

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Building World Festival
of Youth and Students

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Palestinian protests spread in West Bank

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Fighting between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli forces has become a daily occurrence in the West Bank. On April 9, thousands poured into the streets of Hebron for the funeral of Nader Isseid, 24, who was shot the day before while protesting the murder of another Palestinian by Zionist settlers. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the crowd, who hurled back rocks and firebombs in response. "The olive branch is down and the Kalashnikov is raised," demonstrators chanted, according to the Associated Press. Thirty people were reportedly injured in the skirmish.

The spreading resistance by Palestinians over the last three weeks has been touched off by the Israeli government's decision to construct a settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim. The completion of that settlement would finish a Zionist-controlled ring around Jerusalem, cutting the area off to Palestinians, who view that city as their capital. Washington, concerned over the growing instability in the Middle East, has set about to defuse the explosive situation by meet-

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An appeal to our readers

Dear Reader,

The *Militant* urges our supporters around the world to put at the center of their activity in the coming weeks reaching out to sell subscriptions and raise money for the socialist press, and to begin making use of special sales offers from Pathfinder Press to get socialist ideas into the hands of many more fighters. All readers can be a part of this effort in many ways — showing the *Militant* around, getting contributions from co-workers and friends, and joining socialists in a multitude of political actions taking place.

The charts on pages 4 and 5 of this week's issue show we face a challenge in meeting the twin goals of raising \$110,000 to fund

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'Stop police brutality!'

N.Y. cops shoot another young Black in the back

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

NEW YORK — Less than two days before a planned demonstration against police brutality and racism, New York City cops killed 16-year-old Kevin Cedeno, shooting him in the back at 3 a.m. April 6 as he was running down the street. The police claimed that Cedeno, who is Black, was holding a 22-inch machete and the officer who killed him, Anthony Pellegrini, feared for his life. The next day the daily newspapers featured large photos of the machete that cops said they had found at Cedeno's side.

The day of the shooting, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani immediately defended the cops, saying, "If you come at police officers in a situation where they're taking police action, and you continue to come at them, they have to protect themselves and to protect anybody else in the neighborhood."

The mayor retreated at a news conference the next day, after autopsy results confirmed that Cedeno had been shot in the back. "There's no possible way to judge this event without knowing all of the facts," he said.

Kevin's mother, Roma Cedeno, said she was at her job in Baltimore when she learned that her son had been shot. "My daughter and his girlfriend were right there, not eight feet away from him," she told the *Militant*. "They just heard a shot. The cop was walking up behind him and didn't say anything before he shot him." Cedeno's girlfriend, Thomasina Jeffrey, who is the mother of their infant child, told reporters outside the

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As we go to press, members of United Auto Workers Local 51 have walked out at Chrysler's engine plant in Warren, Michigan. Auto workers are also on strike against General Motors in Oklahoma City.

—See article on page 11



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Fighters against police brutality protest in front of City Hall, New York, April 7.

Italian gov't is ready to head military occupation of Albania

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The parliament of Italy voted April 9 to send 2,500 troops to lead a 6,000-strong force to occupy Albania. The imperialist military intervention comes in response to the two-month-old revolt against the pro-capitalist regime of President Sali Berisha. Italian premier Romano Prodi said the force, blessed by the vote of the United Nations Security Council, will begin landing April 14. After the Italian legislature gave its stamp of approval, the government of Spain deployed two ships carrying 325 soldiers from its southern coast. French troops were already on their way to Albania.

Paris, which initiated the proposal for the military occupation of this Balkan workers

state, is slated to send 1,000 soldiers. The government of Greece is readying its contingent of 700 men. Other capitalist regimes participating in the intervention include those of Austria, Denmark, and Turkey. The government of Romanian premier Victor Ciorbea, the one regime in Eastern Europe with strong ties to France, is also sending 400 soldiers. The governments of Hungary and Slovenia, which were slated last week to send 100 troops each, backed out.

The vote in the Italian Chamber of Deputies was 503-85 in favor of intervention. The Senate had approved the proposal a day earlier. Communist Refoundation, the successor of the former Communist Party, op-

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Imperialists prepare to send troops into Zaire, as rebels make gains

BY MEGAN ARNEY

From U.S. marines stationed in Brazzaville, Congo, and the *USS Nassau* just off the coast of central Africa, to the stepped up propaganda of horrific pictures of refugees in the big-business press, Washington and other imperialist powers are gearing up for militarily intervention in Zaire.

This comes as rebel forces in that country have made huge gains, taking several major cities in the southern and central parts of the country and controlling most of Zaire's gold, diamond, copper, and cobalt mines. Troops of the Alliance for Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire are now positioned near the city of Bandundu — a mere 160 miles northeast of the capital city of Kinshasa. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila has said they intend to be in the capital by June, the *Washington Post* reported April 8.

Meanwhile, the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko is getting increasingly desperate. On April 8, Mobutu declared a state of emergency and had his newly appointed prime minister, Etienne Tshisekedi, placed under house arrest.

The April 9 *Washington Post* reported

that the Clinton administration has conveyed to the Zairian president through African officials its desire for Mobutu to resign. Washington, which played a central role in installing Mobutu Sese Seko in power on the blood and bones of the independence fighters in Zaire in the 1960s, backed the dictatorship with millions of dollars until his imminent downfall became clear.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry said April 9, "Mobutuism is about to become a creature of history." Assistant secretary of state for African Affairs George Moose called the Mobutu regime "bankrupt" and "a thing of the past."

Some 1,800 U.S. troops arrived in Brazzaville a few weeks ago and set up a military base at the international airport, just across the Congo River from the

Zairian capital. On April 8, the Associated Press reported that U.S. marines are practicing military maneuvers in that Congo city. The *USS Nassau*, an amphibious assault

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Eyewitness Report from

Albania and Yugoslavia

WHY WORKING PEOPLE SHOULD
OPPOSE U.S. INTERVENTION

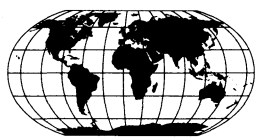
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How abortion rights activists can fight the right — page 4



Bolivian hospital workers strike

Hospital and clinic workers in Bolivia went on a general strike April 1 to reject the government's offer of a 7.5 percent pay raise and demand 11.5 percent. Organized by the Confederation of Healthcare Workers, the strikers have left only emergency care services operational. Unionists say that in addition to the indefinite walkout they are planning other actions, such as a hunger strike and possibly an all-out strike, leaving even emergency rooms understaffed. The Bolivian minister of labor declared the work stoppage illegal, and threatened to lay charges against the union leaders if they shut down the hospitals and clinics throughout the country.

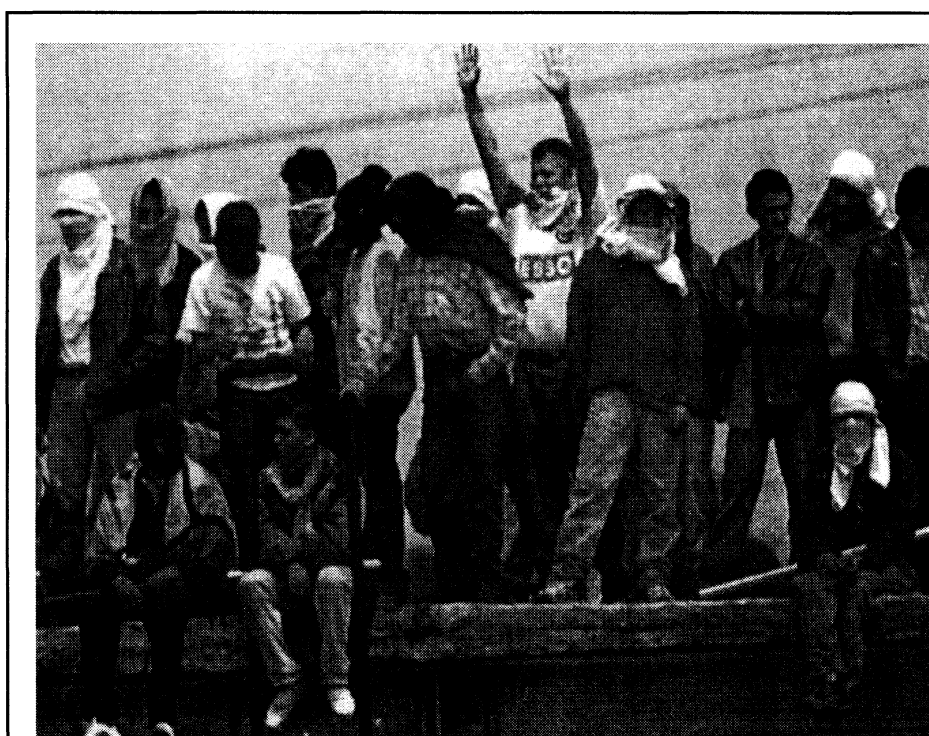
Torture by Peru army exposed

The Peruvian Army "took out its frustrations on coffee farmers who live near" rebel bases, peasants told an Associated Press reporter. The news article reports the army strung up a 17-year-old peasant with electrical wire, repeatedly dunked his head in a bucket of water, and held him knife-point to get him to sign a confession stating he was a rebel with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement. Some 40 people were arrested in the past two months and many underwent comparable beating and torture. The army denies these charges, insisting instead that it "dealt a blow to the rebels." Soldiers reportedly broke into people's homes, conducting searches and robbing food.

Brazil cops are violent criminals

Nine Brazilian military cops were arrested and five were detained April 2, after they were caught on film March 7 while carrying out "extortion and torturing citizens" in a shantytown in the outskirts of São Paulo. The cops have a record of criminal activity, including eight charges of homicide, one intent toward homicide, eight acts of aggression, and one sexual assault charge.

