

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Students, workers protest
gov't cuts in Quebec

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Washington says troops will stay in Yugoslavia

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As tensions escalate in Yugoslavia, U.S. president William Clinton extended the U.S. military occupation in Bosnia for an additional 18 months. "In principle the United States will take part in a follow-on force in Bosnia," he said on November 15 at the White House. The president said the "new mission" would require "about 8,500" U.S. soldiers in Bosnia as part of the NATO operation under "an American commander and tough rules of engagement." Clinton's announcement followed a November 14 con-

U.S. troops out of Yugoslavia! — editorial, page 10

ference in Paris which included Bosnia's three co-presidents. Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim chairman of Bosnia's presidency, and his Serbian and Croatian counterparts, Momcilo Krajcnik and Kresimir Zubak, were pressed to comply completely with the Dayton agreement crafted by Washington last December or face punitive measures. They endorsed a 13-point plan from the accord, which includes the "creation of a free market economy," the *Washington Post* reported.

Meanwhile, conditions in Serbia are becoming more unstable as some 100,000 pro-

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High school youth protest killer cops

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — Nearly 1,000 high school students marched and rallied here November 22 to protest the not guilty verdict acquitting John Vojtas, one of the policemen who had been on trial in the killing of Jonny Gammage in October 1995.

Members of the NAACP Youth Council and the "Mobilization of African Students for Justice" called the walkout, which began at 10 a.m. School officials decided they would not try to block students from attending the march.

Students filled the St. Benedict the Moor Church at Freedom Corner in the Hill District of Pittsburgh and were addressed by student leaders. Nicole Leary, a 16-year-old senior at Perry Traditional Academy, told the crowd, "We are going to walk downtown in a silent march and then we are going to have a rally at the City-County Building. We don't want to do anything stupid to bring the authorities down on us. We want to make our statement and show that young people can do so without being wild."

The students then marched downtown four by four and held a rally at the City-County Building. The march was marshalled and monitored by older members of the NAACP and other community organizations, although the students organized and ran the march and rally. Along the route protesters chanted "No Justice, No Peace" and carried signs such as "Arrest Brutality," "R.I.P." followed by the names of in-

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Clinton pushes U.S. trade offensive in Asia

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

During a 12-day tour in southeast Asia and the Pacific, U.S. president William Clinton flaunted Washington's military and economic might to push the trade offensive by the U.S. rulers against their imperialist allies — who are also competitors — and against semicolonial nations in the region.

At the conclusion of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, the 18 heads of state present signed a declaration calling for a drastic reduction of import tariffs on computers, computer chips, software and other telephone and electronic equipment by the turn of the century. If such an accord were implemented, it would give a greater advantage to U.S. manufacturers.

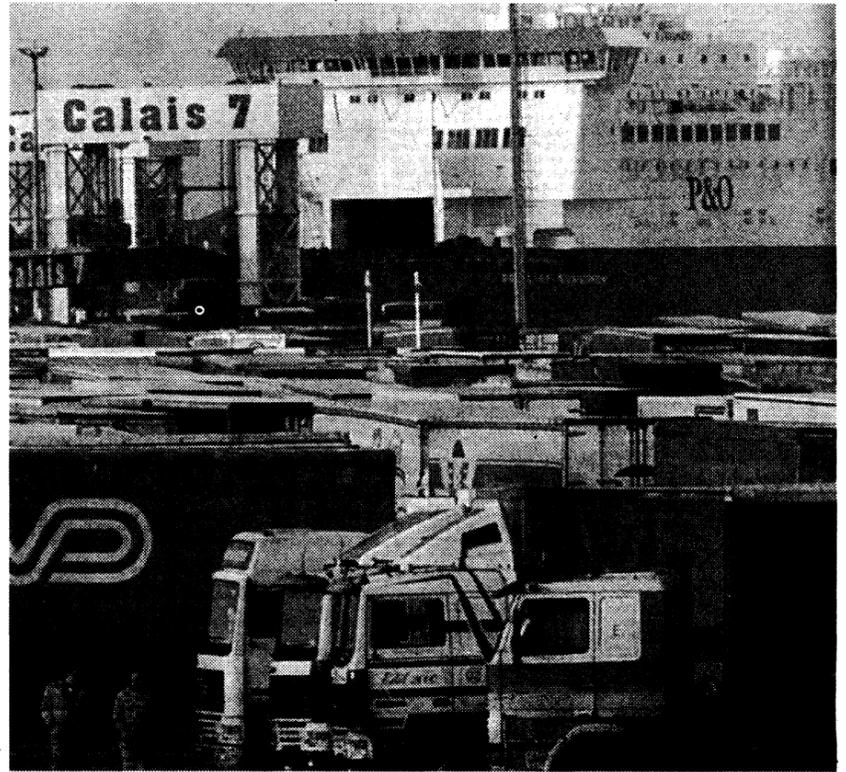
Clinton and the U.S. media hailed the non-binding agreement as a victory for "free trade." In this case Washington, with a mountain of protectionist measures on its record, is pushing to advance its economic domination by knocking down trade barriers its competitors have erected.

"Every year we sell \$100 billion in information technology," Clinton told U.S. embassy employees in Manila, the Philippine capital, after the APEC meeting. "Imagine if we went to zero tariffs in the entire world, what that would mean to America in exports." Prior to his departure from Washington, the U.S. president described as the "thrill in Manila" what he anticipated to be a sweep of his proposals at the APEC summit.

The November 26 *Washington Post* quoted several U.S. business executives expressing their elation about prospects for fatter profits as a result of Clinton's "polite

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Truckers slow down France



Truckers across France have shut down roads, gas pumps, and ports over pay, working conditions, and retirement issues. Some 74 percent of the population supports the strike. The trade union federation CGT has called for a general strike for November 27 in solidarity. Above, about 1,000 British trucks transporting goods to the United Kingdom were blocked at Calais November 25.

Wheeling-Pitt strikers protest Ohio decision to withhold jobless benefits

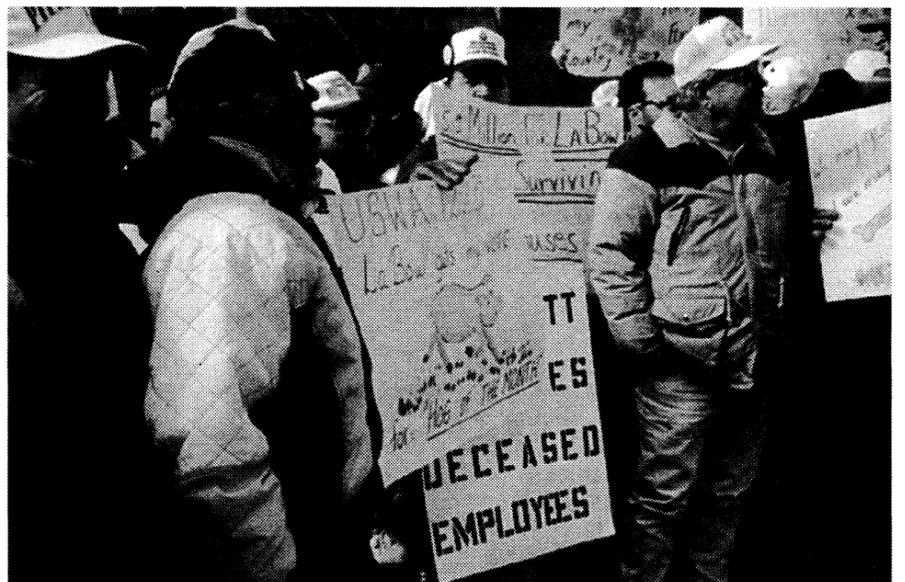
BY TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — The Ohio Bureau of Employment Service denied unemployment benefits to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel strikers in Ohio November 22. Some 4,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) hit the picket lines in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia October 1, after Wheeling-Pitt refused to discuss restoring the pension plan taken away following its 1985 bankruptcy. That plan, called a defined benefit plan, requires the company to guarantee a monthly benefit for retirees. Such a plan is now in effect at all other unionized integrated steel mills in the United States.

In 1985, the Wheeling-Pitt bosses seized upon a favorable federal bankruptcy decision to attempt to impose an inferior contract on thousands of steelworkers. This resulted in an 89-day strike, the first in basic steel since 1959, and the only response up to that time to the massive restructuring of the steel industry that led to the elimination of tens of thousands of jobs in the early 1980s.

At that time, unemployment benefits were granted to strikers in Ohio and Pennsylvania, while the state of West Virginia balked. Protests in West Virginia, many including United Mine Workers members, forced the state to grant those benefits.

The West Virginia Board of Review has tentatively scheduled a hearing for Decem-



Militant/Sheila Ostrow

Striking steelworkers rally November 13 in Wheeling, West Virginia.

ber 17 on requests for unemployment benefits for 735 workers at three Wheeling-Pitt mills in that state.

On the day of the Ohio unemployment ruling, a press release from the USWA stated, "We will appeal this decision by the state of Ohio, and feel that Wheeling-Pitt management brought about this dispute with its unreasonable demands.... This decision

has no effect on our stand in the labor dispute. The workers at Wheeling-Pitt have worked hard to make this company profitable, and deserve to have a fully funded pension."

In his ruling, Hearing Officer Fred Newsome declared, "The evidence discloses that [Steelworkers] became unemployed

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Inmates take over jail in protest

Hundreds of inmates at Durango Jail, known as "tent city," in Phoenix, Arizona, took over the prison citing inadequate medical care, bad food, brutalization by the cops, and poor, outdoor living conditions. Inmates say the November 17 struggle began when a cop pepper sprayed one of the prisoners for using the bathroom without permission. The seizure lasted for three hours, with 11 cops taken as hostages. It ended when Sheriff Joseph Arpaio agreed to meet with the inmates.

Arpaio is known for implementing chain gangs for women and banning cigarettes for prisoners. While he told inmates that he would launch an investigation on their grievances, Arpaio later said he was skeptical about the prisoners' claims and that things would stay the same. Earlier this year the U.S. Justice Department had described the violence used against those who are locked up in Durango as "especially and unacceptably prevalent." According to the Associated Press, one inmate told the sheriff, "The whole issue is everybody wants to be respected."

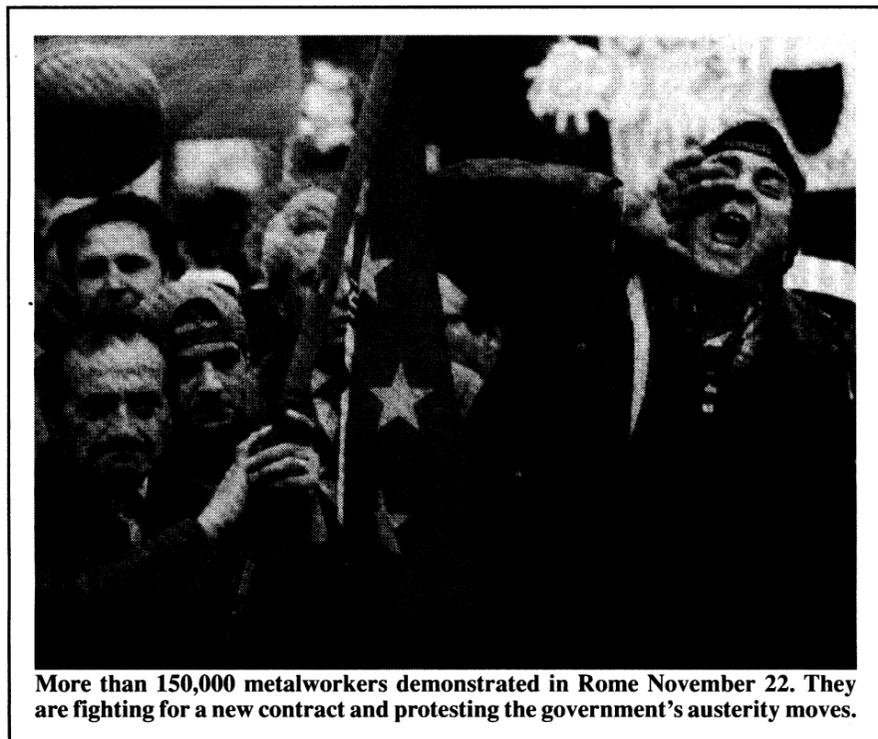
Court weakens illegal search law

On November 18, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously voted that once police stop a car for alleged traffic violations they can request to search the vehicle without informing the driver that he or she is legally free to go, weakening Constitutional protections against illegal search and seizure. The court upheld an appeal by the State of Ohio. The ruling had the support of U.S. president William Clinton and 36 state governments.

In 1995, the Ohio Supreme Court overturned a drug possession conviction because the cop used the pretext of speeding to stop the car, and then asked to search for contraband without informing the driver of his rights. The Ohio court ruling noted that "most people believe that they are validly in a police officer's custody as long as the officer continues to interrogate them."

