

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'No scab papers'
is the slogan in Detroit

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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3,000 in N.Y. demand U.S. end embargo against Cuba

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND JACK WILLEY

NEW YORK — "Cuba sí, blockade no," resounded through the streets of midtown Manhattan October 21 as 3,000 people ignored whirling sheets of rain and marched to oppose Washington's economic war against Cuba. Armed with colorful banners, flags, umbrellas, and raincoats, the protesters did not let their spirits be dampened by the downpour, which started with a fury as they were assembling near the United Nations and continued as steady rain through the day.

The action was part of regional protests against U.S. policy initiated by the National Network on Cuba (NNOC). They

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were called in response to an appeal by an international conference in Havana in November 1994 for worldwide protests in October to oppose Washington's embargo.

Marches and rallies with the same demands — "End the U.S. economic blockade," "Lift the travel ban," "Normalize relations," and "Respect Cuba's right to self-determination" — took place the previous weekend in Chicago and San Francisco.

Hundreds of young people newly active in defending Cuba took part on October 21. They made sure the march was vocal all the way from the UN building to the final rally site at Columbus Circle.

About half the participants came from

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Steelworkers in Ohio win strike victory

BY TONY PRINCE

WARREN, Ohio — After beating back the bosses attempt to run the Warren Consolidated Industries steel mill here with scab labor, members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Locals 1375 and 6824 voted 1,265 to 237 to approve a new contract October 24. Winning the new agreement, after a nearly two-month battle that began with a company lockout, is a significant victory for the workers in this highly unionized industrial town.

Some 1,500 steelworkers and family members packed the field house at Warren G. Harding high school here October 19, to hear a summary of the proposed contract between the USWA and WCI Steel. Members then had five days to discuss and consider the proposal before voting.

Two central issues in the conflict were successorship and pensions. Successorship refers to the clause in the contract stipulating that the union will remain the bargaining unit for the workers if the plant

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Castro: Cuba shed its blood against racism

Cuban president gets rousing welcome in Harlem

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — The five-day whirlwind visit by Cuban president Fidel Castro here dominated the news in this city and across the country for nearly a week. It showed vividly the weight of revolutionary Cuba in world politics today — the only country where the working class holds state power with a communist leadership at the helm.

From the United Nations, where he got stronger applause than any other head of state, to a meeting with Puerto Rican businessmen in a Bronx restaurant, Castro was at the center of attention as he explained that the Cuban people have steadfastly stood "in solidarity with the poor of this earth."

Above all, the event that captured the appeal of the Cuban revolution to many working people — especially Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and other Latinos — was the meeting at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem on Sunday, October 22.

"Back in the 'hood: Castro cheered in Harlem church," blared the headline of the October 23 New York *Daily News*, covering nearly the entire front page. It was Castro's second appearance in Harlem, which he first visited 35 years ago, shortly after the triumph of the Cuban revolution (see article on page 10).

The nearly 1,600 people who packed



Fidel Castro addresses 1,600 people who packed church in Harlem. Hundreds more were outside.

the church at the ticketed rally gave the Cuban leader a rousing welcome. A ten-minute standing ovation greeted Castro.

"We have shed our blood to fight against colonialism and to defend the independence and sovereignty of the peoples," Castro said halfway into his speech, bringing the overwhelmingly Black and Latino audience to its feet once again with chants of "Viva Cuba revolucionaria!" (Long live revolutionary Cuba).

With these remarks, Castro began explaining at some length the essential role

of Cuban volunteer troops in Africa in helping to defend the sovereignty of Angola, win the independence of Namibia, and bring about the downfall of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Cuban president spoke for more than an hour, with translation, after introductory remarks by Elombe Brath, leader of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and the event's chair; Rosemary Mealy, author of *Fidel and Malcolm X: Memories of a Meeting*; Rev. Calvin Butts, pastor of the

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Angry Okinawans demand 'U.S. out'

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — In the largest protest rally in Okinawa's history tens of thousands turned out October 21 to demand the removal of U.S. troops. Some 12,000 demonstrated in Tokyo. The action on the Japanese island, 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo, was the latest in a series of protests there since September 4, the day three U.S. soldiers raped a 12-year-old girl. Estimates of the size of the October 21 action ranged from 50,000 by the police to 80,000 by demonstration organizers.

Some 29,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed on Okinawa, nearly half of the 63,000 deployed at 94 sites throughout Japan.

The three U.S. soldiers — Marine Pfc. Rodrico Harp and Kendrick Ledet and Naval seaman Marcus Gill — are in Japanese custody. However, they weren't turned over by U.S. military authorities on the island until September 29, after three weeks of protests. In addition to street demonstrations, more than 40 local assemblies adopted resolutions

calling for a revision of special legal procedures for U.S. military suspects.

The U.S.-Japan Security Treaty signed in 1960 states that U.S. officials aren't required to turn over military personnel suspected of crimes until indictments are made. This policy has led to U.S. soldiers accused of illegal actions in Japan being transferred to the United States before they could be tried. This preferential treatment, which doesn't apply to U.S. soldiers in Germany or other countries where they are stationed, has been a source of considerable aggravation for a long time.

Marine commandant Gen. Charles Krulak argues that the recent rape was an aberration. However, since 1972 when Okinawa was returned to Japanese administration (it had been under U.S. administration since 1945), U.S. soldiers have committed 12 murders and 4,500 other crimes, including rapes, robberies, and vandalism. This pattern of abusive behavior has been exacerbated by the fact that 20 percent of the land area of

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Tens of thousands demonstrated October 21 demanding removal of U.S. bases from Japanese colony of Okinawa.



IN BRIEF

Strikes loom in France

Major trade unions in France are threatening to organize more joint actions in response to government-proposed cuts on the social security system. According to the *Financial Times*, Prime Minister Alain Juppé has pledged to cut spending for social security and increase patients' payments for hospital care.

Louis Viannet, general secretary of the CGT union, said he was contacting other unions to organize joint protest actions in November. A similar statement was made by Marc Blondel, head of Force Ouvrière. "If the government makes proposals completely opposite to ours we will have no hesitation in fighting them," said an official of the CFDT union. A national walkout of 3.5 million workers on October 10 was the first combined action of the national trade unions in France since 1986.

Thousands of workers protest in Ukraine

Thousands of unionists picketed the Ukrainian government cabinet building October 19 demanding higher wages and lower prices. The miners union also threatened to strike unless the government pays back wages. The workers' actions are the most visible protests so far against the so-called "market reform program" imposed by the government in 1994.

Meanwhile Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, dismissed Petro Kupin as governor of the industrialized region of Luhansk on October 19, in a dispute over the reform program.

Hussein remains president

Saddam Hussein remained head of state of Iraq after a referendum on his presidency in mid-October. The overwhelming "yes" vote for Hussein, reported by the government is widely seen as a reflection of Iraqis' anger at UN-imposed sanctions on their country. "We have 11,000 children dying of malnutrition here every year. Nothing can justify this genocide," a



Palestinians expelled from Libya stranded on a ship off the coast of Cyprus. Libyan government is scapegoating immigrant workers for 30 percent unemployment.

pharmacist told the *New York Times*. At least 150,000 Iraqis were killed during the U.S.-led slaughter in 1990-90.

Zambia leader fights deportation

Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda asked a court to stop the government from trying to deport him as an illegal alien October 20. The government of Frederick Chiluba says that Kaunda failed to formally seek Zambian citizenship while he was president of the nation in 1970, when he renounced his Malawian nationality.

Authorities ordered Kaunda to report to police headquarters in Lusaka to discuss his citizenship on October 18. They have told members of Kaunda's political party that he could either be handed to a United Nations refugee agency as a stateless person or deported to Malawi as an illegal immigrant. Kaunda became president of the country when it won independence from the United Kingdom in 1964. He was defeated in elections in 1991 by Chiluba.

Kaunda's popularity has risen recently as next year's general elections approach and Chiluba's government has failed to stem the economic crisis in the country.

Libya wants to deport 1 million

Libya asked the UN Security Council for permission to begin flying more than 1 million African workers out of the country. The council, which maintains an international air embargo against the country, rejected the request. The United Nations imposed sanctions on Tripoli in 1992 after the government refused to turn over two men accused of the 1988 bombing of an airliner over Scotland. Libya's economy has been under growing pressure as a result of the sanctions and the government is seeking ways to reduce the number of workers in the country.

Libya also continues to expel Palestinians in an attempt to discredit the recent accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, despite Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi's announcement that the action would stop. Some 650 Palestinians, half of them children, were stranded on a ferry off Cyprus October 18 after leaving Libya. Cyprus allowed the ferry to take on food and fuel, but refuse to let any passengers leave the boat.

Lebanon president stays in office

The Lebanese parliament passed a constitutional amendment October 18 to extend the term of President Elias Hrawi by three years. Widely supported by capitalist forces in the country, the change ended plans for presidential elections this year. "An extension for Hrawi is an extension of the stability of the [Lebanese] pound," one Beirut banker told the press. Hrawi has been president since 1989. He enjoys the support of Syrian president Hafez al As-

sad, who indicated his government's backing for the amendment.

Uprisings at U.S. prisons

Federal authorities confined thousands of inmates to their cells at 70 U.S. prisons after uprisings at four institutions between October 19 and October 22. In the most extensive inmate uprisings in years in the federal penal system, prisoners set fires, broke windows, and clashed with guards at jails in Talledega, Alabama; Greenville, Illinois; Memphis, Tennessee; and Allenwood, Pennsylvania.

Administration officials stated that the confrontations were partly a response to the House of Representatives vote to maintain a 100-to-1 sentencing disparity for possession of crack cocaine and cocaine powder. Blacks face most of the charges for possession of crack. Justice department studies show that nearly two-thirds of the inmates in federal prisons are serving sentences for drug crimes, with Blacks on average serving longer sentences than whites.

Acquittal in Alabama school fire

After the prosecution presented no physical evidence, Christopher Lynn Johnson was acquitted of charges of burning the Randolph County High School in a jury trial October 20. The school in Wedowee, Alabama, burned down in August 1994, amidst a battle to fire its principal, Hulond Humphries, for racist remarks. Johnson faced up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Johnson's father was a leader of the fight to remove the principal after Humphries threatened to cancel a dance unless the students agreed to adhere to a ban on interracial dating. When a student whose mother is Black and father is white asked who she should go to the dance with, Humphries explained that she was the kind of "mistake" he was trying to prevent with the ban.

Cuts to ruin some dairy farmers

The agriculture committees are the U.S. Congress are developing budget bills that would lower the price that farmers are guaranteed for their milk, or eliminate entirely federal rules that dictate minimum prices that companies must pay farmers. Companies would instead be allowed to buy milk from whatever farmer sold the cheapest, driving many small dairy producers off the market.

"I'm just barely getting by," said Donald Everitt, who has run a small dairy farm in Pennsylvania for 23 years. "They say we're supposed to be better managers, but there comes a point where we can't be any better," he added.

—DEREK BRACEY AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Defend the Cuban revolution

The 'Militant' brings you news and analysis of developments in Cuba and the struggle around the world to defend the Cuban revolution. Speeches by Cuban leaders are also regularly printed in the 'Militant.' Supporters of the Cuban revolution need the facts provided by the 'Militant.' Don't miss a single issue!



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Steelworkers in Ohio win strike victory

Continued from front page

is sold. WCI management wanted to get rid of this clause.

In the new contract, the successorship clause is retained and strengthened. The company's operations must be declared permanently shut down and remain so for eight months before the successorship clause can be voided.

Pensions also improved considerably. Steelworkers under 55 years old retiring after 30 years of work would receive \$1,050 per month. There is a graduated scale from age 55 to age 65. A person retiring at age 65 after 30 years would receive \$1,650 per month.

The contract also states that, "The Company will not discharge or discipline any employee for any activity related to the work stoppage." This was an important victory as WCI had violence-baited and

provoked the strikers in an effort to bust the union.

A number of workers outside the union meeting October 19 shared their opinions of the contract. While there were mixed views of the pension gains, with some workers feeling that it was not enough, the general sense was that the union had won a big victory.

Union came out stronger

Striker Chico Rivera commented, "The union has come out stronger because of this fight. You can see that," pointing to the crowded field house, "the people are here."

"The company figured the union was weak," Curtis Bowen, a nozzle setter with 28 years at WCI explained. "But the people stand together more now. We've got a stronger union. Since this has happened

I've gotten more involved with the union."

Even millwright Joe Higley, who said he was against the contract, made the point, "It was worth taking a stand. The union's stronger, but this is not what we went out for."

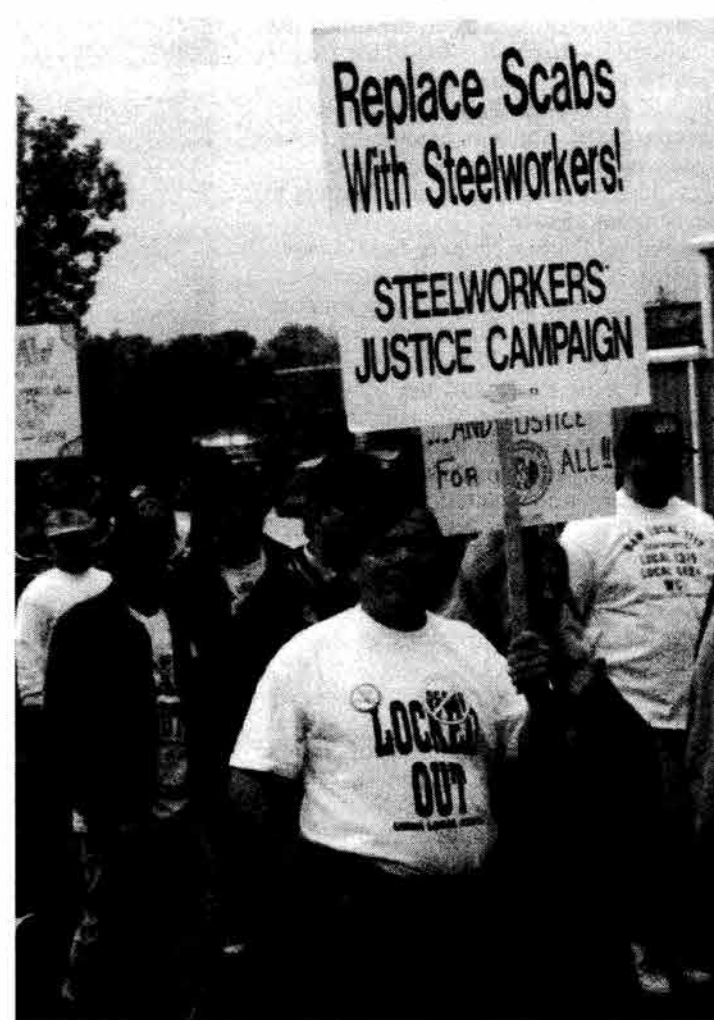
"We didn't get everything this time," said Rivera. "We got a little bit, mostly benefits for the older workers. But we're in a position to come back next time and win some more. We set a good example for other steel negotiations because we didn't lose, we gained."

The steelworkers were aware of the impact that their fight has had in the Mahoning Valley, where Warren is located.

Pat Mangan, a laborer in the mill, said, "The union is still in this valley. This valley was built with the union and it'll stay union."

Mark Kujala, a motor inspector, agreed, "We've made the employers aware that we're not going to be pushed over."

Renee Kolley, whose boyfriend works



Militant/Dave Walters

WCI workers win victory against union busting attempt

at WCI, was sitting on the steps outside the meeting. She summed up how the workers had won this important fight. "We all stuck together. That's the best thing. Solidarity does work."

Rally for justice set for November 6 to demand new trial for Abu-Jamal

BY HATTIE McCUTCHEON

PHILADELPHIA — The International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal has called a Rally for Justice November 6 in this city. The group is also encouraging other protests around the country that day.

Evidence from three different witnesses presented at Jamal's post-conviction hearing this summer contradicted the original trial evidence presented by the cops in Jamal's murder trial. Despite this, Judge Albert Sabo in a 154-page opinion released September 15 decided not to grant a new trial. "We have to keep the pressure on. This government must not be allowed to kill our brother Mumia," stated Pam

Africa, chairperson of the group supporting Jamal, after the judge's decision.

An appeal of Sabo's ruling has been filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

In the Philadelphia area the November 6 action has been building on area campuses. Informational meetings and video showings have taken place at Temple University; Rowan College; Swarthmore College; Rutgers New Brunswick, in New Jersey; and at other schools.

The Rally for Justice starts at 10:00 a.m. with a march from Progress Plaza at Broad & Oxford Streets to City Hall at 15th and Market Streets. The rally begins at noon. For more information call (215) 476-8812.

'Militant' newspaper means activism plus

BY BERNIE SENTER

BROOKLYN — "We decided that by calling our paper the *Militant*, this would indicate our intention of appealing directly to the vanguard, to the cadre people, to the militants — a paper of and for the vanguard."

This is how James P. Cannon, the first editor of the *Militant*, described how the paper got its name. The *Militant* began publishing in 1928. Cannon made these remarks at a Los Angeles meeting celebrating the 30th anniversary of the paper held on Nov. 15, 1958. The meeting helped raise funds in the same way the \$125,000 Militant Fund campaign today is raising money to keep this working-class paper available week after week.

