

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. 'misjudged morale of Cuban people' at Bay of Pigs
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 18

MAY 6, 1996

Thousands demand: 'Hands off Lebanon!'

BY MARK GILSDORF

AND JEAN-LUC DUVAL

DEARBORN, Michigan — Chanting "Israel out of Lebanon Now!" and "Down, down Israel! Free, free Lebanon!" 7,000 people demonstrated here against Israel's renewed attacks against Lebanon.

The April 21 demonstration, bristling with large Lebanese flags and picket signs denouncing the Israeli aggression, began with a march on the east side of this suburb of Detroit.

Among the most vocal demonstrators were groups of high school and college women of Lebanese origin, some wearing the traditional Muslim head scarf. They were in the forefront of the march leading the chants, one of the most popular of which was, "Death, death to Israel! Free Lebanon Now!" Many of the youth chanted in Arabic, "In our blood, in our heart, we'll sacrifice our lives for south Lebanon!"

"I didn't support Hezbollah before. But now I do," one protester commented, expressing the sentiment of many at the march.

Dearborn and the surrounding metropolitan Detroit area is home to the largest concentration of Arab-Americans in the United States, including one of the biggest populations of Lebanese descent outside of Lebanon. Almost daily protests have broken out in response to the renewed aggression by Tel Aviv.

Lebanese youth, many of whom have



April 21 rally in Washington, D.C., protesting U.S.-backed Israeli bombing campaign against Lebanon. Daily actions have broken out demanding the Zionist occupation force leave Lebanon.

lived through the war in Lebanon and lost relatives to Israeli bombs, have been in the forefront of these actions. At Fordson High School 250 students walked out of class April 17, according to Zeina Baydoun, one of the organizers of the action. They then marched to City Hall for a rally.

A similar walkout was planned for Edsel Ford High School, but when administrators got wind of it they prevented stu-

dents from leaving the building. So the students had the rally on school grounds.

On the evening of April 19 about 150 people gathered for a candlelight vigil and speakout at Henry Ford Community College organized by the Michigan Arab Student Coalition and students from that campus.

On the streets of Dearborn the level of

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Workers in Cuba prepare for congress and May Day celebrations

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

HAVANA, Cuba — "Long live socialism" and "Down with Helms-Burton," chanted a dozen students from the pre-university school in La Lisa, a neighborhood in the western part of this city. They were referring to the new U.S. law escalating Washington's economic war against the Cuban people.

The students were part of an April 22 march here of 3,000, one of hundreds of actions throughout the country leading up to May Day — "the festival of the proletariat," as *Trabajadores*, the weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), described it.

Carrying hand-made signs and noisemakers, contingents of construction, pharmaceutical, and other workers, elementary and high school students, military academy trainees in uniform, and other baton-twirling youth marched, sang, and shouted loud and defiant slogans against the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba.

"We are celebrating our determination to defend the revolution and continue with the economic recovery of our country despite the criminal Yankee blockade," said construction worker Oscar Hernández.

Several signs around him read, "All Out

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Socialist campaigners join protests to defend Lebanon

Supporters of the Socialist Workers national and local campaigns are spreading the word about the socialist alternative in the elections. As Israeli forces began bombing Lebanon, socialist campaigners jumped into protest actions calling for an end to the assault and to Washington's support for Tel Aviv's terrorism. Below are some of the activities campaign supporters have written in about.

DEARBORN, Michigan — One day after Israeli bombs killed 100 people at a UN refugee center in Lebanon, Mark Gilsdorf, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Michigan, and Doug Douthat, the Socialist Workers candidate for the 12th Congressional District, joined a candlelight vigil and speakout against the bombing held at Henry Ford Community College here. Addressing the crowd of 150 during an open air speakout Gilsdorf said, "I'm here to express my campaign's solidarity with the people of Lebanon and their fight for freedom. There will be no peace in the Middle East until Israel gets out of Lebanon and returns all of the land it has stolen from the Arab peoples. My campaign demands: Stop the bombing now! Cut all U.S. ties to

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'Antiterrorism' bill is blow to rights

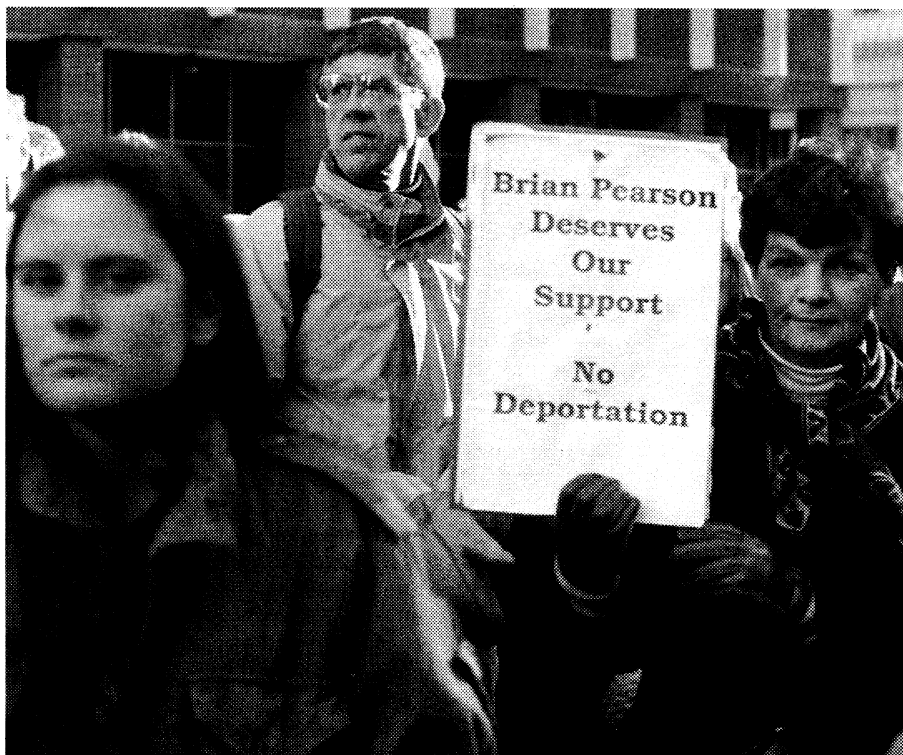
BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In a move that restricts many democratic rights, U.S. president William Clinton signed a broad "antiterrorism" bill into law April 24. The legislation strengthens the government's ability to arbitrarily ban or deport those it does not want to allow into the United States. It also places greater restrictions on the rights of prisoners, particularly the right to habeas corpus appeals — often the only recourse for inmates sentenced to death.

The bill, adopted by the Senate April 17 and by the House a day later, authorizes the government to ban from the United States individuals from other countries who have links to organizations branded as "terrorist" by Washington, even if there is no evidence they broke any laws. It calls for the prosecution of anyone in the United States accused of raising funds for any such organization. The bill would allow the government to deport those accused of terrorism without presenting a judge with the evidence used against them.

Other provisions drastically curtail the rights of immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. The bill requires immigrants arriving without documents to have their asylum claims heard by a single Immigration and Naturalization Service officer; current law requires a hearing before an immigration judge. In a change affect-

Continued on Page 5



December 1995 rally in New York against deportation of Irish political activists. The new law makes it easier for Washington to arbitrarily ban or deport people from the United States for their political views.

Militant/Margrethe Siem

Taiwan to get warplanes, tanks

Taiwan military officials announced April 18 that Paris will begin delivering 60 Mirage 2000-5 fighter planes in May. Taipei will also receive 160 F-16 warplanes from Washington in July. The *United Daily News*, a major Taiwan newspaper, reported that Taipei plans to purchase 300 more M60-A3 tanks from the U.S. government, in addition to 160 tanks it agreed to buy in 1994.

The Chinese government has protested the sale of weapons to Taiwan — a part of China under capitalist rule. U.S.-backed forces fled to the province after a workers and peasants revolution overthrew the big land-owning and capitalist classes in 1949.

Chrysler balks at Vietnam plant

Vance Peacock, Chrysler's manager for Thailand and Vietnam, said the company was reassessing its plans to assemble vehicles in Vietnam because of expected competition in a limited auto market. "The original proposal was based on us being one of four licensees. So with 12 in the picture we're looking at what level of investment makes sense now," he said.

The auto maker was awarded a license in 1995 to build a \$192 million assembly plant in Dong Ngai province. The Ford Motor Company is building a \$102 million assembly plant outside Hanoi with vehicles scheduled to begin rolling off the production line in October 1997. "Vietnam has a population of 74 million but few people can afford cars," notes a report in London's *Financial Times*.

London contests beef ban

British prime minister John Major has urged the heads of state from France, Germany, and Italy to help end the European Union's ban on British beef exports. He met with them April 19 during a summit of the "Group of Seven" in Moscow. "We think it unreasonable, and the ban should be lifted as soon as possible," Major complained.

British agriculture minister Douglas Hogg said April 16 he would challenge the ban in the European Court. Huge stocks of unsold beef have accumulated in the country's slaughterhouse industry since scientists linked a fatal human dis-



The Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) has launched a new wave of land seizures throughout Brazil. In early April peasants marched on 17 state capitals and occupied an 18,000-acre ranch in Mato Grosso. Above: MSTers occupy a ranch in São Paulo state on March 8, International Women's Day.

ease to the "mad cow" disease that has plagued herds of cattle in Britain.

Strikes cripple hotels in Norway

Members of the Norwegian Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union went on strike April 16 after negotiations broke down on wages and working conditions. The labor action shut down 10 major hotels in Norway, costing them several millions of dollars a day. It was the first strike in Norway's hotel industry in 11 years and threatened to spread to 21 more hotels.

The workers are demanding a wage increase of nearly 6 percent and accused the hotel employers of imposing an effective wage freeze this year. They are also resisting the hotel bosses' attempts to change the centralized collective bargaining to local wage negotiations.

Paris helps crush revolt in Africa

French troops, joined by government

forces, put down a revolt involving 400 soldiers of the Central African Republic. The soldiers, who were demanding back pay, seized the radio station and main fuel depot April 19 in the capital, Bangui. The rebellion broke out April 18 after teachers and other civil service workers went on strike earlier in the week over the same issue. Low-ranking army officers said they hadn't been paid in four months.

According to news reports, Ange-Felix Patasse, president of the Central African Republic, took refuge in a French military barracks near his palace. Paris has 1,300 troops in that country, which won independence from France in 1965. The Associated Press noted April 20 that this "was the latest in a series of French interventions in former African colonies."

300 killed by U.S. cops at Mexican border in 1995

The chairman of the foreign relations commission of Mexico's Senate, José Murat, said at an April 12 news conference that about 300 Mexicans were slain in incidents along the U.S. border in 1995. "This matter is nothing new," he stated. "The most recent incident became seriously notorious because it was recorded on video, but this has occurred many times."

Public workers strike in Brazil

Public workers at social security offices, courts, and universities in Brazil went on strike April 16, demanding an across-the-board pay increase. Several thousand workers marched to the presidential palace in Brasilia to press their de-

mands.

Union officials are calling for a 46 percent pay hike for the country's 600,000 civil service workers, who have been expecting their annual wage increase since January. Some ministers in the government of Brazilian president Fernando Henrique Cardoso have been pushing for a wage freeze.

Sex harassment at Mitsubishi

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit April 9 charging Mitsubishi Motors Corp. with allowing sexual harassment of female workers at the company's auto plant in Normal, Illinois. The agency stated that 300-500 women were subjected to abuse. The class-action suit, which seeks compensatory and punitive damages as well as back pay, came after 26 women workers filed a formal complaint against the company. The settlement could total more than \$10 million, according to John Rowe, director of the EEOC office in Chicago.

Top executives at the company called a meeting April 11 with employees and threatened that they could lose their jobs if the charges caused sales to drop. According to the *Washington Post*, company officials said they were planning an "employee march" on the Chicago offices of the EEOC. Patricia Benassi, a lawyer in Peoria representing the women in the original suit, said threats had been made against women at the plant for taking legal action.

Affirmative action battle looms

Georgia attorney general Michael Bowers is pressing the state's university system to abolish affirmative action admission policies. "If you use race to determine who is admitted to Georgia institutes of higher learning, you need to revise them," Bowers said April 9, citing a federal court ruling that struck down the University of Texas Law School affirmative action admissions plan.

Meanwhile, university officials in Texas said they would resume affirmative action measures after a federal appeals court stayed the ban April 19. State officials had earlier suspended a \$1.5 million scholarship program that benefits 1,300 students of oppressed nationalities. Several state legislatures are debating bills that would stop universities from using affirmative action admissions programs.

Perot party makes ballot in Ohio

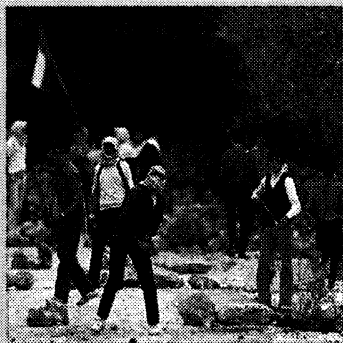
Ohio secretary of state Robert Taft told a news conference April 19 that the Reform Party of Ross Perot won a spot on the presidential ballot in Ohio with nearly 35,000 valid petition signatures. The Reform Party is now on the ballot in nine states. In the 1992 presidential election, Perot captured 19 percent of the vote. The billionaire businessman is bankrolling a campaign to put his Reform Party on the ballot in all 50 states.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Israel out of Lebanon!

Washington and its junior partner in Israel churn out lies to justify Tel Aviv's murderous assault on the Lebanese people. The 'Militant' tells the truth about the fighters in Lebanon and the Palestinians who refuse to kneel down and accept the boot of the Zionist occupation force. Don't miss a single issue!



