

# THE MILITANT

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tell truth about Cuba

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Stop bombing of Iraq!

Picket lines, demonstrations, and educational meetings are needed now to protest the Clinton administration's escalating war moves against Iraq. The wealthy rulers of the United States — loyally represented by the Democratic White House and the Republican-led Congress — are bombing Iraq not to defend Kurds or the Iraqi people but to protect their own megaprofits and imperial power in the region. Their ultimate goal is to set up a servile pro-U.S. regime in Baghdad to police their interests — above all, oil — in the Mideast. And Clinton, of course, is trying to ensure his re-election.

### EDITORIAL

The Clinton administration's imperial arrogance knows no bounds. Iraq is a sovereign country. It belongs to the Iraqi people, not to Washington, London, or Paris, whose

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## Clinton orders new attack

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

A week after launching two rounds of missile attacks against Iraq, the White House ordered a new bombing. As the *Militant* went to press, Washington sent stealth bombers to Kuwait and moved four B-52 bombers closer to the Middle East to prepare for an attack that U.S. officials said would be more destructive than the previous ones.

The administration said its military escalation was in response to the firing of an Iraqi missile at U.S. warplanes patrolling northern Iraq, where Washington, London, and Paris have imposed a "no-fly zone" since the Gulf War.

U.S. defense secretary William Perry stated that Washington's attacks would be "disproportionate" to any

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**Protests condemn U.S. assault**  
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U.S. Navy F-18 jets are on high alert in preparation for new bombing

## 250,000 protest austerity in Germany

BY CARL-ERIK ISAACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Trade unions in Germany organized demonstrations in six cities September 7 to protest the government-proposed austerity package that is to be voted on by the lower house of the country's parliament (Bundestag) September 13. Some 250,000 workers turned out

for the rallies and demonstrations.

The September 9 German newspaper *Die Welt* carried the news story under the headline "A hot fall against the austerity package." Some facts about the labor protests were also reported in the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*.

According to these publications, 60,000

people demonstrated in Berlin against German chancellor Helmut Kohl's austerity plan. In Stuttgart, IG-Metal chairman Claus Zwickel spoke to 50,000 protesters urging them to vote the government down in 1998. In Leipzig, East Germany, Herbert Mai, the public employee's union chairman, predicted widespread protests this fall over the proposed social cuts. Some 35,000 workers took part in demonstrations in Hamburg. Sizable actions were also held in Dortmund and Ludwigshafen.

The Munich daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* commented, "Noteworthy is the fact that for the second time this year, the unions have managed something they could only dream of for many previous years. They mobilized hundreds of thousands of people; 350,000 came to the June 15 protests in Bonn, 100,000 more than expected. For last Saturday the German Trade Union Federation aimed for 150,000 demonstrators, which was exceeded by 90,000... After a long crisis, the unions seem to be recovering and gaining influence."

Bundestag had approved major cuts in social programs on July 10 and 11. These included raising the retirement age, cutting sick pay and pensions, reducing unemployment benefits, postponing an increase of payments to workers with children, and making it easier for small businesses to fire workers. But on July 20, Germany's Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament, rejected the austerity plan in a sign of nervousness among the German rulers over mounting labor resistance. The package was then sent to a parliamentary arbitration committee that was charged to come up with a revised proposal. The Bundesrat is elected by the country's 16 state governments and is dominated by the Social Democratic Party. Kohl's Christian Democrats have a majority in the Bundestag.

## Big-business parties shift image in U.S. election

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Entering the last two months of the U.S. presidential race, the two parties of big business are in the process of redefining the political axes of how they are viewed. At the Democratic Party convention in Chicago, even the most liberal wings of the party fell into line behind reelecting William

**Bipartisan Senate passes antigay law** — page 6  
**Defend civil rights for gays!**  
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Clinton — the president who has taken the lead in beginning to dismantle the social conquests the working class won during the labor battles of the 1930s and the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. Meanwhile, Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole and running mate Jack Kemp continue to present their party as the force of "change" and economic growth, while reaching to win votes from Blacks and working people.

In his August 28 speech to the Democratic Convention in Chicago, Mario Cuomo, the former governor of New York, described how Clinton has led the shift away from social policies associated with the Democrats for decades. "The last time we all came together four years ago, this was a very different party," he began. "Many Americans, you recall, had lost faith in us, and frankly,

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## Machinists settle strike at McDonnell Douglas

BY DANNY BOOHER AND MARY MARTIN

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — Members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 837 met here September 11, on the 99th day of their strike against the McDonnell Douglas Corp., to hear a report on a proposed five-year contract and to vote on its adoption. Workers ratified the settlement by a margin of 3,774 to 1,785.

During the ratification meeting some strikers pointed to the gains made by the union in maintaining the walkout for three months with only two percent of the 6,700 strikers crossing the picket lines. "A lot was accomplished and established for the union with the strike," striker Isaiah Peebles said. "I don't regret striking, but I don't regret going back to work either."

Although the agreement passed by a margin of two to one, several members expressed dissatisfaction with the meeting and the vote. Don Colombatto, 31, a sheet metal worker for nine years, said, "I think it would have been worth fighting for a better contract. I also disagreed with getting only an eight-page summary of an 80-page contract the same day of the vote."

The contract proposal was drawn up by company officials and top international of-

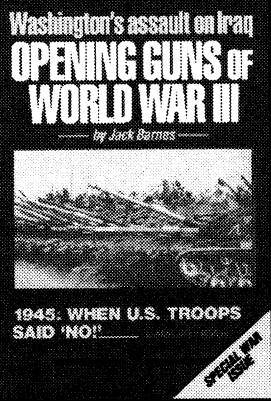
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Interview with S. African mine workers leader — page 10



**South Africa's high court delays new constitution**

The Constitutional Court, the highest court in South Africa, sent the country's new constitution back for alterations September 6, ruling that the document failed to give sufficient power to provincial governments. The constitution had been adopted by parliament in May. Seven of South Africa's nine provinces are controlled by the African National Congress. The KwaZulu-Natal based Inkatha Freedom Party, and the National Party that ruled under apartheid, each dominate one province. Leaders of both parties claim that lessening centralized government control is the only way to protect racial and tribal minorities in the country, seeking to preserve the privileges they acquired under the former apartheid regime.

President Nelson Mandela said the court judgment could help clarify issues left vague during negotiations earlier on. The constitutional assembly made up of the 490 members of the national parliament has three months to approve a new draft. The ruling would "present no significant obstacle," asserted Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson, noting that the majority of the 150-page document was approved. The court also rejected a constitution for KwaZulu-Natal passed by the IFP-dominated provincial parliament, ruling the document attempted to "usurp the powers of the national government."

**Zimbabwe strikers are victorious**

Thousands of civil service workers returned to work September 4 after a two-week strike, when the government of Zimbabwe offered to rehire 7,000 strikers it had fired and pledged not to discriminate against union leaders. The workers also won a 29 percent pay raise. The union had demanded a 30 to 60 percent wage hike. The government had offered 9 percent.

The regime of Robert Mugabe backed down when the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions threatened a general strike. The 180,000-strong Public Service Association union — who included mortuary attendants, firefighters, nurses, and doctors — paralyzed social services and disrupted air travel. They vowed to stay in the streets until the government reinstated the dismissed

workers.

**Nigeria strike**

Professors in Nigeria have organized a four-month strike for wage increases and improvements in the education system. The military government, unable to break the strike, threatened to close down the schools and fire the strikers unless they return to work by September 3.

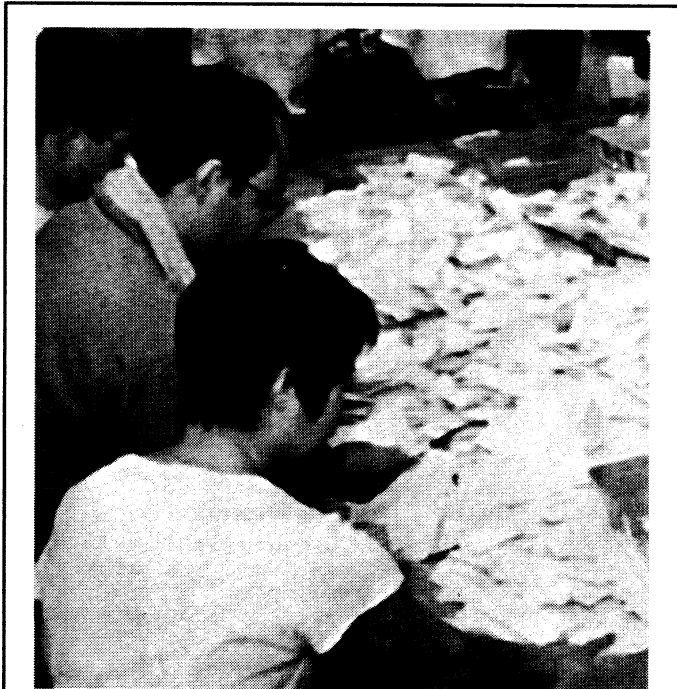
**Investors worried**

Foreign investors in Uzbekistan are complaining of being able to convert only a fraction of their revenues in Som, the national coin, into hard currency. According to the *Financial Times*, BAT Industries, a cigarette company and the republic's second largest investor, was restricted by the Uzbek Central Bank to convert in hard currency only \$1.5 million of the \$7 million it needs to import basic items for production.

Uzbekistan's imports have exceeded exports leading some government officials to call for higher tariffs on consumer imports, a politically risky move given the low wages workers are paid in the country. The shelves of some foreign-owned stores, like the Dutch-owned Holland Market, have emptied for lack of imports. "This convertibility problem is killing us," said William Visser, general director of Martens Trading and owner of 80 percent of the Holland Market. "If this convertibility problem continues everybody will walk out."

**Jordanian gov't to try protesters**

The government of Jordan announced September 5 it will try 145 people who were arrested in August during protests against



Counting of ballots after September 8 non-binding referendum in Okinawa, Japan. More than 90 percent of those who cast ballots voted against continued presence of U.S. military bases on the island. Of those who were in favor of the bases, many live near the military installations or are employed by them.

the regime's recent doubling of the prices of bread, a staple for the majority of the country's 4.2 million people, who have been facing falling living standards and rising unemployment. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said that 107 of those facing charges had "participated in damaging public property." He alleged the other 38 detainees were mostly members of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Baath Party, which the government blames for the unrest. The party has denied responsibility for the setting of fires and damaging of public buildings and banks. The government claimed it had to raise prices to close a growing budget deficit.

**Rail strikers win in Portugal**

Railroad workers won the central demands of their six-day strike against *Caminhos de Ferros Portugueses*, the state railway company, September 4. The company agreed to improve job structures, set a nine-hour limit on the workday, and provide 45-minute rest periods between journeys. The strike by the 1,500 train drivers halted rail transport and disrupted shipments of coal used for power generation and of auto parts distribution for the Ford-Volkswagen plant.

**Union protests ValuJet flights**

The Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) has challenged the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) decision to allow ValuJet Airlines to resume operations. The Federal Aviation Administration announced August 29 its approval of the company's safety standards. The union

called for an investigation of the ruling. "The DOT has turned a blind eye toward one of the most frightening safety records in the airline industry," stated AFA president Patricia Friend.

ValuJet was grounded June 17 after investigations uncovered a series of safety violations that led to the crash of its May 11 flight that killed 110 people near Miami. "ValuJet is the darling of the industry, and the darling of Wall Street, and the old-boy network that controls this industry is circling the wagons," said Friend. Citing the safety concerns workers in the industry have, the union official said she did not know if the flight attendants would return to work if ValuJet resumes operations.

**Minnesota mall to impose curfew**

The Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, will institute a curfew September 20 that bars youth under the age of 16 from going to the mall after 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays without a chaperone over 21.

Matino Landrum, a 15 year-old African American youth who opposes the policy, said it was aimed at Blacks and would add to their sense of being under special scrutiny at the mall. "Every time we go to a store, we've got the owner following us, and they let the white people alone," he told the *New York Times*. Weekend nights are the only time large groups of Black teenagers show up at the suburban mall. American Civil Liberties Union senior staff counselor Chris Hansen said the policy "infringes on the rights of young people."

Paul T. Barnes, a store manager at the mall, defended the curfew. He said on weekend nights thousands of teenagers swarm near his store, "70 percent of them under the age of 20 and minority and wearing gang-related apparel." He continued, "A lot of people are not used to seeing large numbers of kids and large numbers of minority kids."

**Philadelphia settles cop scandals**

The Philadelphia city administration negotiated a court settlement September 4 of nearly \$3.5 million to 42 plaintiffs who sued the police department for false arrests, racist behavior, and other forms of corruption. As part of the agreement, the city agreed to expand supervision over the activities of the police supposedly to prevent cop misconduct. The courts are reviewing more than 1,500 arrests made by the cops; so far hundreds of convictions have been overturned.

**Farrakhan visits Cuba**

Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, visited Cuba September 3-4, stating he was touring countries "under [U.S.-imposed] sanctions and embargoes." It was the last stop on a trip that took him to Libya, Iran, and Iraq. Farrakhan met briefly with Cuban president Fidel Castro and called on Washington to "leave the Cuban people alone" and lift the embargo.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

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# Israeli gov't reopens talks with PLO

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

After escalating protests by Palestinians in the occupied territories in August, a nervous Clinton administration and several Arab regimes pressed the new Israeli government to restart negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). On September 4, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who took office June 18, broke with pledges at the start of his election campaign seven months ago and met with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

The meeting at Erez, an Israeli military camp on the northern border of the Gaza Strip, marked the formal reopening of negotiations between the Zionist regime and the PLO leadership. The talks will focus initially on Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron, opening a new Palestinian airport in Gaza, and allowing more Palestinian workers into Israel.

"Every minister in the government has to accept the principle of the continuation of the [peace] process," Netanyahu declared September 5, warning right-wingers in the Likud party leadership who raised a storm over the encounter with Arafat. "Otherwise they will not be ministers in the government."

At the meeting in Erez Netanyahu announced that Tel Aviv would now allow 50,000 Palestinians a day to enter Israel to work, up from 32,000 when the previous Israeli regime closed the West Bank and Gaza.

Some 65,000 Palestinians worked in Israel before Tel Aviv shut down the West Bank and Gaza borders after a series of suicide bombings by Arab militants in Israeli

cities last spring.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Israeli foreign minister David Levy in London September 8, urging Tel Aviv to move more quickly to open the borders. "I'd like to see a substantial easing of the closure," said Christopher. He discussed with Levy the Israeli government's agreement to redeploy its troops from the center of Hebron as called for in the 1993 Oslo peace between Tel Aviv and the PLO.

Tensions began to escalate August 11 when Netanyahu announced a decision to lift a four-year freeze on Israeli settlements on occupied Arab land. Under the previous Labor Party government, the number of settlers in the West Bank and Gaza expanded by about 50 percent. There are 145,000 settlers living in the occupied territories now, among 2 million Palestinians.

On August 27 the regime announced approval of building a new neighborhood of 1,806 housing units at Kiryat Sefer, a settlement in the West Bank, bringing some 15,000 new Israeli settlers there.

Earlier that day, Israeli cops hoisted a bulldozer over the walls of Jerusalem's Old City and demolished a Palestinian day care center. The center was part of a project that had recently obtained a \$30 million donation from the Canadian government. It included a center for the disabled and a home for the elderly.

"It [the building] was destroyed because it was built without a permit," said a spokeswoman for the Jerusalem city government. Enraged Palestinians marched in Jerusalem and organized a two-hour general strike following the demolition.



A Palestinian closes a store's shutters in Hebron to enforce the general strike August 29. Prospects of new Palestinian revolt worry Washington and Tel Aviv.

As these developments stoked Palestinian frustrations, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak threatened to cancel a Middle East economic conference set for Cairo in November. Officials from Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo met in Paris to ward off the cancellation.

## 'Declaration of war on the Palestinians'

The Zionist actions were among several that outraged many Palestinians. Infrastructure minister Ariel Sharon announced a plan to build two new roads for settlers. And the deputy housing minister Meir Porush described plans to incorporate nearby settlements into Jerusalem.

The status of Jerusalem is one of the most

contentious issues in the Palestinian conflict. The *Washington Post* reported that Netanyahu declared in August "he saw no chance of reaching a negotiated agreement on Jerusalem, suggesting that Israel will lay its claim on the city."

"The continued violations and crimes committed by this new Israeli leadership means they are declaring war on the Palestinian people," said Arafat at an August 28 meeting of the elected Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah, West Bank. "They are idiots to have started the Jerusalem battle. There will be no Palestinian state without Jerusalem. Netanyahu should know he is stupid to have started this battle."

Invoking the 1987-1993 *intifada*, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of territory captured from Arabs, Arafat called a four-hour general strike that took place August 29. Two days later Arafat told residents at a refugee camp in Nablus, "I don't have a magic wand, but I have the children of the uprising."

Arafat's call for a general strike was "done to reinforce his credibility," noted London's *Financial Times*. "Few Palestinians believe the peace process is giving them anything more than two overcrowded Bantustans (one in the West Bank, the other in Gaza) under a puppet ruler."

In a warning to Netanyahu, the financial daily remarked that the prospect of a new Palestinian revolt "is not an encouraging scenario for foreign investors."

# Yeltsin's ailments worry investors

BY MEGAN ARNEY

Russian president Boris Yeltsin announced September 5 he would undergo bypass heart surgery this month. The news increased fears of instability among foreign investors as calls mounted in Moscow that Yeltsin should transfer authority before the operation.

Hours after the announcement the U.S. dollar rose against the German mark. "Signs of political instability in Russia help the dollar and hurt the mark because Germany is Russia's biggest creditor and trading partner," reported the Bloomberg Business News.

On September 6, Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin urged Yeltsin to transfer presidential authority before surgery. Gennady Seleznev, the speaker of the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, said the Duma would appeal to the Constitutional Court if Yeltsin did not volunteer. Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, who lost the presidential race to Yeltsin this summer, has also urged an orderly transition of power.

Another contender for the president's power is Alexander Lebed, a former general whom Yeltsin appointed national security adviser to clinch his re-election in the second round.

The *Washington Post* reported that on September 8 Yeltsin ordered the army and

police forces to "coordinate" with Chernomyrdin "all questions that require a decision by the head of state." But Yeltsin will have to be informed about major events.

The crisis in Russia began to boil when Yeltsin had to withdraw from public view for a period during the election campaign because of poor health. Russia's flimsy stock market, which has fallen by almost one-third since the elections, declined by about 5 percent when Yeltsin made his announcement. "Bankers said the added uncertainty was likely to delay Russia's long-awaited foreign investment boom," said an article in the September 6 *Financial Times* of London.