"The name was deliberately designed to express its distinctive character. It is not so commonly used nowadays as it was in the earlier movement. 'Militant' was the word for the active, fighting member of the various radical organizations — IWW [International Workers of the World] militants, Socialist Party militants, anarchist militants. Nowadays, they have a much weaker word, I think, for that. They say 'activists.' Those that are always working for the organization. But in the old days we called these people the militants, which is activism plus."

Cannon went on to say, "We did not pretend when we started the *Militant*, that we were producing a great mass paper, simplifying everything to the lowest common denominator. On the contrary, our paper was devoted to the education and re-education of the vanguard militants of the Communist movement."

"It was primarily a cadre paper, the educator and guide of the cadres. The people who hold the party together and keep it going in all kinds of weather. The people that never quit. Who never float down the stream like dead fish, but swim against the current no matter how rough it may be. That is the meaning of 'militant' and that was the meaning of the paper we started to represent such people."

"The *Militant*," explained Cannon, "from its first issue up to the latest one to

come off the press has been the champion of the Russian Revolution and the advocate of its extension throughout the world. That has been the central meaning of every expression of revolutionary socialism in every part of the world since November 1917."

The *Militant* continues that tradition today by defending and telling the truth about the Cuban revolution in issue after issue.

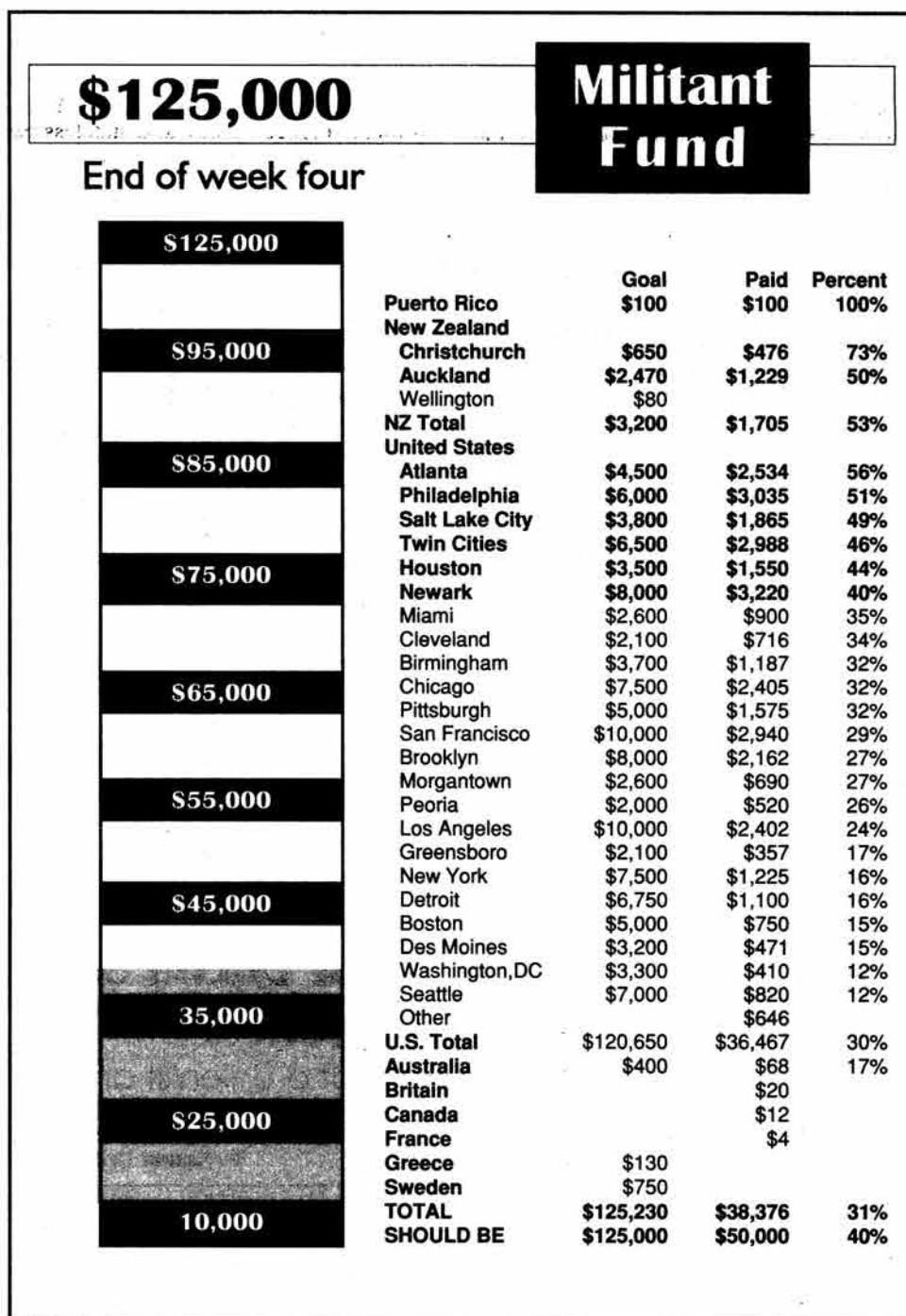
In his talk, Cannon discussed what Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin argued — in his pamphlet *What Is To Be Done?* — the role of a nationwide socialist paper should be. "As Lenin conceived it, the role of a revolutionary paper is to function not merely as an agitator dealing with protest issues, not merely as a propagandist concerned with educating people and dealing with questions of theory and politics, but as the best organizer of the party."

"That was the way we conceived our *Militant* and for that reason the *Militant* was never and never could be a personal organ. It broke entirely with the earlier socialist tradition in this country in which the most widely circulated press, the most influential press, was privately owned and privately conducted enterprise."

Today, the Militant Fund appeals to those Cannon talked about—fighting working people and youth—to finance the publication of the paper. For 67 years — since 1928 — that is how the *Militant* has been maintained. And for 67 years this paper has kept rolling off the presses to be sold at picket lines and factory gates, in working-class neighborhoods and campuses, and at political activities like the Harlem meeting to welcome Fidel Castro.

As the chart shows, we are now at 31 percent of our \$125,000 goal. This past week we received \$8,784 with supporters in some cities beginning to catch up but most areas making modest payments.

To keep putting the *Militant* into the hands of more militants, we ask you to send in your contribution today. If you've made a pledge, the paper needs to receive steady payments every week. Please make out your check to the Militant Fund.



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'No scab papers' is the slogan in Detroit

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

When Ann Boyd crossed the finish line to win the women's division of the Detroit Free Press/Mazda International Marathon, she had a "No Scab Papers" sticker on her running outfit. She was greeted by newspaper strikers and their supporters who brought their picket signs and leaflets to the October 15 race.

Boyd and other runners held a news conference the day before the race to explain why they, as strong union supporters, would run in a race sponsored by the Detroit Free Press. "I'm appalled by the way the Free Press and the News have treated their employees," said Boyd. "I think it's just plain wrong to hire replacement workers during a strike."

"Runners who wanted to support the strikers could choose to run in Chicago and boycott Detroit," she added, "We thought we would have more impact and visibility by staying here and supporting the strikers by wearing 'No Scab Papers' stickers."

The same weekend saw an outpouring of support from delegates to the annual convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women held in Dearborn, Michigan. More than a thousand delegates and guests pledged their support after hearing strike updates from local Newspaper Guild members.

Saturday afternoon four hundred CLUW members boarded buses and went to a nearby Super Kmart store to leaflet customers. Super Kmart is one of many retailers who continue to advertise in the



Strikers at a Labor Day parade. Support for the strikers is hitting company profits.

scab papers.

"We're committed to standing with the striking newspaper workers and to provide the support they need to bring this strike to a speedy and successful conclusion," Gloria Johnson, president of CLUW, told the convention.

Linda Foley, newly elected president of the Newspaper Guild, told the delegates about the wide support the strikers have won. "Knight Ridder and Gannett have

admitted \$46 million in losses as a result of the strike," she said. "They've admitted a 24 percent drop in circulation and a 20 to 30 percent decline in advertising."

"The real figures are probably much worse. These media giants clearly underestimated how strongly citizens and local businesses would react to their illegal harassment of working families."

The Kmart protest was the second activity organized by a new strike support group, Women in Labor Dispute (WILD) made up of spouses of striking workers. On October 8 WILD drew more than 100 women to the Sterling Heights printing plant for picketing and a rally.

On October 13 Detroit News editor and publisher Robert Giles spoke to the Central Business District Association of Detroit. He boasted the strike, "has given us opportunities" that would not have been possible through years of negotiation.

Giles said that replacement workers have increased production at the printing plants from 45,000 papers per hour before the strike to between 60,000 and 65,000 more recently. Tony Valvona, a striking pressman, was unimpressed. "If you're pushing for production and you don't care

about quality and a safe environment, you can run those presses at 70,000."

Valvona explained that the presses at the News plant in Sterling Heights are old, extremely loud and not enclosed. That made safety and proper maintenance a priority for the members of Graphic Communication Workers Local 13N.

If the company had their way, he said, "they would run the presses with ink dripping from the units and oil dripping from the folder. We were on those people all the time to fix those machines."

Valvona also pointed out that the scab edition of the News is a much simpler press setup and smaller run than the way the paper was normally printed before the strike. That makes it possible to run the presses at a higher speed. Valvona makes a point of checking the quality of the scab paper. "You can tell by the bad folds and the black smears that they're running for production only."

When the Detroit Newspapers appealed recently to the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce to take their side in the strike, the chamber chose to remain silent. This outraged Frank Vega, president and CEO of Detroit Newspapers. "I can only assume because many of its members have union shops, it is acting timidly, trying not to rock the boat," he said and threatened to pull the newspapers out of the association.

The United Way of Southeast Michigan and Oakland Community College have barred the Detroit Newspapers from using their job fairs to recruit more scabs. An Oakland Community college spokesperson cited "the violence associated with the strike" as the reason why they could not risk including the strikebreaking newspapers in their job fair. "It's a job fair for employers to recruit," Vega complained, "why unions have any say so in a job fair boggles me."

Knight-Ridder, Inc. which owns the Detroit Free Press announced October 19 that its profits for the third-quarter of 1995 were down 82 percent from last year. The company posted gains of \$6.6 million compared to \$37 million a year earlier. Company officials admitted that the drop was largely due to the strike.

Holly Harkness is a member of the United Autoworkers Union in Detroit.

Facts on Detroit news strike

Six unions went on strike against the Detroit Newspaper Agency, which controls the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press, July 13. These papers are owned by the giant media corporations, Gannett, Co., and Knight Ridder, Inc., respectively.

The striking unions represent 2,500 workers. They are Teamsters Local 372 (drivers and district managers), the Newspaper Guild Local 22 (reporters, photographers, copy editors, clerks and building maintenance), Teamsters Local 2040 (mailers), Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU) Local 13N (pressroom employees), Detroit Typographical Union 18 (representing typesetters), and GCIU Local 289 (photo-engravers).

The company is demanding deep job cuts and in some cases complete restructuring of work units. This is on top of big concessions the unions gave up in previous contracts. The company has also refused to bargain jointly with the unions on economic issues, as was done in the past.

Detroit Newspapers has hired 1,300 replacement workers and employed strike-breaking "security guards" to continue to publish the papers. They have also paid the Sterling Heights and other local police departments over half a million dollars in police overtime to aid in scab herding operations at their north printing plant.

The strike has won wide support among working people and their unions in the Detroit area. Hundreds of strikers and their supporters turn out every Saturday night to

delay delivery of the Sunday edition of the scab paper. Many other strike support activities are underway as well.

To make contributions to the strike fund or food bank, request a speaker, or get more information on how you or your union local can help, contact: The Metropolitan Detroit Council of Newspaper Unions, c/o Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, 2550 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, 48208 or call (313)896-2600, FAX (313) 896-1078.

— H.H.

Curtis supporters prepare for hearing

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "I am writing in support of parole for Mark Curtis. Over the past year he has contributed editorial copy to *The Communicator*, and to my knowledge, been involved with various organizations at Fort Madison, including the NAACP. I feel that he has paid his debt to society, and should be given an opportunity to prove himself to society."

This letter was sent to the Iowa Board of Parole on October 24 from Jonathan Narcisse, publisher of *The Communicator*, the major Black community newspaper distributed in Des Moines and Waterloo Iowa. It was written by Narcisse in response to an effort being organized by supporters of imprisoned union and socialist activist Mark Curtis.

Curtis was granted a November 21 parole hearing that will be held in the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison. He was framed-up on rape and burglary charges in 1988. This is the first time in three years that Curtis has been granted a parole hearing. Before his arrest, Curtis was involved in a struggle at the Monfort meat-packing plant here to defend immigrant workers who had been arrested and removed from the plant by immigration cops.

"We are concentrating our efforts over the next few weeks on collecting selected letters from individuals who will have the most influence on what the parole officials decide on November 21," commented John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

"Since it often takes a meeting or two to talk over a letter with an individual who is thinking about sending one," Studer said, "we are urging supporters to act on this now and not wait until the last minute before the hearing."

Studer noted that the letter writing effort, with just over 300 letters sent to the board since last summer, is having an impact. "For the first time in anyone's memory," he commented, "the Board is actually acknowledging receipt of at least some of the letters." To emphasize his point, Studer displayed a letter sent on October 12 to long-time defense committee supporter Nellie Berry.

The letter to Berry states, "Board Member Barbara Binnie has asked that I acknowledge receipt of your recent letter concerning the Mark Curtis case. Your correspondence will be placed in the inmate's file and will be available to the panel members when the case is next reviewed."

The letter was signed by board secretary Jo McGrane.

Curtis has served nearly 86 months in

prison. He exhausted the five-year sentence for the trumped-up rape charge in 1993. He is being held in prison on the basis of the burglary charge tacked on by cops and prosecutors weeks after his arrest. Under Iowa law, a burglary takes place if someone is "illegally" on the property where a felony is committed. The average time served for the burglary charge Curtis was convicted of is 76.2 months.

"Mark Curtis more than meets the requirements to be granted parole based on the length of time served as well as his record in prison," Studer explained.

At the November 21 hearing, Curtis will be allowed to present arguments about why he should be paroled. Attorney William Kutmus will also address the Board on Curtis's behalf.

A delegation is being assembled to attend the hearing to demonstrate support for Curtis. Those planning to attend include William Taylor, president of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 7-507 in Chicago; union activists Frankie Travis from Decatur, Illinois, and Kitty Loeper from Granite City, Illinois; Iowa farmer Larry Ginter; and defense committee leaders John Studer and Hazel Zimmerman. Curtis' mother, Jane Curtis from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and his wife Kate Kaku from Chicago, will also attend.

The defense committee is urging supporters to send contributions to help defray the cost of organizing for the hearing. Parole letters can be addressed to the Iowa Board of Parole, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. The letters can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and the committee will forward them to the Board. You can write the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA, 50311, fax number (515) 243-9869.

Now In French!

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.

Available in English, French, and Spanish. 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.

Join the *Militant* subscription drive

Militant 1,950
Perspectiva Mundial 525
New International 750

Sold 39%
 Should be 50%

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

Get on target with nine-day blitz to win new subscribers

BY LAURA GARZA

From Sydney, Australia, Doug Cooper reports on the plans *Militant* supporters have mapped out for the nine-day international target blitz — October 28 to November 5 — to win new readers of the socialist press. For starters, food worker Ron Poulsen is leading a two-day team to Canberra, the capital, where Young Socialist member Steve Lawrence will report on his recent visit to Cuba at a lunchtime high school meeting for students from two schools.

They also plan street sales, a visit to the Australian National University campus, discussions with Cuba solidarity activists, and a one-day visit to the industrial city of Newcastle to participate in a benefit showing of the Cuban film *Strawberry and Chocolate*.

In Sydney, supporters of the socialist press will attend an African National Congress Support Group fund-raiser, a meeting to hear from an East Timorese refugee who has recently sought asylum in Australia along with 17 others, and a conference opposing violence against gays and lesbians.

Goal to get majority on target

These ambitious plans to get new subscribers to the *Militant* are an example of the pace we need for a real target effort. A similar plan of action in every area where *Militant* supporters have taken on a goal will be key to coming out of the target days with a majority of areas back on schedule in the eight-week drive.

There are currently five areas on track at the halfway mark, and we have sold 39 percent of our goal of 1,950 new *Militant* subscriptions. Weekend mobilizations, with four- to five-hour sales teams, and weekday target evenings, with all hands on deck to hit the streets, attend political events, and go door-to-door, will make it possible to come out of the target days with the momentum to wrap up the drive in full and on time.

The visit of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro to the United States for the first time since 1979 captured the interest of many working people. In Manhattan David Rosenfeld reports the heightened interest in Cuba inspired socialist workers to spend long days out in the streets introducing the paper that most consistently covers the political discussions in Cuba, reprints speeches by Fidel Castro and other revolutionary leaders, and takes a stand against the U.S. embargo of the island.

Dozens of single copies and several introductory *Militant* subscriptions were sold at the October 21 demonstration of 3,000 in New York by supporters who joined the march from Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C.