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Chicano students back protest actions

BY LAURA GARZA
AND VERÓNICA POSES

EDINBURG, Texas — With fists clenched in the air the students stood chanting "Chicano Power!" after viewing one segment of a four-part TV series on the Chicano movement. They were among the 250 youth attending a nationwide conference of the Chicano student group Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), held here April 11-14 at the University of Texas-Pan American, in the Rio Grande Valley.

The chanting expressed the eagerness of the youth who came to the conference to fight the attacks on affirmative action, on *Mexicano* and other immigrant workers, and on the right to learn and speak Spanish. It reflected the desire to build a social movement capable of winning the rights of the Chicano people as a nationality in the United States.

Students packed into cars and vans and drove here from cities throughout the Southwest, as well as a few other areas. Two dozen members of MEChA came from the chapter at the University of California in Los Angeles, 15 from Chaffey College, and others from UC campuses at Berkeley, Davis, and San Diego, as well as other colleges in central California. Students also came from San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Houston, and Arlington, Texas, from Boulder, Colorado, and Tucson, Arizona. Others traveled from campuses such as Yakima Valley Community College in Washington state.

Ernesto Mireles came in a group of eight from Michigan State University. The MEChA chapter there is fighting for Chicano studies courses and organized a protest of several hundred students to demand financial aid programs be saved. The chapter also led a January 17 protest by 400 people against the Michigan government's cuts in welfare programs.

At a workshop titled "Immigrants' Rights: Stopping the Abuse on La Raza,"

Roberto Martínez from the University of Arizona in Tucson explained the efforts he and others are involved in to defend Mexican workers and inform them of their rights. They sometimes monitor police radios and get out to nearby areas where the immigration cops — *la migra* — have been called in to arrest Mexican workers.

Protest for immigrant rights

Martínez also described plans for an April 20 immigrant rights event. That day, 100 people marched from Nogales, Arizona, to join another 100 on the Mexican side of the border to oppose the brutalization and scapegoating of immigrants.

Others in the conference workshop noted the growing militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, beefed-up presence of the border cops, and harassment of Mexican workers in the area. They noted that it is almost impossible to drive out of the Valley without passing a checkpoint, creating a virtual second border. In Brownsville, Texas, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents patrol the downtown area together with local police.

Participants reported that a representative of the South Texas Immigration Council (STIC) in Harlingen, Texas, filed a complaint against the INS when a client was hauled away as he tried to enter the offices of STIC, which provides legal aid to immigrants. A few weeks later the state pressed criminal charges against a STIC worker, Benigno Peña, for allegedly interfering with an immigration officer.

In another workshop MEChA activists discussed how to fight back against various "English only" measures. Workshop leader Raúl García reported that 21 states have passed legislation barring the use of languages other than English in government documents or offices.

MEChA members, professors, and others also led a wide variety of other workshops, including on Chicana feminism, the struggle to organize farm workers, envi-



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Chicano students joined action April 5 in Riverside, California, protesting beating of two Mexicans. The national MEChA conference drew youth like these from all over.

ronmental racism, gay rights, and the history of the Raza Unida Party (RUP) — a Chicano political party independent of the Democrats and Republicans that developed in certain regions during the 1970s. The struggles by peasants in Chiapas, Mexico, were also discussed.

Plans for upcoming actions

In workshops and general sessions, conference participants also discussed actions they are building such as protests of the Republican and Democratic conventions. An August 12 protest outside the Republican convention in San Diego will rally people in defense of immigrant workers and demand the reversal of "English only" laws and California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187. A National Raza Unity Convention will take place there the day before.

A nationwide protest is set for October 12 in Washington, D.C., to respond to anti-immigrant measures. Flyers for the action, organized by Coordinadora '96, demand: human and constitutional rights for all, defense of affirmative action, free

public education for all through college, citizen police review boards, an increase in the minimum wage, immediate naturalization of all eligible people, and extension of the amnesty eligibility date for undocumented immigrants.

How to build a new Chicano rights movement was a topic of discussion throughout the conference in workshops and informal discussions. Speakers at the event included a number who had been active in the initial fights that forged the Chicano movement and helped form the Raza Unida Party. Among those listed on the conference program were two youth leaders from Cuba who had been invited to speak, Iroel Sánchez and Maika Guerrero. The U.S. State Department, however, denied them visas, and more than 50 MEChistas signed letters of protest against the undemocratic prohibition. Many also expressed interest in a trip to Cuba being organized by the National Network on Cuba in July.

Verónica Poses is a member of the Young Socialists in Miami.

Socialist candidates say 'Israel out of Lebanon!'

Continued from front page

Tel Aviv! Israel out of Lebanon!"

On April 20 Gilsdorf and Rosa Garmendia, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 10th Congressional District, led their supporters in hitting the streets in Dearborn, where many Arabs live, selling the *Militant*, the socialist campaign's newspaper. They passed out the statement issued by James Harris and Laura Garza, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president, condemning the Israeli occupation and bombing of Lebanon. The campaign teams sold more than two dozen copies of the *Militant* and many shop owners took copies of a leaflet for an April 26 speak-out hosted by the Militant Labor Forum titled "Israel out of Lebanon! Stop the bombing now!"

The next day the candidates and their supporters joined a march of 7,000 in Dearborn to demand Israeli forces get out of Lebanon.

BOSTON — A picket on April 18 against Israel's attacks on Lebanon drew 150 people, carrying signs saying "Resistance is a Right, Occupation is Not," and "Stop the Bombing," while they chanted, "Free South Lebanon." Young Socialists for Harris and Garza joined others at the action in planning further events. The next day there were two more protests, a picket of 50 in front of the Israeli consulate and another action of 30 organized by the Lebanese Club at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Half a dozen Young Socialists for Harris and Garza met April 21 to discuss how to maximize participation in the protest actions. Elaine Lowe, a high school student, took campaign literature to show some friends who might be interested in joining actions with the socialist campaign. Jerrad, another high school student at the meeting, also said he has several friends interested in socialist ideas. The

Young Socialists for Harris and Garza helped distribute 200 copies of the candidates' statement condemning the Israeli aggression at an April 23 Harvard Square demonstration that drew some 400 people.

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — Socialist workers took advantage of job layoffs the week of April 15 to start campaigning for the socialist alternative to the parties of war, racism, and unemployment. They visited West Virginia University, selling the *Militant* and the book *The Truth about Yugoslavia*. At a protest against a nonunion mine, organized by a laid-off member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), they met a Teamsters union member who later went by the Pathfinder bookstore to get a copy of the book *Teamster Rebellion*.

In the Charleston area they campaigned at West Virginia State College, met students involved in a Native American support committee, and sold more socialist literature. The socialist campaigners sold nine copies of the *Militant* at a UMWA-organized coal mine in Hobet, introducing the workers to the socialist alternative to William Clinton, Robert Dole, Patrick Buchanan, and Ralph Nader.

NEW YORK — On a Newstalk TV cable program Socialist Workers vice presidential candidate Laura Garza joined an April 22 discussion on the rightist Republican presidential candidacy of Patrick Buchanan. The show included representatives of Buchanan for President and the Libertarian Party, as well as Lenora Fulani of the Committee for a Unified Independent Party.

Garza said Buchanan is not just running an election campaign but is trying to build a rightist movement that could take action against the rights of workers, like those who have attacked abortion clinics in an attempt to beat back the right of a woman

to control her own body. The Socialist Workers Party, she explained, "stands for uniting the working class to take on the bosses, who are leading an assault on our rights, wages, and unions." While Buchanan falsely points to immigrants as the source of evils in society, Garza said, the socialist campaign defends equal rights for immigrants and points to the need to organize a fight for jobs for all, raising the minimum wage, and defending affirmative action to guarantee equal access to housing, education, and employment.

Fulani, while stating she disagreed with Buchanan on some of his "social issues," stressed there was room for "all Ameri-

cans" in constructing an independent political party. She cited as key issues opposing negative campaigning and the corruption of the two parties, and supporting an overhaul of the political process, including term limits.

Garza countered, "Working people have nothing to gain from being in a coalition with [Ross] Perot, Buchanan, or other capitalist politicians who are part of leading the charge against the social gains and democratic rights of the working class."

Jean-Luc Duval in Detroit, José Aravena in Boston, and Barbara Greenway in Morgantown, West Virginia, contributed items to this article.

Contribute to \$90,000 fund

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

"The socialist candidates, James Harris for president and Laura Garza for vice president, are presenting a working-class alternative to the spectrum of pro-capitalist politicians and parties," said Greg McCartan, the national director of the 1996 Socialist Workers election campaign. "To organize speaking tours and produce literature that campaign supporters can use in political discussions and debates, we need money," he told the *Militant*.

McCartan recently sent out an appeal to socialist campaign supporters in more than 20 cities to help raise \$90,000 by June 15. Socialist workers and others in each local area were asked to take a goal by April 30. "Our campaign is financed by workers and young fighters, not the wealthy who back the parties that accept capitalism," said McCartan.

The goals can be based on lining up pledges now from other campaign supporters, including co-workers, friends, and political activists. Fund-raising

events and appeals to everyone the socialist campaign reaches can also help the effort, McCartan suggested. People who have met socialist campaign supporters at actions protesting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon should be among the first to be asked for a contribution. A chart in an upcoming issue of the *Militant* will track progress on the goal.

Harris is currently attending the convention of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers and will be available for speaking engagements beginning May 18. Garza will be available for tours to different cities beginning May 11, the campaign director said. Requests for the candidates to speak, and proposals for events from plant-gate visits, to house meetings, to public forums can be sent in to the national campaign committee at: P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009. Telephone or fax: (212) 388-1659. To order a four-page campaign brochure, at a charge of 15 cents per copy, send your order to the same address.

'They misjudged the morale of our people'

In February, Pathfinder Press released a new edition of Ernesto Che Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War—1956-58*.

To promote this book, the *Militant* is running "Pages from Cuba's Revolutionary History." This series features articles by and about combatants of the July 26 Movement and the Rebel Army, which led the revolutionary war that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and opened the socialist revolution in the Americas.

This week's installment commemorates the anniversary of the April 19, 1961, victory of the Cuban revolutionary forces over a U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at Playa Girón, known in the United States as the Bay of Pigs. The 1,500 Cuban-born counterrevolutionaries had launched their assault just two days earlier. They had been openly trained by Washington and armed with U.S. naval, air, and army weapons, including B-26 bombers and troop transports.

The excerpts below are from a speech delivered by Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro at an April 19, 1962, ceremony honoring the heroes who fell at Playa Girón. It was published as part of a book entitled *History of an Aggression* by Ediciones Venceremos in Havana in 1964. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY FIDEL CASTRO

A year ago today, the smoke from the last shots of the battle of Playa Girón was clearing. Those who launched the attack had thought that it would be the end of the Revolution; they thought that a year later we would not be here together again; they thought that the Revolution — what it is and what it stands for — could be destroyed; they thought that our country would return to the past, even at the cost of its total destruction.

To measure the degree of criminality of that attack, we must take into account what our enemy had in mind. They made the invaders, the forces that they recruited and trained, believe such stupidities as this — that they would be welcomed with open arms....

The enemy knew only too well that the people would not support the counterrevolutionaries. And so they based their strategy on this fact. The strategy outlined by the Yankee military machine was not the kind that would be followed by anyone who expected the people to join the counterrevolution. On the contrary, it was a strategy planned by those who knew that the people supported the revolution.

That is why they adapted their war plans to the real situation of which they were well aware, and tried to capture a part of our national territory. They did not choose an open battlefield, but an area of our national territory that had very little

accessibility....

The objective of that strategy was precisely to establish a foothold in our national territory where they would have set up a counterrevolutionary government, which will receive aid more openly — as if the support they were already receiving was not evident enough — and would have started a war of exhaustion against our country.

They actually planned to start a war of exhaustion against our country adding to all the aggressive measures already taken, such as the total cutting off of our trade, the complete abolition of our sugar quota, the embargo on all possible exports — all intended to strangle us economically....

They misjudged morale of our people

Where did they make their mistake — those who had laid the plans so carefully? What was their error? They made their mistake in judging the morale of our people, the courage of our people, the strength of a revolution....

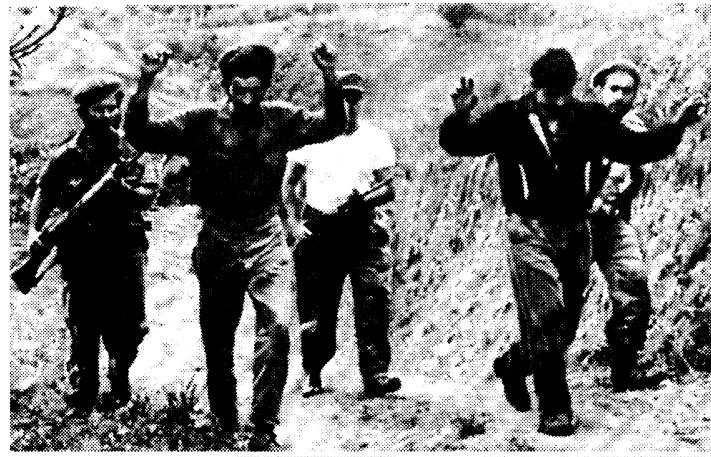
They thought it was simply a matter of sending a squadron of bomber planes over our country any one morning unexpectedly, to drop bombs and "rockets" in a surprise attack; they thought that the noise of bombs exploding would be enough to create panic among the people, to terrorize the nation and to frighten our combatants....

In order to attain absolute air superiority, a complete control of the air, among other things, they counted on destroying our last plane.

Thus, after having terrified the people, demoralized our armed forces and stripped us of our aircraft, they would have been able to control the battlefield with their planes.

That was their first big mistake — an error in calculation — a military error. The bombings did not intimidate the people nor did they demoralize or frighten anyone; instead, they filled our citizens with wrath and indignation....

