

# THE MILITANT

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INS steps up raids  
at Midwest packing plants

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 61 NO. 11 MARCH 17, 1997

## Armed rebellion engulfs Albanian workers state

### Procapitalist gov't declares state of emergency

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Open warfare has broken out in Albania. After six weeks of unyielding protests against the government, the procapitalist regime of President Sali Berisha declared a state of emergency throughout the country March 2. Berisha sent tanks and fighter jets against tens of thousands of working people

#### U.S. hands off Albania!

— see editorial, page 10

and other rebels who have taken control of several cities in the southern half of Albania out of the hands of the authorities.

On March 5, Chinese-made MiG-15 warplanes of the Albanian air force bombed a town near the southern port of Saranda, which has fallen to the hands of the rebels. Five T-55 tanks and half a dozen armored personnel carriers guarded an army checkpoint near Fieri, 35 miles south of the capital Tirana, according to the Associated Press. Other government checkpoints were set up on major roads across the country. The state of emergency bans people from gathering in groups of more than four and authorizes "all force" by the army, police,

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Albanian rebels fire in the air in southern town of Vlore March 3, in defiance of state of emergency. Washington has warships poised off coast for possible intervention.

## Palestinians fight Zionist expansion

BY HILDA CUZCO

Palestinians throughout the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem held a five-hour general strike March 3 to protest Tel Aviv's

decision to build a new Israeli housing project in the mostly Arab area of east Jerusalem. The work stoppage followed a series of marches and other protests by Pal-

estinians in the Israeli-occupied territories the last week in February.

"Today's strike is a clear message that the settlement policy is unacceptable, rejected, and a policy that will explode the peace process," said Ahmad Qurie in Jerusalem. Qurie is the speaker of the Palestinian legislature, which called the strike, shutting down shops, schools, and transportation.

At a Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli government approved February 26 the development of a Jewish settlement in the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim, known as Har Homa in Hebrew, in East Jerusalem. This and other Israeli construction plans aim to surround East Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as their capital, and cut off the city from the West Bank.

Fearful of the Palestinians' indignation over his decision, Netanyahu went on the radio to argue that this was a move for "peaceful coexistence and harmony between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs." Netanyahu also promised to grant 3,500 building permits to Palestinians in 10 East Jerusalem neighborhoods.

This did not placate Palestinian residents, many of whom were already involved in protests. On February 25, around 300 Palestinians and Israeli peace activists carrying flags and banners marched from Bethlehem to the controversial hilltop, protesting the project. According to witnesses, the Israeli police prevented them from reaching Jerusalem. The action was sponsored by the Committee for the Defense of Palestinian Lands, and supported by the Palestinian Authority. Later that day, undercover Israeli soldiers invaded the town of Hizma, north of Jerusalem, killing one Palestinian and wounded three others when

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## Clinton backs cut in Social Security increases

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

President William Clinton has openly signaled his support for reaching a bipartisan deal in Congress to slash the cost-of-living adjustments that are a component of Social Security and other entitlements. Such a move would be an opening wedge in the assault by the U.S. rulers on Social Security itself, which working people regard as a basic social right for all.

On March 3, the White House responded favorably to a proposal by Senate Republican leader Trent Lott for a commission of "experts" to make a binding recommendation to "fix" the cost-of-living adjustment.

Senate Democratic leader Thomas Daschle endorsed the scheme, as did Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve bank. Republican House speaker Newton Gingrich, on the other hand, expressed caution about being associated with such a potentially explosive political issue. Gingrich was burned by his identification with the failed "Republican Revolution" of 1994, an attempt to push through sharp attacks on social entitlements.

White House officials said the administration was looking for a commission with "credibility." This means a panel of economists whose proposals would not "appear rigged to find budget savings at the expense of benefit recipients," as a *New York Times*

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## Subscription drive will build on good renewal effort

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Distributors and readers of the *Militant* will kick off a seven-week subscription campaign March 8 to April 26, after organizing a successful renewal drive. They will visit picket lines, plant gates, go door-to-door in working-class communities, participate in political events, set up literature tables on campuses, and sell the socialist press to co-workers. Socialist workers, Young Socialists, and others plan to win 1,400 new readers to the *Militant*, 450 subscribers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, its sister publication in Spanish, and sell 600 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

*Militant* supporters wrapped up the renewal drive selling 338 subscriptions — 134 percent of the goal of 250. There were 60 *Perspectiva Mundial* readers that renewed, short of the goal of 125. Overall, nearly 400 readers signed up to keep reading both publications — more than the total goal of 375. The renewal effort was aimed at broadening the number of regular, long-term readers of the communist press and following up on the initial contact with subscribers by selling them Pathfinder books.

"We sold eight renewals to co-workers at Shell Oil and Lyondel-Citgo refineries,"

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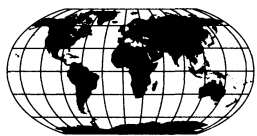
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**Trotsky on the rise of U.S. imperialism — page 6**



## Kenyan students demand justice

Thousands of students flocked into downtown Nairobi, Kenya, February 26 chanting, "No more police killings." Every day for nearly a week they have been protesting the cops' suspected role in the February 23 murder of Solomon Muruli, a student leader who was a known activist against police brutality. The Associated Press reported that Muruli died in a fire caused by an explosion in his dormitory. On the day of the killing protesters marched from Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi's office to the national police headquarters chanting, "We want justice." Riot police were deployed in an attempt to halt the action.

Muruli was one of the many students involved in protesting poor campus living conditions and the killings of several political activists by cops. One student was fatally wounded by police bullets at Egerton University last November, then two of the students who came out in protest were shot and killed. Muruli was kidnapped and beaten by police last year. Protesters said Muruli received a death threat just before he appeared for a police line up where he identified a senior cop as one of his assailants.

## 2,000 oil workers protest in Iran

On February 16, as many as 2,000 Iranian oil workers assembled at the oil ministry building in the center of Tehran, Iran, demanding pay raises, food coupons and housing loans promised them by the government. Eyewitnesses described to an *Iran Times* reporter that the action was peaceful. This did not stop Iranian riot police from descending on the protest and carting away "busloads" of oil workers, Reuters reported. One worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the *Iran Times* he was arrested at the Sunday protest and locked up until Tuesday. The Iranian state news agency reported only "tens" of people showed up. But protesters said that workers from the country's largest and most distant oil refinery, the Abadan facility, were coming to join the action.

In other news, teachers from each of Tehran's 20 districts held a demonstration in front of City Hall, incensed by the government's failure to address inadequate



Thousands of students in Kenya protested against cop brutality February 24 in downtown Nairobi

housing, the daily *Salam* reported.

## Divorce is now legal in Ireland

February 27 marked the first day in three-quarters of a century that divorce in Ireland was legal. The change was approved by a thin majority in a 1995 national referendum. A similar ballot measure had been defeated 2-to-1 in 1986. Provisions for getting the divorce are still complicated.

Applicants have to be separated for four years, and must assemble information about finances, pension rights, and other information. There are 10 legal certificates to be completed, just to get a court date. At this hearing, divorcee applicants are supposed to prove that the marriage has "no reasonable prospect of a reconciliation." There are about 90,000 separated couples in that country.

## Land fight escalates in Brazil

Peasants in Brazil, organized by the Movement of the Landless Rural Workers (MST), have stepped up their struggle for land, carrying out occupations all over the country. Wealthy land owners meanwhile, have gone on a counteroffensive. The gov-

ernment has launched a campaign to crush the MST-led struggle. The ranchers' drive in southern Pará is aimed at a "general disarmament" of the peasants. The crackdown is being led by the federal police with the help of the army. Roosevelt Roque dos Santos, president of the Rural Democratic Union, which represents the rich land owners, said, "no matter what it takes, we will not give up more land to the invaders."

In Bonita de Iguã, two MST activists were killed in an ambush. That location, where peasants were squatting, was set to be officially turned over to the tenant farmers the next day. Squatters organize themselves to occupy areas that are not being used by anyone and are declared "unproductive." In southern Pará, a region double the size of France, *fazendeiros* (big ranchers) and their ilk have the record for the most assassinations of peasants. In 1996, 31 of 47 agrarian reform activists murdered in Brazil came from this region. Nathan Gatinho, a 23-year-old radio reporter in neighboring Paragominas, known for condemning on air the brutality of the landowners, was recently assassinated.

## Bolivia inmates on hunger strike

Some 1,400 inmates in three jails in La Paz, Bolivia's capital, went on a hunger strike February 25 for the right to conditional release and "out time." They were joined by 400 prisoners in other Bolivian jails. The government has been stalling the implementation of these laws that would give some inmates the possibility for leave with prison supervision.

José Luis Harb, vice-secretary of the Prison Regimen tried to minimize the action saying that most inmates don't support the strikes and those who do were coerced into backing them. Yet more prisoners from cities like Trinidad, Sucre, Cochabamba, Oruro, and Tarija endorsed and have participated in the strike.

## More gays, lesbians expelled from military

As a result of the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy, fathered by U.S. president William Clinton in 1994, there have been more expulsions of gays from the military, a recent report by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said. The policy forces gays and lesbians to conceal their identity in public and private and commanders will supposedly not query anyone about their sexuality. The study shows that 850 men and women were discharged from the U.S. armed forces in the year-long period that ended in February — an 18 percent increase from the previous year and 42 percent higher than Clinton's policy went into effect in 1994. A disproportionate number of those

discharged were women. Some 29 percent of service members dismissed under this policy were female, even though they make up 13 percent of active duty soldiers.

"In 1996, the armed forces repeatedly excused violations of current law, including witch hunts, seizure of personal diaries and threatening service members with prison unless they accused others as gay," the study reported.

## High court expands cop powers

A February 19 Supreme Court ruling gave police the power to order passengers out of a vehicle they stop for routine traffic violations, even in the absence of any reason to suspect the passenger has committed a crime or presents a threat to the police officer. The decision was a substantial blow to the Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. The 7-2 ruling was an extension of a similar Supreme Court decision in 1977. The Clinton administration backed the campaign that led to this ruling, assigning Attorney General Janet Reno to argue on behalf of the State of Maryland that brought the case to the high court.

## Ku Klux Klansmen locked up for S. Carolina church burnings

Former Ku Klux Klan members Gary Christopher Cox and Timothy Adron Welch, who pled guilty to burning down two Black churches in 1995, were sentenced February 20 to nearly 20 years behind bars each. Mount Zion AME Church in Greeleyville and Macedonia Baptist Church in Bloomville were incinerated. Both men could have gotten 50 years or more for using fire to commit a violation of civil rights. They made statements denying the actions were based on racism or hate. Two others from that rightist formation still face sentencing for involvement in the arson.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

# THE MILITANT

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# Palestinians fight Israeli expansion plan

Continued from front page

confronted by protesting villagers. Reporters described seeing army reinforcements being pelted with stones by angry youth and who in turn threw concussion grenades and beat the young people.

Army reports in Israel indicate that the three plainclothed Israelis were from a covert army unit known as Duvdevan, or Cherry, that was created during the years of the Palestinian 1987-93 uprising known as the *intifada*. The Duvdevan is infamous for covert operations and killing "suspects."

Israeli officials claimed Palestinian youth started the fighting in Hizma. But according to Palestinian residents of the village, the protests began after the undercover cops killed Mohammed Abdel Aziz Abu Hallawi, a 56-year-old retired worker, in an unprovoked attack. The wounded included Ali Abdallah Mutlak Salahedin, 46, a construction worker.

## Expanded settlements are provocation

In the West Bank city of Hebron, Nidal Abu Hadid, a 30-year-old grocery store owner, said that the policies of the Israeli government are prompting confrontations similar to last year. "If Netanyahu insists on building in East Jerusalem, this time there will be more bloodshed," Abu Hadid told an Associated Press reporter. Battles erupted between Palestinians and Israeli troops after the prime minister decided last September to build a new entrance to a tourist tunnel along Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. The fighting lasted three days and claimed 80 lives.

On March 3 Netanyahu visited an East Jerusalem neighborhood and promised to permit the construction of new housing in the Arab parts of the city. "What we are doing today is to make Jerusalem one city for Jews and Arabs alike," he said.

Since Tel Aviv seized East Jerusalem in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, it has annexed more than a third of the city and built 39,000 housing units designated for Jews, but none for Palestinians. Heavy restrictions on building Arab housing in Jerusalem have ensured that the number of Palestinian residents does not exceed 28 percent of the population, the same as when it was captured. The prime minister was quoted by the AP agency news on March 4 as saying, "We are going to build. If it weren't for the legal restrictions, the bulldozers would have been on Har Homa yesterday and not just two weeks from now."

Should the housing project go ahead on the 457 acres that comprise the controversial hilltop, which was expropriated by the Israeli government in 1991, there will be as many as 6,500 housing units for 32,000 Jewish settlers. At the same time the *Haaretz* newspaper confirmed that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has approved a con-

struction of 1,500 homes, and 3,000 hotel rooms in the West Bank that would link the largest Jewish settlement there with Jerusalem. Adding to the tension, David Bar-Illan, a senior aide to Netanyahu, suggested the army may miss a deadline to withdraw its troops from some rural areas in the West Bank. The withdrawal had been agreed in the Hebron accords between Tel Aviv and the Palestinian Authority reached in January.