U.S. gov't must pay damages to victims of radiation experiments

The U.S. government will be forced to



More than 150,000 metalworkers demonstrated in Rome November 22. They are fighting for a new contract and protesting the government's austerity moves.

pay \$4.8 million to families that were unknowingly made subjects for radiation experiments. Of the 12 cases the settlement will cover, only one woman is still alive. Washington's quest to develop atomic weapons spurred these experiments, conducted between 1944 and 1974. Mary Jean Connel, the woman who survived, recounted that in the 1940s she was trying to get treatment for a problem with her metabolism. Despite the fact that she turned down requests to be a part of experiments, Connel was injected with radioactive uranium. As many as 20,000 people — such as working people seeking routine medical attention, soldiers, and 820 pregnant women — were victims of these and other such experiments.

Venezuela public workers strike

Tens of thousands of public workers in Caracas, Venezuela, held a four-day shutdown, beginning November 19. The chief

demand was for the government to pay seven months worth of back wages. Spokespersons for the United Federation of Public Employees said the actions drew "98 percent of the workforce." Inflation in Venezuela over the past year has climbed to 114 percent. The monthly salary for administrative employees in Venezuela ranges from \$97 to \$275 a month. The average cost to feed a family of five is about \$260 a month, according to a report from the Center for Documentation and Analysis for Workers.

Bolivia workers fight pension cut

Some 340 Bolivian workers were on a hunger strike as of November 22 to oppose government plans to cut pension funds. Workers from different labor sectors are part of the actions across the country. Government minister Carlos Sánchez Berzaín blamed the strikes on "small groups of unionists that don't want to lose their privileges." Despite the increase of marches, protests, and work stoppages surrounding the hunger strike, Berzaín denied there is a rise in social tensions.

U.S.-Japan military exercises flex muscles at China and Korea

November 17 marked the end of two-week joint military exercises by U.S. and Japanese troops. more than 22,000 military personnel, each country providing half the force, carried out land and sea battle drills they called "bilateral movements against a common enemy."

The aims of the exercises, while not officially designed for any "common enemy" in particular, seem clear to at least one soldier who told reporters, "We all suppose it could only be north Korea, if not the Chi-

nese."

These war games are the first under the Acquisition and Cross Services Agreement — a pact that went into effect last month — which allows Washington and Tokyo to supply each other with weapons and artillery parts.

Bangui soldiers demand payment

Soldiers in the Central African Republic seized an army base November 16, lashing out at the Bangui government, which has not paid troops' back wages on time in nearly a year. The third such mutiny in seven months, it took the help of 1,300 French soldiers to secure the capital city. The government has also failed to pay teachers and other civil servants on time yet this year.

Abortion rights signed in Poland

On November 20 the Polish government signed into law a measure that would end the three-year banning of abortions in that country. The law states that any woman with financial or emotional reasons to do so may have the surgery performed within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Private clinics can also provide abortions now, whereas previously, only state medical facilities could do the operation. About 40,000 opponents of a woman's right to choose assembled outside the Parliament building in Warsaw, the day the vote took place. In pre-1993 Poland, abortions were available on demand.

BP pillage of Colombia exposed

As part of the ongoing conflicts between the United Kingdom and Europe, the European parliament recently denounced British Petroleum (BP), a British oil company, for what Miami's *Nuevo Herald* describes as "grave violations of human rights in Colombia." The European Parliament requested that the Colombian government, through its Commission of Human Rights, document the actions carried out by the British company. The violations include destruction of the environment and the living conditions of those living and working near the plants. BP is also accused of collaborating with the Colombian army, and providing intelligence information about workers on strike and other union activists.

Ottawa, Chile set up trade pact

The governments of Canada and Chile have set up a free-trade agreement that the Canadian government says may pave the way for Chile's eventual membership into the U.S.-Canada-Mexico pact known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). It will go into effect on June 2, 1997. Canadian trade minister Art Eggleton, saying that NAFTA was "a model throughout their negotiations," gives Ottawa favorable trading status over the United States, Europe, Argentina, and Brazil. U.S. officials made it clear that Chile's admittance into the tri-country NAFTA agreement was not in Washington's plans.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

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Illinois meatpackers walk out at IBP plant

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA
AND RICHARD MCBRIDE

JOSLIN, Illinois — Some 1,700 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1540 at the IBP packinghouse here, just east of the Iowa-Illinois border, voted a second time overwhelmingly to reject the company's "final contract offer" and struck the plant on November 12.

Workers and union officials told the *Militant* that at the meeting for the second vote members were asked to stand to indicate their disposition towards the proposed contract. Of the more than 1,000 unionists in attendance, workers said, all but one stood to indicate their rejection of the company's so-called best offer.

This vote marked a break in the trend where meatpacking companies in the Midwest — including Hormel, Farmhand, Excel and the Dakota City IBP plant — all managed to settle contracts with the various UFCW locals at the last minute.

The first offer from IBP was an 80-cent pay raise over the life of the four-year contract, elimination of some health benefits, and dropping the company's "profit sharing" payments at the Joslin facility.

IBP spokesman Gary Mickleson said the company's 80-cent-per-hour proposal would have made up for the elimination of profit sharing, which was estimated to amount to over \$800 per worker for 1996.

The nation's largest meatpacker, IBP earned a \$257 million profit on sales of \$12 billion in 1995. Its chairman, Robert Peterson, was given a \$5.2 million bonus on top of his \$1 million salary. Most IBP workers start jobs at \$6.50-\$7 hourly and top out at \$10 an hour.

Following the workers' rejection of the 80-cent offer, IBP officials turned around and slashed their offer to 40 cents over four years. As of now, the company has not scheduled any further meetings with union representatives.

The November 13 *Des Moines Register* reported that IBP was farming out Joslin's work to other plants in the IBP chain.

At the strike headquarters for the local, picket signs in Spanish, English, Laotian, and Vietnamese are clearly visible to cars that drive into the parking lot. UFCW official Larry Shepard explained that the overwhelming majority of workers at the Joslin IBP plant are either immigrant or non-white. Roughly half the workforce is Latino and 20 percent of the workers are Vietnamese, other Asian nationalities, or Black. Having materials available in all four languages, Shepard said, is critical to the union's ability to remain united throughout the strike.

Militant reporters from Des Moines, Iowa, and Peoria, Illinois, drove out to the two IBP gates where workers are keeping up 24-hour picket lines. In spite of the bitter cold — made worst by brisk winds, and no shelters for strikers to take refuge in — the spirits of the unionists were high.

"People think we're doing this just to do

it," responded Kelly Froberg, a 12-year IBP veteran, when asked why workers voted to strike. "But we're doing this because the workers at IBP deserve more."

Most workers on the picket line volunteered stories of their individual experiences at the plant to illustrate the overall conditions that led to the strike.

Robert Housby, who has worked at the Joslin plant for 10 years, said that 14 months after winning a job bid in the maintenance department, company officials told him he "was not qualified." They then attempted to garnish Housby's wages, claiming he was "overpaid during those 14 months."

Strikers told *Militant* reporters about attempts by the company to harass workers. A camera was installed in the cafeteria by the company following the second contract vote. The company also required that workers who went to the restroom during the last day of work be accompanied by supervisors.

Barb Ickes of the *Quad Cities Times* reported an incident where a tractor trailer intentionally hit a gate erected by the strikers. The *Times* reporter wrote, "Several logs,



Militant/Shirley Peña

Meatpackers went on strike over wages and health benefits at IBP in Joslin, Illinois.

one the size of a fire hydrant, flew into the crowd of pickets. I still don't know how the logs missed us."

Ickes explained that within minutes of the semi leaving the gate, Illinois State Trooper Ronald Franck drove up and attempted to arrest one of the strikers.

As Franck tried to handcuff the striker,

Ickes wrote, "all 23 pickets moved towards Trooper Franck. Almost immediately he let go of the small woman's wrist."

Shirley Peña is a member of United Auto Workers Local 997 in Newton, Iowa. Richard McBride works at IBP in Perry, Iowa, and is a member of UFCW 1149.

Tensions escalate in Yugoslavia

Continued from front page

testers marched in the streets of Belgrade to protest attempts by President Slobodan Milosevic to annul the results of recent local elections.

Thousands of students have participated in recent demonstrations in Serbia and Croatia, as imperialist forces prolong their military operations in the Balkans.

"Our recommendation now is that the mission end in June 1998, and that shortly thereafter, all troops withdraw from there," declared U.S. Gen. John Shalikashvili, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The general said the GIs would be included in a reduced imperialist force of 31,000 troops, with 5,000 soldiers from other countries stationed outside Bosnia.

The 20,000 U.S. troops were among the 60,000-strong NATO force sent to Yugoslavia a year ago to impose a partition of Bosnia. They were originally scheduled to leave on December 20.

While touting the military operation as a "success," Clinton said "the rebuilding of the fabric of Bosnia's economic and political life is taking longer than anticipated" and requires extending Washington's occupation force there.

This highlights the fact that the occupying imperialist powers in Washington, Bonn, Paris, and London continue to face obstacles in their aim to overthrow the workers state in Yugoslavia and reestablish capitalist property relations there.

Recently, the German government announced plans to increase its troop deployment to Bosnia next year, making Bonn

among the largest military forces there for the first time.

Confrontation with U.S. soldiers

The Paris meeting followed a confrontation between U.S. soldiers and Bosnian civilians. The incident began on November 11 when some 600 Bosnian refugees trying to return to their former homes entered the village of Gajevi, located in the 2.5-mile "Zone of Separation" patrolled by NATO troops. A firefight began and the next day chauvinist Serb reportedly fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and small arms. Bosnian forces responded by firing four mortar rounds into Koraj, a Serb-held town. One person was killed and 10 wounded in battles that lasted two days.

Combat involving GIs almost ensued when U.S. Army troops with helicopter backing and a company of Russian infantry soldiers moved to disarm the combatants. A U.S. military convoy of some 50 vehicles, including four tanks and several armored fighting vehicles raided a Bosnian Army camp on November 14 and confiscated several tons of weapons and ammunition. According to the *New York Times*, the commander of the Bosnian army base was ordered by his superior officers to resist U.S. forces attempting to take weaponry.

Masses of people mobilized to confront the U.S. military force. A videotape made of the incident reportedly shows GIs scuffling with civilians and pointing their rifles at them. Bottles were thrown at the soldiers.

U.S. military officials claim the raid was done to punish Bosnian authorities for al-

legedly fomenting combat with the Serb forces when refugees attempted to return home. Bosnian officials announced November 19 the dismissal of deputy defense minister Hasan Cengic at Washington's demand. U.S. officials complained that Cengic has too close ties with the Iranian government.

Tensions mounting in Serbia

Tensions are mounting in Serbia as well. Some 30,000 people marched in Belgrade to protest the annulment of 43 out of 60 city council seats by Serbia president Slobodan Milosevic on November 24. Three days earlier, some 20,000 protesters marched against the cancellations. The four-party opposition coalition, called Zajedno, claimed victory November 17 in the municipal elections.

Elsewhere in Yugoslavia, a stalemate developed when the Bosnian Serb Army refused to recognize Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic's November 9 dismissal of military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic and other top officers. About 100 high ranking officers issued a statement November 11 saying they will continue to support Mladic. "When the new army chief called a meeting of military commanders, no one showed up," editors of the *Wall Street Journal* complained. The power struggle took another twist when army officers seized control over a TV transmitter on Mt. Zep in eastern Bosnia the next day.

Meanwhile, in Croatia, more than 100,000 demonstrators, including the Zagreb's Students Association, rallied on November 21 against the closing of "Radio 101," Croatia's last independent radio station. The protest forced the regime of President Franjo Tudjman to reverse its November 20 decision to close down the station.

A few days earlier, a Clinton administration official told the Associated Press that Tudjman, who is suffering from cancer, was admitted to Walter Reed Medical Center, the U.S. Army's top medical facility.

Irish activists protest cop execution

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY

LONDON — Thirty members of Fuascailt, a group campaigning on behalf of Irish political prisoners, gathered in a busy shopping center in Hammersmith, west London, November 9.

They were demanding an independent public inquiry into the recent police execution of a young unarmed Irish republican, Diarmuid O'Neill, who was shot dead in the area September 27. At first, police claimed that there had been a "gun battle," but no firearms or explosives were found in O'Neill's flat. Police say they will carry out an investigation into the shooting themselves. Amnesty International is one of several organizations calling for the inquiry to be public and independent of the police.

The action by Fuascailt was prompted by the closing down by the police of a Communist League book table in Hammersmith on October 12. The socialists staffing the table had been campaigning for a public inquiry and displayed newspaper photographs of O'Neill and the bloodstained steps of his flat with the caption "Innocent until proven Irish." The *Hammersmith Gazette* published

an article on this attack on freedom of speech, and the *Irish Post* published a letter on it written by Communist League members. The local law center and Members of Parliament were also informed of the police conduct.