Our planes were scattered in different places; our fields were fully protected by anti-aircraft batteries; and the cowardly, criminal surprise attack could only destroy a few of those planes. In spite of the fact that our planes were few, old and battered, in spite of the fact that the bombings destroyed some of them, there were still more than enough planes for the pilots we had. So, the cowardly, criminal and treacherous bombings served only as a warning, a warning of the imminence of an attack; it only served as warning that gave us 48 hours to mobilize our de-



Cuban mercenaries surrendering after failed Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 (left). Mass rally in Havana, October 26, 1959, protesting airspace violations by counterrevolutionaries in U.S. planes (below).



fenses....

And that is just what happened. Landing forces were approaching since the early morning hours on the 17th, and they began to take positions in the chosen territory. They had organized their plans. They brought with them the weapons for the new contingents that would land later on, and the food supply was carefully planned for their day to day needs, as is customary with the Pentagon. Paratroopers were ready to jump over the strategic points at dawn, and their complete air control was taken for granted. At the first moment, they met with the most determined resistance of the few militiamen who happened to be around. But when the enemy shouted "surrender," those militiamen answered by saying, "Fatherland or Death!" and opened fire.

And this was perhaps the first surprise that the invaders received: the fortitude of those men, who all alone with nothing more than their infantry rifles, started the resistance and gave warning of the presence of the enemy in that area.

Mercenaries encounter second surprise

The second surprise occurred at dawn, when the invaders were quietly unloading their war equipment, and when the soldiers of their "famous" expeditionary forces, in their flashy uniforms, were landing, as though they were going on a picnic. Suddenly, as this was taking place our few, old and battered planes, loaded with bombs, rockets and bullets, appeared in the sky. Ironically, these bombs, rockets, bullets and planes were the same ones that the imperialists had once given Batista to fight us.

And that, undoubtedly, was the second big surprise, the second big mistake in the plans made by the imperialists, the "brains" in the Pentagon, who had not counted on the heavy shower of bombs and bullets that came down upon invaders so early in the morning....

That day, our few, old and battered planes could not offer our infantry very much air protection, since these planes were concentrating their attacks on the most important target at that moment — the enemy ships. Nevertheless, the infantry was able to advance, and while under the fire of enemy planes, it took position. That was when the real battle began.

The "brains" in the Pentagon most certainly knew that we had received a number of tanks, anti-aircraft artillery and cannons, but they estimated that we would not yet be prepared on that date, to use those tanks, those cannons and that anti-aircraft equipment. They erred once more in not being able to conceive the calmness with which our armed forces prepared the tank crews and the men who would operate the

artillery....

Weapons prepared for victory

And actually thousands upon thousands of humble workers and young people were voluntarily recruited and hastily trained to operate those weapons; and the enemy could not even imagine that on the day of the attack, those weapons were ready for battle and ready for victory. So, what had happened to them by midday of the 17th, was only the beginning, it was only a sample of what was to come. From there on, the battle continued uninterrupted....

Thus, there was one surprise after another, error after error, and things happened so quickly, that the enemy didn't even have time to react or to recover. I'm not referring to the enemy that was here on our beach, but to the main enemy — the one overseas. Not even the Pentagon had time to meet and discuss the situation, because long before such a meeting could be called, there was no longer a beachhead at Playa Girón. For on the 19th, our forces, advancing from all directions, surrounded and defeated the enemy.

During the three days of combat, Yankee aircraft carriers lurked near our shores. More than once their planes buzzed our territory in an attempt to frighten us, and occasionally, even opened fire.

Our troops were not only ready to fight against the mercenary force, but were also ready to fight whatever followed it, while the Yankee leaders bordered on hysteria.

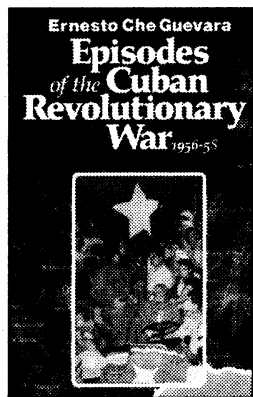
Such a violent and surprising defeat was beyond the imperialists' imagination, and out of pride and anger, they immediately started to threaten and give warning, that they were ready to act unilaterally in Cuba's case. It was thus necessary to transfer the bulk of the troops back to the capital city, where they came from, and where they remained alert, awaiting developments. Other forces were sent to the combat area to capture the rest of the invaders.

The glory of our combatants lies not only in the bravery and heroism with which they fought and defeated the enemy vanguard, but also in their willingness to face the imperialist army if it dared invade our soil.

We didn't prepare that attack. They planned it, thus, we are not to blame for the defeat they suffered. They attacked us, so they themselves are the only ones to blame for their humiliating defeat.

1 This refers to the criminal air attack on Cuban airports and cities on the morning of April 15, 1961, two days before the invasion, made by United States planes painted with Cuban Air Force insignias.

Special offer from Pathfinder



Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58 Ernesto Che Guevara

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War is a firsthand account of the military battles and political campaigns that culminated in the January 1959 mass armed insurrection that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship.

Guevara's *Episodes* shows how he and other Rebel Army combatants were transformed by their experiences into battle-tested leaders of working people in Cuba. Writing with clarity and humor, he shows how the revolution's social program emerged out of deepening class-struggle experience by workers and peasants themselves. He explains how the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement grew into a movement capable of leading millions to carry through a socialist revolution in the years after the 1959 victory.

Edited with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.

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Regular price \$23.95
Special offer \$18 (25% off)
Offer good until May 1

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for a \$10 annual fee, and receive special discounts like this, as well as a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder titles from bookstores listed on page 8 and direct from the publisher. Contact the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for postage and handling.

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"Before we finished unpacking newspapers and books we sold a *Militant* and a copy of the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional*," wrote Joanne Kuniandy from Sydney, Australia. She was describing the response to socialists who took part in an April 20 demonstration of 5,000 protesting the Israeli war against Lebanon.

"We heard about the protest on Friday from some workmates at Streets Ice Cream," Kuniandy reported. "At least a dozen workmates from Streets and a few from F. Muller were there and several stopped by the table. By the end of the day we had sold 17 *Militants*, a *Nueva Internacional*, three copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation*, and two of *Israel's War Against the Palestinian People*."

Five young people signed up for more information about the Young Socialists including two — a Palestinian and a Lebanese-Australian — who went over to the Pathfinder bookshop to talk for a couple of hours and bought three Pathfinder pamphlets on the Palestinian struggle.

This is one of many opportunities right now to sell a broad range of Pathfinder titles among those discussing and protesting the war against Lebanon. Jean-Luc Duval reports that supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign in the Detroit area sold a copy of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara and an issue of the magazine *New Internationalist* with the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's assault on Iraq," to demonstrators in Dearborn, Michigan, on April 21.

Special displays in Pathfinder bookstores and on sales tables help highlight the Pathfinder titles that explain what's behind Tel Aviv's terror campaign and Washington's support for it. The ad on page 6 of this issue gives some ideas.

This is also the time for volunteer Pathfinder sales representatives to strike while the iron is hot and get back to commercial bookstores where they have accounts, as well as to visit others to set up new accounts, pointing to the value of Pathfinder's titles on the Middle East and other questions. More working people and others will be hitting bookstores to read up on the Middle East and world politics.

Pathfinder editor Michael Baumann reported that his week-long sales trip to southern Florida in mid-April helped supporters there do just that. The trip was part of a decision by Pathfinder Press that one member of its editorial staff make a sales trip every month. Baumann worked with eight Pathfinder supporters in Miami and Tampa to visit more than 30 bookstores and universities. In addition to taking orders for more than 40 books, they laid the groundwork for future sales and now have several more trained sales reps in the area.

As we go to press, socialist

April 21: 60%
Should be: 70%

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books

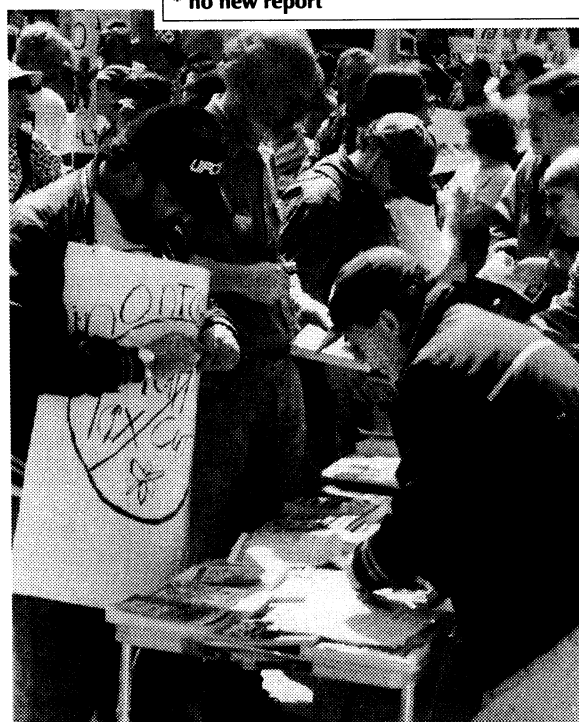
	Through Pathfinder Bookstores			To Commercial distributors			Total sold			Readers Club Membership	
	Goal	Sold	% sold	Goal	Sold	% sold	Goal	Sold	% sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Los Angeles	120	224	187%	95	111	117%	215	335	156%	80	66
Detroit	77	51	66%	60	154	257%	137	205	150%	52	42
Houston	45	33	73%	32	63	197%	77	96	125%	34	31
Chicago	77	35	45%	60	81	135%	137	116	85%	52	42
Washington, D.C.	54	43	80%	42	37	88%	96	80	83%	37	30
Philadelphia	63	15	24%	49	68	139%	112	83	74%	43	35
Seattle	80	50	63%	60	52	87%	140	102	73%	60	56
Atlanta*	48	57	119%	32	0	0%	80	57	71%	31	37
Greensboro	41	20	49%	36	31	86%	77	51	66%	36	28
Salt Lake City	63	17	27%	49	44	90%	112	61	54%	54	38
Boston	65	22	34%	50	36	72%	115	58	50%	43	36
Birmingham	65	24	37%	50	24	48%	115	48	42%	43	45
Brooklyn	165	116	70%	130	7	5%	295	123	42%	110	63
San Francisco	95	63	66%	74	5	7%	169	68	40%	64	68
Miami	55	23	42%	42	11	26%	97	34	35%	36	19
New York *	175	52	30%	175	67	38%	350	119	34%	115	80
Pittsburgh	63	31	49%	49	2	4%	112	33	29%	43	29
Des Moines*	45	23	51%	35	0	0%	80	23	29%	31	28
Peoria	36	16	44%	28	2	7%	64	18	28%	25	15
Morgantown	32	16	50%	25	0	0%	57	15	28%	21	15
Twin Cities	86	33	38%	67	1	1%	153	34	22%	60	53
Newark *	171	45	26%	133	7	5%	304	52	17%	115	114
Cleveland*	50	9	18%	40	1	3%	90	10	11%	34	18
Y S convention		74						74			
Total	1771	1092	61%	1413	804	57%	3184	1895	60%	1219	988
Goal/Should be	1800	1260	70%	1400	980	70%	3200	2240	70%	1200	960
CANADA											
Toronto	90	41	46%	70	41	59%	160	82	51%	60	41
Vancouver	36	26	72%	28	4	14%	64	30	47%	42	46
Montreal	72	30	42%	64	7	11%	136	37	27%	40	34
Total	198	97	44%	162	52	32%	360	149	41%	142	121
Goal/Should be	220	154	70%	92	64	70%	312	218	70%	142	99

* no new report

Pathfinder books sold to Co-workers

Unions	Goal	Sold	% sold	Readers Club	
				Goal	Sold
USWA	56	58	104%	58	11
IAM	71	35	49%	60	14
UNITE	41	18	44%	26	6
UMWA	5	2	40%	4	6
UAW	100	39	39%	70	37
OCAW	50	14	28%	50	24
UTU	85	15	18%	80	35
UFCW *	12	0	0%	11	0
Total	420	181	45%	359	133
Goal/Should be	400	280	70%	400	280

*No new report



Militant/John Sarge
Sales at labor rally of 40,000 in Kitchener, Ontario.

workers are entering the final week of the campaign to sell 1,550 copies of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, including 500 to co-workers in the unions. Several workers wrote in this week to describe how discussions on Cuba and working-class poli-

tics in the world convinced a co-worker to buy the book. Selling *Episodes* to workers in the Houston area proved a useful tool for two members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, Patti Iiyama and Mary Pritchard, as they prepared to attend the congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) in Havana. "Refinery workers have donated more than \$50 to purchase safety equipment for oil workers in Cuba, several copies of the CTC's convention theses have been distributed at the Shell and Lyondell-Citgo refineries, two copies of

the *Episodes* book were sold this week at Lyondell-Citgo, and four or five house meetings are now planned for the delegation's return," writes Jerry Freiwrith.

Kay Sedam, a member of the United Transportation Union in Birmingham, Alabama, wrote, "I sold an *Episodes* book this week as a result of a month-long discussion with a co-worker around the UTU contract negotiations, the articles in the *Militant* on the CTC congress, looking at the Pathfinder catalog, and purchasing *Socialism and Man in Cuba*," by Guevara.

Jenny Benton, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Minneapolis, loaned her copy of *Episodes* to a fellow airline worker. After almost daily discussions he decided to buy his own copy of the Guevara book, as well as *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, and a Pathfinder Readers Club membership.

'Counterterrorism' bill restricts rights

Continued from front page
ing thousands, any undocumented immigrant already in the United States may be summarily deported without judicial review. Currently immigrants are entitled to a deportation hearing that includes rights such as legal representation.

A step-up in convictions and executions is expected with the adoption of the so-called counterterrorism bill. Death row inmates would generally be given six months after their final state court proceeding to file a habeas corpus petition — a suit that

allows federal judges to hear any cases of violations of a person's constitutional rights. Prisoners not on death row would be given one year to file the petition. Currently there is no time limit on such appeals.