The Brazilian newspaper, *Jornal Do Brazil*, ran an editorial denouncing the cops, saying, "Only a hypocrite could imagine that this [criminal behavior] is the exception and not the rule of the everyday life of police



Thousands of prisoners occupied La Modelo jail in Bogotá, Colombia, at the end of March, calling for better conditions and the resignation of the prison director.

whose values rot beneath the shadow of impunity."

U.S., EU spar over meat markets

Washington announced April 1 that it would block meat exports worth \$300 million from countries in the European Union (EU). This was in retaliation for the EU's rejection of U.S. hygiene standards and inspection methods in poultry plants, and refusal to import any of it. The European governments are demanding that U.S. food exports carry a certificate that meets the EU standards.

The European Commission canceled negotiations scheduled for April 1, after U.S. officials attempted to approach individual governments with proposed exports. Thirteen senators in the farm states wrote U.S. trade representative Charlene Barshefsky a

letter urging her to "stand firm" against the "continued recalcitrance [disobedience] of the EU."

More labor battles in France

In the first week of April, truckers in France called a strike for May 5, after negotiations on retirement questions fell apart. Four of the main truckers' unions in France withheld their labor four months ago, blocking major roads, and paralyzing industries all over the region. At that time strikers had demanded the retirement age be brought down from 60 to 55. Now workers plan to strike because the bosses failed to implement the agreement by the March 31 deadline.

On April 1, airline ground crews and pilots voted to extend a walkout at Air France Europe another 24 hours, in protest of the company's proposed merger with Air France. The state-owned airline had to cancel most of its morning flights. Thousands of doctors and striking interns marched through Paris April 3 in a national protest against government plans to cut health care funds from the budget. The month-old strike has shut down many of France's university hospitals.

Cops attack protests in Indonesia

Hundreds of students at Gadjah Mada University in Eastern Indonesia protested April 1-2, calling for a boycott of the elections coming in May. The government called in cops, who arrested 24 activists on the first day of the protests and, according to the *Jakarta Post*, beat at least five people unconscious the next day.

Eight of the students arrested will be charged with inciting people not to vote,

punishable by up to five years in prison.

South Korean steel in shambles

First, in January, the south Korean company Hanbo Steel went down with a nearly \$6 billion debt. Then on March 19, Sammi Steel, part of the 26th largest conglomerate in the country, announced it used \$1.25 million more dollars than it had. "Jittery lenders are responding by withholding further credit, prompting fears of bankruptcies," warns the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. Now stock traders have a "blacklist" of 20 firms dancing on the edge of disaster. Lending from south Korea's banks has tightened, even to the top 10 conglomerates. Finance and Economy Minister Kang Kyong Shik said the government "is no longer able or willing to rescue poorly managed, bankrupt companies." The collapse of two south Korean steel producers in the same financial quarter has the economic magazine *Far Eastern Economic Review* writers saying, "It's time to sound the alarm bells."

Tokyo to bail out two big banks

The Japanese government made the decision to bail out two of its top-20 banking institutions — Nippon Credit Bank and Hokkaido Takushoku Bank — both of whom have amassed huge bad debts. Tokyo is calling for other large banks and industries to offer up 150 billion yen (US\$1.2 billion) in loans for the bailout. Alicia Ogawa, a banking analyst at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd., said that this way of proceeding is "a sign that they [Japanese capitalists] don't have anything else up their sleeve." Nippon will be liquidating its three affiliates, closing down its overseas operations, and cutting 20 percent of its workforce, while lowering salaries for those who remain. Takushoku will merge with Hokkaido Bank, formerly its main competitor.

Farmworkers' pay fell sharply

In the last two decades, real wages earned by farmworkers have fallen by as much as 20 percent or more. Don Villarejo, executive director of the California Institute for Rural Studies, places wage decline at over 25 percent. Conservative estimates from the Department of Agriculture put the pay drop at 7 percent. Farm workers' annual earnings average a mere \$8,000. Some of the agricultural toilers have health-care benefits and pensions, but the majority of workers do not. Farmworkers in many states are many times also denied time-and-a-half for working over eight hours.

Farmworkers waged a 15-year struggle for better working conditions beginning in the early 1960s. The United Farm Workers of America helped lead the drive for unionization appealing to the consciousness of national oppression among Chicano and Mexican workers. It played a major role in the fight for Chicano rights at that time, winning scores of union contracts in the 1970s.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

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"I believe the *Militant* is the leading global newspaper that gives an honest and working-class perspective of world events and the clash of the classes that is going on around the world. I don't know of any newspaper that combines perspectives from Bosnia, New Zealand, the U.S., and other countries in one paper. People should go out and read the *Militant*."

Larry Ginter, farmer-activist in Rhodes, Iowa

THE MILITANT



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Millions strike for back pay in Russia

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Millions of Russian workers participated in a nationwide strike March 27 to protest sharply declining economic conditions. It was the largest strike against the government since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the *New York Times* reported. Nearly 100,000 people gathered in the streets of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and there were protests in more than 1,200 other cities. Although the government had officially approved the rallies, the Interior Ministry deployed 16,000 cops in Moscow alone.

Russian authorities said 2 million workers attended the demonstrations, while Mikhail Shmakov, a trade union official, asserted that 20 million joined the protest for back payment of wages and pensions. Millions of workers have gone unpaid for months. "Our patience has blown up," declared Ivan Ivanov, a retired shipyard worker who hasn't received his pension in three months.

At least \$10 billion is owed to workers and pensioners. One week before the protest, the government paid \$263 million in back wages to workers in the defense industry. The regime also paid millions to teachers the day of the strike.

"Every day we face the same basic struggle: not to die from hunger," said Tatyana Tytiokhova, a teacher in Ulianovsk. She last received her \$53 monthly salary in December. "It's an embarrassment. Our wages are unpaid, the classrooms are cold and run-down. We would starve if each spring my parents did not go out and tend the family garden plot." Tytiokhova participated in a walkout during the first week of March with teachers from seven other schools in the town, which is 1,000 miles east of Moscow.

Economy continues to deteriorate

Economic conditions in Russia continue to deteriorate. This is reflected in the birth rate, which dropped from 17 births per 1,000 residents in 1985 to just nine per 1,000 in 1996. Demographers estimate the population will sink from 147 million to 123 million people over the next three decades.

While capitalist investors continue their "hunt for the Siberian Tiger economy," as one bourgeois paper put it, Russia's gross

domestic product dropped 6 percent in 1996, the fifth decline in as many years. Industrial investment plummeted 18 percent last year, while some \$20 billion of domestic capital fled the country. An article in London's *Financial Times* reported that "\$60 billion had flowed out of Russia over the last five years and that capital was continuing to leave at a rate of \$12 billion a year." Capital flight from Russia was 10 times greater than the amount of foreign direct capital invested last year.

In one example of capital flight, the U.S.-based General Electric announced plans to shut down its Moscow distribution company in April, after tax officials seized its bank account in October to collect taxes the company claimed it had paid.

In his first major speech in nearly a year, Russian president Boris Yeltsin vowed on March 6 to crack down on tax evasion by regional governments and state enterprises. "Listen to my warning," he bellowed. "You have to abide by the law whether you like it or not." Yeltsin's address was partly a response to pressure by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which suspended a \$10.1 billion loan twice after demanding reversal of falling revenues. Officials of the imperialist lending agency announced April 3 they would reinstate the loan on the condition that Yeltsin follows through on his pledged crackdown.

There is, however, mounting resistance to tax payments by industrial enterprises and local governments. Nikolai Sevruygin, then-governor of Tula, threatened in early March, "If by next week we don't get money to pay our salaries, we will no longer deliver any taxes to Moscow."

Moving to battle this defiance, Yeltsin appointed Anatoly Chubais as first deputy prime minister March 7. Chubais, described in the big-business press as the "most hated public figure" in Russia, is Yeltsin's point man to press for capitalist reforms. Upon taking his new post, Chubais pledged to step up war against so-called tax dodgers and officials of regional governments for exacerbating social tensions. The appointment of Chubais was "eagerly anticipated" by imperialist investors, who view him as their key person for pressing attacks against the working class and moves to reestablish capi-



Nearly 100,000 demonstrated in Moscow March 27 on a day of national protest

talist property relations.

Chubais headed Moscow's privatization program in the early years of Yeltsin's administration. At that time, Washington and other imperialist powers advised the Russian president to impose "shock therapy" against the workers, including wholesale plant shutdowns and the elimination of food, rent, and other price subsidies. Other entitlements such as education, pension, and health benefits would be slashed.

Resistance to market 'reforms'

One of the latest "reforms," reducing housing subsidies, was rejected by Valery Shantsev, deputy mayor of Moscow. "No matter what they [the federal authorities] do to us we will not implement it [the housing reforms]," he stated. Former finance minister Boris Fyodorov warned that cutting the housing subsidy "is a very dangerous thing. There will be a protest."

Shantsev dismissed pressure from Chubais to enforce the housing plan. "Chubais could be sacked tomorrow," he noted referring to January 1996, when Chubais was fired from his post as deputy prime minister by Yeltsin.

Another sign of the obstacles to more capitalist measures is Moscow's reluctance to crack down on the Avtovaz auto factory, the largest carmaker in Russia, which owes \$500 million in taxes and penalties to the federal treasury. The main plant employs 111,000 workers and the company provides a range of services including kindergartens,

clinics, and other social benefits, highlighting the social relations that exist under the workers state. While tax authorities have initiated bankruptcy proceedings against many enterprises, including Avtovaz, closing down the company with forced bankruptcy would trigger a massive social upheaval.