The Fuascailt activists set up a table and distributed hundreds of leaflets detailing the facts of the O'Neill case to shoppers. They also passed out leaflets for a public meeting organized by the local trade union council to be held in Hammersmith town hall on November 26 entitled "Ireland: The Issues." The platform at the public meeting will include a speaker from Sinn Fein, Jeremy Corbyn MP, and Pete Turner from Hammersmith and Fulham Trade Union Council. Bernadette McAliskey and Billy Power of the Birmingham Six have also been invited to speak. Fuascailt supporters also collected signatures on a petition demanding a public inquiry, and the Communist League set up another book table.

"We are here to reverse the imbalance in the media," said Peter Middleton of Fuascailt, "to inform ordinary people on the street about the issues that affect Irish people

in Britain and to demand a public inquiry into the murder of Diarmuid O'Neill."

Linda Kerry said "people we stopped often said, 'Oh, didn't he deserve it?' But when we told them the facts they felt the police had a case to answer." There was hostility from some passersby, but the majority of reactions were positive. "The response to the petition was good not just from the Irish community but from people as a whole" said Bill Thompson.

Three police watched the entire action closely but made no attempt to intervene.

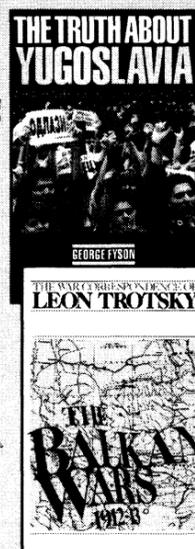
Caroline Bellamy is a member of Transport and General Workers Union branch 1-667 in London.

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Thousands in Quebec protest gov't cutbacks

BY VICKY MERCIER

MONTREAL — Confidence was high on November 20 as a crowd of more than 6,000 college, university and high school students took to the streets in Montreal to protest cutbacks in education and social services. Three days later 15,000 unionists marched in Quebec City against the provincial government's attempt to gut public workers' pension funds.

The student march culminated a three-week province-wide strike by thousands of college students in Quebec opposing the provincial government's plan to cut Can\$700 million (US\$518 million) from funding to education. The students had vowed not to return to class until the government granted a freeze in tuition fees. Chanting in French and English, "So, so, so, solidarité" and "No way, we won't pay," students marched for three hours in cold weather.

The high points of the march occurred when large contingents of students from all four major universities joined the protest as it wound its way through Montreal. McGill University went on strike for the day, while students at Concordia and the University of Quebec voted for a two-day strike.

In response to the student strike and the wave of protests and occupations, Education Minister Pauline Marois pledged to freeze tuition fees at college and university levels until the end of the government's mandate. The minister announced, however, that fees for out-of-province students would increase by 73 percent. The government's proposal also includes tightening access to financial aid and increasing fees for repeating classes.

Despite the victory of the tuition freeze, many students at the march were holding placards reading, "the fight continues," expressing their refusal to accept the attacks announced by the education minister. "I'm not at all satisfied," explained Manuela

Santiago Teigeler, a student from Vieux Montreal Junior College. Marois "is giving us crumbs. I'm ready to continue the fight to the end," she added.

Fight for equal education

The tuition hike for out-of-province students has sparked a major debate, since most of the students from outside Quebec are English-speaking. Many students see the tuition hike as an attempt to divide them.

As Neil Conway, a student from Nova Scotia, explained, "My tuition may be doubled and I won't be able to go back to school because as a full-time student at Concordia, I work three days at a hospital and already I'm in debt."

An editorial in the English-language Montreal daily *The Gazette* described the tuition hike for out-of-province students as "academic cleansing," claiming that "the public funds that keep fees for Quebec-based students as low as they are — roughly half the national average — are in part provided by the federal government."

The low tuition fees in Quebec are a result of the fight by the Quebecois to improve an inferior educational system in French. A recent study revealed that the English-language universities in Quebec receive 36 percent of federal funding, while anglophones make up only 8 percent of the population. This disparity in the quality of education between English and French universities is being used by the governing party in Quebec, the Parti Quebecois, to win support for the tuition hikes for out-of-province students. The Parti Quebecois is playing on resentment to try to get Quebecois students to accept that these students should pay more.

"There are certain basic human rights. Today cuts across language and division. It shows we can all come together," said Pete Wilson, a student from British Columbia, about the November 20 march in Montreal.



Thousands of youth in the streets of Montreal November 20 protest education cuts

Massive federal cuts in education funds are part of the attacks on education and social programs. On Jan. 25, 1995, 10,000 students marched in Montreal against Ottawa's education cuts. On February 7 of this year, more than 20,000 students from 30 cities across Canada joined protest actions against the federal government's plan to cut Can\$7 billion in transfer payments to the provinces for education and social programs.

Although most students returned to class in the days after the November 20 demonstration, a few colleges still remain on strike. Two hundred students from the Lévis-Lauzon Junior College occupied a government building in Quebec City on Novem-

ber 22, hours before the opening of the convention of the Parti Quebecois. The demonstration was violently broken up by the police riot squad.

Public workers mobilize in Quebec

Another important mobilization occurred in the same week as the student protest. On November 23 about 15,000 public sector workers demonstrated in Quebec City, in front of the convention of the Parti Quebecois. Among the crowd were hospital workers, nurses, civil servants, college students, teachers, bus drivers, groups organizing fighting for housing and many others. The central aim of the demonstration was to protest a government plan to reopen union contracts in order to take money from the government workers' pension fund.

Gérald Larose, the president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions told the crowd, "If the solution does not involve the pockets which are full, it can't involve the pockets which are empty."

Denis Turgeon, a civil servant from Quebec City, said, "taking money from the pension fund, is taking money from the pockets of the youngest."

Mario Dufour, who was there with a group of about 200 students from Limoilou Junior College, said, "We are united for the same fight, the fight for social justice." The unions are planning another protest December 7.

Vicky Mercier is a member of the Young Socialists and of the International Association of Machinists in Montreal. Joe Young also contributed to this article.

YS recruits in Texas following Cuban tour

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

HOUSTON — Members of the Young Socialists were prominent in organizing the recent Texas tour of Dagoberto Rodríguez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. Two members of the Houston YS chapter traveled with Rodríguez to the Rio Grande Valley, along with José Aravena, a member of the Young Socialist national steering committee. Included in the YS delegation was Jennifer Ponce, a student at the University of Houston who began the school year as president of the College Democrats. After hearing Socialist Workers presidential and vice

presidential candidates James Harris and Laura Garza and congressional candidate Jerry Freiwirth speak on campus, Ponce decided to resign from the College Democrats and join the Young Socialists. She has been a vigorous builder of the YS ever since.

The YS members' participation in the Rodríguez tour bore fruit at the University of Texas, Pan American, in Edinburg, Texas. The delegation of Young Socialists worked with a new member of the YS who attends Pan Am in distributing socialist literature and organizing a class on socialism on the day after Rodríguez's campus speech. Eleven people attended the class and two decided to join the Young Socialists. The Edinburg, Texas YS chapter's first meeting is planned for the last week of November.

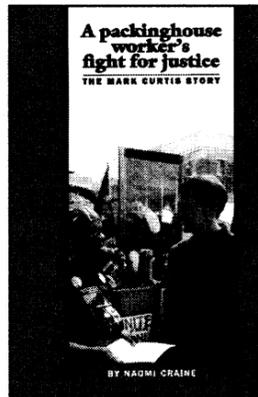
Also joining the socialist team at Pan American and the Tejana/Tejano Student Leadership Conference the University of Houston was Laura Garza, who is traveling to selected cities after the election, building the Regional Socialist Educational Conferences slated to take place in four cities on Thanksgiving weekend.

Socialists sold 10 subscriptions to the *Militant* and three subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* at speaking engagements for Dagoberto Rodríguez, including the Tejana/Tejano conference. In addition, meeting participants purchased four copies of *New International* no. 10, which includes the articles "Imperialism's March towards Fascism and War" and "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution."

Pathfinder books were also well received during the tour. At each event, well-stocked and attractive literature tables were set up. Meeting participants showed a particular interest in books on the Cuban revolution. Altogether 36 titles were sold, including 4 copies of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara. Participants at the Chicano student conference bought seven copies of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*.

New! from Pathfinder

A packinghouse worker's fight for justice



The Mark Curtis Story

Naomi Craine

The story of the victorious eight-year battle to defeat the political frame-up of Mark Curtis, a union activist and socialist sentenced in 1988 to twenty-five years in prison on trumped up charges of attempted rape and burglary.

The pamphlet describes what happened to Curtis on the day of his arrest, the fight to defend immigrant rights he was a part of, and the international campaign that finally won his freedom in 1996. \$6.00

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

63 new members in the YS!

From July 10 to November 26

City	# of new members
Athens, GA	3
Atlanta	4
Boston	1
Carbondale, IL	1
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Detroit	2
Fresno, CA	3
Houston	3
Los Angeles	6
McAllen, TX	3
Minneapolis/St. Paul	2
Morgantown	1
Muncie, IN	1
Newark	3
New York	3
Philadelphia	1
Portland, OR	1
Salt Lake City	3
San Diego	1
San Francisco	5
Seattle	2
Spokane, WA	5
Washington, D.C.	3
TOTAL	63

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Nearly 300 new readers won in final week of drive!

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The last days of the campaign to win 1,200 new readers to the *Militant*, 425 subscribers to its sister publication in Spanish, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and sell 550 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* ended in a flurry of sales activities.

Activists reached out to workers and youth to build the regional socialist educa-

tional conferences at the end of November in four cities in the United States. Supporters of the socialist press wrapped up the campaign selling 499 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, going over the goal by 17 percent. Participants in the drive also sold 620 copies of *New International*, going 12 percent over that goal in the campaign. The *Militant* subscription sales, how-

ever, came up 58 shy of its goal, at 95 percent.

During the final target week, supporters in Seattle sold 20 *Militant* subscriptions, campaigners in San Francisco sold 21, and activists in St. Paul, Minnesota sold a whopping 28 subscriptions to the socialist newsweekly.

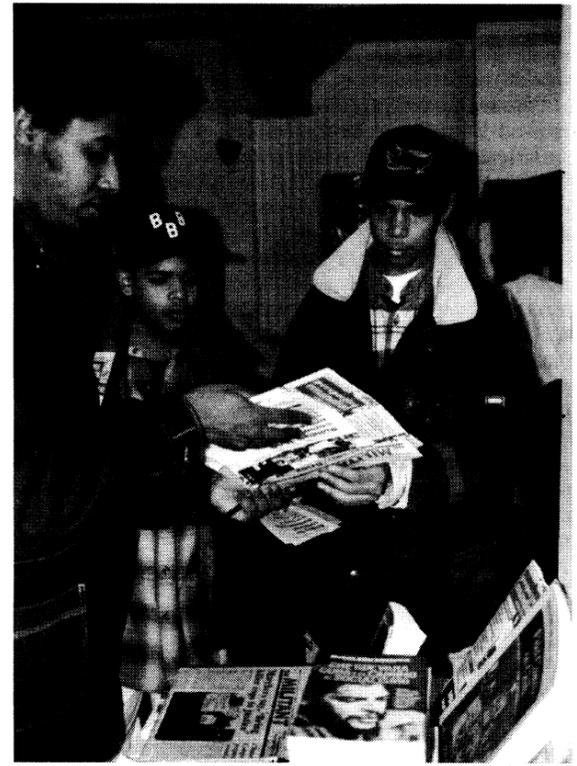
Socialist workers and youth in Chicago launched a concentrated effort in the target week, selling 24 *Militant* subscriptions and 23 copies of *New International*. "We were able to set up literature tables inside college campuses coming on the heels of the work we did building the tour of Cuban writer Norberto Codina," said *Militant* supporter Ray Parsons. "Regional teams got out to Champaign and Carbondale, Illinois where one youth joined the Young Socialists."

Parsons said they organized teams to sell at showings of the film *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, about the guerrilla campaign of Cuban revolutionary leader. "We sold two *Militant* subscriptions, three subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, eight copies of *New International* — six of which were the Spanish *Nueva Internacional*, and 12 copies of Che's *Bolivian Diary* published by Pathfinder Press."

Movie-goers also bought three copies of Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* and three copies of the Cuban magazine *La Gaceta de Cuba*. Parsons said the co-owner of a local bookstore who bought a *Militant* subscription and one copy of *Nueva Internacional* wants to discuss selling the socialist literature in her store.