These deadlines only apply to inmates who are being represented by a court-appointed attorney. Blacks and other working people inside prison walls generally have to rely on such public defenders.

The bill would also prohibit a federal judge from overturning a conviction unless the state court's factual determination was "unreasonable"; if it involved an "unreasonable application" of clearly established law; or if the state court's decision was "contrary to clearly established" federal law as determined by the Supreme

Court. Another draconian provision in the measure would mandate inmates convicted on federal charges to pay restitution to their accusers, imposing punishment on them indefinitely.

The passage of the bill was accompanied by extensive media interviews with relatives of those killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building one year ago.

"The bill marks an historic expansion of Federal law-enforcement authority at the expense of civil liberties," Gregory Nojeim, legislative counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, told the *New York Times*. Nojeim said the bill virtually insures that a person wrongly convicted would never "get his day in court to prove his innocence."

GOALS AND SALES FOR 'EPISODES'

FEBRUARY 9 - MAY 1

Totals as of April 21

UNITED STATES	Goal	Sold	%
Los Angeles +	125	128	102%
Atlanta, GA*	45	44	98%
Seattle	80	77	96%
Des Moines*	45	43	96%
Boston	60	57	95%
Salt Lake City	60	57	95%
San Francisco +	120	106	88%
Miami *	50	44	88%
Twin Cities +*	100	87	87%
Washington, D.C.	75	64	85%
Birmingham, AL +	70	59	84%
Newark *	133	112	84%
Detroit +	65	54	83%
Houston +	65	54	83%
Philadelphia	60	55	83%
Cleveland *	45	37	82%
Greensboro +	55	45	82%
Pittsburgh	55	45	82%
Chicago	60	49	82%
Morgantown	27	21	78%
Brooklyn	130	95	73%
New York*	140	97	69%
Peoria, IL	30	19	63%
TOTAL	1570	1449	93%
SHOULD BE	1550	1,240	90%

AUSTRALIA 20 15 75%

CANADA

Vancouver	45	42	93%
Toronto	56	49	88%
Montreal	50	29	58%
TOTAL	151	120	79%

IN THE UNIONS

UMWA	7	7	100%
UTU +	85	69	81%
OCAW	62	47	76%
UFCW *	12	6	50%
UAW	110	52	47%
USWA	60	22	37%
IAM	90	32	36%
UNITE	42	13	31%
TOTAL	468	248	53%
SHOULD BE	500	335	90%

* no new report + raised goal
IAM—International Association of Machinists; OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

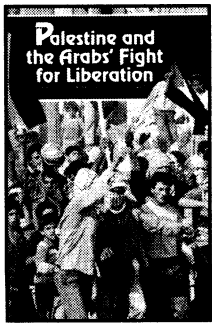
BOOKS FROM PATHFINDER ON THE MIDDLE EAST

BEHIND THE CONFLICT



Palestinian youth throw tear-gas grenades back at Israeli troops in East Jerusalem, March 1994.

Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation



FRED FELDMAN
AND
GEORGES SAYAD

An overview of the Palestinian struggle from World War I to the beginning of the *intifada* in 1987. \$4.00

U.S. Hands off the Mideast!

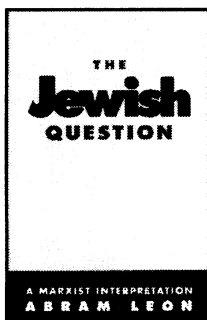
Cuba speaks out at the United Nations
FIDEL CASTRO, RICARDO ALARCÓN
The case against Washington's 1990-91 embargo and war against Iraq, as presented by the Cuban government at the United Nations. \$10.95

Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?

MAXIME RODINSON
Examines the Zionist colonization of Palestine and how the State of Israel was formed. \$11.95

The Jewish Question

A Marxist Interpretation
ABRAM LEON
Traces the historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that Jews were forced to become a "people-class" of merchants and moneylenders in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism. Leon explains how in times of social crisis renewed Jew-hatred is incited by the capitalists to mobilize reactionary forces against the labor movement and disorient the middle classes and layers of working people about the true source of their impoverishment. \$17.95



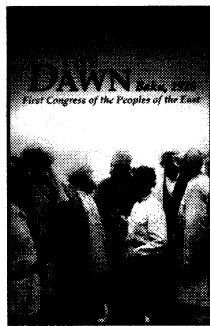
How Can the Jews Survive? A Socialist Answer to Zionism

GEORGE NOVACK \$2.50

To See the Dawn

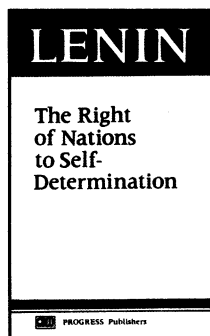
Baku, 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East

How can peasants and workers in the colonial world achieve freedom from imperialist exploitation? By what means can working people overcome divisions incited by their national ruling classes and act together for their common class interests? These questions were addressed by 2,000 delegates to the 1920 Congress of the Peoples of the East. \$19.95



The Right of Nations to Self-Determination

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



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 8, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional title to cover shipping and handling.

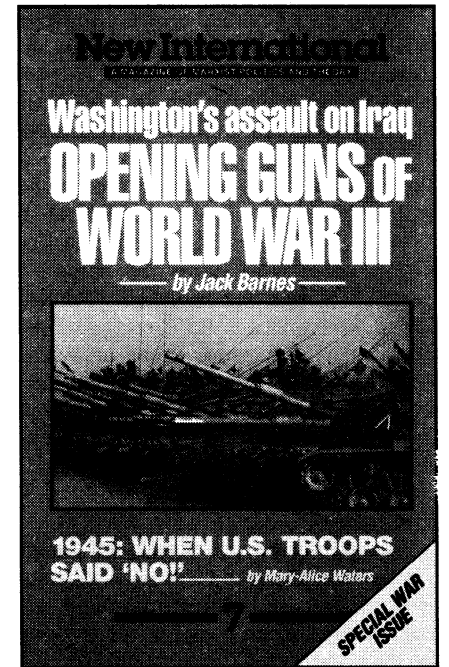
Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

BY JACK BARNES
in *New International* no. 7

Also includes: Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS
Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War
BY SAMAD SHARIF \$12.00

Also available in French, Spanish, Swedish



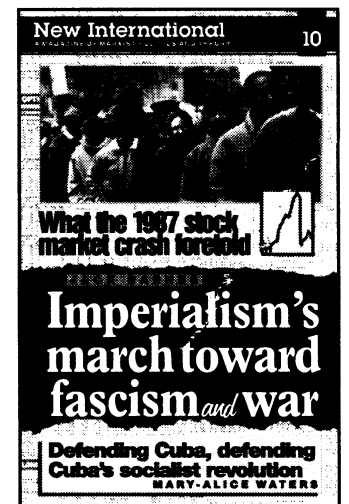
Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War

BY JACK BARNES
in *New International* no. 10

Also includes: What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold
Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS
The Curve of Capitalist Development
BY LEON TROTSKY \$14.00

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Israel and the Arab Revolution

Fundamental Principles of Revolutionary Marxism

BY GUS HOROWITZ

Includes 1971 Socialist Workers Party resolution of the same title. Part of the Education for Socialists series. \$7.00



Their Morals and Ours

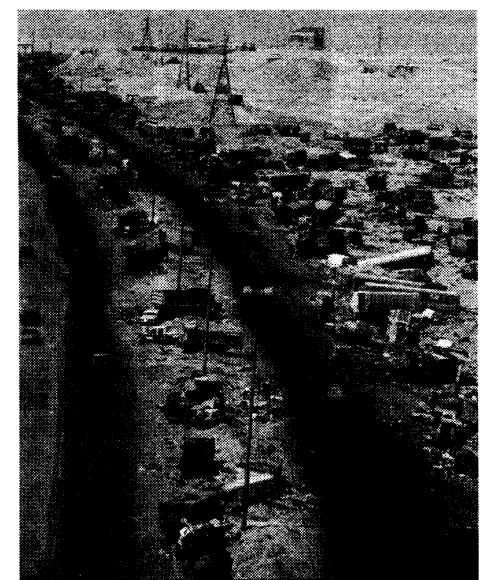
The Class Foundations of Moral Practice
LEON TROTSKY

Explains how morality is rooted in the interests of contending social classes. With a reply by the pragmatist philosopher John Dewey and a Marxist answer to Dewey by George Novack. \$14.95

Israel's War against the Palestinian People

DAVE FRANKEL AND WILL REISSNER
\$3.50

Road from Kuwait to Basra, Iraq, after Washington's bombing of fleeing Iraqis at end of Gulf War, 1991.



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Tel Aviv's terror fails to crush Lebanese fighters

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Despite worldwide outrage at an Israeli massacre in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon, Tel Aviv continues to rain destruction on the population in that region. The U.S.-backed terror campaign, however, has failed to quell Lebanese resistance, led by fighters from the organization Hezbollah.

Israeli warplanes and gunboats are targeting Lebanon's vital infrastructure. Shelling from Israeli warships has turned the coastal highway connecting southern Lebanon to Beirut into a shooting gallery. The bombardment has prevented most deliveries of food and medical supplies to the ravaged south, virtually cutting the country in half and leaving tens of thousands stranded.

On April 23 Israeli warplanes destroyed a reservoir that supplies water to 20 villages near the city of Tyre. The week before, air strikes on electrical stations knocked out power in Beirut, the country's capital.

As Hezbollah guerrillas responded by firing Katyusha rockets across the border, Tel Aviv's forces shelled the hills south of Beirut April 22. Just a few hours before, the entire city had come to a halt in a moment of silence to honor the 100 people killed the previous week when Israeli gunners destroyed a United Nations-run refugee camp in Qana.

"How can this happen on such a day?" shouted Zuhair Zan, 19, after the Israeli shelling of his village south of Beirut. "How can they expect us to make peace now?"

The April 18 massacre in Qana led to a new wave of refugees fleeing southern Lebanon to the north. Since the Israeli assault began in mid-April, more than 400,000 people have been driven from their homes — one-tenth of the country's population.

Washington backs Tel Aviv

U.S. president William Clinton refused to criticize the Qana massacre. His only response was to insist on "an immediate cease-fire." The U.S. government has backed the Israeli assault on Lebanon from the beginning, justifying its position by claiming Tel Aviv is simply defending

itself against rocket attacks by Hezbollah.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah stated on CNN April 21 that "if attacks on the people of Lebanon stop we have said on more than one occasion that we will stop firing Katyushas" into northern Israel.

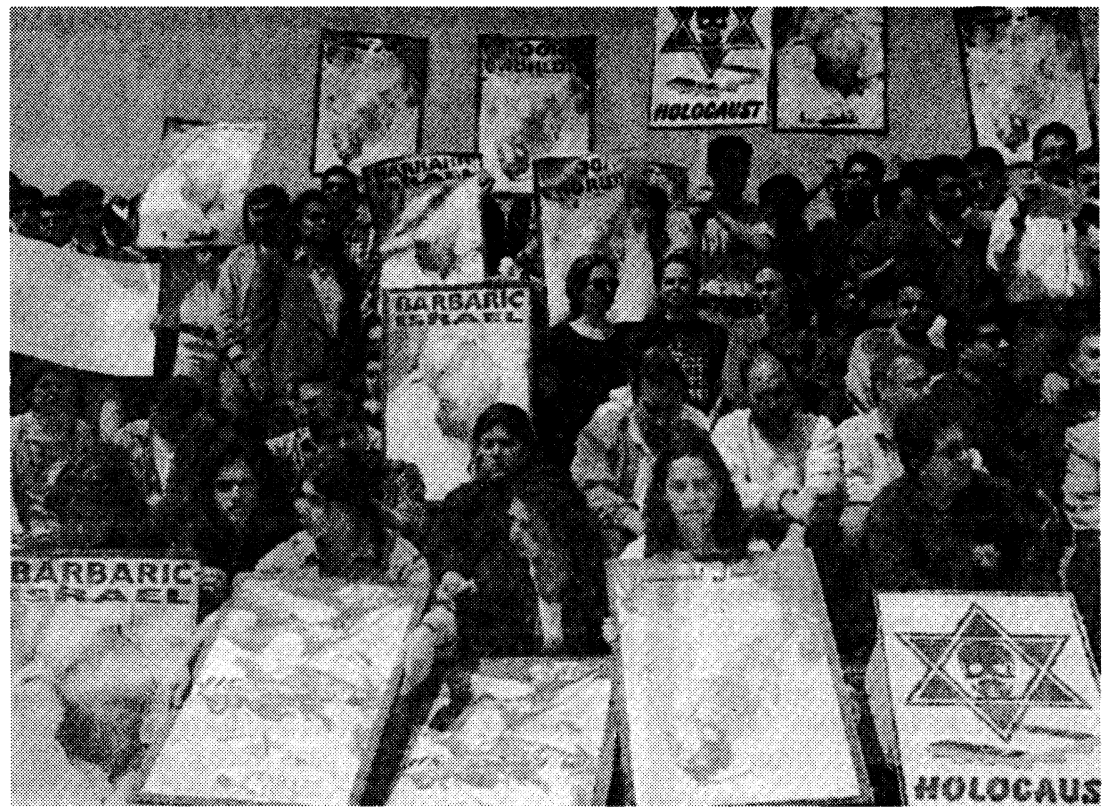
The guerrilla organization, based largely among the Shiite population in southern Lebanon, arose in response to the 1982 invasion and subsequent 14-year-long occupation by Israeli troops. By leading the resistance to the Israeli bombing campaign, Hezbollah's prestige has soared among working people throughout Lebanon.

As the bombs continue to drop, U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher has been meeting with Israeli, Syrian, and Lebanese officials to try to secure a settlement favorable to the U.S. rulers. Tel Aviv and Washington hope to pressure the government of Syria — which has tens of thousands of troops in Lebanon — to crack down on Hezbollah and the resistance there. While calling for a cease-fire by Hezbollah and Israeli troops, the U.S. plan would not touch Tel Aviv's military occupation of southern Lebanon.