Meanwhile, the Israeli regime continues its probes to evict Palestinians, particularly of the Bedouin tribes, from their lands in the West Bank. In Al Eizariya, a town in the West Bank, the Bedouin tribe known as the Jahalin fought eviction in February with Israeli soldiers. The police dragged scores of men, women, and children from their encampment to a hillside near a garbage dump. They were evicted to make room for expansion of an Israeli settlement in the town of Maaleh Adumim, five miles east of Jerusalem.

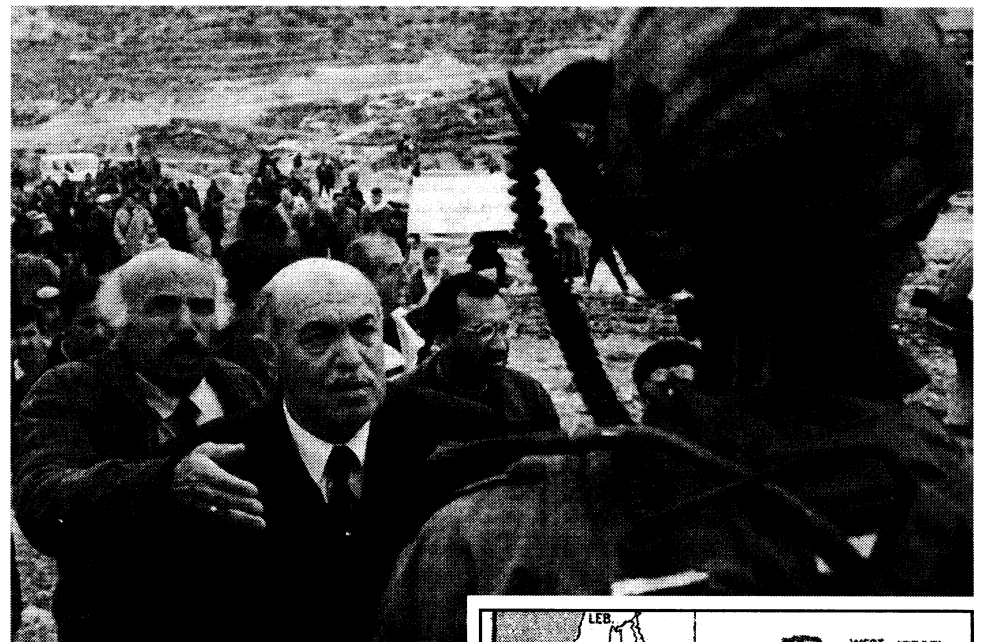
Under an agreement between Tel Aviv and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), rural lands of the West Bank should come under Palestinian control in the next two years. Mohammed Abu Hirsh, who headed the campaign against evictions, said that the Jahalin arrived in the West Bank after being expelled from southern Israel in the early 1950s and half the tribe fled across the Jordan River in the 1967 Mideast war. "Those were expulsions in times of war, now this is an expulsion of peace, said Abu Hirsh. "What kind of peace is this?"

## Clinton gives mild criticism of Tel Aviv

In Washington, Palestinian Authority leader Yasir Arafat met with President William Clinton March 3, as the strike was proceeding in the occupied territories. Clinton offered a few critical words toward Tel Aviv's decision to expand the settlements. "I think it builds mistrust, and I wish that it had not been made," the U.S. president said. Nevertheless, he made clear that the U.S. government, which "brokered" the Hebron accords, won't take sides and said it should be left to the Palestinians and Israelis to determine the "final status" of talks on the occupied territories.

Arafat also met with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, as well as Secretary of Treasury Robert Rubin and the director of the Agency for International Development, Brian Atwood. All of these meetings, the big-business press reported, discussed increasing investment in the Palestinian territories.

Before his visit to the White House, Arafat had urged that protests "should be peaceful and without confrontations," according to Marwan Barghout, secretary general of the PLO. "We're not interested

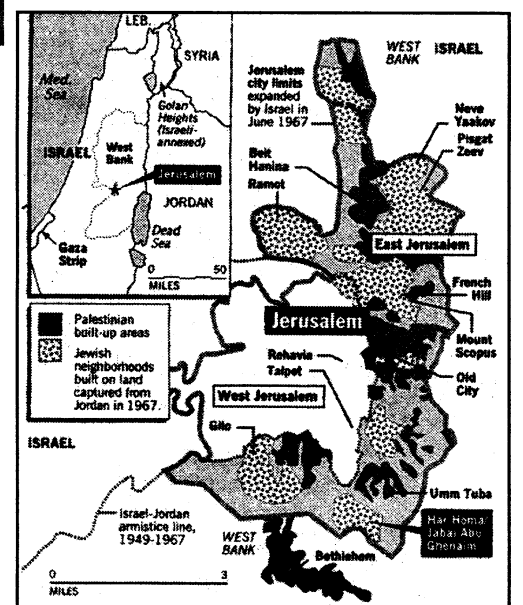


The proposed settlement in East Jerusalem has sparked many protests. Above, Palestinian protesters confront an Israeli soldier at the site of the proposed settlement, February 25. Right, map shows Tel Aviv's carve-up of area around Jerusalem.

in violent incidents and Palestinian or Israeli casualties, but the young people are not under remote control," said Barghout. "It depends on the Israeli side."

Earlier that week in Nablus, West Bank, a broad meeting of Palestinian groups called the "Comprehensive Palestinian National Dialogue Conference" was held on February 27. Groups both supporting and opposing the peace accords with Tel Aviv were present, including Arafat. The gathering was the first since the signing of the so-called Oslo accords in 1993, which set a framework for limited Palestinian control over some of the occupied territories. The objective was to reach a "national unity," said Salim Zaanoun in his opening talk. Zaanoun is the chairman of the Palestine National Council, the largest decision-making body of the PLO.

The participating groups included the Islamic organization Hamas, as well as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, both factions of the PLO. These groups oppose the accords reached between Arafat and the Israeli regime as a sell out, but are interested in having a role within a final settlement with Tel Aviv. Jamal Mansour, a member of the Hamas delegation, said "Hamas is outside the negotiations and doesn't expect much from them, but it will work to strengthen



the negotiators, and will stand behind them, even though it may disagree with them."

As the Palestinian resistance heats up, Netanyahu's government has come under increasing fire from his opponents in the Israeli ruling class. Israel Radio announced February 27 that police investigators were considering indictments against several top government officials on allegations of corruption in the appointment of an unqualified lawyer as attorney general last month. Netanyahu himself has been named as a possible target. Among the allegations is that a vote in the Hebron accords was part of a deal. The Prime Minister has also been under the gun from the right-wing members of his coalition, who have accused him of backing off from settlement construction and criticized the withdrawal from Hebron and the redeployment of Israeli troops scheduled to begin March 6.

# Protests answer rightists over Cuba

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — As rightist groups in the Miami Cuban American community organized activities on February 24 to denounce the Cuban revolution and support Washington's attacks on the Cuban people, several groups here opposed to the Clinton administration's policies towards Cuba held a press conference.

The press conference told the truth about the events of Feb. 24, 1996, when the Cuban military defended its sovereignty against ongoing incursions into its airspace by planes flown by Cuban American counter-revolutionaries from the Brothers to the Rescue group.

Participants in the press conference explained that the downing of the planes by a Cuban MiG was used by Washington as an excuse to pass the Helms-Burton Law. They also denounced further provocative acts planned by rightists here. The main speaker was Andrés Gómez from the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Other groups participating were the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community, the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, and the group Afro-Cuban Cultural Rescue [Rescate Cultural Afrocubano].

Gómez explained that one year ago when the U.S. government, convinced it could not get the Cuban government to follow its dictates, "...decided to let take off from an airport in Miami the three planes from Brothers to the Rescue whose pilots, it was known publicly on that day, had the intention of once again violating Cuban airspace."

It was also well known in Miami and Washington that the Cuban government had given strong and public warnings against any more incursions into their territory, said Gómez. He referred specifically to the extreme rightists Brothers to the Rescue and the Democracy Movement, a group that had previously taken boats into Cuban territorial waters. This "warning was made public after planes from Brothers to the Rescue flew over the city of Havana on January 9 and 13 of 1996," he said.

Referring to Brothers to the Rescue and the U.S. government, Gómez stated: "Those responsible for the knocking down of those two planes and the resulting death of the four pilots, members of Brothers to the Rescue who died in this operation one year ago today, are those who organized this operation and participated in it, and those who encouraged and permitted it."

Besides the Cuban American rightists' actions, government officials here and Cuban American churches were among those who organized activities to commemorate the four anti-Cuba activists who died a year ago. Among these activities were church services and the dedication of a small bridge. Right-wingers organized a flyover of planes from Brothers to the Rescue and the Democracy Movement, which dropped flowers in

the ocean. They flew to an area in international waters where the U.S. government and José Basulto, the head of Brothers to the Rescue, claim the planes fell. Basulto asserted he flew into Cuban airspace in 1996, but the other two planes did not.

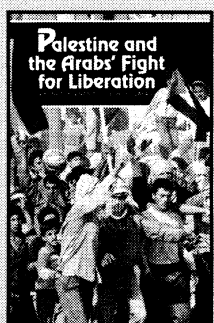
While many Cuban Americans sympathized with the families of the pilots who died a year ago and some did take off work to be part of activities, none of the gatherings were especially large. This reporter works in a factory where more than 50 of the 60 or so workers are Cuban American. Not a single person took off work there to attend the rightist commemoration and there was little discussion about the one-year anniversary, even among a layer who are very vocal in their opposition to the Cuban revolution.

The most resounding failure for the Cuban American counterrevolutionaries here on this day, however, was the demonstration they organized outside Union Radio to denounce Francisco Aruca. Aruca hosts "Ayer en Miami" which is part of Radio Progreso and aired on Union Radio. A liberal commentator who calls for a peaceful transition from socialism to capitalism in Cuba, Aruca opposes the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba and favors dialogue with the Cuban government. Despite being publicized on several Spanish language radio stations for weeks, fewer than 250 people attended the protest outside Union Radio.

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# Court won't hear Abu-Jamal's appeal

BY HATTIE McCUTCHEON

PHILADELPHIA — Moments before Temple University WRTI public radio was to begin airing a series of 3-minute commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal February 24, university officials canceled them. The station terminated its contract to broadcast programming from the Pacifica Radio network, including the morning news show "Democracy Now," during which Abu-Jamal's commentaries were scheduled to run for two weeks.

The university administration's action was the latest in a series of attempts at isolating Abu-Jamal, a Black journalist who has been on Pennsylvania's death row since 1981 on frame-up charges of killing a Philadelphia police officer. His defense effort has become an international focal point for opposition to the death penalty.

On February 13, Abu-Jamal was notified by prison authorities that he had to cut his dreadlocks within 10 days or face disciplinary detention. After a week of protest letters, prison officials rescinded this threat. In 1985, the Black journalist refused a similar directive and was thrown into "the hole" until 1992, when an international pressure campaign forced the state governor to rescind the order.

Jere Krakoff, a Pittsburgh attorney handling a civil suit by Abu-Jamal against prison authorities, was barred from visiting his client under the guise that, although he visited Abu-Jamal on six previous occa-

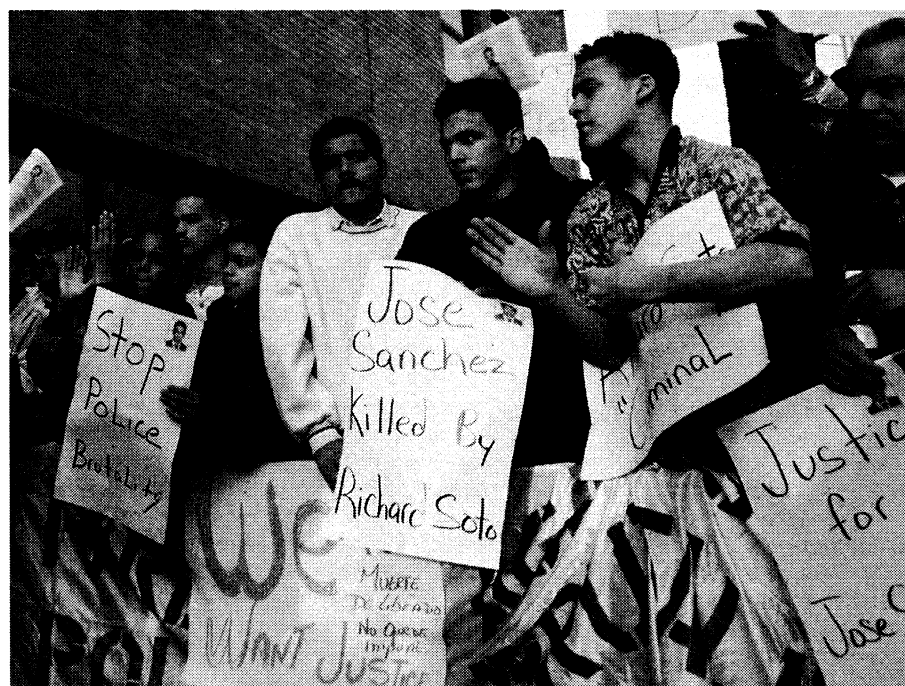
sions, he was not on the visitors' list.