## Defeat in Chechnya

The crisis of those attempting to re-impose the capitalist market system in Russia is graphically reflected in another arena. In Chechnya, after 21 months of a fierce fight for independence, Chechen rebels have set back and demoralized Moscow's army.

Russian troops began to leave Chechnya on September 8 after Lebed negotiated a cease-fire, which has put a stop to the fighting for now, and struck a draft agreement with the rebels that could end the war.

The accord says that within five years Chechnya will hold a referendum on the republic's future and it envisions a provisional government and the eventual withdrawal of Russian forces. This followed desertions of Russian soldiers and increasing discontent with the war inside Russia. As many as 40,000 people, some 90 percent civilian, have died in the fighting.

The Kremlin still claims that Chechen independence is still out of the question. But the rebels, heartened by their recent successes, see it differently.

"They can say whatever they want," one Chechen commander told the *New York Times*, shooting his weapon into the air as a dozen of his men danced in glee. "We won and will drive them from our land."

Less than a week after the signing of the peace agreement with Lebed, the rebels have begun to assert themselves as a de facto government in Grozny. Under the accord, Russian soldiers and officials remain here as formal partners in administering the region, working from a command post in a bombed-out sports stadium. Chechen officials now approve citizens' requests by stamping them with the emblem of Republic of Ichkeria. Food, gasoline and traffic jams are seen in

Grozny. Russian soldiers are still present, but only on joint police patrols with the rebels. And the Russian patrols no longer search vehicles for weapons and wave the busloads of celebrating Chechens in and out of Grozny.

"On paper it says one thing," said Akhmed Dakayev, a Chechen journalist, referring to the peace agreement. "Practically it is mostly the rebels who run the city. The Russian soldiers still do not really know the city."

# Korean people press unification

The following are greetings sent to the Korean people by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes on the anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which was formed on Sept. 9, 1948.

On behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, I send communist greetings to the Korean people on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Our party reaffirms our solidarity with your struggle to end the forced division of your country. We condemn Washington's recent war games in the Korean peninsula and Pacific region, which continue not only the decades-long bipartisan military provocations but also the unceasing efforts to isolate the DPRK politically and economically, and brutalize the Korean people.

In celebrating the 48th anniversary of the DPRK, we join with the thousands of students in South Korea who mobilized against the Seoul government for nine days in mid-August demanding reunification of the Korean peninsula. The capitalist rulers in the South also face workers' resistance; labor marches in July for higher wages and reinstatement of fired workers were watched on the news with sympathy and admiration by many working people elsewhere. We condemn the recent brutal crackdown on students and workers by Seoul's cops, carried out with Washington's approval and complicity, as such assaults have been for the past half century.

Your anniversary celebration this year comes at a time when U.S. warships and B-52 bombers are once again launching cow-

ardly assaults on the people of Iraq with long-range cruise missiles, as U.S. president Clinton seeks to boost his reelection chances this fall. As the history of this century has repeatedly demonstrated, Washington has no more regard for the national sovereignty of Iraq than it does for that of Korea or of other oppressed nations and peoples the world over. Just as the U.S. government is wielding the food weapon today against the Korean people, the U.S. rulers also are maintaining the brutal embargo on Iraq that since 1990 has condemned hundreds of thousands of Iraqis to malnutrition, disease, and death. These acts of war are a deadly danger not only to the people of Iraq and the Middle East, but to all those who refuse to live by the dictates of international capital.

The Iraqi people and others throughout the Gulf region and Middle East will resist these assaults by Washington, just as they have done in face of colonial and neocolonial outrages for many decades. They will emulate the combativeness and sense of human dignity that has resulted in triumphs over oppression and exploitation from Indochina to Cuba to South Africa since World War II — and that has led the Korean people to victories over arrogant overlords from near and far.

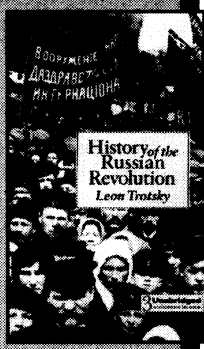
The Socialist Workers Party pledges to continue telling the truth about the aims of U.S. and Japanese imperialism in Korea and to join with other working people and youth to fight efforts by the U.S. government to maintain the division of the peninsula. We look forward to the day when workers in the United States can join the Korean people in celebrating a united and truly independent Korea, free forever from the imperialist boot.

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by Leon Trotsky

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# Ballot drive in Vermont boosts socialist campaign

BY JOYA LONSDALE

BURLINGTON, Vermont — The campaign to place the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Harris and Laura Garza on the ballot in Vermont received a tremendous response around the state. As of September 8, over 1,600 signatures were collected toward the goal of 2,000. The required figure is 1,000 signers.

Supporters of the socialist campaign here, as well as from Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Salt Lake City, set up literature tables throughout the state. Petitioners combed the streets of Brattleboro, Barre, Montpelier, Burlington, and other cities beginning September 2.

In the course of a week, socialist campaigners also sold nine Pathfinder books, one copy of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, and six *Militant* subscriptions.

The socialists and their supporters found quite a bit of interest in campaigning against Washington's bombing of Iraq and the bipartisan assault on Social Security and in discussing how to build a movement to put an end to these evils bred by capitalism. In the first four days of petitioning, some 70 young people signed up for more information and many expressed interest in the Young Socialists. Some volunteered to help with petitioning, like Spring Cerise, 17, who joined the effort for an entire day.

A 19-year-old Middlebury College stu-

dent stopped by a campaign table after hearing a radio program on WGDR, the Godard College radio station in Plainfield. Abby Tilsner, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in New York had spoken on that program about her campaign and her recent trip to Cuba with the U.S./Cuba Youth Exchange. The student bought the *Second Declaration of Havana* and continued the discussion with socialists at a local café where he explained his plans to form a political group on campus.

Petitioners also initiated an emergency speakout against the U.S. bombing of Iraq on September 7 at Billings Student Center on the University of Vermont (UVM) campus. Thirty-two people came, many after seeing flyers posted on campus and downtown Burlington. Members of several local groups attended. They included the Student Political Awareness and Response Collective (SPARC), the radical student newspaper *Gadfly*, Native Forest Network, Green Veterans for Peace, Industrial Workers of the World, and the Vermont Chiapas Action Network.

Will Miller, a philosophy professor at UVM, and Brock Satter of the New York chapter of the Young Socialists spoke. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion. Marc Dixon, a first-year student at UVM, said that as the U.S. government attacks Iraq it also tries "to create a dispos-



Militant/ Monica Jones

James Harris, left, talking to indigenous activist John (Splitting the Sky) Hill in Vancouver. Harris has taken the campaign to workers and farmers around the world.

able cheap labor force based on a third-world model in the U.S. The attacks abroad give us a chance to see what they're doing to us at home."

As several people pointed to the importance of demonstrating in the streets, a member of the Native Forest Network proposed organizing a protest at the federal building. All the organizations present endorsed an antiwar action for September 10. Some 30 people turned out for the demonstration that day. The action also received wide coverage on local television and radio stations.

During the September 7 speakout, a member of SPARC said he is interested in starting a coalition on campus to organize youth to go to Cuba for the world youth festival

next summer. He later spent hours in discussing politics with YS members.

The Young Socialists have called a meeting here for September 12 to form a local chapter of the organization. YSers and other supporters of the SWP election campaign are also gearing up for the visit of Laura Garza, who will come to Vermont September 19 to file the petitions to get on the ballot. A press conference has been scheduled for Garza in the capital city of Montpelier.

To help with the last leg of petitioning call (617) 247-6772.

Joya Lonsdale is a member of the Young Socialists in Vermont. Brock Satter and Amanda Ulman contributed to this article.

# Socialist blasts U.S. war drive in Chicago, Seattle

BY ADAM WOLFE AND KRISTIN MERIAM

CHICAGO — Youth and workers rarely hear "your vote doesn't count for much" from candidates for political office. But that's exactly what Socialist Workers presidential nominee James Harris told audiences around Chicago in his four-day visit here. Instead, Harris explained that people don't get to vote on matters that affect their lives such as whether to go to war, or raising the minimum wage. He insisted that real political change comes about when working people get out in the streets.

"What is significant is what ordinary people do, what working people do," Harris told about 45 students at suburban Naperville North High School the morning of September 9. "Real changes are spearheaded by youth and the working class, whether it be the anti-Apartheid struggle, the civil rights revolution, or the union movement." After a lively question and answer period, three students signed up for more information on the Young Socialists or how to travel to Cuba next year for the world youth festival.

Harris arrived in Chicago September 6 and promptly held a lunch time protest against the U.S. bombing of Iraq and press conference at the federal building plaza downtown. City News Bureau and Voice of America attended. Placards his supporters held denouncing Clinton's assault on Iraq drew some passersby, including Ron, a young worker from the Illinois Central Rail-

road who stuck around to talk after the press conference was over.

Next day Harris accompanied Kristin Meriam, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 4th district in Illinois, campaigning at a back-to-school parade in Englewood, a Black neighborhood on the south side.

That night he addressed an audience of about 50 at the Pathfinder Bookstore. Harris focused on the deepening polarization in the world. He cited statistics showing that half the world's population earns less than \$2 a day and that 358 billionaires control more wealth than countries representing 45 percent of the earth's population.

It is these vast inequalities created by capitalism that make social explosions inevitable, Harris stated. "There will be explosions. There will be massive struggles. All history tells us that will happen. But what is crucial is that we might not win, unless we're organized to take it on, unless we tell working people what they face and build a proletarian party capable of leading workers to take power."

A reporter from the *Chicago Tribune* accompanied Harris and his entourage throughout the day September 9, from Naperville North to a taped radio interview at WONC 89.1 FM at North Central College, and met up with the candidate again at the Ford Assembly Plant on the southeast side. There Harris and his supporters leafleted hundreds of autoworkers streaming in and out of the plant at shift change.

One of the assembly line workers is also on the Socialist Workers slate. Frank Forrestal, running for U.S. Senate in Illinois, campaigned at the plant gate when he got off work.

Harris was interviewed by the editors of the *Chicago Defender*, a widely-read Black daily, and by Cliff Kelley on WGCI and WVON. Both AM radio stations are popular in the Black community.

*Jóvenes Rebeldes* (Rebel Youth), a new organization of Latino youth inspired by the Cuban revolution and recent peasant revolts in Mexico, invited Harris to speak at their Monday evening meeting at DePaul University. According to Susana Ochoa, of *Jóvenes Rebeldes*, 18 members attended and Guatemala Radio Project taped the meeting, to be aired in Chicago on 88.5 FM.

Next Harris was off to the studios of WLS 890 AM, "the 50,000 watt talk monster of the Midwest." Listeners in much of North America heard the candidate on the Jay Marvin show that night. Harris expounded on the importance of his demand of jobs for all. Citing a recent article in the *New York Times*, Harris said that capitalist politicians claim that more people getting jobs causes inflation. This is not true. What they are really afraid of, he said, "is that the more people get jobs and are not totally insecure, the more they begin to demand raises. And the ruling class in this country doesn't want to grant that."

A caller from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania asked why there is higher unemployment among Blacks. "Do you feel that's because of the welfare?"

Harris responded, "That has to do with racism in this country that institutionalizes discrimination against Blacks, which is one of the reasons we put forward the need for affirmative action."

The next morning a student at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, called the campaign headquarters in Chicago. He heard Harris on the radio and liked what the presidential candidate had to say. "Most of my friends are Republicans and whatnot. I used to be a Rush Limbaugh fan 'til I saw through his games," the student said. Now he is interested in the Young Socialists and said he'll send away for a subscription to the *Militant*.

Adam Wolfe is a member of the Young Socialists. Kristin Meriam is a member of the United Transportation Union.

BY RICH STUART

SEATTLE, Washington — "We campaign actively to build the October 12 March

in Washington D.C. for immigrant rights," said James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, in front of some 50 farmworkers in Sunnyside in Washington's Yakima valley August 29.

Speaking to the farmworkers attending a citizenship class at One-Stop Immigration, Harris blasted "the hypocrisy of the U.S. government and right-wing forces when they say immigrants are the problem and cause of the economic crisis. The immigration of workers into this country strengthens the working class and makes us more international, unifies us, and makes the bosses less able to divide us."

He continued, "The Socialist Workers campaign is an internationalist campaign. Workers everywhere, whether in the U.S., Mexico, Japan, or Canada, have more in common with each other than with our ruling class. Working people need to unite across borders."

The socialist candidate was introduced by David Silva of One-Stop Immigration. Silva also translated Harris's talk to the audience of migrant workers, both men and women.

Most of the workers are following the seasonal harvest in the Yakima valley of Washington state, a rich agricultural region producing fruits, vegetables, hops, and other crops. Silva is the Washington state coordinator for the October 12 march on Washington D.C.

Silva explained to Harris that in the many small agricultural towns in the area there are no Latino elected representatives to local offices or school boards, even though a large majority of the population is Latino. Harris told the assembled workers, "Working people should have the right to vote and participate in politics wherever they are."

Harris's tour through the state included informal discussions with aerospace workers from Boeing in Everett and shipyard workers in Seattle.

The SWP presidential nominee began his visit with a meeting of young people who wanted to get involved in the campaign and learn more about socialism.

Harris also participated in a panel at the University of Washington of representatives of the presidential campaigns of William Clinton, Robert Dole, Ralph Nader, and Ross Perot speaking to a class of 17 Fulbright scholars from around the world.

After an afternoon of street campaigning at the annual Bumbershoot cultural festival in Seattle, Harris spoke to a crowd of some 60 supporters packed into the Pathfinder Bookstore here. Over \$1,000 was contributed to the campaign at the meeting and two young people said they are interested in joining the Young Socialists.

## Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution
- I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

NAME _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____	
PHONE _____	UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____		

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009  
Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504



# Young Socialists build chapter in Sweden

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55104. Tel: (612) 644-0051. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY JACK WILLEY

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — On Friday, September 6, seven young people came together to form a group of Young Socialists in Sweden. Coming on the heels of a successful speaking tour here by Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president, the young militants met after a Militant Labor Forum to discuss the next steps in building a communist youth organization.

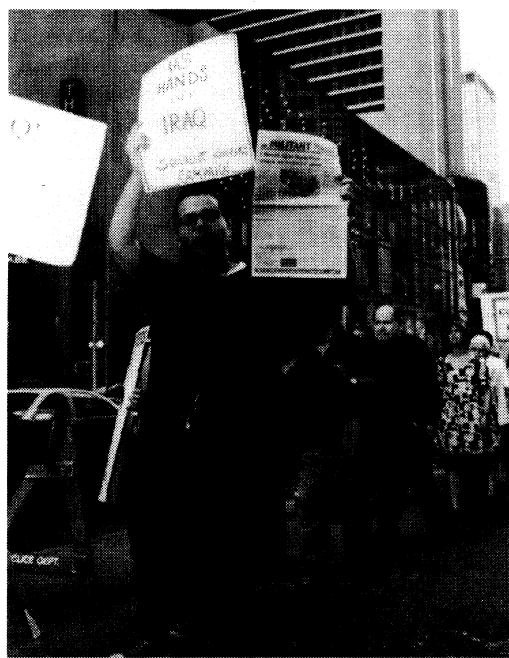
YS members in Sweden have already been involved in social protest actions and are studying books on the history of the communist movement.

Guillermo Bossi, president of the environmental group Field Biologists in Jakosberg, has helped organize protests at Shell Oil gas stations against the company's exploitation of Nigeria and its complicity in the murder of Ogoni aboriginal activists by the military regime there. At one protest, the group occupied a Shell station for an hour. Bossi has recently read *Socialism on Trial*.

"I have always been interested in politics," explained Maxi Ortiz. "Last year I wrote a report on Ernesto Che Guevara for school because Che was a revolutionary from my country, Argentina. I read many books on Che and realized socialism is worth fighting for."

Ortiz has also been part of the protests against Shell. He explained that a freeway is slated to be built surrounding Stockholm. "I want to protest this," he said. "The leading government parties and big corporations negotiated this deal without the opinions of anyone else. Building the freeway gives the government the pretext to cut down on public transportation. The billions of kronors [Swedish currency] they want to throw into this project should go toward improving public transport for the benefit of everyone."

Johan Nilsson is very interested in the struggle for Black freedom in the United



Militant/ Margrethe Siem  
Young Socialist Shoghi Fret at Times Square, New York, protesting the bombing of Iraq.

States. "I saw many videos on the civil rights movement and thought something was missing," he said. "One day I stopped at a table with books and the *Militant* newspaper staffed by members of the Communist League and bought *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. When I read this book, I saw the similarity between Blacks in the U.S. and people living in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. They are fighting the same oppressor."

Since then, Nilsson has bought more books by Malcolm X, read speeches by Cuban president Fidel Castro, subscribed to the *Militant*, and has attended Militant Labor Forums. Nilsson also translated the YS principles and campaigns (see ad below) into Swedish for the September 6 meeting.

#### Joining the action

Coming out of the YS founding meeting here, the Young Socialists set as a goal to get to every action where people are fighting the injustices of capitalism. They attended a protest against Shell September 7. On September 9, YSers took a bus down to Klippan, where a protest against a racist murder was scheduled to take place.

In addition, the group plans to organize classes and study of the history of the workers movement. There's great interest in the Cuban revolution and in *Ny International 1*, the Swedish edition of the Marxist magazine *New International*, especially in the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq."

Throughout Garza's tour here, there was considerable interest among young people to participate in the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students that will take place in Cuba July 28-August 5 next year in Cuba. Over 15 people signed up for information on how to attend. The YS chapter adopted, as a central campaign, building this event over the next 10 months.

#### BY RYAN KELLY

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The prospects for building the YS improved in the South Pacific during the speaking tour in New Zealand and Australia by James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. Between August 8 and August 13 three people said they were interested to join in Auckland.

Following a public talk and discussion with Harris at the Militant Labor Forum here Ahtogi Ahchong requested to join.

Later in the week Grant Richardson helped to build a meeting by Harris on the Unitec campus where he attends school. The walls were plastered with flyers announcing the event and Grant's professor sponsored the meeting. After the event one student bought a copy of the *Communist Manifesto* and Grant requested to join the Young Socialists. On the last day of the tour in Auckland a class was held on the *Second Declaration of Havana*. During the course of the meeting Vincent Holdsworth requested to join the YS.

