited and discouraged from confidently fighting back as they have in the past.

Presently, the 72 Thai workers are allowed to live and work in the United States until they testify in court against their former bosses. Then they will most likely face deportation proceedings.

Now is an important moment in the fight for immigrant rights. We must mobilize all the support the Thai workers have won to demand that they be able to live and work in this country for as long as they want to, including permanently.

If a victory is won in this case, it will benefit all immigrant workers and the whole working class.

Gale Shangold is a member of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 482.

Cuba solidarity conference is first in Asia

BY JANET ROTH

CALCUTTA, India — Solidarity with Cuba was the theme of an Asia-Pacific region conference held here September 22-24, which drew over 160 delegates from 12 countries.

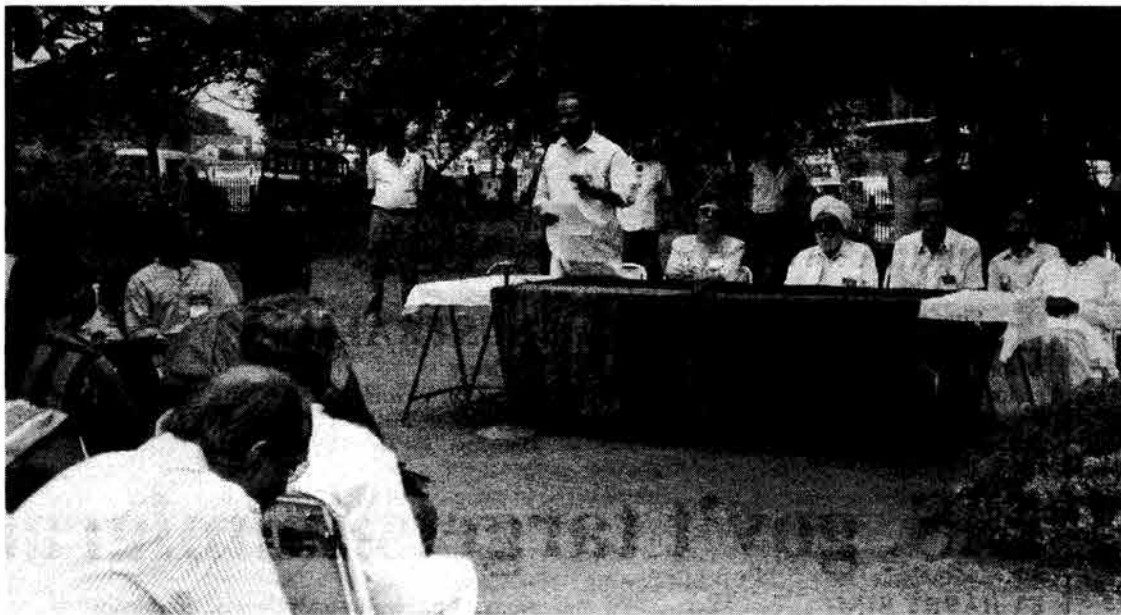
The head of the Cuban delegation, Sergio Corrieri, pointed to the importance of this first such gathering in the region at a 10,000-strong opening rally. "You give further evidence that Cuba is not alone in its long and difficult battle and that there are millions of people throughout the world ready to support and defend the equity and justice that must guide normal coexistence among nations, regardless of their wealth, size, or population," he said. Corrieri is president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

"Geographically speaking," Corrieri added, "Cuba is very far away from here, but our history is linked to the history of most of the countries represented here through our common struggle against colonialism and for national independence and sovereignty." He noted that more than half of the world's population lives in Asia and the Pacific.

Welcoming speeches were also made by Jyoti Basu, chief minister of the government of West Bengal, which helped host the conference; representatives from each country delegation; and leaders of a number of political formations in India.

The largest conference delegation, of 70, came from India, with a sizable delegation of 40 coming from Sri Lanka. Delegates included members of parliaments, representatives of political parties and youth federations, trade union and university officials. Also present were representatives of Cuba solidarity and friendship organizations in the region, including from Australia, China, Laos, New Zealand, North Korea, and Vietnam.

A central focus of the conference was opposition to the economic embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States government. Corrieri explained, "Cuba needs world solidarity. Cuba is being attacked, even if no bombs are falling. We



M.A. Baby, member of Parliament and convenor of National Committee for Solidarity with Cuba in India, speaks at unveiling of statue of Cuban independence fighter José Martí during meeting.

are the only country in the world that has suffered a blockade for more than 30 years, practiced by the world's strongest superpower.

"When one hears about the blockade against Cuba, one might think that it is only a group of measures prohibiting economic relations between the two countries, but the blockade is, in fact, a global aggression system."

On the eve of the conference, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Helms-Burton bill, which is aimed at significantly tightening the embargo. In a final declaration, delegates condemned this attack against Cuba for hitting "at the very basis of the fundamental right of the Cuban people to decide their destiny." It called for the immediate lifting of the blockade. An "Asia-Pacific Solidarity Day against the U.S. Blockade of Cuba" was set for Nov. 27, 1995.

During the conference, delegates described some of the Cuba solidarity activities that had occurred in their countries, such as material aid projects and tours by

representatives of the Cuban revolution. Eva Seoane, vice-president of ICAP, summed up this discussion. "We see an increase in the broad base of Cuba solidarity from all walks of life," she said. "We need to reach out and approach workers, farmers, students, youth, intellectuals, members of parliament — all political forces in the region that will accompany us in this just struggle for lifting the blockade and respect for Cuba's self-determination."

Seoane pointed to the Cuba Friendship Societies in Australia as an example of organizations which are non-exclusionary and which set national campaigns. This includes working with societies in New Zealand on joint campaigns, such as an annual work brigade to Cuba, she said.

Seoane also highlighted two aid campaigns which symbolized another aspect of solidarity — a shipment of wheat from India; and rice, notebooks, and pencils sent to Cuba from Vietnam.

During the conference, delegates were given a statement by the Communist Party of Cuba about the foreign investment act

recently passed by Cuba's National Assembly. The act allows investors from abroad to wholly own business and property in Cuba, and permits foreign investment in many sectors of the economy for the first time.

Corrieri discussed this and other measures taken in Cuba since the collapse in 1990 of its economic relations with the Soviet Union, which had been its primary trading partner. "We want to reaffirm here," he said, "that we are not embarked on a transition towards capitalism, that all our reforms are aimed at defending and improving our socialist purpose and the achievements attained by the people."

"This does not keep us from having mutually advantageous commercial relations with any country or firm that respects our laws. Cuba is not applying neoliberal recipes nor moving towards privatization. We envisage foreign investments as a necessary and valuable complement to our domestic efforts for development."

The conference concluded with another rally, with some 6,000 people turning out. "We're asked how far are we going in our economic reforms," Corrieri told the crowd. "We say as far as necessary, but with limits. These limits are our revolution, our independence, our people's power, and our country — and for us people's power and independence are the same thing."

This regional conference was called as a result of a decision made at the World Meeting in Solidarity with Cuba, held in Havana in November last year. Delegates decided to call a second Asia-Pacific region conference for 1997.

Concluded Seoane: "You can be confident these meetings open new chapters in human history, and Cuba won't disappoint you."

Janet Roth is a member of the Cuba Friendship Society in Auckland, New Zealand, and was a delegate to the Asia-Pacific region conference.