A recent letter from Leonard Weinglass, Abu-Jamal's chief defense attorney, had been opened and the words "cop killer" written across the front of the envelope.

These attacks by prison authorities came down just before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled March 5 against oral arguments in Abu-Jamal's appeal for a new trial. They also coincide with the publication of his new book, *Death Blossoms*. "These attempts to isolate and silence Mumia are aimed at undermining public outrage and opposition to a potential unfavorable ruling," said Pam Africa, coordinator of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. "Mumia's supporters around the world need to be prepared to respond quickly," Africa said. "Gov. Tom Ridge has already announced he will sign a death warrant as soon as the court rules. That's why we have called April 4 as a day for local actions, teach-ins, or other events to take place all over the world to reach out and educate about the need for a new trial."

Three years ago, National Public Radio (NPR) caved in to protest by former Sen. Robert Dole and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and canceled a scheduled series of Abu-Jamal's commentaries. Citing NPR's actions as precedent, George Ingram, Temple's vice president of public relations said, "What's good enough for NPR is good enough for me."

Julie Drizin, executive producer of "De-



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Three hundred people demonstrated in Queens, New York, March 2 to protest the killing of José Sánchez by the cops. Sánchez, a Dominican cook, was killed February 22 in what witnesses said was an unprovoked attack by police during a raid on a restaurant where he was working.

mocracy Now" blasted Ingram's action as "clearly an act of censorship."

Ingram's office received dozens of calls protesting the cancellation of Abu-Jamal's commentaries and the Pacifica programming. An emergency protest demonstration is scheduled to take place at Temple University March 3. Letters protesting the cancellation of Abu-Jamal's broadcasts can be sent to: Peter Liacouras, Pres. Temple University, Berk St. at Park, Sullivan Hall, Suite

200, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Phone: (215) 204-7405, Fax: (215) 204-5799, E-mail: pjl@eop.temple.edu

For information on the April 4 actions, contact: International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, P. O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143. Phone (215) 476-8812.

Hattie McCutcheon is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1069.

## INS steps up raids in Midwest meatpacking plants

BY DICK McBRIDE

DES MOINES, Iowa — On February 7 agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) arrested 22 Latino workers on second shift at the Swift pork packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa, alleging they were working without visas. The agents were accompanied by Swift management. The *Des Moines Register* reported that Swift spokeswoman K.T. Miller said the company had been collaborating with the INS in fingering the workers who were arrested. The arrested workers were taken to Nebraska, where they were held pending hearings and deportation.

This raid followed a larger one of day shift Swift workers in Marshalltown last August, when the INS arrested 147 workers, and a raid of a Sioux City, Iowa, packing plant in January.

The *Des Moines Register* quoted Jerry Heinauer, the district INS director in Omaha, Nebraska, as saying that the immigration cops organized the more recent Swift raid because the August raid had only affected first shift workers. "Our policy," Heinauer stated, "after we target a plant for whatever reason, is to remove all illegals at that plant so whenever we're through, we can say it's free of illegal aliens and has a legal work

force.... We're going back until we're confident there are no more illegal aliens."

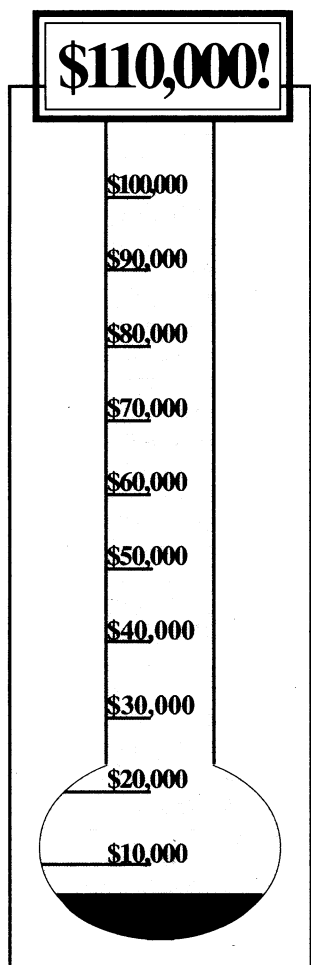
The Marshalltown raid, reported on several television stations in the area, as well as local papers, evoked anger among many workers. Juan Sebastián Villago, a Swift worker since 1993, said that when the latest raid took place, around 150 workers hurriedly left work to avoid harassment, thereby losing their jobs. "Some of them jumped over the fence, leaving their equipment and uniforms behind them," Villago said. "So many people left that the company needed the first shift to stay over and work overtime."

Bonnie Sebastian, a teacher in Marshall-

town who works with Mid-Iowa Community Action, told the *Militant* that when the August raid took place, workers who were arrested were not allowed to contact their baby-sitters, and had to abandon their children. She said that in Charles City, Iowa, when there was a rumor of an impending INS raid recently, some people pulled their children out of school, fearing they would be taken by government agents. "If people knew what they could do, I think a lot of people would protest," Sebastian said.

Dick McBride is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE MILITANT FUND			
Country/City	GOAL	PAID	%
<b>United States</b>			
New York	\$12,000	\$2,839	24%
Greensboro	\$2,250	\$405	18%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$780	10%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$575	10%
Atlanta	\$3,100	\$206	7%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$370	4%
Des Moines	\$2,000	\$80	4%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$60	4%
San Francisco	\$9,000	\$325	4%
Detroit	\$4,000	\$100	3%
Newark	\$7,500	\$20	0%
Birmingham	\$2,300	\$0	0%
Boston	\$4,500	\$0	0%
Cleveland	\$2,500	\$0	0%
Houston	\$4,000	\$0	0%
Miami	\$2,000	\$0	0%
Peoria	\$1,200	\$0	0%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$0	0%
Pittsburgh	\$5,000	\$0	0%
Salt Lake City	\$2,000	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$0	0%
Washington DC	\$2,800	\$0	0%
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>\$101,150</b>	<b>\$5,760</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Canada</b>			
Montreal	\$2,000	\$0	0%
Toronto	\$1,440	\$0	0%
Vancouver	\$1,080	\$0	0%
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>\$4,520</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>			
Auckland	\$3,500	\$0	0%
Christchurch	\$1,050	\$0	0%
Wellington	\$140	\$0	0%
<b>New Zealand total</b>	<b>\$4,690</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>			
London	\$800	\$0	0%
Manchester	\$800	\$0	0%
<b>UK total</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL FUND</b>	<b>\$113,160</b>	<b>\$5,760</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>11%</b>



## Help fund paper workers need

BY VALERIE JOHNSON

NEW YORK — A large banner reading, "THE MILITANT: THE SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER THAT WORKING PEOPLE AND FIGHTERS NEED," surrounded by blown-up covers of past issues of the *Militant*, created a real campaign atmosphere to kick off the Militant Fund drive at a public meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, February 21. Some \$575 was collected at the meeting itself, and participants pledged \$5,200 toward the local goal of \$6,000.

Their efforts are part of a nine-week international campaign to raise \$110,000 for the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*. Supporters of the socialist publications in 32 cities in six countries have already taken goals totaling more than \$113,000. Money is starting to come in, but not from every city yet, as the accompanying chart shows. Regular collection of pledges and reaching out for new contributors will be key to making the goal on time and in full, by April 26.

Fund organizers in Minnesota sent out a mailing to 200 *Militant* subscribers, participants in the Militant Labor Forums series, and members of the Pathfinder Readers Club, explaining the importance of the fund drive and including a coupon for returning donations. So far a \$100 donation has come in as a result, from a long-time subscriber who is a retired rail worker in Hendrum, North Dakota.

Socialists who are union members are taking steps to raise contributions from their co-workers. One *Militant* supporter in Washington, D.C., a member of the International Association of Machinists at Northwest Airlines, received a \$5 donation from another

airline worker who renewed his subscription. The *Militant's* essential coverage on the challenges and struggles labor faces means there are real opportunities for raising funds from fighters in the unions.

Many workers were angry at Clinton's decision to invoke the Railway Labor Act against the pilots at American Airlines, who had called a strike as part of their fight for a contract. They welcomed the *Militant's* stance of speaking out against this strike-breaking act by the government.

The Militant Fund is also getting a big boost from partisans of the *Militant* who are active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party. Dick Geyer from Pittsburgh reports that after learning about the campaign, an active supporter volunteered to work on the committee organizing fund raising in that city.

In New York, SWP active supporters have already solicited \$4,000 in pledges through phone calling toward their goal of \$4,500. This is part of the citywide goal of \$12,000. Additionally, they will be hosting a fund-raising dinner the evening of the public fund meeting New York planned for March 22.

Upcoming public meetings to raise funds for the *Militant* include events in Newark on March 16, and in Los Angeles and Philadelphia on March 22. In Philadelphia the platform will include *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel, as well as a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees at a local garment shop.

Contributions from readers can be sent to the *Militant* (see address on page 2). To be recorded on the chart, money should be received at the *Militant* business office every Tuesday at noon.



SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Renewals give sales momentum

Continued from front page wrote Patti Iiyama, an oil worker in Houston. "While they liked reading about a range of subjects, most particularly appreciated the articles on safety issues in the refineries, airlines, and railroads." Several of the renewals were sold "as a direct result of the *Militant* editorial entitled 'Safety is a union question,' because it addresses many of the problems that workers in the refineries are increasingly grappling with today and points a way forward," she added.

Iiyama said communist workers in Houston were "enthusiastic" about the renewal campaign because it helped focus attention

on co-workers who had been reading the *Militant* for years. "We lost some long-term subscribers because we paid scant attention to long-term *Militant* readers at the refineries."

Eight workers at the Ford auto plant in Edison, New Jersey, renewed their *Militant* subscriptions. "One *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriber from Palisades Park, New Jersey, bought a six-month renewal as well as several Pathfinder titles, including *El Diario del Che en Bolivia* (Che's Bolivian diary), *El manifesto comunista* (The communist manifesto), and *Che Guevara Speaks*," said rail worker Lee Oleson in Newark, New Jersey.

Another rail worker, United Transportation Union member Karen Kopperud in Greensboro, reports she sold four renewals to her co-workers at Amtrak. Lisa Potash, a textile worker at the Karastan Rug Mill in Greensboro, said two members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) where she works renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant*. "We want to approach them for written testimonials in support of the paper," she said.

Winning class-conscious workers and young fighters to publicly endorse the socialist press or speak at fund raising events are good ways to broaden its readership.

The drive to win new readers will build on the momentum of the renewal effort. Supporters of the subscription campaign will

reach out to help recruit dozens of young rebels to the communist movement and invite them to attend the national convention of the Young Socialists, scheduled for March 28-30 in Atlanta. Socialists will also sell subscriptions and Pathfinder books to those they are working with to build and participate in the Young Feminist Summit, which will be held in Washington, D.C. April 11-13.

Black farmers are organizing a conference on Black Land Loss in Enfield, North Carolina, March 20-23. A number of them organized a protest at the White House in December and bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Socialist worker Stu Singer in Washington, D.C., said campaigners for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* were invited to attend the conference and set up a literature table. "We will find a number of people interested in the broadest discussions of world politics and the crisis of capitalism participating in the Land Loss conference," said Singer.