Paris intervenes

Meanwhile, the French government is pursuing its own interests in the region. Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette has been shuttling around the Mideast with its proposal. Unlike Washington's plan, Paris calls for an eventual Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon — in exchange for "security guarantees" — and drawing the Iranian government, which has ties to Hezbollah, into the negotiations.

Lebanese foreign minister Fares Bouez described the French proposals as "very realistic" as a starting point for negotiations. Washington, however, visibly irritated at Paris, insists it is the only power that can broker a settlement. Tel Aviv has refused to meet with de Charette, and Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres demanded other parties recognize Washing-



Lebanese students at protest in Beirut hold posters showing babies killed by Israeli bombing

ton as the sole mediating channel.

The bombing campaign and the resistance in Lebanon have fueled debate and polarization within Israel. Some have been shaken by the massacres, while Peres tries to rally support for his government's war.

While condemning the assault on Lebanon, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir Arafat is engaged in an effort to make concessions to the Israeli government in exchange for further steps toward Palestinian autonomy.

Speaking before a meeting of the Palestine National Council, which for years has served as a PLO-led parliament-in-exile, Arafat proposed eliminating clauses from the PLO's historic charter that call for an end to Israel as a Jewish state. Tel Aviv and Washington have long pressed the PLO leadership to make such concessions and to settle for a Palestinian-run territory alongside the Zionist state.

"One inch of Palestinian land and our presence on the land of Palestine is more dear than words on paper," Arafat told the 600 members of the council at the meeting. The Israeli regime gave permission for all members of the Palestinian body to attend the gathering, which was held in Gaza.

Anger among Palestinians at Tel Aviv's savage bombing of Lebanon and its two-month-old closure of Gaza and the West Bank made it a little harder for Arafat to

make his case that it was time to "start a new era with good relations between us and the Israelis," as he told the council. Earlier, Palestinian cops attacked demonstrators in Gaza protesting the Israeli terror campaign against Lebanon.

Threat of U.S. nuclear strike on Libya

As the war unfolded in Lebanon, Washington escalated its war threats against Libya. U.S. defense secretary William Perry warned in an April 18 speech that the Pentagon was prepared to use "preventive measures" against the Libyan government, accusing it of building an underground chemical arms plant 40 miles from Tripoli, the capital. Libyan officials deny the 10-year-old charge, saying the facility will serve to bring fresh water to the desert.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon was more explicit than Perry, stating that Washington would be considering "a series of military options" against Libya if other pressures failed.

One of those military options, *New York Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal revealed in an April 19 piece, is "the use of a 'small' nuclear weapon" against the Libyan plant. In the column, titled "Relaying Warning to Libya," Rosenthal indicated that he had been fed this information by Clinton administration officials, who warned that "next year is the cutoff point" before a U.S. assault on Libya.

Thousands demand 'stop bombing Lebanon!'

Continued from front page

support can be seen by the many Lebanese flags that have appeared in the windows of grocery stores, meat markets, and other small businesses, as well as signs such as "Stop Israeli terrorism in the Middle East!"

Mark Gilsdorf is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

BY MARNIE KENNEDY AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Five thousand demonstrators, mainly of Lebanese origin, marched here April 20 to demand an end to Israel's terror against the people of Lebanon. Called by the newly formed Australian-Lebanese Solidarity Committee for Lebanon, the demonstration was largely built by word of mouth in a few days.

The march was led by a banner demanding, "Stop the holocaust against the Lebanese people!" Hundreds of other signs were brought, including a huge placard entitled "American Peace" that depicted a figure holding a dove in one hand and a bomb behind its back.

Rows of women joined the march, some pushing baby carriages up to 10 in a row. Young people, many of them high school age, marched together leading the chants.

One group of young men insisted they be interviewed by a passing TV crew. Koder Jomaa told them their demand was,

"Get Israel out of Lebanon."

"It's not a holy war. It's a war for land," he said.

Nick Rodintsis, originally from Greece, said he was outraged by the *Sydney Morning Herald's* front page, which highlighted the killing of 18 Greek tourists by an antigovernment group in Cairo, Egypt, while news of Tel Aviv's slaughter of 100 Lebanese civilians in a United Nations compound was given little prominence.

Mohammed Zarqa, a Palestinian marcher, said, "Palestine is now like a volcano. Palestinians don't have guns; Israel has everything but Israel can't win."

Marnie Kennedy and Ron Poulsen are members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union.

BY CANDACE WAGNER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "One, two, three, four — we don't want your bloody war," chanted 1,000 people in front of the White House April 21, protesting Washington's support for the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon.

The crowd included many Lebanese-Americans, as well as Palestinians and other Arab-Americans. There was a small participation of other nationalities.

Three students at Montgomery County Community College in Maryland came to the action together. One is from Lebanon, one from Palestine, and another from the Philippines. The Lebanese student said

that he was "100 percent behind Hezbollah" until they could drive Israeli forces out of southern Lebanon. Ricky Loyola from the Philippines said he was upset that the U.S. media called Hezbollah's actions "terrorist" while calling the Israeli military's massacre of women and children "a mistake."

Albert Mokhiber, vice chair of the board of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), spoke, demanding an end to all U.S. aid to the government of Israel. He appealed to those present to donate to organizations helping refugees in Lebanon and to make blood donations. "Every night we will be picketing at the Israeli embassy," he announced to the cheers of the crowd.

The protest was organized by the ADC, which held its national convention in Washington over the weekend. The 500 conference participants came from many cities across the United States and Canada. The three-day meeting was marked by the dramatic events in Lebanon of the previous week.

A panel entitled "Rebuilding Lebanon: Country and Society" produced a lively discussion. The talk by Hala Maksoud, a Lebanese professor at George Mason University in Virginia, was by far the best received.

"How can we be but angry," she asked, "when we see many Arab leaders and Arab apologists accepting the distorted Israeli logic and blaming Hezbollah for providing Israel with the excuse to launch this

campaign? We Lebanese know better. We know most of all that resistance to occupation is a legal act sanctioned by international law, whether it is carried out by Hezbollah or any other party. They blame Iran and Syria for funding and arming Hezbollah. It is because they cannot believe that this resistance is indigenous, home-grown, the natural result of occupation."

Some 700 people gathered here for another protest April 23, including several busloads from Detroit.

Candace Wagner is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27.

Hundreds have turned out for protests in other cities across the United States and Canada. Some 150 people turned out April 18 for a demonstration in Toronto called on a few days' notice by the Canadian Arab Federation. One hundred rallied outside the Israeli consulate in Chicago two days earlier.

Seventy-five demonstrated in downtown San Francisco April 22, including many members of Arab student organizations. The General Union of Palestinian Students, the Arab Student Association, and others called for further protests in the Bay Area April 25.

In Boston, 400 people participated in an April 23 protest at Harvard Square, and 50 turned out for a rally in New York the next day.

Cuban workers prepare May Day celebrations

Continued from front page for May Day" and "Long Live the 17th Congress of the CTC."

The convention of the country's nationwide trade union federation opens April 27. On the morning of April 25 dozens of the 1,900 union delegates elected for the congress began arriving in Havana. They will discuss, amend, and vote on the Theses for the convention — a document prepared by the CTC National Committee and discussed by more than 3 million workers in 81,000 assemblies between January 15 and March 15. (The *Militant* published the resolution in four installments in March and April.) The delegates will also elect a new National Committee and union officers.

The Cuban daily *Granma* reported April 23 that nearly 1,300 international guests from 124 unions in 46 countries had confirmed participation on the eve of the gathering. They will also take part in an international solidarity conference here May 2. Some 55 unionists from the United States were the first delegation to arrive from abroad. They included members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; International Association of Machinists; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Service Employees International Union; and United Transportation Union.

A high point of the congress activities will be a May 1 march of hundreds of thousands of workers and students in Havana — the first national May Day demonstration in this country since 1993.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

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Discussion on 17th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers. Speaker: Betsy Farley. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 111 21 St. S. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

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Newark

Stop the Executions! Abolish the Death Penalty! Panel discussion. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey (Corner of Raymond Blvd.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

MINNEAPOLIS

St. Paul

Chernobyl: The First Decade. Speakers: Shean Bjoralt, Prairie Island Coalition; Ken Pentel, Greenpeace, active in Minnesota Chernobyl aid campaign; and Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, met with "Children of Chernobyl" in Cuba. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

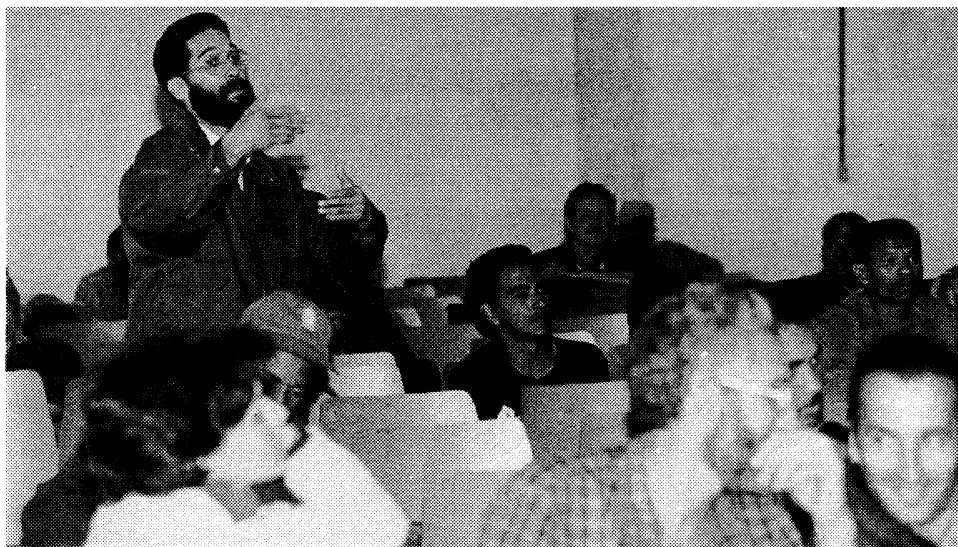
WASHINGTON

Seattle

Crisis in the Middle East. Panel discussion. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Report from Cuba by Participants in the Central Organization of Cuban Workers Congress. Speakers: Marc Severs and Guy Blue, members of International Association of Machinists at Alaska Airlines. Fri., May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Both events held at 1405 E. Madison. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Fight for a Free United Ireland Today. Speakers: Nuala Moore, Irish American Unity Conference national office; Mike Conaty, D.C. Chapter president, Irish-American Unity Conference; Bill Hughes, radio and newspaper commentator, author, Irish activist; Brian Williams, Socialist Workers Party, and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St. N.W. (Entrance on Florida at 18th). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Workers discuss CTC Theses in February meeting at plumbing fixtures plant near Havana. Some 1,900 delegates are expected at CTC national convention.

In addition, tens of thousands of union members are expected to participate in simultaneous local rallies in municipalities throughout Cuba.

CTC general secretary Pedro Ross told *Granma* that the union federation "will dedicate the May Day parade to the new generations of Cubans as the epilogue of the 17th congress." At an April 22 press conference in Revolution Square, Victoria Velázquez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, said the organization will use the opportunity of the massive proletarian mobilization to issue a call for a world festival of students and youth to take place in Cuba in the summer of 1997.

Preparations for the CTC convention and the pre-May Day rallies are the major feature of news coverage by radio, television, and newspapers here every day.

Many workers, like Oscar Hernández at La Lisa, have pointed to the re-emergence of the May Day mobilization as a symbol of the palpable progress workers have made in putting the country on the road toward economic recovery.

According to government figures, Cuba's Gross Domestic Product grew 7 percent in the first quarter of this year, following a 2.5 percent growth in 1995. The GDP growth rates register the reversal of a rapid decline in industrial and agricultural production precipitated by the abrupt end in trade on favorable terms with the former Soviet bloc countries. The April 20 *Granma* reported that this year's potato

harvest yielded 770,000 tons, higher than even the previous record set in 1985.

Four days later, *Granma* announced on its front page that the country's sugar mills had refined 4 million tons of sugar, exceeding last year's 50-year low of 3.3 million tons. The sugarcane harvest is on course to meet a national target of 4.5 million tons by the deadline of May 10. Achieving this goal will improve the country's capacity to import needed goods, since sugar remains Cuba's main export crop and a primary source of hard currency.

"This is like music to my ears," Ricardo Nocado Cordero, a construction worker and CTC secretary at the Lenin construction contingent, told U.S. delegates to the CTC congress during a visit to Matanzas. "The decisive effort to increase sugar production was one of the main goals set in the CTC theses. We are making progress and we are more confident." Cordero participated in a voluntary mobilization to cut sugarcane in the province the day before.

According to *Trabajadores*, 1.1 million workers volunteered for sugarcane cutting and other tasks in agriculture the weekend of April 19-21. These mobilizations were part of other actions to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the defeat of the U.S.-orchestrated mercenary invasion of Cuba on April 19, 1961, at Playa Girón (often referred to as the Bay of Pigs in the United States).

At a special April 19 ceremony near the

site of that battle, 1,000 students from Havana joined thousands of others in honoring Playa Girón combatants and veterans of the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army, which led the revolutionary war that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959.

Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Raúl Castro spoke at another event at the military airbus in San Antonio de los Baños the same day. "In the last 29 months a greater U.S. aggressiveness toward us has become evident," Castro said. "It reminds us in some ways of the 1960s. They try to destabilize or provoke incidents that in one or another case can lead to an armed response that could end up in a military intervention." Castro said the U.S. assaults come as a result of Washington's frustration with the revolution's capacity to resist the economic war.

During their April 23-24 visit to Matanzas, U.S. trade unionists saw additional signs of the economic recovery. Underneath a banner reading, "Resist, struggle, win," CTC secretary Luis Romero Diago at the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric plant said that production of electricity has greatly improved over the last year. The plant, which generates 20 percent of the country's electric power, has operated for a record 125 days without a shutdown.