Clinton 'makes big noise over nothing'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

In an executive order announced October 6, the Clinton administration slightly eased aspects of Washington's restrictions on travel to Cuba and on Cuban-Americans sending remittances to relatives on the island. At the same time, Clinton vowed to step up enforcement of the tight economic embargo that has been in place against Cuba for more than three decades. The U.S. president said the order would end a ban on U.S. news organizations opening offices in Cuba and would loosen restrictions imposed last year on travel to Cuba by Cuban-Americans as well as academic, religious, and "human rights" groups. The full text of the new regulations is not available yet.

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, said Washington has "made a big noise over something that is absolutely nothing." He noted that the executive order does little more than allow emergency visits for Cuban exiles who want to visit ill or dying relatives on the island. "The rest is to financially aid and train so-called human rights groups with subversive ends to undermine the revolution from within," Alarcón said.

The Clinton administration also announced a \$500,000 grant to Freedom House, a U.S.-based group that backs anti-government organizations in Cuba, as part of the package.

Republican presidential candidates Robert Dole, Phil Gramm and Patrick Buchanan denounced Clinton's order. Dole said the initiative is evidence of administration weakness toward Cuba and called for an early vote in the Senate on the Helms-Burton bill.

BY MEGAN ARNEY
AND JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — Twin Cities activists have gone into high gear here to mobilize the largest, most diverse turnout possible for the October 14 regional protest in Chicago, called by the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), protesting the U.S. embargo and defending Cuba's right to self-determination.

Thousands of leaflets have been distributed here, and Cuba activists used various events to build the action.

On October 4 and 5, three visiting Cuban professors spoke to more than 200 students at the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud University, and St. John's University. "There is one current in U.S. policy to kill Cuba from the outside, and another current which hopes to strangle the revolution from within," Esteban Morales, director of the Center for the Study of the United States in Havana, told students at the University of Minnesota. "The Cuban people are ready to resist both aspects of this policy," he said.

Washington's hatred of the Cuban revolution continues, Cuban academic Graciela Chailloux explained to students at St. John's University in Collegeville, because it was "the first country which took control of its destiny, and is the only country in Latin America not under U.S. control." Students at the meetings got information on transportation to the action in Chicago.

Twin Cities Cuba Network (TCCN) members, along with activists from the Twin Cities Cuba Friendship Committee, are building the October 14 demonstration. The groups are organizing a car caravan to Chicago. The convoy will leave here from Todos Los Santos church, headquarters of the Pastors for Peace national office, the day before the protest.

Several participants from the Minnesota delegation to the August Cuba Lives! festival reported on the historic gathering to students in two classes at Normandale Community College. They urged students to get involved in ongoing activities

against the embargo, including the Chicago protest.

Activists from both organizations also leafleted the opening of the 1963 Soviet-Cuban film, *I am Cuba* at the University of Minnesota, and a Friendship member addressed the movie audience about the Chicago action.

An October 7 meeting cosponsored by the TCCN and the Resource Center of the Americas served to launch a week-long building effort for the Chicago event. More than 30 students, young people, and political activists turned out for it.

"The most important thing that opponents of the criminal U.S. embargo on Cuba can do is to mobilize to Chicago on the 14," TCCN activist Megan Arney told the meeting. "We need to march, protest, learn, and work with each other in the Midwest region and organize as many people to come with us as possible to strengthen and expand our common activity," she said.

The meeting included a film showing of part of the powerful Cuban documentary *Al Combate* (To the Fight), which describes the 1994 antigovernment riots in Havana, the "rafters" crisis, and the response of Cuban revolutionaries to them.

The meeting also featured first-hand video footage by TCCN activist Dan Keiser, a cooperative farmer and participant in the Cuba Lives! event.

Shane Bastien, a 15-year-old Minneapolis high school student and TCCN activist, compared life for working people in Cuba and the United States. "Here," Bastien said, "they close hospitals, and in Cuba, they don't. Here, school is free through high school, and in Cuba, it's free through college.... Here, money and weapons are the most important thing for the government. But in Cuba, community is the most important thing; what's good for the people is what counts."

Meeting co-chair Teresa Schweitzer, convenor of the TCCN and a leader of the Guatemala Solidarity Committee, described the agenda of the October 14

march and teach-in. She urged activists to spend the night in Chicago, and stay for a Midwest organizers meeting the next day, "so we can get to know each other better."

Gary Prevost, a St. John's University professor and a member of the Task Force for Scholarly Relations with Cuba of the Latin American Scholars Association, reported on the successful participation of 32 Cuban professors at the recent LASA convention in Washington, D.C.

Building on the success of three previous nationwide tours of Cuban youth organized by the Minnesota-based Student-Faculty Cuban Lectures Tour Committee, Prevost described upcoming plans to tour Cuban youth in the U.S. this spring, which is being initiated by similar student-faculty group in formation in Boston.

An important feature of the event was an extensive discussion of President Clinton's October decision to tighten the U.S. economic embargo, with the cosmetic cover of "relaxing" aspects of stiff restrictions on travel to Cuba.

The Clinton plan, activists agreed, made it more timely than ever to take to the streets to both explain this latest anti-Cuban act, and to protest it as well.

The coming week, activists resolved, will be spent posting flyers, calling political groups and activists to increase participation in the caravan, and making banners and placards for October 14.

The spirit of the meeting was summed up by Adriana Sanchez, spokesperson for the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony at the Cuba Lives! festival in Havana. Urging people to mobilize for Chicago, Sanchez told the crowd that "defending Cuba is defending what humanity is." Advances in Cuba strengthen every fight "for social justice in the United States," Sanchez said. "Cuba's struggle is our struggle!"

Megan Arney is a member of the Twin Cities Cuba Network. Jon Hillson is a member the TCCN and United Steelworkers of America Local 9198.

October 21 Cuba action builds in N.Y.

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Young people, political activists, unionists, and others opposed to U.S. policy against Cuba are stepping up their work to build the October 21 demonstration in a number of cities on the East Coast. Some 30,000 flyers have been produced and distributed in New York City to people at events as varied as women's rights protests, the Central Park ceremony of Pope John Paul II, and actions against cuts in social services.

Endorsed by 100 organizations, the march demands that Washington, "End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba," "Lift the U.S. travel ban," "Normalize relations with Cuba," and "Respect Cuba's self-determination." After assembling at 12:00 noon at 42nd Street and 1st Avenue across from the United Nations, the demonstration will proceed to Columbus Circle for a rally. Part of an international series of protests in solidarity with Cuba, the march follows by one week regional actions in San Francisco and Chicago organized around the same demands.

The march is timed to coincide with the visit of high-level delegations to the United Nations, including from the United States and Cuba. Counter-revolutionary Cuba organizations are calling for a protests and march from outside the Cuban Mission to the United Nations on October 22-24. In response, supporters of Cuba here are building picket lines at the mission for the three days; others in the region are encouraged to participate.

At a coalition meeting in New York October 10 attended by 45 activists representing sponsoring organizations, march organizers reported 25 buses are reserved from cities from Maine to Florida.

Speakers at the march include National Network on Cuba leader Andrés Gómez from Miami; Lucius Walker of IFCO/Pastors for Peace; Dennis Rivera, President of 1199 health care union; former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark; Brian Taylor, a leader of the delegation to the Cuba Lives festival from Washington, D.C.; Congresspeople Charles Rangel and Nydia Velázquez; and Angela Davis. A taped message from Mumia Abu-Jamal will also be part of the program.