*Militant* supporters are urged to send sales stories and pictures of political events and other sales activities every week. These reports will strengthen the sales drive and reflect the response of workers, fighters and youth to the campaign over the next two months.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE Militant • Perspectiva Mundial						
Country/City	Militant			PM		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
SWEDEN	5	7	140%	1		0%
UNITED STATES						
Des Moines	5	11	220%	5	8	160%
Cleveland	6	10	167%	2	1	50%
Salt Lake City	5	8	160%	2		0%
Morgantown, WV	8	12	150%	1	1	100%
Philadelphia	10	15	150%	3	5	167%
Washington, DC	6	9	150%	5	3	60%
Detroit	12	17	142%	3		0%
Greensboro, NC	10	13	130%	3	1	33%
Birmingham, AL	15	19	127%	1		0%
Newark, NJ	15	19	127%	10	7	70%
Twin Cities, MN	15	19	127%	3		0%
Pittsburgh	8	10	125%			
Miami	9	11	122%	6	5	83%
Atlanta	5	6	120%	3	5	167%
Seattle	10	12	120%	3	1	33%
Los Angeles	25	28	112%	10	4	40%
San Francisco	11	12	109%	5	1	20%
Boston	8	8	100%	3		0%
Peoria, IL	5	5	100%	1	1	100%
Houston	15	13	87%	5	4	80%
New York	25	15	60%	15	3	20%
Chicago	20	9	45%	10		0%
Tucson				2	2	100%
Denver		3				
Total U.S.	248	284	115%	101	52	51%
NEW ZEALAND						
Auckland	14	16	114%			
Wellington	4	4	100%			
Christchurch	3	2	67%			
N.Z. Total	21	22	105%			
GREECE	2	2	100%			
CANADA						
Toronto	7	8	114%	2	4	200%
Montreal	4	3	75%	2	4	200%
Vancouver	5	4	80%	1		0%
Canada Total	16	15	94%	5	8	160%
AUSTRALIA	6	4	67%	1	0	0%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	15	0	0%	3		0%
Manchester	5	0	0%			
U.K. Total	20	0	0%			
International totals	252	338	134%	132	60	45%
Should be	250	250	100%	125	125	100%
IN THE UNIONS						
United States						
UFCW	2	3	150%	2	3	150%
UTU	9	13	144%			
OCAW	20	18	90%			
UAW	30	25	83%	5	3	60%
USWA	15	11	73%	2	2	100%
IAM	28	18	64%	2	1	50%
UMWA	5	3	60%			
UNITE	10	6	60%	2	2	100%
TOTAL	119	97	82%	13	11	85%

SPRING SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE Militant, Perspectiva Mundial and New International			
	Militant Goal	PM Goal	NI Goal
AUSTRALIA	18	3	10
CANADA			
Montreal	35	10	35
Toronto	30	7	10
Vancouver	40	5	15
CANADA Total	105	22	60
GREECE	5		3
ICELAND	10	1	4
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	35	2	14
Christchurch	25	1	10
Wellington	3		1
N.Z. Total	63	3	25
SWEDEN	15	7	10
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	45	8	25
Manchester	21	2	10
U.K. Total	66	10	35
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	24	14	16
Birmingham, AL	32	5	15
Boston	30	10	20
Chicago	70	25	30
Cincinnati	5	1	
Cleveland	35	7	10
Des Moines	40	25	20
Detroit	40	7	15
Greensboro, NC	30	15	10
Houston	50	20	20
Los Angeles	100	50	50
Miami	30	15	15
Morgantown, WV	27	2	10
New York	150	75	65
Newark, NJ	130	45	60
Peoria, IL	25	3	10
Philadelphia	35	10	10
Pittsburgh	45	4	15
Salt Lake City	24	10	8
San Francisco	70	30	35
Seattle	60	25	25
Tucson	4	2	
Twin Cities, MN	70	10	15
Washington, DC	42	15	15
Total U.S.	1,168	425	489
International totals	1,450	471	636
International goals	1,400	450	600
IN THE UNIONS			
UNITED STATES			
IAM	65	35	
OCAW	28	18	
UAW	45	20	
UFCW	14	6	
UMWA	2	2	
UNITE	21	15	
USWA	37	25	
UTU	55	28	
TOTAL	267	149	

UNION ACRONYMS  
IAM—International Association of Machinists;  
OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

A visit to the Wheeling-Pitt strike

BY DAVID SALNER  
YORKVILLE, Ohio — We arrived at the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1223 union hall early on a Saturday afternoon, February 22, and found it to be a beehive of activity and discussion. The unionists, who are on strike against Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., circulated between the union hall and the two main picket shacks, which are all within a block and a half of each other on Public Road in downtown Yorkville.

One of the union officers introduced us to strikers by pointing to the support that had come from a gate collection among Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union members at the plant where I work.

The Yorkville strikers had other visitors that day as well. Two members of USWA Local 1010 in Gary, Indiana, had just delivered \$5,700 from a single gate collection. A busload of workers from Local 1010 had attempted to make the trip, but were turned back

by bad weather. The contributions as well as the physical presence of these two workers added a positive note to the discussions about the strike — now five months old — here and at seven other Wheeling-Pitt mills in the region.

Strikers were also discussing company moves in response to the union strength they had displayed on the picket line February 4. The Yorkville union local mobilized 150 pickets at the main gate within 20 minutes to stop a rented truck from crossing the picket line with compressor parts to be rebuilt.

Joe Tost, the plant manager at the mill, was the driver of the rented truck. He failed in his mission to sneak the work across the picket line.

Tost further undermined the company's cause when he admitted that "no actual acts of violence" were committed by the Steelworkers, a statement picked up in the Martins Ferry *Times Leader*. Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla was also quoted in the newspaper, saying that "nothing I know about the situation would merit" the filing of charges.

Despite these statements, two weeks later on February 18 the company obtained an injunction that bars union pickets from interfering with "anyone who wishes to do business with Wheeling-Pitt." This matches the language the company has already won at its Steubenville, Ohio, plant. Previously the company's injunction at Yorkville barred the union only from "interfering" with company personnel.

Strikers speculated that Wheeling-Pitt's broadening of the injunction could indicate either preparation for bringing in scabs or a desire on the part of the company to speed up maintenance in preparation for settling the strike.

The company also moved to intimidate strikers by firing Frank Rico and John White, both of whom had been on the picket line during the February 4 rally. Rico and White are prominent strike activists who have spoken out publicly in support of the steelworkers' cause.

Rico pointed out to us that by Tost's own admission quoted in the press, there was no violence at the rally. "They don't have a leg to stand on," Rico said of the firings.

Strikers were also eager to protest a so-called poll of steelworkers that purportedly showed support for a vote on the latest company offer, which in fact represents no progress on the key issue of pension rights and other important questions. The poll was carried out by the *Times Leader*. Wheeling-Pitt has run daily ads and statements in the paper aimed at demoralizing strikers. The paper has also given prominent coverage to appeals from politicians and religious figures pushing the union to settle. As one striker, Ron Perperi, put it, "In my mind the poll is suspect because I don't know of a single steelworker they contacted."

David Salner is a member of OCAW Local 3-276 in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Maurice Peret contributed to this article.

# Trotsky on the rise of U.S. imperialism

Below we reprint excerpts from two speeches on U.S. imperialism by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky. They describe Washington's rise to hegemony over its imperialist rivals in Europe, and explain the inherent contradictions in the world capitalist system that will lead to its downfall.

The first speech was given in July 1924, and the second a year and a half later. They were published together as a pamphlet in the Soviet Union in 1926. The articles were translated and published in the United States in the Marxist magazine *Fourth International* during World War II. Later Merit, a predecessor of Pathfinder Press, published them in the pamphlet *Europe and America: Two Speeches on Imperialism*. The pamphlet is copyright © by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY LEON TROTSKY

July 28, 1924

America's full and complete entry into the path of active world imperialist policy does not date back to yesterday. If we try to fix the date, we might say that the decisive breaking point in the policy of the United States coincides approximately with the turn of the century. The Spanish American War occurred in 1898 when America seized Cuba, thereby assuring herself the key to Panama, and consequently entry to the Pacific Ocean, China and the continent of Asia. In 1900, the last year of the nineteenth century, the export of American manufactured goods for the first time in U. S. history exceeded the import of manufactured articles. This already made America, so to speak, bookkeepingly a country with an active world policy. In 1901 or 1902 America secured herself the province of Panama in the Republic of Colombia.

In these matters America has a policy of her own which was applied in the Hawaiian Islands, and I think in Samoa, but in any case, it was applied in Panama and is now being applied in Mexico. Whenever the trans-Atlantic republic finds it necessary to seize foreign territory, to subjugate it or to conclude some slave treaty, it stages a small native revolution and then appears on the scene in order to pacify and quell it—precisely in the manner in which General [Charles] Dawes has now appeared to tranquilize and pacify Europe which has been ruined by a war waged with the assistance of this very same America. In this manner the United States assured itself Panama in 1902 and proceeded to dig the canal. By 1914 they had it dug in the rough, while in 1920 the already fully completed Panama Canal opened up the greatest chapter, in the full sense of the word, in the history of America and the whole terrestrial globe....

These dates — 1898, 1900, 1914 and 1920 — are the dates marking the open entry of the United States into the highroad of world brigandage, i.e., the road of imperialism. The decisive signpost along this road was the war [World War I]. As you will recall, the United States intervened in the war toward the very end. For three years the United States did no fighting. More than that, two months before intervening in the war, [U.S. president Woodrow] Wilson announced that there could be no talk of

American participation in the bloody dogfight among the madmen of Europe. Up to a certain moment the United States remained content with rationally coining into dollars the blood of European "madmen." But in that hour when fear arose lest the war conclude with victory for Germany, the most dangerous future rival, the United States intervened actively. This decided the outcome of the struggle.

And the noteworthy thing is this, that while America avariciously fed the war with her industry and avariciously intervened in order to help crush a likely and dangerous competitor, she has nevertheless retained a reputation for pacifism. This is one of the most interesting paradoxes, one of the most curious jokes of history—jokes from which we did not and do not derive much merriment. American imperialism is in essence ruthlessly rude, predatory, in the full sense of the word, and criminal.

But owing to the special conditions of American development it has the possibility of draping itself in the toga of pacifism....

## The plan: to place Europe on rations

What does American capitalism want? What is it seeking? It is seeking, we are told, stability; it wants to restore the European market; it wants to make Europe solvent. How? By what measures? And to what extent? After all, American capitalism is compelled not to render Europe capable of competition; it cannot allow England, and all the more so Germany and France, particularly Germany, to regain their world markets inasmuch as American capitalism finds itself hemmed in, because it is now an exporting capitalism—exporting both commodities and capital. American capitalism is seeking the position of world domination; it wants to establish an American imperialist autocracy over our planet. This is what it wants.

What will it do with Europe? It must, they say, pacify Europe. How? Under its hegemony. And what does this mean? This means that Europe will be permitted to rise again, but within limits set in advance, with certain restricted sections of the world market allotted to it.

American capitalism is now issuing commands, giving instructions to its diplomats. In exactly the same way it is preparing and is ready to issue instructions to European banks and trusts, to the European bourgeoisie as a whole. . . . This is its aim. It will divide up the market into sectors; it will regulate the activity of the European financiers and industrialists. If we wish to give a clear and precise answer to the question of what American imperialism wants, we must say: *It wants to put capitalist Europe on rations....*

This American "pacifist" program of putting the whole world under her control is not at all a program of peace. On the contrary, it is pregnant with wars and the greatest revolutionary paroxysms. Not for nothing does America continue to expand her fleet. She is busily engaged in building light and fast cruisers. And when England protests in a whisper, America replies: You must bear in mind that I not only have a five to five relationship with you, but also a five to three relationship with Japan, and the latter possesses an inordinate number of light cruisers which makes it necessary for me to restore a balance.

America chooses the largest multiplicand and then multiplies it by her Washington coefficient. And the others cannot vie with her, because, as the Americans themselves say, they can turn out warships like so many pancakes.

The perspective this offers is one of preparation for the greatest international dogfight, with both the Atlantic and the Pacific as the arena, provided, of course, the bourgeoisie is able to retain its world rule for any considerable length of time. For it is hard to conceive that the bourgeoisie of all countries will docilely withdraw to the background, and become converted into America's vassals without putting up a fight; no, this is hardly likely. The contradictions are far too great; the appetites are far too insatiable; the urge to perpetuate ancient rule is far too potent; England's habits of world rule are far too ingrained. There will inevitably be military collisions. The era of "pacifist" Americanism that seems to be opening up at this time is only laying the ground-



The Russian revolution inspired an upsurge in working-class consciousness in the mid 1920s among the toilers in Germany. Above, workers rally during a general strike in Hamburg in 1926. Left, Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian revolution.

work for new wars on an unprecedented scale and of unimaginable monstrosity....

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

February 15, 1926

## Has capitalism outlived itself?

In conclusion, let me pose a question which, it seems to me, flows from the very essence of my report. This question is: Has capitalism outlived itself? Or to put it differently: Is capitalism still capable of developing the productive forces on a world scale and of leading mankind forward?...

If today England rises a little, it is at the expense of Germany; tomorrow it will be Germany's turn to rise at the expense of, England. If you find a surplus in the trade balance of one country, you must seek for a corresponding deficit in the trade balance of another country. World development—principally the development of the United States—has driven Europe into this blind alley.

America is today the basic force of the capitalist world, and the character of that force automatically predetermines the inextricable position of Europe within the framework of the capitalist regime. European capitalism has become reactionary in the absolute sense of the term, that is, not only is it unable to lead the nations forward but also it is even incapable of maintaining for them living standards long ago attained. Precisely this constitutes the economic basis of the present revolutionary epoch. Political ebbs and flows unfold on this basis without in any way altering it.

But what about America? So far as America is concerned, the picture seems to be quite different. And Asia? After all, it is impossible to leave Asia out of the calculation. Asia and Africa represent 55 percent of the earth's surface and 60 percent of the world's population. They certainly merit a special and extended examination; but this lies outside the scope of the present report.

From everything that has been said, however, it is clear that the struggle between America and Europe is, above all, a struggle for Asia. How then do matters stand? Is capitalism still capable of fulfilling a progressive mission in America? Has it such a mission to perform in Asia and Africa?

In Asia, capitalist development has taken only its first major steps; while in Africa, the new relations penetrate the body of the Continent itself only from the periphery. Just what are the perspectives here? The conclusion seems to be the following: capitalism has outlived itself in Europe; in America it still advances the productive forces, while in Asia and Africa it has before it a vast virgin field of activity for many decades if not centuries. Is that really the case? Were it so, comrades, it would mean that capitalism has not yet exhausted its mission on a world scale.