"I have yet to make up my mind about the revolution," said Detroit newspaper striker and Teamsters union member Rick Torres at the end of the trip to Matanzas. "But I do know that the U.S. government has no right to try to tell these people what to do." This is Torres's first trip to Cuba.

"I've always heard the other side about Cuba," he said. "But I've seen a lot on the picket line in Detroit. I decided I wanted to see Cuba for myself.

"After being here a few days, I respect the Cuban people and their confidence to run their country a hundred times more."

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A few good belly laughs — A Georgia retreat, Little Horse Spa for the Spirit, offers the opportunity to seek inner peace and hear success-oriented speakers. The operator says, "It used to be, 'If I



Harry Ring

make a lot of money, I'll be happy.' Now it's, 'If I'm happy, I'll make a lot of money.'"

God bless the greedy — The *Wall Street Journal* reports a

growing response to the message that love of the Lord fits fine with the love of money. At a Seattle church, 500 people plunked down 50 bucks to hear Paul Zane, author of *God Wants You to be Rich*. The pastor said his message was, "If we're all poor, who's going to help the poor?"

Law 'n order in Tonga — In the South Pacific island chain of Tonga, ruled by a constitutional monarchy, the police warned the Pro-Democracy Committee not to proceed with planned meetings to discuss democracy. The Minister of Police declared that it's "against the law to induce people to hate the monarchy and the present form of government."

Love those car makers —

Ford says there's no need to recall 23 million cars and trucks that for a decade have included ignitions that are potential fire hazards. In Canada, they had to do a recall after reports of 300 steering column fires. In the United States, 800 fires have been reported. Ford has advised customers that if they're concerned they can have the switch replaced for \$100 or less.

Just put a lot of sauce on them — Singapore has banned the import of Tyson's chickens until Washington assures that no more spoiled chickens will be shipped. Tyson said it was only two shiploads and they arrived spoiled because the ships' refrigerator systems weren't working right. They assured that the chickens were

only spoiled, not contaminated. They didn't say why they tried to unload them.

Sows with silk ears — "The job has changed. It's not so much the brawn.... What we also look for are strong interpersonal skills, the ability to handle situations in a de-escalating manner." — Ray Coleman, an administrator at the Seattle-area county jail.

Caught a real crook — Suspecting employees might be tapping the till, an East Harlem bookie installed a video camera. It did prove useful when the place was raided. The tape — which police officials refuse to release — catches one cop reaching into the cash drawer and pocketing

the contents.

Anticrime program — Los Angeles bank robberies have dropped 58 percent. One reason, officials speculate, is that the elimination of many branches by mergers has reduced the number of targets.

The just society — A California appeals court upheld a 25-year-to-life sentence for a man convicted of stealing a pair of shoes and a wallet valued at \$35.88. The sentence was meted under the state's "three-strikes" law. Petty theft is usually considered a misdemeanor. But if the defendant has two previous theft convictions, it can be escalated into a felony.

Young Socialists launch speaking tour in Cuba

BY RÓGER CALERO

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba — Two Young Socialists from the United States are currently on a speaking tour of Cuba hosted by the Union of Young Communists (UJC). Diana Newberry from Minneapolis-St. Paul, and the author of these lines, from Newark, are visiting factories, schools, and farms throughout the island, speaking about the conditions facing youth and working people in the United States and learning about the Cuban revolution. This is the second time the UJC has extended such an invitation to members of the YS.

The U.S. State Department, meanwhile, has denied visas to two Cuban youth, Maika Guerrero and Iroel Sánchez, to enter the United States. The two researchers at the Center for Studies of Youth in Havana had been invited by faculty and students at dozens of universities to speak about Cuba today.

"In the United States, young people always know what they are fighting against," Newberry told students at the Tranquilo Sandalio Polytechnical Agricultural Institute in Pinar del Río province. "But it is not always clear what they are fighting for. The YS presents an alternative of the kind of society we want to build," and points to the socialist revolution in Cuba as an example of how this is possible, she said.

The first leg of the tour began in this province. The Young Socialists will also join in the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the victory by the Cuban people over the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs, the congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), and the commemoration of May 1, international workers day.

The agricultural school here has trained more than 3,000 agricultural technicians since the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship in 1959. Students from Angola, Mozambique, and Nicaragua have studied side by side with Cuban students, as part of Cuba's commitment to aid people in struggle throughout the world.

Much of the discussion so far has focused on the response of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces in shooting down two hostile planes from the United States over Cuban waters February 24. The Young Socialists have found a common reaction to the incident among workers and youth here. Nineteen-year-old polytechnic student Yosleny Galvez Leal explained that Cubans rejected the entry into Cuban airspace "because we are not going to allow an invasion under any circumstances."

"In Cuba there is not a diversity of opinions about the shooting down of the planes. There is only one: we shot them once and we will do it again," said tobacco farmer Eugenio Ramirez. He was part of a group of a dozen small independent tobacco farmers at an experimental center here receiving technical assistance to help them increase production for one of Cuba's main export crops.

The Young Socialists described conditions facing working farmers in the United States, which increasingly includes the threat of foreclosure on their land.

"The government here in Cuba doesn't apply the straightjacket that the capitalists used to have on us," responded farmer Ba-



Militant/Susan Zárate

YS member selling *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* at April 14 March to Fight the Right in San Francisco. YS leaders on a speaking tour in Cuba explain they sell the book to workers and youth at protests, picket lines, and factory gates.

cilio León Sánchez. "Our production is not for the monopolies but for the benefit of society as a whole. There is a great difference in the farmers in the U.S. and farmers in Cuba: our government always supports us. My father had that problem before the revolution. For every 1,000 pesos he received, the capitalist received millions of pesos. The economic situation is very hard, but clearly we do not need capitalism."

The Young Socialist's delegation also addressed a congress of the National

Union for Scientific Workers in preparation for the upcoming congress of the CTC. They described there how the *Militant* has serialized the theses for the CTC congress in its pages, in order for fighters in the U.S. labor movement to be able to study it.

The socialists also visited a factory where tobacco leaves are selected for the next stage of cigar production. Most of the workers in this facility are women. Newberry reported that in the United States, women are paid less than men. She de-

scribed that as part of the government-employer offensive against the working class, affirmative action is being targeted, one of the gains that emerged from the Black and women's rights movements.

"In the United States there is a different appreciation of the work men and women do," said 28-year-old Moraina Muñoz, who has worked in the factory for seven years.

Many of the workers were interested in the so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity act, recently signed into law by U.S. president William Clinton. The legislation tightens Washington's 36-year-long economic and trade embargo against Cuba. Lazara Hernández wanted to know what North American youth think about the law.

"The majority of young people in the United States don't know about the law or what it is," responded Newberry. "Under capitalism, the government wants to keep us out of politics. But we get a good response when we explain the facts, like around the shooting down of the planes. Many agreed that Cuba had the right to shoot down the planes — even in Miami," she concluded.

The YS members passed copies of the Spanish-language socialist monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* around at different worksites and schools, along with books containing the writings and speeches of revolutionary leaders published by Pathfinder Press. They were met with intense interest, especially the new English-language edition of Ernesto Che Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*.

Cuban workers and youth particularly wanted to know how revolutionaries in the United States are able to sell this literature at factories, schools, and on the streets.

Farmers oppose new farm legislation

BY BILL KALMAN AND JON HILLSON

CINCINNATI, Ohio — In early April, President William Clinton signed into law a farm bill that ends many price supports farmers have received since the 1930s. Clinton acknowledged the so-called Freedom to Farm Bill "would leave farmers and the rural communities in which they live vulnerable to reductions in crop prices or yields." Besides ending price supports over a seven-year period, the new law only maintains for two more years the food stamp program, which affects millions of working people in the countryside and cities.

The farm bill, monopoly concentration in the countryside, and pollution were among the topics discussed by 600 members of the National Farmers Union (NFU) during its March 8-11 annual convention here.

The gathering attracted grain, livestock, dairy, and tobacco producers, most of them working farmers. Founded in 1902, the NFU represents 250,000 farm and ranch families, mostly in the Midwest and High Plains regions. Most in attendance this year were older farmers, many retired or semi-retired. "This time of year," a 35-year-old South Dakota farmer said, refer-

ring to preparations for planting, "it's hard for young farmers to take time off."

The theme of the convention was to urge the Clinton administration to veto the farm bill, which had recently been passed by both houses of Congress and was signed by the president a few weeks later.

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman set the tone of the convention in his keynote speech. He promised White House support for "family farm safety nets," a term used in previous farm bills delineating commodity price supports. On signing the act, Clinton said he would submit legislation next year to "strengthen the farm safety net."

The issue generating the most discussion at the meeting was the impact of the monopoly concentration of meatpackers and factory-scale livestock facilities on working farmers and rural communities.

One plenary session stressed cooperation and "dialogue" between the capitalist megafarms and small livestock producers. "We need to look at the big picture," said John Lacey, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the main ranching trade association, and called for "better communication between the various agriculture groups." He advocated a fight against meat imports.

Reflecting widespread opposition to the capitalist megafarms among owners of small and medium-sized farms, more than 250 people attended a workshop on this question. A panel featured Kansas cattle rancher Wanda Adams and Iowa farmer Blaine Nickles.

"In the last three years, 13,000 to 16,000 hog farmers have been lost in Iowa because of big corporate farms," Iowa Farmers Union vice president Gary Hoske remarked in the discussion period.

Farmers at the conference expressed different views on the question of immigration. Nickles said he had "nothing against Mexican workers. Almost every day they send back a couple of carloads of them," in reference to increased immigration police raids in the Midwest. This statement received a smattering of applause, reflecting some anti-immigrant sentiment in the audience.

One person who thought differently was Linda Hessman, a member of the board of directors of the Kansas Farmers Union and long-time immigrant rights activist from Dodge City, Kansas. "A lot of immigrant workers were farmers in their own countries," she said. "Farmers need to stop and look at the history of these people, including how and why they got here."

Protest Tel Aviv's terrorism

The marches and other public protests that have been organized in many cities in response to the Israeli government's terror campaign against the Lebanese people are exactly what is needed now. Those who oppose the assault on Lebanon need to answer the lies of the big-business media, which brands fighters against oppression as "terrorists," while the real terrorists — the capitalist rulers of Israel — rain death and destruction on hundreds of thousands of our fellow working people.

While Tel Aviv is waging this bloody assault, Washington is not an innocent bystander, much less a peace-seeking mediator. The U.S. government, with William Clinton at the helm, is actively on the side of the Zionist regime. It shares the Israeli government's fervent goal of breaking the resistance of the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The White House's "peace" plan calls on Hezbollah to lay down their arms while Tel Aviv's troops continue to occupy a piece of Lebanon. But the freedom fighters continue to resist.

Washington is not the only imperialist power sticking its snout into the Mideast to protect its class interests. French capitalists — the former colonial power in Lebanon — have sent their foreign minister to root around for influence in the region. The contagious example of the Palestinian fighters, above all, strikes fear and hatred in the hearts of the lords of the counting houses from Paris to London to Washington.

The Israeli war on Lebanon increases the danger of imperialist wars around the world. Any success for Tel Aviv will embolden Washington and other powers to threaten, provoke, and attack other nations on their hit list — such as Cuba, China, North Korea, Yugoslavia,

Libya, and Liberia. The recent threat by Clinton administration officials to launch a nuclear bomb on Libya underscores this fact.

Israeli brutality, if not answered with protests, will also encourage every racist and reactionary force at home to carry out assaults on working people. The cop's billy club wielded against Mexican workers in Riverside, California, and the Israeli shells hitting civilians in Lebanon have the same purpose: to terrorize working people and make the world safe for exploitation. That too is the purpose of the "antiterrorism" law just signed by Clinton, which will make it easier for the government to ban or deport political activists from the United States and speed up executions as a weapon of terror against the working class.

No matter how much Clinton and others talk of peace, there will be no peace. Not until the Palestinians get the Israeli boot off their necks and are fully in control of their entire homeland. This, however, is incompatible with the existence of Israel, a Zionist state built on the dispossession of the Palestinians as an imperialist outpost in the region. Peace will come with the dismantling of the colonial-settler regime there and its replacement with a democratic, secular Palestine where Palestinians and Jews can live as equals.

Despite its viciousness, the Israeli regime and its allies are weaker than ever. They remain unable to stamp out the resistance led by Hezbollah. Instead, this resistance has inspired fighters around the globe. This fightback should encourage working people everywhere to organize more street protests and speakouts to demand: Israel out of Lebanon! Stop the bombing!

Celebrate May Day with Cuba

On May 1 workers of the world can join in a celebration of a victory that is truly worthy of a parade — the survival and strengthening of the Cuban revolution. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans will march that day, a proud, living example that in spite of unrelenting attacks the working class can hold and wield power, and run a country to guarantee the basic needs of the population while joining in the worldwide battle to advance humanity along the same road.

Cuba's working class can celebrate the initial recovery in their economy, badly battered by the end in preferential trade relations with the Soviet Union since 1989 and by the economic war of the U.S. government against them. This recovery is made possible by workers and farmers acting to take more and more control over the basic decisions in the factories and fields. Cuba's sugar production, for example, after hitting a low of 3.3 million tons in 1995, is on target to make the projected 4.5 million tons this year. The trade unions mobilized hundreds of thousands of workers to help make this victory possible. As representatives of Cuba's unions meet in a national congress, they will be discussing how to further strengthen the hold of the working class on the reins of society.

This is possible only because of the Cubans' refusal to get down on their knees and give in to the demands of the imperialist rulers in Washington, who offer promises of easing their squeeze in exchange for giving up control of the country. Cuba's workers and youth have stood firm and fought to defend the gains of their revolution, keeping state power in their hands and setting the terms for any necessary retreats or compromises as Cuba was forced to reinsert itself in the dog-eat-dog world capitalist economy.