Meanwhile, IMF officials are also prodding the Yeltsin regime to end the state monopoly in other core aspects of the economic system such as railways, oil transport, electricity generation, and gas supply. Expressing his willingness to acquiesce on these and other imperialist demands, Yeltsin said on national radio after his March 20-21 summit with U.S. president William Clinton, "I am aware that my opponents reproach me for not being tough enough at the negotiations. Of course, we could have knitted our brows and pounded the table with our shoes as happened during the cold war years. But what would we have achieved? Another round of irreconcilable enmity, a new isolation for Russia."

As Washington steps up its war preparations against Moscow through its drive to expand the NATO military alliance up to Russia's border, the Clinton administration also moved to isolate the neighboring Stalinist regime of Aleksandr Lukashenko of Belarus. Lukashenko, an outspoken opponent of NATO expansion, has pushed for reunification with Russia, a popular policy in this country of 10 million people sandwiched between Poland and Russia. Officials of Russia and Belarus signed an outline of a union treaty April 2 that pledged closer cooperation in military, economic, and social matters, although most of the details were left open. The treaty fell far short of the Belarus government's hopes for a full monetary union.

The U.S. government announced it was halting \$40 million in aid to Belarus after Serzh Alexandrov, the U.S. embassy's first secretary in Minsk, was expelled March 24 for provoking violent clashes with riot cops. He was participating in a protest of 10,000 people. After the expulsion of Alexandrov, the White House ordered Vladimir Gramyka, the Belarussian first secretary and consul, to leave the United States March 26.

Thousands rally as prime minister 'steps aside' in Papua New Guinea

BY BOB AIKEN
AND DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — A jubilant crowd of several thousand demonstrators blockading the Papua New Guinea (PNG) parliament in Port Moresby March 26 celebrated the news that Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan had just "stepped aside."

Facing a 10-day army mutiny and rising mass protests, Chan announced that he, Deputy Prime Minister Chris Haiveta, and Minister of Defence Mathias Ijape would do so while an inquiry is held into a US\$36 million contract between the PNG government and mercenary outfit Sandline International. Sandline was hired to carry out an offensive on the island of Bougainville, where the Bougainville Revolutionary Army has effectively defeated the PNG Defence Force in a nine-year guerrilla war.

The previous evening demonstrators were outraged when Parliament defeated, 59-38, a watered-down motion calling on Chan to step aside during the inquiry, which he announced March 21. During the five-hour debate, chants of "Resign!" could easily be heard inside from the 5,000 students, workers, and shantytown dwellers massed outside. Hundreds of armed police did not attempt to disperse the crowd.

Within minutes of the vote, protesters began stopping cars and blocking the legislators from leaving. A number of armed enlisted men from the Murray Barracks, the main military base, defied orders and joined the blockade.

Chan reportedly escaped by donning a police uniform and hiding in a police ve-

hicle. Some MPs scaled a fence separating Parliament from a golf course. Most remained trapped over night.

The political crisis was sparked in PNG March 17, when the commander of the PNG Defence Force, Brig.-Gen. Jerry Singirok, announced that the army would no longer cooperate with Sandline. He also demanded that the three ministers resign and an inquiry be held.

Despite being sacked by Chan, Singirok continued to press these demands from within the barracks.

The mercenaries, apart from their commander, retired British army Lt. Col. Timothy Spicer, were expelled from PNG. Spicer was released into the care of UK High Commissioner Robert Low, pending charges of illegally possessing a hand gun.

Students at the University of PNG Waigani campus in Port Moresby were at the center of the protests. They boycotted class and held daily forums. "Our collective view," Student Representative Council president Kevin Kepore, said, "is that there are more illegal things that this government has been involved in besides the Sandline International issue."

By March 24, Chan had become increasingly isolated. Five cabinet ministers resigned, with Governor-General Sir Wiwa Korowi and church leaders calling on Chan to step aside pending the outcome of the inquiry.

"The processes of parliamentary democracy appear to be working," Australian prime minister John Howard commented, as he welcomed Chan's decision to stand

down. The PNG prime minister had earlier requested that Canberra send troops to Port Moresby to help restore order. Canberra, for its part, refused to rule out sending troops to "protect" the 12,000 Australian citizens in PNG.

The Australian government's strenuous objection to the use of mercenaries flowed from the need to reinforce its standing as the main military force in the region and its assessment that the mercenaries would destabilize the political situation in PNG, its most important former colony. Its intervention in PNG affairs, including placing its troops on alert, sparked virtually no protests in Australia.

Major Walter Enuma, a key Singirok supporter, said March 23, "We would like to see this thing off the streets and back into the political arena."

Singirok declared March 24, the eve of his deadline to Chan, that "the matter is now with the Parliament." Addressing a group of soldiers, the "sacked" general called for discipline, declaring, "We are intact!" The PNG cabinet appointed the mining and petroleum minister, John Giheno, as caretaker prime minister March 27. Some leaders of the anti-Chan protests see this as merely a cabinet shuffle, with Chan remaining in charge behind the scenes. Chan declared that he will return to office once he is cleared by the inquiry.

Bob Aiken is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and Doug Cooper is a member of the AWU-FIME amalgamated union.

Thomas Sankara Speaks

Thomas Sankara Speaks

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The leader of the Burkina Faso revolution recounts how peasants and workers in this West African country began confronting hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness prior to the 1987 coup in which Sankara was murdered. \$18.95

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We need to mobilize to defend abortion rights

BY ESTELLE DEBATES

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — On March 20 the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to ban the "intact dilation and evacuation" abortion procedure sometimes used in late-term abortions. The Senate is expected to pass the bill later this month. Supporters of women's rights need to mobilize against this latest attempt by Congress to further erode the right to choose abortion. But so far, there has been no effective response by the women's rights movement.

In fact, Naomi Wolf, a prominent feminist writer, put forward what amounts to a complete capitulation to the assault in an April 3 op-ed piece published by the *New*

will only embolden the ultraright, including those who have organized physical attacks on abortion rights activists and clinic personnel.

Abortion is a woman's right

The right to abortion, codified in the Jan. 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, was one of the biggest conquests of the women's liberation movement. This right was won by a movement that argued that a woman has a right to control her own body and her own life, to decide when and whether to have a child. On that basis, an effective struggle was waged that won a majority of people to support abortion rights.

But ever since that 1973 victory, there has been a bipartisan effort to overturn abortion rights, beginning with the passage of the Hyde Amendment in 1976 that banned the use of federal funds for abortion. Since then more inroads have been made by local, state, and federal officials, including parental consent laws, 24-hour waiting periods, and forced "counseling." In recent years several states have passed "fetal rights" legislation. The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy said there have been nearly 200 cases in which women have been prosecuted for endangering the "lives" of fetuses under such laws.

These moves by the government and the resulting erosion of abortion rights have emboldened rightist forces to take aggressive action in the streets. This process has been accelerated in the 1990s by the deepening assault by the employers and their government on workers' rights in response to the growing economic crisis of capitalism.

In the summer of 1991, rightist forces carried out a successful offensive, shutting down an abortion clinic for nearly seven weeks in Wichita, Kansas. In the spring of that year, members of the Wichita City Council, backed by the mayor, proposed a new city ordinance that would have severely restricted abortion rights and made it policy of the city that life begins at conception. In July the ordinance was defeated in a 4 to 3 vote.

The next week Operation Rescue, a right-wing antiabortion outfit, announced a "Sum-



Militant/Sara Lobman

Youth stepped forward in defending abortion clinics around the country, such as the one above in Houston, Texas, August 1992, to push back the offensive of Operation Rescue. The rightists had shut down a clinic in Wichita, Kansas, the summer of 1991.

mer of Mercy" campaign to close down abortion clinics in the city. The initial response of national women's rights organizations was to urge that there be no public effort to counter the assaults, but to instead rely on the cops and the courts to enforce the law of the land.

With the full support of the mayor, the governor of Kansas, and the cops — and with no resistance in sight — thousands of rightists descended on Wichita. They succeeded in showing their strength and capacity to mobilize and win government support. With their success in Kansas, leaders of the organization announced they would take back abortion rights city by city, and launched a campaign to do so.

In an article published in the *Militant* at the time, I noted, "In their aggressive street mobilizations, the rightists in Wichita showed a face of incipient American fascism." While Operation Rescue is not itself a fascist organization, the coming years of economic crisis and class polarization will engender fascist movements. "These forces will pose 'radical' solutions to the crises of the day and use the streets to try to shift the relationship of forces against, and deal blows to, the workers' movement and others who seek to resist the employers' offensive. They will act not solely against abortion rights but against broader democratic rights that aid workers in their struggles," I wrote in 1991. This remains the case today.

Mobilizations push back clinic attacks

Operation Rescue never again scored another Wichita, as thousands of people — many of them young — turned out in city after city to defend the clinics against the right-wing assault. From Buffalo, New York, to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the rightists were outmobilized in disciplined counter-demonstrations and defeated over the following year. Abortion rights support-

ers relied on and organized themselves to push back the right-wing offensive. A half-million people marched in Washington, D.C., in April 1992, the largest abortion rights action ever in the United States.

Under the pressure of this public defense of abortion rights, the cops and courts began arresting and sentencing those responsible for the attacks. The numbers of those willing to join in the assaults began to quickly dwindle.