## Conditions of world economy

But we live under the conditions of world economy. And it is just this that determines the fate of capitalism — for all the continents. Capitalism cannot have an isolated development in Asia, independent of what

takes place in Europe or in America. The time of provincial economic processes has passed beyond recall. American capitalism is far stronger and stabler than European capitalism; it can look to the future with far greater assurance. But American capitalism is no longer self-sufficing. It cannot maintain itself on an internal equilibrium.

Europe depends more and more on America, but this also means that America is becoming increasingly dependent upon Europe. Seven billion are accumulated annually in America. What to do with them? If simply put in a vault, they, as dead capital, would drag down the profit level in the country. All capital demands interest. Where could the available funds be placed? Within the country itself? But there is no need of them; they are superfluous; the internal market is supersaturated.

An outlet must be found abroad. One begins to lend to other countries, to invest in foreign industries. But what to do with the interest, which returns, after all, to America? It must either again be placed abroad, if it happens to be gold, or else European commodities must be imported. But these commodities will tend to undermine American industry whose enormous production already requires outlets abroad....

Already today, revolution in Europe means convulsions in Wall Street; tomorrow, when the investments of American capital in the European economy have increased, it will mean a profound upheaval.

And what of the national revolution in Asia? Here the same mutual dependence exists. The development of capitalism in Asia inevitably implies the growth of the national revolutionary movement, which comes into an ever more hostile clash with foreign capital, the bearer of imperialism. We observe how the development of capitalism in China which takes place with the assistance and under the pressure of imperialist colonizers leads to revolutionary struggle and upheavals.

I spoke previously of the power of the United States vis-à-vis weakened Europe and the economically backward colonial peoples. But precisely in this power of the United States is its Achilles' heel; in this power lies its growing dependence upon countries and continents economically and politically unstable. The United States is compelled to base its power on an unstable Europe, that is, on tomorrow's revolutions of Europe and on the national revolutionary movement of Asia and Africa. It is impermissible to look upon Europe as an independent entity. But America, too, is no longer a self-sufficing whole. In order to maintain its internal equilibrium, the United States requires a larger and larger outlet abroad; but its outlet abroad introduces into its economic order more and more elements of European and Asiatic disorder.

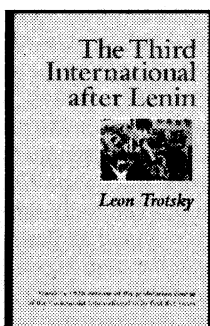
Under these conditions a victorious revolution in Europe and in Asia would inevitably inaugurate a revolutionary epoch in the United States. And we need not doubt that once the revolution in the United States has begun, it will develop with a truly American speed. That is what follows from an evaluation of the world situation as a whole.

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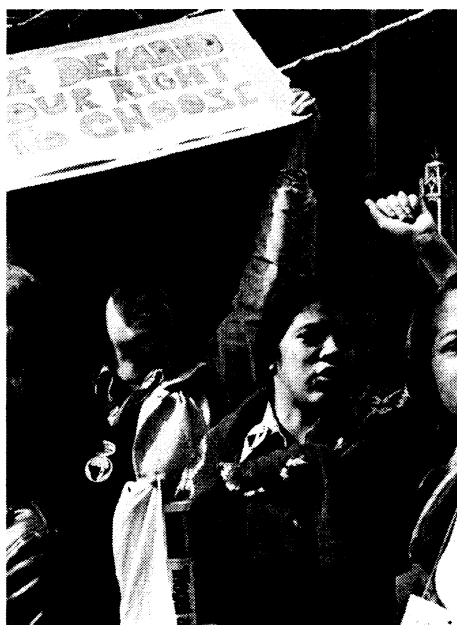
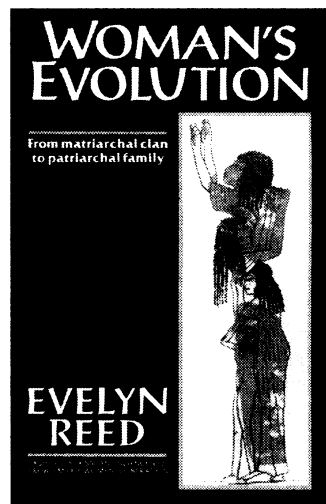
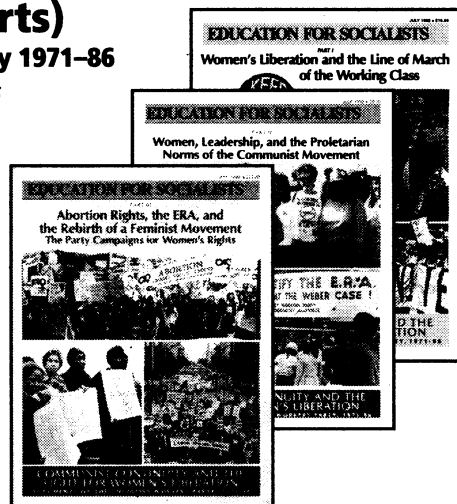
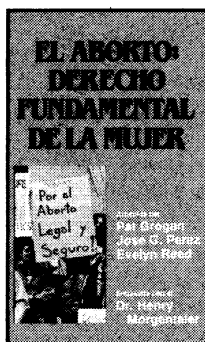
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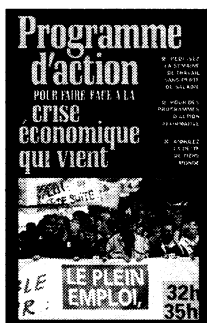
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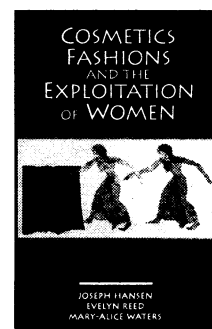
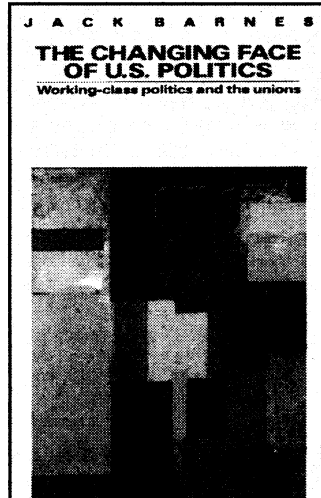
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*Thomas Sankara*

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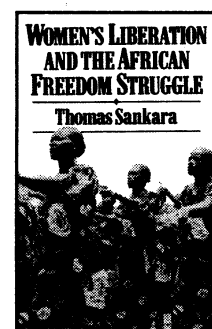
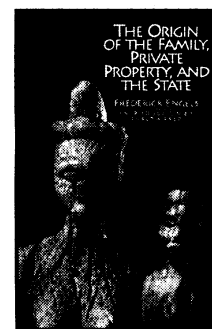
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## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**The Middle East and the World Capitalist Disorder.** Spring 1997 Militant Fund Rally. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, coauthor of introduction for *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920—First Congress of the Peoples of the East*; and others. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$5.  
**Class on Russian Revolution.** Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Sun, March 16, 11 a.m. Donation: \$2.  
*Both events held at 111 21st St. South. Tel: (205) 323-3079.*

## CALIFORNIA

### San Francisco

**Mexico: The Crisis Today.** Report back from Mexico to a participant in the Mexico City Book Fair. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party and member of Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-326. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m.  
**Pornography and Free Speech.** What stance should workers take on this question? Fri., March 21, 7:30 p.m.  
*Both events held at 3284 23rd St., at Mission St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 285-5323.*

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Union Maids — A Video Documentary on Women in the Labor Movement.** Video followed by a discussion. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

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### Atlanta

**The Middle East and the World Capitalist Disorder.** Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, frequent traveler to the Middle East, and coauthor of the introduction of the Pathfinder book *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 803 Peachtree St. NE, at 5th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**What's Behind Capitalism's Growing World Disorder.** Speaker: Doug Jenness, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 9198. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. Donation: \$4. (612) 644-6325.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Fight for Immigrant Rights and Against Deportations.** Panel discussion. Hear about plans for the April 1 Immigrant Rights Demonstration in Newark. Fri., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 87A Halsey St. (1 block west of Broad, 2 blocks north of Raymond). Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Youth Today and the Fight for Social Change.** Fund-raiser for the Young Socialists Second National Convention, March 28-30. Speaker: Jack Willey, national leader of the Young Socialists. Sat., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen). Donation: \$4. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

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**Youth Today and the Fight for Social Change.** Panel discussion. Sat. March 15, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$5. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**Class Struggle, Social Polarization, and the Growth of Fascism in Europe.** Speaker: Pat Grogan, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 1065 East 3300 South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (801) 474-3385.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**The World Crisis of Capitalism and Revolutionary Perspectives for Youth Today.** Speaker: Meg Novak, Young Socialist National Executive Committee. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m.  
**Showing of the Film *Panama Deception*.** Followed by a presentation with Arturo Griffith, Panamanian political activist. Fri., March 21, 7:30 p.m.  
*Both events held at 1930 18th St., NW (at 18th & Florida, entrance on Florida). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.*

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**The U.S. Drive to Expand NATO Against the Former U.S.S.R.** Speaker: Marnie Kennedy, Communist League, and AMWU member. Fri., March 14, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281 3297.

# Clinton backs move to slash cost-of-living raises

Continued from front page report put it.

A similar proposal was floated earlier by Michael Boskin, who headed a Congressional panel that issued a report last December asserting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) exaggerated the rise in the cost of living by 1.1 percent. The index rose 3.3 percent last year. Revising the CPI, the basis for cost-of-living adjustments, by that amount would slash tens of billions of dollars from social benefits.

A group of conservative House Democrats has already proposed cutting the CPI by 0.8 percent as a way to chip away at spending on entitlements.

The CPI, fixed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, supposedly measures inflation by tracking the prices of an average "market basket" of food and other basic consumer goods and services purchased by working people and others. While many working people have felt the squeeze of rising bills and stagnating wages, some big-business politicians argue that the "improved quality" of products justifies lowering the CPI.

A 1.1 percent cut in the cost-of-living adjustment would mean \$8 a month less in the average Social Security payments this year, but by 2002 the benefits would be \$57 lower than currently projected. The Congressional Budget Office estimated such a move would cut \$195 billion from federal spending over the next five years.

While working people won Social Security and other entitlements through the labor struggles of the 1930s, the cost-of-living adjustment was part of a later series of extensions of workers' social wage. In the wake of the mass civil rights battles of the 1950s and 1960s, Congress passed a law in 1972 that pegged a number of social benefits to the CPI. Among the payments that increase automatically based on the CPI are Social Security, veterans' pensions, disability payments, federal employees' pensions, food stamps, as well as pay raises in many union contracts.

While conducting this probe against cost-of-living adjustments, Congress defeated a constitutional amendment to require the federal budget be "balanced." The Senate failed

to pass the measure — requiring a two-thirds majority — by one vote, as it did two years ago.

In the tactical dispute among big-business forces over how far and how fast to press the assault on entitlements, Clinton has opposed the balanced budget amendment, posturing as a defender of Social Security. Instead, he has made his own proposals for slashing Medicare payments by \$138 billion over six years.

Parallel with their drive against the social wage, the U.S. rulers continue to put pressure on other social and democratic gains of working people. Bipartisan forces in Congress have renewed their effort to pass a measure that would curtail a woman's right to abortion. Bills are being introduced in both the House and Senate to ban what antichoice forces falsely call "partial-birth abortions."

If passed, the measure would prohibit a type of late-term abortion known as intact dilation and extraction. Last year, both houses passed the ban but the Senate failed to override a presidential veto.

Clinton has said he is prepared to sign the bill if it contains an exception for women

who need the operation for health reasons.

Opponents of women's rights have tried to take advantage of recent statements by Ron Fitzsimmons, head of a lobbying group based in Alexandria, Virginia, that represents 200 abortion clinics. The lobbyist stated he had "lied" in 1995 when he said the procedure was used very rarely and only in cases where the mother's life was in danger or because of fetal abnormalities.

Pro-choice forces point out that banning the medical procedure would deny women one of the safest methods for ending pregnancies, and that such a prohibition would open the door to further inroads on the right to abortion.

Democratic senator Daniel Moynihan, who portrays himself as pro-choice, voted to impose the ban and called on Clinton to sign it. "I think this bill will pass and will be signed," he said. Malcolm Forbes Jr., former Republican presidential contender, plans to air radio ads urging the president to sign the ban.

Meanwhile, the campaign financing scandal is swirling a few RPMs faster around the Clinton White House, with new accusations

splattering Vice President Albert Gore. The latest controversy was fueled by a detailed report in the March 2 *Washington Post* describing Gore as the "solicitor-in-chief" for the Democratic National Committee during the 1996 campaign.

At a press conference the next day, Gore admitted he had made telephone calls to campaign contributors from his White House office, but evaded questions about their propriety. He said he had done nothing wrong and that he wouldn't do it again. At a March 4 White House event where he asked for a voluntary ban on human cloning experiments, Clinton stood next to his vice president and defended him.