SYDNEY, Australia — At the time this article was written Rahab Charida, 19, was the newest person to join the YS in Australia. She asked to join after participating in much of the Sydney leg of Harris's tour. On August 20, Rahab protested at Parliament House in Canberra along with 20,000 other

workers and youth against the government's slashing of social benefits. The next day she participated in a meeting with Harris at the University of Technology.

Rahab also spoke on the panel at a Militant Labor Forum with Harris, Moses Havini from Bougainville, and Eddy from Indonesia. At the forum she blasted the Zionist regime in Israel for the violent oppression against the Palestinian people and took apart the idea that Palestinian rebels are terrorists. "I say they are freedom fighters," she concluded. "Long live their resistance."

I asked Rahab a few questions.

Q: Why did you want to join the YS?

### 21 new members in the YS!

From July 10 till September 10

City	# of new members
Atlanta	1
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	1
Los Angeles	3
San Diego	1
Twin Cities	1
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	2
Salt Lake City	1
Seattle	2
Washington D.C.	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

A: I was involved in a nationalist organization, and I realized that there are more problems society faces than that can answer. I loved what the nationalist program did for the oppressed nation, but I needed more and that is internationalism.

Q: What do you think the chances are for building the Young Socialists in Australia?

A: Good. I hadn't been exposed to these ideas. Now I have. When more people hear for the first time what we're saying — the YS will grow.

Q: Give me a quote.

A: You may chain my hands. You may shackle my feet. You may even throw me into a dark prison, but you shall not enslave my thoughts — for they are free.

Christian Bava, 17, joined the Sydney chapter of the Young Socialists earlier in August. He was born in Uruguay and has lived in Australia for 11 years. Eight young people showed up to a class on the *Second Declaration of Havana/ Reportback* from the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange. When the three-hour meeting drew to a close Christian answered some questions for this article.

Q: Why did you join the YS?

A: I wanted to put my beliefs from what I have read and experienced into practice. I thought, if I don't get off my ass it'll never happen, so I decided to spend my time joining a worthy cause. The cause of socialism.

Q: What have you read?

A: I have read Che, Marx, Lenin and periodicals from South America. I knew that I wanted to join an organization, but couldn't find one.

Q: How did you find the Young Socialists?

A: A friend of mine was given a leaflet and passed it on to me. I subscribed to the *Militant* from the coupon on it and checked all of the other boxes concerning the Young Socialists too.

## Fund puts 'Opening Guns' back on press

### \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund September 1 — November 15

City	Goal Pledged	Paid
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$725 \$0
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$3,150 \$0
Boston	\$6,000	\$3,100 \$250
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$5,360 \$415
Chicago	\$7,500	\$3,325 \$500
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$1,935 \$10
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$1,950 \$20
Detroit	\$6,000	\$4,275 \$25
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$1,825 \$25
Houston	\$3,000	\$1,250 \$0
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$5,383 \$1,013
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$5,420 \$860
Miami	\$2,800	\$2,020 \$230
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$1,135 \$0
Newark	\$8,500	\$6,475 \$250
Peoria	\$2,750	\$1,270 \$20
Philadelphia		\$1,900 \$125
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$2,750 \$0
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$1,550 \$200
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$2,725 \$277
Seattle	\$8,000	\$1,900 \$0
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$4,050 \$50
Washington, D.C.	\$3,500	\$2,375 \$0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$117,700</b>	<b>\$65,848 \$4,270</b>
Australia	\$750	\$100 \$0
Canada		\$695 \$30
France		\$511 \$511
Greece		
Iceland		
New Zealand	\$4,550	\$4,550 \$378
Sweden	\$400	\$175 \$0
United Kingdom		\$448 \$143
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>\$123,400</b>	<b>\$72,327 \$5,332</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	

#### BY NELL WHEELER

NEWARK, New Jersey — Within days, *New International* no. 7, featuring the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's assault on Iraq," will be back on the presses. The quick reprint of the Marxist magazine, which is distributed by Pathfinder, will ensure that plenty of copies are available for socialist workers to campaign with over the coming weeks. So far this year, sales of *New International* no. 7 are double the total sales from 1995.

The international Pathfinder Fund helps make it possible to produce this and other reprints in a timely way. One week into the Pathfinder fund drive, supporters of the campaign in cities throughout the United States and around the world have taken goals to raise \$123,400 to carry out the Pathfinder reprint program. The challenge now is to plan fund-raising events and reaching out to coworkers, youth, and others for pledges. The ten-week drive that began September 1 will last through November 15.

Currently, Pathfinder is reprinting *Leon Trotsky on China*, an important selection of letters and articles on the Chinese revolution of the 1920s. Mike Taber, a Pathfinder editor, described *Leon Trotsky on China* as "indispensable for understanding what is happening in China today."

Volunteers in San Francisco have been scanning *Teamster Power*, in preparation for bringing out a new edition of this book, the second of four volumes in the series by Farrell Dobbs covering the transformation of the Teamsters union in Minnesota into a fighting industrial union movement. Bay Area Pathfinder supporters were also able to raise funds for the reprint program at a Socialist Educational Conference they held September 7-8.

The Pathfinder catalog is also on the

presses. The original 1996 run of 10,000 has already sold out, indicating a higher level of sales and broader distribution of Pathfinder titles over the last several months. Already this year, book sales through Pathfinder bookstores have well exceeded total figures for 1995.

Javier Aravena, fund coordinator in St. Paul, Minnesota, reports that supporters there are planning a fund event for early October. "We plan to use building for the event to reach out to rebellious workers and youth and get on a footing so we can raise our goal. We will also draw on new supporters won through activities around the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange."

To contribute, make checks payable to Pathfinder and send them to the publisher at 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014; or you can contact the nearest Pathfinder distributor listed in the directory on page 12.

Now available: *YS pamphlet!*

### Political Principles, Campaigns and Rules of Organization

Newly published from the Young Socialists. Contains decisions from the first convention of the YS and revolutionary greetings from the African National Congress Youth League in South Africa, the Union of Young Communists in Cuba, and recently released Mark Curtis. This pamphlet is for all young people who want to fight the injustices bred by capitalism and are looking for a socialist alternative.



1-9 copies, \$4 each; 10 or more copies, \$3 each.  
Checks made payable to  
**Young Socialists**, P.O. Box  
14392, St. Paul, MN 55114.

# U.S. elections

Continued from front page

many Democrats had as well.... "President Clinton found a way to preserve our party's basic principles while erasing the stigmas that had been branded upon our reputation over the years. Who will say today that Democrats are in love with big government, and big spending, after Bill Clinton has cut the Federal Government dramatically and brought the deficit down 60 percent." Cuomo added that Democrats can no longer be accused of being "soft on crime," "anti-family," and "anti-middle class" after four years of Clinton in the White House.

The former New York governor stated his disagreement with Clinton on signing the welfare bill. "The Welfare Reform Bill has been one of the most difficult," he said. "Many of us, and I among them, believe that the risk to children was too great to justify the action of signing that bill, not matter what its political benefits." And then Cuomo declared, "We should all hope and pray that the president is right, but we should do something more than hope and pray.... We need to give the president the strength of a Democratic Congress. We need to help the president make this law better as he has assured us that he will." Striking a nationalist tone, he said that along with ending welfare, "there must be jobs, not in Thailand, not in Mexico, but here in Chicago and rural Mississippi, and in East L.A."

Commenting on the Democratic convention in the August 30 *Financial Times*, Philip Stephens wrote that while a couple of "unabashed Old Democrats" — Cuomo and Jesse Jackson — addressed the convention, "The New Democrats hold the levers of power at the centre. Vice-president Al Gore, anointed this week as Mr. Clinton's chosen successor, is a leading standard-bearer. So too is Evan Bayh, the Indiana state governor and youthful rising star who was given one of the best prime-time slots at the convention. Look for new ideas and they come from the Democratic Leadership Committee, the New Democrat caucus once chaired by Mr. Clinton."

## Signing away piece of Social Security

Another prominent speaker at the convention in Chicago was Edward Kennedy. The senator from Massachusetts gave high praises to Clinton and Democrats in Congress for passing a 90-cent raise in the minimum wage, the first in more than five years, and a health bill Kennedy had co-authored. He did not mention the third, and most crucial, part of the social legislation package that Clinton signed the week before the convention — the welfare bill. This act ended the federal Aid for Families with Dependent Children program, one of the gains of working-class struggle that was codified in the Social Security Act of 1935. The measure includes major attacks on immigrants' access to social programs (see article on page 16).

Prominent liberals made it clear there would be no split over Clinton's signing of the bill. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala told one reporter, "There is no difference among Democrats on this.... Everyone agrees that he signed it, and he has to fix it, and to fix it we need

to elect a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress, so we can repeal the parts of the bill we hate and get better welfare reform."

Bella Abzug, a former congresswoman from New York who was a figure in the anti-Vietnam War movement, echoed Shalala. She told the *New York Post* Clinton should be re-elected "because he has to get rid of the welfare reform bill."

Sen. Daniel Moynihan gave a different, more realistic explanation of the events. "The votes won't be there to repeal it, even with a Democratic Congress," he said to members of the New York delegation at the Chicago convention. "There's a basic fact. We have repealed Title 4A of the Social Security Act. That has been done and will not be undone." Moynihan continued, "We in New York are going to have to live with it for a very long time... and it's not going to be easy." His comments were widely reported in the media.

In his own speech accepting nomination for the presidency, Clinton boasted of putting 100,000 more cops on the street, cutting welfare roles by 1.8 million people, and making the federal workforce "the smallest it's been since John Kennedy." His rhetoric on "building a bridge to the 21st century" contained very few promises to make things better in the lives of working people. The proposals he did make included tax credits for those who profit from selling their home and for college tuition payments — leaving intact the tuition system, even in public colleges. He also proposed allowing companies to compensate overtime work with time off, instead of overtime pay. This would annul part of the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act, which like Social Security was a product of the battles waged by union workers and the unemployed against the conditions they faced in the 1930s depression.

Clinton concluded with a portion of his speech that laid the ground for the U.S. bombing of Iraq a few days later. "We cannot become the world's policeman, but where our values and our interests are at stake and where we can make a difference, we must act and we must lead," he said. Cuba, Iran, Libya, and North Korea were among the countries he cited as needing change.

## Kemp reaches out for Black vote

Vice-presidential candidate Kemp has been in the forefront of the Republican campaign, even overshadowing his running mate, Dole. A major theme for him has been reaching out to win votes from Blacks. The former congressman attended a September 6 breakfast at a soul food restaurant in Harlem, for instance. Among the businessmen and politicians present was Rep. Charles Rangel, a Democrat from Harlem. Rangel praised Kemp for the "courage you have to speak out when it was unpopular in your party, to talk about all people regardless of color."

Speaking of "enterprise zones" as the solution to urban poverty, Kemp waved a dollar bill and declared, "This is the color of the new civil rights revolution — green." These zones are areas in predominantly Black and Latino communities where businessmen are given tax breaks if they set up shop.

"There is a new Black bourgeoisie that's so important to this country," Kemp said, pointing to retired Gen. Colin Powell, who headed the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, as an example of how Blacks can "rise to the top." Kemp has stated the goal of winning half of the Black vote for the Republicans by the year 2000.

In an interview with the *Boston Globe* published



Clinton campaigning at Royal Oak, Michigan, on his way to Democratic Party Convention surrounded by police officers. He has stuck by his pledge to run a "law and order" administration.

September 8, the vice-presidential contender praised Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's emphasis on Black entrepreneurship and family values. He also said he wished he had been invited to speak at the Million Man March last fall. Two days later, speaking at the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations, Kemp called on Farrakhan "to renounce anti-Semitism." In the same speech he pledged full support to Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Kemp is also making an effort to appeal to workers. He spent Labor Day in Flint, Michigan, an industrial city hit hard by auto layoffs. And he offered himself and Dole to meet with the National Education Association, one of the two main teachers' unions and often a target of attack in Dole's speeches.

Meanwhile, Dole has been holding a series of rallies with supporters dubbed "Listening to America." His talks focus largely on his proposal for a 15 percent tax cut and other "economic growth" measures. "We are the party of reform.... We are the party of Main Street. We are the party of working people. We are the party of the farmers in the state of Georgia," he said in Fayetteville, Georgia, September 9.

In an interview with *New York Times*, Dole was asked whether reports of continued modest economic growth, consumer confidence, and lower unemployment rates hurt his campaigning. "If the growth rate was 3.5 percent we'd be out of business," Dole replied. "But it's not. It's 2.4 percent and it's gone down." He also stated, "We've got the worst recovery in this century." This gets a hearing from some workers and middle-class people who don't feel that times are better. One indicator of underlying instability is that personal bankruptcies are at an all-time high, despite being five years into the upturn since the last recession.

Nevertheless, Dole remains about 20 points behind Clinton in the polls, which worries many Republican leaders. *Time* magazine correspondent James Carney reported that when Dole paid a visit to Congress September 11 to rally support from GOP representatives, "the setting was akin to a funeral." Only 120 of 288 Republican congressmen showed up.

As Clinton promises a few small tax cuts of his own, trying to undercut Dole's strategy, both candidates are presenting themselves as the saviors of the Social Security and Medicare programs. Both Dole and Clinton, however, have backed large Medicare cuts as part of recent budget proposals; Dole to the tune of \$168 billion, compared with Clinton's \$124 billion reduction.

And as a front page column in the August 26 *Wall Street Journal* put it, "As they lay out competing visions for the final four years of the 20th century, there is one thing neither President Clinton nor Bob Dole will tell you: Whoever gets elected is going to preside over a recession." There is no escape from the normal workings of the capitalist business cycle.

## Tough times for former Clinton friends

One the sideline to the Democratic convention was the demise of Clinton advisor Richard Morris. Days after Morris appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine under the headline "The man who has Clinton's ear," and hours before Clinton's acceptance speech, reports hit the press about his rela-

tionship with a prostitute, whom he supposedly told details of White House affairs. Morris quit the campaign, went back onto the cover of *Time* together with his wife, and announced plans to publish a book.

Morris claims credit for Clinton's policy over the last couple of years of taking the lead in dismantling welfare, emphasizing "family values," and pushing austerity in the name of a balanced budget. He also claimed to have written the speeches given by the president and his wife, Hillary Clinton, in Chicago. Other White House staff deny this. Speaking to the *Washington Post*, senior Clinton advisor George Stephanopoulos countered, "The president said no to Dick as much as he said yes." In any event, the policies Morris pushed are now the official program of the Democratic Party. "It is not clear what more Mr. Morris, never a tactician, could have done for Mr. Clinton over the next 10 weeks," wrote Jurek Martin in the August 31 *Financial Times*.

Early news reports mentioned that Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has his Washington residence in the same hotel as Morris, where the campaign advisor was photographed with the prostitute, Sherry Rowlands. According to the *New York Times*, the hotel "has been the site for intimate fund-raising events for Mr. Clinton." These facts soon dropped out of the news.

On September 9, Morris denied Rowlands's statement that he told her Hillary Clinton was responsible for the White House's improper acquisition of some 900 FBI files on individuals, including many prominent Republicans. The Clinton administration has attempted to ex-

Continued on Page 14

## Bipartisan Senate passes antigay law

By an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 85 to 14, the U.S. Senate voted September 10 to approve the Defense of Marriage Act, a law against gay marriages. The House of Representatives passed an identical bill in July by a vote of 342 to 67. President William Clinton promised in May he will sign the measure.

The Senate also narrowly voted down a bill that would ban discrimination against homosexuals in hiring in most circumstances, in this case by a vote of 50 to 49.

The Defense of Marriage act bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages, including for the purposes of health insurance, Social Security, and other benefits usually available to spouses. It also explicitly allows states to deny recognition gay marriages conducted in other states. Currently none of the 50 states allow provisions for same-sex marriage, though an upcoming court case in Hawaii could be the first test.

Speaking against the antidiscrimination bill, Sen. Daniel Coats, a Republican from Indiana, declared, "It would give the stamp of Federal approval to activities still considered illegal in many states."

Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut said the two votes were an "affirmation of mainstream values."

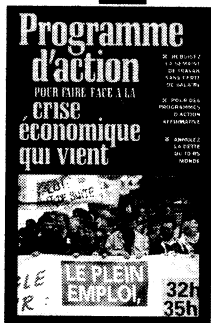
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# UK: who will succeed the Queen?

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — History doesn't move in measured steps. Social development is uneven while nations combine the most modern forms of technology and production with political institutions and social relations that are hangovers from previous societies.

One consequence of this law of uneven and combined development is that on the eve of the 21st century in Britain, birthplace of modern capitalism, a struggle has been

## AS I SEE IT

joined within the bourgeoisie over the succession to the Crown.

The opening salvos were fired at the end of last year by Diana, the former wife of heir to the throne, Prince Charles. Millions around the world watched as Diana said in a high profile television interview that the monarchy had become distanced from ordinary people and that her then husband should not be king. A procession of ruling class figures and members of parliament lined up to express their backing for Diana.

Charles's reply was to press for divorce, now granted. At the end of August, Buckingham Palace publicly threw into the ring the Queen's backing for her son. The head of state, it was announced, backs a number of changes to the monarchy that have already been floated by Charles. These include financing the monarchy entirely from Crown Estate revenues — income from agricultural, urban and marine estates owned by the Queen; disestablishing the Church of England; repealing the ban against heirs to the throne marrying Roman

Catholics; allowing the first-born child of a monarch to succeed the throne irrespective of sex; and limiting the number of "royals" who carry out public activities to the monarch's most immediate family.

Newspapers led with the story. TV and radio news and magazine programs turned over hours of broadcasting time to discussing the leak in which it was revealed that Downing Street and Anthony Blair, leader of "Her Majesty's Opposition" (that is the British Labor Party), had been fully involved in the discussions. Prime minister John Major is said to have given "enthusiastic backing" to the meetings.

It is not difficult to find personal motives in the struggle between Charles and Diana. Charles aspires to the wealth, status, and power that succession would bring. Diana likewise prefers the prospect of being the loving mother of King William rather than the estranged wife of King Charles.

More important is the reason why this struggle draws in such weighty ruling class forces: their desire to preserve the constitutional monarchy as the form of state to defend their class rule in the face of the monarchy's most severe crisis in 300 years. Divided they may be as to which future monarch gives them the best shot, but united they are that it's in British capitalism's best interests to preserve the United Kingdom and all its fundamental trappings. The monarchy is the only institution that can keep the United Kingdom united today. In the choppy waters of the class struggle at the end of the 20th century, the British rulers want to safeguard the crown as a political instrument.