Ron Poulsen from Australia and Eugen Lepou from New Zealand set up a sales table at the Solidarity of Labor Against APEC conference held in Manila November 22-23. The meeting was one of three conferences held in the Philippine capital to protest the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit held November 25 in Subic Bay, a former U.S. naval base in the Philippines.

Lepou reported that a conference participant from Singapore who bought a subscription to the *Militant* remarked, "You guys have a lot of great stuff." She bought a copy of *Che Guevara Speaks: Selected Speeches and Writings*. By the end of the gathering, socialists sold 10 copies of *New Interna-*



Sales at New York event for Cuban poet, Norberto Codina. Militant/Hilda Cuzco

tional, one subscription to the *Militant* and some 62 Pathfinder titles.

Sales were also great at the Miami Bookfair, held November 22-24, reports airline worker Janet Post. "The Pathfinder booth was a tremendous success, with volunteers selling 120 titles, including 16 copies of *New International*," she wrote. "We also sold four *Militant* subscriptions and five *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions."

"Interest was high in the Cuban revolution and literature on Cuba. One subscription to *La Gaceta de Cuba*, 13 copies of the Cuban publication, 8 copies of the Cuban weekly *Granma Internacional*, and 24 books about Cuba were sold.

"Of the 120 books purchased, 80 were in English, 29 in Spanish, and 11 in French. We also distributed 500 business cards and 35 fair-goers signed up for more information. A few people came to the Pathfinder bookstore during the fair to see a showing of *Land and Freedom*, a film on the Spanish Revolution, at a program sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

"The biggest sellers at the fair were *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky, *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and *Genocide against the Indians* by George Novack. Sales totaled \$1,300," Post concluded.

Final Figures for Militant Subscription Drive OCTOBER 5 - NOVEMBER 24, 1996

	Militant			PM			NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	
SWEDEN	12	15	125%	8	6	20	20	
NEW ZEALAND								
Auckland*	20	25	125%	1	3	15	19	
Christchurch	6	7	117%	1	1	4	7	
N.Z. Total	26	32	123%	2	4	19	26	
AUSTRALIA	15	16	107%	3	2	10	16	
CANADA								
Toronto	45	48	107%	10	11	25	26	
Montreal	25	26	104%	8	9	40	40	
Vancouver	30	30	100%	3	3	20	16	
Canada Total	100	104	104%	21	23	85	82	
UNITED STATES								
Miami*	30	36	120%	20	22	22	33	
Philadelphia*	35	39	111%	15	15	10	14	
Atlanta	27	30	111%	20	20	20	23	
Des Moines	25	27	108%	15	14	15	7	
Los Angeles	85	91	107%	40	44	40	45	
Pittsburgh	30	32	107%	3	3	12	8	
Washington, DC	30	32	107%	20	23	15	15	
San Francisco	70	73	104%	30	31	35	40	
Greensboro, NC*	25	26	104%	13	16	9	6	
Peoria, IL	25	26	104%	3	2	10	10	
Boston	30	31	103%	15	15	15	20	
Chicago	60	61	102%	30	30	30	36	
Birmingham, AL	48	48	100%	5	6	18	17	
Salt Lake City	32	32	100%	12	14	10	6	
Seattle*	50	50	100%	25	23	25	25	
Twin Cities, MN	60	60	100%	20	9	25	19	
Detroit	50	49	98%	10	10	15	15	
Houston*	40	39	98%	20	18	15	14	
Tucson, AZ	5	4	80%	1	0	2	3	
Cleveland	25	18	72%	8	3	15	14	
Denver	8	5	63%	4	2	2	2	
New York	135	72	53%	105	100	90	55	
Newark, NJ	90	44	49%	45	31	45	13	
Morgantown, WV	21	8	38%	1	5	7	7	
Other		6						
Total U.S.	1036	939	91%	480	456	502	447	
UNITED KINGDOM								
London	36	41	114%	8	10	25	27	
Manchester	26	13	50%	2	1	15	12	
U.K. Total	62	54	87%	10	11	40	39	
FRANCE	6	4	67%	3	0	8	6	
ICELAND	6	3	50%	0	0	4	3	
International totals	1243	1142	92%	526	499	673	620	
Goal/Should be at	1200	1200	100%	425	425	550	550	
IN THE UNIONS								
CANADA								
USWA	6	8	133%	2	1	6	3	
IAM	7	6	86%	1	0	8	2	
CAW	3	2	67%	1	0	4	1	
CANADA total	16	16	100%	4	1	18	6	
AUSTRALIA								
AMWU-Metal	5	4	80%	0	0	1	2	
AMWU-Food	2	1	50%	0	0	2	1	
AUSTRALIA total	7	5	71%	0	0	3	3	
UNITED STATES								
UNWA	4	5	125%	0	0	4	2	
UPCW	4	4	100%	7	4	3	1	
UNITE	15	11	73%	10	7	10	3	
IAM	64	37	58%	14	9	29	15	
UAW	60	29	48%	10	4	30	10	
USWA	40	19	48%	10	3	22	5	
OCAW	27	12	44%	0	1	15	4	
UTU	50	19	38%	4	0	28	4	
U.S. total	256	127	50%	48	24	134	41	
UNITED KINGDOM								
RMT	4	2	50%	0	0	4	1	
TGWU	5	2	40%	0	0	0	0	
AEEU	6	2	33%	0	0	4	0	
U.K. total	15	6	40%	0	0	8	1	
NEW ZEALAND								
EU	4	3	75%	0	0	0	0	
MWU	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
UFBGWU	3	0	0%	0	0	0	0	
NEW ZEALAND total	12	3	25%	0	0	0	0	

*Raised goal

Sales to bookstores and libraries (Not including Pathfinder bookstores)

Cities	October			Previous months		
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	September	August	July
Des Moines	35	211	603%	15	0	135
Los Angeles	95	103	108%	34	246	229
New York	175	85	49%	102	520	521
Salt Lake City	40	16	40%	11	2	155
Chicago	60	16	27%	31	184	111
Seattle	60	14	23%	6	56	56
Boston	50	7	14%	36	79	73
Atlanta	32	2	6%	1	94	42
Peoria	21	1	5%	0	1	0
Twin Cities	67	3	4%	9	0	58
San Francisco	74	3	4%	41	71	246
Houston	32	1	3%	0	27	56
Washington, D.C.	42	1	2%	21	1	126
Pittsburgh	49	1	2%	1	0	0
Newark	133	2	2%	3	35	0
Birmingham	50	0	0%	10	39	109
Cleveland	40	0	0%	96	77	37
Detroit	60	0	0%	0	30	38
Greensboro	36	0	0%	0	117	1
Miami	42	0	0%	0	10	30
Morgantown	25	0	0%	141	18	17
Philadelphia	49	0	0%	10	45	66
TOTAL	1267	466	37%	568	1652	2106

Clinton pushes U.S. trade offensive in Asia

Continued from front page arm twisting."

"I thought he'd get on base, but I never expected he'd hit the ball out of the park," said Michael Maibach, vice president for government affairs at Intel Corp., the world's largest maker of computer chips.

"We are on the way to wiring the world," crowed William Archev, president of the American Electronics Association.

Big-business dailies published in other imperialist capitals painted a somewhat different picture.

London's *Financial Times*, for example, said in its November 26 issue: "Pacific Rim leaders yesterday bowed to pressure from U.S. president Bill Clinton by backing a planned free trade deal for information technology products, but almost immediately undermined their endorsement by openly disagreeing over it." The *Times* story said the APEC summit "produced few noteworthy advances towards the grouping's goal of freeing all trade and investment in the region by early next century."

The meeting took place at the former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines, which Washington was forced to abandon in 1992. It was the centerpiece of Clinton's tour, which included stops in Hawaii, Australia, and Thailand. Trade ministers of the 18 governments represented at the APEC forum, had failed a week earlier to reach an agreement endorsing the abolition of protective tariffs, a form of tax imposed on imported goods.

The statement Clinton extracted called on the World Trade Organization (WTO) to complete an accord on information technology products "that would substantially eliminate tariffs by the year 2000, recognizing the need for flexibility as negotiations... proceed."

The 123-member WTO, established in January 1995, is scheduled to hold its first meeting in mid-December. Washington pushed for the formation of this international trade association. But since its founding, the U.S. government has challenged the organization's rules at least three times. It has ignored, for example, WTO settlement procedures in a conflict with Japanese companies over auto parts, choosing instead to threaten Tokyo with sanctions. A recently issued WTO report lambasted new U.S. laws penalizing companies in third countries that invest in Cuba, Iran, and Libya. The report also said Washington's unilateral implementation of trade measures "remains a source of tension."

While the U.S. rulers often present themselves as the foremost advocates of so-called free trade, they don't talk about their simultaneous protectionist policies. The U.S. government maintains 8,000 taxes on foreign goods, with some as high as 458 percent, according to James Bovard's book *The Fair Trade Fraud*. Since 1980, Washington has negotiated more than 170 bilateral accords to restrict imports. Quotas agreed to affect up to half of world trade. The U.S. government maintains 3,000 clothing and textile quotas, as well as limits on autos, sugar, dairy products, peanuts, beef, and machine tools. All of these measures are designed to bolster the profits of

U.S. capitalists.

As Washington has gained an edge on productivity in manufacturing computer and other high-tech products, it is trying to pry wide open the markets of its competitors. This U.S. bullying does not sit well with many, even with regimes allied with the bastion of American imperialism.

Goh Chok Tong, prime minister of Singapore, which will host the December WTO meeting, said APEC's statement was ambiguous. "It can be interpreted by [APEC] members as anything they want it to be," he said.

Following the Manila summit Mahatir Mohamad, Malaysia's prime minister, said that the 2000 deadline has no binding force.

At the same time, China's foreign minister Qian Qichen said negotiating a timetable or concrete changes in tariffs is not a job for APEC. "The APEC statement's practical effect is limited," noted an article in the November 26 *Wall Street Journal*. "If the WTO doesn't conclude the agreement, the APEC nations will be under no obligation to end the technology tariffs by 2000."

Tense relations with China

While in Manila, Clinton met with China's president, Jiang Zemin. The two heads of government pledged to exchange state visits in the next two years, which would be the first since former U.S. president George Bush traveled to Beijing in 1989. Most big-business dailies acknowledged that Clinton accomplished little to nothing in easing the U.S. government's tense relationship with the Chinese workers state or getting a more profitable access to the markets of the most populous country of the world.

"Administration officials had hoped that President Jiang Zemin might signal a willingness to begin serious negotiations on moving the Chinese economy toward open and free markets in which foreign firms could compete on equal footing," said the November 25 *Washington Post*. "From all outward signs, the deal was never struck."

Beijing is not willing to make the necessary concessions imperialist powers demand, such as dropping import duties on foreign goods, in order to join the World Trade Organization. "For China, any significant market opening holds the almost certain prospect of throwing millions of Chinese out of work at thousands of... government-owned enterprises that still employ two-thirds of that country's urban workers," the *Post* story said.

The niceties between the U.S. and Chinese presidents aside, Clinton made clear that Washington will not back down from its longtime support for a resolution at the United Nations condemning Beijing for "human rights violations." Zemin for his part reiterated Beijing's longstanding opposition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

"Only a few years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. once again is faced with a self-defined rival to its sole superpower status," wrote Karen Elliot House in an opinion column in the November 26 *Wall Street Journal*. House is the international president of Dow Jones. She said Washington "faces a new bipolar relation-



Demonstrators face police outside APEC meeting in the Philippines November 22

ship not unlike that between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. after World War II."

The author continued, "China screams 'containment' even when the U.S. pursues its minimal national interests — opening relations with Vietnam, extending a defense treaty with Japan, sailing the Seventh Fleet near Taiwan."

Earlier this year, U.S. navy warships passed through the strait separating Taiwan and mainland China, as Beijing and Taipei stepped up military maneuvers off the coast of Taiwan. The conflict between China and Taiwan has been a growing concern for Washington, as Beijing used military exercises to reaffirm its right to reunite with Taiwan, a right Washington acknowledged in 1972.

During a speech to Australia's parliament in Canberra November 20, Clinton reiterated Washington's commitment to maintain its sizable military forces throughout Asia and the Pacific. The Pentagon has 100,000 troops deployed in the region.

"It's taken us years to convince people, at home and in Asia, that we really do see economic security and national security as a seamless whole," U.S. commerce secretary Mickey Kantor said in Manila.

Scandals and inflated stocks continue

Despite the rosy assessment by the U.S. media of Clinton's accomplishments in Asia, and a continued upturn of the U.S. economy, the various allegations of financial misconduct against the U.S. president and his aides persisted throughout his trip.

During a press conference in Australia, Clinton was bombarded with questions by reporters about charges that Clinton received illegal funds during his election campaign from an Indonesian businessman.