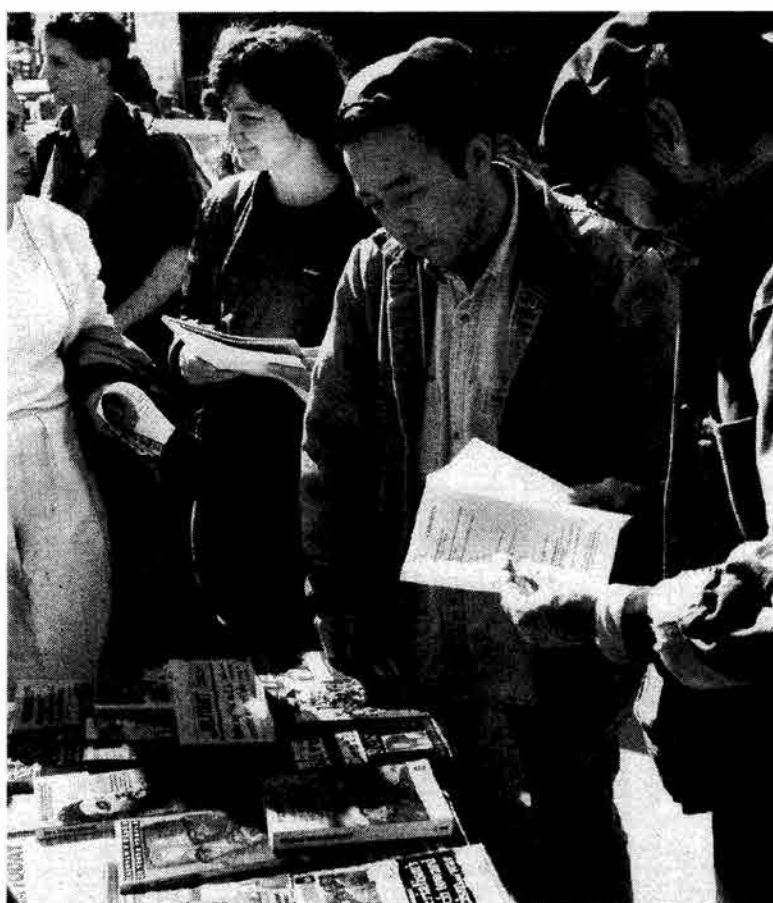
Cuba yes, the 'Militant' yes

On Sunday *Militant* supporters from New York and New Jersey mobilized to hit the streets with literature tables and bring revolutionary literature to Harlem, where crowds gathered for the appear-

ance of Fidel Castro at a neighborhood church. They also participated in pickets in defense of Cuba at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations Sunday through Tuesday. Late Monday evening they joined a predominantly Dominican crowd that gathered to show their support for Castro outside a restaurant where he was meeting with people invited by a Puerto Rican business group.

Brooklyn on Sunday sales and had our first organized effort yesterday," she reports. "Four salespeople mixed and matched a street table and door to door team and sold 1 subscription and 13 single copies. The subscription was to a young Irish worker who bought a single at an Irish music festival four weeks ago and loved it (his words)."

In Los Angeles Pat Nixon re-



Militant/Eric Simpson

Hours of sales at Cuba events paid off for *Militant* supporters in New York area. Above, sales table near picket at Cuban Mission.

Hours and hours out on the streets got the Manhattan supporters on schedule for the drive.

Discussions on Cuba were also the focus of a team that went from Salt Lake City to Denver and sold six *Militant* and one *Perspectiva Mundial* sub and three issues of *New International* at a campus and at an October 20 action against the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

New subscribers who sign up during the target days can also take advantage of a special offer to get the two issues of the *Militant* with the coverage of the actions held throughout the world in October in defense of Cuba. In an upcoming issue we will feature the speech Castro gave in Harlem. Many of the readers who appreciate the coverage of Cuba will also want to join in the campaign to help finance the *Militant* by raising \$125,000 to help keep the paper publishing.

In many cities the sales of subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* have exceeded expectations, we have sold over half our goal of 525 already. In New York supporters of the socialist press raised their goal from 40 to 60.

Mary Nell Bockman wrote in to say Boston had gotten on target for the first time in the drive after the October 21 demonstration. "We took up the challenge from

ported socialist workers and youth moved up the chart by getting the *Militant* around to a lot of places, including visiting three campuses and participating in a rally of 3,000 to support affirmative action at UCLA. At a meeting for Mexican human rights activist Rosario Ibarra de Piedra attended by more than 200, four people became subscribers to both the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Four subscriptions were sold at a youth speak-out on affirmative action at the Militant Labor Forum, and others were sold at a meeting of the Black Women's Political Caucus, and at a report on a Cuba trip for members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

Rail workers from Los Angeles and Chicago organized a visit to Mexico to meet with rail and other workers there and exchange experiences in fighting the bosses and to introduce the socialist publications. In Miami a team is planned to join with *Militant* supporters in Puerto Rico to win more new readers on the island.

News on the results of the target week, and reports on special teams, can be faxed in to our offices anytime. Subscriptions and reports on sales of *New International* must be in by Tuesday at 5 p.m. to be included in the chart.

END OF WEEK FOUR

City	goal	Militant sold	%	PM goal	PM sold	NI goal	NI sold
Greece	5	2	40%	1		4	1
United States							
Salt Lake City	50	28	56%	15	3	15	7
Boston	40	22	55%	8	4	16	8
Philadelphia	75	40	53%	15	1	15	3
Seattle	70	37	53%	15	11	20	7
New York	120	60	50%	60	40	50	20
Brooklyn	160	74	46%	50	27	50	28
Cleveland	40	18	45%	10	4	15	1
Atlanta	55	23	42%	18	9	15	8
Chicago	65	27	42%	20	13	25	4
Peoria, IL	32	13	41%	2	1	10	1
Des Moines	50	20	40%	25	8	20	4
Indiana	10	4	40%	0		0	
Los Angeles	120	48	40%	75	37	75	18
New Haven	5	2	40%	1		2	
Birmingham, AL	49	19	39%	5	1	15	
Twin Cities, MN	70	27	39%	12	2	20	5
Detroit	65	25	38%	10	3	20	1
Houston	55	21	38%	20	11	16	1
Miami	60	21	35%	20	13	30	10
San Francisco	98	31	32%	30	10	60	12
Washington, DC	45	13	29%	15	7	20	5
Denver	7	2	29%	3	2	3	
Newark, NJ	130	36	28%	35	24	40	7
Greensboro, NC	55	15	27%	10	3	10	
Morgantown, WV	48	13	27%	2			
Pittsburgh	65	14	22%	5	1	15	1
Tucson	5	1	20%	2		2	1
Albany	7		0%	1		5	
Cincinnati	8		0%	2		2	
Total U.S.	1659	654	39%	486	235	586	152
Britain							
London	35	16	46%	10	4	25	11
Sheffield	12	5	42%	1		3	
Manchester	40	13	33%	1	2	20	8
Total	87	34	39%	12	6	48	19
Canada							
Vancouver	45	19	42%	6	4	20	5
Toronto	50	15	30%	10	6	25	6
Montreal	50	13	26%	12	6	30	10
Total	145	47	32%	28	16	75	21
Sweden							
Stockholm	20	7	35%	15	14	20	10
Malmö	2	0	0%	2	1	1	
Total	22	7	32%	17	15	21	10
New Zealand							
Auckland	18	6	33%	1	1	15	12
Christchurch	8	1	13%	1		3	1
Wellington	2		0%	0		1	
Total	28	7	25%	2	1	19	13
Australia	15	3	20%	3	3	12	8
Iceland	10	1	10%	1		3	
France	6		0%	5	1	20	11
Puerto Rico	2		0%	6	2	4	2
Other							2
International Total	1979	755	39%	561	279	792	239
Goal/Should be at	1950	975	50%	525	263	750	375
Australia							
AWU-FIME	2			0		0	
Canada							
CEP	4			1		2	
IAM	1					1	
USWA	5			0		2	
Canada total	10			1	0	5	0
New Zealand							
EU							
MWU	2			0		0	
New Zealand total	2			0		0	
Sweden							
Metal union	1				1	4	
United States							
UAW	65	30	46%	10	2	17	1
UFCW	6	2	33%	10	6	2	2
IAM	59	12	20%	9	1	17	
OCAW	20	2	10%				
UTU	58	2	3%	3		17	1
UNITE	20		0%	19		8	
USWA	28		0%				
UMWA		3					
U.S. Total	256	51	20%	51	9	61	4

'I support the brother'

Harlem workers, youth welcome Castro

BY NAN BAILEY

NEW YORK CITY — The corner of Lenox Avenue and 138th Street was crowded and alive with political talk and activity on the night of October 22, when Fidel Castro spoke at the nearby Abyssinian Baptist Church.

In addition to the 1,600 who had tickets to attend the program inside the church, hundreds of workers and youth were outside in the streets. Most came to welcome Castro and to try to catch a glimpse of the Cuban leader. Many were from the Harlem neighborhood where the church is located, but some came from Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn.

A few carried signs protesting the U.S. economic blockade. One handwritten sign said, "Fidel, Si! Rudy, No!" (referring to Rudolph Giuliani, the mayor of New York City).

"I don't care what they say about Castro, I support the brother," said Arnette, an older Black woman who remembered Castro's visit to Harlem in 1960. "He didn't yield to white America. They don't like him because, to be frank, he didn't kiss butt. He didn't beg. I think the Cubans are a strong people."

Four young Black men were huddled around an older Black man and listening intently. This reporter caught just a sentence of his presentation as I walked by. "And he sent them troops to Angola, and I appreciate him for that," he told his audience.

"Me love Fidel," a construction worker from Antigua said. "He's a man for the poor people. Nobody should dictate how he runs his country." His friend, also a construction worker and a Rastafarian like he was, added, "Big presidents like Reagan tried to step on him. He stand up to all of them for justice for all."

The talk everywhere was about Cuba and Fidel as people explained what they thought of the Cuban leader. A small number said they weren't sure, but most people had definite opinions.

Nhlanhla, a 27-year-old South African who is a graduate student at the New School, said he was disappointed that more people could not get inside the church to hear Castro. "On the heels of the Million Man March, which for me was a beautiful historic occasion, a celebration of brotherhood, it is too bad more people can not listen to what he says, because it would be good for the people who were inspired by that march to seek alternatives outside religion and outside capitalism. And Fidel Castro to me has the right alternative," he said.

"I think it is a statement in and of itself for Fidel Castro to come here," said Wendy Calderón, a Colombian-born resident of Harlem. "Look at this neighborhood," she stated, pointing to abandoned buildings and dilapidated housing. "Just with that he's saying something."

Continued on Page 7



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

Crowd outside Abyssinian Baptist Church welcomes Castro. Sign denounces attack on Cuban president made by N.Y. mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Cuban president gets loudest applause at UN

BY LAURA GARZA
AND MARTIN KOPPEL

UNITED NATIONS — The speech by President Fidel Castro of Cuba was the center of attention at the United Nations General Assembly here October 22. In sharp contrast to the remarks of most other speakers, the world leader issued a ringing denunciation of exploitation, oppression,

and war. He also scored the ruthless use of trade embargoes such as the 35-year-long effort by Washington to starve Cuba into submission (see full text of speech on this page).

The Cuban president spoke, along with some 140 government leaders, at a three-day special session of the General Assembly to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

"Castro got the day's most enthusiastic ovation at the U.N.," the *New York Post* grudgingly acknowledged. "It was noticeably longer and louder than the applause for President Clinton."

Castro began his speech declaring, "Half a century ago, the United Nations Organization was born after the conclusion of a monstrous war where an average of 10 million lives were lost at its peak moments. Presently, 20 million men, women and children are dying

every year of hunger and curable diseases. In some wealthy nations the life expectancy is 80 years while in others it is barely 40, so there are billions whose lives are cut off. How long shall we wait for this carnage to end?"

He pointed to the fight for "a world without hegemonism, without nuclear weapons, without interventionism, without racism, without national or religious hatred, without violations of the sovereignty of any country."

While not explicitly mentioning the U.S. embargo against Cuba, Castro stated, "We lay claim to a world without ruthless blockades that cause the death of men, women, and children, youths and elders, like noiseless atom bombs."

The Cuban president criticized the undemocratic setup in the United Nations. The Security Council, not the General Assembly, determines the major actions taken in the name of the UN including military interventions around the world. From its inception there have been only five permanent members on the council — Britain, China, France, the United States, and now Russia, which holds the seat formerly held by the Soviet Union. Only these five have veto power in the body, which includes 10 other rotating members.

"The obsolete veto privilege and the misuse of the Security Council by the

powerful are exalting a new colonialism within the very United Nations," Castro said to applause.

The United Nations was set up after World War II to codify and reinforce the domination of the imperialist powers that were victors in the war.

Since its founding by about 50 nations, more than 125 governments have been admitted but the powers of the General Assembly remain limited to passing resolutions that cannot be enforced without agreement and action by the Security Council. General Assembly resolutions have been used to bring world attention to a number of fights. These have included ones for a Palestinian homeland, against the former apartheid regime in South Africa, and opposing the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

Clinton, who opened the UN proceedings, used his speech to attack revolutionary Cuba without mentioning it by name. "Throughout this hemisphere, every nation except one has chosen democracy," he claimed.

Clinton also called for more punitive actions and power to impose sanctions against governments Washington brands as rogue states, a terrorist threat, or responsible for drug trafficking, money laundering, or arms trafficking. Among other measures he proposed "effective police force partnership." Clinton held up as exemplary an international police academy set up in Budapest by the U.S. government.

Several government leaders echoed some of the positions stated by Castro.

South African president Nelson Mandela criticized the unequal representation of nations on the Security Council and called for expanding its membership. He was joined by the presidents of Zambia, El Salvador, and Sri Lanka.

Castro's UN visit followed a rousing reception for the Cuban leader on a visit to Uruguay, where he was cheered by tens of thousands of people who rallied in the streets of the capital, Montevideo.

Days later Castro attended the fifth Ibero-American summit in Bariloche, Argentina. The summit approved a text that condemned "coercive measures" and other economic pressures that limit free trade by Latin American countries. The text, viewed by many as condemnation of U.S. policy toward Cuba, was bolstered by a statement released by nearly two dozen heads of state that criticized the embargo-tightening Helms-Burton bill recently passed in the U.S. Congress.

The Ibero-American summit was followed by a meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, of the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations, where the Cuban president was again the focus of public attention.



Thousands demonstrated in support of Cuba in Montevideo, Uruguay, during Castro's visit there October 14.

'We call for world of peace, justice, dignity'

Following is the speech delivered by Cuban president Fidel Castro on October 22, 1995, to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The translation was provided by the Cuban Mission to the United Nations.

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,

Half a century ago, the United Nations Organization was born after the conclusion of a monstrous war where an average of 10 million lives were lost at its peak moments. Presently, 20 million men, women, and children are dying every year of hunger and curable diseases. In some wealthy nations the life expectancy is 80 years while in others it is barely 40, so there are billions whose lives are cut off. How long shall we wait for this carnage to end?

The cold war is over but the arms race goes on and nuclear and military hegemonism perpetuate themselves. How long shall we wait for the total removal of all weapons of mass extermination, for universal disarmament and for the elimination of the use of force, arrogance and

pressure in international relations?

The obsolete veto privilege and the misuse of the Security Council by the powerful are exalting a new colonialism within the very United Nations.

Latin America and Africa do not have one single permanent member in the Security Council. In Asia, India has an almost one billion population but it does not enjoy that responsibility.

How long shall we wait for the democratization of the United Nations and for the independence and sovereign equality of states to become a reality? How long before non-intervention in the internal affairs of states and true international cooperation take their rightful places?

The breakthroughs in science and technology are daily increasing by the number but their benefits do not reach the majority of humanity and they essentially continue to be at the service of a reckless consumerism which is wasting limited resources and seriously threatening life on earth. How long shall we have to wait before rationality, equity, and justice prevail in the world?

The forests are decreasing, the air is being poisoned, the rivers are being contami-

nated. Countless species of plants and animals are perishing. The soils are impoverished. Old and new epidemics are expanding while the population grows and the legions of the dispossessed continue to multiply.

Will the next generations reach the promised land pledged half a century ago? How many hundreds of millions have died without ever seeing it? How many have fallen victims of oppression, plundering, poverty, hunger, and unhealthy conditions? How many more will still die?

We lay claim to a world without hegemonism, without nuclear weapons, without interventionism, without racism, without national or religious hatred, without outrageous acts against the sovereignty of the peoples, without universal models that totally disregard the traditions and culture of all the elements of humanity.

We lay claim to a world without ruthless blockades that cause the death of men, women and children, youths and elders, like noiseless atom bombs.

We lay claim to a world of peace, justice and dignity where everyone, without exception, has the right to well-being and life. Thank you very much.

Castro's U.S. visit

Continued from front page

Abyssinian Baptist Church; and Luis Miranda of Casa de las Americas.

The event was sponsored by the Africans in the Americas Committee to Welcome Fidel Castro. The group was made up of a host of organizations in the Black community of the New York/Northern New Jersey area. Congresspeople Charles Rangel, Nydia Velazquez, and José Serrano — all Democrats from New York — also attended.