What has this meant? That in Cuba providing food and medical care for all remains a priority, that education is free and available for every child whether in remote mountain towns or in the cities, that the land is in the hands of those who work it, that social security re-

mains a right, and that the independence and sovereignty of the nation has never been surrendered. It means that millions see it as their responsibility not only to defend their revolution on the island of Cuba but to stand in solidarity with others around the world who are fighting against the ravages of capitalism and imperialist exploitation.

In Mexico, France, Poland, or Senegal workers who are facing growing unemployment and social devastation can see in the Cuban revolution an example of the fact that there is another road that can be taken — an example that becomes more powerful each day as the imperialist governments impose harsher conditions on workers at home and abroad.

From the start, Washington viewed people taking control of their country and resources, ousting the capitalist landlords, bankers, and businessmen, as a dangerous example. That's why 35 years ago on April 17 the Yankee rulers organized an attempt to invade the island and declare a new government — one beholden to U.S. imperialism. In preparation for the battle Cuba's leaders declared that those who fought to defend the island would be fighting to defend socialism. The island's people rallied to the call and dealt a decisive defeat to the U.S.-organized invasion at Playa Girón (the Bay of Pigs) within 72 hours. Today, Cuba remains a dangerous example, and the recovery of the economy has prompted Washington to step up its attacks on the Cuban people.

Working people worldwide should protest every probe against Cuba by the U.S. rulers. Tell co-workers, friends, and others the truth about the Cuban revolution, such as organizing reportbacks for unionists who are attending the congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers. Urge people to see Cuba for themselves — one opportunity is the July U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange delegation organized by the National Network on Cuba. That's the best way to celebrate May Day together with the front-line battalion of the working class that Cuba represents.

Zionism versus the Palestinians

Below are excerpts from "Israel and the Arab Revolution," a resolution adopted by the 1971 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. It is reprinted from *Israel and the Arab Revolution: Fundamental Principles of Revolutionary Marxism* by Gus Horowitz, published by Pathfinder Press (see ad on page 6). This publication, part of the Education for Socialists series, includes reports and articles by Horowitz answering a minority in the SWP who disagreed with the resolution's declaration of unconditional support for the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination, and instead called for the right of self-determination for the Israeli Jewish nationality. It is copyright © 1973 Pathfinder, reprinted with permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

1. The Socialist Workers Party gives unconditional support to the national liberation struggles of the Arab peoples against imperialism, that is, we support all these struggles regardless of their current leaderships. Our foremost task in implementing such support is to educate and mobilize the American people against U.S. imperialist actions in the Mideast.

2. Israel, created in accordance with the Zionist goal of establishing a Jewish state, could be set up in the Arab East only at the expense of the indigenous peoples of the area. Such a state could come into existence and maintain itself only by relying upon imperialism. Israel is a settler-colonialist and expansionist capitalist state maintained principally by American imperialism, hostile to the surrounding Arab peoples. It is an imperialist beachhead in the Arab world that serves as the spearhead of imperialism's fight against the Arab revolution. We unconditionally support the struggles of the Arab peoples against the state of Israel.

Subjugation of the Palestinians

3. The principal victims of the creation of Israel were the Palestinians — i.e., the Arabs who inhabited the region where Israel was established, who have been driven from their homes or placed in subjugation within Israel and the newly occupied territories. The Palestinians are a part of the Arab peoples, but they also form a distinct national grouping, with its own history of struggle against imperialism. There were Palestinian uprisings in 1921, 1929, and during the 1930s, reaching a high point in 1936-1939. At the height of the 1936 rebellion, the Palestinians conducted a six-month general strike. Expulsion from their homeland through the creation of Israel greatly intensified national consciousness among the Palestinians. The upsurge of Palestinian nationalism in the recent period, especially after the 1967 war, was particularly marked in the refugee camps and newly occupied territories as a result of the direct oppression these people have suffered at the hands of Israel. The September 1970 civil war in Jordan further intensified Palestinian national consciousness.

The struggle of the Palestinian people against their oppression and for self-determination has taken the form of a struggle to destroy the state of Israel. The currently expressed goal of this struggle is the establishment of a democratic, secular Palestine. We give unconditional support to this struggle of the Palestinians for self-determination.

An integral part of our program for the Palestinian revolution and the Arab revolution as a whole is support of full civil, cultural, and religious rights for all nationalities in the Mideast, including the Israeli Jews. The major Palestinian liberation organizations also advance this concept and view it as essential to their attempt to win the Israeli Jewish masses away from support to Israel.

Zionism is not a national liberation movement

4. Our revolutionary socialist opposition to Zionism and the Israeli state has nothing in common with anti-Semitism, as the pro-Zionist propagandists maliciously and falsely assert. Anti-Semitism is anti-Jewish racism used to justify and reinforce oppression of the Jewish people. Marxists have been and remain the most militant and uncompromising fighters against anti-Semitism and the oppression of Jews.

The source of the oppression of the Jewish people in this era is the capitalist system, which in its period of decay carries all forms of racist oppression to the most barbarous extremes. This was horribly illustrated in the holocaust directed against the Jews of Europe by German imperialism under the Nazi regime....

Zionism is not, as it claims, a national liberation movement. Zionism is a political movement that developed for the purpose of establishing a settler-colonialist state in Palestine and that rules the bourgeois society headed by the Israeli state today in alliance with world imperialism....

The imperialists and Zionists to the contrary, the basic interests of the Jewish masses of Israel reside in alliance with the Palestinian liberation struggle and support of the goal of a democratic Palestine. We have incessantly warned Jews throughout the world: Zionism leads you into conflict with your potential allies — the oppressed of the world — and has led you to ally with your worst enemy, imperialism. Imperialism in its death agony has already led to one holocaust against European Jewry; it can inflict similar catastrophes again unless it is overthrown in time by the mass force of the socialist revolution.

Saskatchewan strike puts phone company on hold

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

cal press telling strikers not to be greedy. City workers, on the other hand, are bringing coffee and donuts to the picket lines to support the telephone strikers, who are pulling 20 hours' picket duty a week. Strikers suspect the company of hiring students prior to the strike as "managers." Managers are receiving \$50 per hour for overtime in addition to their salaries and cab fare. SaskTel claims no replacements are being

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

After 13 months of working without a contract, 3,600 members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada struck Saskatchewan Telephone (SaskTel) April 10. "Many of us have never been on strike before," said Mary Lou Jones, a long-distance operator. "We're novices, but morale on the line is good."

The walkout is the first full-fledged walkout against this provincial phone company. A 68 percent majority voted to take strike action.

SaskTel workers, who are paid less than their counterparts in other regions of Canada, are demanding parity. The company is offering a wage increase it claims is 3 percent. Strikers dispute that figure, pointing out that part of the "raise" has already been lost since the workers have been without a contract.

Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow has been quoted in the lo-

used.

The union is organizing a strike solidarity rally April 23 in the provincial capital of Regina.

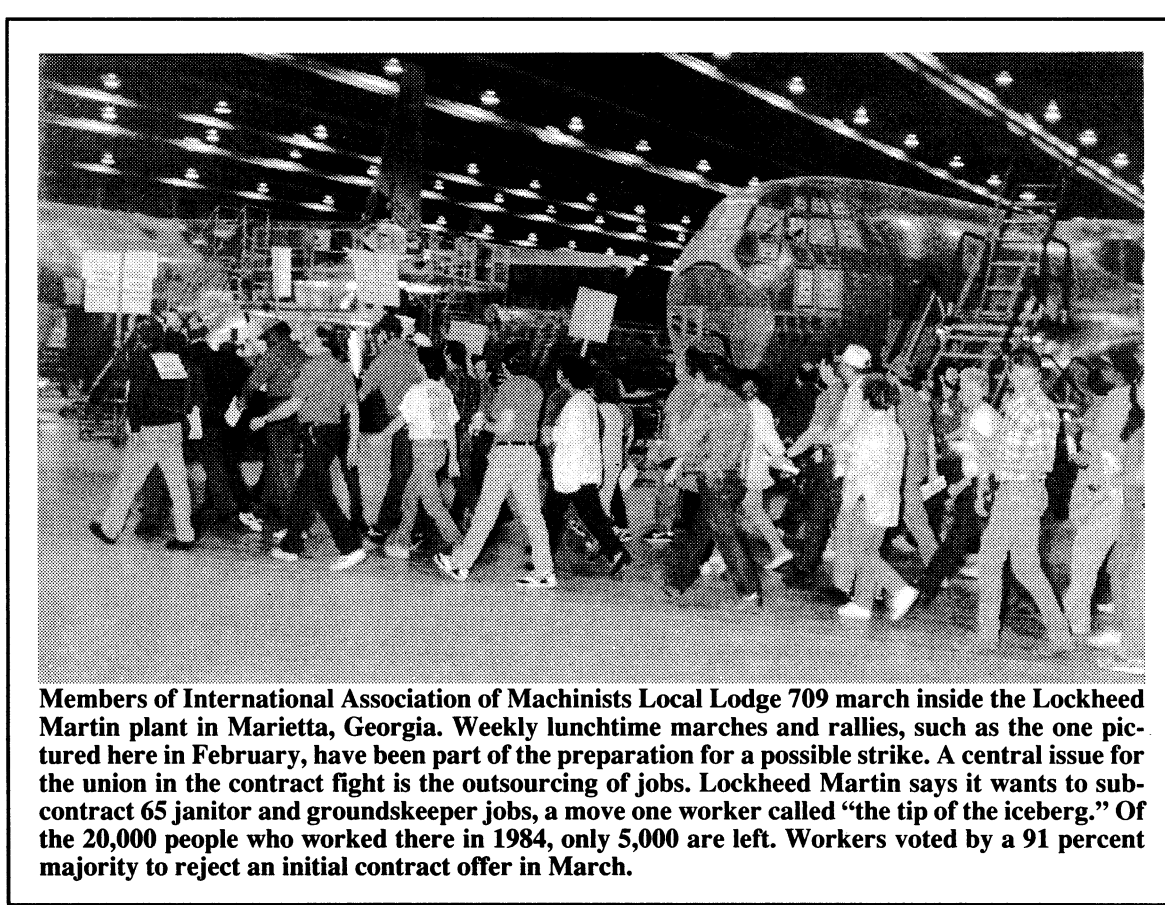
Kenworth strikers vow to fight threatened closing

STE.-THERESE, QUEBEC — Striking members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union at the Kenworth truck plant here have stepped up their protest activities following the April 9 announcement by the owners that the plant will be mothballed.

Hundreds of workers joined rallies in Quebec City, Ottawa, and Montreal demanding government action to keep the plant open. One such protest was held April 17 outside the U.S. consulate. Kenworth is owned by Paccar Inc. of Seattle. Some 850 members of CAW Local 728 have been walking picket lines for eight months.

On April 10, workers blocked a major highway beside the plant for an hour. Strikers carried a banner reading "Kenworth: 1967 - 1996 Unacceptable."

Striker Robert Desmeules



Members of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 709 march inside the Lockheed Martin plant in Marietta, Georgia. Weekly lunchtime marches and rallies, such as the one pictured here in February, have been part of the preparation for a possible strike. A central issue for the union in the contract fight is the outsourcing of jobs. Lockheed Martin says it wants to subcontract 65 janitor and groundskeeper jobs, a move one worker called "the tip of the iceberg." Of the 20,000 people who worked there in 1984, only 5,000 are left. Workers voted by a 91 percent majority to reject an initial contract offer in March.

called the company's announcement "a new way to negotiate. You threaten to close and then the governments intervene."

The Quebec provincial government has pledged to keep the plant open by calling on the union to make fresh concessions while offering a \$15 million modernization loan.

Steelworkers march for Bridgestone boycott

DES MOINES, Iowa — More than 300 supporters of the fight by the United Steelworkers of Amer-

ica (USWA) at Bridgestone/Firestone rallied April 13 at the state capitol here.

After a 10-month walkout against the company, United Rubber Workers (URW) union officials instructed workers to take down picket lines in May 1995. The URW has merged with the USWA.

Local unionists have since stepped up their campaign calling for a boycott of Bridgestone/Firestone products. Workers have leafleted outside local stores and distributed signs reading "Boycott Bridgestone/Firestone."

Following the rally, participants marched to a meeting of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association to present them with a letter asking them not to sell cars with Bridgestone/Firestone tires, a request the association said it would take "under advisement."

Monica Jones, member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 728 on strike at Kenworth in Ste.-Thérèse, Quebec; and Shirley Peña, member of United Auto Workers Local 997 in Des Moines, Iowa contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Small farmers vs. profits

Radio listeners in north-central Iowa recently got a chance to hear both sides of the debate on the future of the livestock industry. On March 29 radio station KWMT, widely listened to across that part of the state, featured an annual agricultural forum broadcast live with some of the best known proponents and opponents of large-scale livestock farms in the state.

Speakers supporting the increase of the "factory farms" included both the State Senate and House Agriculture Committee chairman, an official with the Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA), the deputy director of the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and a spokesman for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

Opposing this trend were Larry Ginter, a small hog producer active in the Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (ICCI), and Gary Hoske, who farms 600 acres of row crops and livestock and is vice president of the Iowa Farmers Union.

Russ Eddie of the Senate Agriculture Committee began the debate by gushing, "The future is unlimited profitability for our industry!" He pointed towards the untapped possibilities of exporting meat to Russia, China, and the Pacific Rim. The revolution in how pork is produced, said Eddie, was due to consumer demand and "simple economics."

Because of a good business climate in the state, he maintained, "it's a lot easier for a young person in Iowa who wants to produce pork — not raise pigs, but produce pork."