This scandal-mongering becomes more pronounced as part of the decline of world capitalism, which is mired in depression conditions, and is a thermometer of the inability of the U.S. rulers to resolve the problems facing the owners of capital — declining profit rates and sharper competition from imperialist allies. These problems are also reflected in the rising worries among U.S. ruling circles about a possible sharp downturn in the economy or even another crash on Wall Street.

"Today's financial euphoria can't last," was the top headline of the opinion page of the November 25 *Wall Street Journal*.

"The conventional view is that, to be successful in his second term, President Clinton will have to continue to reduce the federal budget deficit, which means putting Social Security and Medicare on sound footings," wrote author Henry Kaufman, president of a New York-based money management and consulting firm. "While these are worthwhile objectives, they pale beside a risk he cannot control: a stock market crash, with all the financial and political consequences it will spawn."

The same issue of the *Journal* featured a front-page article that led with the following sentence: "If you were [Federal Reserve chairman] Alan Greenspan, wouldn't you be worried about the soaring stock market?" The Dow Jones industrial average surpassed 6,500, an all-time record, the day that article appeared.

"A rising stock market is usually reassuring," the *Journal* story said. "But one that rises a lot faster than economic fundamentals warrant is vulnerable to sudden decline. It isn't the rise in stock prices that worries the Fed; it's the fear that the higher the market goes, the faster it will fall."

Ottawa calls for moving ahead with troops to Africa

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Ottawa is still pushing to lead a military intervention in central Africa. Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced November 26 that the Canadian government is "proposing to our partners that we go ahead with the establishment of a military headquarters operation in Entebbe, [Uganda,] to help coordinate matters and prepare for future actions, including reconnaissance flights into Zaire." Axworthy also proposed "air drops into Zaire to assist refugees who have the most serious food needs."

Speaking to reporters, the Canadian official acknowledged, "There is no clear cut agreement on specific measures. Our view is that there needs to be some decisions soon on a course of action."

Axworthy spoke four days after representatives of 30 governments and relief organizations met in Stuttgart, Germany, to discuss plans for organizing a military intervention in the region, on the pretext of aiding Rwandan refugees in Zaire. The United Nations Security Council had approved a proposal put forward by Ottawa, with Washington's backing, that the Canadian military spearhead a force of 10,000 - 15,000

troops, with a U.S. officer as the second in command. This plan hit a snag, though, when rebel forces opposed to the crumbling Zairian regime of Mobutu Sese Seko overtook the refugee camps near the Rwandan border, and hundreds of thousands of Rwandans returned to their homes.

Both the Rwandan government and the leadership of the rebels in eastern Zaire have declared opposition to any foreign military intervention.

U.S. and Canadian officials, and others pushing for intervention, assert that as many as 700,000 refugees are still in Zaire. The Rwandan government, which has stated that any foreign troops who land there will be considered hostile, insists that nearly all refugees have returned to Rwanda.

Reports in the big-business press have increasingly focused on "unconfirmed reports" that the rebel forces in Zaire are carrying out massacres against the Rwandans who controlled the refugee camps, known as the Interhamwe militias whose leaders come mostly of the Hutu tribe. Many of these rightists were supporters of the former regime in Rwanda that organized widespread massacres there in 1994.

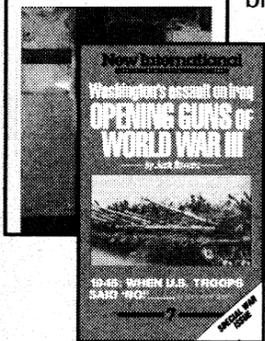
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'A great moment in Cuban literature'

BY MARK CURTIS
AND TAMI PETERSON

CHICAGO — "This is one of the greatest moments in Cuban art and literature," Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, told 40 students and others at DePaul University here November 11. *La Gaceta* is published by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and is the country's foremost journal of arts and culture.

During a six-day tour here, Codina spoke on the topics of art, literature, and culture. This year, in recognition of his work as a writer and editor, Codina was given the National Culture Award by the Cuban Ministry of Culture.

Codina explained throughout his tour that in spite of economic difficulties and political polarization, also reflected in Cuba's art and culture, the revolution remains strong.

The tour was organized by the Norberto Codina Lectures Committee, headed by Félix-Masud Piloto, director of the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University. The committee worked in collaboration with other faculty members and other campuses in the Chicago and New York areas.

Between 250 and 300 people heard Codina speak at universities and other meetings during his tour here. Twelve people bought subscriptions to *La Gaceta*.

During the discussion period at DePaul, one student asked if the Cuban revolution increased literacy among the population. Codina responded that before the 1959 revolution only 22 percent of those on the island could read or write. Through a mass literacy campaign, combined with free education under a planned economy, that figure is over 90 percent today, the highest in all Latin America. He called the revolution "the most important cultural event" to take place in Cuba's history.

In many of the meetings, Codina described what he called a "cultural renovation" taking place in Cuba in the fields of literature, theater, painting, film, and music. He referred to the new themes and issues being taken up — ones that have previously been considered taboo — including homosexuality and immigration.

The following day, Codina spoke at two campuses, Waubesa Community College and Benedictine University. Some 45 to 50 people attended each event. At Benedictine University, Digna Castañeda, a Cuban professor of Caribbean history, was to join Codina on the platform to speak on the subject of women's rights. However, Castañeda had been denied a visa by the U.S. government just prior to the meeting. In light of that, Codina addressed issues relating to women in Cuba. He said that although a relatively small number of Cuban women have

been recognized in the field of literature, there have been many other gains. Some of these include the right of women to free, safe abortions, paid maternity leave, and guaranteed return to work after one year of infant care leave.

How many women are ministers in the government? was another question asked. There are only three currently, Codina stated, but the solution is not just having more women in government, but increasing women's role in society as a whole.

Seventy people turned out for a meeting November 13 at El Yunque, a bookstore that specializes in Puerto Rican and Latin American books and crafts. The event was chaired by Dr. Inés Bocanegra, the owner of the bookstore and a professor at Truman College in Chicago. Codina is the author of several published collections of poetry and he began the meeting by reading five of his poems, including one entitled "Certidumbre." This poem is about Codina's reaction to the appearance of beggars in the streets of Havana, a relatively new phenomenon in the Cuban revolution.

Codina discussed the history of *La Gaceta*. At its founding in 1962 by Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén, the magazine was a forum in which artists from all over Latin America participated. *La Gaceta* was influenced, as were other areas of cultural life in Cuba, by the retreat of the Cuban revolution in the 70s, a result of copying the Soviet system of bureaucratic planning. In this context, the publication began to be labeled "la Maceta," or "the Flowerpot," a term used to describe nonproductive elements who just want to "soak up the sun." In a later period the editors attempted to simplify its content by appealing to so-called popular culture. The publication's editors eased up on the more serious and complicated questions of culture, publishing instead articles so light and breezy that some began to call it "La



Norberto Codina, editor of *La Gaceta*, touring Chicago, Illinois.

Gacela" or "The Gazelle."

In 1990 *La Gaceta* stopped publication entirely, due to the economic squeeze on the island after trade with the Soviet Union was cut off. The next issue was not published until 1992. "The tightening of the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba has also made publication more difficult today," said Codina. "The Canadian paper manufacturer that used to supply paper now refuses to do so after feeling the pressure under the Helms-Burton Bill." *La Gaceta* is now printed on paper bought from Mexico of inferior quality, he added.

Another 70 people gathered the next night to hear Codina at Calles y Sueños, at a small Latino cultural theater in Pilsen, a largely Mexican working-class neighborhood. Codina made a point of recognizing Cuban painter Elsa Maria Mora, who was present and is in Chicago exhibiting her work at the Phyllis Kind Gallery. A number of those present were also artists, such as a small group of Latin American writers who produce a quarterly magazine known as *Fe De Erratas*.

One member of the group, Marco Escalante from Peru, asked about whether works by non-socialist or even anti-commu-

nist writers such as Mexican author Octavio Paz, or Mario Vargas Llosa were available in Cuba. Escalante said he was interested in this question after seeing the Cuban movie *Strawberry and Chocolate* that contains a scene in which a homosexual gives a young communist the Vargas Llosa book *Conversations in the Cathedral*, as though it was a semi-underground work.

Codina explained that not only are these works available, but that the latest edition of *La Gaceta* carries the prologue to Vargas Llosa's new book, *The Perfect Idiot*, even though Codina said he disagreed with Llosa's reactionary political positions. Codina also related how a Cuban editorial house tried to publish some of Octavio Paz's works, but failed when Paz refused to cooperate with the effort.

While in Chicago, Codina also spoke at Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, and Harold Washington University. From here he traveled to New York for a week of speaking engagements in that area.

Mark Curtis is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507. Tami Peterson is a member of the Young Socialists.

Cuba activists condemn FBI harassment

BY VALERIE LIBBY
AND BOBBI SACK

CINCINNATI — The group People in Solidarity with Cuba here has issued an open letter protesting FBI harassment of committee supporters. The letter, addressed to U.S. Sen. John Glenn, states, "We would like to protest the harassment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of people involved in organizing a public, educational meeting at the University of Cincinnati.

"José Luis Ponce of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington D.C. was invited to speak in Cincinnati by the group People in

Solidarity with Cuba. A successful, peaceful meeting with Mr. Ponce took place on April 28, attended by approximately 100 people. During the discussion many participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about Cuba and have the exchange of viewpoints that took place."

In a phone interview with the *Militant*, Donna Leist, Coordinator of People in Solidarity with Cuba, explained what happened next.

"In June, I answered my phone to find on the other end a man who identified himself

as Ben Bustamonte of the FBI," Leist stated. "He said he was calling about José Ponce and asked me to come downtown for a meeting. When I refused, he repeatedly urged me to meet with him. I finally took his phone number, saying I might call him back. I haven't."

Leist continued, "Later we found out at least one other activist got a similar call. The same FBI agent went as far as to suggest Mr. Ponce may have been in town to gather intelligence at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio."

The committee in Cincinnati had several discussions about how to respond. They took into account the recent meeting of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), which heard numerous reports of threats of fines and imprisonment by the U.S. Treasury Department of people who have traveled to Cuba. These discussions led to the open letter, and the network is currently gathering additional signatures.

The letter will be issued to Senator Glenn and the news media. The open letter explains that the FBI phone calls "are an attempt to intimidate people from daring to associate with someone who is not popular with the U.S. government." It continues, "We believe they represent an attack on academic freedom and freedom of speech. We urge you to speak out against these undemocratic actions by the FBI."

The open letter is being circulated along with a fact sheet that documents the increase in harassment of opponents of U.S. policy toward Cuba by U.S. government agencies.

The Cincinnati group has also voted to support Professor Tom Reeves, facilitator of the Roxbury Community College Caribbean Focus Program. The U.S. Treasury Department has demanded that Reeves turn over to the government names and other information about participants in a field study tour to Cuba in March 1996. Reeves believes these government demands are a serious violation of academic freedom, as well as of the rights of free speech, assembly, and travel.

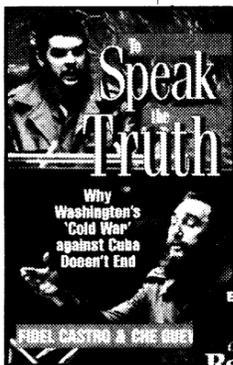
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A MARXIST APPRECIATION

Joseph Hansen

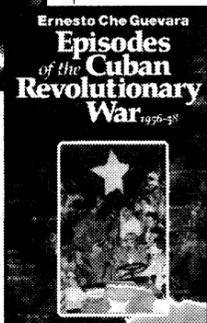
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Four miners killed in Australia cave-in

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — Mark Kaiser, 30, John Hunter, 36, Damon Murray, 19, and Edward Batterham, 48, never made the 4-mile drive back to the surface November 14 at Oakbridge Pty Ltd's Gretley Colliery at Wallsend, two hours north of here, near Newcastle. The four United Mineworkers members drowned as hundreds of tons of water hit them when a wall adjoining an 80-year-old abandoned mine caved in. Company officials say their maps indicate the disused shaft was 150 yards away.

Oakbridge is a subsidiary of Cyprus, a U.S. mining company.

Four other miners, who had just left the coalface for a nearby lunchroom as the end of the night shift neared, reported hearing a huge roar. They said the four miners had been installing steel frames with roof bolts. Two rockfalls were also reported just before the cave-in.

It was the worst single disaster in New South Wales (NSW) since 1966, when five miners were killed at the Wye State mine. The deaths bring to 112 the number of miners killed in this state since 1979. It follows the Moura explosion, in central Queensland, which killed 11 in 1994. The disaster was front-page news throughout the country. Coal mining, centered in New South Wales and Queensland, is the largest export industry in Australia. All coal miners are members of the United Mineworkers Federation,

1,000 students protest against killer cops

Continued from front page

dividuals killed by Pittsburgh police, and "Cashman Must Go," referring to the judge presiding over the case of march the accused policemen.