Same U.S. hostility as in 1960

"This is the 35th anniversary of my visit to this neighborhood," Castro said, recalling his 1960 trip when he stayed at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem after being excluded from downtown hotels. "Now the incredible thing is that I am still being expelled, I am still being left out of the dinners and the receptions," he said jokingly to the appreciative laughter of the crowd.

New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani had refused to invite Castro to a banquet the previous night to welcome the heads of state who had arrived for the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations. The Cuban delegation was also excluded from President Bill Clinton's welcoming dinner. And the mayor's office sent a memo to UN officials with an ultimatum that he would withdraw the New York Philharmonic orchestra from a concert for UN guests, scheduled the same night as the Harlem event, if Castro attended.

Even before Castro arrived, Giuliani, who called the Cuban president a "demon," accused him of sending thousands of "undesirable marielitos" to the United States, whom the mayor blamed for much of the violent crime in the city. This caused a stir among many Cubans who came to the United States with the 1980 Mariel boatlift, a big majority of whom were workers and many were Black.

The October 20 *El Diario/La Prensa*,

the main Spanish-language daily in the city, published an article describing the anger of many of these Cubans. Roberto Pereira, of the group Mariel Cubans Against the Blockade, called in to express his outrage at the mayor, the article said. "That Giuliani is a buffoon," Manuel Rojas, another Mariel émigré, told *El Diario*. "It's pure racism to say that we are responsible for the crime in this country."

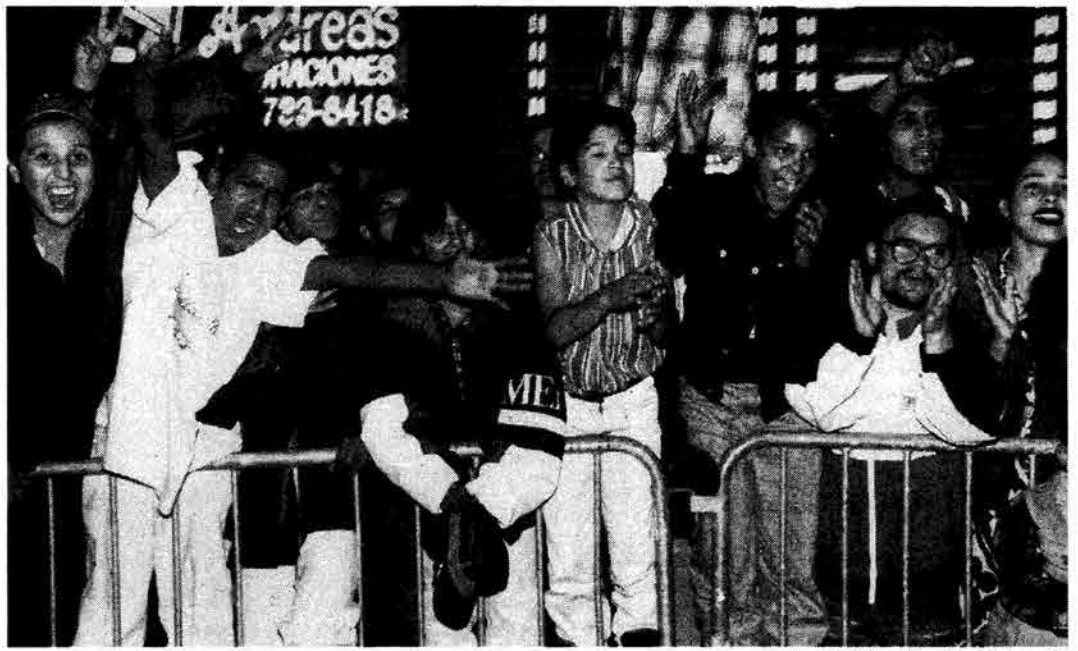
"It's really incredible that history repeats itself in this way," Castro told his Harlem audience, making a comparison with the scorn the Cuban delegation received from U.S. officials in 1960. "It's as if we are still in the days of the Cold War."

The Cuban president humorously explained that he made a point of going to the Cuban Mission to the United Nations before coming to Harlem where he was glad to change from the business suit he donned for previous diplomatic engagements to his usual fatigues. "Being surrounded by heads of state so often is sometimes intolerable," he stated to laughter and applause.

The reason that hostility from U.S. government officials has not changed since 1959, Castro said, is probably because "we have not changed either."

"I think that our people have fulfilled their moral duty, have stuck with their ideals and their principles, and we have stood in solidarity with the poor of this earth."

Castro described how tens of thousands of Cuban doctors, teachers, technicians, and engineers have voluntarily offered their services, knowledge, and skills to working people throughout the semicolonial world. During the early years of the Nicaraguan revolution, 2,000 teachers, mostly women, volunteered to go to that country's most remote villages to help



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Crowd across the street from Jimmy's Bronx Cafe welcomes Fidel Castro

with a literacy campaign. "And when U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary gangs killed some of our teachers, 100,000 volunteered to replace them," Castro stated.

If any working-class neighborhoods in the United States lacked physicians, Cuban doctors would be more than willing to come here as well, Castro said, eliciting a standing ovation.

Cuba's internationalism in Africa

But the most important internationalist contribution, the Cuban leader said, is embodied in the Cuban soldiers who gave their lives fighting colonialism in Africa. More than 2,000 Cuban volunteers died in Angola between 1975 and 1990, fighting alongside Angolan and Namibian troops, to defeat successive invasions by South Africa's apartheid regime, which was determined to thwart Angola's hard-fought independence from Portugal.

"If there is something that makes us proud and makes us feel that we fulfilled our duty to humanity, that is the 15 years we fought against the South Africans, against racism and apartheid.... one of the most horrible and repugnant systems of discrimination that ever existed."

Castro described in detail the events that led to the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1987-88, when the invading apartheid armies were dealt a decisive defeat and were driven out of Angola once and for all.

The defeat of the white supremacist regime there gave the necessary impetus to the democratic revolution inside South Africa, resulting in the unbanning of the African National Congress, the freedom of Nelson Mandela, and eventually the first-ever nonracial elections, which the ANC won in 1994.

Besides the Namibians and the Angolans, "only Cuba shed its generous blood against apartheid and against racism," Castro said.

"At the United Nations they don't speak about that," he added. "Speeches were just delivered there about the end of apartheid as if it were the miraculous work of the United Nations!... And the name of Cuba was not even mentioned."

Castro noted that Washington, which is now intensifying the 33-year-old economic embargo on Cuba, never blockaded South Africa during the reign of the racist regime.

Attacks on social gains in the U.S.

Returning to his first visit to Harlem, Castro reminded the audience of his historic meeting with Malcolm X in 1960.

"The great battles of Martin Luther King, the struggle for civil rights, the great struggles by the Blacks, the Hispanics, the Latin Americans to improve their living conditions... were still ahead at the time," Castro stated.

The Cuban president received an especially positive response when he pointed to the U.S. government's current attacks on the social gains of working people. "Some people today would like to do away with all assistance to the sick and the elderly. They would like to sweep away affirmative action," he stated. "They would like to sweep away all the achievements that the ordinary, humble people of America conquered in struggle."

Castro ended his speech by making reference to the remarks of Rev. Butts at the opening of the meeting. Butts said that when he visited Cuba in 1984 with other religious leaders, what impressed him the

most was that Castro went to church with them at the end of their visit. "After mass I asked Castro, 'Do you believe in God?' And he replied, 'I like church,'" Butts said to laughter from the audience.

Castro joked that his own attitude toward the church was influenced by the fact that prior to the revolution most priests in Cuba were reactionary and corrupt, unlike Butts.

He then told the story of Hatuey, a native leader in Cuba who was captured and condemned to die at the stake for leading a rebellion against the Spanish colonizers. When his executioners gave Hatuey a last chance to be baptized — before being burned to death — in order to go to heaven, Hatuey replied defiantly, according to Castro, "If the Spaniards go to heaven, I don't want your heaven."

"In the same way, there are many in today's world who talk to us about heaven, in a world full of abuse and injustice," the Cuban president said. "We reject this heaven that they practice in this world. We seek a heaven of justice, of human dignity, and solidarity. I only believe in this kind of heaven and I am willing to give my life for it," Castro concluded, bringing the audience to its feet.

Impact throughout visit

The meeting dominated front-page headlines in most newspapers here. But the rest of Castro's visit continued to receive widespread media attention, not just in the Big Apple, but in small town newspapers and radio stations throughout the state and the country.

The Cuban president had luncheons with several businessmen, met with media personalities, appeared for an hour-long program on CNN, and gave an interview to the editors of the *Wall Street Journal*. In an October 26 editorial, the *New York Times* editors referred to Castro's "unbending allegiance to Cuban Socialism," after the Cuban president dropped by there for an interview before leaving town October 25.

In several of his meetings, Castro was confronted by small picket lines of Cuban Americans opposed to the revolution. The right-wingers were frustrated by the widespread attention Castro's message got. In one case, on October 23, these thugs attacked Harold García, a cameraman for CNN who was covering the picket lines at the Cuban Mission. García was hospitalized with injuries in his left eye.

But in most cases, supporters of Cuba successfully countered the right-wing protests and sometimes outnumbered them. Casa de las Americas and other groups, for example, chartered a yacht with a huge "Viva Cuba" banner that sailed up the Hudson River to counter a right-wing flotilla of 20 boats while Castro was addressing the United Nations.

In another case, when Castro spoke to 300 Puerto Rican businessmen at Jimmy's Bronx Café, a restaurant in the Bronx, on October 23, 40 right-wing protesters set up a picket. They were immediately outflanked by some 200 residents from the neighborhood, mostly Puerto Ricans and Dominicans, who drowned out the anti-Cuba pickets with chants of "Fidel!, Fidel!!" and "Cuba sí, bloqueo no."

"We support Castro 100 percent," said 20-year-old Winston Martínez, expressing the sentiment of many in the area. "All we have in the world is Castro and Mandela speaking for the people of the Third World, the big majority of humanity."

'I support the brother'

Continued from Page 6

He's saying I'm with the poor, that the working people are valuable to me."

"I just don't think he is the monster that they paint him to be," said Noritha Brown, a health-care worker from Harlem.

Twenty-one year old Munkunda Tejada and her friend Antonio Lora are both students from Hofstra University who came all the way from Long Island. "We read something in the newspaper and then we watched CNN, and I said, 'Let's go!'" said Lora. "I have a cousin studying in Cuba and he's told me how Cuba is totally different from the way it is portrayed."

'Just about eradicated racism in Cuba'

"Castro just about eradicated racism in Cuba and they are trying to put him down," said Isis Grimes, a nurse's aide at Harlem Hospital. "He got rid of the elite and this government can't handle that. They think the whole damn world belongs to them."

Irma Cáceres from Noticiero Nacional de Televisión Cubana was there to cover the activities for Cuban TV. She found herself surrounded by young people eager to find out more about Cuba. "It is so inspiring to hear them chanting against the blockade," she said.

Some said they didn't agree with Castro's political views but were still opposed to Washington's policies toward Cuba.

"He's a man. I don't agree with his ideas. But he's got a right to be heard," said James Mossey Jr., a Harlem resident. "They say Cuba is a bad place to live. Well, Mississippi is a bad place to live too. At least in Cuba they don't have drugs and beggars. The [U.S.] government needs to clean up its own act."

Kelvin, a painter from Trinidad said, "I have loved Fidel since 1959. He made a lot of changes in Cuba. They had gambling and prostitution before. Since he took over the place, he cut that out."

Mary, a retired nurse's attendant said she was 38 years old when Fidel came to Harlem and stayed at the Hotel Theresa in 1960. "He was standing there with his swashbuckling self waving and talking to people," she stated. "Some say he don't like the common man, but he always comes among the common people. That shows he's a human being. This is a his-

toric event and I had to be here for this second time in Harlem."

Right-wingers get cool reception

Late in the evening about 15 opponents of the Cuban revolution and supporters of the embargo showed up and picketed for a brief time. Their appearance caused a stir. The cops separated them to one side of the street and kept anti-embargo protesters and others who'd come to welcome Castro on the other side.

A Black local teacher yelled at the new arrivals, "Gusanos [worms] out of Harlem!" as they picketed. "Fidel is one of the greatest men in history," he told the *Militant*. "The Cuban people have made the most noble sacrifice in Africa, especially because of what they did in Angola."

Shango, a sound engineer who is from St. Lucia tried to explain to those observing what was going on. "The revolution is on the other side of the street," he yelled, pointing to those holding signs saying, "Alto al Embargo Inhumano" (Stop the inhuman embargo), and "United in the struggle with the Cuban people."

"Batista's family is on this side," he said, pointing to the anti-Castro demonstrators. Fulgencio Batista was the U.S.-backed dictator whose tyranny was overthrown by the Cuban people in 1959. "Fidel ain't a bad man," Shango continued. "He says what he thinks, not what they say he's supposed to say. If Fidel was president here, we wouldn't have these ghettos."

An Afro-Cuban man walked over near the anti-Castro demonstrators and added his comments of explanation to the crowd. "These people are racists," he said, pointing to the picketers. "I'm not pro-Castro. But I'd rather have 100 Castros than have these people in power."

The discussion went on for hours like this, with many staying until midnight.

At one point, what looked like it might be a motorcade transporting Castro passed by the crowd. Those holding anti-embargo signs chanted "Fidel!, Fidel!!" Many others who held no signs said nothing, but burst into spontaneous and respectful applause.

Derek Bracey, Hilda Cuzco, Francisco Picado, and Greg Rosenberg contributed to this article.

Pickets counter rightists at Cuban mission

BY GREG ROSENBERG
AND LAURA GARZA

NEW YORK CITY — "Some leaders of other countries know the truth, but are scared to tell it in front of the United Nations. But Fidel Castro will tell the truth," said a gleeful Oscar Millian, a Cuban-American resident of New York City. Millian joined several hundred people on a picket line at 37th Street and Lexington Avenue, one block from the Cuban mission to the United Nations, October 22.

The picket was set up to welcome Cuban president Fidel Castro to New York and to counter the presence of opponents of the Cuban workers and farmers government, who were assembling at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza. The opponents of the revolution, nearly 2,000 strong, staged a march down Lexington Avenue later that afternoon. Defenders of the Cuban revolution also countered with continued pickets on October 23 and 24.

"Fidel has as much a right as any other leader to speak to the United Nations, and to denounce the blockade," said Manhattan lawyer Victoria Cruz, a native of Columbia who joined the pro-Cuba picket lines. "People should support the right to hear other ideas."

Banners emblazoned one side of an entire block of Lexington Avenue, exclaiming "Hands Off Cuba!" "En defensa de la patria, la revolución, y el socialismo (In defense of the homeland, the revolution, and socialism) — Casa de Las Americas" and "End the U.S. economic blockade — defend Cuba's socialist revolution: Young Socialists."

"It feels great to be out here," said 25-



Hundreds of supporters turned out at the Cuban mission during Castro's visit to counter right-wing protests and oppose U.S. government policy toward Cuba.

year-old Tisha Carter, a University of Minnesota student who drove out to join the weekend's activities in defense of Cuba. "Fidel hasn't been here for some time. I wouldn't miss the opportunity to speak out against the embargo."

For 40-year-old Roberto Bravo, a New York construction worker born in Ecuador, the picket was a chance to show support for "the Cuban revolution at this decisive moment in history."

The anti-Cuba forces, enraged by Castro's visit and his ability to communicate directly with a wide audience in the United States and before world opinion, made several attempts to provoke the anti-embargo picket line.

At one point on Sunday, October 22, three goons sporting the rifle-emblazoned paraphernalia of the "Cuban-American Veterans Association" walked up to the pro-Cuba picket and attempted to provoke those in solidarity with Cuba, screaming anti-communist epithets. The crowd chanted back, but did not budge.

Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, took a bullhorn to explain to the crowd that the rightists would continue to try and provoke them. "For no reason will we be provoked," Gómez emphasized in both English and Spanish.

The right-wingers marching against the revolution held signs with slogans such as "Indict Castro," "No Castro, no problem,"

"We support Helms-Burton," and "We support the internal resistance in Cuba."

On October 24, the police stood by as a right-winger attacked those on the anti-embargo picket. The area was fenced in by barriers and as the pickets tried to fend off the assault, a cordon of cops converged and began pulling at the attacker and others on the line. Using the commotion as an excuse, the cops sprayed pepper gas at the picketers. Several were hit in the eyes and face.

Garment worker Amy Husk, one of those hit, said she saw Lieutenant Berkowitz as he calmly aimed the spray directly at the line of picketers. Later, in an attempt at escalating the provocation further, the police insisted one participant who had been badly hit by the spray be taken out of the line. He was forcibly pulled out by the cops and charged with disorderly conduct. Gómez reported to the picketers that a fight will be organized to protest the charges and that one of those hit with the spray, a member of the Cuban-American group Casa de Las Americas, would pursue a complaint against the cops who had sprayed the legally assembled gathering.