In a phone interview from Boston, Carol Thomas said the July 26 Coalition has reserved three buses and are working with activists in the region to let more people know about the march. Thomas, a coordinator of the group, explained they are building the march by "focusing on the fact that President Clinton will be in New York and the United Nations, because the march is about U.S. policy towards Cuba."

Activists in Miami are planning to send "two big buses to the march," reported Orlando Collado during a phone interview. Collado is a leader of the Miami Coalition to End the Embargo of Cuba.

Brian Adams, coordinator of the D.C. "Hands Off Cuba Coalition," said activists in the nation's capital have organized special mailings, phone-banking, and have been "selling bus tickets at meetings for Cuba artist Norberto Codina." The coalition has one bus reserved and others from the area are organizing car pools.

Reaching more student organizations and activists on area college campuses was one important theme of the outreach discussion at the October 10 coalition meeting in New York. Building solidarity with Cuba has been an ongoing activity on at a number of universities.

Members of the Latino Coalition for Social Justice, active in the Washington Heights part of the city, reported they sent out a mailing of 5,000 and are leafleting in the area. A leader of the Dominican Friends of Cuba said the group is seeking to get Spanish-language media in the area to carry information on the march. A leader of the Local 1199 health care committee reported the unionists had sent out a mailing of 2,000.

A representative from the New Jersey Network on Cuba reported that the coalition, along with the Cuban-American Committee for Peace, is organizing a press conference October 18 to publicize the march. Five buses are planned from northern New Jersey.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

O.J. Simpson Verdict: Result of Cops' Racism and Corruption. Speaker: Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 1726. Fri., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

U.S. gov't targets immigrant workers

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — In a series of moves, the White House and Congress are pumping up their drive against immigrants. Targeting a six-state area of the Southeast, immigration cops staged a media-oriented project aimed at pitting U.S. workers against immigrant workers.

In a three-month operation, demagogically dubbed Operation South P.A.W. (Protecting American Workers), Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents raided work sites and arrested or deported 4,044 allegedly undocumented workers. Officials said about 2,000 of the victimized immigrants were replaced by "legal" workers as a result of their efforts.

In the sweeps, immigration cops hit assembly plants, food processors, construction sites, and restaurants. INS district director Thomas Fischer said that in Atlanta they found undocumented workers drawing \$15 an hour as skilled carpenters at construction sites.

"Now," Fischer piously declared, "there is an African-American who didn't have a job working on that construction site, making more than \$30,000 a year."

The drive to save "American" jobs was assailed by Gail Hoffman, director of the Atlanta-based immigrant aid organization, Bridging the Gap. She declared it served to "demonize" immigrants.

Meanwhile, at the California-Mexico border, the Clinton administration completed the first year of its "Operation Gatekeeper." The operation is based on a steel wall, 10 feet high. Its three sections total 24 miles. Robert Bach, the top policy and planning official for the INS, said the results represent "wonderful progress."

He said the wall has reduced the entry of undocumented immigrants in the San Diego area, but conceded there has been a substantial increase in crossings at nearby

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Fight Against Union Busting. Panel discussion. Fri., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 7414 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

NEWARK

Newark

The Fight for National Rights in Quebec: 'Yes' to Equality. Fri., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Papua New Guinea. Video showing: "Hell in the Pacific." Fri., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 281 3297.

CANADA

Vancouver

International Fight for Women's Rights. Panel discussion including participants at the NGO Forum on Women in Huairou, China. Fri., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Cuba and India: A Reportback from the Asia/Pacific Regional Conference for Solidarity with Cuba. Speaker: Janet Roth, conference delegate. Fri., Oct. 20, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

areas. The wall itself is not foolproof. Some people who want to get through have tunneled underneath it. Others build ramps on the Mexican side to jump over.

Struggling to reinforce the wall, border cops have tried extending its sheeting as much as 10 feet underground.

"Gatekeeper" is part of a \$540 million anti-immigrant crackdown announced in early 1994 by Attorney General Janet Reno. Since then the number of Border Patrol cops has nearly doubled to more than 4,500. The goal is to swell the number to 7,000 in the coming three years.

At the same time, members of Congress are crafting bills to curb the entry of legal immigrants. One measure would chop such entries by a third. Currently, about 800,000 people from around the world are allowed in each year. This number would be reduced to a maximum of 535,000.

Another measure would make it even more difficult for political refugees to gain asylum. A cap of 50,000 a year would be established, half the average number accepted annually over the past five years.

Additionally, the financial requirements for a U.S. citizen to sponsor an immigrant would be increased substantially.

The family reunification provisos of the law would be drawn tighter. Currently, a U.S. citizen or legal resident can bring in parents, brothers, sisters, and children. A pending measure would disqualify siblings and children over 21.

And, once more, there is a move to establish a reactionary national identification system. A federal file of social security and alien registration numbers would be created and employers would be required to verify the legal status of job applicants.

— CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Bronx

Speak-Out Against Police Brutality. Students stand for justice. Join the Baez family and community leaders in speaking out against the killing of Anthony Baez by the police. Mon., Oct. 16, 12 noon. March from 181st St. and Grand Concourse to the steps of Bronx County Courthouse.

Manhattan

A People's Procession for Justice for Maria Rivas. Action on the month anniversary of the killing of Maria Rivas by the police. Tue., Oct. 17, 6 p.m. 171 St. and Amsterdam Ave. All actions in The Bronx and Manhattan are sponsored by Latino Coalition for Social Justice. Marches against police brutality are also sponsored by Families Against Police Brutality in Washington Heights. For more information on these events, call: (212) 740-1960, 795-1123, or 795-0379.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Stop the Execution! Demand a New Trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Demonstrate Mon., Nov. 6, 10 a.m. Broad and Girard. 12 noon, City Hall. For more information, call (215) 476-8812 International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Unite against Racism. National march sponsored by the Trades Union Congress. Sat., Oct. 28. Assemble Platt Fields at 12 noon. March to rally in Albert Square. Speakers: Leading trade unionists, MPs, representatives of the black community and anti-racist organizations. For more information, call London: 0171 636 4030, Liverpool: 0151 298 1225.

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Don't forget the Pepto-Bismol — A reader reports a no-sound, print TV commercial that read something like this: "Karl Marx said that advertising companies are the maggots that feed off capitalism." Then it switched to:



Harry Ring

"Let's do lunch." Finally: "Ketchum Advertising."

Murder Inc. — Armour Pharmaceutical kept selling a blood-

clotting medication despite a 1985 warning from a company researcher that its heat-treating process was not effective against the AIDS virus.

Two years later, six Vancouver, Canada, hemophiliacs — five of them children — contracted AIDS from the contaminated drug. More cases followed elsewhere. Armour had blocked the researcher from going public by invoking a confidentiality clause in his contract.

He'll see to it — "The idea that the government can be the primary instrument for the elimination of misfortune is a fundamental misunderstanding.... People will always be treated unfairly." —

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Good question — "How many out of work, practically broke, shaggy-haired and wise-cracking actors living in dinky guest houses end up — through no fault of their own — hobnobbing with celebrities and socialites, hosting radio shows... guesting on TV..." — Brian "Kato" Kaelin's proposal to publishers for a book about the turn in his life.

Solidarity, capitalist style — When leases are coming up for renewal, some companies now hire auditors who scrutinize the agreement and rent bills for rip-offs. That's not just to get a refund. One lawyer explains: "The more we

find, the more leverage we have with the landlord. And if the problem affects other tenants, he has even more incentive to settle with us before our claim becomes public."