Conservative and right-wing forces have continued to raise the shrillness of the debate. Gingrich, who himself was reprimanded by Congress in January over improper use of tax-exempt funds, called the Democratic fund raising a scandal bigger than Watergate. Republican leader Lott said he would introduce a Senate resolution calling for an "independent counsel" to investigate the Clinton-Gore fund-raising, especially Gore's calls from the White House.

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## CALENDAR

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Demonstration to Defend Immigrant Rights!** Tue., April 1, 4-6 p.m. In front of the Federal Building, 970 Broad St. For more information, call (201) 643-1924 (American Friends Service Committee).

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**New Voices, New Visions: Young Feminists Taking Action for the 21st Century.** Young Feminist Summit. April 11 - 13. Held at Renaissance Washington, D.C., 999 9th St., NW. Conference registration: \$35.00. For more information, call (202) 331-0066 ext. 362. Fax (202) 785-8576. Email: conference@now.org Web: <http://www.now.org/foundation/Or write: Young Feminist Summit. NOW Foundation, 1000 16th St., NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036>.



**Adding insult to injury** — In London, an industrial commission awarded £12,000 to Mary Fogarty who was fired from her job at the U.S. embassy after she made a com-



Harry Ring

plaint of sexual harassment by her boss. The embassy then went to court, claiming diplomatic immunity.

**Add it to the list** — Under pressure, Boeing agreed to modify the rudders on all 737s. (Evidence

points to rudder defects in two major 737 crashes.) Now British Airways has ordered an "urgent" safety check of its 15 new Boeing 777s. One plane began "wobbling" at 37,000 feet. The *Times* of London said the plane's black box reportedly showed the wobbling "was caused by uncommanded rudder movement."

**Would they lie to you?** — Following the example of last year's trucker drivers' strike in France, a Spanish drivers' strike for a lower retirement age and other benefits has shut down major highways including those into France and Portugal. A Spanish official asserted "This strike is blackmail by a tiny minority which is forcing the majority of honest and reasonable

truckers to suspend their usual service."

**Soon we'll live forever** — Christopher Ruhm, a University of North Carolina economics professor, has done a study showing that if you lose your job you live longer. There's more time to exercise and prepare more healthful meals. You can catch up on medical appointments. And, if you're poor enough, you may qualify for Medicaid. He calculates that with every 1% rise in unemployment there's a .05% drop in the mortality rate.

**A great habit** — It turned up in a lawsuit in Florida against the tobacco industry. A memo by a researcher for BAT Industries, British parent of Brown & Williamson

Tobacco: "[An] effective and cheap 'drug,' tobacco... also confers flavor and manual and oral satisfaction to the user."

**He must inhale** — That BAT memo cites Oscar Wilde's view that smoking is an "exquisite" pleasure that "leaves one unsatisfied." The researcher adds: "Let us provide the exquisiteness and hope that our consumers continue to remain unsatisfied. All we would want is a larger bag to carry the money to the bank."

**Plow 'em under** — A group of New York training hospitals will help reduce a reported oversupply of doctors by accepting a federal subsidy for each one they don't train. For six years, they'll pocket the same amount that they

get for those they do train. What with shorter hospital stays and cutbacks in procedures, hospitals say they don't have enough patients to train the residents.

**Rational as capitalism** — "It's an amazing treatment of health care as a commodity — like grain or milk or meat.... But I really can't find any fault with it. Maybe this is one of the first rational collaborations between hospitals and the government." — Alan Hillman, professor of health care policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

**P.S.** — Currently, teaching hospitals receive about \$100,000 a year for each doctor they train. They pay the trainees \$40,000 for a 90-hour week.

## Fight for women's rights unites working class

Printed below is an excerpt from the introduction to *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Mary-Alice Waters. It is also reprinted in the three-part series of Education for Socialists bulletins entitled *Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation*, copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

When the bosses go on a stepped-up offensive to shift the relationship of forces in their favor, they play every card in the

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

deck — war and the threat of military aggression abroad; more naked use of the cops and courts at home (whether against Blacks, immigrant workers, farmers, or strikers); massive cuts in social services; tax hikes; union busting and concession contracts. At the same time, they wage a political campaign to justify their course as being in the interests of "all of us." They talk about "equality of sacrifice," the "national interest," "labor-management cooperation," and "common cultural values."

...The attack on women's rights is fundamental to the success of the capitalist offensive. Discrimination against women is one of the most important ways in which the rulers work to deepen divisions within the working class. Its acceptance helps the bosses keep the labor movement shackled to a narrow trade union perspective, instead of thinking in broader social terms and acting politically to advance the interests of the oppressed and exploited....

The employers aim to undermine working-class women's consciousness of themselves as workers, as part of the working class, and instead to heighten their consciousness of themselves as women — not in the feminist sense, but in all the retrograde ways that are drummed into women from childhood. The employing class seeks to reinforce the prejudices about women's proper place and domestic role. It seeks to convince women that they want to be dependent on a man, with the second-class status that entails....

The capitalists' offensive against women's rights is not aimed at driving women out of the work force. That is historically precluded.... The goal is not to push women out of the labor market but to push them down to jobs with fewer paid holidays, more piece work, less safety, shorter lunch breaks, less union protection, and lower wages. Women have always made up an important component of the pool of unemployed workers that Marx called the industrial reserve army of labor. This reserve army never disappears under capitalism, even in the best of times. But in a period of capitalist stagnation such as we have lived through over the last decade, the owners of capital need to expand this army of the unemployed in order to intensify competition among workers and thus drive down wages....

The bosses' ideological campaign seeks to reinforce the idea among both sexes that women are "natural" recruits to this reserve army. They are "normally" only marginal workers, temporary workers, part-time workers, home workers. Women are only a

"second" wage earner in the family.... This propaganda is aimed at convincing women to accept, with less resistance and resentment, temporary unemployment, or new jobs at lower wages....

#### Decline of the women's movement

The counteroffensive to roll back the gains women have made has been registered in a decline of the women's movement. Since 1977 the National Organization for Women (NOW) has been turned more and more into an electoralist appendage of the capitalist two-party system.... The fact remains that there has been no mass, fighting women's movement in the streets or anywhere else for some years. The kind of mass-action movement from which women gain self-confidence as they fight to change things that vitally affect their lives; the kind of action movement through which women learn how to mobilize millions to fight for their rights that kind of movement does not exist today. The women's liberation forces are on the defensive, not the offensive.

This situation is not unique to the United States. It is a phenomenon that, to varying degrees, marks virtually all capitalist countries where the women's liberation movement had a significant impact in the 1970s.... It is one of the fruits of the incapacity of the labor officialdom to mount an effective fight back against the capitalist austerity drive that began with the 1974-75 worldwide recession. Prospects for advancing the fight for women's liberation are not independent of the historic course of the working-class movement, even if women's rights battles can and do surge ahead on occasion — as they did in the early 1970s — and help show the way forward....

#### Women in industry

Women who are full-time industrial workers and part of the organized labor movement are in the best position to resist the conservatizing pressures that all women are subjected to by the economic, political, and ideological offensive of the ruling class. The reason is simple. The fundamental line of division, of deepening cleavage, is a class polarization. Not all women — and not all women who work — are hit by the offensive with equal force and in the same ways. Not only the economic squeeze, but also the necessity to fight back weigh more heavily on working-class women. The reactionary ideological and political offensive of the employers has less fertile ground in which to take root in the working class in general than among middle-class layers.

Women who are industrial workers and union members have a degree of self-confidence that comes from knowing that they can sell their labor power and survive. They are not so economically dependent on a man, and this gives them a greater element of independence in making important decisions that affect their lives. Moreover, they have acquired at least the beginning of working-class consciousness through understanding that they have a better chance at improving wages and working conditions by joining together with fellow workers to defend themselves against the employer....

While women who are industrial workers are less susceptible to right-wing demagoguery and reactionary "solutions" to their problems, however, they are nonetheless not immune. They are constantly fighting the



Supporters of abortion rights protest against January, 1997 clinic bombing in Atlanta. These street actions build political confidence among fighters for women's rights.

bosses' attempts to convince them and their male co-workers that they are not really workers; that being part of the labor force is only a passing moment in women's lives; that the really important thing for them is that they will leave the labor force to raise a family; or that, having already left the labor market to raise a family, they are now past their prime, and should be glad to find a boss

"willing" to employ them.

This kind of reactionary propaganda - in a period of working-class political retreat - affects even the most politically conscious women and men. That is why it is helpful to look back at the 1950s and learn from history.... It helps in understanding some of the pressures today, and arms us to deal with them more, consciously.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



March 17, 1972

NEW YORK, March 4 — Well over 1,000 demonstrators gathered here today to protest the internment without trial of more than 700 Irish men and the British occupation of Ireland. The most spirited demonstration Manhattan has witnessed in some time, the action drew a wide cross-section of the population. Several young nuns and many of the older demonstrators indicated that it was the first demonstration they had ever attended.

Speakers at the rally reflected the breadth of the Anti-Internment Coalition, which called the action. Among those addressing the crowd were: Mary Cotter of the Irish Republican Clubs of the U.S. and Canada; Larry McElroy from the Barmen's and Waitresses' Association for Irish Aid; Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.); Ned Murphy of the Harrisburg Defense Committee; Andrew Pulley, vice-presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party; Carlos Feliciano; Katherine Sojourner of the National Peace action Coalition; Joan McKiernan of the International Socialists; Congressman James Scheuer (D-N.Y.); and John Rowan of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Kevin McCrory, a former internee and a representative of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, also spoke.

Several speakers related the movement in Ireland to other movements for national liberation around the world. Andrew Pulley drew cheers from the crowds when he

noted that the struggle in Ireland was the longest continuous struggle against oppression in history and expressed the solidarity of the SWP with the Irish liberation struggle.



March 15, 1947

While the future of Europe is being debated by the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers in Moscow, with little likelihood that their conference will produce agreements that can restore political and economic stability in Europe, virtually the entire continent of Asia and her adjoining islands have entered a stage of crisis which may in the end yield even greater headaches for world imperialism than the European question.

Equally important has been the rapidity with which the Japanese workers have organized a huge trade union movement, reported to include as many as five million members; their militancy and solidarity against the employers; the radical and far-reaching nature of their demands and slogans — including a sliding scale of wages, variants of workers' control of production, union defense guards, etc. — which tend to bring them into conflict not only with the employers but with the government and the occupation forces as well.

China, according to Wall Street's timetable was supposed to be ready for large-scale economic exploitation by the beginning of this year. Instead, the country has been caught in an inflationary spiral and its economy is as helpless as a leaf in the wind.

# U.S. hands off Albania!

As U.S. naval forces gather off the Adriatic coast of the Balkans in response to the revolt by workers and peasants in Albania, working people here should demand: U.S. hands off Albania! We should also direct this demand against the Greek army troops massing on the border with Albania and other NATO soldiers deployed in the Balkans.

The U.S. military threats against Albania — under the ridiculous pretext of protecting “American lives” — are of a piece with Washington’s drive to expand NATO into the workers states of Central Europe, as well as the NATO military occupation of Bosnia. They are all part of the imperialist march toward war against Russia and other workers states in Europe. The U.S. rulers seek to save the hated Berisha government or replace it with another pliant, procapitalist regime, with the ultimate goal of reestablishing capitalist rule in that Balkan nation.

What are working people rebelling against? They are protesting the massive rip-off by fraudulent investment schemes, as well as the ruinous effects of the austerity measures prescribed by the International Monetary Fund. Pyramid schemes are only a small taste of capitalism, and workers in Albania are loudly saying they don’t like it. Protesters became even more angry when the regime responded to their demands by imposing a state of emergency curtailing democratic rights. The protests have now erupted into an armed uprising.

Big-business commentators depict the demonstrators as unreasonable or naive for demanding the government cover their losses from the investment frauds. But working people in Albania correctly view the state as their own, albeit usurped by a ruling layer of social parasites that has weakened its foundations over the years. Today’s events are a striking confirmation that Albania remains a workers state, and that imperialism will have to take on and go to war against the workers and peasants of that country in order to reestablish stable capitalist rule there.

The current revolt is an expression of the living legacy of the Albanian socialist revolution, in which armed workers and peasants defeated the German imperialist occupation army in 1944 and then kicked the capitalists and landlords out of power. For decades afterward, unable to intervene directly, the imperialist powers had to rely on the Stalinist regime to try to police working people. That effort failed with the outbreak of working-class rebellion in the early 1990s, which brought down the Stalinists there, coinciding with similar developments throughout Eastern Europe — a body blow to imperialism.

Washington fears that the revolt in Albania will inspire workers and farmers in neighboring Yugoslavia — including the Albanian population of the Kosovo region — to resist both the gangster-like regimes in Belgrade and Zagreb, as well as the NATO troops occupying hunks of their country. In response to the U.S. and other imperialist threats, working people around the world should rally in support of our fellow fighters standing up in Albania.

# Oppose any abortion ban

Bipartisan forces in Washington are stepping up their probes to criminalize what they falsely call “partial-birth abortions.” U.S. President William Clinton says he is prepared to sign the bill, if it contains an exception for women who need the operation for health reasons. A law banning the type of late-term abortion, properly known as intact dilation and extraction, was passed by both houses of Congress last year, but the Senate failed to override a presidential veto. If adopted, the measure would mark the first time that a type of abortion has been made illegal since the women’s liberation movement won the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion 24 years ago.