In bringing the last picket to an end, Gómez noted that the October 21 march by opponents of U.S. policy and the pickets at the Cuban Mission to the UN outdid the showing of the right wing. Between October 22 and 24 those on the pickets defending Cuba's sovereignty and chanting against the embargo were more than double the number of those down the block who were supporting Washington's policy. "This shows we are gaining strength," Gómez concluded.

March against Cuba embargo

Continued from front page

New York City. Most of the rest traveled from cities on the East Coast and the South. Dozens also joined from as far away as Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. A few flew in from the West Coast. Many of these activists had participated in the October 14 actions. Nearly 200 came from Canada, mostly from Montreal and Toronto.

The march coincided with, and was marked by, the arrival of Cuban president Fidel Castro, who came here for his third time in 35 years to take part in the commemoration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary. "Welcome Fidel!" was seen on many placards and frequently heard from many protesters, often in Spanish.

Floyd Davis Jr. and John Peralta addressed protesters from a makeshift sound truck at the assembly point beneath an overpass on 42nd St. near 1st Ave. They are on strike against the Detroit News Agency, which prints and distributes the daily Detroit News and Free Press. "This embargo has got to go," said Davis. "I feel strong for this cause, the cause of the Cuban people. It's a fight for freedom like our strike in Detroit."

Some 2,400 newspaper workers in Detroit walked out July 13 to protect jobs, wages, working conditions, and the right of their unions to bargain jointly with management. "We understand your struggle," added Peralta, who is the vice president of the mailers union Local 2040. "This embargo is outdated. We are also tired of being shafted by corporate America and we are here to bring you our message. We need your solidarity."

Exchanges with passersby

As the march began, a contingent of some 70 people from Miami, including many Cubans, were among the most vocal. "Fidel amigo, el pueblo está contigo!" (Fidel, our friend, the people are with you) they chanted, eliciting some honks in favor by motorists and passersby on 42nd St., but also thumbs down and some heated arguments.

"Hey hey, ho ho, U.S. out of Guantánamo," and "USA hands off Cuba," were some of the other chants. Many motorists expressed amazement to see the drenched

protesters marching in defiance of the elements, as wind whipped the rain around.

The Montreal group, overwhelmingly young, was among the liveliest. "Cuba is the best example of socialism, unlike the ex-Soviet Union," said Germain Fournieux, a high-school student from Montreal and member of the International Solidarity Association (ASOC). "That's why the U.S. government wants to crush Cuba. And that's why I'm here to defend it and learn more about the revolution."

Valerie Leclerc, also a member of ASOC, said the student group has organized demonstrations in Canada against cuts in education funding by Ottawa. Leclerc and many other students interviewed said they are also involved in the campaign to win a "yes" vote in the referendum for Quebec's sovereignty.

Dozens of the protesters were already involved in Cuba solidarity work. Blanca Martínez, for example, a 19-year-old bakery worker in New York, said she had participated in a similar demonstration in November 1994 in Washington, D.C. For others it was their first such activity.

First time in a march on Cuba

"I don't know much about Cuba, but I do know that there's free health care and very little racism there," said Marshall Thompson, a member of the Greensboro Committee to Save Mumia [Abu Jamal]. He came with 17 others from Greensboro, North Carolina.

Dora Whiteside, a student at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, came with a group of six others from that city. "I am trying to start a Black Student Union at school," she said, "and we must deal with international issues, not just what's going on on campus." She came to the demonstration after meeting activists of the Birmingham Network on Cuba at a literature table.

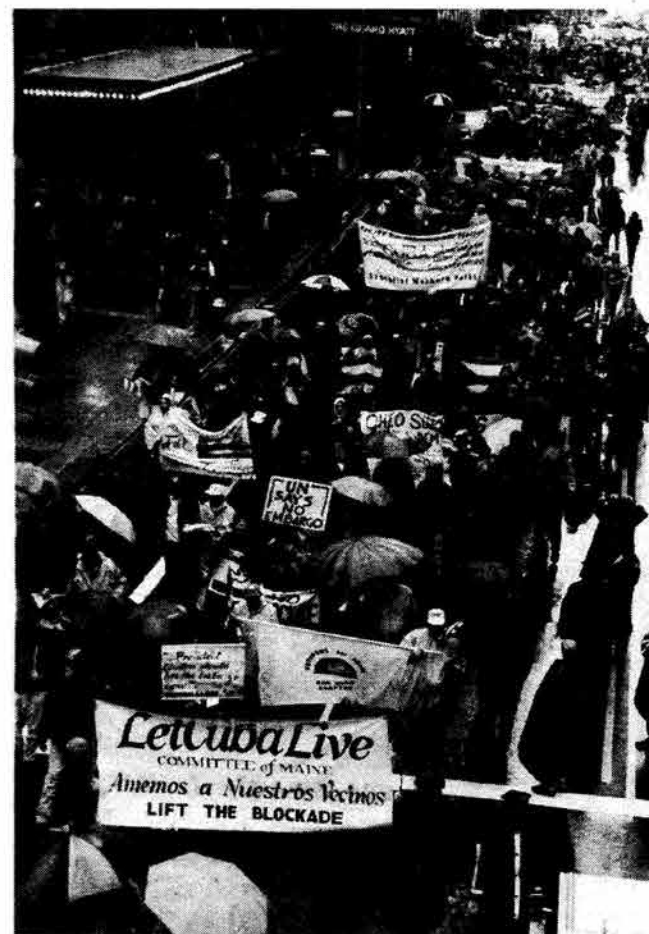
"I came to learn more about Cuba. I think the embargo is oppressive and imperialistic," said Dan Hanley, 21, a student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He drove in a van for 16 hours with five other students. "I got involved in politics recently by going to Detroit to join the picket lines of the newspaper strikers. This is my first major demonstration. I like it."

A number of demonstrators had become involved in Cuba defense work in their areas since this summer, after returning from the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival in Havana. "I don't like capitalism and Cuba is an example of an alternative kind of government," said Kim Sanel from Boston, who went to the August 1-7 youth gathering. "In Cuba, I was very impressed with the concern and respect the Cubans have for people."

Eight people from Japan from the group "Linking Peace and Life" joined the march. They passed out leaflets to demonstrators announcing an action the following day at the United Nations to protest Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Sachiko Mitsunaga from Osaka said they are demanding compensation for the victims of Japanese military aggression in Asia, especially the tens of thousands of Korean "comfort women" who were forced into sex slavery during World War II.

Addressing the concluding rally, Andrés Gómez, one of the four national coordinators of the NNOC referred to the blowing up of the U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana's harbor in 1898, during Cuba's war of independence against Spanish colonialism. "Washington staged the sinking and then used it as an excuse to invade and colonize Cuba, just as we were winning against the Spaniards," Gómez said.

"What is the purpose of the Helms-Burton bill if not the same," asked Gómez, who is also the chairperson of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Miami-based organization of Cubans who support the revolution. "To use it as an excuse to intervene and destroy Cuba's sovereignty. But the *Maine* can't be repeated again because the



Demonstrators march through midtown Manhattan

Cuban people are now in power and refuse to get on their knees."

With a vote of 74-24, the Senate approved a version of this bill, which aims to significantly tighten the U.S. embargo, on October 20, the day before the march. The House of Representatives had passed another version of the legislation earlier.

Lelsie Cagan, a national NNOC coordinator and a chair of the rally, urged participants to continue a variety of activities to put pressure on the Clinton administration to veto the bill. "The showing for this march gives us strength to continue our efforts to end the blockade against Cuba," she said.

Other speakers included Lucius Walker of Pastors for Peace, Dagmaris Cabelas of the Cuban American Research and Education Fund, political activist Angela Davis, Brian Taylor who was one of the leaders

Continued on Page 12

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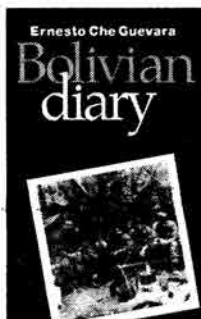
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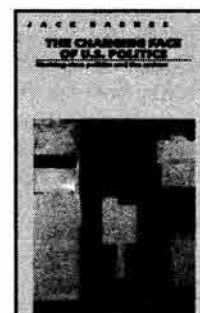
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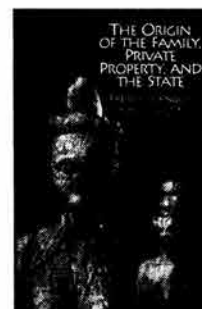
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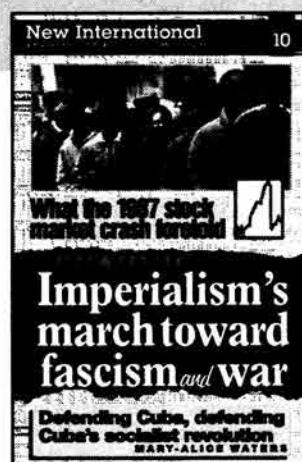
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Castro: 'We work for the oppressed'

In September 1960 Fidel Castro traveled to the United States to address the United Nations General Assembly. His trip coincided with a decisive turning point in the Cuban revolution. In response to Washington's accelerating political, economic, and military aggression, which Castro documented in his speech to the assembly, virtually all imperialist-owned banks and industries in Cuba, along with the largest holdings of Cuba's capitalist owners, were nationalized between August and October 1960.

Tens of thousands of Cuban working people occupied fields and factories and mobilized in the streets to guarantee that everything from AT&T, to Standard Oil, to United Fruit, to Bacardi Rum and the Havana Hilton became the property of the Cuban people. The transition to a planned socialist economy had begun.

Like the Cuban president's recent trip to the United States to address the United Nations 50th anniversary celebration, Castro did not receive a warm welcome from the U.S. government during his visit to New York City in 1960. The Cuban delegation moved to Harlem after being kicked out of the Shelburne Hotel amid a racist slander campaign in the press that included baseless charges — repeated to this day by the Associated Press — of plucking live chickens at the hotel.

Printed below is an excerpt from the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*, describing the enthusiastic reception the revolutionary leader received in Harlem at the time. The book, which contains speeches of Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara at the United Nations, is copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press (see ad on Page 9). This excerpt is reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



One event that occurred during Castro's 1960 visit to the United States was a meeting between two of the outstanding twentieth-century revolutionary leaders of the Americas — Fidel Castro and Malcolm X.

The discussion took place at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem, shortly after the Cuban delegation's arrival on the evening of September 19. As Castro stated thirty years later: "I will always recall my meeting with Malcolm X at the Hotel Theresa, because he was the one who made it possible and gave his support so that we could stay there. We had two alternatives [of places to stay]. One was the United Nations gardens. When I mentioned this to the secretary-general, he was horrified at the thought of a delegation in tents there. But then we received Malcolm X's offer — he had spoken with one of our compañeros. And I said, 'That is the place, the Hotel Theresa.' And there we went."

At the time Malcolm X was the leading spokesman of the Nation of Islam in New York. In March 1964, he broke with that organization. Less than a year later, in February 1965, he was assassinated.

Commenting on the meeting, Malcolm X told the press, "Premier Castro has come out against lynching, which is more than President Eisenhower has done. Castro has also taken a more open stand for civil rights for Black Cubans."

Malcolm X met with Castro as a prominent member of a "welcoming committee" that had been set up in Harlem several weeks earlier. The purpose of this group, which included a wide range of Black community leaders, was to greet heads of state, particularly from African countries, who would be in New York to address the UN General Assembly. Sixteen African countries were admitted to membership in the UN at that session.

Malcolm X came under attack in the media for his initiative in welcoming the Cuban delegation and for taking responsibility for the organization of a defense guard at the Hotel Theresa to assure their safety. When prominent members of the Welcoming Committee refused to support Malcolm's stand, he publicly resigned from that body. "During the time Dr. Castro was in Harlem, thanks to the Nationalists and the Muslims, there was no rioting or lawlessness in Harlem," Malcolm X wrote. "The Muslims and the Black Nationalists in Harlem exerted every imaginable effort to see that Harlem remained 'calm and orderly.'"

"Despite this," he continued, "the daily press has unleashed a savage propaganda attack against us, purposely distorting facts, purposely telling bare-faced lies, labeling us as lawless terrorists, subversives, seditionists, etc." In resigning from the Welcoming Committee, Malcolm pledged to "henceforth confine my activities and efforts with and among the little men in the street, whose honesty and integrity makes them fearless when time comes to take an uncompromising stand, without hesitation, on the side of right and truth."

The article printed here is an account of the meeting between Castro and Malcolm X, written by Ralph D. Matthews, one of the journalists present. It was published in the September 24, 1960, *New York Citizen-Call*.

Up in Fidel's Room

To see Premier Fidel Castro after his arrival at Harlem's Hotel Theresa meant getting past a small army of New York City policemen guarding the building, past security officers, U.S. and Cuban.

But one hour after the Cuban leader's arrival, Jimmy Booker of the *Amsterdam News*, photographer Carl Nesfield, and myself were huddled in the stormy petrel of the Caribbean's room listening to him trade ideas with Muslim leader Malcolm X.

Dr. Castro did not want to be bothered with reporters from the daily newspapers, but he did consent to see two representatives from the Negro press.

Malcolm X gained entry when few others could because he had recently been named to a welcoming committee for visiting dignitaries set up by Harlem's



An enthusiastic crowd greets the Cuban delegation to the United Nations outside Harlem's Hotel Theresa in 1960. Malcolm X extended the welcome to the Cubans.

Twenty-eighth Police Precinct Council.

We followed Malcolm and his aides, Joseph and John X, down the ninth-floor corridor. It was lined with photographers disgruntled because they had no glimpse of the bearded Castro, with writers vexed because security men kept pushing them back.

We brushed by them and, one by one, were admitted to Dr. Castro's suite. He rose and shook hands with each one of us in turn. He seemed in a fine mood. The rousing Harlem welcome still seemed to ring in his ears.

Castro was dressed in green army fatigues. I expected them to be as sloppy as news photos tended to make them. To my surprise, his casual attire, just the same was immaculately creased and spanking clean.

His beard by dim room light was dark brown with just a suggestion of red.

After introductions, he sat on the edge of the bed, bade Malcolm X sit beside him, and spoke in his curious brand of broken English. His first words were lost to us assembled around him. But Malcolm heard him and answered: "Downtown for you it was ice. Uptown it is warm."

The premier smiled appreciatively. "Aahh yes. We feel here very warm."

Not addicted to propaganda

Then the Muslim leader, ever a militant, said, "I think you will find the people in Harlem are not so addicted to the propaganda they put out downtown."

In halting English, Dr. Castro said, "I admire this. I have seen how it is possible for propaganda to make changes in people. Your people live here and they are faced with this propaganda all the time and yet they understand. This is very interesting."

"There are twenty million of us," said Malcolm X, "and we always understand."

Members of the Castro party spilled over from an adjoining room, making the small quarters even more cramped. Most of the Cubans smoked long cigars and when something amused them, they threw their heads back and blew smoke puffs as they laughed.

Castro's conversational gestures were unusual. He would touch his temples with extended fingers as he made a point or tapped his chest as if to see if it were still there.

His interpreter would translate longer sentences from Malcolm X into Spanish and Castro would listen alertly and smile courteously. During the course of their conversation, Cuba's Castro and Harlem's Malcolm covered much political and philosophical ground.

On his troubles with the Hotel Shelburne, Dr. Castro said: "They have our money. Fourteen thousand dollars. They didn't want us to come here. When they knew we were coming here, they wanted to come along." (He did not clarify who "they" was in this instance.)

On racial discrimination: "We work for

every oppressed person." But he raised a cautioning hand. "I did not want to interfere in the inner policy of a country."

And then in a slight voice of warning, still on the general theme of racial inequity, Dr. Castro said, "I will speak in the Hall (referring to the United Nations General Assembly)."

On Africa:

"Is there any news on Lumumba?" Malcolm X smiled broadly at the mention of the Congolese leader's name. Castro then raised his hand. "We will try to defend him (Lumumba) strongly."

"I hope Lumumba stays here at the Theresa."

"There are fourteen African nations coming into the Assembly. We are Latin Americans. We are their brothers."

Fight against racist discrimination

On American Negroes:

"Castro is fighting against discrimination in Cuba, everywhere."

"You lack rights and you want your rights."

"Our people are changing. Now we're one of the most free people in the world."

"Negroes in the U.S. have more political conscience, more vision than anyone else."

On U.S.-Cuban relations: In answer to Malcolm's statement that "As long as Uncle Sam is against you, you know you're a good man," Dr. Castro replied, "Not Uncle Sam, but those here who control magazines, newspapers..."

On the UN General Assembly: "There will be a tremendous lesson to be learned at this session. Many things will happen in this session and the people will have a clearer idea of their rights."

Dr. Castro tapered the conversation off with an attempted quote of Lincoln. "You can fool some of the people some of the time..." but his English faltered and he threw up his hands as if to say, "You know what I mean."

Malcolm, rising to leave, explained his Muslim group for a Cuban reporter who had just come in, "We are followers of Muhammad. He says we can sit and beg for 400 more years. But if we want our rights now, we will have to..." Here he paused and smiled enigmatically, "Well..."

Castro smiled. He smiled again as Malcolm told him a parable. "No one knows the master better than his servants. We have been servants ever since we were brought here. We know all his little tricks. Understand? We know what he is going to do before he does."