Coming out of this defeat, elements within the right wing turned to acts of desperation to continue the assault. In 1993 Dr. David Gunn was murdered outside a clinic in Pensacola, Florida. In 1994 clinic escort James Barrett and Dr. John Bayard Britton were shot to death at another Pensacola clinic. The murder of two receptionists and the injury of five others at abortion clinics in Brookline, Massachusetts, on Dec. 30, 1995, prompted new mobilizations demanding an end to clinic violence and in defense of abortion rights.

The consistent mobilizations of defenders of women's rights pushed the right-wing thugs into retreat, but the fact is, such mobilizations have been few and far between in recent years. Attempts by Congress to ban an abortion procedure, and commentaries like Wolf's, will only serve to embolden rightist assaults to re-emerge once again.

While Wolf may be ready to throw in the towel on abortion rights, the mobilizations in city after city in recent years show that tens of thousands of ordinary working people and youth are not. And it is these forces that can be relied upon to act in defense of a woman's right to choose, including facing the right wing in the streets.

Now is the time for public actions, speak-outs, and teach-ins that present a clear defense of a woman's right to control her own body and make all decisions about it — including a late term abortion.

AS I SEE IT

York Times entitled "Pro-Choice and Pro-Life."

Wolf says its time to give up the "euphemism" of demanding the right to abortion as "a woman's choice." We should stop speaking of the issue as "privacy" and "rights." Instead, "what if we called abortion what many believe it to be: a failure.... What if we called the policies that sustain, tolerate and even guarantee the highest abortion rate of any industrialized nation what they should be called: crimes against women?" she suggests.

Wolf calls for "common ground" between activists from both sides of the battle, challenging pro-choicers to "abandon a dogmatic approach" of defending "a woman's choice" and challenges "pro-lifers to separate from the demagogues in their ranks and join us in the drive to prevent unwanted pregnancy." She envisions women's rights activists joining with the right to work on "ensuring better prenatal care; making adoption easier; reducing the rate of teen pregnancy," etc., and calls on the federal government to champion this "common ground" approach.

But the fight to defend abortion rights is simply the front line in defending women's rights in general and the gains of the working class as a whole. Giving ground on this

CONTRIBUTE TO THE MILITANT FUND

Country/City	Goal	Paid	%
France	\$350	\$275	79%
United States			
Denver	\$40	\$40	100%
New York	\$12,000	\$10,041	84%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$2,810	70%
San Francisco	\$9,000	\$6,190	69%
Peoria	\$1,800	\$1,203	67%
Houston	\$4,000	\$2,561	64%
Detroit	\$4,750	\$2,885	61%
Greensboro	\$2,250	\$1,365	61%
Atlanta	\$3,500	\$2,084	60%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$4,161	46%
Newark	\$7,500	\$3,453	46%
Salt Lake City	\$2,000	\$890	45%
Miami	\$2,000	\$880	44%
Des Moines	\$2,000	\$819	41%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$2,280	38%
Pittsburgh	\$5,000	\$1,830	37%
Cleveland	\$2,500	\$905	36%
Washington, D.C.	\$2,800	\$870	31%
Birmingham	\$2,300	\$672	29%
Boston	\$4,500	\$1,310	29%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$1,970	26%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$315	21%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$950	14%
Other	\$658	\$658	100%
U.S. total	\$103,598	\$51,142	49%
United Kingdom			
London	\$750	\$577	77%
Manchester	\$750	\$105	14%
UK total	\$1,500	\$682	45%
New Zealand			
Christchurch	\$1,750	\$926	47%
Auckland	\$3,500	\$1,393	35%
Wellington	\$140	\$0	0%
NZ total	\$5,390	\$2,319	38%
Canada			
Toronto	\$1,440	\$1,000	69%
Montreal	\$2,000	\$433	22%
Vancouver	\$1,080	\$0	0%
Canada total	\$4,520	\$1,433	32%
Australia	\$1,000	\$0	0%
Sweden	\$200	\$0	0%
International total	\$116,558	\$55,851	51%
Should be	\$110,000	\$73,700	67%

\$110,000!

\$100,000

\$90,000

\$80,000

\$70,000

\$60,000

\$50,000

\$40,000

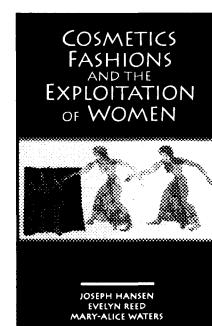
\$30,000

\$20,000

\$10,000

To contribute to the *Militant* Fund contact the supporters nearest you listed on page 12 or send donations via mail to: The Militant, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

More reading on the fight for Women's Rights



Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

JOSEPH HANSEN, EVELYN REED, AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

How big business promotes cosmetics to generate profits and perpetuate the oppression of women. In her introduction, Mary-Alice Waters explains how the entry of women into the workforce during and after World War II irreversibly changed U.S. society and laid the basis for a renewed rise of struggles for women's equality. \$12.95

Counter-Mobilization

A strategy to Fight Racist and Fascist Attacks

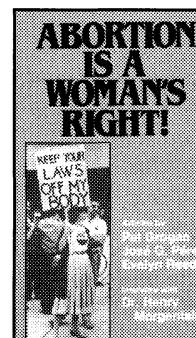
FARRELL DOBBS

A discussion on strategy and tactics in the fight against fascist attacks on the labor movement, drawing on the experiences of the Minneapolis Teamsters movement of the 1930s. \$5.00

Abortion is a Woman's Right!

PAT GROGAN AND OTHERS

Why abortion rights are central to the fight for the full emancipation of women. Booklet \$3.00



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Sales drive picks up steam

BY GREG McCARTAN
AND MA'MUDSHIRVANI

Socialist workers are stepping up their efforts around the world to reach out with revolutionary literature to workers and young people. The target week to sell subscriptions to the *Militant* coincided with the start of a campaign to expand sales of books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder. Tens of thousands of books have been made available to Pathfinder bookstores at special sale prices, and socialists have put campaigning to get out into politics with this literature at the center of their activities in coming weeks and months.

Initial reports received this week indicate that this two-pronged campaign with the paper and the books is producing rich political discussions and increased sales, as members of the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party joined in protest actions, set up street-corner literature tables, talked with fellow unionists on the job, and worked with local Pathfinder bookstores to get special sales under way.

The first results of the April 5-12 target week are in, with 163 new readers signed up for the *Militant* this week, 74 more than the previous week and the highest number since the drive started four weeks ago. We now stand at 35 percent of the drive, still well behind where we need to be in order to meet the goal on time and in full.

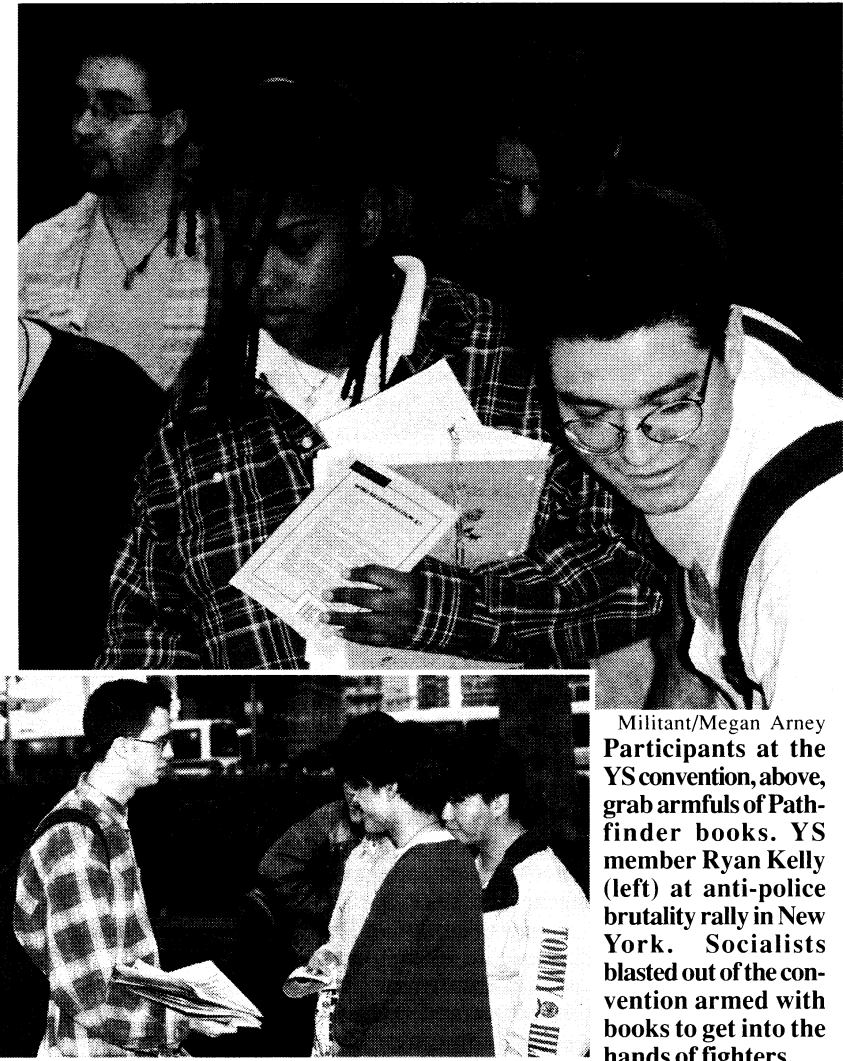
One indication that socialists intend to build on this week's effort is that Pathfinder received orders from 20 Pathfinder bookstores for the special sale, for a total of some 12,000 books. The YS chapter in Spokane ordered 178 books, including one set of *Communist International in Lenin's Time* and one set of *Writings of Trotsky*.