There is a stepped-up ideological campaign against women’s rights today, particularly targeting the right to abortion. In the past two years, state governments have enacted 32 antichoice laws, twice as many as they did in the previous two years. These include measures restricting late-term abortions, requiring women under 18 get parental consent for an abortion, and others that limit access to safe, legal abortions. These laws give wind to rightist forces who act in the streets as well, such as those who bombed abortion clinics in Atlanta and Tulsa, Oklahoma, earlier this year.

The attacks on women’s rights are one way the bosses and their government try to increase divisions within the working class, in order to undermine workers’ political self-confidence and class consciousness and drive down the value of workers’ labor power.

Defenders of women’s rights, democratic rights, and class-conscious fighters should champion women’s right to control their own bodies, including the right to choose an abortion without restrictions. Fighters can defend that right to choose by speaking out at public meetings, participating in gatherings like the April 11-13 Young Feminists Summit, and defending the clinics that provide abortions.

# Rebellion engulfs Albania

Continued from front page

and secret police.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has amassed naval forces nearby, ready for military intervention into the Albanian workers state on the pretext of protecting U.S. citizens in the country. The U.S. rulers aim to salvage the hated regime, or replace it with another pro-imperialist administration, in order to push Washington’s goal of reestablishing capitalism in Albania.

“U.S. Navy ships are standing by in the Adriatic in case mounting violence in Albania forces evacuation of U.S. citizens, U.S. officials said today,” reported Susanne Schafer, an AP military correspondent writing from Stuttgart, Germany, on March 5.

“We are concerned with events that are occurring there. We are following it closely,” stated U.S. defense secretary William Cohen, visiting the European headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Stuttgart that day. “Hopefully, they will be able to resolve the situation on their own.” He stated that “as of this time, there are no plans, military plans.”

“We have ships in the region, we are in communication with the [U.S.] ambassador [in Albania],” added Gen. George Joulwan, NATO’s top commander.

Washington has backed the Berisha administration with economic and military aid since this government came to power in 1992, replacing the previous Stalinist regime. In exchange, Tirana has provided a military base for U.S. reconnaissance activities over the neighboring Yugoslav workers state. It has also discouraged Albanians in the Kosovo region in Serbia from pressing demands for autonomy from Belgrade. Until recently, the big-business media held up Albania as a success story of capitalist “market reform” in Eastern Europe. Recent events in this small country sandwiched between Greece and Yugoslavia, however, have darkened the nightmares of the imperialist powers intervening in the Balkans.

The revolt against the U.S.-backed regime erupted January 15. Since then tens of thousands of people have staged rallies and demonstrations, clashed with riot police, and set ablaze local offices of the ruling Democratic Party, along with police stations and other government buildings. The protesters are demanding that the state cover their losses from failed “pyramid schemes.”

The Berisha regime lured more than 500,000 Albanians out of a population of 3.2 million to invest their savings into these fraudulent investment funds by offering exorbitant interest rates. These get-rich-quick capitalist scams then began declaring bankruptcy, ruining the lives of hundreds of thousands. As the Berisha administration refused to give in to the demands of the protesters, the demonstrations turned into an armed rebellion, particularly in the south, where many more people have been affected by the collapse of the pyramids.

## Protests turn into armed rebellion

Faced with a police force that has deserted most of its posts, and a miserably paid army that has abandoned many of its barracks out of sympathy with the protesters, the government announced March 2 that the hated secret police, known as the SHIK, would take the lead against what it called “terrorist gangs.” Berisha said he will use an “iron hand” to crush the rebellion as his government progressively lost control of city after city.

A gas station and hotel complex in Gjirokastra owned by Gjalica, one of the failed “pyramid schemes,” was looted March 3, and smoke was seen rising from the complex later in the evening, according to the ATA news agency.

In Fieri, trucks and cars surrounded the headquarters of an army division and opened fire. The crowd seized all the weapons stored in the barracks before police arrived to rescue the commander.

Albanian state television reported that civilians took over an army arsenal in Vlora, the port city that has been a focal point of the revolt. Civilians also reportedly ransacked army bases in Orikum and Himara, taking weapons and army rations.

In Saranda, residents seized 2,000 rifles and an army boat. The prosecutor’s office, courthouse, and nine police cars were torched. The military abandoned its barracks, leaving the arms and ammunition to the opposition. Army commanders reportedly told their soldiers to go home. On March 5, rebels in this city commandeered Russian-made tanks and fired antiaircraft guns and assault rifles at government planes bombing the nearby village of Livena. About 400 heavily armed protesters guarded the city entrance.

“If they move into Saranda, Albania will see the worst bloodshed ever,” said Ilias Sideris, one of the rebels. Residents claimed to have at least 25,000 weapons in hand.

Residents emerged victorious February 8 after a battle with SHIK agents, following which the secret police headquarters were ransacked. At least 10 people died in this battle, including three students and several secret policemen. A few days later, gun battles broke out between government troops and rebels 20 miles east of Vlora March 5.

Officials of Vefa, the biggest investment scheme that has not officially failed yet, said its business property in Vlora, including a hotel complex, industrial park, and about six factories, was destroyed, according to Albanian state radio. These reports cannot be independently confirmed at the moment, however, since the government has imposed censorship, forbidding reporters to travel to the south of the country, and restricting what news media can

say about the unrest.

Five of the failed funds were based in Vlora, two in nearby Lushnja, and one in Tirana.

In Vlora people became angrier when their protests were ignored by authorities. Fifty-seven students staged a hunger strike, which they abandoned when Berisha declared the state of emergency. “Our president has set Albanian against Albanian,” said 21-year-old Albana Zenollari, one of the hunger strikers. “That’s the worst thing he has done.”

Many recent articles in the capitalist media try to paint protesters as “looters” or gangsters and swindlers connected with the Italian Mafia who made money through organized crime and thus invested in pyramid schemes. Tens of thousands of those who put money into the pyramids, however, are workers who immigrated to Germany, Italy, or Greece in search for jobs and a living income.

## ‘Market reforms’ fuel economic crisis

During its five years in office, the Berisha regime implemented austerity measures such as cutting social services, sold off some state-owned companies to foreign investors, and has relied on loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to finance imports. These measures made only a little dent in the noncapitalist social relations that exist in Albania.

Only about \$200 million in direct foreign investment has come into the country since the early 1990s and most of industry remains state owned. Berisha’s procapitalist policies, however, have plunged the Albanian workers state, already backward economically, into a deeper crisis by making it more vulnerable to the ups and downs of the capitalist business cycle in a period of world depression.

Today, some 300,000 people are unemployed, 90 percent of industry is shut down, and most in the country’s majority rural population live barely above the poverty level. Average wages are less than \$100 per month, and the per capita gross domestic product of \$850 per year is on par with many countries in Africa. About half the country’s GDP comes from remittances of Albanian workers and peasants who have emigrated abroad.

That’s why so many people poured their life savings into pyramid funds — promoted by the government and used for enrichment of many of its officials — offering between 8 and 25 percent interest per month.

Berisha first tried to defuse the protests by declaring the pyramids illegal and promising the state would cover some of the losses. But the anger of hundreds of thousands built up as promises were never met. After Vefa announced it would return thousands of deposits without interest, thousands of people have lined up every day at the company’s flashy offices in Tirana waiting for their names to be read out. But depositors say the names read never seem to correspond with anyone in the crowd.

As demands for the resignation of the government mounted, Berisha tried another trick to appease protesters. On March 1, the president ordered the resignation of prime minister Aleksander Meksi and his cabinet, but to no avail. Armed demonstrators threatened to march to Tirana unless the president dissolved parliament and formed an interim government until new elections are held.

A day later Berisha organized for parliament — where his Democratic Party holds absolute majority after fraudulent elections in May 1996 — to reelect him president for another five-year term. Hours after taking the oath to “protect and develop democracy, freedom, and human rights,” Berisha ordered the state of emergency. He described the unrest as “a communist rebellion backed by foreign intelligence agencies.”

But many of the government troops have already refused to obey orders for a crackdown on the opposition Socialist Party, which is the former ruling Stalinist Communist Party, and other opponents. On March 4, two Albanian air force pilots flew their MiG-15 planes to Italy and asked for asylum there. “We fled because they gave us the order to fire on a column of civilian vehicles near Gjirokastra,” Capt. Agrae Dasci told reporters in Lecce, southern Italy.

## Attitude of the imperialist powers

So the imperialist powers, which have supported the current Albanian government, are scrambling for ways to rescue Berisha or at least replace his regime with one of their liking.

While preparing for a possible intervention, Washington has also taken some distance from the regime. White House spokesman Michael McCurry declared in Washington that U.S. President William Clinton “views with some alarm” Berisha’s reelection by parliament.

The government of Greece has taken a more aggressive stance, amassing troops to the Greek-Albanian border and threatening Tirana if the ethnic Greek minority in the south, the center of the unrest, is attacked.

The government of Italy, Albania’s former colonial master prior to the worker and peasant revolution that overthrew capitalist rule in the 1940s, is expected to ask for more funds from the European Union to stabilize the situation in Albania. And the IMF is scheduled to send a delegation soon to negotiate new loans. That is, if developments over the next weeks still leave this door open.

As an article in the March 5 *Wall Street Journal* put it, “Although analysts and diplomatic officials are unsure how the crisis will end, one thing is certain: The uprising will dash the country’s feeble reform process and add strain to the already-struggling Balkans.”



# Protest presses fight for Black killed by cops in Pittsburgh

BY EDWIN FRUIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 150 people from Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Buffalo, Richmond, and other areas gathered at the Justice Department on February 21 to demand federal intervention in the police murder of Jonny Gammage.

Gammage was killed by city and suburban Pittsburgh cops in October 1995. After a coroner's inquest jury recommended that homicide charges be filed against five of the cops, the Allegheny County District Attorney charged only three of them with involuntary manslaughter.

This past fall, one of those cops was acquitted, and a mistrial was ruled in the trial of the other two. Judge David Cashman is deciding whether to grant a motion to dismiss the charges or set a date for a new trial for the latter two.

Over the past year and a half, rallies, teach-ins, conferences, and consistent picket lines at the court house have kept this case in the public eye in Pittsburgh. The largest demonstration occurred last November when 2,000 people marched to protest the acquittal of John Vojtas by an all-white jury.

While a rally was going on at the Justice Department, a delegation including Gammage's parents; Tim Stevens, president of the Pittsburgh NAACP; representatives of the Campus Coalition for Peace and Justice; the Pittsburgh Urban League and Kweisi Mfume, executive director of the

NAACP met with Richard Roberts, chief of the criminal division in the Civil Rights section.

The delegation presented petitions with over 6,000 signatures demanding federal prosecution of the cops involved in Gammage's death.

The February 21 day of activities was meant to coincide with the date of the assassination of Malcolm X.

A successful news conference was held in the morning at the National Press Club. Speakers outlined the details of the Gammage case and the unwillingness of the Allegheny County District Attorney's office to vigorously prosecute the cops in a manner that would lead to convictions.

At the rally in front of the Justice Department, Monique Hinton of Schenley High School in Pittsburgh explained why she took a day off from school to come to Washington. "I wanted to protest police brutality with other Afro-American youth and they're not teaching in school what's really going on in the world."

Students from Schenley were part of the 1,200 high school students who walked out of class and marched to downtown Pittsburgh to protest the Vojtas acquittal last November.

Jolene Miklas attends Baldwin High School, which is on the same street where Jonny Gammage was killed. "I'm out here because we have to be here. We can't just

## Flight attendants strike Air Ontario



Militant/Heidi Rose

More than 200 striking flight attendants, members of Airline Division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, on strike against Air Ontario, and supporters participated in a spirited support rally at Toronto's Pearson International Airport February 8. Unionists appealed to travelers to protest Air Canada's union-busting, and to fly with airlines that have not made arrangements to operate Air Ontario flights. Air Ontario is a wholly owned subsidiary of Air Canada. The strikers are calling for support to picket lines at London (Ontario) airport and Toronto's Terminal 2.

let this happen. I've been circulating a petition at school and have also written an article for the school newspaper which they have refused to print. Some of my friends say 'give it up' but I won't."

The Gammage case has brought to the fore the issue of police brutality in Pittsburgh. In early February some of the find-

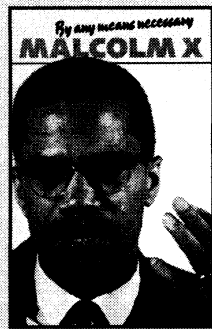
ings from a U.S. Justice Department report were leaked indicating that a long-term pattern of police brutality exists in the city. Mayor Thomas Murphy blasted the findings and indicated that "improvements" had been made in the police department. Some community activists have gathered petitions for a ballot initiative for a civilian review board while others have put forward a boycott of downtown Pittsburgh as a way to address the problems of racism and police brutality.