The Cuban leader listened to this being translated into Spanish, then threw his head back and laughed heartily. "Sí," he said heartily. "Sí."

We said our adios and then walked down the crowded hall, took the elevator to the street, where outside the crowds still milled around.

Some excited Harlemites then shouted into the night, "Viva Castro!"

from Pathfinder

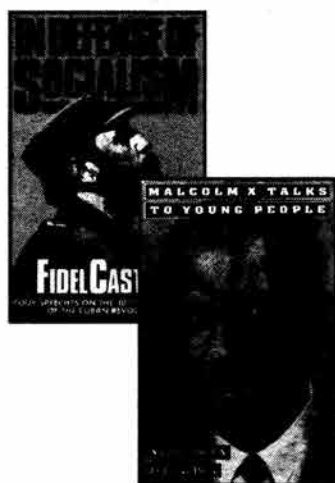
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'La Gaceta' editor welcomed in Houston

BY KARI SACHS

HOUSTON — "We have much love for the people of Cuba," said Francisco Gomez when he welcomed Norberto Codina Boeras to a city-wide forum at Rice University in Houston. Gomez is a leader of the Gulfport Area Neighborhood Organization, in Houston's large Salvadoran community.

Codina, a Cuban poet and editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, is touring the United States to speak on art and culture in Cuba. At a series of receptions, public talks, and other organized events, Codina was able to meet with professors, writers, activists, and young people who want to further cultural and political exchange between Cuba and the United States.

The tour began with a trip to San Antonio, organized by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Codina attended an UNAM reception at the San Antonio InterAmerican Book Fair and Literary Festival, featuring the prominent Mexican writer Elena Poniatowska.

That evening Carmen Rumbaut, organizer of Cultural Interchange Cuba-USA in San Antonio, hosted a reception for Codina attended by 30 people, including a dozen youth.

In Houston Codina spoke to more than 200 participants in three campus meetings. The Cuba Friendship Committee, the Hispanic Student Association, the department of Modern and Classical Languages, and others at the University of Houston sponsored a day and an evening meeting. A number of Cuban-Americans attended one of the meetings, some of whom participated in the discussion. Among them were a few supporters of Cambio Cubano, a group led by Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo that is against the revolution but opposes the embargo.

Codina was asked about Soviet influence on Cuban culture. He explained that Cuba was never a "Xerox copy of Eastern European socialism. Even though socialist realism was the official policy during the 1970s — which is referred to as the gray five-year period or the black decade — it failed." *La Gaceta* and other publications



On platform at University of Houston, from left: Paul Coltrin, vice president, UH Cuba Friendship Committee; Norberto Codina; Brenda Bocanegra, Hispanic Culture for the Arts; and Lori Williams, Cuba Friendship Committee.

in Cuba give space to many different views and concepts, reflecting a different policy from that followed in countries where Stalinist forces ruled.

Codina was asked about the current

economic crisis in Cuba and whether the cultural gains in Cuba would survive given Cuba's increasing contact with the capitalist world.

"The great expectations that the Cuban

revolution created in culture is perhaps the greatest challenge that faces us," he said.

It is "the material element of culture" which has limited the production and availability of art and literature because of lack of resources and hard currency. Scarcity of books "which might be acceptable in other countries is not acceptable in Cuba because of our high literacy rates and our reading habits," he said.

The tour concluded at Rice University at a meeting co-chaired by Lane Kauffman, a professor of Hispanic and Classical Studies at the school; and Tom Kleven, a professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University.

Kleven presented Codina with a certificate from Mayor Bob Lanier and the Houston City Council proclaiming him an honorary citizen of Houston. Codina also received letters of welcome from *Houston Peace News* and the Presbytery of New Covenant.

During Codina's tour participants purchased fourteen copies and three subscriptions to *La Gaceta*. At one meeting a Cuban-American asked Codina if "the act of selling the magazine and carrying ads was capitalist?" Codina replied, "I don't think my coming here is a capitalist act." He explained that the self-financing of the magazine through donations, sales, and ads provides the means to make it available to the Cuban people. Codina hoped that *La Gaceta* would broaden its readership in the United States to better inform U.S. readers about Cuban culture.

Cuban poet denounces embargo Houston 'Chronicle' reports on tour of Norberto Codina

The following article on the tour of Norberto Codina appeared in the October 19 *Houston Chronicle*.

BY JO ANN ZUÑIGA

The editor of Cuba's leading literary magazine predicted that strong criticism by a summit of Latin American leaders to the U.S. trade embargo against his country would fall on deaf ears in Congress.

Norberto Codina, the editor of *La Gaceta*, who is visiting Houston this week to lecture at the University of Houston and Rice University as part of a cultural exchange program, said that Latin American leaders do not speak with one mind.

"But no matter how strongly the countries would have demanded a stop to the blockade, it would not have affected U.S. policy," he said.

"The United States does not listen to its own people, to its academics who oppose the embargo, to the majority of U.S. citizens who follow Latin American policy.

"Is that democracy?"

In a communiqué issued at the end of a two-day summit Tuesday in Bariloche, Argentina, leaders of 21 Latin American countries as well as Spain and Portugal expressed their sharp opposition to a bill in Congress that would tighten the trade embargo.

Congress is debating a proposal by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., that would tighten the 34-year-old embargo against Cuba by penalizing foreign firms that trade with Havana.

Codina, an award-winning poet, came here as part of a cultural exchange program between University of Houston student organizations and groups at the University of Havana.

Despite the embargo, which bans most travel from Cuba to the United States, Codina received a visa from the U.S. State Department on an educational waiver that allows academics and journalists to travel between the two countries.

Most U.S. citizens are banned from traveling to Cuba, 90 miles from the Florida coast, yet they can visit other countries such as China that are ruled by communist governments, said Codina, a Venezuelan native who has lived in Cuba since 1959, the year Fidel Castro took control of the government. Codina was 8 years old then.

The recent growth of private enterprises and open markets has helped the Cuban economy, Codina said. But the blockade continues to strangle the country, denying

it the opportunity to purchase even basic supplies such as food.

"The situation continues to be difficult, but it's an improvement from a year ago. It's less tense, but it remains harder for the average Cuban," Codina said.

Food rationing will continue to protect the poor, who are unable to afford high prices for such staples as rice and beans, he said.

But he said that Cuba continues to record the lowest infant mortality rate of any Latin American country and has an average life expectancy of 76 years.

Witnessing media coverage of the Million-Man March on Washington, Codina said blacks in communist Cuba receive more educational opportunities and face less racial polarization than in the United States.

"The mere fact that there was such a march and the different reactions to the O.J. Simpson trial show a level of racial polarization that we do not have in Cuba," he said.

Although blacks were originally taken to the island as slaves on sugar plantations, they have reached an equal social standing in the years since the Cuban revolution brought Castro to power, Codina said.

"The best access to civil rights is the ability to read and write," he said. "Cuba

is the most literate of all Latin American countries and has one of the highest sales of books."

Yet human rights remain a sore point, with Cuba having been accused of jailing political prisoners, and kidnapping and killing opponents of the government.

But writers and artists are given the freedom of expression, he said. While having many fine literary talents, Cuba has never kept away cultural influence from the United States and Europe.

"We have a much greater freedom and more plural society than what is thought of from the outside," he said.

As historic proof, he told of how Cuba's revolutionary hero, José Martí, translated Walt Whitman into Spanish for all of Latin America.

Ernest Hemingway, who maintained residences in Cuba and used the islands as a backdrop for some of his works, is still considered one of Cuba's most important writers, Codina said.

La Gaceta magazine also "breaks the borders" with some of its articles actually published from Cuban writers in Miami, he said, adding:

"We do not concentrate on revolutionary themes, but focus more on existential themes.

"Love and death," he said, "are always with us."

Malapanis rejoins 'Militant' staff

BY PAUL MAILHOT

With this issue of the *Militant* we are welcoming back Argiris Malapanis to the staff.

Malapanis had served on the staff of the newspaper from September 1991 until earlier this year. He was the managing editor of the newspaper before leaving day-to-day work on the *Militant* to take on other leadership responsibilities for the Socialist Workers Party.

Malapanis brings a lot of experience covering international events and writing on the political questions of the day that will help strengthen the paper. During his earlier stint writing for the *Militant*, Malapanis logged stories for the socialist press from Israel, Palestine, and Yugoslavia. He has written extensively about and from Cuba, and participated in the Cuba Lives international youth festival there in August.

Malapanis also recently filed stories from South Africa where he attended a World Federation of Democratic Youth meeting and a Cuba solidarity conference.

Earlier this year, Malapanis traveled to Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay with *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel. They were able to provide first-hand coverage of a series of struggles in the southern cone of the Americas, including the battle of Brazilian oil workers against privatization and job cuts.

Before coming onto the staff in 1991 Malapanis was an airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists in Minneapolis. He also worked for a time as a volunteer in the printshop that produces the *Militant* and Pathfinder books.

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Okinawa

Continued from front page

the island is being used by the U.S. military and U.S. exercises are a hazard to the population. For example, live open fire is not uncommon over major highways.

Moreover the Okinawa Prefecture (comparable to a state in the United States) is the poorest in the country. Some 1 million Japanese live on the island.

The protests have gone beyond demanding that the three U.S. soldiers be tried in a Japanese court on the rape charge to calling for the removal of U.S. troops. It's the largest expression of opposition to the U.S. military presence in Japan since protests in the early 1960s against the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

The governor of Okinawa announced on September 29 that he would refuse to sign renewals of land lease agreements for U.S. military facilities. When a top Japanese Defense Ministry official came to Okinawa to placate the governor, he refused to meet with him.

On October 19 Japanese prime minister Tomiichi Murayama announced that he would attempt to convince Washington to relocate some of its troops on Okinawa to other parts of Japan. He is expected to raise this with President Bill Clinton in November when the U.S. president goes to Tokyo for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

The Okinawa protests are contributing to already existing debates in both U.S. and Japanese ruling circles over military relations between the two countries. In Japan there is growing pressure from some big business interests to move more rapidly to develop Japan's independent military force parallel to its growing economic weight and assertiveness in Asia. For example, after more than four decades of military non-intervention, Japanese military forces have recently begun participating in United Nations military missions.

Other forces believe it is more advantageous for Japanese capitalism to maintain its military ties to Washington, fearing the possibility of destabilizing protests at home and in Asia, especially in China and Korea where abuses by Japanese occupation forces were the most horrible during World War II.

In the United States, while there have been some voices in ruling circles arguing that the military treaty between Tokyo and Washington needs serious revision because it was forged in response to purported Soviet threats during the "cold war," the prevailing view is to attempt to maintain the military links while getting Japan to foot a bigger portion of the bill. They argue that with the loss of its air and naval bases in the Philippines and the growing economic and military strength of China in the region, Washington needs to maintain a strong military presence.

Last month the Japanese government signed an agreement upping its contribution to funding U.S. troops by 2 percent. It pays \$5 billion per year for the U.S. troops and its current military budget is the third highest in the world.

—CALENDAR—

CANADA

Vancouver

Open Forum With Two Revolutionary Youth Leaders from Cuba. Speakers: Joel Quelpo Ruiz, member of the national executive of the Federation of University Students (FEU); and María del Carmen Barroso González, leader of the Union of Young Communists (UJC). Other speakers include a member of the King Edward Students Association, and a representative of the Canadian Auto Workers Union at Horizon Air where workers are on strike to defend job guarantee. Fri., Nov. 3. King Edward Campus Auditorium, 1155 East Broadway. Donation: \$5.

Other events: 1) Meeting at Simon Fraser University, Halpern Centre, Tue., Oct. 31, 11 a.m. 2) Rally to Keep Medicare Strong at Vancouver General Hospital. Wed., Nov. 1, 12 noon. 3) Reception and meeting at Langara Campus, Wed., Nov. 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4) Meeting at Native Education Centre, 5th and Main. Thrs. Nov. 3, 1 p.m.

In Victoria: 1) Meeting at the University of Victoria, Cinecenta, Thrs., Nov. 2, 1 p.m. 2) Victoria city-wide meeting. First United Church, 932 Balmoral St., Thrs., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. For more information on all these events, call Vivian Hoffmann: (604) 734-7521, Ned Dmytryshyn: (604) 327-2870.

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

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ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Challenges Facing Unionists in Today's Labor Battles. Speakers: Betsy Farley, member, national committee Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

The Crisis in Housing and Transportation. Speaker: James Gotesky, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of San Francisco. Sat., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$4 Tel: (415) 285-5323.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Fight for Black Rights Today. Panel discussion. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 803 Peachtree St. N.E. Donation: \$4. Tel: (404) 524-7274.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Why Working People Should Oppose Sending U.S. Troops to Bosnia. Fri., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Issues in the Beijing Women's Conference. Fri., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (East side of Hwy. 280, on 16A bus line). Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Fight Against Cop Brutality and Frame-Ups. Speakers: Earl Berryman, recently released after serving 10 years in prison on a frame-up rape charge; Venus Hannah, police brutality fighter, whose son was murdered by police; M.A. Smith, member, Black Cat Collective, activist in the fight to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal; and a representative of the Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Eyewitness Reports from Beijing Women's Conference. Speakers: Roseann Rife, Executive Director of Campaign for Global Change; World Federalist Association, Pittsburgh chapter; Pat Heilman, Chairperson of the Journalism Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Fri., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

son St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Celebrate 67 Years of the Militant. Sat., Nov. 4, 6:45 p.m. 66 Albion St. (Old Children's Court, near Central Station off Elizabeth St.) Donation: \$5. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

London

The Million Man March and the Fight for Black Rights. Speaker: Bob Buchan, member of Transport and General Workers' Union. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. (Nearest tube Waterloo). Donation: £2. Tel: 0171-401-2409.

Manchester

Why Working People Should Oppose Immigration Controls. Speaker: Representative of the Communist League. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. First Floor, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: (0161) 839-1766.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Lessons of The Paris Commune. Speaker: Brigid Rotherham, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch

The Capitalist Land Grab — New Moves to Restrict Public Access to Mountains, Rivers, and Shores. Speaker: Russell Johnson, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 011-64-3-365-6055.

October 21 march protests U.S. embargo

Continued from Page 8

of the U.S. contingent in the Cuba Lives festival, Ignacio Meneses of the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, and Tania Tirado of the Friendshipment Caravan.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Pennsylvania death row inmate whose struggle against the executioner's chair has become a rallying point in the fight for Black rights, sent a message that was read at the rally.

Ruarí O Brádaigh, president of Republican Sinn Féin, also sent a message from Dublin. "Having been denied a visa myself to travel to the United States for over 20 years now, at the behest of the British government, I can understand the sense of injustice felt by the people of Cuba at the blockade being imposed on them by a powerful neighbor," it said.

In his remarks, Meneses pointed to upcoming trips to Cuba sponsored by the Labor Exchange in November and April. Other speakers talked about the next contingent of the Venceremos Brigade in the spring of 1996. Taylor urged young people and others present to get involved in building an international youth brigade to Cuba in August 1996, sponsored by the NNOC, and a U.S. speaking tour of Cuban youth leaders early next year. Musical performances closed the program.

Lorena Gaibor, a student from New Jersey and one of the organizers of the youth brigade, said 25 young people signed up for the trip at an information table.

The evening ended with some 200 protesters packing into Casa de las Americas — the meeting site of the coalition that sponsored the march — to dry off and assess the day's events.

There, over coffee and refreshments, activists made plans to mobilize people for picket lines at the Cuban Mission to the UN over the next three days to welcome the Cuban delegation to New York and counter protests by right-wing Cuban American groups. Many from out of town changed their plans and stayed to take part in the upcoming activities. Others left to return to work or school in their cities.

"Thus nourished by the camaraderie and the events of the day, we boarded the bus for the return trip and left the city," wrote Walter Ogelsby, an activist from Miami, in a contribution he sent to the *Militant* on the march.

"And to top it off, we were happy to be greeted [in Miami] by a large, Sunday final edition of the *Miami Herald*, front page, color picture of our group standing under the underpass at the UN the day before, accompanied by a fair article (by *Miami Herald* standards)," he continued.

"This weekend was invigorating to my spirit, as well as a welcome adventure. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with these warm and loving people and these kind of activities, and to furthering my understanding of alternative points of view."

Derek Bracey of Birmingham, Alabama, and Bob Miller, a member of United Auto Workers in Edison, New Jersey, also contributed to this article.

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SWEDEN

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

Bon mot — True, the gadget recently detonated by France had the power of seven Hiroshima bombs. But it wasn't set off above ground and it didn't spew a mushroom cloud. Therefore, France's ambassador to New Zealand advised reporters, stop calling it a bomb. What then? "A device which is exploding."



Harry Ring

Puff on this — Someone sent a batch of secret tobacco industry documents to the feds. One 1972 memo by RJR researcher Claude Teague said: "A tobacco product is, in essence, a vehicle for delivering nicotine....Happily for the tobacco industry, nicotine is both habituating and unique in its variety of physiological actions." (Publicly, the industry denies tobacco is addictive.)