Spam unsavory? Perish the thought — A federal judge rejected the Hormel plea to ice Spa'am, the evil boar in the coming Muppet movie. The company argued Spa'am puts its product, Spam, in "an unsavory context."

Lofty pursuit — A new board game, "Squeeze the Juice," is on the market. Players take the role of members of the O.J. Simpson defense team, with the one who collects the most fees the winner. Declares the co-creator of the \$24.95

game, "I'm looking to fulfill the American dream."

Might be a nice hobby — Ivana Trump, ex-spouse to real estate hustler Donald, is doing nicely with her own line of jewelry and clothing, plus an advice column. She would also like to be an ambassador, but, she observes, "It really doesn't pay much."

Timely credentials — Arizona's Gov. Fife Symington bid for office with the promise that he would apply his skills as a real estate shark to state government. Currently, he's bankrupt, with debts totaling nearly \$25 million. His lawyer said creditors could expect less than a third of a cent on the dollar.

Malcolm X: 'We're living in an era of revolution'

Below are excerpts of a speech given by Malcolm X in New York on November 29, 1964, at a rally held by the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). The revolutionary leader had just returned from an extended visit to Africa and the Mideast. The speech appears in *By Any Means Necessary*, a collection of speeches and interviews by Malcolm X published by Pathfinder, under the title "The homecoming rally of the OAAU." It is copyright © 1970, 1992 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted with permission.

BY MALCOLM X

I think that you and I should realize that the time has come for us to let the world know that we're not only interested in some kind of integrated situation in the United States, but we're interested in taking our place on the world stage, and we're interested in anything that involves Black people anywhere on this earth....

You waste your time involving yourself in any kind of organization that is not directly connected with our brothers and sisters on the African continent. Can I prove it? Yes. There was a time in this country when they used to use the expression about Chinese, "He doesn't have a Chinaman's chance." Remember when they used to say that about the Chinese? You don't hear them saying that nowadays. Because the Chinaman has more chance now than they do....

It was not until China became independent and strong that Chinese people all over the world became respected.... Once China became independent and strong and feared, then wherever you saw a Chinaman, he was independent, he was strong, he was feared and he was respected.

It's the same way with you and me.... You and I have to get our people behind us, our people in our own motherland and fatherland. Just as a strong China has produced a respected Chinaman, a strong Africa will produce a respected Black man anywhere that Black man goes on this earth. It's only with a strong Africa, an independent Africa and a respected Africa that wherever those of African origin or African heritage or African likeness go, they will be respected....

And all thinking people today who have

from Pathfinder

By Any Means Necessary

MALCOLM X

Speeches tracing the evolution of Malcolm X's views on political alliances, women's rights, intermarriage, capitalism and socialism, and more. \$15.95



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.

been oppressed are revolutionary. Any time you find somebody today who's afraid of the word "revolution," get him on out of your way. He's living in the wrong era. He's behind the times. He hasn't awakened yet. This is the era of revolution....

You notice two years ago the American press was calling your and my struggle a revolution — "Negro revolution, Negro revolution." Now, they didn't mind calling it that, and they didn't mind you referring to it as that, because they knew that what was happening was no revolution. But when you start using the word "revolution" in its real sense, then they get shaky. They start classifying you as a fanatic, or something subversive or seditious, or other than a law-abiding person. But today we're living in an era of revolution, which means an era of change, when people who are being oppressed want a change. And they don't want a gradual change....

You know they have freedom movements on the African continent. There are many liberation movements; there are movements of Africans from South Africa, from Mozambique, from South-West Africa, Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Angola. In every country, in every area on the African continent that has not tossed aside the shackles of colonialism, they have developed a liberation movement, and the purpose of these liberation movements is to throw aside the oppressor....

My main theme, while I was traveling with our brothers abroad, on the African continent, was to try and impress upon them that 22 million of our people here in America consider ourselves inseparably linked with them, that our origin is the same and our destiny is the same, and that we have been kept apart now for too long.

This doesn't mean that we're getting ready to pack up our bags and take a boat back to Africa.... That's not necessary. But what is necessary is that we have to go back mentally, we have to go back culturally, we have to go back spiritually, and philosophically, and psychologically....

This was the essence of every discussion — that the problems are one, that the destiny is the same, the origin is the same. Even the experiences are the same; they catch hell, we catch hell....

Never let anybody tell you and me the odds are against us — I don't even want to hear that. Those who think the odds are against you, forget it. The odds are not against you. The odds are against you only when you're scared. The only things that makes odds against you is a scared mind. When you get all of that fright off of you, there's no such thing as odds against you. Because when a man knows that when he starts playing with you, he's got to kill you, that man is not going to play with you....

I don't want you to think that I'm coming back here to rabble-rouse, or to get somebody excited.... I hope that all of us can sit down with a cool head and a clear mind and analyze the situation, in the back room, anywhere, analyze the situation; and after we give the proper analysis of what we're confronted by, then let us be bold enough to take whatever steps that analysis says must be taken. Once we get it, then let's do it, and we'll be able to get some kind of result in this freedom struggle.



Carl Nesfield

Malcolm X with Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro in Harlem in 1960

But don't let anybody who is oppressing us ever lay the ground rules. Don't go by their game, don't play the game by their rules. Let them know now that this is a new game, we've got some new rules, and these rules mean anything goes....

We've got to link up with our people who are in the Caribbean, in Trinidad, in

Jamaica, in all the islands, and we've got to link up with our people who are in Central America and South America. Everywhere you see someone who looks like us, we've got to get together. And once we get together, brothers, we can get some action, because we'll find we are not the underdog.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 23, 1970

Price 10¢

OCT. 13 — An attempted coup by a right-wing general in Bolivia touched off a vast mobilization of the Bolivian people last week. Workers and students poured into the streets to block a take-over by rightist officers led by General Rogelio Miranda.

According to the Oct. 8 issue of *Le Monde*, students built barricades in the streets of the capital to prevent troop movements by the rightists. The article went on to say that the Bolivian Workers Federation had issued a call for a general strike throughout the country.

The regime of former president Alfredo Ovando Candia, who came to power a year ago claiming to be a left nationalist, had moved progressively to the right. In July, he began firing members of his government who were to the left of him, including a retired general, Juan José Torres. Massive student and worker demonstrations began Sept. 21 against Ovando, and specifically against his deportation of five radical clerics.

On Oct. 4, the head of the armed forces, General Miranda, took over in a coup. In the face of massive popular protests, the new government lasted only a couple of days. General Torres declared his opposition to the right-wing junta, and was able to win enough support from the workers and students to take over as president of Bolivia on Oct. 7. His government, he said, would rest on four pillars — the peasants, the workers, the students and the armed forces.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 20, 1945

In their biggest strike since 1926, British dock workers from London to Glasgow have hung up their cargo hooks. Approximately 45,000 are out. Principal demands of the strikers are a basic wage of 25 shillings (\$5) a day and a 44-hour guaranteed work week. But the political significance of the strike far transcends the importance of these immediate demands.

The strike is taking place against the sabotage of the official trade union leaders who are closely linked with the Labor Party officialdom. It is a rank and file movement of tremendous proportions.

Attlee, head of the Labor Government, ordered out troops to break the strike. The trade union officials are covering up for Attlee by blaming the strike on "agitators" and trying to start a back-to-work movement. Arthur Deakin, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union blamed the Revolutionary Communist Party (the British Trotskyists) for engineering the strike from behind the scenes.