After the rally a conference was held in a nearby church to discuss the way forward. At an open mike people discussed the pros and cons of boycotts, civilian review boards, and continued mobilizations. Mauri Saalakhian of the National Association for Police Accountability called for a national mobilization around the issues of police brutality, capital punishment, political imprisonment, and sentencing disparities.

That idea, which was well received by the audience, was proposed to be held in Washington, D.C., in August of this year.

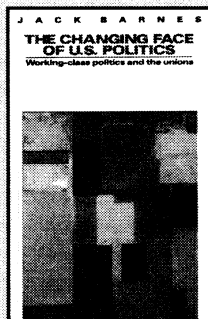
Edwin Fruit is a member of the International Association of Machinists in the Pittsburgh area. Mary Martin from Washington, D.C. contributed to the article.

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## LETTERS

### Coverage on Ireland

Thank you for the coverage on the struggle in Ireland and the deepening divisions in the British ruling class.

The conquest of Ireland was the sole precondition for the emergence of British rule in the world and the maintenance of British hegemony in Ireland has always been at the top of the British ruling class agenda. This class rule has been maintained by mass starvation, pogroms, and the brute force of merciless military interventions.

What is becoming clear is that 'brute force alone' is no longer a guarantee of British rule in Ireland. What is more, no other strategy, cultural, social or political can guarantee continued British presence in Ireland.

The institutional forms of British dominance in Ireland are in a crisis that is dissolving the foundation upon which British capital rose to world predominance. British rule in Ireland is organically linked into the framework of the British capitalist state and consequently affects and is effected by the relative health of the state as a whole.

With the vital interests of British capital being mauled in the deepening world economic crisis, the continuing struggle of Irish fighters is a poison pill that enervates the ruling class and its state organiza-

tions. The Irish struggle has contributed to the weakening of the United Kingdom, the Monarchy, the Anglican (state) Church, the Judiciary, the Conservative and Unionist Party (Tory), the standing armed forces, and parliamentary rule itself.

Since institutions of capitalist rule are only as powerful as the capitalist class itself, the perceived weakness of the above mentioned institutions is a reflection of the actual decline in strength of British capital on a world scale. All these institutions of capitalist rule were the product of the English bourgeois revolution. Having been consciously put into place with Ireland in mind, they all have played a vital role in the subjugation of the Irish people.

These are very real fears for the British ruling class and can be one cause for their apparent paralysis. What we appear to be witnessing is a measure of the exhaustion of the explosive energies unleashed on the world by the English bourgeois democratic revolution.

Frank Gorton  
Detroit, Michigan

### On Eastern Europe

The excerpt from the article, "The problem of Eastern Europe," by Joseph Hansen in the "Book of the Week" column was a welcome addition to the March 3 issue of the



Good news, Mr. Figby! The insurance company says you're well!

Militant. Hansen's clear, concise, and thoughtful writing on a complex subject certainly offers an example of how to effectively approach this discussion with fellow workers. The term "workers state" (like "social relations") appears frequently in the Militant in reference to events in Eastern Europe. I think it is often unclear to many readers what these

terms mean. The excerpt from Hansen's article must have been appreciated by both long term readers and those who have just discovered the Militant recently. Perhaps the paper might consider a review of, "Class, Party and State and the Eastern European Revolution," the Education for Socialist bulletin this excerpt was taken from. A good re-

view could throw additional light on this subject and point readers to a useful resource for more study and thought.

Geoff Mirelowitz  
Seattle, Washington

### At an all time high

The Militant is now at an all time high! Your Book of the Week is another good addition.

Mildred Solem  
Duluth, Minnesota

### The 'Militant' since '71

I've been reading the Militant since 1971. Keep up the good work! Thanks!

Jeff Pike  
Houston, Texas

### Battling Rockefeller types

A relief and insights unavailable from local press. A different point of view makes me aware the whole world is battling Rockefeller types.

Michael Ybarra  
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.

## Turkey-Greece tensions heat up

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

ATHENS — The Greek Cypriot government's recent decision to obtain a sophisticated S-300 ground-to-air missile system from Moscow worth \$600 million has heightened tensions between Athens and the government of Turkey. The Greek Cypriot regime also ordered 40 T-80 tanks and 40 armored cars from the Russian government to boost its 10,000-strong National Guard.

The decision is linked to the Greek government's "New Defense Dogma," which asserts the right of Greek imperialism to bring under its umbrella the "defense of all of Hellenism." In a recent defense pact Athens agreed to send jet fighters and warships to Cyprus.

The threat of war has escalated in the area as disputes have also sharpened over airspace, territorial waters, and seabed mineral rights in the Aegean Sea.

Cyprus is already one of the world's most heavily armed regions. Since 1974 Ankara has occupied 37 percent of this Mediterranean island, maintaining 30,000 troops and 265 M-48 tanks. The Turkish military occupation took place after Greek imperialists landed troops on the island. Athens instigated a coup with the aim of annexing Cyprus to Greece. The United Nations maintains 1,200 troops, mostly from Britain, patrolling a buffer zone on the borders of this divided country. UN forces reported 900 incidents on the front line last year in which four people were killed.

The heightened tensions threaten to blow apart the southern flank of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Recently U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said, "The disagreements of our NATO allies Turkey and Greece over the Aegean and Cyprus may have consequences beyond the region, affecting NATO and the European Union [EU]." NATO Secretary General Javier Solana visited Athens and Ankara in an effort to ease tensions. His proposals included the stationing of NATO observers or ships in the Aegean and the disarmament of planes flying in the region.

### Ankara threatens military strikes

Tansu Ciller, Turkey's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, threatened military strikes if the Greek Cypriot government deploys the missiles. Speaking to his party's members of parliament, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said he hopes "Greece and Greek Cyprus give up these intolerable provocations and get smart. The Greeks know us very well and have experience on this subject. They saw the results of what they tried to do in 1922 and 1974 [referring to Greece's imperialist invasion of Turkey and its intervention of Cyprus respectively]. I hope history does not repeat itself."

Ankara is in the process of full implementation of a customs agreement with the EU. The agreement was accepted by Athens in return for a promise of early negotiations to admit Cyprus as a full EU member. The government of Turkey has threatened to block NATO's expansion into eastern Europe if it is not admitted into the EU. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected Ankara's bid to join the EU at a meeting in Brussels March 4.

On February 25, the EU decided to call for the participation of the Northern Turkish-Cypriot Republic (NTRC) in the talks toward Cyprus's full membership in the EU. The government of the NTRC is a puppet of Ankara, set up in its occupied territory.

In response, the Greek government of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) announced that it would veto the EU's expansion to the East if the proposal became formalized. Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides accused "Britain, France, and Germany of orchestrating the proposal because of their vested interests with Turkey." Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said that "[German Foreign Minister] Klaus Kinkel and [British Foreign Secretary] Malcolm Rifkind gave a gift to Turkey. Now



Clash last year that killed one person on border dividing northern Cyprus, which is occupied by Turkish forces, and the south, dominated by Athens. The threat of war has escalated in the area in recent weeks.

they must pay the bill."

Turkey has been ruled since July 1996 by a capitalist coalition government between Erbakan's Welfare Party (WP) — described in the imperialist press as "Islamic fundamentalist" — and Ciller's right-wing True Path Party (DYP). Since coming to power Erbakan's regime has been rocked by continued economic and political "scandals" mainly leveled against its partner.

Ciller and other government officials have been accused of keeping a close collaboration with ultra-right-wing and fascist groups such as the Grey Wolves, which have been responsible for the murder of hundreds of left-wing radicals, fighters for democratic rights, and supporters of the national rights of the oppressed Kurdish people.

Ankara has continued to face resistance to its severe austerity program pushed by the International Monetary Fund, and made efforts toward closing further the democratic space that working people have conquered through struggle.

Average monthly wages a worker re-

ceives are \$102 while Türk Is — Turkey's largest union federation — estimates that a family of four needs twice that amount to make ends meet. Inflation last year ran at 83 percent.

### 200,000 workers demand wage increase

In the beginning of January public workers, among them teachers, sanitation workers, and others, joined a mass protest in Ankara. The 200,000 workers demanded wage increases. Türk Is, which organized the protest march, also called for the "democratization of Turkey."

As part of its attacks on democratic rights, Erbakan's government passed new laws under which the police have the right to shoot without warning any suspect who refuses to surrender. Local governments in Turkey's 79 municipalities now have the right to call the army to intervene when they face "emergency situations."

The capitalist coalition government and heads of the armed forces have also used the "threat of Islamic fundamentalism" as a

smoke screen to further attack democratic rights, and pose as champions of a secular Turkey.

In the city of Sincan 500 people participated in a solidarity rally with the struggle of the Palestinian people during Jerusalem Day. Bekir Gildiz, the city's mayor, organized the event. The participants gave support to Hamas and Hezbollah fighters against Israel's Zionist occupation army. Iran's ambassador to Turkey, Mohamed Reza Bakeri, one of the speakers at the rally, warned that "those who sign agreements with Israel will be punished." The government responded by arresting the mayor for "attacking the secular character of the state." Under this pressure, Iran's government recalled Bakeri back to Tehran. Ankara has signed a military agreement with Tel Aviv under which Israeli warplanes practice maneuvers in Turkish airspace, while Israeli military technicians upgrade Turkish F-4 Phantom fighters.

Four days after the solidarity rally, a column of 35 army tanks and armored personnel carriers rolled through the streets of Sincan. Headline articles in Turkey's bourgeois press were filled with stories of an imminent military coup. The military has seized power three times in recent decades — in 1960, 1971, and 1980.

On February 28, after a nine-hour meeting, Turkey's National Security Council gave a warning against "the increasing anti-establishment activities by retrogressive forces against the democratic and secular state of the Republic of Turkey." The Security Council, which includes the nation's senior military commanders, intelligence officials, and government ministers, issued a 20-point public ultimatum to Erbakan.

"Governments are formed in parliament, not in the National Security Council," Erbakan defiantly responded at a March 3 news conference in Ankara. Reflecting fissures within the regime, Ciller threatened to pull the True Path party out of the coalition government. "If needed we will withdraw from the government," she declared.

Meanwhile, the continuing uprising of working people of Albania against the pro-capitalist government of Sali Berisha, which is backed by Washington and Athens, further destabilizes NATO's southern flank. Berisha had expressed his government's willingness to bring Albania into NATO.

## Australia meeting protests visa ban on Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — Some 200 people filled Sydney's Gaelic Club March 1 for a fund-raising event for the Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein and to protest the November 1996 decision by the Australian government to bar Gerry Adams, president of the party, from visiting Australia to launch his autobiography *Before the Dawn*.

An appeal of the ban to the High Court of Australia is planned.

The Liberal-National government's action was based on Section 501 of the Migration Act, which permits the immigration minister to bar people who are not of "good character" because of past criminal conduct or their association with organizations believed to have been involved in criminal conduct. The ban was backed by Labor Party opposition leader Kim Beazley.

In the last two years, as the fight against British rule in Ireland picked up steam, Adams broke a long-standing visa ban on visits to the United States and a media ban on his voice being heard in the United Kingdom. At the end of February, however, the Clinton administration reportedly told Adams not to apply for another visa to enter the United States, while inviting leaders of the pro-British loyalist parties in northern Ireland to attend a St. Patrick's day event

at the White House.

Sinn Fein is at the forefront of the struggle to bring British domination of six of Ireland's northern counties to an end. It will stand candidates, including Adams and other fighters, in the upcoming general election for the House of Commons in the United Kingdom.

The Sydney event, organized by Australian Aid for Ireland, included a live telephone hookup with Martin McGuinness, a central leader of Sinn Fein and the party's candidate in Mid-Ulster. McGuinness noted the likelihood that the Tory government of John Major would be replaced by a Labour government. He explained that despite no signs of a change in the British Labour Party's long-standing official support for the occupation of part of Ireland by Britain, Sinn Fein remained ready to sit down and negotiate with the British government on an equal footing.

McGuinness also condemned the barbaric treatment being meted out to Irish political prisoners in English jails, noting the case of Róisín McAliskey in particular. McAliskey, now seven months' pregnant, has been subjected to repeated strip searches and a lack of adequate medical attention while being held pending extradition to Germany on trumped-up charges connected to the bomb-

ing of a British military base there.

McGuinness welcomed the participation of Aboriginal activists at the event and said that he hoped the day would soon come when they would send a representative to Sinn Fein's annual national conference, the Ard Fheis. Longtime Aboriginal activist Lyall Munro ended the evening with an explanation of the common enemy facing both Aboriginal and Irish people and pledged continued support to the fight to gain a visa for Adams.

On March 2, 90 people gathered at a monument near the Sydney suburb of Castle Hill to commemorate the 1804 Castle Hill Rebellion. The event, sponsored by the Irish National Association of Australasia, marks an uprising led by convicts sent to New South Wales, who were veterans of the 1798 mass rebellion for Irish freedom. The Castle Hill Rebellion was ruthlessly suppressed by the British colonial administration at the Battle of Vinegar Hill. Its leaders were either summarily executed or hung within a few days of its defeat.

Event organizer Tom O'Gliasain described parts of Adams's autobiography and appealed for letters of protest to Canberra.

Doug Cooper is a member of the AWU-FIME amalgamated union.