In other developments Mayor Tom Murphy has agreed to send a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno asking her to investigate the death of Gammage. According to the *Pittsburgh-Post Gazette* of November 23, local and national leaders of the NAACP want Reno to investigate whether Gammage's civil rights were violated when he was killed by police after a traffic stop in the suburb of Brentwood.

The Black Action Society of the University of Pittsburgh sponsored a protest against the verdict November 23, where some 40 people rallied.

A benefit concert will be held on December 5. A local band, Ploughman's Lunch, will perform. They recently recorded a song entitled "The Murder of Jonny Gammage." The National Record Mart, a record store in western Pennsylvania, has refused to carry this song and protests are being planned against the censorship.

Two other cops whose first case ended in a mistrial last month, will be retried in January. More actions are being planned to coincide with this trial.

Edwin Fruit is a member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1976.

— CALENDAR —

MICHIGAN

Detroit

How to win strikes in the 1990s. Sat., Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. *DeRoy Auditorium, Wayne State Univ. Sponsored by ACOSS, Action Coalition of Strikers & Supporters and WSU Student Council. For more information: 810-447-2716.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

East Timor's "Day of Infamy." March in Manhattan to mark the 21st anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. Gather at 12:30 p.m. at 650 68th St., between 5th and Madison Aves. For more information contact East Timor Action Network/NY 718-788-6071.

a division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union.

Inquiries announced

The New South Wales cabinet approved a general inquiry into mine safety in the state the week before the disaster at Gretley. Robert Martin, the minister for mineral resources in the Labor Party state government, said the inquiry was to be held because "a creeping ambivalence, a worrying attitude of laxity, had developed in some NSW mining operations." Six NSW miners were killed in the 20 months prior to Gretley. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the general inquiry "will be conducted by three mine safety experts."

A separate inquiry into the Gretley disaster was announced November 15 by Garry Lowder, the director-general of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources. "The law is very specific about what mine management must do" in relation to underground operations near abandoned mines, he said. "Whether that was done we don't know, and that will be investigated." Martin noted, "The department has prosecuted in the past and will if appropriate in this case."

The Northern District of the UMW has organized a memorial service for the four men for November 27.

Union slams federal gov't moves

In a related development, John Maitland, president of the CFMEU mining division, dismissed a November 12 federal cabinet decision establishing a Productivity Commission to investigate "restrictive" work

practices in mining as a front for the coal bosses' desire to break the union. He warned of national strikes in response.

Union-busting company CRA-RTZ, the Australian subsidiary of the world's largest mining conglomerate, has been largely successful in deunionizing its non-coal operations throughout the country recently, but has faced some resistance to its drive for individual contracts in that sector of its work force. It has not even begun to attempt to break the unions in coal. A historic 51-week strike against forced 12½-hour shifts by 30 miners at CRA Novacoal's open-cut Vickery mine, near Gunnedah, which ended in August 1996, was an example of the capacity of union members to fight.

Maitland said, "Federal Cabinet's approval of the Productivity Commission inquiry into so-called restrictive work practices is just a code for an all-out attack on mineworkers' hard-won wages and conditions and it has nothing to do with boosting productivity in the industry."

The big-business media welcomed the establishment of the productivity inquiry. The *Sydney Morning Herald* editorialized against Maitland's view while crying crocodile tears about the

loss of workers' lives. "Mr Maitland is wrong. Many of these work practices have nothing to do with mine safety but are substantial impediments to productivity improvements which are necessary if Australian coal exports are to be competitive," the editors wrote November 18.

Doug Cooper is a member of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union.

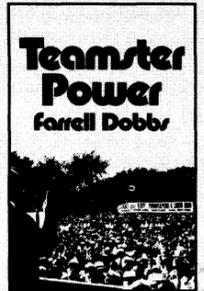
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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

ALABAMA

Birmingham

What's Behind the Crisis in Zaire? Speaker: University of Alabama-Birmingham Professor Ngwarsungu Chiwengo from Zaire; and Derek Bracey, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ILLINOIS

Peoria

Crisis in Central Africa - Why the U.S. Should Not Intervene. Speaker: Ved Dookhun, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 915 N. Western. Donation: \$4. Tel: (309) 676-2472.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

No U.S. Intervention in Zaire. Fri., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Crisis in Central Africa: Is Imperialist Intervention a Solution? Panel discussion. Fri., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. 7414 Woodward Av. Donation: \$4. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Imperialism in Africa: What's Behind the

Crisis in Zaire. Speaker: Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Nicaragua Today. Speaker: Francisco Picado, Socialist Workers Party. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
No U.S. Troops to Zaire. Fri., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Affirmative Action: The World-Wide Fight Against Discrimination. Panel discussion with activists in the U.S. fights against racial discrimination. Includes Linda McComis, who recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Northern Ireland. Fri., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. All events held at 1906 South St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

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Drive a person to atheism — *The Times* of London reports that normally strong U.S. bible sales have suffered "an inexplicable drop



Harry Ring

that has left salesmen on their knees." Some publishers blame the slump on an asserted decline in moral values. Others attribute it to the recent elections.

Sharks and sardines — As of-

ficials of the Pacific rim nations in the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) met in Manila, the Philippine government put up a big "welcome" billboard near the airport — strategically placed to camouflage an impoverished shantytown. Meanwhile Thailand's foreign minister dourly declared: "We do not want to see APEC turned into a pond where big fish eat the small fish."

...and small children — "Child labor, prostitution and slavery are rising around the world and 250 million children are working full time in the developing countries, double previous estimates, a United Nations report said.... In rural ar-

reas of the world more children die of exposure to pesticides than from the common childhood diseases." — News item.

3 strikes? You're hired — The East Palo Alto, California, police department, already beset by cop brutality complaints, hired Paul Ewing, who was fired from the San Jose force after beating one person, killing another, and allegedly battering his wife. Hit by protest, the East Palo Alto police chief accepted Ewing's resignation, but said he might rehire him in another position. Declared the chief: "Everybody makes a mistake.... He deserves a second chance to live a fruitful life."

Reading, writing and head-

cracking — A high school in Peachtree City, Georgia, is hiring cops as substitute teachers. Officials say they'll wear civilian clothes, but didn't indicate if they'll be required to check their weapons.

The 'values' gang — A California direct-mail outfit was peddling customized gay-bashing leaflets to right-wing candidates, with space to paste in the photo of a rival who is described as supporting, "The in-your-face agenda of the radical homosexual fringe." Sale of the flyer was dropped after gay rights activists got on the case.

Limit thy sins — In one isolated Irish county, the Catholic church is offering confession by phone. Se-

lect from a menu of spiritual services, including confession and absolution — \$1.50 a minute.

Sip this one — The UK parliament is not slashing social benefits indiscriminately. For instance, a £6 [£1=\$US 1.68] million terrace cafe is being built at the House of Commons. That includes £20,000 for hand-painted tiles at £50 a tile.

Mr. Funnyman — Cable mogul Ted Turner confided to an industry audience that some of the stuff he puts out stinks and that he has compromised his "standards" for "the almighty dollar." Apparently of a whimsical bent, he added, "That bothers me. But not enough to do anything about it."

Developing proletarian communist youth cadre

The communist workers movement is continually weaving in new generations of young workers and youth attracted to the proletarian movement, training another generation of fighters. The responsibilities and structures that young socialists adopt today flow from a long tradition of communist youth organizations. Below are the "Theses on the youth movement" drafted by leaders of the Communist Youth International and adopted by the Executive Committee of the Communist International in August 1920. It appears as an appendix to *Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite!* —

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Proceedings and Documents of the Second Congress, 1920. This two-volume collection is part of the Pathfinder series "The Communist International in Lenin's Time." The book is copyright © by Pathfinder, reprinted with permission.

1. The founding of proletarian youth organizations around the world results from several factors: the increased capitalist exploitation of young workers in all factories and workshops and in home industry, which can only lead to their spiritual and physical degeneration; militarism, whose burdens are born above all by working-class youth; the danger that their ranks will be permeated by bourgeois-nationalist ideology through the schools, the press, bourgeois youth organizations, and so on; and the special psychological characteristics of the younger generation.

2. Communist youth groups arose in every country as part of the development of the workers' movement as a whole during and after the imperialist war. This occurred in part through old Socialist youth organizations going over to the camp of the Communist International and in part through splits in these organizations.

3. The Communist youth organizations have the following tasks: the communist education of working-class youth, active

participation in bringing down capitalism (the defense of the proletarian dictatorship and soviet construction after taking power), and the struggle to reorganize work and education on a new socialist basis. As much as possible, the Communist youth organizations promote the cultural development of young workers along the lines of the Marxist world view as well as physical education, which currently must aim primarily at military preparation.

4. The most important element in the communist education of youth, aside from theoretical education, is their taking an active part in the daily political struggles of the working class. It is in this respect that the Communist youth organizations are different from the social-patriotic and centrist youth groups. Their political struggles, in addition to their educational significance, have great and real importance for the international Communist movement.

5. The entire history of the proletarian youth movement in every country shows that only independent, that is, self-governing, youth organizations develop bold and determined revolutionary fighters and astute organizers of the proletarian revolution and soviet power. The independent action of working-class youth is the first prerequisite for their revolutionary communist development. By contrast, the social patriots' exercise of tutelage over the youth results in an opportunist, petty-bourgeois development. The communist development of young people requires special methods of work that reflect the special characteristics of their age group.

6. The relationship between the Communist parties and the Communist youth organizations will take different forms as a result of differences in objective conditions and in the state of the party in each country. In some countries, where the formation of Communist parties is still in flux and the youth organizations are just breaking away from the social-patriotic and centrist parties, our main slogan is that of the absolute political and organizational independence of the youth movement. Under such conditions this slogan is objectively revolutionary! The slogan of absolute independence is wrong, however, in countries where there are already strong Communist parties, and where this slogan is used by the social patriots and the centrists against the Communist youth and to mislead

the youth. There the Communist youth organizations have based themselves on the program of the Communist Party.

7. In all countries where old and active Communist parties existed, a strong relationship between the Communist Party and the Communist youth organization was established. The form this took was that the Communist youth organization adopted the program of the Communist Party and functioned in the framework of its political positions. At the same time, in these cases, the youth (1) had their own centralized organization; (2) decided for themselves how to carry out their organizational, agitational, and propaganda activities; (3) decided the place and the forms of their participation in political struggle; and (4) discussed the main political questions. All youth organizations must arrive at this relationship with the Communist Party, not through compulsion by the party, but by being convinced and making their own free decision.

8. The Communist parties support the Communist youth organizations intellectually and materially, without tying this support to petty interference in the activity of the youth organization or the exercise of tutelage over it. For their part the Communist youth organizations support the Communist parties in the full range of their or-

ganizational activity, legal and illegal, and their political work.

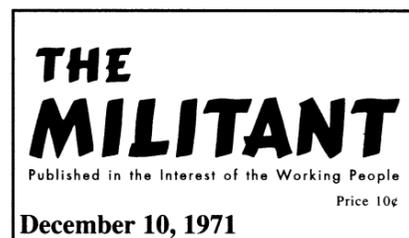
9. The Communist International hails the formation of the Communist Youth International, whose basic tasks are the centralized leadership of the Communist youth movement, support of the national Communist youth groups, the formation of Communist youth groups where none yet exist, and international agitation around the ideas of communism and the youth movement.

10. The Communist Youth International is part of the Communist International. As such it subordinates itself to the decisions of the congresses of the Communist International and the political directives of its Executive Committee. It carries out independently its work of leading, organizing, strengthening, and broadening the youth International.

11. The Communist Youth International and its groups take part in the congresses of the Communist International. The executive committees of the Communist International and the youth International exchange representatives with decisive vote.

12. The Communist International assigns to its Executive Committee and its member parties the task of spreading the idea of the Communist youth movement among party members and the broad working masses.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



NOVEMBER 30 — Indian foreign minister Jagjivan Ram, speaking to a Calcutta rally of 50,000 on November 28, made the first public announcement that official Indian policy on the Pakistan border conflict had changed. Ram said Indian generals had been instructed to "advance as many miles into Pakistani territory as the range of the Pakistani guns." The escalation of the war of words (other speakers at the rally spoke of the army's determination to "break Pakistan into pieces") followed the most intense week of fighting to date along the Indian-East Bengal border.

According to the Indian government, the major fighting was conducted by the Mukti Bahini, the national liberation forces of Bangla Desh. One Mukti Bahini commander, Maj. Jill-Ed, said November 22 that a Mukti Bahini force of between 8,000 and 12,000 was encircling the city of Jessore. He denied that Indian soldiers were involved.

Pakistan's assertion that India had embarked on all-out war is almost certainly false. It appears that India is successfully carrying out its semiofficially stated objective — to give military support to offensives of the Mukti Bahini while gradually capturing enough land in East Bengal to return the refugees and establish an independent East Bengal under the Indian tutelage.