The RCP, according to an October 12 Reuters dispatch, responded that this charge was "a miserable falsification.... The dockers have already given their answer to this nonsense by their vote of no confidence in the union leaders.... If Deakin and company were to use the same energy in opposing the employers as they are using to undermine the workers struggles; and of the Labor Government were to use the troops to end the sabotage of the owners instead of lowering the standards of the dockers, the strike would be over tomorrow."

Mobilize for October actions!

As we go to press, activists in Cuba coalitions in the Midwest and the West Coast of the United States, along with students, workers, and others, are making final preparations for demonstrations on October 14 in Chicago and San Francisco to oppose Washington's economic war against Cuba. A similar effort is in high gear throughout the East Coast for a march in New York City October 21.

We call on our readers to make every effort possible to swell the ranks of the protesters in all these actions.

The October 14-21 mobilization initiated by the National Network on Cuba in the United States is part of worldwide efforts to counter Wall Street's decades-old campaign to bring the Cuban people to their knees.

Thousands are learning the truth about Cuba and are being drawn into defense of its socialist revolution through regional solidarity conferences in India and South Africa.

A similar process is unfolding during nationwide speaking tours of Cubans, such as the visits by Federation of University Students leader Kenia Serrano in Britain and editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba* Norberto Codina in the United States. Demonstrations demanding an end to Washington's economic blockade are taking place in Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom as well.

The "unparalleled selfless internationalism" of hundreds of thousands of Cubans — as Nelson Mandela put it — and the confidence the working class in Cuba has in itself and in its communist leadership provide the best example today to all those around the globe fighting

racism, sexism, human exploitation, and all other byproducts of capitalism.

This is why Washington is bent on weakening and eventually overthrowing the Cuban revolution.

The recent announcement by the Clinton administration that it is slightly relaxing a few provisions of the U.S. travel ban to Cuba, while tightening the enforcement of its economic embargo, is but another indication that Washington is unwavering in its goals. The White House order simply reflects one approach of the two-track course by the U.S. rulers to undermine Cuba's socialist revolution. The other track is laid by the inhuman and immoral proposals in the Helms-Burton bill to squeeze the Cuban people even more.

For the same reasons Wall Street hates Castro, those who despise the imperialist efforts to deny the Cuban people the right to take their destiny in their own hands should work hard to broaden opposition to U.S. policy.

The best way towards this goal right now is to join in building the demonstrations called by the National Network and similar activities around the world. A sizable turnout at these actions will also maximize recruitment of youth and others for upcoming activities — from future brigades to Cuba to speaking tours of Cuban youth.

All out to demand:

End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba!

Lift the travel ban!

Normalize relations between the two countries!

Respect Cuba's right to self-determination!

Parole Mark Curtis now

Mark Curtis has been informed that the Iowa parole board will review his case on October 18 to decide whether to grant him a hearing in November. This gives supporters of the imprisoned union and political activist still a little time to write to the parole board on his behalf. If the authorities agree to give him a hearing it would be in Fort Madison, Iowa on November 21.

In 1993 Curtis completed his sentence on a trumped-up rape charge and is serving time on a burglary charge that was tacked on by the cops and prosecutors several weeks after he was arrested. According to Iowa Board of Parole statistics, prisoners released in 1994 who were convicted on the same burglary charge as Curtis served an average of 76.2 months in prison. Curtis has been incarcerated 85 months. Supporters campaigning to win parole for Mark Curtis will get a greater hearing from working people as a result of the exposure of cop corruption across the country. Joseph McNamara, a former police chief in California, recently told the *New York Times*, "Suddenly, everybody's looking at the police and saying, 'You know, we can't trust them.'" Well, it's not "suddenly" that working people, and in particular Blacks, learned that cops can't be trusted. The O.J. Simpson trial simply put a national spotlight on the rotten character of the police with the revelations about racist cop violence and frame-ups described by Los Angeles ex-detective Mark Fuhrman. There are thousands of Mark Fuhrmans, along with the rest of the cops who look the other way during police atrocities.

Fuhrman showed that typical cop behavior is planting evidence, lying, and brutalizing people.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Simpson verdict delivered a "message" to the capitalist rulers from working people on their "criminal justice system." That message was, "They don't trust it." Federal prosecutors subpoenaed the records of 100,000 arrests in six police districts in Philadelphia as part of a scandal that continues to unravel. Several cops in that city have pleaded guilty to planting drug evidence, stealing money, and lying on arrest reports. In Des Moines, where Curtis was arrested, the police department also has been rife with scandals involving charges of racist and sexual harassment, use of racist epithets, and brutality. The central police witness against Curtis was suspended from the Des Moines police force for brutality and lying in a previous case. Unlike in the Simpson case, the jury was not allowed to hear this evidence.

Thousands of working people are railroaded to prison on the words of lying cops. While O.J. Simpson got the fairest trial money can buy in capitalist society, most working people are trapped in jail because they can't afford high-priced attorneys.

More political space exists for the international campaign to free Mark Curtis as the truth about the capitalist injustice system is revealed. Activists in the campaign should take advantage of this space to win more support and to get some additional letters to the Iowa State Board of Parole urging that Curtis be freed.

Solidarity, not cops and fences

Congress and the Clinton administration are cranking up their joint campaign against the rights of immigrants, both "legal" and "illegal." Federal cops have raided factories and arrested thousands of workers in recent months. One of their main arguments is that workers born abroad cause unemployment.

Not true. The cause of joblessness is the bosses themselves and their economic system. They are the ones who issue the pink slips. And they do so for one reason alone: to boost their sagging profit rates, at the expense of workers. The relatively high levels of permanent unemployment and job insecurity today are a result of the declining capitalist system, now mired in depression.

The government's claim of arresting immigrants to rescue "American" jobs is an attempt to drive a deep wedge in the heart of the working class by dehumanizing one section — workers born abroad — while tying another to the apron strings of the "fellow American" bosses who exploit all of us. That's the powerful truth behind the statement often made by Malcolm X: "I'm not an American — I'm a victim of Americanism."

Only the labor movement can offer a solution to

joblessness — by leading a struggle to create jobs for all, not some. This means demanding a shorter workweek with no cut in pay; a massive public works program to build housing, schools, and other social necessities; and defense of affirmative action programs enforced by quotas. It also means fighting every move to curtail the rights of immigrants and rejecting the scapegoating arguments of big-business politicians.

Immigration is not just a jobs issue. Championing equal rights for immigrants is part of the life-and-death struggle to unite the working class across nationalities and borders so we can be strong enough to fight the employers' assault on the rights and living standards of our entire class.

Fortunately, immigrant workers have not rolled over and played dead. In many cities they have led demonstrations against such attacks, from factory raids to Proposition 187-style legislation. These protests have also drawn youth and others who are repelled by a government whose "solution" to social problems is cops, prisons, razor-wire fences, ID cards, and chauvinist poison. The unions should join these protests too.

S. Africa-Cuba meet

Continued from Page 8

meng, South African ambassador-elect to Cuba, will arrive in Havana to begin his assignment October 25. He then introduced Nkadimeng, who also addressed the meeting. Pahad said that the South African government is expanding economic relations with Cuba as well.

Trade between the two countries has risen from 0.8 million rand in 1993 to 55 million rand today (\$1=3.5 rand), he stated, with the bulk of South African exports being equipment and materials used in Cuba's sugar cane industry. "We are in the process of discussing a more far-reaching trade agreement," he said.