These have served the rulers well since the first King Charles and his wife were crushed by the national revolution of the 17th century. Powerful enough to sever the



Queen Elizabeth II (inset) has backed her son, Charles (left), in the debate over succession to the throne. British rulers need monarchy to preserve United Kingdom.

King's head in 1649, the bourgeois revolution was not strong enough to prevent the monarchy's restoration 40 years later. The web of institutions that codified the compromise between the rising capitalist class and declining aristocracy — monarchy, a parliament including the House of Lords, bloated state bureaucracy, established church, United Kingdom — evolved in a relatively stable way over the decades and centuries of the ascendancy of British imperialism.

English parliamentarism was not born on the River Thames by a peaceful evolution but by violent revolution. But thanks to England's dominant world position the inner contradictions were softened. The abundance of wealth the ruling class acquired through exploitation of the toilers on much of the globe acted as a powerful buffer to social contradictions. Conservatism became inbred into the moral fibre of the capitalist

class.

If the most decisive sections of the British ruling class are continuing this conservative clinging to tried and trusted forms of rule, the objective basis for their elasticity has long since passed. The British crisis is endemic. The state form is fracturing along its weakest, that is national, seams. The Irish insurgency is unbroken. A new rise of the Scottish independence struggle has started. At best, the rulers hope that the monarchy can continue to bind together this edifice. Failing that, they hope that the monarchy, an institution with long historical roots, can be used should the government be threatened by serious class struggle.

That's why the struggle for succession is taken so seriously. But less and less can they draw working people into this exercise. The crisis of British state forms is hidden only by the absence of major social struggles, and these can't be postponed forever.

## Britain: abortion foes make little headway in 'twins' case

BY JULIE CRAWFORD

MANCHESTER, England — During the month of August, anti-abortion forces in the United Kingdom launched an attack on abortion rights. Their stated aim is to restrict the grounds for abortion to purely medical reasons. The attack centered on the case where a woman decided to abort one of her twin fetuses under the social clause of the 1967 Abortion Act, which legalized the right to choose. This case, termed "selective reduction," sparked a virulent assault by rightist forces opposed to abortion and was reported in all mainstream newspapers.

The controversy began when Philip Bennett, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in west London, gave an interview in early August telling the story of one of his patients, a 28-year-old unmarried woman with one child. She asked to have one of the two fetuses aborted and Bennett agreed.

On August 6, the Society of Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) won a High Court injunction to "halt the operation." SPUC campaigners sought to force Bennett to tell his patient that "pro-life" groups had offered up to £60,000 (\$90,000) in an attempt to persuade the woman to give birth to both babies. This would establish a precedent for a third party intervening between the doctor and his or her patient.

The daily *Independent* reported that "SPUC dropped its legal action" when it discovered that the termination had in fact been carried out several months earlier. At the same time, the newspaper also reported that Life, another anti-abortion organization, was trying to launch an inquiry into this case "with a view to stepping up its campaign for clarification on the abortion laws."

In the face of such demands, Prime Minister John Major's government distanced itself from the right-wing campaign seeking to change existing legislation on abortion. "Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health," reported the *Independent*, "was resisting demands from the pro-life group for an inquiry. There is consensus across the main political parties over abortion law."

The 1967 Abortion Act applies throughout Great Britain but not in Northern Ireland. It permits termination of pregnancy up to the 24th week. The law allows a wide latitude of reasons for abortion, even if child-bearing would not cause risks to the health of the mother or child.

The debate has continued in the press. It followed an earlier controversy over the destruction of an estimated 3,000 frozen in vitro embryos, required by a British law that bars embryo storage beyond five years without the consent of the donors of the sperm and egg that created them.

In a commentary in the August 6 *Times*, columnist Libby Purves lamented the implications of these cases. "Thousands of frozen embryos are being destroyed; meanwhile a healthy woman of 28 has asked to have one healthy twin killed in her womb because she says she cannot cope with it," she wrote. She said the controversies reveal nothing new, while any "moral shift" that has taken place was "by gradual attrition, over decades... Like a drunk waking up in a particular sordid gutter, we have suddenly seen in a flash of clarity what the heedless years have brought us."

Purves praised "the few religious voices that were raised in opposition to IVF [in vitro fertilization]." And she continued, "As for abortion, the 1967 Act was never intended to produce abortion on demand. I was 17 at the time, a cradle Catholic but a dissident one and an avid follower of women's issues. Perhaps the most useful thing I can do now is to trace, on behalf of a

generation, the shifting attitude which led us to our present bleak pass."

Purves's regrets notwithstanding, the successful fight to legalize abortion and to defend abortion rights since then has been over the right of every woman to choose abortion and have access to it on demand. The ruling class has not been able to roll back these gains.

The majority of people support the right to choose today. This is reflected in the stance of the Major government. And recently, Health Secretary Dorrell felt compelled publicly reject calls for "tough new guidelines" on IVF treatment.

The Major government, already facing a crisis over its diminishing role in Ireland and Europe, feels it is not strong enough to undertake any frontal assault on abortion rights today. At the same time, the right-wing propaganda generated around these cases shows that probes aimed at undermining abortion rights can escalate.

## California state assembly approves castration bill

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — In a new move against privacy and other democratic rights, the California State Assembly passed a bill August 30 allowing the state to chemically castrate people convicted of child molestation. Governor Pete Wilson has said he will sign the bill, which could become effective January 1. Similar laws are being considered in Texas, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. Also sent to the governor's desk is a California version of the so-called "Megan's Law," which would allow local citizens to review police listings of registered "sex offenders" in their area.

Under the bill, a person convicted twice of child molestation would be forced to take shots of the powerful contraceptive drug Depo-Provera, or undergo surgical castration. Depo-Provera has been shown to slow sexual impulses in men by causing their testicles to shrink, or, in the coarse language of one of the bill's promoters, it turns "stones

into pebbles." It is not yet known whether its effects are irreversible. Known side effects of the drug are similar to those of menopause, including hot flashes, high blood pressure, migraine headaches, nightmares, fatigue, and circulatory problems. It can also cause diabetes in people prone to that disease. The law provides for no psychological treatment for those forced to take the drug. The shots would continue until a panel of "experts" deemed the person rehabilitated or until his parole ended.

Backers of the bill have pointed to Denmark, where such injections have been used for many years, to paint a "humane" picture of the practice. But Danish prison officials admit that it only treats symptoms, and that extensive psychotherapy is required. Faced with a choice of remaining in prison or taking the shots, 26 prisoners in that country have agreed to take them since 1989. Yet 10 of these men remain in prison, some with sentences of unlimited length.

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# Clinton assaults Iraq

Continued from front page  
moves by Baghdad.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns declared, "We reserve the right to take any military action we wish to counter the reconstitution of an air defense system." Pentagon officials said Iraqi forces were repairing anti-air defense facilities destroyed by Washington's September 3 missile strikes in southern Iraq.

The latest military moves came as Clinton's Republican opponents in the presidential race stepped up their criticism of his Iraq policy. In the first week of September, Kurdish forces backed by the Iraqi government consolidated their control over cities in the north of that country. These events fueled a debate in big-business circles on what many commentators described as a fiasco for Washington.

Some of the critics complained that Clinton should have ordered the bombing of the Iraqi army units that moved into Kurdish areas in the north. Others pointed out that the latest setback was rooted in Washington's political debacle in the 1990-91 Gulf War.

## Dole and Kemp criticize Clinton

Republican presidential contender Robert Dole, who first chastised Clinton for "weak leadership" and then lined up behind the Democratic president when the bombs began to drop, suggested September 9 that Clinton's assault did not succeed.

Dole's running mate, Jack Kemp, described a "worsening situation" for Washington in Iraq and accused Clinton of "vacillation" September 11. While backing the U.S. attacks on Iraq, Kemp complained that "our alliances are in disarray" and proposed seeking a stronger "coalition" with allied governments.

Sen. John McCain, a Dole campaign adviser, denounced the "abject failure" of Clinton's Iraq policy. Republican senator Richard Lugar called for "more extensive air strikes."

Clinton warned that Republicans should "not let the word war spiral out of hand." White House spokesman Michael McCurry stated that the U.S. government should "speak with one voice and not with discordant voices."

On September 3, U.S. military forces lobbed 44 cruise missiles against targets in southern Iraq. Washington expanded the "no-fly zone" in that area to the edge of

Baghdad, enforced by U.S. and British warplanes. Clinton also announced that a United Nations agreement allowing limited oil sales by the Iraqi government was suspended.

Clinton said the U.S. military moves were in response to Baghdad's August 31 troop deployment into the Kurdish "enclave" imposed by Washington in northern Iraq after the Gulf War. On September 4 Clinton proclaimed, "Our mission has been achieved," saying most Iraqi troops had left the Kurdish region. The White House said the new no-fly zone was permanent.

Over the next few days, however, a flurry of news articles and opinion columns in the daily press painted a picture sharply at variance with the White House version. Headlines read: "Iraq-backed Kurds take key town," "Iraq Fills A Power Vacuum," "Not a Victory," "Iraqi Offensive Into Kurdish Zone Disrupts U.S. Plot to Oust Hussein," "How Saddam Survives."

When Washington launched its attack on Iraq, Baghdad's army was already withdrawing from the north and the Iraqi-backed forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had taken Erbil, ousting the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Within days, KDP troops captured Sulaimaniya and other cities controlled by the PUK, now aligned with the Iranian government. Thousands of Patriotic Union followers and other Kurdish civilians fled across the Iranian border. Previously, the PUK dominated about half the Kurdish region, including Erbil and Sulaimaniya, cities of 500,000 and 400,000 inhabitants, respectively.

In Erbil, KDP and Iraqi troops destroyed the headquarters of the U.S.-sponsored Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of opposition groups that Washington has unsuccessfully tried to use since the end of the Gulf War to undermine President Saddam Hussein. Dozens of INC members were arrested and reportedly executed. Washington smuggled a handful of CIA officers out of Erbil into Turkey, while 200 CIA-backed Iraqis from the INC were left stranded in a nearby mountaintop village.

## No more coalition

Meanwhile, the Turkish regime announced it would enforce a "security zone" inside Iraqi territory to prevent incursions by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas, who are fighting for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey. Turkish troops have



Militant  
Protesters gathered early September in Pittsburgh to denounce U.S. bombing of Iraq

massed along the Iraqi border.

U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher said Ankara had "genuine reasons to be concerned about their border." But Paris, Moscow, and several of Iraq's neighbors balked at the Turkish move as a destabilizing factor. Baghdad threatened to "take every necessary action" to prevent it.

On September 6, Washington and London gave up their effort to pass a resolution in the United Nations Security Council criticizing the Iraqi government for its army deployment in Erbil. They decided not to force a vote — even on a watered-down resolution expressing only "deep concern" — after the Russian government threatened a veto. Moscow said it would only approve a resolution that also criticized the U.S. missile strikes.

Meeting in Ireland September 8, foreign ministers of the European Union called for reinstating the agreement allowing Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine.

As the Baghdad-supported KDP routed its rivals in northern Iraq, the White House found itself defending its actions from domestic critics.

Clinton said Washington had "limited" options in Iraq. "I would still like to do more to help the Kurds," he said. "But frankly, if you want the fighting to be ended, the leaders of the various factions are going to have to be willing to go back to the peace table and talk it through."

U.S. defense secretary William Perry stated, "We should not be involved in the civil war in the north. We should focus our actions where our interests are," he asserted, referring to southern Iraq, which borders on oil-rich Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The day the White House proclaimed victory, the *New York Times* ran a front-page article titled "A Failed Race Against Time: U.S. Tried to Head Off Iraqis." It stated, "While President Clinton today declared the military retaliation a success, Mr. Hussein has nonetheless achieved a victory of his own: By the time Iraqi tanks had withdrawn under the pressure of United States cruise missile attacks, the Kurdish unity that the United States spent the last five years trying to preserve had been torn apart." The article noted that Baghdad had finally regained control of the Kurdish "enclave."

## Washington loses northern enclave

This and other recent news reports have revealed how the U.S. base of anti-Iraq operations in the north collapsed in the months preceding Washington's September 3 assault.

Washington set up the Kurdish "enclave" in 1991 after the Gulf War. At that time it launched "Operation Provide Comfort," a military operation by U.S., British, and French forces that drove hundreds of thousands of Kurds — who had tried to flee into Turkey after the Hussein regime crushed a Kurdish rebellion — back into Iraq.

Washington backed the KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, and the PUK, headed by Jalil Talabani, in exchange for establishing an anti-Hussein base in northern Iraq.

Under pressure from the Kurdish people in their struggle for national self-determination, Barzani and Talabani temporarily put aside their power struggles. Elections in 1992 led to an autonomous Kurdish parliament in Erbil.

The imperialist economic embargo against Iraq, however, hit the Kurdish people particularly hard, causing shortages of basic goods and pushing unemployment as high as 80 percent. The economic squeeze sparked a renewed feud between the bourgeois-led KDP and PUK. They fought over funds from international "relief" organizations and "customs" revenues from the smuggling of diesel and other embargoed goods through the borders with Turkey and Iran. Meanwhile, the capitalist regimes in Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Iraq sought mutually conflicting alliances among the Kurdish political factions.

At the same time, the Iraqi National Congress, Iraqi National Accord, and other U.S.-sponsored "resistance" groups failed to generate broad support among the population or in the Iraqi military. This was despite \$20 million in covert CIA financing and an INC headquarters in Erbil with a staff of 800.

Fighting between the KDP and PUK broke out in 1994, when Talabani's guerrillas seized Erbil. Repeated U.S. efforts to hold the alliance together collapsed. The PUK then turned to neighboring Tehran for aid. In July 1996, in exchange for allowing its troops to raid northern Iraq and pound Iranian Kurd rebel bases, the Iranian government left the PUK arms and equipment. Alarmed, the Barzani group appealed to Baghdad for help against its rival.

While U.S. assistant secretary of state Robert Pelletreau was belatedly brokering

Continued on Page 14

## Protests against bombing of Iraq continue

As U.S. warplanes prepared to launch a third round of missile strikes in southern Iraq, the *Militant* received reports of protests and planned actions in a number of cities. Last week we reported on modest protest actions in Boston, New York, and San Francisco. Below are some of the latest reports filed by our reader-correspondents. Readers involved in picket lines, demonstrations, teach-ins or other protests against Washington's war moves are encouraged to send in short articles, notes, and photos.

### BY LAURA ANDERSON

LOS ANGELES — Some 30 people demonstrated in front of the downtown Federal building here September 10. The protest denounced the recent bombings of Iraq by Washington. As protesters headed downtown, the announcement came that Clinton was preparing new air and missile strikes. We resolved at the protest that whenever the bombing occurred, the activists would organize a protest. Two radio stations covered the September 10 action.

### BY GAETAN WHISTON

MINNEAPOLIS — Chanting "U.S. Hands off Iraq!" and "No Blood for Oil!" 60 people gathered in front of the Federal Building here September 4 to protest the U.S. bombing of Iraq.

Some of the protesters were activists from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Women against Military Madness, Veterans for Peace, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Young Socialists. They distributed leaflets to passers-by, denouncing both the latest war moves and the

five-year economic embargo against Iraq. Immediately after the third bombing was announced, organizers of the first action called another demonstration at the Federal Building for September 13.

### BY ANGEL LARISCY

PEORIA, Illinois — A dozen people participated in a picket at the downtown Federal Building here September 5 to protest the U.S. bombing of Iraq. The event, sponsored by the Peoria Area Peace Network, was covered by two television stations and a radio station.

Trade unionists, college and high school students, and others attended a special Militant Labor Forum the next evening. The meeting was addressed by Frank Forrester, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and John Greiner of the Peoria Area Peace Network.

### BY ESTELLE DEBATES

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — "Our campaign condemns the Clinton administrations' aggression against the people of Iraq with the 27 cruise missiles fired into that country this morning," said Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers candidate for West Virginia governor. Richter was speaking at the monthly membership meeting of Equality For All Americans, a local organization made up primarily of Black workers.

"They say this action was carried out to defend the Kurdish people. But the people in this room know this government has never and will never act in the interests of the oppressed or working people either in

this country or anywhere in the world."

Several veterans of the civil rights movement and struggles by union miners took part in the discussion. Many agreed that their experiences fit what Richter was explaining.

### BY JILL FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — "I oppose U.S. military aggression against the Iraqi people and demand the U.S. government get all its military forces out of the Mideast," stated John Langford, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the Third District. Langford and Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Utah, were speaking at the United Steelworkers Local 2701 Labor Day picnic, where they were warmly received. Some 2,000 unionists, family members, and friends were in attendance.

### BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — On September 6 a demonstration of 40 Iraqi immigrants marched through the main street of this city to picket outside the U.S. Consulate. They carried placards condemning the U.S. bombing and demanding an end to the trade sanctions against Iraq.

That evening a special Militant Labor Forum featured Eugen Lepou, Communist League candidate for Auckland Central. "Our campaign demands an end to the U.S. imperialist aggression against Iraq and the withdrawal of all United States and United Nations forces — including the New Zealand government's warships and military personnel — from the Middle East," Lepou said.



# Philadelphia area youth, students visit Cuba

The following article appeared in the August 29 issue of *El Hispano*, a bilingual weekly newspaper published in Philadelphia.

BY REBECCA ARENSON

PHILADELPHIA — 144 youth from the United States, five from Philadelphia, journeyed to Cuba for the U.S./Cuba Youth Exchange. Our group came from 26 states, and represented a diverse range of racial, cultural and political backgrounds. The Federation of University Students in Cuba hosted us for two weeks from July 24 to August 6.

Families in Santiago de Cuba opened up their hearts and homes, hosting us for several days. We visited sites which pay homage to Cuba's heroes, such as the grave of Jose Marti and the statue of Antonio Maceo.

We went to the site of the Moncada Garrison, now a school, where every year, school children reenact the battle of July 26, 1953, commemorating the start of the Cuban revolutionary struggle. July 30, the Day of the Martyrs of the Revolution, we walked with Cubans on their traditional pilgrimage to the grave of young revolutionary leader, Frank Pais. We visited Playa Giron, site of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and danced with Cuban Soldiers at the border of the Guantanamo Naval Base. We did voluntary work in the platano fields, and visited hospitals, research centers, orphanages and factories.

We spoke with many Cubans about their system. We saw the unbelievable pride they have in their country and in what they have been able to achieve with their revolution. A system that views healthcare, education, food, housing, employment, and a voice in the decision making of the country, as unalienable rights, deserving of everyone.