Coming out of the Young Socialists convention held in Atlanta at the end of March, socialist workers in Minnesota organized to bring the big sale of Pathfinder books to their co-workers. Michael Pennock reports that "in the first eight days of April eight Pathfinder books have been sold on the job to industrial union members — three each to IAM and USWA members and one each to OCAW and UAW members.

"In the first four days of the nine-day target period, supporters in the Twin Cities have already sold more introductory *Militant* subscriptions than during any other full week of the drive. A team to Carleton College and Mankato State University in southeastern Minnesota sold seven *Militant* and one *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, a copy of *New International*, and a dozen Pathfinder books and pamphlets."

Ellen Berman reports: "The target week got off to a great start in the San Francisco Bay area. Literature sales have been brisk, with a total of 40 Pathfinder titles sold the first three days of the target week. Socialists attended a building event for an April 13 farm workers march in Watsonville, and sold six subscriptions to the *Militant*. Another *Militant* subscription was sold to a high school student at a rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and several more at an all-day conference on Cuba. Two *Militant* subscriptions were sold by socialists to co-workers, one in the OCAW, another in the UTU."

Supporters of the *Militant* from Detroit, Erie, Cleveland, Morgantown, and Pittsburgh participated in the April 5 anti-Klan demonstrations in Pittsburgh, reports Edwin Fruit. "We set up two literature tables with Pathfinder books and the *Militant*, and a socialist open house was held at the Pathfinder Bookstore following the protests. Over 40 people attended, many coming to a



Militant/Megan Arney
Participants at the YS convention, above, grab armfuls of Pathfinder books. YS member Ryan Kelly (left) at anti-police brutality rally in New York. Socialists blasted out of the convention armed with books to get into the hands of fighters.

socialist event for the first time. Between the table there and the rally, over 20 Pathfinder titles were sold — the best-seller being the Education for Socialists bulletin *Counterrevolution: A Strategy to Fight Racist and Fascist Attacks*. Forty single copies of the *Militant*, and two *Militant* and one *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions were sold. Five high school students at the open house signed up for more information."

UNITE member Joan Paltrineri writes: "Workers involved in a union recognition fight at the Case Farms poultry plant in Morganton, North Carolina, bought three subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and ordered 14 Pathfinder books after looking over a 'super saver' order form of books that are being offered at a steep discount. One worker who is a *Militant* subscriber discussed the recent articles by the special *Militant* reporting team to Albania and Yugoslavia. He told the socialists selling the *Militant* that in his view the 'imperialists would have to kill the workers of Albania in order to establish capitalism there.'"

Before going out, the sales team took time to highlight with a yellow marker all the Spanish titles in the Pathfinder catalog that are available during the special sale. The team reviewed the titles with workers while selling subscriptions. One leader of the contract fight took advantage of the sale to buy a copy of *La revolución traicionada* (The Revolution Betrayed) by Leon Trotsky, and *Obras escogidas de Lenin*, a 12-volume set of writings by the Russian Bolshevik leader.

Janet Roth, from Auckland, New Zealand, sent the following information: "One of the ways we've kept on target for *Militant* subscriptions is through consistent phoning of people who bought a single copy of the *Militant* and asked us to call them about a subscription once they had read it.

For example, the first week of the drive we spent four days at Auckland University, selling 42 single copies but no subscriptions. Through calling people back we got six subscriptions, and one person bought a copy of *New International*."

Steelworker Betsey Farley writes: "Pathfinder distributors in Birmingham brought a lot of books back for the super saver sale from the Young Socialists convention. We marked down selected titles to 50 percent off. At a Young Socialists literature table on

the UAB campus the next day, students purchased a copy of *The Final Speeches* by Malcolm X, along with two subscriptions to the *Militant* and several single copies. One student who bought a book and a subscription said he would like to join the YS.

Socialists at a table a few days later sold a copy of *Women's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed. Several students said they would come back next week for a discussion on women's liberation and socialism sponsored by the YS at a coffee house near the campus.

Socialists in New York sold 20 Pathfinder titles at the 1997 Socialist Scholars Conference, reports Ruth Nebbia.

Socialists who are members of UNITE and work at Lord West, a garment shop, circulated a list of Pathfinder titles on sale at special prices to their co-workers. Seven signed up to get Spanish-language books when they get paid at the end of the week.

WEEK 4

SPRING SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE March 8 – April 26
Militant • Perspectiva Mundial • New International

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	35	23	66%	2	1	14	2
Christchurch	25	13	52%	1	1	10	0
Wellington	3	1	33%			1	0
N.Z. total	63	37	59%	3	2	25	2
GREECE	5	2	40%			3	1
SWEDEN	15	5	33%	7	1	10	5
UNITED STATES							
Miami	30	22	73%	15	7	20	7
Peoria, IL	25	18	72%	3	2	10	12
Greensboro, NC	30	17	57%	15	6	10	9
Boston	30	15	50%	10	6	20	15
Atlanta	27	13	48%	14	9	16	14
Los Angeles	100	44	44%	50	24	50	11
San Francisco	70	29	41%	30	15	35	17
Birmingham, AL	32	13	41%	5	1	15	1
Washington, DC	42	16	38%	15	7	15	12
Des Moines	40	15	38%	25	3	20	3
Pittsburgh	45	15	33%	4	0	15	14
Salt Lake City	24	8	33%	10	7	8	11
Seattle	60	20	33%	25	4	25	2
Twin Cities, MN	70	23	33%	10	0	15	3
Detroit	40	12	30%	7	1	15	4
New York	150	41	27%	75	29	65	20
Philadelphia	35	9	26%	10	3	10	2
Denver	4	1	25%	4	2	3	0
Houston	50	12	24%	20	5	20	7
Newark, NJ	130	29	22%	45	20	60	11
Cleveland	35	7	20%	7	2	10	2
Chicago	70	13	19%	25	8	30	21
Morgantown, WV	27	2	7%	2	0	10	0
Cincinnati	5	0	0%	1	0	0	0
Spokane, WA	10	0	0%	2	0	6	0
Tucson	4	0	0%	2	0	0	0
YS convention							317
U.S. total	1185	394	33%	431	161	503	515
AUSTRALIA	18	5	28%	3	1	10	6
CANADA							
Vancouver	40	18	45%	5	0	15	3
Toronto	30	7	23%	7	2	10	0
Montreal	35	4	11%	10	1	35	10
CANADA total	105	29	28%	22	3	60	13
UNITED KINGDOM							
Manchester	21	6	29%	2	0	10	4
London	45	8	18%	8	5	25	6
U.K. total	66	14	21%	10	5	35	10
ICELAND	10	0	0%	1	0	4	0
PUERTO RICO	1	0	0%	3	0	2	1
International totals	1468	486	35%	480	173	652	553
Should be	1400	800	57%	450	260	600	343

IN THE UNIONS

NEW ZEALAND							
MWU	6	2	33%	0	0	0	0
UFBGWU	3	1	33%	0	0	0	0
EU	7	2	29%	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	16	5	31%	0	1	0	0
CANADA							
USWA	11	3	27%	2	1	8	1
IAM	8	2	25%			7	0
TOTAL	19	5	26%	2	1	15	1
UNITED STATES							
UTU	55	21	38%	4	3	28	6
USWA	42	9	21%	8	1	31	2
OCAW	28	5	18%	5	0	18	0
IAM	72	9	13%	16	1	37	0
UNITE	21	2	10%	15	6	15	4
UAW	45	4	9%	10	1	20	3
UFCW	14	0	0%	10	1	6	1
UMWA	2	0	0%			2	0
TOTAL	279	50	18%	68	13	157	16
AUSTRALIA							
AMWU	4	0	0%			3	1

AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU — Amalgamated Metal Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Autoworkers Union; EU — Engineers Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGMU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; 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.

Building World Festival of Youth and Students

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55114. Tel: (612) 644-0051. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY MEG NOVAK
AND JACK WILLEY

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Young Socialists are joining forces with others across the country to build a large and broad delegation to the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students taking place in Cuba, July 27 - August 4. In several areas, activists are mapping out plans to get information about the festival in the hands of fighters and their organizations at political events coming up in the next few weeks. At the same time, they are working to sign up groups to endorse the U.S. Organizing Committee for the World Youth Festival.

Young Socialists are mobilizing to be a

part of several national conferences and actions in the next week. The national MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) conference in East Lansing, Michigan; a march in support of strawberry workers fighting to unionize, taking place in Watsonville, California; and the Young Feminist Summit, April 11-13, in Washington D.C. are just a few of the opportunities for Young Socialists to reach out to activists and members of organizations who will be interested in the festival. YS member Caroline Bengu reports that at the Young Feminist Summit, activists in the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition will be setting up a table to publicize the festival.

At these events YSers plan to set up meetings with activists we meet about getting involved in organizing committees in their areas, starting organizing committees where they don't yet exist, and having their group get involved in the U.S. Organizing Committee.

At De Paul University in Chicago, Latino

student groups are meeting weekly to map out plans and raise money to get to the festival. They have already held two fund-raisers at the El Yunque bookstore, including a showing of the movie *Panama Deception*. Around 50 people attended both fund-raisers.

Young Socialists in Morgantown, West Virginia, are teaming up with activists in Pittsburgh to set up meetings with groups at West Virginia State University. The YS in New York are working as a part of a local organizing committee, along with other groups including members of Project Reach, a community organization for gay, lesbian, and homeless youth, to build the festival in the New York area.

The next national meeting of the U.S. Organizing Committee is scheduled for Sunday, May 4 in New York City. Young Socialists will be following up with groups

they meet at the upcoming events and encourage them to join in the national efforts to build the delegation to the festival, including participating in the May 4 meeting.