High there! — The *Wall Street Journal* reports that in the early '90s the coffin-nail folks began adding ammonia to cigarettes. The companies say the ammonia is for flavor. Happily, it also doubles the nicotine clout.

The pushers — RJR researcher Teague recommended

that the company develop a new brand aimed at youth 14 to 18.

Moral high ground — The Pentagon shelved a program to develop a backpack laser weapon that would permanently blind opposing troops. A report said this was intended, in part, to head off broader international limits on laser weapons, which could open the door for charges of war crimes. Also, tests indicated the weapon was of little value and the backpack was so heavy that GIs couldn't carry anything else.

Revolutionary battery — From a northern California reader: "Capitol Steps, a comedy group that pokes fun at the U.S. Congress, recently finished a

show in California with a variation on the EverReady Rabbit commercial. Thump, thump, thumping across the stage, still going strong, marched... Fidel Castro, to enthusiastic applause."

Laugh all the way to the bread line — Among other things the economic crisis has prompted a batch of books on coping with downsizing trauma. Like, "Upsizing the Individual in the Downsized Organization" and "Laffirmations: 1001 Ways to Add Humor to Your Life and Work." As Chico Marx cracked in one film, "Some joke, eh boss?"

No respect — At Fort Detrick in Maryland, at 5 p.m. daily, a cannon shot marks the lowering of

the flag. Homeward-bound soldiers and civilians are expected to stop and join the salute to Old Glory. But, allegedly, some duck into buildings to avoid the ceremony and others neglect to stop their car and get out. It's said that some who do stop are showered with obscenities for blocking traffic.

Flag pole treatment? — The commander at Fort Detrick is confronting the lack of respect for the stars and stripes. Four officers have been assigned to stop cars during the ceremony and get the license plates of those who whiz by. If the situation doesn't improve, citations will be issued and offenders required to take counseling from supervisors.

With pride, Cuba treats Chernobyl children

BY JON HILLSON

Day in, day out, since 1986, Cuba's revolutionary government has maintained a program that ordinary citizens there point to with pride. It has earned the deep respect of working people in Ukraine, but due to highly selective news coverage stamped by Washington's information embargo, it is virtually unknown in the United States.

In her "Havana Journal" article in the October 6 *New York Times*, however, Mireya Navarro briefly lifted the curtain of silence in a piece entitled "Chernobyl's Children Find a Haven and Hope."

It is the story of Cuba's "Children of Chernobyl" project.

The effort was initiated by Cuban children, who donated their sprawling José Martí Pioneer camp on the beaches Tarara, near Habana del Este, as the site for the project.

They made the offer in the wake of the massive 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant blast and fire, which released 300 times the radiation emitted by Washington's atomic attack on Hiroshima in 1945.

Some 125,000 people have died from illness as a result of the catastrophe, Ukrainian health minister Andrei Serdyuk estimated in April 1995. At least 3 million suffer from some form of contamination-induced disease from the deadly plume of radioactive fallout spewed by the smoldering reactor.

Despite an original goal of meeting the health needs of "10,000 Chernobyl victims at a time," Navarro wrote, the collapse of favorable trade with the Soviet Union, economic belt-tightening in Cuba, and a shortage of funds in Ukraine to provide travel to Cuba have meant that "the program never had enough money to serve more than 2,000 children at one time."

Still, she reported, it has a medical staff of 350 currently hosting 236 young patients, bringing the overall number of children treated to 13,500. More than 2,000 adults have received attention as well.

Impact of Cuban program

Cuban specialists treat various cancers, kidney and thyroid ailments, digestive and nervous disorders, and skin and gum diseases, which, many scientists believe, have yet to peak in contaminated areas.

Most patients come for 45-day stays, but some with serious illnesses, the article noted, "have lived here for years or have come back repeatedly."

The testimony of parents indicates the impact of the Cuban program.

Larisa Ukrainskaya credits Cuban doctors with keeping her 17-year-old son, now on his third trip, alive.

"He needs many medicines — antibiotics, hormones — that are very expensive," she explained. "Cuba needs everything — bread, milk, coffee, detergent, all kinds of clothes, pencils, paper. They help, and they don't ask for money. This little country has a great heart."

Nadia Zadornaya, whose six-year-old son suffers from immunological problems that are aggravated by winter temperatures, said his condition hadn't responded to any moves they made, "except for the climate and sun [of Cuba]." If permitted, they would live permanently there.

Sacha Fomina, nine, has seen her leukemia go into remission during her



"Chernobyl child" at José Martí Pioneer camp in Cuba

four-year stint in Cuba, which is winding up shortly. Fomina said she misses her father, and wants to see a new-born niece. But, in Cuba-accented Spanish, she told Navarro, "I want to leave, and I want to stay. I feel well here."

The Children of Chernobyl project, despite financial pressures, will not be closed, according to program's coordinator, Raciell Llanes, a Cuban doctor.

Navarro termed the undertaking "one of the last vestiges of Communist solidarity with the former Soviet Union."

She cited Wayne Smith, who, while serving the Kennedy administration, helped write the language of the economic embargo more than three decades ago, then served as Washington's interests section chief in Havana under the Carter administration, and now advocates relaxing tensions between the United States and Cuba. "It's matter of pride and sentiment," Smith says. "It would be unseemly to close it, and bad P.R."

But "public relations" has nothing to do with Cuba's decision to continue the Tarara project.

I visited the Children of Chernobyl camp last year with other participants in the Freedom to Travel tour protesting U.S. restrictions on visits to Cuba.

Internationalism

Like other efforts rooted in the international solidarity that is at the heart of the Cuban revolution, the Children of Chernobyl campaign came naturally.

Cuban teachers have taught literacy all over the world, and brought tens of thousands of students to study on the Isle of Youth.

Cuba's doctors have instructed and cured in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

And its soldiers, when called up, have fought shoulder-to-shoulder with freedom fighters worldwide, most notably in Africa against the racist troops of apartheid.

Why the extensive work around Chernobyl? I asked program coordinator Llanes. "The United States had a program that treated 500 children right after the ex-

plosion [at Chernobyl]," he explained. "But that was it. It was all for show. Cuba continues its program because we consider the tragedy of Chernobyl a problem for all humanity."

He also noted that, despite the shortages, Cuban doctors continue trying innovative approaches to the span of diseases created by the Chernobyl disaster.

The staff, Llanes said, has found a way to deal with vitiglio, a discoloring, skin-splotching ailment, "with a new treatment, drawn from the placenta, which is highly effective."

I spoke with a 16-year-old named Kostia, who had learned Spanish while in Cuba and was receiving dental care at Tarara.

"If you're a worker in Ukraine, there is no health care. You need this," he said, rubbing his thumb and fingers together, "and lots of it."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 30, 1970

Price 10¢

TORONTO, Canada — Until October 16, few Canadians were aware that the government had at its disposal what one newspaper described as the most far-reaching emergency legislation of any western capitalist country. Commentators looking for parallels could cite only the British emergency laws employed against the Irish insurrection in 1920.

Accompanying the October 16 proclamation was a regulation banning the Front de Libération du Québec "or any group of persons or association that advocates the use of force or the commission of crime as a means of or aid in accomplishing governmental change in Canada."

The regulations provide that in any prosecution, evidence that a person ever attended a meeting of the banned organization or communicated its statements, is "in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof that he is a member of the unlawful association." The regulations also endow police with virtually unlimited powers of arrest without warrant.

Detainees under the act can be held up to twenty-one days after arrest without knowing the charge against them, and up to ninety days without trial.

In a hysterical speech widely played up in the press, Manpower Minister Jean Marchand tried to justify this Draconian legislation to the House of Commons on October 16. He referred to an alleged secret police report which claims that the

FLQ, with admittedly slightly over 100 members, "are infiltrated in all the vital places of the province of Quebec, in all the key jobs where all the important decisions are made."

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

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

November 3, 1945

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct. 22 — Three processing plants of the Libbey-Owens-Ford glass company were quiet today as some 4,000 striking workers remained away from work, their patience exhausted by two years of fruitless negotiations with the glass barons.

"We've conceded enough," stated William Akos, president of Local 9, Federation of Flat Glass Workers, CIO. "The 4,000 workers of Toledo together with some 15,000 other workers nationally will remain out until wage demands are met and a contract is signed."

Since 1942 the glass workers have received an increase in hourly rates of 2.3 cents an hour. Since January 1, 1941 they have received the grand total of 9.3 cents increase in hourly rates. All this while the cost of living skyrocketed some 47 per cent!

Akos explained that while the union had made concessions in an earnest attempt to reach a settlement, the company made no concessions from its original counter-proposals. The union asked originally for a flat 20-cent hourly increase together with a 4-cent adjustment for labor and maintenance classifications. The union is now asking for a 10.7-cent hourly increase and a 2-cent adjustment. The company is still holding to its original offer of 8 cents!

Equality and dignity in Quebec

Working people around the world should support the millions of Quebecois who plan to vote yes in the upcoming referendum for Quebec national rights. Their resistance to national oppression strengthens all working people.

The demand for Quebec autonomy in the framework of a new economic and political relationship with the rest of Canada, which is at the center of the October 30 referendum, is a reflection of the French-speaking population's aspiration to equality, justice, and dignity. It is the concrete expression of their right to self-determination.

Quebecois are oppressed on the basis of the language they speak. They suffer discrimination, are paid less in wages, and receive inferior education and health services. The Quebecois' basic right to decide what kind of relationship they want to maintain with the rest of Canada has been systematically denied them for more than 150 years.

Today the exploiters and oppressors of this world are stepping up their campaign against Quebec rights. From U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher to Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and multimillionaire Bombardier CEO Laurent Beaudoin, they reject the simple and legitimate demand that the Quebecois control their own destiny. Their campaign is a campaign of fear, lies, blackmail, and threats.

Contrary to the wealthy few of this world, the *Militant* and communist workers and youth in Canada have campaigned over the last five weeks in defense of Quebec national rights, which is central to the fight to unify the working class across Canada.

The capitalists pretend that a yes victory would break up Canada and lead to economic chaos. But it is the capi-

talist system they are defending that brings economic chaos. It is their attacks against our social programs and social services that are widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

The lower wages that capitalist corporations like Bombardier, Alcan, and Domtar pay in Quebec are a major source of superprofits. Canada's rulers use anti-Quebec chauvinism and prejudice to divide working people along national and linguistic lines.

The Quebecois resistance over the last half century has reinforced the fight of all the oppressed and exploited in Canada, from those who built the industrial trade unions in the 1930s, to those who made the first breakthrough in the fight for women's right to abortion in the 1970s, to the Natives' struggle for self-determination.

Today, their resistance to national oppression strengthens the mobilizations against government cuts in social services.

A victory for the yes in the referendum will place working people in Quebec in a better position to take the next steps in fighting against their national oppression and to confront the anti-immigrant, anti-women, and anti-working-class policies put forward by capitalist politicians, including those calling for a yes vote like Lucien Bouchard and Jacques Parizeau.

As Canadian Union of Public Employees president Judy Darcy told the delegates at the union convention in Montreal October 22, the support by labor to Quebec's right to self-determination goes hand in hand with strengthening "the ties that bind us as workers."

Working people, support your brothers and sisters in Quebec. Say yes to Quebec autonomy! Say yes to equality, justice, and dignity!

Castro hits a home run

At Jimmy's Bronx Café in the heart of the Puerto Rican community, Cuban president Fidel Castro was presented with a baseball bat and an oversized boxing glove. The symbolism was perfect. By the end of his historic stay in New York, the score was: Havana 4, Washington 0.

Castro's successful visits to Harlem and the Bronx, his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, and the October 21 march of 3,000 against U.S. policy and subsequent picket lines at Cuba's UN mission in defense of the revolution — all these events dealt blows to the U.S. government's unceasing efforts to isolate and slander Cuba. They won broader support for the Cuban revolution among working people.

The response to Castro's visit, from friends and foes alike, registered graphically the weight in world politics today of the only workers state with a revolutionary leadership.

The Cuban president's speech at the United Nations and his subsequent appearances virtually eclipsed from the political landscape the United Nations's 50th anniversary celebrations. By pointing to the grotesquely undemocratic character of the UN Security Council, Castro explained how the world body remains as much an instrument for imperialist domination as when the United Nations was founded 50 years ago. And he succinctly presented his view of the fight for a world with dignity, equality, and human solidarity — a socialist world.

Clinton's attempt to present U.S. imperialism as the solution to the momentous social and economic problems the overwhelming majority of humanity faces failed miserably. To millions, Washington appeared as nothing more than the bully of imperialist domination that it is.

This was reinforced by the actions of the White House and New York's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, toward the Cuban delegation. But Giuliani's scorn backfired.

As one Cuban aptly explained to *El Diario*, Giuliani

ended up looking like a buffoon after excluding Castro from official UN dinners and expelling Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat from a concert for UN guests (in which Castro topped the mayor's list of undesirables). Even former mayor Edward Koch, a conservative Democrat who backed Giuliani's candidacy last year, told the current city chief he committed "an outrage" in international diplomacy.

Why is Castro greeted by thousands of working people in the streets of Montevideo, Uruguay, and cheered by crowds in Harlem and the Bronx, but assaulted by the rulers of the U.S. empire?

Because, as Castro explained, the Cuban revolutionaries "have not changed," winning respect and admiration from working people everywhere.

The Cuban working class remains confident in itself and its communist vanguard and continues to stand as a beacon for the exploited and oppressed around the globe. And despite the hard years of the "special period," the Cuban people won't bend on their knees.

The events of the last week are a cause for celebration, reflection, and further action by supporters of the Cuban revolution. They can give a boost to work in defense of Cuba.

The fact that right-wing opponents of the Cuban revolution organized well-publicized protests but were politically pushed back by the pro-Cuba mobilizations is a good omen.

Above all, what will make a difference in Cuba's ability to survive, until revolutionary developments in the working-class movement elsewhere can give a new boost to the socialist revolution there, is what youth and working people do day-in and day-out around the world.

Now is the time to take advantage of the success of the October actions by building local coalitions in every city in the United States and around the world to promote further solidarity actions and projects such as the youth brigade to Cuba in the summer of 1996 and the speaking tours of Cuban youth.

Pro-sovereignty forces gain in face of scare campaign

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — As the October 30 Quebec vote nears, polls show the pro-sovereignty side has taken the lead. This has brought a surge of enthusiasm into the "yes" campaign.

At a rally here on October 19, more than 1,000 pro-sovereignty youth cheered the call for an all-out effort to win. They chanted "We want a country" and waved placards sporting the yes symbols of the campaign.

There are pro-yes committees organized in colleges and universities across the province, and thousands of youth are attending meetings. A citywide meeting in Quebec City on October 22 drew over 5,000 people.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) opened its convention this week in Montreal. "We are proud to stand in solidarity with 85,000 CUPE members in Quebec," said union president Judy Darcy in her report to the convention. "We are proud to affirm our support for self-determination for Quebec — and to confirm that the ties that bind us as workers are as strong as ever."

The CUPE is the largest union in Canada, with 460,000 members.

Darcy's report was approved without discussion, although the referendum is a hot topic around the convention hall. Many delegates wore yes buttons.

Campaign of threats backfires

Canadian federalist forces continue their attempts to frighten Quebecois into voting against sovereignty. The latest salvo was delivered by federal finance minister Paul Martin on October 17 in Quebec City, when he said that 1 million jobs in Quebec would be jeopardized if the population votes yes. There are 3.2 million people holding jobs in the province.

But the scare campaign is backfiring. "Fear campaigns are over," a caller to a radio call-in show told Martin in Chicoutimi, Quebec. The caller, a sovereignty supporter, thanked Martin because, he said, exaggerated statements about job losses only drive more people to support the yes.

The failure of the scare tactics and the change in the polls has introduced disarray into the no campaign. In an effort to turn the slide around, Quebec Liberal Party leader Daniel Johnson, the main public spokesperson for the no campaign, proposed on October 21 that the federal government declare its willingness to negotiate more political autonomy for the Quebec government. This idea is supported by a large majority of Quebecois.

Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien flatly rejected the idea later the same day. "We're not talking about the constitution, we're talking about the separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada," he said.

Pierre Paradis, the number-two spokesperson of the no campaign, predicted on October 23 that the yes would win if Chrétien didn't change his stance.

The shift in the polls has brought instability into financial markets in Canada. The Canadian dollar has declined by one-and-a-half cents since October 17, following several months of gains. On October 23, the Toronto stock market had the sixth largest drop in value in its history.

The no campaign immediately blamed the referendum. News broadcasts followed up by saying the referendum will cause increases in the costs of mortgages and consumer loans.

In fact, the shake-up is part of a broader instability affecting the currencies of several other imperialist countries and is only partly attributable to the political uncertainty in Canada.

Women, immigrants, and racism

As the referendum campaign heats up, the anti-working-class policies of the capitalist forces that lead both sides are showing through. Federalist senator Jacques Hébert was exposed for calling Quebec political scientist and yes supporter Josée Legault a "separatist cow."

Yes campaign leader Lucien Bouchard, the leader of the official opposition in the Canadian parliament, explained to a meeting of women in Quebec City on October 14 that a Quebec government should do more to raise the low birth rate in Quebec.

"We [francophone Quebecois] are one of the white races with the lowest birth rates. That makes no sense."