The offensive that began November 21 seems to have been initiated by the Mukti Bahini, and not the Indian army.



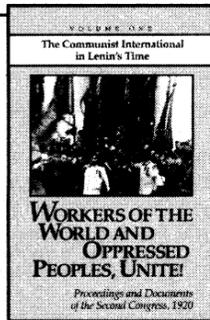
December 7, 1946

ST. PAUL, November 29 — Now in its fifth day, the largest teachers' strike in the history of the United States has shut down all St. Paul schools. Called by the Teachers Joint Council, central board for Locals 28 and 43 of the American Federation of Teachers, 1,165 teachers are taking part in the walkout. Hundreds of school children and their parents have joined the teachers who are picketing every grade and high school in the city.

The decision to strike was made by the teachers' unions despite tremendous pressure from taxpayers associations and similar groups. Prior to the walkout, the bold and arrogant city officials had threatened the teachers with loss of their jobs, tenure and teaching certificates if they went on strike.

Aid given the striking teachers by the city's Parent-Teachers Association has been a significant factor in the situation. In a resolution adopted on the eve of the strike, the Maxfield School PTA led off with a call for active support of the teachers' picket lines. Introduced by Mrs. Dorothy Schultz, a member of the Maxfield PTA for several years, the resolution was unanimously adopted. (Dorothy Schultz was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the recent elections.)

Publication of the Maxfield PTA resolution in the daily press stimulated other PTA groups in the city to take similar action. Despite the intense cold of the last few days, with the temperature dropping to zero, mothers and fathers with their children of all ages have appeared on the school picket lines. True to their calling, the teachers have maintained very neat and orderly picket lines!



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U.S. troops out of Yugoslavia!

The Clinton administration says U.S. and other NATO troops will continue to occupy Yugoslavia for at least 18 more months, with their aim being the "creation of a free market economy" — in other words, restoring the domination of capital over the Yugoslav toilers. But as the recent demonstrations in Yugoslavia show, the working class there has not been defeated. Washington and its imperialist cohorts remain far from their goal.

With the disintegration of the Stalinist regimes throughout Eastern Europe, wannabe capitalists from the former ruling caste in the Yugoslav republics of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia went to war with each other in 1991, wrapping themselves in the flag of nationalism to each try to grab a bigger piece of the pie.

The rulers in Washington, London, Bonn, Paris, and other imperialist capitals stood by, hoping this bloody slaughter unleashed against the workers would be enough to overturn the workers state established in the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s and restore capitalist property relations.

When it became clear a proxy war would not achieve their aims, Washington spearheaded the 60,000-strong NATO occupation force that went into Bosnia last December, with the stated aim of enforcing the Dayton "peace" accords that spell out the partition of Bosnia.

But the massive protests involving hundreds of thousands in Croatia and Serbia, as well as the skirmish with the U.S. troops in Bosnia, reveal the spark of working-class resistance that has not been snuffed out in any part of Yugoslavia. The would-be exploiters, like those represented by Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade and Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb, will meet stubborn resistance from

workers and peasants as they try to bleed the toilers. That's why imperialism will have a rough time trying to accomplish its goal of reestablishing capitalism there.

The partition of Bosnia imposed by Washington and its allies/rivals in NATO itself sets the stage for more instability and social explosions as refugees try to return to their former homes. The new "13-points" U.S. officials forced the ruling thugs in Bosnia to sign, will not bring peace to working people in the region any more than the Dayton agreement. The capitalist class has no solutions to the crisis in Yugoslavia short of more war and massive destruction. And being under the boot of occupying imperialist armies makes it that much harder for the Yugoslav toilers to fight against the gangsters that run the various pieces of their country.

Competition is intensifying among imperialist rivals as they vie for control of markets to boost declining profit rates. The possibility of a ground war being fought in Europe with troops from Washington, Bonn, London, and Paris is real for the first time in decades.

Class-conscious workers should take every opportunity to discuss Clinton's war moves and get out literature that explains the facts about the history of the Yugoslav revolution. Some of the best tools available are the books *The Truth About Yugoslavia — Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention and New International no. 7*, which features the article "Opening Guns of World War III."

Those who want to fight against war and capitalism's dog-eat-dog society should join the campaign to sell these books that workers need, and urge working people and youth to demand U.S. and other imperialist troops get out of Yugoslavia!

Wheeling-Pitt steel strike

Continued from front page

Oct. 1 when members of the [USWA] walked off the job, set up pickets, and engaged in work stoppages." His statement was quoted in the November 23 *Herald-Star*, published in Steubenville, Ohio.

On November 5, 500 strikers jammed in to the hearing room to voice support for union's position that the company refused to bargain in good faith. The union testified that the company ended all negotiation on pensions after September 27 and walked out of the talks hours before the strike deadline.

Company officials were forced to admit at the hearings that following a two-day strike in 1994, they did agree to discuss restoring the pension plan in this year's talks.

Dave Langley, who works at the Follansbee coke mill and attended the hearings, was skeptical about winning jobless pay. "I think they've already decided against us," he said after the hearings.

Russell Westling, who works at the Mingo Junction mill in Ohio, said, "We're hopeful for a positive decision. Whatever happens here, the rest of the steel industry is going to want it."

Westling pointed out how the local media constantly parrots the company's figures on what workers made last year. These were higher than usual "because of all the forced overtime," he noted.

In fact, Thomas Helsinki, general manager of the huge mill, admitted that the forced overtime to produce surplus steel coils was "just a matter of good business" and part of a "contingency plan in the event of a strike." Further, the union noted that coils were unmarked and warehoused in locations outside the mill. When the union asked if warehoused coils were being sold, the hearing officer ruled it out of order.

On October 30, the *Monessen Valley Independent* reported that 100 strikers from Local 1187 in Allen Port, Pennsylvania, set up an informational picket line at the USX Irvin works, near West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

According to the article, the Irvin works ran 9,000 tons of steel for orders produced at the Wheeling-Pitt Steubenville mill.

Mickey Forte, president of Local 1187, who was interviewed in the article, explained that the USX plant manager had agreed that no work previously destined for the Allen Port finishing mill would be run by Irvin works.

Forte explained that pickets also stopped a USX truck from going into American Oxide Corp., located next to the Allen Port mill. The company recycles acid used in the processing of steel coils, and pipes it directly into the Allen Port mill. The truck that attempted to cross the picket line was laden with spent hydrochloric acid destined to be recycled and returned to USX.

Amrox has laid off half its workforce due to the strike at Wheeling-Pitt, its major customer, according to Forte.

The company, in full-page ads printed in newspapers throughout the region, continues to trumpet the lie that the union is unwilling to negotiate.

James Wareham, Chief Executive Officer of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., in the November 13 *Wheeling Intelligencer*, said the company has "no intention whatsoever" of agreeing to the pension plan the workers are fighting for.

In a similar vein, Wareham told the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* October 9, "This company has been successful in the 1990s by applying '90s-style solutions to the problem." He added, "We are not well served to rely on the [union's] standard pension format of the past." The pension plan the union is demanding would guarantee workers a monthly retirement check and the ability to leave the mill after 30 years worked with enough to live on. The company's plan ties its pension to profits, and doesn't require it provide the difference if the plan loses money.

Fund-raising events for the holidays are being planned by the unionists, as they head into the seventh week of the strike.

On November 30, an all-day "Battle of the Bands" dance and concert is being held in Tiltonville, Ohio. The concert will benefit the "Kids' Christmas Fund." For information on this event, call USWA Local 1223 in Yorkville, Ohio (614) 859-4108.

The Local 1190 Women's Committee in Steubenville is planning two events that will draw solidarity from working people. On December 7, the local is organizing an auction of items donated to the strikers, and on December 14, a craft show will take place. Both events take place at the union hall and will benefit the "Christmas for Children Fund Local 1190 Campaign." For information or donations call USWA Local 1190 at (614) 283-3356.

Tony Dutrow is a member of the USWA in Pittsburgh.

GM workers discuss outcome of contract

BY BRAD DOWNS

CLEVELAND — The United Auto Workers (UAW) announced November 18 that 85 percent of those members voting nationwide endorsed a new contract between the union and General Motors. No vote total was released. The contract comes on the heels of local strikes at GM plants in Janesville, Wisconsin, and Indianapolis, Indiana, and a national strike by GM workers in Canada.

The contract, which was unanimously approved by UAW officials, provoked a wide-ranging discussion at the GM stamping plant where I work, just outside of Cleveland, Ohio. Some 82 percent of the workers who cast ballots here voted for the national contract, and 66 percent for the local agreement. Many workers did not vote on the contract at all.

Brent Stone and John Justice are two workers in their mid-20s who were part of a group of 15 hired in May, the first group of production workers hired off the street into this plant since 1978. Stone told me, "I didn't vote because I didn't have time and a 'no'

records.

UAW officials have touted the supposed "95 percent job security" of this new contract. At our ratification meeting, in response to a worker expressing displeasure with media announcements of 12 GM plant closings, a union official announced that GM would only shut the four plants in Kalamazoo, Flint, Ypsilanti, and Livonia, Michigan.

The questions of job security and "outsourcing," the practice of GM sending work previously performed by UAW members to outside companies whose workers earn substantially less money, have been big topics of discussion. Justice explained, "They say 95 percent, but they don't want you to look at all the exceptions — if there's an economic decline or improvements in efficiency. It's under GM's control; that's dangerous."

John Jackson, a 50-year-old electrician with 16 years' seniority, wasn't too happy with the contract either. "They didn't give us anything. \$2,000, that's it. They can still outsource jobs. There's so many loopholes; they can do what they want to do."

Clint E. Staples Jr., a 32-year-old production worker, was hired last year at the Kalamazoo stamping plant and transferred to this factory. He said, "I haven't read the full summary yet, but from what I hear both sides did all right."

Tanya Smith, a 25-year-old who also was hired last year in Kalamazoo, interjected, "What about the 30,000 jobs that are going to be lost? How are they going to decide who loses their job?"

Edwin Cheatham is a 56-year-old production worker with 29 years of seniority who supports the new contract. "It's nothing fabulous, but also no big disappointments. I like the increase in pension benefits because a lot of people in here are over 55 years old. The contract's a small gain, but a step in the right direction."

Meanwhile, the November 19 *Wall Street Journal* reported that GM has closed a deal to sell off four of its parts plant in the U.S. and Canada. The four plants are among the 13 in GM's Delphi Interior & Lighting Systems group. They employ about 4,000 workers in Flint, Livonia, and Windsor and Oshawa, Ontario. According to the article, the new company, Peregrine, will cut the size



Workers rally at Vancouver airport November 17 to protest demand by Canadian Airlines for a 10 percent wage cut over next four years. The company has threatened to lay off workers November 27 if they don't agree to concessions.

of the workforce. The laid-off workers will have a chance to transfer to other GM plants. Delphi has said that these plants aren't on the much-discussed list of "troubled," or "non-competitive," operations that GM

maintains the right to sell off or close.

Brad Downs is a member of UAW Local 1005 at GM Parma Metal Fabricating Plant.

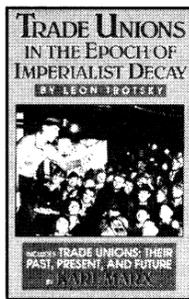
UNION TALK

vote wouldn't mean anything because it's [the contract] going to pass." Justice expressed similar resignation, "It'll pass. Only 2 percent will vote against it." Unlike elections for local union office, where voting takes place for at least a 24-hour period, voting on our local and national agreements took place for 10 hours, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, November 15.

I attended the one meeting organized by my local to report on both the national and local agreements. It was scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. for second shift workers, who begin their jobs by 3 p.m. Day-shift workers could attend a 3 p.m. meeting, two hours before the voting ended. I learned of one concession involving attendance policy.

The first two steps of oral warnings have been eliminated. Now workers will be suspended for three days at the third step of the program and subject to firing at the sixth step. Unlike the previous contract, this one does not wipe clean members' attendance

Further reading from Pathfinder



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LETTERS

Sexual harassment is not trivial

The idea of a little boy being suspended for sexual harassment seems ridiculous. In fact, it makes sexual harassment seem trivial when taken to the extent of children's horseplay, but it's not. Karen Ray wrote an article called, "Kids kissing is not sexual harassment." I strongly agree with Karen Ray's views that sexual harassment has been trivialized and not taken seriously in places where it should be.

In the article, Ray gave an example of the Mitsubishi case where sexual harassment wasn't taken seriously. Many of the women there were fondled on the job and there were drawings of women engaged in sexual activities on the cars on the assembly line. When the women filed sexual harassment charges the company said it that it would cost them \$10 million dollars and cost their jobs. This proposed a threatening situation for the women at Mitsubishi, because they had to decide whether they wanted their jobs or to put up with sexual harassment on the job.