The total cost for the festival is \$600, which covers all expenses except airfare from the United States to Nassau, Bahamas, or Cancun, Mexico, the meeting points for U.S. participants. The deadline for applications, including a \$50 application fee, is May 15, and full payment is due by June 30.

For more information or an application, write to the U.S. Organizing Committee for the World Youth Festival at 2565 Broadway #236, New York, NY 10025, or call (212) 866-7270.

A snapshot of young fighters who came to YS convention

BY NATHALIA POSES

ATLANTA — Young fighters from cities throughout the United States and from several other countries participated in the Second National Convention of the Young Socialists here, March 28-30. They discussed world politics with people involved in different struggles and were able to participate in the discussion at the eyewitness report from Albania and Yugoslavia by Argiris Malapanis, who had just returned from a reporting trip to Albania and Yugoslavia.

The entire weekend had a feeling of internationalism — as discussions could be heard in Spanish, Swedish, English, French, and other languages. One could step into the hotel lobby and participate in discussion ranging from defending the workers states in Eastern Europe and Asia, to a debate on if revolutionary minded youth and workers should even call those countries workers states, and the challenges of building a YS chapter in an area where there is only one YS member.

Megan Greene, a high school student and a new YS member in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, told *Militant* reporters that she was excited to meet a lot of the other YS members from around the country and the world. "I've picked up information about other struggles, and have promised to send them some too."

"What impressed me the most was the organization of the Young Socialists," said Michelle Werner, a student at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. "I decided to come to the convention because I wanted to discuss the fight for Quebec independence with people from other cities and countries," she added. At the conference, Werner attended a class on Quebecois independence given by YS members, Sebastian Desoutelles and Marie-Isabel Le Blanc, from Montreal. "I went to that class because everyone talks about it in Montreal — everyone has an opinion. I didn't have an opinion yet, because I wanted to find out more about it first," she told *Militant* reporters. Werner is a student leader who helped to build demonstrations at her university against education cuts.

Other classes included Revolution and Counterrevolution in Spain, The Changing Face of U.S. Politics — Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions, Black Liberation, the Cuban Revolution, Women's Liberation, the History of the Russian Revolution, Seamen in the Revolutionary Party during World War II, and the Politics of Chicano Liberation.

The fight for Black and Chicano liberation, immigrant and women's rights, defending affirmative action, and protesting police brutality were some of the discussions both delegates and conference participants hashed out. Paul Demelto, who works with the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Cleveland, said "I'm very interested in the fight for Black freedom. That is why I wanted to talk to people that are active in that fight."

Many of those who came to the convention are leading struggles from the fight for immigrant and women's rights, to defending affirmative action and the Cuban revolution. There were several young people who are from other countries who are studying in the United States, including from south Korea and South Africa.

In addition to the political discussions, convention participants brought home books to read from the huge Pathfinder sales table, which was swamped during every break.

Javier Torres, who had just joined the Young Socialists in New York, picked up *The Leninist Strategy of Party Building — The Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America* by Joseph Hansen and *New International* no. 9, featuring articles on "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution." He started reading the *New International* at the convention. "It's interesting because it talks about how you can start a revolution and then go back to capitalism," he said. "We have to learn, so that doesn't

happen again." Torres, a student at Hostos College, said he's been involved in supporting the fight for Puerto Rican independence since 1991.

Carlos Hernández, a 22-year-old elementary school teacher from Los Angeles, bought a pile of books, including *The Truth about Yugoslavia*. "I read it on the plane on the way home," he said later in an interview. "I especially liked the explanation of how what was happening [in Yugoslavia] was not an ethnic problem. I had just read an article in the *Los Angeles Times* — which I did not agree with — that explained the problems of Los Angeles were ethnic problems." The convention convinced Hernández, who has been involved in the Chicano student group MEChA and the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance, to join the Young Socialists.



Militant/Megan Arney
Activists like Javier Torres, above, came to the YS convention to discuss politics and learn about other struggles.

"Since the convention I have been building the April 13 rally in Watsonville to support the strawberry workers and the World Youth Festival in Cuba. I am working to build a chapter of the YS in Los Angeles," he said.

Nathalia Poses is a member of the Young Socialists in Miami, Florida.

Clinton says he'll slash Medicare more

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The Clinton administration proposed April 8 to cut an additional \$18 billion from Medicare, the government health program for the elderly and disabled. This would amend the five-year budget plan Clinton presented to Congress on February 6, which called for cuts of \$100 billion from Medicare and \$22 billion from Medicaid, which provides health care to low-income families.

At his January inauguration, the president said he would compromise with Republican politicians, who were pressing for slashing the entitlement by \$158 billion over six years. Instead, Clinton will cut funds by \$138 billion.

Meanwhile, under the pretext of providing health coverage for children who are now uninsured, eight Republican senators announced April 8 they would back a bill hiking cigarette taxes by 43 cents a pack — nearly tripling the regressive levy.

The proceeds would supposedly provide \$20 billion a year in grants to states to buy insurance for low-income children, a hefty boon to the insurance industry. Clinton has previously promoted similar schemes.

While the big-business politicians hail the measure, it would "probably not reach all 10.5 million children who now lack health insurance (including 3 million eligible for Medicaid who are not enrolled)," the *New York Times* reported April 9.

Washington, Seoul keep trying to coerce Pyongyang with food

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — The U.S. and south Korean governments continue to use food as a cudgel against the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including attempts to coerce Pyongyang into joining "peace talks" aimed at securing a treaty that would replace the truce that ended the 1950-53 U.S. war against Korea.

After preventing it for months, Washington said it would allow Cargill Inc., the giant U.S. grain monopoly, to sell food to the DPRK. The deal reportedly involves trading 4,000 tons of zinc for 20,000 tons of wheat. Seoul lifted its ban on private rice donations March 31. But Cargill's transaction, the private donations from south Korea, and the other food aid received by the DPRK so far, fall well short of the 2.3 million tons of extra grain needed this year.

The severe food shortages faced by north Korea are a result of massive flooding that devastated the country's farm land the last two summers. According to Catherine Bertini, the World Food Program's executive director, as things now stand Pyongyang will face "a shortfall of about 1.3 million tons." UNICEF spokesman Hans Olsen said that according to DPRK officials, 134 children have died of malnutrition in the country.

Tokyo, meanwhile, has refused to open its vast reserves of surplus rice. Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto claimed Tokyo was wary of promising food aid because of "new evidence" of alleged kidnappings of Japanese citizens by North

Korean agents in the 1970s.

Despite the lifting of its ban on privately sponsored aid, the south Korean government continues to withhold relief shipments, trying to force the DPRK to agree to the role Seoul wants to have in the proposed negotiations.

The north Korean government has said that talks should be between Pyongyang and Washington, not Seoul. "Until now, rice has been [south Korean president] Kim Young Sam's most important north Korea policy tool," said O Je Shin, director of the south Korean office of World Vision, on the day the ban was lifted. World Vision is a California based aid group.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and south Korean governments routinely organize massive war maneuvers south of the demilitarized zone that has divided the Korean peninsula since the 1950-53 war. The U.S. government maintains 37,000 troops and heavy weaponry in south Korea to this day. In January they staged air drills involving up to 200 warplanes directed against Pyongyang.

A recent trip to the north of Korea by a U.S. congressman received fairly wide coverage in the big-business press. After completing a four-day tour of the DPRK, Rep. Anthony Hall said he was "stunned by what I saw ... and by how much worse conditions have gotten since I was there last August." Although he reported he saw "evidence of slow starvation on massive scale," he said he saw no sign that hunger was on the verge of spurring a popular revolt against the government.

Black farmers discuss their fight to stay on the land

BY STU SINGER
AND JOAN PALTRINERI

TILLERY, North Carolina — One hundred twenty five Black farmers, land owners, and others met near here March 20-22 to discuss and plan measures to respond to the crisis of Black farmers. The gathering supported a call by the National Black Farmers Association for a demonstration in Washington April 23 to protest continued racist discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

While "Black Land Loss" was the title of the conference, Marcus Tillery, one of the conference organizers, explained, "The land isn't lost, it's being taken."

Conference participants included about a dozen working farmers, one a white farmer from New York state and the others Black farmers from Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. About a dozen Black landowners also participated. Their families no longer farm but they still hold title to land.

There were also a number of college students from Hampton University in Virginia, the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and Clemson University in South Carolina. And there were people connected with projects on agricultural development, environmental issues, and rural development. Some Black elected officials from the area made appearances.

Marcus Tillery said at a plenary session of the conference, "We must unite across social, political, religious and geographic boundaries. A farmer being cheated out of his land in Honduras is no different than one losing his land in Tillery. If they're not burning crosses today, they are posting foreclosure notices to accomplish the same thing."

There was a lot of formal and informal discussion about a USDA report titled "Civil Rights at the US Department of Agriculture," which documents blatant discrimination by this government agency. The report says: "According to the most recent census of agriculture ... for African Americans the number [of farms] fell from 925,000, 14 percent of all farms in 1920, to only 18,000, 1 percent of all farms in 1992." Discrimination against Chicano, Native American, and women farmers is acknowledged as well as ongoing discrimination within the USDA itself against oppressed nationalities, women, disabled and gay workers.

But the recommendations at the end of report only call for more reviews, more levels of bureaucracy, and little action. On the decisive question of farm foreclosures, there are no remedies provided for the tens of thousands of unjust foreclosures that have already taken place.