His remark provoked an angry response by many Quebecois, immigrants, women, and Black rights activists. While Bouchard apologized for being "misinterpreted," he never backed off from the content of the remarks.

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

Kenworth strikers, retirees protest pension offer

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

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

ment without a financial penalty. Presently, it is 62 years.

The company wants to eliminate the gain won by the union six years ago whereby retirees receive 50 percent of the increase in pension payments that workers get.

"For us it's a form of compensation for increases in the cost of living," explained retired worker Jacques Tremblay at the October 11 rally. "Robots are sent to the scrap heap when their work is fin-

N.Y. garment workers win a new contract

Members of Local 966 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters ratified a new contract with Hedaya Home Fashions on September 28 that contained no give-backs. The workers struck Hedaya, a Brooklyn towel manufacturer, for two weeks when the boss demanded they take cuts in wages and paid holidays.

The workers' average hourly pay is \$5.16, with no health benefits. They won a \$.90 pay raise for all employees and kept all their sick time in the three-year contract. They also succeeded in keeping the probation for new employees at two months.

At a rally September 28, Victoria Martinez, a worker with 22 years at the company, described the strike as a victory. All the workers in the plant walked out, effectively stopping production.

Kmart workers rally, fight for temp workers

Some 150 members of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) Local 2603 at Kmart held a solidarity rally October 5 outside the company entrance in Greensboro, North Carolina. The rally included



Militant/Monica Jones

Auto workers picket Kenworth plant in Ste. Therese, Quebec, September 25.

representatives from Teamsters Local 391 and the Letter Carriers union in Greensboro. The president of the tobacco workers union at the Lorillard cigarette plant also spoke at the event.

The workers in the union are waging a campaign to force the company to hire temporary workers at the warehouse as permanent employees. Unionists held meetings with the temporary workers explaining that they wanted to defend the temps and improve their situation by including them as part of the bargaining unit.

Many of the temporary workers, who include several Mexicans, are treated unfairly and often find the company has shorted them on their paychecks. Joan Paltrineri, a Kmart worker and the Socialist Workers Party candidate

for mayor, told the crowd at the October 5 rally how she and other workers verified that the company had cheated a Mexican co-worker. "The company came back to us and said it's none of our business," she said.

"I was one of those Norell workers, a temp, when I started," Ron McNeil told the rally. "We can't turn our backs on the Mexican workers — I know I can't," he concluded.

Monica Jones, member of CAW Local 728 on strike at Kenworth in Ste. Therese; Nancy Rosenstock, member of the International Association of Machinists in Brooklyn; and M.J. Rahn, member of UNITE Local 2603 in Greensboro, contributed to this column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Dozens of retired workers and strikers joined the picket line October 11 at the Kenworth truck assembly plant in Ste. Therese, Quebec, to demand decent pensions.

Participants filled the entrance to the struck plant, making it harder for police to carry out their daily routine of pushing picketers back and opening space for vehicles to cross the picket lines.

The plant gate action was preceded by a press conference at the hall of the striking union, Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 728. Dozens of retired workers and strikers were on hand as union officials condemned Kenworth's attempt to roll back pensions.

Kenworth is offering a pension increase of \$2 per month per year of service in each year of a three year contract. The union wants a \$5-per-month increase each year and it wants to lower the age at which a worker can take a retire-

ished. It's not the same for us. Our lives continue and the company should respect that," Tremblay said.

"The more improvements we make to the pensions, the more jobs will open up for young people," said striking worker Fernand Lapensée. He has worked at Kenworth for 27 years.

Kenworth says the union has no business negotiating on behalf of some 175 retired workers. The union announced at the press conference that it is encouraging retirees to become involved in the strike. Union president Yvan Bourgeois said they are encouraged to join the picket line and attend union meetings. They will have the right to vote at meetings.

The company and union last met September 10. In separate meetings on October 2, office and factory workers voted by 90 percent to continue the strike. A key factor in the votes was the company's demand to place its arbitrary work rules into a new collective agreement.

LETTERS

New Zealand cops

Up to 100 cops in riot gear, including two special armed units, evicted a small group of Maori protesters occupying a former school in the small Northland town of Takahue, New Zealand, September 21. Fifteen protesters were arrested.

The group, members of the Te Paatu tribe, had occupied the site on March 29 to demand the return of the land, which had been given to the government by the tribe last century for education purposes on condition that it be returned with compensation when no longer needed. The school closed in 1978.

At the height of the violent police operation, the school building burned to the ground. Police claim the protesters deliberately set fire to the building. The occupiers deny this. The delay by government in returning the land, which has been the subject of a long-standing claim, has caused division in the local community. Some of the residents who opposed the occupation recently signed a conditional lease for the land with the official government owner, the Department of Land and Survey Information.

Felicity Coggan
Auckland, New Zealand

Radicals and rightists

Martin Koppel's rejoinder to reader Ed Meredith in the September 25 *Militant* ("No common ground with rightist groups") is a clear and timely explanation of the rightist dead-end where lack of clarity can lead progressive-minded forces if they bend, or adapt to reactionary "antigovernment" demagoguery.

At a summer rally in Minneapolis called in defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal, one speaker, identifying himself as a member of the



"This notice of termination is really no reflection on your performance, Winfred. We just need to hire you at lower wages."

"Black Panther Party," told the crowd that he planned to meet with the "Minnesota Militia" because both organizations are "against the government."

As the *Militant* explains, taking the right's antigovernment sucker-bait only gives their reactionary radicalism more political cover, and blurs their danger to working people and their allies.

I think Koppel's characterization of Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan as a "fascist politician" is accurate, and deserves some elaboration.

In his current campaign, Buchanan's rhetoric is, far more than his 1992 effort, directed at the growing frustrations layers of working people — as well as anxious elements of the middle class — feel under the weight of the deepening capitalist economic crisis. At a Labor Day barbecue for factory workers in Candler, Florida, reported on in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Buchanan criticized President Clinton for sacri-

ficing "American workers" to trade agreements that benefit a "corporate and financial elite."

"While the profits of multinational corporations are soaring, the real incomes of working Americans have been falling steadily for almost 20 years," Buchanan stated at the event.

The "financial elite" Buchanan usually names by name is the "New York investment firm of Goldman, Sachs," a polite way of saying "Jewish bankers."

Buchanan's bombast harkens back to Louisiana governor Huey Long, and his "Share the Wealth" program of rightist populism. This got a big hearing by demagogically appealing to terrified middle-class layers, and some workers and farmers in the 1930s, using anticapitalist and antigovernment language.

Buchanan's approach draws heavily on the Long-type of radical rightist populism, which is worth study by today's fighters. A speech of Long's could easily ap-

pear in many of today's "progressive" periodicals. A recent series in the *Nation* positively stresses that "populism" is the "bridge" between, "right" and "left," transcending both, and calls for a national convention of like-minded forces to build a "new American populism."

The attention the *Militant* pays to the first stirrings of the danger of "bridges" to rightist and fascist "antigovernment" forces is a critical part of working-class political education today.

Jon Hillson
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major's spying cameras

In his keynote address to the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool, Prime Minister John Major said he would put "10,000 more closed-circuit cameras in shopping areas." (*New York Times*, Oct. 15, 1995.)

In February of this year, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that 75 British towns use surveillance cameras, and 200 more have applied for government seed money to finance the technology. "According to one survey, at least 29 percent of Britain's 369 district governments have public cameras, an additional 29 percent have firm plans to install them, and 23 percent have hopes to do so," said the *Inquirer*. One small town, King's Lynn, has 60 surveillance cameras sending images to 23 video screens monitored 24 hours a day.

The British government wants video surveillance to be as common, and accepted, as the corner pub. A few British civil libertarians are outraged, but the vast majority of British subjects have a slavish, in-bred respect for authority that allows for extreme government control in the name of "security."

It is no accident that two of the greatest novels ever written about the evils of absolute government control, *Brave New World* and *1984* were both produced by Englishmen: Aldous Huxley and George Orwell, respectively. To the modern, safety-conscious Britain, those terrifying predictions must be ancient history.

Visitors to occupied Northeast Ireland will find that the "spy-on-a-pole" camera is already omnipresent. According to the *Irish Republican Information Service*, (May 29, 1995) the RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] has plans to install enough to "monitor almost every street and alley in downtown Belfast," and then move on to 27 other towns. Can anyone doubt it?

Those who think "it can't happen here" better check out the special U.S. courts already operating under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. They have received 7,539 applications to authorize electronic surveillance within the United States, sometimes to meet British "security" needs. They granted 7,538 of the applications. (*Covert Action*, Summer 1995.)

We know that Britain has no written constitution or bill of rights, and if we follow Britain's lead in street corner surveillance cameras, our Bill of Rights won't be worth the newspapers we tape over our windows.

James Mullin
National Coordinator
Irish Action Coalition
Moorestown, New Jersey

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.

Quebecois fight national oppression

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — According to proponents of the "no" vote in the October 30 referendum on Quebec's sovereignty, Canada is a "caring and sharing society" established in 1867 through the common agreement of the "two founding peoples"—the French- and English-speaking Canadians. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The national oppression of and discrimination against Natives, Quebecois, and Acadians has been and remains a fundamental component of the Canadian capitalist system to this day.

A prisonhouse of peoples

Canada, an area of nearly 4 million square miles, was inhabited by indigenous peoples for more than 20,000 years when the first permanent European colonists arrived at the beginning of the 17th century.

The latter's arrival unleashed a furious struggle for control of the land through which Canada was transformed into the prisonhouse of peoples that it is today.

The first victims were the indigenous people, whose land was stolen by merchants, semifeudal landlords (seigneurs), the French and then the British crowns, the Church, speculators, and capitalists.

Today, more than 1 million Native Indians, Inuit, and Métis live in Canada. Some 200,000 Native Indians live on more than 2,200 reservations with an area totaling less than 0.3 percent of Canada's territory.

In its rivalry with France over control of North America, Britain conquered the main French settlements in Acadia, on Canada's Atlantic coast, in 1710. To maintain control over their new conquest, British merchants needed a rapid increase in the British population in the region. The presence of French-speaking Acadians on the most fertile lands was an obstacle to this colonization.

In 1755, 6,000 Acadians were deported from what is now the province of Nova Scotia. All their houses and belongings, including 118,000 head of cattle, were expropriated. Other deportations followed.

Today, more than two centuries later, the Acadians in Canada—who make up 30 percent of the population of New Brunswick—are still fighting for their linguistic and cultural rights.

Defeat of the democratic revolution

In 1760, Britain conquered the French colony of New France, today the province of Quebec. The majority of its 60,000 inhabitants were peasants. Contrary to what Quebec historians claim today, national and linguistic oppression of the Quebecois didn't begin then.

The new British rulers maintained the same system of colonial, not linguistic, oppression as the former French masters. This subjugation across the Americas is what led to—between 1775 and 1820—the American War of Independence, the Haitian revolution, and the movement



Students demonstrate for French language rights in Quebec in 1991. As long as oppression of Quebecois continues, issue will remain at heart of politics in Canada.

for the liberation of Latin America against Spain.

Very quickly after their conquest over the French, the British wanted to prevent the spread of the American revolution into Quebec. They established a reactionary alliance with the seigneurs of Quebec and with the Catholic Church of the old French colony, maintaining the semi-feudal relations of exploitation that existed in the countryside.

In the following decades, Britain created a colonial landed aristocracy in Ontario, to the west of Quebec, by distributing huge tracts of land to a handful of owners as well as to the hierarchy of the Anglican Church. The majority of this region's inhabitants were English-speaking settlers.

The struggle for land, against colonial domination, and for democracy pushed English- and French-speaking peasants, workers, small artisans, and local industrialists of both colonies to revolt against Britain in 1837-38. This uprising marked the beginning of a bourgeois democratic revolution.

But Britain crushed the rebellion, which had disastrous consequences for the workers and farmers of all of Canada. It prevented the democratic gains won earlier in the United States from spreading into

Canada, such as the end of colonial domination, the separation of church and state, and a much greater freedom of political organization and expression.

It was then that the British rulers institutionalized, in alliance with the reactionary classes of the colonies, the national and linguistic oppression of the Quebecois—in a conscious effort to prevent any new convergence of the struggles waged by the French- and English-speaking toilers.

The beginnings of national oppression

Quebec and Ontario were joined into a single province. In the new Parliament the use of French was banned and Quebec was accorded the same number of representatives as Ontario, although it had almost twice the number of residents. Ontario's enormous debt was placed onto the shoulders of Quebec peasants.

This system of oppression and discrimination was maintained and deepened with the creation of Canada in 1867, which brought together the main British colonies in North America.

The new constitution integrated Quebec into the confederation with provincial status, negating its right to self-determination. It also maintained the dual Catholic and Protestant religious school system in Quebec, still in place today.

This system divides the population along national, linguistic, and religious lines. It was and is still the source of inferior quality education for French-speaking people in Quebec.

In 1885 Canada's capitalist rulers crushed a rebellion by the Métis who, led by Louis Riel, were fighting against the theft of their land and the denial of their rights by the new Ottawa government. The Métis lived in the center of the country and were of Native, French, and English origin. Most Métis spoke French and lived primarily from agriculture and hunting.

Five years later, the province of Manitoba was declared unilingual English, in violation of the terms of its inclusion into Canadian confederation. At the time of Manitoba's creation, the vast majority of the population was French-speaking. Today, no more than 5 percent of its population speaks French, the result of a century of forced assimilation.

In the years following the defeat of the Métis, the majority of provinces outside Quebec adopted laws limiting or nullifying the rights of French-speaking people.

Discrimination and oppression

By the time of World War II, Quebecois were facing an institutionalized system of discrimination and oppression based on their language.

In every branch of industry, workers in Quebec were earning between 10 and 25 cents less per hour and working 4 to 12 hours more each week than their counterparts in Ontario.

In 1941, the mortality rate for newborn infants was 75.9 per 1,000 births in Quebec as compared with 45.6 in Ontario. In the city of Trois Rivières it reached 297 in 1937. This was higher than in Bombay, India, which had a rate of 250 in 1936.

Education didn't become mandatory up to the age of 14 in Quebec until 1943. The government spent less money per student than any other province. The illiteracy rate was twice that of Ontario. Of the 27 public libraries in the province, only nine were French.

Doubly oppressed as women and Quebecois, women didn't win the right to vote in provincial elections until 1940, much later than in other Canadian provinces.

It has been through 150 years of struggle and resistance against this discrimination and social inequality that the national consciousness of the Quebecois has been forged. As long as the oppression of the Quebecois continues, the fight for national rights will remain at the center of politics in Canada.

Adams speaks in Scotland for first time

BY ANNE HOWIE

GLASGOW, Scotland—Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, spoke for the first time ever in Scotland October 1. He addressed a meeting in Govan Town Hall here, called by the Scottish Committee for Peace in Ireland. A packed hall of 850 people heard Adams call for Scottish support for an unconditional resumption of all-party peace talks. He called on British prime minister John Major to "assert his authority" to keep the peace process moving.

What little reporting there was of the meeting in the national press focused on a picket of some 150 pro-British loyalist sympathizers. They chanted, among other things, "SAS—bang, bang, bang," an approving reference to the British army killing of three unarmed supporters of Irish self-determination in Gibraltar in 1988.

Bottles and other missiles were lobbed at people entering the meeting. Jeanette Findlay blamed the police for allowing the protesters to harass those attending meeting, pointing out that the police presence was exceptionally small for a gathering of

this kind. Findlay is the coordinator of the Saoirse campaign in Scotland and an organizer of the Adams meeting.

Supporters of the fight for Irish freedom were quick to point out the historic character of the meeting. "The fact that it took place at all is the important thing," said one young man who spoke to this reporter during a recent sales and reporting team to Scotland. A number of people noted that in the past many meetings for leaders of the Irish republican movement here have been canceled in the face of bomb and disruption threats.

Marches in support of the republican cause have routinely been attacked by pro-loyalists. The government here has systematically fostered Protestant and Catholic divisions similar to those in Northern Ireland, particularly in the West of Scotland where a large percentage of the population is of Irish origin.

At the end of August, the Saoirse campaign, which is fighting for the release of all Irish political prisoners, was formally launched in Scotland. *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, Sinn Féin's newspaper, reported the day's events. Felim O'Hagan,

a former republican prisoner, addressed a vigil in the main square in Glasgow, making him the first Irish republican ever to speak in George Square. Participants decorated the square with placards and balloons, and 2,000 leaflets were distributed to passers-by. The newspaper reports that "hundreds of signatures were collected on a petition and many people made a donation in return for a green ribbon," the symbol of Saoirse.

Importantly, the report continues, "None of the tension or threat of opposition from loyalist supporters which sometimes accompanies Irish solidarity activity in Glasgow was present."

The *Militant* sales team to Scotland found an openness to discuss the situation in Ireland and support among many for all-party talks. A student in Aberdeen said, "The troops should get out. Britain has no business being in Ireland." In Glasgow, a woman commented, "It's up to the majority in Northern Ireland to decide." A former soldier in the British army who had served in Northern Ireland said he agreed with the talks, "and with troops out if it stops the fighting."

In New International no. 6

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