A number of other ANC leaders addressed the delegates, including ANC general secretary Cheryl Carolus and Tokyo Sexwale, premier of the Gauteng province that includes Johannesburg.

Message from Fidel Castro

After Mandela's speech, Cuban ambassador Angel Dalmau read a message to the delegates from Castro.

"Cubans, waging a titanic struggle to save the identity and the independence of the country, justly value the solidarity shown by so many men and women that like you, all over the world, stimulate our present efforts," Castro's message said. "The support that emerges from this act of solidarity confirms once more that there are many people in the world who cannot be misled by the enormous slander campaigns that are constantly waged against Cuba and its present reality."

Castro explained the fiscal and other measures Havana has implemented over the last two years to reverse an economic decline triggered by the end of aid and trade at preferential prices with the former Soviet bloc countries and intensified by the U.S. economic blockade.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union and the East European socialist countries, the end of the Cold War and the upsurge of a unipolar war, far from bringing an improvement in the standard of living of hundreds of millions of human beings in the so-called South, has meant an increase in the heavy load of insecurity, inequality, and poverty that burdens the underdeveloped countries," Castro stated.

"Our present struggle for the preservation of the identity and validity of our homeland, for the continuity of our revolution, and the defense of our socialism and its imperishable conquests, is also the struggle for the poor people of this earth."

"Our enemies have tried to impose upon us all types of blockades and isolations but have been unable to achieve their purpose against Cuba," Castro said. "This conference is proof of that. You may rest assured... that as long as we share the confidence of millions of men and women that, like you in Southern Africa and the world over, have placed in us, we shall do everything possible and even more so as not to fail your hopes."

Conference decisions

After two days of plenary sessions, commissions, and workshops, delegates decided to constitute the conference organizing committee as a sub-regional network of Friends with Cuba in Southern Africa.

The network will encourage the formation of Cuba solidarity committees throughout southern Africa and the strengthening of already existing groups.

The activities delegates resolved to promote include:

- Offering to host a tour by Castro in all countries in southern Africa when the Cuban president visits South Africa, which according to ANC leaders will most likely take place early next year;

- Demanding that governments in the region call on the Organization of African Unity to declare a day of solidarity with Cuba in the continent;

- Lobbying governments in southern Africa to increase trade and other ties with Cuba and to condemn the Helms-Burton bill under debate in U.S. Congress; and

- Organizing a Southern African brigade to Cuba next year and friendship caravan in the region to collect material aid to be shipped to Cuba via Johannesburg.

For more information on future activities in the region contact the Cuba Solidarity Committee, 1 Leyds St., Braamfontein, Johannesburg; Tel: (27-11) 457-1111.

'Gaceta de Cuba'

Continued from Page 7

riences to describe the challenges faced by artists under the dictatorship that ruled Brazil in the 1970s.

The previous issue of *La Gaceta* also features a range of articles. One, titled "History and Marxism," was published to mark the 100th anniversary of Frederick Engels's death. In it, author Fernando Martínez Heredia says that "the question of what constitutes Marx's Marxism in Cuba today is extremely difficult." Among the reasons for this problem, he states, have been the "lack of direct sources" of the works of Marx and Engels, as well as "a thick layer of vulgar interpretations and absurd speeches claiming to be Marxist that were imposed on us as ideological preconditions."

Martínez argues that the collapse of the bureaucratic regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe "is potentially positive for the eventual development of a liberation thought around the world, but there is still a ways to go before we can overcome the negative consequences of what [they] left behind."

In the United States *La Gaceta* is distributed by Pathfinder. The New York-based publisher has just announced the expansion of its distribution of the magazine to include the United Kingdom.

Strike at Boeing

Continued from front page

try came into the Seattle IAM headquarters on the evening of October 5, cheers erupted from the counting room. The 150 machinists there began to chant: "Strike! Strike! Strike!" and "No takeaways! No takeaways!"

IAM members received a summary of the contract proposal two days before the vote. As workers made clear their dissatisfaction, union officials recommended that workers begin "working-to-rule" to slow down production and show Boeing management the workers' opposition to the offer.

Union members began hourly "make noise" demonstrations where they used their pneumatic rivet guns to beat on metal tabletops, floors, and toolboxes. Overhead crane operators blew their horns. Lunchtime demonstrations by shouting workers marched through several buildings in the Renton, Everett, and Fredrickson facilities.

The largest demonstration occurred in Everett at the giant final assembly factory for the Boeing 747, 767, and 777 airplanes. TV stations showed between 2,000 and 3,000 workers marching out of the factory over to the flight line at Paine Field, where finished airplanes are delivered to Boeing customers.

The demonstration spilled onto the runway and forced the control tower to close the field for a period. The day of the voting many members marched together out of the factories to nearby union halls to vote.

"I will have to pay \$1,000 a year just for prescription pills for my high blood pressure, for the rest of my life, if Boeing's medical plan goes through," striker Phil Truell, a Boeing worker for 9 years, told the *Militant*. "Once you open that door" to making premium payments, he said, "you can't stop it."

Boeing claims that rising health care costs require employees to bear more of the burden. "But we're not the reason health-care costs have gone up," said June Moen, another striker on the line.

Many workers called Boeing's proposals "insulting." For the first two years of the three-year contract, there would be no wage increases, and only a 3-percent wage

increase in the third year. The company proposed instead a lump-sum payment the first year of 5 percent of annual wages and 3 percent the second year.

In a letter from Boeing chairman Frank Shrontz and President Phil Condit sent to each IAM member October 2 the company executives argued that workers had to accept less because the European aerospace consortium Airbus was "a formidable competitor" and "our customers — airlines and governments alike — tell us our products simply cost too much."

One Everett worker, quoted in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* newspaper, responded to the letter saying, "Oh, it's a real tear-jerker. I cried a little, then burned it."

Many workers challenged the company's propaganda. "I don't buy the company's need for a competitive edge," said John, a 31-year Boeing worker at the Everett plant. "If that's the reason, why did they give executives million-dollar bonuses?"

"Without workers getting the product out," he said, "the guys at the top won't make anything."

"Boeing is crying poor mouth and demanding cuts in health insurance benefits," said Bill Johnson, directing business representative of IAM District 751. He said that Boeing has made \$6.6 billion in after-tax profits since 1990, and worker productivity has been up 30 percent.

IAM officials have declared job security to be the "number one" issue in the negotiations. Union leaders have focused their fire on job losses due to subcontracting work overseas. Large IAM billboards in Seattle urge Boeing to "Export Planes, Not Our Jobs."

Boeing has laid off over 60,000 workers since 1993. This past spring, 9,000 workers took advantage of Boeing's first-ever offer of early retirement, more than expected.

Boeing management has stated that its goals are to reduce the cost of their airplanes by 25 percent; to reduce the time to design and build a new airplane from 18 months to 9; to increase the amount of work on a Boeing plane that is subcontracted out by another 4 percent. "Boeing



Militant/Dave Welters

More than 2,500 steelworkers and their supporters marched in Warren, Ohio, October 8 in support of workers at WCI who were locked out August 31. The strike has won widespread support among working people in the area. Strikers won a victory September 29 when WCI management announced it was idling its blast furnace and halting efforts to continue production with scab labor.

officials," the *Times* article says, "say they have to continue slashing manufacturing costs to compete in a global marketplace. By 1998, Boeing hopes its cost cutting efforts will save \$600 million."