The mutual respect that exists for one another in Cuban society is amazing. There is a common link between them that crosses any differences between them. They are all a people in struggle. A people that must figure out how to survive without the resources which are denied their country because of the United States economic blockade against them. March 12, President Clinton signed into law the so-called "Cuban liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act", better known as the Helms/Burton Act, which attempts to limit even further, Cuban's access to the necessities they need such as food and medicines, by tightening the restrictions against other countries who trade with Cuba.

However, no one in Cuba is without the

bare necessities. What they have, is divided equally between everyone. When there are scarcities of something very crucial it is given first, to those who need it most. For instance with milk, it is first given to children under seven, the sick and the elderly.

And despite these difficulties, their economy is actually improving. In Fidel Castro's speech during the July 26 celebration in Holguin, he explained that their Gross Domestic Product grew 9.6% in the first half

of this year. He says "the 9.6 is a salute. is a message to Mr. Helms and Mr. Burton."

Cuba remains stronger than ever, and its citizens will not allow for the gains they have made over the last 35 years to be taken away so easily. A Cuban from Santiago explains, "We have been able to provide for our people what no other country has been able to do in all of Latin America. All around the world, really. We are the only country which has stood up against U.S. imperial-

ism for over 35 years and have not backed down. And we never will. We will never give up what we have achieved. The right to decide our own future, the free access to health and education, the true participation of our people in the decision making of our country. Our Socialism. This is what we will never give up."

For more information on Cuba Solidarity Work, please contact the Philadelphia Cuba Support Coalition at 215-426-0364.

## Cuban denied right to perform in Miami

BY JANET POST

MIAMI BEACH, Florida — "We want free speech!" and "We want to hear Rosita!" chanted 100 demonstrators in front of the Jackie Gleason Theatre here September 6 — the night Cuban singer Rosita Fornés was to have performed. The action was called to protest the forced cancellation of the Fornés concert and to speak out for freedom of speech and artistic expression.

Fornés, 73, a performer of *zarzuelas* and operettas, is one of Cuba's most famous entertainers and is popular with many Cuban-Americans. Fornés lives in Cuba but is a U.S. citizen, having been born in the United States. Because she has not denounced the government of Cuba, right wingers here and Miami Beach officials and cops have organized a campaign against her.

The Miami Beach city administration and manager Jose Garcia-Pedrosa demanded an unprecedented \$6,000 from promoters for extra security and \$100,000 worth of fire insurance. The city's demands came after rightist groups, including Cuban Unity, announced a protest outside the event and some threatened violence.

The city also prohibited the placement of Fornés's name on the theatre marquee and some Cuban-American radio stations refused to accept paid advertisements for the concert. An earlier five-night appearance planned by the singer at Little Havana's Centro Vasco restaurant was canceled when the establishment was threatened with a boycott and then firebombed July 11.

Even after the second concert date in September was canceled, right-wing radio commentators claimed there would be a demonstration against Fornés's right to appear in Miami Beach. At least one report said up to 5,000 rightists would rally. But only a handful of right-wingers showed up at the



Militant/Maggie McCraw

Some 100 Miami protesters demanded free speech for Cuban singer Rosita Fornés on September 6.

theatre and just observed the anti-censorship demonstration.

"Rosita the Great! Don't Fear the Terrorists of Miami!" read a large banner carried at the demonstration by the Alliance of Workers in the Cuban Community (ATC). The ATC sponsored the rally along with the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba and the Antonio Maceo Brigade. "Rosita should have the same rights as everyone else," said demonstrator Lissette González, a youth who works with the ATC.

Also picketing were several residents of Miami Beach who came after hearing of the event on the radio. "We just don't like what the city is doing around this concert," remarked one.

Fredric Maxwell, a writer who lives here, made his own picket sign and walked to the demonstration. "It's not the government's job to decide who we can listen to, it should be our choice," said Maxwell to explain why he came.

Twelve demonstrators drove from Key West, including Cuban-American Emilia Fernández who said, "I want to show that all of us don't agree with the politics of the Miami right-wing exiles."

Antonio Maceo Brigade leader Andrés Gómez spoke to the crowd and to the media. Reporters came from the local ABC-TV affiliate; TeleNoticias; WSVN-TV; WLTV; the *Miami Herald*; *Nuevo Herald*; and the *Sun Sentinel*.

"Instead of coming here to welcome Rosita we are here to express our outrage," said Gómez. "The people of Dade County are tired of this. We are disgusted with public officials who do not protect our rights."

He also pointed out that "security fees are nothing but censorship." Recollecting the April performance in Miami by Cuban jazz pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba where violent protesters verbally assaulted and spat on concert-goers, Gómez asked, "Where was security then?"

Nathalia Póses of the Young Socialists also spoke. "Most young people believe in freedom of speech," she commented. "But they try and keep youth from speaking to each other and organizing." As an example of denial of freedom of information, Póses pointed to Washington's unrelenting slander of Cuba. "The U.S. government does not want us to know what is going on in Cuba," she said.

Other speakers at the protest included Wilfredo Moreno from the ATC, Linda Belgrave from the Miami Coalition the End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, and Emilia Fernández from Key West.

Since the Centro Vasco firebombing there have been three other firebombings in Miami by the right wing: two at Marazul Tour offices, a travel agency that organize trips to Cuba, and one at Tu Familia Shipping Co. that sends packages to Cuba.

Meanwhile, the Miami chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), representing concert promoters Orlando Díaz and Adolfo Vázquez, threatened September 4 to sue the city of Miami Beach if administrators refused to reschedule the concert without the onerous financial requirements.

Miami ACLU chairman Benjamin Waxman said at a press conference, "There have been conditions imposed on this performance that have not been placed on others. What this amounts to is another insidious form of censorship."

He continued, "We cannot have a government that can impose fees and exact a price for freedom of speech. If we allow that to happen, then we allow those people who want to protest and who may threaten terrorism or lawlessness to control the speech that others are allowed to express."

Janet Post is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368 at United Airlines in Miami.

## 'La Gaceta' now offered at student rate

BY MARTY ANDERSON

Pathfinder Press has just announced a special student subscription rate to *La Gaceta de Cuba*, a journal in Spanish published six times a year by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC). *La Gaceta* is a leading forum for discussion on culture, politics, and the challenges facing the Cuban revolution today.

For \$28 students will now be able to receive *La Gaceta* for a year. The regular individual subscription rate is \$40. The May-June issue provides a sample of the type of articles published regularly in the magazine. One of the features is an interview with José Luis, founder of the musical group NG-La Banda, who previously was part of the bands Van Van and Irakere.

Asked about Cuban popular music today, José Luis replied, "Contemporary Cuban popular music has nothing at all in common with what is happening elsewhere in Latin America. In the first place, we are not ruled by a market. The Salsa groups, as you know, are owned by the music transnationals. The aim is to sell, and for that fixed patterns are established. In such a situation one cannot create or develop this music. I see this in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, etc."

"For 36 years we in Cuba have not belonged to any market. Before [the revolution] there was Capitol Records, RCA Victor.... The embargo also affects music, since it prohibits these companies from doing business with Cuba. I myself have had proposals from EMI, from Sony, and they demand that you leave Cuba and throw yourself to the great market. This has benefited our music, since it allows us to create, but at the same time our works are not known at the level they merit...."

"I believe that Cuba is one of the countries in the world where the best popular music is being written and performed." At the conclusion of the interview, José Luis is asked how he defines himself. The Cuban musician replied simply, "Me? I am a fighter."

Also included in this issue of *La Gaceta* are tributes to several Cuban writers and artists who have died recently. One of these is Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba's most well-known film director. His movies include *Strawberry and Chocolate*, *Memories of Underdevelopment*, *Death of a Bureaucrat*, and *The Last Supper*.

Another article is about Santiago Armada,

better known as Chago, who died in 1995. He was a humorist, painter, writer, poet, and cartoonist. Chago's cartoons first appeared in 1958 in the mimeographed paper *El Cubano Libre*, a Rebel Army newspaper founded by Ernesto Che Guevara in the Sierra Maestra mountains during Cuba's revolutionary war. After the victory of the revolution, Chago continued working for the daily newspaper *Revolución*. Several collections of his work were later published in book form.

Movie and book reviews are a regular feature of *La Gaceta*. The current issue reviews the film *Madagascar*, dealing with the problems and generational conflicts facing youth in Cuba today, from the vantage point of one young woman struggling to find a purpose in her life.

Among the books reviewed is *Nunca antes habías visto el rojo* (Never before had you seen red) by José Manuel Prieto, a collection of five short stories based on the experiences of Cuban youth studying in the Soviet Union.

Other items include a review of the contributions of writer Onelio Jorge Cardoso, an interview with Colombian novelist Alvaro Mutis, articles on theater and dance, and several short stories. Following one of its regular poetry contests, the May-June issue features the work of nine young poets, almost all them in their twenties and thirties, born after the revolution.

To subscribe to *La Gaceta* send a check or money order for \$40 (\$28 student rate) to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Published in Spanish only, the magazine is airmailed directly from Havana.

*La Gaceta*

DE CUBA

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1995

*La Gaceta de Cuba*

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Cine

40 años

Sergio Pilo

# 'Transformation of South Africa has barely begun'

## Interview with general secretary of National Union of Mineworkers

BY GREG ROSENBERG

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — "These past two years, the government has come up with a body of legislation that goes a long way toward removing apartheid's constraints. But that legislation is just a framework to begin the transformation of South Africa," said Kgalema Motlanthe in an interview here June 4. Motlanthe is the general secretary of the 350,000-member National Union of Mineworkers.

"Actually, the transformation has not begun in earnest. That's why at the moment, big business, which believed that the transformation already happened, is upset that their approaches are being challenged. The transformation can't be painless. The fact that there's been no pain means that it has not yet begun.

"The fact of the 1994 elections," South Africa's first-ever democratic, nonracial poll, Motlanthe said, "gave the impression that that was it. But they were just an aspect of what we need to transform South African society and its economy as a whole. The real process has yet to happen. Whether you are looking at the banks or the schools."

Motlanthe pointed out that the policy that the ANC has advanced to eradicate apartheid's legacy — the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP), now adopted as government policy — is just getting started.

The RDP outlines a massive effort to provide land, water, education, healthcare, housing, and other basic social needs to the tens of millions of black South Africans previously denied these basic needs under apartheid.

### RDP won't be 'delivered'

"There is an ill-founded notion that the RDP will be 'delivered' by the government," the NUM leader said. "That is disempowering. It means that communities are recipients, not actors. The government has to give backup to communities and other social forces. Labor as a social force must think very creatively. Working people can benefit in the process and become empowered.

"There must be a national debate in order for people to understand this clearly. It is hidden away today. That's why big business is so confident, and why some of our own people who are part of the liberation forces now seem to be forgetting about the disadvantaged sections of the population," Motlanthe said.

"The overall thrust of the old regime was

to look over a small section of South African society. The ravages of apartheid on our country are comparable to economies emerging from a war situation. We did not emerge from a normal past. We need an extraordinary approach to rebuild. There is no way you can get co-determination on a voluntary basis with the employers." To this end, Motlanthe said, it would be in the interests of the labor movement for the government to intervene more in disputes between capital and labor.

### Victory against 'lockout clause'

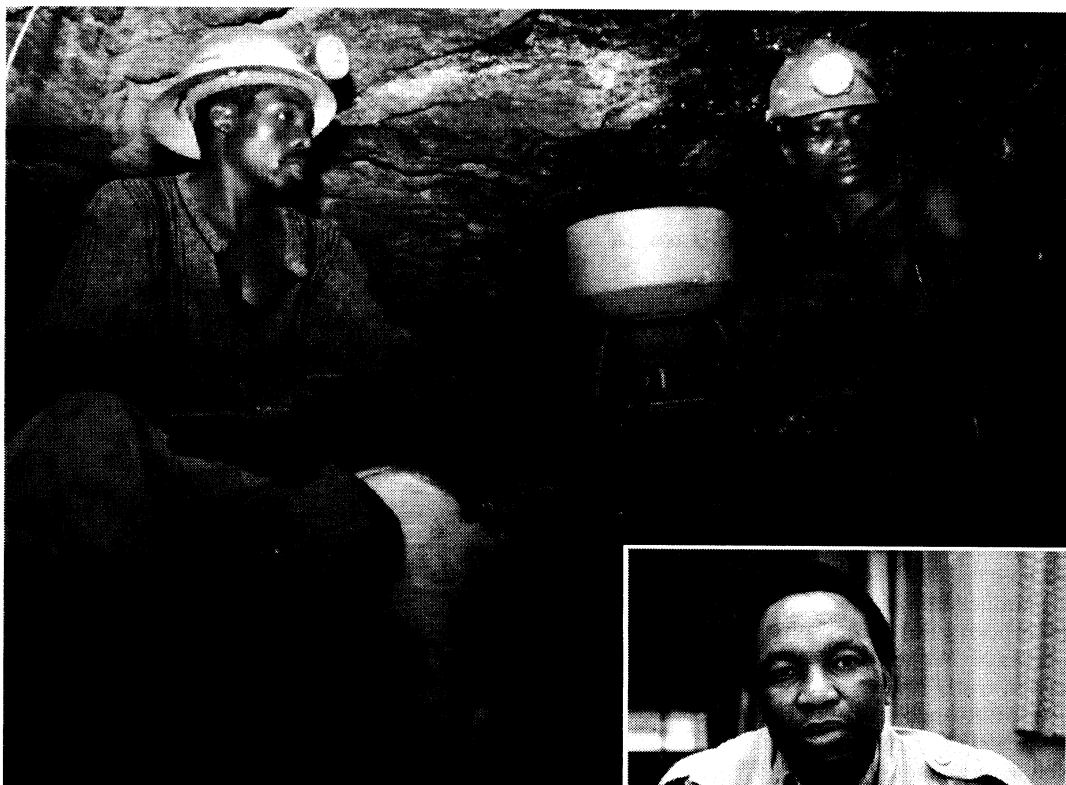
Motlanthe described the victory achieved by working people in the fight over the content of the bill of rights in South Africa's new constitution, adopted May 8 by the Constitutional Assembly. During the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiations — all-party talks begun in 1991 that were forced on the old regime by the rising mass revolutionary democratic movement — the labor movement made certain demands in relation to the employers' "right" to lockout, Motlanthe said.

"We said it was wrong to elevate a 'lockout clause' to the same level as workers right to strike. This right is really the only right that organized workers have. The employers have other rights.

"When the new constitution was being drafted, the employers wanted to enshrine their 'right to lockout' in the bill of rights. Our view was that the right to strike is a basic working-class right and must be enshrined. In talks with the ANC, we got them to agree to this."

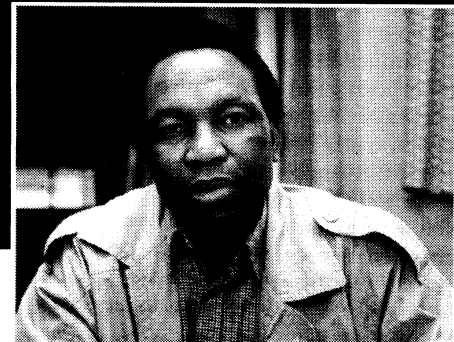
The provision of lockout rights to employers in the highest law in South Africa was dealt a death blow by an April 30 strike called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), in which NUM members participated. Several million workers stayed off the job, and hundreds of thousands marched to prevent such a clause from being incorporated into the constitution. A week later, the bill of rights was adopted. It specifies that workers have the right to form trade unions and to strike. It grants employers the right to form their own associations, and to bargain collectively. There is no lockout clause.

"An employer can initiate a lockout, under the provisions of the new Labor Relations Act," said Motlanthe. "But under the Act, a deadlock has to be declared. They



Oscar Gutierrez

Kgalema Motlanthe, inset, General Secretary of S. African National Union of Mineworkers. Above, mine workers in Natal.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

have to take it to court before they can close the doors to a factory." Millions of workers were adamant that a democratic constitution should not put the employers' rights on the same level as those of the working class, the union leader said.

### Privatization debate

A growing subject of debate today in South Africa is whether the government should privatize industries currently administered by the state. These include the telephone company, railroads, public transportation, South African Airways, and the electrical utility.

In May, returning from a state visit to Germany aimed at winning foreign investment in South African industry, South African president Nelson Mandela declared that "privatization is the fundamental policy of the ANC and it is going to be implemented. The responsibility for creating an investor and trade-friendly environment is for us to take."

The statement was given front-page coverage by virtually every major daily newspaper in South Africa, and the business press applauded Mandela's comment. International finance capital is pressing the Mandela government to move ahead as quickly as possible with privatizations.

In response, leaders of several major trade unions immediately threatened strike action against any moves to sell off shares of state-owned industries.

"The present debates are charged with lots of emotion and are a bit irrational as a result," Motlanthe remarked, emphasizing that in his opinion any decisions on the matter will be taken after talks between the government and the unions.

"One problem is that the government does not have a consolidated inventory of what it owns. What immediately comes to workers' minds is the major parastatals that were used by the National Party government," such as railroads, transportation, electricity, and telecommunications.

"From labor's side, government would be doing a hell of a disservice if it were getting rid of these kind of assets. They are not only efficiently run, but have the training capacity, the technical training capacity, that the mass of our people have been denied and desperately need because they were denied this training in the past," the NUM leader stated.

"If there is widespread privatization, the state bureaucrats will make sure they have positioned themselves well to benefit" from such moves, Motlanthe said. "The state would thus be stripped of assets, and the cash raised would go toward paying off the huge debt" inherited from the apartheid regime.

"Some of these industries — not all — are key to the economy. The post office for

instance. The same applies to mass transport. We would face an explosion of minibus taxis," the prevalent form of transport for blacks who live in townships, whether they need to go to the cities or to factories. "These taxis are not only unreliable, but also dangerous. In my view, the state must take responsibility for making mass transport efficient and safe.

"From international experience, privatization is known to result in job cuts. There can be no argument that such cutbacks would not visit us. These occupations would be stripped."

Motlanthe stated that "the government is not coming out clearly as to which assets it wants privatized. It is also holding onto useless assets, such as some property formerly owned by the South African Defense Force and the 'homeland' regimes."

### 'Develop our own proposals'

Motlanthe spent some time to state his point of view in this debate, in which union and ANC leaders as well as workers express varying opinions.

"The major concern from labor's side is the threat of job cuts," he said. "But the stance that labor has adopted of simply a big 'No' is a disservice to labor that doesn't allow us to think creatively. We have to develop our own counterproposals.