Brent Halling of the IPPA agreed, saying that the "future of livestock is very good. Iowa can either throw it out the window or

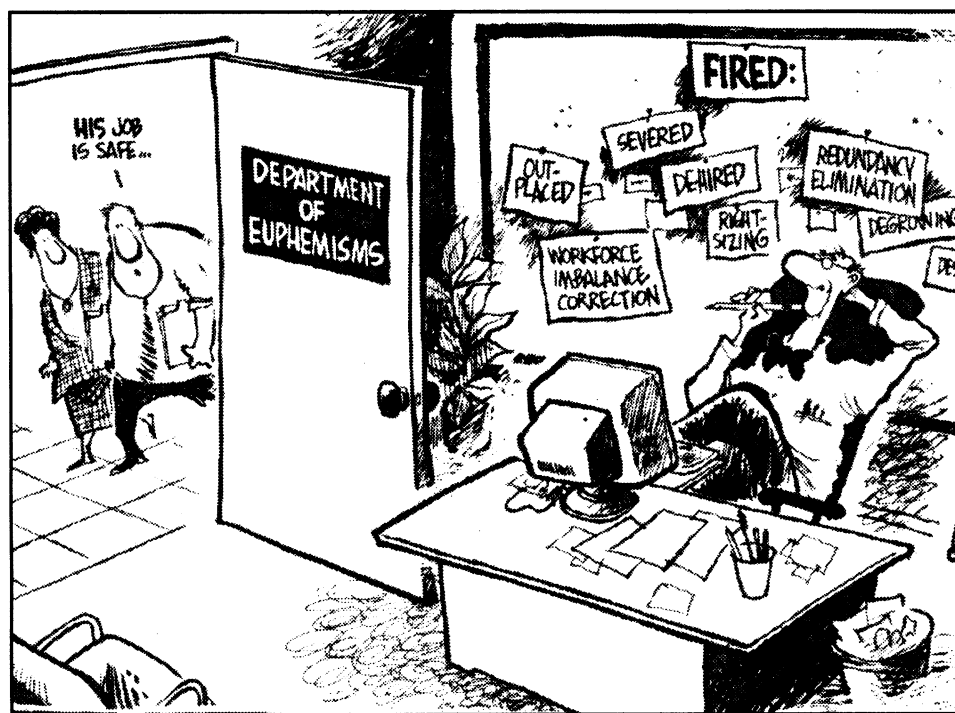
we can prosper." Halling also supported the Animal Feeding Operation Act as "sound and logical."

This law was passed last year by the Iowa legislature. It sets new separation distances for confinement facilities and manure lagoons, requires manure-management plans, and provides "nuisance protection" for livestock producers who get sued by nearby residents. It also cements zoning and permit decisions for confinement facilities at the state level, instead of at the county or township level. This bill is supported by the IPPA, Murphy Family Farms, and Iowa Select Farms, among others.

Ginter lambasted this act as pro-factory farm: "The overwhelming majority of Iowa citizens want local control, and are repelled by the nuisance protection clause of this bill."

"The four biggest hog producers give the National Pork Producers Council \$3 million a year in dues," Ginter explained. "We will hold our officials accountable for their role in this!" he said to applause from the studio audience.

When House Agriculture chair Eddie was asked during discussion why counties shouldn't have the ability to regulate hog megafarms on a local level, he gave three reasons: favoritism and cor-



ruption on the local level, the potential to make decisions detrimental to smaller operators, and that local decision-making would become "too political." He also indicated that he didn't have a definition for what a "family farm" was.

Ginter responded to this forcefully. "Most people in the countryside can understand what a factory farm is and what a family farm is. And we're sick and tired of politicians dictating to the people who work in the countryside." *Bill Kalman*
Des Moines, Iowa

Disagrees on Taiwan

I have been reading the *Militant* for several months now and I have consistently agreed with your positions. However, I was disappointed by recent articles support-

ing China's right to annex Taiwan.

The Taiwanese people have their own history, language, and culture, and they deserve to be free not only from the counterrevolutionary Chinese who invaded in 1949, but also from the government in Beijing.

The Taiwanese people have made it clear that they do not desire reunification with China. After you supported freedom for the Irish and Quebecois people, it is hypocritical to deny the same right of self-determination to Taiwan.

In fact, it seems that the only reason you support Beijing is that they call themselves communists. However, a look at China's recent history will show that they have not always represented the people. In the 1950s, China refused to support the Soviet de-

Stalinization program and launched an anti-Soviet propaganda drive. Since 1951, China has oppressed the people of Tibet and closed Buddhist monasteries. China betrayed the workers state of Vietnam in 1979 and invaded it to support the brutal Cambodian regime that had massacred over one million people. In 1989, the Chinese rulers brutally attacked the students and workers demonstrating for democratic reforms in Beijing.

Since Chairman Mao's death, China's bureaucracy has cut education, reintroduced free enterprise, and done everything possible to bring capitalism back to China. The U.S. rulers, anxious to take advantage of China's gigantic consumer market, have bent over backward to meet China's demands. In fact, there is almost no difference today between China and the world's other imperialist powers. Please reexamine your position on Sino-Taiwanese relations

Loren Meyer
Helena, Montana

Critique the candidates

I think that a series of articles that analyzed and critiqued the various left-wing candidates for presidential office would help in the process of deciding which of these candidates will serve as the best alternative to Clinton.

Robert Calkins
Portland, Oregon

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.

Ontario workers protest social cuts

BY BOB ALLEN
AND JOHN STEELE

KITCHENER, Ontario — Tens of thousands of unionists, students, and others gathered here April 19 for the third work stoppage and "Day of Protest" called by the Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL). The union federation has been calling large actions to oppose proposed cuts in government funding of social services, layoffs of thousands of government workers, and government attacks on union rights. Similar labor actions in the province were held in London last December and Hamilton in February.

The day's activities began early as union members from cities around the province converged to set up picket lines at workplaces in the nearby cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. Many unionized enterprises that were not picketed shut down for the day. There was no mail delivery or public transit in the Tri-City area, and government services were sharply reduced.

At the Budd auto parts plant in Waterloo, which employs 1,500 workers, a busload of members of Canadian Auto Workers Local 27 in London, 60 miles away, took charge of the plant's three entrances before 6:00 a.m. The large parking lot inside the gate stood empty. A dozen cars with management personnel were stalled on the busy highway outside, some of their occupants acting nonchalant, others scowling. Brilliant orange stickers on dashboards and windshields proclaiming "Nonunion Employee" did not gain them admission.

At the suggestion of a picket who was a woman, Local 27 member Jim Carrie leaned toward the window of the lead car



Militant/John Sarge

Thousands of trade unionists, students, and others rallied April 19 in Kitchener, Ontario, to oppose cuts in social benefits. Pickets shut down many factories in the area.

and said, "We'll let you cross if you can name one woman who works on the production floor." The plant employs no women in production.

Area elementary and secondary schools closed for the day, and university exams were postponed.

Nearly 1,000 high school and university students, teachers, and university workers marched from the University of Waterloo campus to the rally site at Kitchener City Hall. A popular chant was, "Hey Harris, we don't care, try to stop us if you dare!" a reference to Ontario premier Michael Harris, whom many hold accountable for

the government cuts.

Sarah Lambie, a high school student active in anti-cutbacks protests, remarked, "Every human being is entitled to these [social service] programs; the government is working for the wealthy."

'Health care being butchered'

At noon marchers in the main parade streamed into Kitchener City Hall plaza to cheers and applause, singing *Solidarity Forever*, the colorful banners and pennants of union contingents snapping in the wind. Imaginative banners, placards, caps, buttons, and T-shirts identified auto work-

ers, steelworkers, power workers, postal workers, Teamsters, secondary school teachers, nurses associations, public and government employees unions, the theatrical and stage employees union, and numerous religious and community organizations.

According to the *Toronto Star*, march organizers estimated the size of the demonstration at 40,000. Cathy Drown, a registered nurse at Waterloo Grand River Health Care Center, said, "We're here to save the health-care system in Ontario." She added that the health-care system "is being butchered. It is struggling to survive. Service is not being maintained. Doctors are leaving Ontario; patients are living in the hallways. They are planning to replace RNs with semi-trained health-care workers. I do not think that is safe. Now they have one nurse for every 30 or 40 patients."

The mood was not only of protest but of confidence and celebration. The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) workers, who recently waged a hard-fought strike against the provincial government, entered the square chanting their battle cry: "No Justice, No Peace," and singing their battle hymn, "We are OPSEU, mighty, mighty OPSEU." Sam Elejel, a member of CAW Local 27 in London, commented, "OPSEU is stronger; Harris was not able to follow his agenda of using scabs and cops."

Shelly Speiram, a member of CAW Local 27 at ITT Automotive in London, noted the broad and sustained appeal of these union actions. "The cuts are affecting so many people that we have to take a stand," she said. "My brother-in-law is a teacher and might lose his job."

Union leaders from across the province will meet in Toronto on May 2 to discuss plans for the next action. One proposal is to hold it in Toronto on June 8, first anniversary of the election of Premier Harris.

John Steele is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113 in Toronto.

UK marchers condemn cop beatings

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

MANCHESTER, England — "Justice for Amer Rafiq. No justice no peace!"

These were the angry chants of 1,500 protesters who marched on April 9 to demand justice for 21-year-old Amer Rafiq. The Manchester police arrested Rafiq in the early hours of the morning on February 21 in the Rusholme community, during the Muslim festival of Eid. After his arrest, the cops beat Rafiq with such brutality that he lost one of his eyes and is in danger of being blinded in the other.

The Amer Rafiq Defence Campaign, organized out of the Pakistani Community Centre, produced a leaflet that explained, "Over the past few years, police harassment of people celebrating Eid has become a regular feature in Manchester. Many men and women have been manhandled. Police dogs have been let loose and have bitten passersby. Horses, riot squads and helicopters have at times been used to disperse peaceful gatherings in and around Rusholme. The tragedy for

Amer Rafiq was a disaster waiting to happen and was the result of heavy handedness by a racist police force.

"As one of Amer's sisters said it is imperative that this incident is not brushed under the carpet. While Amer is lucky to be alive, the outcome for many other black people following such police action is death in custody. To date, in Amer's case, let alone any officer being charged, no one has even been suspended."

The demonstration attracted many youth and others from the Asian community in Manchester. Protesters marched past the many Asian restaurants in Rusholme where the arrest took place, and where Rafiq worked as a waiter. Many of the restaurants closed as a gesture of respect as the march passed. Some waiters came out to join a minute's silence as the names were read of some of those who had been killed as a result of racist attacks and in police custody in Britain.

Speaking at the rally following the march, Tariq Mahmoud from the defense campaign said, "It's not complicated. Amer had two eyes when he was arrested; after he had one.... Amer's case will not end tomorrow or until we get at least some of the culprits punished."

Anandi, a representative of a group of young Asian women who had helped build and steward the march, also spoke at the rally. She said, "Countless women have suffered police brutality, it affects us all. Irish people have suffered, working people have suffered, African people have suffered. We need to stand together."

"The police should be suspended, they get away with it all the time," said Mavis Oguntoye, one of the demonstrators. "It happens too often. If we had done it to one of them we wouldn't have a leg to stand on."

Saddas Nisar said, "I don't think there was any motive. I'm very disgusted at what the police did. The police should be suspended. Nothing will get his eye back. It happened because the police are racist."

Fifty people turned up to the first meeting of the Amer Rafiq defense committee the week following the march.

Rally in Athens demands equal rights for immigrants

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS — Six hundred people rallied at the Polytechnic University here March 30 to demand immediate legalization of all immigrants and refugees, an end to deportations, and equal rights for Greek and foreign-born workers. The event, the first of its kind in Athens, was sponsored by dozens of immigrant rights, antiracist, and other groups. About two-thirds of the participants were immigrants from the Philippines, Yugoslavia, and several African and Arab nations, as well as Turkish, Kurdish, and Polish workers.

"There are now more than 500,000 immigrants living in Greece," explained Ianna Kourtovik, a prominent immigrant rights lawyer who chaired the meeting. "They represent 10 percent of the labor force. But the government has only issued 25,000 work permits."

Most work permits are tied to a specific employer. A new "amnesty" bill proposed by the ruling social-democratic party, PASOK, would maintain this setup. The officialdom of the General Confederation of Greek Workers backs this legislation, but many immigrant rights organizations have spoken out against it.

"We demand that everyone be legalized now and that they all have access to the social benefits and rights that Greeks have," said Kourtovik.

Hussein Bebek, a Turkish political refugee and leader of the ad hoc coalition that organized the event, explained, "This is the first time in Greece that so many foreigners have united for their rights." He

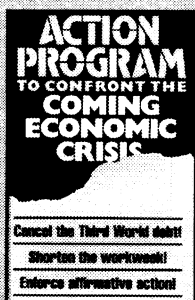
added, "Immigrants are under attack everywhere today — in the United States they want to build a 3,000-kilometer wall. But we are not the cause of unemployment. We don't close factories; we don't exploit social benefits."

Samsideen Iddrisu, president of the Pan-African Association of Greece, said, "It's the economic relations imposed on us by the rich countries that force us to leave to find work. Then in the host countries we become scapegoats for unemployment. It's only through the legalization of all that the road will be opened for brotherhood between Greek and foreigner." He noted that the proposed amnesty law would exclude Albanians, who are almost half the immigrants living in Greece.

Anna Bell, a garment worker and member of the Garment Workers Union, spoke on behalf of dozens of organized Filipino workers from the now-closed Alexander Fashion. "We came to the point where we understood that we Filipinos and the Greek workers in the factory faced the same exploiter. We began talking to the Greeks, we began to cooperate, we began slowdowns and other actions. We slowly united in struggle and organized the union."

Alexander Fashion moved its operations to Bulgaria and fired the workers here. The Filipinos faced immediate deportation. After a sit-down protest last July, they won a stay, but their fight against deportation continues. About 30 Filipino garment workers participated in the rally.

An action program to confront the world economic crisis



How a program to fight for jobs and affirmative action, and to combat imperialism's pillage of the Third World, is crucial to unite working people internationally. \$3

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