A demonstration organized by Black farmers in Washington December 12 won a



Militant/Stu Singer

Facing camera, left to right, Tim Pigford and Marcus Tillery. Pigford, a North Carolina farmer, is battling the USDA, which foreclosed on his farm. Tillery and Gary Grant were co-chairpeople of the Black Land Loss conference.

temporary moratorium on foreclosures, but it will end next December. Eddie Slaughter, a farmer and paper mill worker from Buena Vista, Georgia, predicted that when it is lifted as many as half the current Black farmers will face the real threat of losing their farms.

Willie Ruffin, a hog farmer from Windsor, North Carolina described the bind he has faced trying to maintain the farm that has been in his family since the early 1900s. "I tried to get into contract hog production, but they required a net worth of \$400,000 which I don't have. So I have to raise hogs as an independent, but packers, like Smithfield, pay higher prices to the contract farmers. In October we had to sell our property because we owed more in back taxes

and loans than we could pay. So now we are leasing back our own land and renting back our own house and still trying to make the farm work."

Militant readers interested in more information about the April 23 demonstration can call John Boyd of the National Black Farmers Association at 804-447-7825 or Gary Grant of Concerned Citizens of Tillery at 919-826-3244.

Stu Singer is a member of the United Transportation Union in Washington, D.C. Joan Paltrineri is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Greensboro, North Carolina. Ken Morgan in Baltimore contributed to this article.

Students hear Cuban speakers in Philadelphia

BY NANCY COLE

PHILADELPHIA — Two representatives of the Cuban Interests Section spent a busy two days here March 26-27, centered around a meeting they had been invited to address during Festival Latino de Penn, an annual week-long event organized by Latino student groups at the University of Pennsylvania. Some 80 people — the big majority students — crowded into a campus room March 26 to hear Eugenio Martínez and Manuel Alvarez speak and answer questions about "Cuba Today." Martínez is a third secretary at the Cuban Interests Section and a member of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Cuba. Alvarez is an attorney who has been in the United States for two months and will be returning to Cuba after several more months in Washington.

One student said that responsibility for the economic blockade of Cuba lies not with the U.S. government but with the Cuban exile community in this country. Martínez replied that 60,000 Cubans living in this country traveled to the island last year. "Most of them, I'm sure, don't support the Helms-Burton law," he said, referring to the legislation President William Clinton signed into law last year intensifying the economic war against Cuba. Those Cuban-Americans with power, influence, and money who would benefit from the legislation lobbied for it, he said, "but Cuban-Americans' support for the Helms-Burton law was not the reason it passed."

Martínez and Alvarez also spoke to two classes, one at the University of Pennsylvania and one at Temple University, totaling 50 students. They taped a television show to be shown in early April on a regional cable station. The Cuba Support Coalition organized a reception for the Cuban representatives at Taller Puertorriqueño, a cultural center in North Philadelphia.

Martínez and Alvarez informed youth they met here of the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, which will take place in Cuba July 27-August 6. Eight youth signed up to go on that trip during the two-day tour.

Miami rightists attack anti-embargo activist

BY MARGO McCALL
AND ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — On April 2, rightists who work in the Miami media organized a serious attack on Cuban-American activists opposed to Washington's policies against Cuba. At a news conference called by the Association of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC) and the Antonio Maceo Brigade, Angel Zayón, a reporter for Spanish-language television Channel 51, had Walfrido Moreno, president of the ATC, arrested for battery.

The news conference presented information on a recent visit to Cuba by Cubans who had left the island on rafts and on another such trip being planned.

Andrés Gómez, who spoke at the event along with Moreno, stated, "There are a considerable number of Cubans who have emigrated who, although they maintain profound contradictions with the Cuban revolutionary process, when confronted with the cruelty and evil of the U.S. politics of aggression against Cuba, make a common

cause in opposition to the blockade."

Right-wingers in the Cuban-American community here have been particularly incensed by the recent trip of these rafters to Cuba and also by the March 22 Miami meeting where more than 200 people heard Félix Wilson, the Second Secretary at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. This was the first meeting since the 1959 revolution where a high level Cuban official spoke before a broad audience in Miami.

At the press conference Zayón and María Montoya, a Channel 23 reporter, repeatedly disrupted the event, accusing the ATC of being financed by the Cuban government and insinuating that the rafters' trip was illegal. They also continually asked whether, as a condition of their visit, the rafters were forced to join the ATC and participate in activities against the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

Toward the end of the news conference Gómez said to Zayón, "You manipulate information, distort the facts, ask insidious questions, and sensationalize." Zayón then walked to the front table to pick up his mi-

crophone and called Gómez a "traitor, a coward, and not much of a man." The event broke up with Zayón accusing Moreno, who is 80 years old, of jumping up and hitting him and demanding that two plainclothes cops in the room arrest Moreno.

Uniformed cops in squad cars arrived and detained Moreno in his office. Meanwhile, the right-wingers in the press spread rumors of the alleged assault to neighboring business people, who gathered outside the ATC headquarters.

Later, three detectives handcuffed Moreno and paraded him through the hostile crowd to a waiting squad car. Moreno was charged with battery and jailed. He was released that evening on \$1,500 bond.

Orlando Collado, from the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, was among those who attended the press conference. He said the coalition will help defend Moreno and expose the role of the press in this latest attack on the rights of Miami Cubans who oppose Washington's economic blockade of Cuba.

Quebec gov't cuts jobs and social services

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — The Quebec government is moving ahead with plans to cut approximately 12,000 of 440,000 positions in the public service. This will cut \$800 million (Can\$1 = US\$.72) from annual wage costs as part of an effort to reach a zero budget deficit by the year 2000. On March 18, the Quebec government announced new cuts in education funding of \$683 million and \$760 million in health care.

By March 21, the government had reached agreements with most of the public sector unions to eliminate jobs through early retirement, threatening to cut workers' salaries by 6 percent if no accord was reached. Law 104, which was adopted by the National Assembly on March 21, cut the earnings of doctors, judges and members of the National Assembly by 6 percent. It also applied this to some groups of workers, such as support staff in the universities, who had not negotiated an agreement.

Initially the government had proposed an across-the-board 6 percent wage cut for all government workers. When this met resistance, Quebec officials proposed instead to cut 15,000 positions through early retirement. Half the cost of the early retirement is to be covered from the workers' pension

fund. This plan was accepted December 18 by officials heading six union federations, but important groups within the federations rejected the plan. The opposition came mainly from the 100,000-member Social Affairs Federation (FAS) of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and the 20,000 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees of the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ). These two groups organize hospital workers, who are the lowest paid in the public service. FAS members with full-time jobs earn about \$25,000 a year on the average, and half of them are part-time. FAS members rejected the proposed pact by 90 percent. In the end, however, officials of both the FAS and the SCFP reached agreement with the government.

Union officials organized few activities to oppose the government's attacks. The biggest protest was a demonstration of 15,000 organized by all the union federations outside the convention of the Parti Québécois last November 24. The Parti Québécois, which heads the Quebec government, is a bourgeois nationalist party that advocates Quebec sovereignty. Another protest of up to 8,000 was organized by the CSN alone on December 7. There were also some work stoppages of a few hours each.

Government cuts have already had a dramatic effect on health care, with emergency wards often overflowing and long waits for operations. At the Louis H. Lafontaine Hospital in Montreal on March 16 there were 65 patients in the emergency ward where normally there is space for 14.

In February, the government announced that in order to achieve its objectives the union contracts would have to be reopened. In particular, teachers who took retirement would not be replaced, class sizes would be increased, and hospital workers who lost their position would have to be prepared to take a job up to 125 km (75 miles) away instead of 50 km. This met strong opposition, in particular from the CEQ, which organizes primarily primary and secondary school teachers. The government withdrew the proposals. In particular, the projected loss of 3,000 primary and secondary school jobs was reduced by over two thirds.

Two thousand people organized by the Coalition for Montreal Schools rallied in Montreal March 22 to protest education cuts. Annie Laroche, a high school student, explained to the crowd that the number of students per class has increased from 31 to 34. "If this continues, soon we will be forced to take a number in order to get a seat."

Protests in Serbia counter nationalism and U.S. drive to restore capitalism

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — On March 20, students at the University of Belgrade and other campuses throughout Serbia ended their daily protests after 119 days, having scored another victory. The dean at the university had just resigned, one of the main student demands.

The student marches lasted six weeks longer than the daily demonstrations called by the Zajedno opposition coalition, which ended in mid-February. The wave of protests was set off when President Slobodan Milosevic annulled municipal elections November 17. The daily mobilizations by both Zajedno and the students forced the regime on February 11 to concede electoral victories for the opposition in 15 of the republic's 19 largest cities.

After a visit here in late March, it is clear that this protest movement — unprecedented in duration, size, and geographic spread in Serbia for at least two decades — had a number of intertwined results. It increased the self-confidence of working people and youth and lessened their fear of the police and other repressive institutions. It greatly diminished the effectiveness of nationalist propaganda used by Milosevic — as well as his rivals in the state bureaucracies in the various Yugoslav republics — to justify the 1992-95 war, objectively aiding those who favor reunification of the country. It encouraged similar resistance to antidemocratic measures and government austerity throughout the Balkans — especially in Bulgaria and Albania. And it erected new obstacles in the imperialist drive to restore capitalism throughout Yugoslavia.

Students score second victory

"Our main demand was recognition of local election results," said student leader Nikola Petrovic in an interview here March 26. "We won that a while ago. Our two other demands were the firing of the rector and a student co-rector. These people trampled on the democratic rights of students. They invited the police to break university autonomy and invade the campus in Belgrade on February 3 and 4. They tried to prevent us from exercising the right to free speech. They both resigned on March 19."