"What kind of safety net do we suggest?" he asked. "What kind of proposals do we need to ensure that workers — and South African society — don't come out the losers? We need time to develop our own proposals. Rather than hope it doesn't happen. When it does happen we'll be vulnerable unless we're prepared.

"Business calls for privatization simply because they stand to benefit. Their obligations are to shareholders rather than to society. Maximize profits is the watchword. To me it's very important that unions think this through very carefully.

"As long as labor's response is a simple 'No' it is not persuading anybody. It will not help Madiba (Nelson Mandela) defend that position from big business and from potential investors abroad. Our proposals are key to strengthening Mandela's resolve."

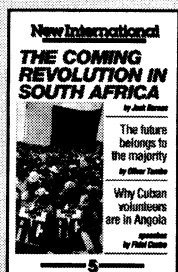
Motlanthe said his own approach to this subject was informed by practical questions that hit the Mineworkers union in 1989, when it was faced with massive layoffs in the mining industry.

"COSATU said at the time there should be a moratorium on retrenchments [layoffs]," he stated. "There was no thought as to what else could be done. But we had to think beyond moratorium. That's why the NUM developed retrenchment packages and retraining programs. It was only three years later, when retrenchments started visiting our COSATU affiliates," that this course hit home.

"By just then embarking on strike action, that allowed the employers to simply dismiss them. It sounded quite militant — 'moratorium on retrenchments!' But it didn't work. Unless we have proposals that we can bring to working people and the nation as a whole we'll be doing a disservice."

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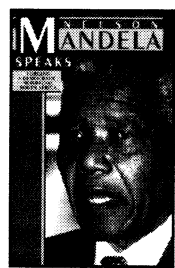
### The Coming Revolution in South Africa



#### JACK BARNES

The one-person, one-vote elections in 1994, and the sweeping victory of the African National Congress, were historic steps in the democratic revolution in South Africa. This article explores the social character and roots of apartheid in South African capitalism and the tasks of the toilers in city and countryside in dismantling the legacy of social and economic inequality. Only among the most committed cadres of this ANC-led struggle, Barnes writes, can the working class begin forging a communist leadership. In *New Internationalist* no. 5. Also includes "Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola": 2 speeches by Fidel Castro. \$9.00

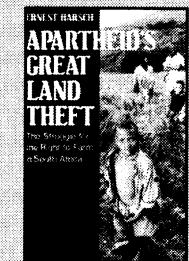
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# Workers in South Africa make progress

## Miners are in vanguard of labor's struggle to eradicate legacy of apartheid

BY GREG ROSENBERG

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Step by step, the working class in this country is making progress in eradicating apartheid's legacy in the workplace.

Many of these changes have begun to occur in the gold, diamond, platinum, and coal mines that constitute the largest industry in South Africa. These changes are the result of unrelenting struggles by hundreds of thousands of mineworkers who work deep underground for companies like Anglo-American and Gold Fields of South Africa. Some 350,000 mineworkers are members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

In its 1996 demands on the Chamber of Mines, the union has advanced proposals to narrow the wage gap between black and white miners. Miners who are white are currently paid on average nearly four times the amount of black miners.

After two months of negotiations with the bosses' association, the NUM declared a dispute August 1. Tens of thousands of mineworkers have joined in protests and marches over the past several months to pressure the Chamber to accept union demands. These include a restructuring of wages to reduce the number of job grades and closing the gap between the lowest and highest paid workers.

The NUM is currently demanding a 13 percent wage increase, while the mine owners are offering 7.5 percent to gold miners and between 6 and 12 percent to coal miners. The employers are also balking at a union proposal that they make a 1 percent contribution of pretax profits into miners' education and training programs.

### Expanded rights for migrant workers

Last October, after a series of long negotiations involving the NUM, South African president Nelson Mandela, then-deputy president F.W. deKlerk of the National Party, and Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party, an agreement was announced removing a cornerstone of apartheid's migrant labor system in the mines.

Migrant mineworkers who are originally from the neighboring countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Swaziland are now allowed to apply for permanent residency in South Africa. This



Striking members of S. Africa's main union federation demonstrated May 19 protesting plans to give employers the right to lock out workers and changes in property rights that would "entrench inequality."

affects some 90,000 workers. For more than a century, migrant miners — signed up on contract labor — have been brought to South Africa by the mining houses, forced to live in single-sex hostels far from their families, without any rights, and sent back to their countries of origin at the expiration of their contracts.

"This is a great victory for NUM and for migrant mineworkers," said NUM president James Motlatsi — himself from Lesotho. "At long last the black workers who have produced the wealth of this country and have for generations died in the mines are to be treated as equals with white workers."

### Opening the doors of learning

After a long struggle, the NUM has now signed agreements with nine separate mining companies dubbed the Adult Basic Education and Training agreement. These agreements mandate the mining houses — at their own expense — to establish training centers in which all miners will receive education, beginning with basic literacy. A high percentage of miners in South Africa never

received any education and cannot read. Training is to be administered by joint union/company committees.

"With education you can know what is happening in the world, can understand your own payslip, understand safety signs, and can read and write your own letters," said NUM shaft steward Gilbert Mphahlele.

Miners point out that securing basic education and literacy is a key to advancing affirmative action in the mines. For decades, skilled jobs such as underground electricians were the exclusive province of white miners. It is also essential component of workers strengthening safety underground.

### Reconstruction program

For two years, the ranks of the NUM have been discussing a proposal from the union's Central Committee to actively join in advancing the demands put forward in the government's Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP).

One union proposal was for miners to voluntarily work on one of the dozen national paid holidays now granted annually, and have both miners and mining houses divert wages and profits respectively toward the national RDP fund.

"At the end of last year we had two mines that worked on holidays, and the earnings went to the RDP fund," said NUM general

said.

"It is still early to determine the concrete results of the RDP," as a whole, said Motlanthe. "In some rural areas, for instance in the Eastern Cape, some rural communities are now getting running water. Some work has been done. But the main challenge is how to create jobs. The unemployment figures are quite frightening," standing at nearly 50 percent for blacks in South Africa.

"How can we generate economic growth, with the rand [South African currency] having dropped some 20 percent relative to the dollar this year? And with a state debt inherited from apartheid? How can we attract foreign investors? They seem reluctant. They come in on blue chip stocks — not direct investment — and this doesn't help.

"Even in mining, existing mineral rights laws hinder new investment," Motlanthe said. "The old mining groups sit on mineral deposits and decide whether to sink new shafts. There are indications they are moving towards North Africa where the political situation is different, in Burkina Faso and Ghana. Our proposal is that if a company sits on mineral deposits for three years without mining, the deposits should revert to the state for tender."

The government's mineral policy is under negotiation.

## CSX rail is responsible for train disasters, deaths

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a gesture to deflect criticism from a fatal train disaster three weeks earlier, the CSX rail corporation announced new safety procedures September 9. The government is currently investigating the August 20 collision of two CSX freight trains near Morgantown, West Virginia.

Engineer Thomas Shay, 45, and conductor Brennis Stevens, 62, were killed when their locomotives burst into flames after a head-on crash with the other train, whose engineer and conductor sustained serious injuries.

The two trains were operating in an area of track without automated signals. Movement of the trains is controlled by verbal instructions issued from the CSX dispatching center in Jacksonville, Florida. That area only has a single track, with a stretch of track — known as siding — that allows a train to pull off the main track so that one traveling in the opposite direction may pass.

In this case, an eastbound train, sitting in a siding, was told it could re-enter the track after a westbound train passed. It then however, collided with a second westbound train. The new safety guidelines will require a crew to confirm with the dispatcher that the track is clear before re-entering the main line.

There are now half a dozen "ongoing" investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) into train disasters in which rail workers, passengers, or others have been killed since the beginning of the year. The government and company

investigations have focused on alleged errors by the train crews. They have paid little attention to the impact of the railroad owners' "cost-cutting" measures on safe train operations.

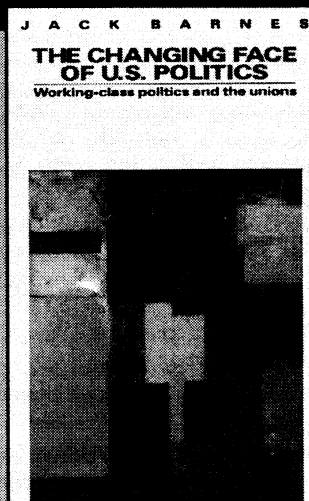
Until the mid-1960s, most railroads operated on multiple main-line tracks. Each track was designated a direction of movement. This reduced the chances of a head-on collision. In an effort to cut track maintenance costs, many railroads reduced their main lines to a single track with sidings. They have also increasingly reduced or eliminated automated signals on "nonprofitable" tracks, which in many cases carry passengers.

A February 16 collision of two passenger trains near Washington, D.C., in which 11 people were killed could have been prevented had CSX not removed a signal on the departing end of a station that would have warned the engineer to stop at the next signal.

While railroads cut corners on safety, the July 15 *Wall Street Journal* reported that the rail industry expected to post profit gains in the second quarter of 1996 of 15 to 17 percent from a year earlier.

Nearly once an hour in the United States, trains derail, collide with each other, or slam into cars on crossing grades, according to an article in the May 27 *U.S. News and World Report*. Last year, 1,144 rail workers, passengers, motorists and others died and 14,000 were injured in train catastrophes. Another 10,000 were evacuated from their homes due to hazardous material spilled from train wrecks.

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# Auto giants sense weakness in UAW tops

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — The United Auto Workers contract with the Big Three auto companies — Chrysler, Ford Motor, and General Motors — is set to expire at midnight, September 14. The UAW, which represents some 400,000 auto workers, has chosen the Ford Motor Company as the lead target for negotiations, while continuing contract talks with Chrysler and GM.

The big-business press has touted the Ford/UAW relationship as "excellent," with a "history of devising innovative solutions to intractable labor disputes," as the September 6 *New York Times* put it. The UAW has not had a strike against Ford since 1986.

For the past several decades the union has negotiated a contract at one auto company, then demanded the other two sign a similar agreement.

Sensing weakness in the willingness of the union tops to resist the Big Three's demands weeks before the November elections, all three of the automakers have been jockeying among themselves to be selected by the union. GM is taking the hardest stance. "This year, GM insiders and even some UAW leaders are bracing for GM to take a harder line, even if the union settles first at Chrysler or

Ford," reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

The negotiations take place a few months after the 17-day strike against GM at Dayton, Ohio, that the company turned into a systemwide de facto lockout and vicious assault on the workers. Since the strike ended in April, GM has been on the prod, reopening local UAW agreements and getting, in many cases, concessions from the union. According to one news account, GM is not living up to its agreement with UAW Local 696 in Dayton, the union that led the walkout in March. "They're backsliding on some issues agreed to," Local 696 President Joe Hasenjager told *Bloomberg Business News*. "I'm unsatisfied."

In the Big Three plants, little information on the contract has been provided to the membership. According to the *UAW-Ford Bargaining Update*, a fact sheet put out by the UAW-Ford Negotiating Committee, UAW president Stephen Yokich said, "We are not targeting anyone for a strike. Our

target is to get a contract that we can take back to our members that they can ratify."

Reports in the big-business press indicate that Ford is pushing for a contract lasting four or more years. The current contract lasted three years. The company is also seeking to obtain concessions that allow the automakers "to pay permanently lower wages in any new auto-parts business they may enter," according to the September 6 *New York Times*. In exchange for this concession, the automakers "would agree not to let its unionized work force fall much below current levels for three or more years that the next contract lasts."

The negotiations take place in the context of the U.S. presidential elections with the UAW leadership pulling out all stops, like the rest of the union officialdom, to reelect President William Clinton. The union tops are concerned that a possible strike would hurt Clinton's re-election bid. Yokich, along with several other international offic-

ers of the union, were delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

"If the UAW negotiates deals with Chrysler and Ford first, it can delay a possible strike at GM until after the Presidential elections on November 5," said the *New York Times*. "Such a delay is an important consideration for UAW leaders, who have aggressively backed President Clinton's re-election bid and have worried that a disruptive strike before the election could hurt Democratic candidates who are perceived as close to organized labor."

Although GM has tried to soften its image in recent weeks, the auto giant is determined to obtain new union concessions even if the UAW settles with Ford or Chrysler. The auto giant says 70,000 jobs must be cut from their current payroll of 240,000 in order for the company to be competitive.

Frank Forrestal is a member of UAW Local 551 at Ford Motor in Chicago.

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**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (312) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511 **Peoria:** 915 N. Western. Zip: 61650-0302. Mailing address: P.O. Box 302. Tel: (309) 676-2472. Compuserve: 104612,147

**IOWA: Des Moines:** 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505 Tel: (313) 875-0100.

**MINNESOTA: Twin Cities:** 2490 Univer-

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**Capitalism in Decline: The Socialist Alternative in the '96 Elections.** Speaker: Laura Garza, vice-presidential candidate of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m. reception, 8:00 p.m. program. 780 Tremont St. (corner of Mass Ave.) Donation: \$5. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### OHIO

#### Cleveland

**U.S. Troops Out of Korea! Support the Struggle for Reunification.** Speakers to be announced. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

**Defend Immigrant Rights. Build the October 12 Demonstration.** Panel discussion, including a participant in the "Latinos United in Labor Conference '96." Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. Both events will be held at 1832 Euclid Ave. (across from Cleveland State University). Donation: \$4. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Support the National Immigrant Rights March on Washington on October 12.** Speakers: María Jiménez, American Friends Service Committee; Benito Juárez, Guatemala Support Network; Teodoro Aguiluz, Central American Resource Center; Loeff Gutthiudschmitt, Socialist Workers candidate for 25th C.D. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

**The Drought and Small Farmers: A Natural Disaster?** Speaker: Edward Cline, Landowners of Texas and Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. Both events will be held at 3260 South Loop West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (713) 349-0090.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Video: The Greening of Cuba.** Speaker: Steve Iverson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 209 East 300 South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

### CANADA

#### Vancouver

**Quebec and the Language Issue. Why Working People across Canada Should Oppose the Campaign to "Defend the English Language" Presently Waged in Quebec.** Speaker: Roger Andrews, member of Communist League. Fri., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23 & 24 Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**The Upsurge in Indonesia Today.** Speaker: Janet Roth, member of Communist League. Fri., Sept. 20, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (09) 379-075.

70543,1637

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297. Compuserve: 102174,1243

### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve: 101515,2702

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

### CANADA

**Montreal:** 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 104614,2606

**Toronto:** 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

### FRANCE

**Paris:** MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

### ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

## UAW strikes Alcoa in Cleveland

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS

CLEVELAND — The street in front of Alcoa Forged Products has been full of the noise of car and truck horns since members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1050 rejected the company's last contract proposal and walked out. Some 1,100 UAW members make forged aluminum wheels and aircraft parts in the plant, located on Harvard Ave., a busy four-lane industrial street, across from an entrance to the sprawling LTV steel mill. The union put up pickets shortly after midnight September 5, after workers voted 509-323 to reject the contract.

Dozens of pickets blocked the gates during the first day of the strike, making it hard for the cars of managers and others to enter the plant. Several small groups of strikers gathered in front of the union hall across the plant discussing their experiences. They had just been informed that Alcoa had gone to court and secured a restraining order, limiting pickets to five per gate.

Don Slaughter, president of Local 1050, said the contract was rejected because it would last for five years. "We proposed a three-year contract." Last May, Alcoa said it had reached six-year agreements with the steelworkers and aluminum workers unions in some of its other facilities.

"We also proposed an increase in COLA," the provision for cost of living raises, Slaughter said. Every worker on the line pointed to the hours of work as a major issue, one that the company's contract proposal failed to address. Overtime for production workers is mandatory and some have been forced to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week for three years.

No new contract talks have been set.

Mike Fitzsimmons is a member of UAW Local 420 in Cleveland.

## CALENDAR

### MICHIGAN

#### Detroit

**Latinos United in Labor Conference '96.** Sept. 20-22. For more information write or call: *Latinos United in Labor*, P.O. Box 39188, Redford, MI 48239. Tel: (313) 836-3752.

### CANADA

#### Toronto

**Canada-Cuba Solidarity Conference.** Speakers include: Rolando González Téllez, First vice-president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship Amongst the Peoples; Marta Cabrisas Alfonso, member of Cuban Parliament and National Secretariat of Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC); Rita Maria Pereira, National Executive of Cuban Federation of Women (FMC); Oscar Treto Cárdenas, National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists, and Billy Modises, High Commissioner for South Africa to Canada. Educational presentations, workshops, proposals for united Cuba solidarity actions. Sept. 27-29. *Toronto Metro Hall and City Hall*. Registration: \$5. For more information call the *Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association*. Tel: (413) 654-5585.



**2 'Hail Marys' and 3 'Bill Gates'** — In Germany, the Catholic hierarchy has taken umbrage at the new software program, Confession by Computer. Select from a list



Harry Ring

of 200 transgressions (sounds like fun) and get an appropriate penance.

**Needs another raise** — In London, Dame Angela Rumbold, a Conservative member of Parliament, was irked by a pensioner's

letter criticizing the 26 percent wage hike the MPs recently voted themselves. Dame Angela found it "disgusting" that people complained about the "rather modest" increase. She suggested: "If pensioners were working 90 hours a week as I am, maybe there would be more sympathy for your case."

**Not jingoist enough** — The "evolutionary socialist" Fabian Society presented a report to the British Labor Party proposing steps to trim the authority of the UK's monarchy. This includes replacing the national anthem. The report complains the anthem "is not an exaltation of nationhood or an expression of pride in our country. It does not even mention Britain or even En-

gland once."

**Pinko ribbons?** — The 1996 Iowa Republican platform opposes "the encroachment of socialism" at 4-H fairs. The party chairman explained, "I don't know how it got there, I think someone was concerned that they were no longer awarding ribbons on the basis of merit. Everyone who participated got a ribbon."

**Just mischievous?** — Northern California officials filed criminal charges against Nancy Vukelich, a former Chevron staffer, who allegedly falsified environmental reports on three oil-contaminated Chevron sites. Her successor spotted the assertedly doctored reports. Righ-

teous Chevron officials waxed indignant and the puzzled San Jose *Mercury News* said "it was not clear what her motivation ... could have been."

**Hackers and hacks** — Scotland Yard was mortified. U.S. computer hackers had breached its phone system and assertedly ran up a long distance tab of \$1.5 million on it. Meanwhile, it was disclosed that national health system bureaucrats wasted \$780 million on computer systems that were supposed to improve patient care but didn't.