In my opinion, women should never have to feel threatened or have to put up with sexual harassment on the job. The women at Mitsubishi should have filed the lawsuit because not only would the lawsuit be a victory for them against sexual harassment, but for every woman, too. The women working at Mitsubishi should not have worried about losing their jobs because

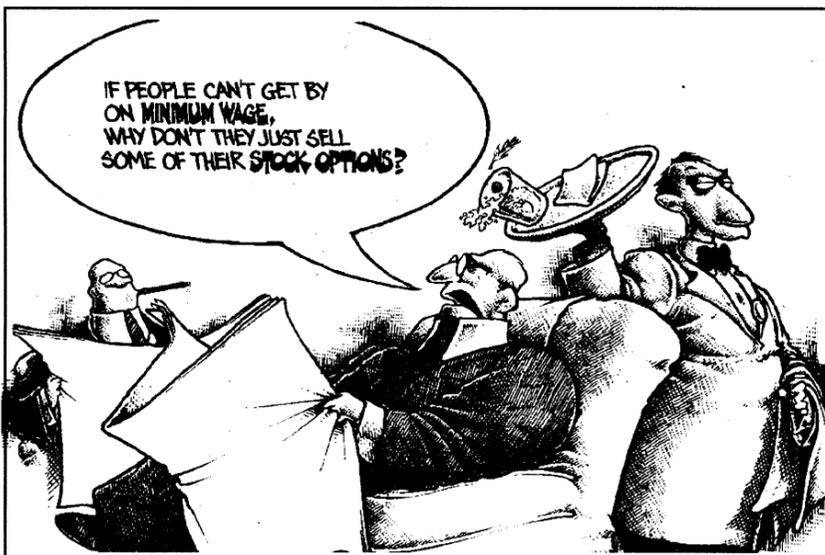
Mitsubishi could not have fired all those women. If Mitsubishi did fire all their women employees that filed the lawsuit, not only would the company lose \$10 million but they would lose their labor, which would be difficult to replace quickly.
Andrea Baumgardner
Sunnyvale, California

Garment workers in Estonia

Kreenholm Holding, a garment plant in Narva, Estonia, sacked about 7,000 workers and laid off another 1,500 to make the company more efficient. The workers, mostly women, have to put in 32 eight-hours shifts each month to be able to earn 2,000 Estonian Kronor a month (2,000 Estonian Kronor = \$US 200). This is far below the average wage in Estonia. The unions demand is for a 17.6 percent wage increase. The inflation is about 20 percent this year in Estonia.

Borås Wäverier, a Swedish company, owns 82 percent of the garment factory while the Estonian government owns 18 percent.

The Swedish main daily, *Dagens Nyheter*, reported here November 19 that Julia Dimitrejeva, a union official, went on a hunger strike November 18 to postpone a warning strike by the workers. The struggle at Kreenholm is supported by the



Estonian National Union in Tallin and the mineworkers in east Estonia
Lars Erlandsson
Stockholm, Sweden

'School of the Assassins'

Some 250 people demonstrated November 16 in front of the School of the Americas (SOA) in Fort Benning, Georgia to demand the school be closed. The school has been dubbed both the School of the Assassins and the "Escuela de Golpes," or "School of Coups" because so many of its graduates have been implicated in murders, "disappearances," tortures, and coups in Central and South American coun-

tries.

The demonstration, organized by SOA Watch, took place on the seventh anniversary of the massacre of eight people at the Jesuit Community at the University of Central America in San Salvador. Nineteen of the 26 officers cited for this massacre were graduates of the SOA.

The U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) was established in Panama in 1946 to promote stability in the region. It was kicked out of Panama in 1984 under terms of the Panama Canal Treaty. Today it is located at Fort Benning, Georgia. It trains 700-2000 soldiers from Latin America and the Caribbean each year. Just recently the Pentagon revealed that foreign military

officers were taught to torture and murder to achieve their political objectives. They released the training manuals used at the school and distributed throughout Latin America that instructed officers on the use of torture, murder and blackmail.

The largest contingent after the religious groups were the Veterans for Peace. Jerry Williamson, a member of Veterans for Peace said, "This demonstration today is the largest yet and is because of the ongoing fight to get out the truth. The school is an important institution for American foreign policy in Latin America and what we need is widespread public protests to raise awareness of the need to

close it down."
Abby Tilsner
Atlanta, Georgia

A different point of view

What a difference from the mainstream newspapers and magazines. Thanks for a different point of view!
M.Y.
Fresno, California

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.

Protests grow as debate over racist campaign heats up in Australia

BY BOB AIKEN
AND RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia — Some 5,000 people took to the streets of Sydney November 23, following a march of 4,000 in Brisbane November 2. These demonstrations have been the largest actions to date protesting a surge of political attacks and racist abuse against Aborigines and Asian immigrants that has dominated politics in Australia over the past few months.

The new Liberal National Coalition government under Prime Minister John Howard is aiming to deepen the offensive against working people carried out by the previous Labor government, taking back gains won by struggles over decades. This includes attacking the limited gains made by Aborigines and immigrants towards redressing discrimination through affirmative action measures.

Setting the ideological tone for this, Howard has campaigned for lifting "the pall of censorship on certain issues." His attacks on "political correctness" have given more space to racist and anti-immigrant sentiments.

The rise to national prominence of Pauline Hanson, an outspoken rightist recently elected to the federal Parliament, has been at the center of the escalation of this racist campaign.

Hanson won the formerly safe Labor Party seat of Oxley, southwest of Brisbane, with a huge 24 percent swing, in the March 2 federal elections. The Labor government of Paul Keating was ousted March 2.

Hanson lost endorsement as a candidate from top Liberal Party officials for making blatant anti-Aboriginal statements, but not in time to have her listing as a Liberal removed from the ballot nor to run another Liberal candidate. The local Liberal Party branch continued to back her campaign.

Two days after her election, Hanson declared that she would represent "the white community" in the electorate, "anyone except Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders." This sparked a protest of 200 people, most of them local Aboriginal residents.

Hanson is associated with another rightist, Graeme Campbell, who also sits in parliament as an Independent. Campbell was expelled from the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in 1995, after having expounded his racist and anti-immigrant views from inside the ALP for many years. He recently founded the Australia First party.

Since Hanson's first speech in parliament on September 10, the capitalist media has given daily national prominence to the resulting controversy. This is the highest profile that rightist politics has gained in this country since the early 1930s.

Scapegoating of Aborigines and Asians

The speech raised a range of reactionary themes presented as "common sense" and tapped a vein of popular support.

Presenting herself "not as a polished politician but as a woman who has had her fair share of life's knocks," Hanson called for an end to the "handout mentality," targeting social welfare for Aboriginal people in particular. "Along with millions of Australians, I am fed up to the back teeth with the inequalities that are being promoted by the government and paid for by the taxpayer under the assumption that Aborigines are the most disadvantaged people in Australia," she declared.

The Aboriginal population have among the lowest health and social indices in the world, living on average, 20 years less than non-Aboriginal Australians, and unemployment among Aborigines is 38 percent.

Chiming in on widespread concerns about unemployment, which is officially at almost 9 percent of the workforce, Hanson described it as "the greatest cause of family breakdown." The speech, echoing some of the anti-capitalist demagoguery of fascism, at-



Militant/Bob Aiken
Aboriginal activist speaks at a labor protest in Canberra, August 1996. The racist campaign spearheaded by Hanson has begun to spark protests across Australia.

tacked the government for "kowtowing to financial markets, international organizations, world bankers, investment companies, and big business people."

Appealing to a current of anti-Asian resentment, Hanson said Australia is "in danger of being swamped by Asians" who "have their own culture and religion, form ghettos and do not assimilate. A truly multicultural country can never be strong or united."

The racist "White Australia" immigration policy carried out openly by successive governments for over half a century, with the backing of the labor bureaucracy, was only formally ended at the end of the 60s. Today in a country that adjoins Asia, those of Asian descent are only 4.8 percent of the population. In the last few years the proportion of immigrants coming from Asian countries has risen to 40 percent of total immigration for the first time.

Hanson has called for the immediate halting of immigration "so that our dole queues are not added to by unskilled migrants not fluent in the English language."

In response, leaders of both main capitalist parties have stated that there is a "legitimate debate" to be held on immigration levels while unemployment is high. Both the coalition government and the previous Labor government have been tightening immigration restrictions over the past few years.

Hanson's nationalist appeal also hit Canberra's "foreign aid" program, demanding the money be used "at home" to create jobs. She also called for the introduction of compulsory national service for all 18-year-olds to work on job creation projects, "with a touch of military training."

"I do not feel we can go on living in a dream world forever and a day believing that war will never touch our lives again," Hanson declared. "Neighboring countries ... are well aware of our resources and potential," she said, citing the larger populations of Asian nations such as Japan, China, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Racist speech sparks controversy

In the days following Hanson's inaugural speech, there was a surge of support expressed for her racist rationales, from talk-back radio programs to newspaper letters columns. The various ultra-right groups have all publicly backed her, including the long-established League of Rights, which is distributing copies of her speech by the thousands. One of her staffers has boasted that there are now 21 branches of the Pauline Hanson Support Movement.

At the same time, several local branches, not only of the conservative Liberal and National Parties, but also of the ALP, echoed support for her as well. In the weeks

since the "Hanson debate" erupted, there have been increased reports to immigrant welfare groups of verbal abuse and spitting at people of Asian appearance. When some Singaporean soldiers in civilian clothes were racially abused and mugged in Rockhampton, Queensland, it became front-page news both in Australia and in parts of Asia.

Prime minister Howard refused to condemn Hanson's views. Deputy prime minister Tim Fischer, on the other hand, complained that her statements may have damaged trade relations with Asia. He said Hanson's remarks had been reported in the Asian media with a "degree of coverage up there that is not helpful." Sixty percent of Australian trade depends on Asian markets, and Asian travelers are an important component of the tourism industry here. Labor Party leader Kim Beazley expressed similar views.

A bipartisan statement, aimed at allaying the fears of Australian capitalists with interests in Asia, was adopted by Parliament on October 30, pledging to maintain "Australia as a culturally diverse, tolerant and open society."

Former prime minister Paul Keating, who resigned from parliament after his electoral defeat to take up business consultancy, scored the Howard government on November 11 for its "responsibility" in failing to stem "the tide of prejudice." He said that "a very ugly, resentful and xenophobic cat has been let out of the bag." He, too, voiced concern at the "harm to Australia's reputation" in Asian markets.

Rightward shift of capitalist politics

This rise of rightist demagoguery comes out of the very course of capitalist politics in a period of stagnating depression conditions. Both Labor and Liberal-National Coalition governments have implemented restrictions on immigration and discrimination against immigrants. Both administrations have also presided over cuts to Aboriginal and broader social welfare; racist cop brutality, declining real wages, layoffs and continuing high unemployment, increased military spending and nationalist appeals to back "Australia" as the capitalists face intensified competition on the world market.

Speaking on talk-back radio in Sydney October 24, Howard said, "I sympathize fundamentally with Australians who are insulted when they are told that we have a racist, bigoted past."

But not only is the dispossession of the indigenous people from the land during the past European colonization of Australia soaked in Aboriginal blood. Present-day capitalist rule perpetuates racist oppression of Aborigines. A report just released cites both the level of Aboriginal incarceration by the police and the level of black deaths in custody at 17 times that of non-Aborigines.

A policy of "assimilation" of the Aboriginal people was carried out for several decades up to the late 60s, including the forcible removal of "half-caste" Aboriginal children from their families to be placed in foster care.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, John Herron, stated in early October that many Aborigines had "benefited" from being seized from their families and brought up in foster care. At least 60,000 Aboriginal children were taken and some 500 Aborigines of "the stolen generation" are currently filing a class action law suit against the government for compensation.

There has been increasing protest in response to these racist attacks. The large street demonstration in Brisbane on November 2 followed a rally of 200 on October 11. Over 200 rallied on the University of Melbourne campus October 12, forcing the rightist Australian Reform Party to shift the location of a meeting Hanson had been invited to address.

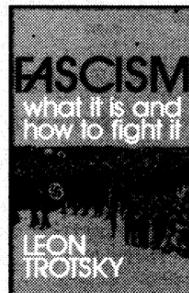
Actions also took place November 23 in a number of other centers, including a rally of 1,000 in Ipswich, where Hanson's electorate of Oxley is based. An anti-racism protest is planned for Melbourne December 8.

Bob Aiken and Ron Poulsen are members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

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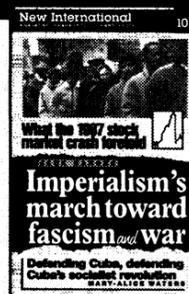
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