The Boeing contract talks are being watched closely by bosses and workers alike at other aerospace manufacturers such as McDonnell-Douglas, Lockheed-Martin, United Technologies, and Hughes. Boeing is also the largest private employer in Washington state, with 71,000 on the payroll. The company pays higher wages and benefits than most employers in the state.

The 20,500 engineers and support personnel at Boeing represented by the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association (SPEEA) have declared that they will not perform any IAM work during the strike. Their contract is up December 1.

Many strikers expect that this will be a long walkout, and say they are ready. The last strike, in 1989, was over the issue of forced overtime and lasted 48 days. The contract they got at that time put limits on how much overtime the company could force workers to perform.

While some industry analysts speculate that Boeing management may benefit from a strike at this time, Boeing stock has fallen from a high of nearly \$72 on September 20 to just below \$65 since the contract negotiations broke down October 1. When the *Militant* asked Moen why she thought Boeing made such a bad offer, she replied, "Boeing didn't think the solidarity would be there."

Bob Bruneau is a member of IAM Local 751-A at Boeing's Renton plant and is on strike. Scott Breen is a member of IAM Local 289.

LETTERS

Disagrees on rightists

[Martín] Koppel writes [in "No common ground with rightist groups" in *Militant* issue no. 35]:

"Today, some liberals and leftists are attracted to the antigovernment and anticapitalist radicalism — and militant 'toughness' — of budding fascist groups. Those who cross the bridge to fascism are sick and tired of working-class politics, which appeals to the capacity of working people to think and act; they are drawn to the rightists' emotional appeals and politics of resentment." Are Marxists devoid of emotion? Do they not also make "emotional appeals"? Should we not have been "emotional" about the threatened execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. This method of arguing sounds a lot like the muddle-headed liberalism that Koppel is trying to argue against. "Rightists" don't appeal to people's capacity to think? The way to deal with "rightists" is to tell people that they (the "rightists") don't think! I see. That will solve the problem.

Using this kind of obviously shoddy argument against your opponents will surely drive more people into their arms. And what about "resentment"? I "resent" the fact that the employers extract surplus value from my labor and use it to enrich themselves. I "resent" the fact that racist cops are blowing people away every day. Does that mean that I have fallen victim to the "politics of resentment"? These stock phrases that Koppel throws out are literal repetitions of the liberal twaddle dished out only too frequently by pundits from the *New York Times*

to the *Nation*. Please, as socialists, let's get some better argumentation. The "rightists" (however the SWP defines them) will have a field day with Koppel if they ever see his article.

"Communists share no common ground with the rightists' hatred of government wiretapping." WHAT? What does THAT mean? That we support government wiretapping of rightists? That if someone chooses to become a "rightist," then we're going to look the other way if her or his constitutional rights are violated? This is one of the strangest editorials I've ever seen in the *Militant*.

A reader
by E-mail

Chicago cop killing

On September 27, a Cook County grand jury charged Chicago police officer Gregory Becker with involuntary manslaughter and ten charges of official misconduct in the July 30 shooting of Joseph Gould.

Gould, a homeless man who washed windows of cars and businesses, was shot in the head at close range. Witnesses say that Gould had approached Becker and a companion as they left a downtown tavern. A loud dispute erupted between the two. As Becker reached his car parked nearby, he retrieved his service pistol from the trunk. In the confrontation that followed, Joseph Gould lay dying. Becker and his friend drove off. The off-duty cop failed to report the shooting. Later, Becker's companion claimed that they had not known Gould was hit.

The cop was traced through his



car's license plate, which was noted by a witness. Becker has pleaded innocent to the charges.

The indictment of Becker came after a number of street protests, heated city hall hearings, and press conferences. Cook County state's attorney Jack O'Malley originally charged Becker with murder the day after the shooting, but reduced the charge to involuntary manslaughter. He then took the unusual step of presenting the case before Associate Circuit Judge Robert Bastone for a preliminary hearing, instead of going before a grand jury. Bastone dismissed all but two charges of official misconduct. This move sparked outraged protests from homeless workers, advocates for the homeless, and fighters against police brutality. O'Malley then took the case before a grand jury.

A victory in securing any serious charges at all is recognized by many. Earl Prince, a vendor of the

newspaper *Streetwise*, which is sold by workers who are homeless, spoke on the fight for justice for Joseph Gould at a Militant Labor Forum panel September 29. "The indictment is a partial victory, but it is a step toward justice, and we need to continue the protests," he said.

Ray Parsons
Chicago, Illinois

Example of Cuban people

"Anyone who goes to Cuba and repeats the U.S. government's lies has not seen Cuba," said Jenny Benton of the Young socialists in Peoria, Illinois, "but anyone who tells you it is a utopia hasn't seen it either." Benton led a wide-ranging discussion among 25 people who met here September 9 to learn about last month's Cuba Lives Festival.

"What we have seen is a testimony to the Cuban people," said a Cuban-American man. He was

one of three individuals born in Cuba who welcomed the opportunity to hear about their homeland.

The struggle against racism in Cuba was a theme the audience returned to several times. A student from nearby Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville who was in Cuba studying music this August commented that he "didn't see racism." And a woman who participated in student protests against U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista in the 1950s felt the discrimination in Cuba then was economic, not racial. She pointed to the participation of freed slaves in the nineteenth century struggle against Spanish colonialism.

Benton recalled her discussions and observations as part of the Cuba Lives Festival. While some Cubans felt there was no racism, she reported, others, including members of the Union of Young Communists, saw this as a legacy of capitalism requiring ongoing political attention.

The meeting was chaired by Kitty Loepker, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Granite City, Illinois, who was also in Cuba this August. The meeting and a barbecue attended by 17 people later that evening were sponsored by the St. Louis Area Cuba Lives Tour Fund.

Kim Kleinman
St. Louis, Missouri

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.

'We have a right to our ideas'

Workers in Quebec reject capitalists' threats, debate referendum on sovereignty

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — Workers at the Canadair aircraft assembly plant here recently received a copy of a speech by Laurent Beaudoin, chief executive officer of Bombardier Inc., delivered to a September 21 meeting of the Quebec Business Council for Canada. His speech was about the October 30 referendum on Quebec sovereignty.

In an introduction to the text, Beaudoin explains "That speech outlined the basic reasons why I am firmly in favour of the 'no' side in this referendum. I expressed the opinion that the consequences of the separation of Quebec from Canada would, without any doubt, be harmful to our company and our employees, to the economy of Quebec and to our fellow citizens."

On October 3, he went a step further by declaring that if the "yes" vote wins, he might pull his company out of Quebec.

Bombardier is a Quebec-based multinational which employs 37,000 people around the world. Eight thousand work at the Canadair aerospace plants in suburban Montreal, of whom half are members of the International Association of Machinists union. Elsewhere in Quebec, 3,500 build snowmobiles and watercraft in Valcourt and 475 build public transit equipment in La Pocatière.

Beaudoin's threats have sparked widespread debate as well as condemnation among working people in Quebec. Workers at the Bombardier plant in La Pocatière were among the first to show their anger. The "no" campaign made a campaign stop, one of its first, at the plant September 26.

When "no" leader Daniel Johnson entered the plant surrounded by a media entourage, workers hoisted hand painted signs reading, "On October 30, we vote 'yes' to separation." Foremen scrambled to remove the placards, but they were too late to avoid cameras capturing images for broadcast on the news that evening.