**Top role models** — San Francisco cops assigned to provide rookies on-the-street training cannot be "inappropriate role models." But

many have been sued. Like the trainer who smashed his girl friend's face into a windshield, another who beat his stepdaughter, and a third who shot at a motorist after an accident.

**A growth industry** — "U.S. prison population doubles in a decade to 1.6 million." — News headline.

**In English, right?** — With evidence of possible early life forms on Mars, Landbroke, the UK betting chain, reduced the odds on finding life on another planet in the next year from 250-1 to 50-1. But they won't pay off unless the UN confirms existence of life forms capable of communicating with earth.

## Imperialism sabotaged Kurds' national struggle

The following is an excerpt from the "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" in the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* no. 7 (see ad in this issue). The article is based on a talk given by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes on March 30, 1991, right after the Gulf War. It is particularly relevant today as the Clinton administration claimed concern for the Kurdish population in Iraq to justify the latest military assault on the Iraqi people. The excerpt is copyright © 408 Printing and Publishing Corp. and is reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

After fleeing the killing fields in Kuwait, some units of Baghdad's defeated army went into open rebellion against the Iraqi regime. They were fed up with the disastrous consequences for Iraqi soldiers and civilians alike of Saddam Hussein's expansionist adventure in Kuwait and treacherous refusal to organize its troops to fight. These soldiers joined in revolts by working people who took up arms against the regime in cities, towns, and villages across southern and northern Iraq.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

Much of the population in the south, although far from all, is from the Shiite Islamic majority and face discrimination from Iraq's predominantly Sunni Islamic ruling clique. In the north most are members of the oppressed Kurdish nationality who rose up, as they have done repeatedly in this century, to press for autonomy and national self-determination.

Throughout March 1991 Saddam Hussein used the troops of the elite Republican Guards — as well as helicopter gunships and heavy armor he had held in reserve and refused to commit during the allied invasion — to drown these rebellions in blood. Cities in southern Iraq such as Basra, Najaf, and Karbala were savagely bombed and shelled. As a result of this brutal suppression, tens of thousands of Shiite and other Iraqis in the south, and more than two million Kurds and others in northern Iraq, have been uprooted and turned into desperate refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of Kurds fled into neighboring Iran and Turkey; hundreds of thousands more are massed along their borders, living in wretched conditions with little food, shelter, or medical care. According to a United Nations report in late April, some 2,000 are dying each day from the cold, disease, and malnutrition; other reports from early May indicate there may already have been 20,000 to 30,000 deaths. The spread of contagious disease threatens to push these numbers even higher.

The U.S. and Western European imperialist rulers — themselves responsible throughout this century for repeated sabotage of efforts to establish a sovereign Kurdistan — are today cynically exploiting Baghdad's repression of the Kurds to enhance their own rival economic, political, and military interests in the Gulf region. They are organizing to drive the Kurds back into Iraq, and turning emergency relief for them over to the United Nations, with a pid-

dling budget. Not one of the imperialist governments in North America, Europe, Japan, New Zealand, or Australia — all supporters of the imperialist slaughter — has offered to throw open its borders to these or other refugees from Baghdad's attacks and provide them with jobs and housing. Nor have the Gorbachev regime or other U.S. "allies" in the war opened their borders to the refugees. All of them merit some variant of the title they so freely gave to Saddam Hussein — the "Butcher of Baghdad."...

#### Kurdish self-determination

The U.S. rulers' military "victory" put an international spotlight on another unresolved fight for national self-determination in the region — that of the Kurdish people. Prior to the Gulf war the Kurdish struggle had largely been in retreat, having been dealt repeated defeats over the past half century by the Iraqi, Turkish, Iranian, and Syrian ruling classes, with the complicity of Washington, London, Paris, and Moscow. The consequences of the Gulf War have now posed Kurdish national self-determination more sharply than at any time since the close of World War II and the years just after the 1958 revolution that overthrew the monarchy in Iraq.

Some twenty million to thirty million Kurds are divided between southeastern Turkey, northeastern Syria, northern Iraq, and northwestern Iran, as well as a small region in the southern part of the USSR. An independent Kurdish republic came into existence in northern Iran after the establishment of a workers' and peasants' government in neighboring Azerbaijan in December 1945.

Although the Kurdish republic was crushed by the Iranian monarchy a year later, the Kurds continued their struggle during the decades that followed. The U.S. rulers have alternately doled out aid with an eyedropper to Kurdish nationalist groups, and then abruptly cut off this backing, depending on Washington's shifting relations with regimes in the area, especially Baghdad and Tehran.

The Kurdish people took advantage of the weakening of the Saddam Hussein regime as a result of the war to press forward their struggle once again, holding many villages and towns — including the major city of Kirkuk — for a week or more in March [1991]. Baghdad used helicopter gunships and heavy armor to crush the Kurdish rebellion with ruthless brutality, causing two million or more Kurdish refugees to attempt to cross the Turkish and Iranian borders.

As we discuss here today, the U.S. and European imperialist powers have declared a temporary refugee "enclave" for the Kurds north of the thirty-sixth parallel in northern Iraq near the Turkish border. Washington is sending troops, Special Forces units, into northern Iraq to function as what amounts to little more than a police force for Saddam Hussein. Along with Turkish soldiers, the U.S. troops are forcing the refugees out of Turkey and off nearby mountains into ill-provisioned and barren transit camps. Washington's aim is to push the Kurds back to the towns and villages from which they fled.

At best, this enclave will be the temporary equivalent of an Indian reservation in the



Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq in 1991

United States or one of the many blocked-off areas near Israel's borders containing Palestinian refugee camps. The imperialists share a common interest with the capitalist regimes in Baghdad, Ankara, Damascus, and Tehran in ensuring that such a "haven" for the Kurds is short-lived. All of them know that any more-or-less-permanent Kurdish area can only breed aspirations for more land that is justly theirs, as well as potential "intifadas" [uprisings] among young generations of Kurdish fighters. Bush will have nightmares about setting up a very large reservation, nightmares about a modern-day Geronimo leading a

new breakout.

This is another of the unresolved and uncontrollable social forces in the Gulf that has been unleashed, rather than contained, by the results of Washington's war against Iraq.

As we continue campaigning against imperialism and war today, we must call not only for "All foreign troops out of Iraq!" but also "Open the U.S. borders!" — to the Kurdish people and to all Iraqi and Kuwaiti refugees fleeing the Baghdad regime and the al-Sabah monarchy.

For the ruling class in Turkey, which joined Washington in the war against Iraq in hopes of winning trade favors and military aid and hardware, the results so far — nearly one million refugees pounding at its borders — are nothing short of a catastrophe. (The Turkish regime is also suffering major economic blows from honoring the continuing blockade, which shuts off Turkey's oil pipeline with Iraq and the resulting flow of funds into the state treasury.) These events have brought to greater world attention once again the Turkish rulers' own suppression of the Kurdish people, until recently legally denied the right even to speak their own language in Turkey — and they are still denied the right to read, write, or be educated in Kurdish.

Above all, the Kurdish people have come to the center stage in world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters for national rights.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interest of the Working People  
Price 10¢  
September 15, 1971

ATTICA, N.Y. — Today the Buffalo *Courier Express* carried a bulletin reading: "State Correction Commission Russell G. Oswald confirmed Tuesday night that nine of the ten hostages who died in the Attica prison riot succumbed to gunshot wounds fired by state police during the retaking of the maximum security facility Monday morning. He said that earlier reports that the hostages died of cut throats were false."

According to an unidentified state policeman, the orders handed down before the assault were to "shoot to kill," and this order was savagely carried out by the 600 state police, sheriff deputies, and prison guards, and the 400 National Guardsmen who stormed the prison at 8:45 Monday morning. Any inmate who resisted or raised his hand was cut down in a hail of rifle fire.

The Attica rebellion was the biggest to date. More than 1,200 of the 2,254 inmates participated. Inmate leaders read a statement which captured the essence of their action. It said in part, "the entire incident that has erupted here at Attica is a result ... of the unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administration network of this prison ... We are men ... We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven

as such.... What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed."

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

September 21, 1946

A tremendous upsurge of the Japanese labor movement involving almost 1,000,000 workers — one third of the organized labor force — began on Sept. 10 in Tokyo with a general strike of the All-Japan Seaman's Union. This was followed in a few days by a strike of 556,000 men in the Japanese CIO and 330,000 farm hands in the All-Japan Agricultural Union.

This powerful strike wave is taking place in the face of a dictatorial decree by General MacArthur two weeks ago, backed up by the puppet government prohibiting "strikes, walkouts, or other work stoppages."

The Hitler-like decree and MacArthur's threat to use occupation troops as strikebreakers served to smash a three-day strike of seamen in Sasebo. This week, according to union reports, 3,899 ships are tied up, virtually paralyzing the Japanese merchant marine. Sympathy strikes of the Japan Port Workers Union and Japan Coastal Shipping Union added 60,000 strikers to the 54,000 merchant seamen who walked off the ships. The Japanese Congress of Industrial Unions ordered all its major industrial affiliates to go on strike and stay out until "the reactionary government of Premier Yoshida collapses."

# U.S. Hands off Iraq!

Continued from front page re-election.

The Clinton administration's imperial arrogance knows no bounds. Iraq is a sovereign country. It belongs to the Iraqi people, not to Washington, London, or Paris, whose warplanes are acting as military enforcers over almost half of Iraq's territory, north and south. As the latest U.S. war move shows, the extended "no-fly zones" are designed to provoke further military confrontations with Baghdad.

Those who want to know the truth about the U.S. record in the Mideast should read — and distribute widely — the issue of *New Internationalist* magazine with "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." It explains how, at the end of the 1991 Gulf War, U.S.-led forces carried out a slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqis fleeing Iraqis on the road to Basra. It details the devastation of Iraqi workers and peasants by the ongoing imperialist embargo of that nation.

*New Internationalist* also explains that the Gulf War was a fiasco for the U.S. rulers, who failed to overthrow the Iraqi government, suppress the struggles of the Palestinians and other oppressed peoples, or stabilize their domination of the region. In that war and today, imperialism is acting out of weakness to save its unraveling old world order.

The Democratic administration is hoping opponents of its assault on Iraq will not publicly demonstrate against it,

subordinating all else to his re-election as an alternative to a Republican victory. Those opposed to Washington's policies should avoid this lesser-evil trap. It is precisely now that visible protests in the streets against the government's bipartisan war moves are needed.

Clinton has been a consistent war president, from the bombing of Iraq in January 1993 to recent threats against Cuba, Iran, and Libya. Today, as the two big-business parties contend for the presidency, the danger of further military assaults by the Clinton White House becomes even greater. In a world of increasing social and political volatility, every act of U.S. aggression sets new, uncontrollable forces in motion.

Washington's war against working people abroad accompanies and reinforces its bipartisan assault on workers and farmers at home. Here too Clinton is leading the charge, with attacks on the rights of immigrants and legislation dismantling some of the hard-fought social gains of working people codified in the Social Security Act.

Working people should demand an immediate end to the U.S. bombing of Iraq. U.S., British, and French forces must leave Iraqi airspace now. All opponents of the U.S. assault should also demand that the imperialist governments open their borders and provide housing and jobs to Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq. Washington should get all its troops, warplanes, and warships out of the Mideast and lift the economic sanctions against Iraq, Iran, and Libya.

# Defend civil rights for gays

All supporters of democratic rights should condemn the passage of the antigay Defense of Marriage Act, which bans same-sex marriages, and the Senate's decision to continue to allow discrimination against gays in hiring.

These votes show the bipartisan character of the U.S. rulers' campaign to scapegoat and stigmatize a layer of the population. In May President William Clinton vowed to sign the bill, sponsored by then-senator Robert Dole.

Clinton made that announcement two days after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned an amendment to the Colorado constitution that barred local laws protecting civil rights for gays. At that moment it was the Democratic president, not the Republican-appointed judges on the high court, who led in pushing the reactionary antigay stance.

The rulers of Wall Street and Washington are trying to blame the social and economic problems caused by capitalism in its decline on the "breakdown of the family," which they claim is the fault of single mothers, homosexuals, and "welfare cheats." The "family values" campaign aims to reinforce the idea that health care, child care, education, and other social needs are the responsibilities of individuals, not society. It's part of the justification for

moves led by the Clinton administration to begin dismantling Social Security and other social gains of workers.

The antigay measure rightfully outrages many workers and youth who see it as the state reaching into your personal life. These spokespeople for the rich have no more right to say who you can sleep with or marry than their predecessors did three decades ago, when "anti-miscegenation" laws barred interracial marriage in many states.

Socialist Workers presidential and vice presidential candidates James Harris and Laura Garza condemned the measure. "The attacks on the civil rights of homosexuals contained in the bill barring same-sex marriages, or laws like the Pentagon ban on gays in the military, cut away at the democratic rights that workers have fought for and need today to defend their interests," they said.

"The working class is the only social class that can take the moral high ground in the world today and lead humanity out of the economic and social catastrophe that becomes clearer to millions every day. Opposition to any restrictions on democratic rights, including the civil rights of gays and lesbians, is an essential banner in this battle." We agree with this proletarian position.

# Machinists settle 99-day strike

Continued from front page

ficers, President Gerald Oulsen and Business Representative Michael Shoen, were included in the final 30-hour negotiating session in Washington. No other members of the local bargaining committee took part.

The ratification meeting, held at the America's Center in downtown St. Louis, opened with the introduction of the bargaining committee and reports from union officers. Larry Downing, IAM international vice president, told the membership, "This agreement is not perfect but was the best we could get from McDonnell Douglas. If we don't accept this there is no guarantee we can continue this fight. This is a good settlement." His remarks were punctuated by booing from those in attendance.

The three main issues for the striking Machinists were job security, job combinations, and health and retirement benefits. The company's main goal was to eliminate 1,700 jobs through outsourcing and job combinations.

On job security, the company pledged to give the union 60 days notice before signing any outsourcing agreement that would displace 50 or more union workers. The union would submit cost-cutting proposals showing how jobs

slated for outsourcing could be kept in the plant.

"I don't think we union members should be in the business of devising ways of cost cutting to save jobs," said striker John Costa. "A committeeman won't have time to handle members' grievances."

The new contract says that 33 job classifications will be combined to form 13 new ones. The company is supposed to offer training programs for possible placement into other areas of the plant for displaced workers.

Pension benefits for retirees will increase by \$8 per month. Workers can retire at age 50 if they have 30 years of service. Disabled retirees, however, will lose all eye and dental benefits as a result of the agreement.

A big selling point for the contract was a 4.5 percent wage increase over the five-year life of the settlement plus three bonuses totaling 9 percent. The company's earlier offer included a 2.5 percent wage raise for the first year of a four-year contract, followed by lump sum payments equal to 2.5 and 3 percent of wages in the next two years.

McDonnell workers are scheduled to return to work September 16.

Mary Martin is a member of IAM Local 1759 at Northwest Airlines in Washington, D.C. Jim Garrison, a member of United Auto Workers Local 110 at Chrysler in Fenton, Missouri, contributed to this article.

## CORRECTIONS

The article "Immigrant workers protest against INS raids at packing plants in Iowa," in *Militant* issue no. 32, dated September 16, should have identified David Ochoa of Perry, Iowa, and Cleve Andrew Pulley, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 at IBP in Perry, as contributors.

In the same issue Floyd Fowler, the author of the article "Gov't refuses to stop vilifying Atlanta man," was incorrectly identified as a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). Arlene Rubinstein, who is a member of UNITE at Wilson Manufacturing in Atlanta, contributed to that article.

# Assault on Iraq

Continued from Page 8

another meeting in London between the two groups in late August, the Iraqi army moved into Erbil to help the KDP take control.

The U.S. operation in northern Iraq had shattered.

## Debate in capitalist circles

It was in face of this setback that the Clinton administration launched a missile strike on southern Iraq. Before the dust settled, however, a debate had broken out in the capitalist media on what the military assault revealed about Washington's weakened position in the Middle East today.

A September 8 *Washington Post* feature article noted that Clinton "advisers said their goal wasn't to gain a 'bump' in the opinion polls by ordering military action but to avoid letting opponents say that Clinton was responding indecisively. Some Clinton aides said they had vivid apprehensions of how Iraq could cause problems for the reelection if the crisis in the north were allowed to fester during the campaign season."

Noting that the military operation did nothing to help the Kurds, *New York Times* reporter R.W. Apple Jr. commented, "It makes sense only when one considers the consequences of a failure to respond to Mr. Hussein's actions." Apple warned that if Clinton's attack did not result in a significant political blow to Baghdad, Washington would end up "strategically worse off."

Some critics argued that Washington should have bombed the Iraqi army in the north, not the south. "The Clinton administration is embarrassing itself by claiming military success," *Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal complained in a September 6 op-ed article. "The U.S. missiles landed hundreds of miles from where Saddam attacked. They left him the key player in territory where he could not move before."

"It is against Iraqi tanks and troops directly threatening the Kurds that US air power should be deployed," stated a September 10 editorial in the London *Financial Times*. "Targets in the south were chosen because that involved little or no risk to US pilots," the British paper noted. The U.S. missile strikes "were a show of weakness."

The September 8 *Washington Post* article reported that by August 31, top Pentagon officials "quickly convinced themselves that attacking Saddam's troops in the north carried too many risks." For one thing, "The nearest possible staging area for a military operation was Turkey, whose new Islamic-led coalition government would not welcome a U.S. operation from its soil." And "the Kurdish political scene had become hopelessly muddled by the new alignments with Iraq and Iran."

Another limitation was that "Clinton found himself without allies, with the lone exception of Britain," *Wall Street Journal* columnist George Melloan remarked. "So much for that new world order."

"What did the missiles accomplish? Calamity for U.S. interests," wrote conservative columnist Robert Novak. "Desert Storm's Arab-European coalition is shattered. Saddam is reestablished in northern Iraq. The United States is exposed as a paper tiger for timidly undertaking an operation it should have avoided."

Commentator Phebe Marr remarked in the September 7 *New York Times*, "In the Arab world support for Iraq... may have been strengthened by the air strikes. Concern is rising about American challenges to Iraq's sovereignty in the north." She added, "At least one American ally, Turkey, will be left weaker; one adversary, Iran, will be left stronger" by the U.S. actions.

## Results of Gulf War

One question looming in the debate is why Washington and other imperialist powers have not succeeded in overthrowing the Hussein regime and instead are limited to "containment."

According to a news analysis by *Times* reporter Elaine Sciolino, the reasons included: the instability of neighboring regimes, Washington's conflicts with European powers, domestic opposition to U.S. casualties, and the lack of "another strongman" to replace Hussein.

"However much... policy makers might wish him gone, they have been paralyzed by what they think the cost would be: another massive war involving American troops; a large-scale, lengthy covert operation, or costly air strikes that would upset nervous allies in the region," Sciolino wrote.

Numerous big-business pundits have pointed out that the source of Washington's current woes lies in the outcome of the Gulf War in 1991.

Richard Haass, a senior official in the National Security Council during the Bush administration, explained in the September 8 *Washington Post* why the U.S. military did not go into Baghdad. "After we chased his forces from Kuwait, we expected that Saddam would not survive his defeat. The assumption was that returning Iraqi soldiers would turn on him." That, he said, was an "error."

Sciolino stated, "Mr. Hussein may be in power today because of the American decision to end the 100-hour war before destroying Mr. Hussein's elite Republican Guard. The Bush Administration wanted to avoid the impression that the victorious Americans were eager to slaughter the retreating Iraqis."

In a September 2 opinion column, Rosenthal wrote, "George Bush took the advice of Republican Colin Powell to announce the gulf war won and leave Saddam with political and military strength." Washington, he added, threw a "wild roll of the dice in the gulf war, and lost."

# U.S. elections

Continued from Page 6

Rowlands's statement that he told her Hillary Clinton was responsible for the White House's improper acquisition of some 900 FBI files on individuals, including many prominent Republicans. The Clinton administration attempted to explain the files situation as a "bureaucratic snafu."

Another former associate of the president, Susan McDougal, was jailed in Arkansas September 9 for refusing to answer questions about the Clintons' involvement in the Whitewater real estate deal. McDougal has already been sentenced to two years in prison for fraud. She and James McDougal, who was convicted of 18 felony counts, were partners with the Clintons in the Whitewater deal when Clinton was governor in Arkansas.



# Quebec: push for 'English rights' is reactionary

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

MONTREAL, Quebec — On August 24, 700 people rallied to hear Howard Galganov, leader of the Quebec Political Action Committee (QPAC), an organization that drew thousands of anglophones in demonstrations for more English on signs in Quebec earlier this summer.

After being praised by the Montreal English daily *Gazette* columnist William Johnson as a "freedom fighter" for English rights, Galganov said that since Ottawa "doesn't defend our rights" the Quebec English community will have to use all means necessary to reach its goal, which the Montreal daily *La Presse* described as a return to English on all signs in Quebec. Galganov also denounced the Quebec government for "threatening us with another referendum" on Quebec sovereignty.

Quebec Law 101, adopted in 1977, imposed French on all signs. This form of affirmative action was necessary because of the high number of English-only signs in Quebec at that time. More than 80 per cent of the Quebec population speak French. English only signs were seen by the majority as a sign of disrespect for Quebecois.

Law 101 did ban other languages on signs, but this changed significantly in December 1993 with the adoption of Law 86 eliminating most restrictions on the use of other languages on signs as long as French remains predominant.

Danielle Gariépy, who works at the auto brakes Distex plant in Montreal, summarized the opinion of the majority of Quebecois workers when she said "Having English on signs in Quebec doesn't bother me as long as French is there and predominant."

"In Moncton, New Brunswick, where half the population speak French, the fight is to get French on signs," said Daniel Gautreau, an Acadian who now works at JWI Johnson, a plant that produces canvass for paper making machines. "But I'm not for banning English on signs either there or here in Quebec. It's just a question of equality."

Acadians, like all other francophones living outside Quebec, face conditions very different than anglophones in Quebec. This is illustrated by the different reactions to the QPAC campaign and the campaign by the Canadian Federation of Francophone and Acadian communities (FCFA) demanding French on signs in the city of Ottawa.

While responding positively to the call for

English on signs in Quebec, several important cross-country retail store chains are balking at the FCFA call.

While a third of Ottawa's population speak French, Canada's capital city, which is just outside Quebec limits, is essentially an English city. "In Ottawa, shopping is in English. For a feeling of strangeness, Ottawa is as good as Plattsburg, New York," concluded a page-long article in the August 24 *Journal de Montréal*.

## A privileged minority

The call for more English on signs in Quebec is part of a broader campaign to defend the privileges of anglophones.

While representing less than 10 per cent of the population in Quebec, English speaking people have their own school system. The Canadian constitution imposes on Quebec a double religious school system: a Protestant one functioning essentially in English, the other one Catholic, functioning in French. Anglophones also have their own health system, including a network of well-funded hospitals, which is denied to francophones outside Quebec.

These facts illustrate the reality that in Canada, francophones, including Quebecois, are an oppressed nationality, unlike anglophones.

Montreal is the city with the highest level of poverty in Canada. Of the five poorest Canadian cities, three are in Quebec. Of the ten cities with the highest level of unemployment in Canada, five are in Quebec. A study by the Canadian Council of Social Development has shown that three of the four Canadian cities with the highest level of poverty among old people are in Quebec, with Montreal topping the list.

This situation is worsening. Since last year, for example, the number of people in Montreal seeking help from food banks has doubled.

These figures underestimate the national oppression of Quebecois, because they mask a profound class and national differentiation in Quebec, where the richest 20 per cent of the population grabs more than half the total incomes, while the poorest 20 per cent gets less than two percent.

Those who speak English in Quebec have almost twice as much chance to get a university diploma than those who speak French.

While giving lip service to the demand of



Militant/Monica Jones

October, 1995 rally in Montreal advocating sovereignty for Quebec.

the FCFA, Canada Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has come in full force behind the QPAC's campaign.

## Ottawa leads anti-Quebec campaign

Since backers of independence lost last fall's referendum on Quebecois self-determination by the slightest margin, Chrétien has made clear that Ottawa would not recognize any future referendum favoring Quebec sovereignty.

But Ottawa's campaign against Quebecois right to self-determination and campaigns such as QPAC's to perpetuate the privileges of anglophones are not succeeding in pushing back Quebecois and other francophone resistance to national oppression.

"The English are defending their advantages," said another Quebecois Distex worker. The QPAC campaign "is a campaign of intimidation and fear," said Jocelyn Huot. "They're angry because we almost won the referendum and they know we will win the next one," he added.

Quebecois self-confidence was illustrated once again August 25 during a show transmitted by all French radio and television stations in support of the victims of a flooding in the Saguenay area few weeks ago. Mis-

management of dams and barriers by U.S. paper and aluminum companies during a rain storm was responsible for the disaster that killed eleven people and left thousands without home. The solidarity event turned into a show of support for Quebec independence despite attempts by big companies like Bell Canada, Bombardier, and Molson to use it for their own interest. After recalling the point made by an Ottawa newspaper that people in Saguenay—who voted overwhelmingly Yes during the last referendum—should remember next time the support they got from outside Quebec, one speaker, for example, drew thunderous applause when he said: "Next time, I will vote Yes. I'll remember."

Recent polls have shown that the support for Quebec independence among Quebecois has grown since the fall 1995 referendum. Today a majority of people in Quebec, including non Quebecois, would vote yes to the question posed in the last referendum.

*Michel Dugré is a member of the International Association of Machinists at the Montreal JWI Johnson plant. Annette Kouri, a member of the United Steel Workers of America in Distex, also contributed to this article.*

## LETTERS

### Assault on welfare

It seems to me that the government's attack on welfare, led by Clinton, is aimed not just at those millions who today are receiving public assistance or might need it in the future.

Pitching several hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of people now receiving public assistance into the scramble for jobs, with a certain element of desperation, over a relatively short period of time will put a significant downward pressure on all wages. The attack on welfare thus will not only remove a safety net all working people potentially need. It is an immediate attack on welfare that will directly—and quickly—affect every single worker.

That this attack comes while Clinton is posturing in favor of raising the minimum wage is the height of hypocrisy. What he isn't saying is that he wants the minimum to also be the maximum wage.

Robert Dees  
Menlo Park, California

### Police brutality in UK

Eighty people occupied Wilmslow Road August 10 to protest the announcement that the cops who beat Amer Rafiq would not be prosecuted. Wilmslow Road is a busy street in a part of Manchester where many Kashmiris live. Amer Rafiq, a student and part-time waiter, was beaten so badly in the back of a police van that doctors could not save his left eye. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

has announced that the necessary evidence was not available to prosecute any of the three cops in the back of the van.

Signs at the protest included "Rodney King USA/Amer Rafiq UK/One struggle one fight" and "If we don't get justice it's an eye for an eye." Another sign said "Brian Douglas murdered by racist police/CPS lets police walk free/Shiji Lapite/murdered by racist police/CPS lets police walk free/Amer Rafiq beaten by racist police/CPS-?"

Brian Douglas was a young Black man killed by a blow to the head with one of the newly issued long batons, here described as "U.S.-style" police batons. Shiji Lapite was a Nigerian who had applied for refugee status in Britain. He was strangled by a police officer who used a neck-hold to arrest him on suspicion of possessing drugs.

"Authority members supervise more than 40 inquiries into deaths in custody every year," said Peter Moorhouse, acting chairman of the official Police Complaints Authority.

Chris Morris  
Manchester, United Kingdom

### Canada farmers protest

Thousands of farmers have joined rallies and picket lines across

Canada's prairies over the past few weeks in opposition to threatened changes to the Canadian Wheat Board system of marketing grain.

More than 1,700 farmers rallied in the hockey arena at this south-central Saskatchewan town August 14. The same day, 900 producers packed a recreation center in Oak Bluff, Manitoba, to protest proposed changes to the board marketing system. More than 1,000 farmers attended another eight pro-board rallies held across small-town central Saskatchewan the same week.

In a number of centers the National Farmers Union, based among small and medium-sized producers, has organized a series of "Wheat Board Wednesday" picket-line actions, some involving 200 farmers or more.



"This rally is to demonstrate to all concerned that there is a vast majority of farmers that support the wheat board," D'Arcy-area producer Mervin Lloyd told the crowd in Rosetown as he opened the meeting. Lloyd spoke for the ad hoc Concerned Farmers Saving the Wheat Board, which organized the rally here.

"Dual marketing is a myth," said Plato farmer Ray Ryland, referring to a popular slogan of board opponents who want the "freedom" to cherry-pick lucrative "niche markets" outside the pooling system.

Farmers speaking from the floor slammed the Grain Marketing Panel for ignoring the pro-board views of a majority of producers expressed at its public hearings.

Outside the Rosetown rally, about two dozen supporters of Farmers for Justice set up a picket line calling for an end to the wheat board marketing monopoly. This right-wing farm outfit has received intense publicity for its Canada-U.S. border point protest actions, in which grain is trucked across the line in deliberate contravention of wheat board pooling regulations.

Howard Brown  
Rosetown, Saskatchewan

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.

## INS raids Maryland plants, deports 29

BY MAGGIE PUCCI

MARYDEL, Maryland — Agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and Maryland state police officers arrested 124 workers on August 28 in raids on two poultry processing plants on Maryland's Eastern Shore. They were charged with living and working in the United States "illegally." Most of the workers are from Mexico, Guatemala, and Haiti and worked at Allen Family Foods Inc. plants in the towns of Cordova and Hurlock.

Seventeen of the 124 people were later released after producing immigration documents. Benedict Ferro, district director of the INS office in Baltimore, told the *Washington Post* they released 11 Haitians because they were in the process of proving their legal status.

Twenty-nine of those arrested were deported to Mexico on August 30. Under the terms of their expulsion, they will be barred from returning to the United States for the next five years without special permission.

More than 40 INS agents and state cops entered the plants just after the 7 a.m. shift change. They searched the slaughterhouses, checking papers of workers while they stood on poultry processing lines. They also seized the company's personnel records.

These raids are part of a series of INS sweeps on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and parts of Delaware. In 1994 the INS assessed a \$93,000 fine against Allen Family Foods after an informant fingered several workers suspected of working without acceptable immigration documents. Last summer, the INS detained 42 workers in a similar raid at a Showell Poultry Inc. processing plant near Ocean City, Maryland.

The chicken processing industry is a major employer in the region, with 14,000 working in 38 processing plants, feed mills, and hatcheries owned by eight companies.

Many of those deported were forced to leave behind children, spouses, and other family members. Juana Cabra, 20, was



August 4 rally to defend immigrant rights outside INS office in Los Angeles

forced to leave behind her nine-month old daughter — a U.S. citizen — and her common-law husband, Cesar, who said his wife wanted to take the baby with her back to Mexico but was not allowed to.

Family members who brought clothes and toiletry articles to the detention center for the deported workers were told to come

back later for a "special visiting period." But when they returned they were told the workers had been shipped back to Mexico.

Friends and relatives were not able to see the remaining 66 arrested workers until two days after they were picked up by the INS and brought to a detention center in Salisbury, Maryland. The workers were

## California governor denies services to immigrants

BY OMARI MUSA

SAN FRANCISCO—On August 27, less than a week after President William Clinton signed the bipartisan welfare bill, California governor Peter Wilson signed an executive order denying an array of state funded services to immigrants. Wilson acted under the new federal welfare law provision that

allows states to deny basic social services to undocumented immigrants. In a bipartisan one-two punch against immigrant workers, the federal legislation denies food stamps, disability assistance, and the option to cut off Medicaid to immigrants with proper documentation. Wilson's measure denies state benefits to "illegal" immigrants.

The governor, the state's best known proponent of the notorious anti-immigrant Proposition 187, was gleeful at the news conference signing the new measure. "Today's executive order, is a vindication of the act [Proposition 187] itself," Wilson stated. Implementation of the proposition has been held up in the courts since its passage in 1994. It would have banned undocumented immigrants from public and private schools and cut off all medical aid except emergency care.

Wilson's decree bars undocumented workers from receiving prenatal care, professional and commercial licenses, long-term medical treatment, and admission to state colleges and universities unless they pay the full cost. California's prenatal care program helped 70,000 women last year.

Wilson's order mandates state social service workers to act as immigration officials. Legal challenges to Proposition 187 specifically prohibited state workers from seeking to determine if an applicant for social services is "legal." The southern California American Civil Liberties Union, a participant in the legal challenges to 187, said it will go to court if the governor attempts to enforce the decree.

The governor's measure banning prenatal care has already run into opposition here. San Francisco director of health Sandra Hernández said at a news conference here September 4, "If you think you are pregnant, come in and get tested. We will not be requesting any form of documentation." The

news conference was held the day after city health commissioners voted unanimously to continue the services.

Socialist candidate for San Francisco Board of Supervisors Susan Zárate noted that the state has not been able to implement Proposition 187. "While I support the legal challenges to Prop. 187 and welcome the same around the governor's decree, the real power that stopped 187 was the demonstrations, rallies, and marches by Chicano youth and others against its implementation," Zárate said in an interview. "This is the key to turning back Clinton's welfare law and Peter Wilson's decree. I completely support the resistance of local and state public workers to acting as agents of the INS and investigating whether applicants for social services are 'legal' or not."

"The socialist campaign urges unionists, students, and others who oppose the bipartisan welfare law and Wilson's executive order to organize teach-ins, educationals, rallies, and demonstrations against these moves. Further, our efforts should also be directed to building participation in the October 12 National March on Washington, D.C., to defend immigrant rights."

Workers we spoke to had not heard about the "March for Justice and Equality for Immigrants" to be held October 12 in Washington, D.C., about an hour and a half drive from Maryland. But many were interested in going once they found out and began discussing how to organize transportation from this area.

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Omari Musa is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 9th District, and is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-326.

## Activists build Oct. 12 march

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Activists in this city are in the midst of efforts to build the October 12 national march on Washington in defense of the rights of immigrants.

The national action will highlight seven demands: human and constitutional rights for all; equal opportunities and affirmative action; public education for all children; preserve and expand public health services; labor law reform and a \$7 per hour minimum wage; opposition to police brutality and a call for citizen police review boards; and extension of the eligibility date for amnesty for immigrants to get citizenship.

An August 23 letter from the coordinators states that the event "will bring the fight for Latino civil rights to Washington, D.C., in an effort to combat the current wave of anti-Latino scapegoating and attacks on the fundamental interests of working people."

The Metropolitan Coalition for the October 12 March on Washington has been holding weekly meetings here since August 23. Attendance has ranged from a dozen to 35 people. Organizations active in the coalition include the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), the Council of Latino Agencies, Latino Civil Rights Task Force, Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party, and Young Socialists. The Sacred Heart and Lutheran churches have also offered support. A number of activists in the local Latino community have shouldered responsibility in building the demonstration.

At its September 6 meeting, the coalition heard a report from Juan José Gutiérrez. Gutiérrez and Meredith Brown, two national coordinators of *Coordinadora '96*, recently arrived in the area from Los Angeles. They have established an office for the march, located in the national headquarters of the International Union of Electronics Workers.

Gutiérrez said the October 12 demonstra-

tion was conceived three years ago and got a national boost during the 1994 protests against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in California. He said the upcoming action would be "the first-ever Latino march and rally in the nation's capital," and urged activists to reject "the doom and gloom voices who are speaking now, just like they did in 1994." He stated that 200 buses had been chartered for the march and rally so far.

Gutiérrez said organizers hope to include everyone who agrees with the demands of the action — adding that he had recently been contacted by Irish-American groups that want to participate and hope a speaker from Sinn Fein will address the rally.

Several activists interviewed said some national organizations are reluctant to lend support to the march or are not making any effort to build it because they are working to re-elect president William Clinton. Clinton signed the welfare and "anti-terrorist" bills this year, which contain major assaults on the rights of immigrants. These organizations include the AFL-CIO, National Organization for Women, and many Black rights groups. A national endorser list is currently in formation. Among those who have stated they would agree to appear on the platform is Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice-president of the AFL-CIO.

D.C.-area activists have begun outreach work, including in northern Virginia and Maryland. Two fund-raising parties for the local coalition are scheduled — one on Friday, September 13, at the Latin Jazz Alley, another for Sunday, September 22, at Habana Village. On September 8, coalition activists set up a table to publicize the march during the popular annual Adams Morgan day street festival. March posters and flyers drew many thumbs up and interest. Several dozen people — overwhelmingly youth — signed up to help distribute flyers.

**March on Washington for immigrant rights**  
**October 12, 1996**

- Human rights for all
- Equal opportunities and affirmative action
- Public education for all
- Expand health care
- Stop police brutality

**Coordinadora '96 (202) 293-5672 — (202) 466-1637**