"Laurent Beaudoin should not get mixed up in what workers are thinking. We have the right to our ideas and I think he should not interfere," plant worker Bernard Rossignol told journalists.

Quebecois are an oppressed nation within Canada. That oppression is based upon the language which they speak, French.

The right to work in French, for example, has been part of workers' fights for decades. In the last year alone, it has been an issue in three strikes in the Montreal area. At Canadair, blueprints and work instructions are in English. Most reports must be filled out in English. Your ability to speak English weighs heavily in any promotions.

Campaign of fear and intimidation

Beaudoin is speaking out as part of an organized campaign by big business in Canada. The capitalist class has always opposed the right of Quebecois, Native Indians, or other oppressed nationalities to decide their own future.

In a speech in Montreal September 27, finance minister Paul Martin bluntly declared that the federal government will not negotiate a new economic union between Quebec and Canada should the "yes" win.

"Let's be clear," he said. "Countries are not in the business of doing favors for foreigners."

Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien told an audience in Shawinigan, Quebec, on October 6 that there was no possibility that his government would enter a political partnership with a separate Quebec.

The "yes" campaign has responded by saying that the Canadian federal government would have no choice but to negotiate treaties with Quebec. To do otherwise, it says, would destabilize the economy and



Students in Quebec protest against cuts in education September 30. Many workers support sovereignty as a means to combat discrimination against French speakers.

undermine the billions of dollars invested by Canadian companies in Quebec.

Quebec politicians who are campaigning for a "yes" vote are appealing to the hatred of working people against the deep cuts in social services being carried out by the federal and various provincial governments. Quebec government minister Pauline Marois told an audience on October 8, "The future of Canada is a future of the Preston Mannings, the Ralph Kleins, and the Mike Harris's," referring to the most outspoken capitalist politicians in Canada who promote cuts in social services.

"There is a Canada of massive cuts to unemployment insurance, pensions, and other social programs. Quebecois want nothing to do with such a future."

But many Quebec politicians who favor the "yes" vote have carried out similar cuts. Lucien Bouchard, one of the principal leaders of the campaign, served as a minister in Conservative Party governments in Ottawa in the 1980's that launched sweeping cuts to social services. In 1982-83, he was chief negotiator for a Parti Quebecois government that imposed salary cuts of up to 20 percent on tens of thousands of public sector workers.

While the debate unfolds, workers and youth are continuing to put up resistance to the deepening attacks on conditions of life and work.

The latest demonstration against cuts to social services took place October 7 when teachers at 36 community colleges and hundreds of secondary schools went on strike for one day to protest proposed cuts of \$120 million to education funding that the Parti Quebecois government wants to carry out. The government is the leading force in the "yes" campaign.

Strikes by 850 workers at the Kenworth truck assembly plant north of Montreal and 750 at the Firestone tire factory in Joliette are continuing. On October 5, more than 4,000 workers across the province began a strike against the Canadian aluminum multinational ALCAN.

Many workers in Quebec express anger at the campaign of Beaudoin and his cohorts.

Alberto Collorichio, who has worked for 12 years at Canadair, told a CBC reporter that he will cast a "no" vote. "But handing out a letter like (Beaudoin) did, I don't agree with that."

"I come from a country where democracy has been totally pushed aside," said Emmanuel Jean-Denis, a Haitian-born worker at Canadair. "I never thought I would go vote in Canada with a gun to my head. I think this is unfair. But I have to be a responsible father and take into account this blackmail," he concluded, not knowing now how he is going to vote.

"I won't change my mind. I am going to vote 'yes' anyhow," André Bouchard, who works at Bombardier in La Pocatière told journalists.

Carole Caron is a member of the International Association of Machinists, Lodge 712 at Bombardier-Canadair in Montreal.

Sovereignty debate reaches all Canada

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER British Columbia — "Won't separation of Quebec weaken Canada?" was the question on the minds of Hannah Askew, Miranda Witherford, and Michelle Quigg at a recent Militant Labor Forum here. The three Sir Winston Churchill high school students were among 25 people on hand for a discussion of the October 30 referendum in Quebec.

"Canada is a prison house of nations—of Quebecois, of Acadiens, of Natives—who are all oppressed nationalities," answered Michel Prairie. "Unless the working class defends struggles of these oppressed nationalities for equality, including separation if they so decide, it won't be possible to build unity and defend our class interests in face of the capitalists' accelerating attacks against our rights, living conditions, and unions."

Prairie, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist League in Canada, was on a five day speaking tour of the Vancouver area to present a working-class perspective in the fight against the oppression of Quebecois and Natives in Canada.

The CL and Young Socialists are calling on workers and students across the country to support a "yes" vote in the upcoming referendum on the proposal by the Parti Quebecois government that Quebec become a sovereign country in the framework of a new economic and political partnership with the rest of Canada.

One goal of Prairie's trip was to learn first-hand what working people in this part of English-speaking Canada think about the coming referendum. His first stop was at the Storkcraft factory, a juvenile furniture making plant of 110 organized by the

United Steelworkers of America in Richmond, near Vancouver.

At a lunch break gathering, one worker said that Quebecois are greedy and get higher wages than workers in British Columbia. The provinces of "Quebec and Ontario get all the government grants. Western Canada gets nothing," he said, echoing a common complaint by capitalists in this part of the country.

Quebecois are oppressed, not privileged

"Quebec is class-divided like the rest of Canada," answered Prairie. Quebec Prime Minister Jacques "Parizeau is no more speaking in the interest of working people in Quebec than Chrétien is for workers in this part of Canada. Our starting point needs to be us, the workers; not them, the exploiters. And the reality is that the Quebecois are not privileged, they are oppressed."

At the Militant Labor Forum, Prairie explained this point more. "Incomes of French-speaking people in Canada, of whom 85 percent are living in Quebec, are 15 percent less than those who speak English. French speakers face higher unemployment, have poorer health care and fewer opportunities to advance their education. According to Ottawa's own figures, Quebec is the poorest province in Canada."

"Who will pay Canada's debt if Quebec separates?" asked Askew and Witherford at the forum.

"First," answered Prairie, "this is not 'our' debt as working people. We as workers shouldn't take any responsibility for it. But more than that, our starting point as workers can't be how much a legitimate demand for equality will cost but how can

we overcome and fight any form of injustice and oppression and in so doing strengthen the unity of the working class."

"Should women stop fighting for equality because the ruling rich 'can't afford' abortion, childcare or other services that we badly need? Should Blacks wait till society can 'afford it' before they fight for better jobs and housing? Should we stop fighting for decent health care and education because of the debt? The answer is no," said Prairie.

Askew, Witherford, and Quigg came to the Militant Labor Forum because they were seeking information on the "yes" side that they couldn't find anywhere in Vancouver.

"I know from my own experience, the media doesn't tell the truth," said Askew after the forum. "That's why I find this meeting interesting." Witherford added, "I've learned things that have never been explained to us."

"What can we do here?" asked Askew.

"Well, there is a lot that workers and youth in English-speaking Canada can do to join this fight," answered Prairie. "First, you can oppose the chauvinist and antidemocratic campaign of the federal government aimed at preventing workers in Quebec from freely deciding their own destiny."

"Second, you can explain the truth about the oppression of the Quebecois and why working people should support their struggle against language discrimination and for national rights," he concluded.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of the IAM lodge 692 in Vancouver. Joe Young, member of the USWA at Storkcraft, also contributed to this article.