"We are now electing a student parliament through democratic ballot so we are better organized to get back out into the streets next November," said Milos Milcic, another student leader. Elections for the new student body took place March 27. The idea came out of the Initiative Committee, the organization formed November 26 to coordinate the student protests. Two students from each department at the University of Belgrade made up that group. Later, student leaders from five other cities joined in the committee's nationwide conferences.

Beginning in Belgrade November 22, student marches spread to campuses in Nis, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Subotica, and Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, where the overwhelming majority of the population is of Albanian origin. The daily marches and rallies in Belgrade ranged from 5,000 to 50,000 students, Milcic and Petrovic said.

In addition to citywide demonstrations,

the young protesters often organized other actions. About 100 students marched 50 miles from Novi Sad to the Yugoslav capital in December. A similar action that received the most nationwide attention took place the same month, when 17 students marched all the way from Nis to the Yugoslav capital, covering the 150 miles in a few days. "These young people became ambassadors for our cause, even in the rural areas," stated Milcic. Peasants offered

Belgrade University students (right) celebrate second victory March 20, after university rector resigned, one of the main student demands. Striking taxi and truck drivers rally in front of Serbian parliament March 26 (below) to demand paying lower taxes to the state. The effect of nationalist demagoguery by the Stalinist regime and most opposition figures has diminished as a result of the protest movement.

Militant/Argiris Malapanis (below)



them a roast pig on the way as an expression of solidarity.

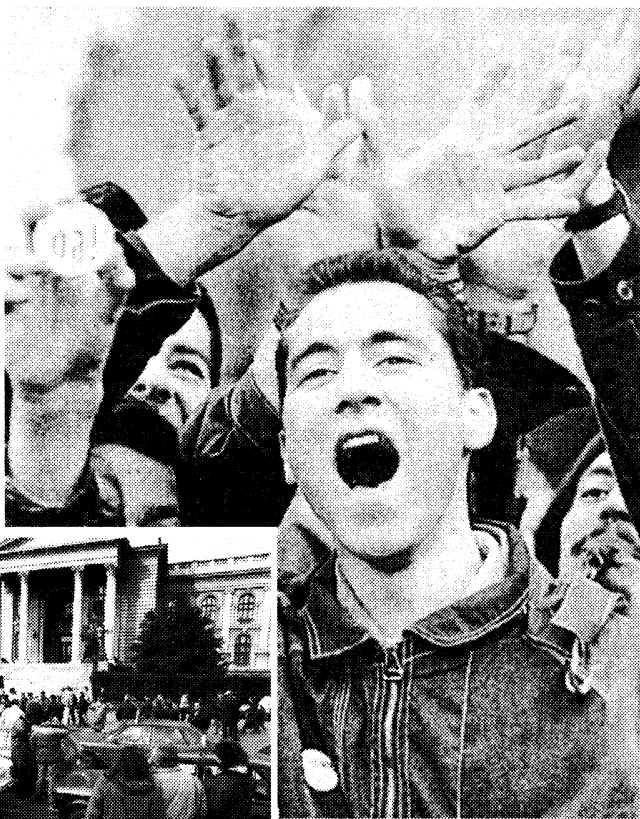
The student marches were "the greatest thing that happened in Serbia recently," said Dragan Pejanaj, a taxi driver who was on strike along with 14,000 other taxi and truck drivers here March 26. Many other working people interviewed by *Militant* reporters expressed a similar view.

One of the reasons for the popularity of the student actions is that they kept their marches separate from Zajedno rallies and distanced themselves politically from the opposition. Of the 17 students who marched from Nis, only two declared affiliation with any political party. "It's great that we are neutral," said Uros Bobic, 20, a drama student from Belgrade. "We want to show we are citizens of this country with the right to vote and choose. We also want to show the opposition that the moment they start acting like Milosevic we will rise up again."

"A lot of students didn't care much for Zajedno, but wanted to show our opposition to the trampling of our democratic rights by the government," said Petrovic. "So we kept our demonstrations separate, even though some of us went to the Zajedno rallies."

Milcic noted that students maintained

contact and sought solidarity from student groups and others throughout the Balkans, especially Bulgaria, the rest of Eastern Europe, and several capitalist countries, including the United States. During the four months of protests in Serbia, student groups organized picket lines and solidarity rallies outside Yugoslav embassies in Prague, Czech Republic; Bucharest, Romania; Budapest, Hungary; Sofia, Bulgaria; and Athens, Greece. Students in Bulgaria were



later at the forefront of protests against the Socialist Party regime in Sofia, fueled by a catastrophic economic crisis there, forcing the government to call early elections this spring.

One of the initiatives Belgrade student leaders took was to meet with Yugoslav army commander Momcilo Perisic on January 6. The meeting received widespread publicity. The general promised the students the army would not intervene, there would be "no repeat of 1991," according to Dusan Vasiljevic, another student leader. In 1991 and 1992 Milosevic ordered army troops with tanks onto the streets of the Yugoslav capital to crush antigovernment protests against the war in Croatia and Bosnia initiated by Belgrade.

'I am no longer the 'black sheep'

"The student protests at the beginning of the war lasted about six months but failed to push back the regime," said Bojan Aleksov, 25, a history student at Belgrade University, in another interview. Aleksov took part in those antiwar mobilizations in 1992, unlike most of the students who led the recent wave of protests who come from younger generations. "Back then our demands were unrealistic — the resignation of Milosevic — and the students did not have a clear antiwar position. Many students were taken in by the nationalist demagoguery of the regime and most opposition leaders in Serbia.

"Today, I am no longer the 'black sheep' at the university," said Aleksov who maintained a principled stance against the formal break-up of Yugoslavia and the Belgrade-initiated war. Aleksov has also opposed the capitalist "market reforms" put forward by Milosevic and government officials in other republics, as well as the more openly pro-capitalist measures pronounced by Zajedno leaders.

"I have been a big enemy of partition of Yugoslavia," Aleksov stated. "There were protests against it throughout the 1990s, but were limited mostly among students and intellectuals. For the most part, especially after 1992, Milosevic, [Croatian president Franjo] Tudjman, and [Bosnian president Alija] Izetbegovic were able to get grudging acquiescence, or submission through terror, for dividing the country." By the

spring of 1992, the governments of Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia had declared secession from federated Yugoslavia.

"Today, I can say there is a definite change in the attitudes of the people," Aleksov said. "Millions lost their fear of the police and are more confident in what they can accomplish through their own actions. Milosevic and his wife are no longer seen by most Serbs as omnipotent, as they used to be perceived. This should lead to a democratization of society. That was the main goal of the majority of those who participated in the movement."

Nationalism has receded

"But one of the most important gains reflected in the protests is that nationalism has receded," Aleksov said. "Many Serbs feel abused and manipulated by the regime as to the reasons for fighting for a 'Greater Serbia,' and are willing to act on this conviction, even if they may not talk about their conclusions publicly right now."

This assessment was shared by a range of students, trade unionists, professionals, and others *Militant* reporters interviewed.

"For the first time we carried signs and shouted slogans opposing police repression of Albanians in Kosovo as part of demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of Serbs without being booed, hissed, attacked, or thrown out of the action," said Zorica Trifunovic in an interview March 26.

Trifunovic is an activist in Women in Black. The group held daily vigils of dozens, or up to a few hundred people, the first years of the war, blasting the "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbian, Croatian, and other regimes and demanding individual culpability for the atrocities. It continues to hold monthly demonstrations now opposing the partition of Yugoslavia and championing the rights of oppressed nationalities. Throughout the 1990s, it has campaigned in solidarity with the struggle of Albanians for autonomy in Kosovo.

Kosovo is a region in southern Serbia, where 80 percent of the population of 2.1 million is of Albanian origin. The region was granted autonomy in 1974. In 1989, however, after militant strikes and demonstrations for better economic conditions and recognition of national rights, the Milosevic regime cracked down, dissolving the local parliament and revoking Kosovo's autonomous status. A state of emergency has been in place since then. Belgrade has ruled the region through brutal police repression. Pristina was the city where Milosevic launched his nationalist tirades to justify grabbing territory and resources for the layer of the ruling bureaucracy loyal to him. Prejudices against ethnic Albanians, promulgated by the regime ever since, remain widespread among the population in Serbia today.

"The protests showed that these prejudices are no longer as deep," Trifunovic said. Women in Black took part in virtually every daily protest between November and February, raising their demands against discrimination of Albanians without major problems. "We even got a positive response often," Trifunovic added, "while distributing our flyers."

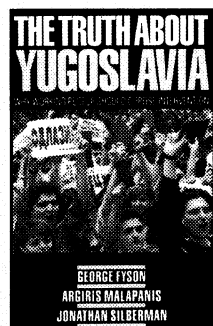
One such leaflet, dated February 5, exposed recent police attacks on students and others. "After this brutal violence in Belgrade do we wish to understand how the victims of repression felt in Bosnia-Herzegovina and how victims have felt for ten years already in Kosovo?" the statement asked. "The police clubs, tear gas, torture and killings that are used against others can just as well be used against us. Therefore, we can never again allow professional or other thugs and killers who carry out repression against others to do this in our name."

During a Zajedno rally of 100,000 December 24, a one-minute silence was held, announced from the platform, for an Albanian who fell victim of police brutality in Kosovo. "This was unprecedented," Aleksov noted.

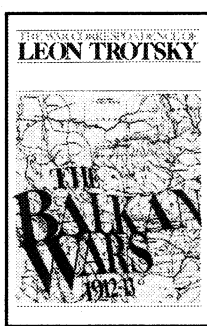
On November 21, nearly 150,000 people demonstrated in Zagreb, Croatia, to protest

Continued on Page 10

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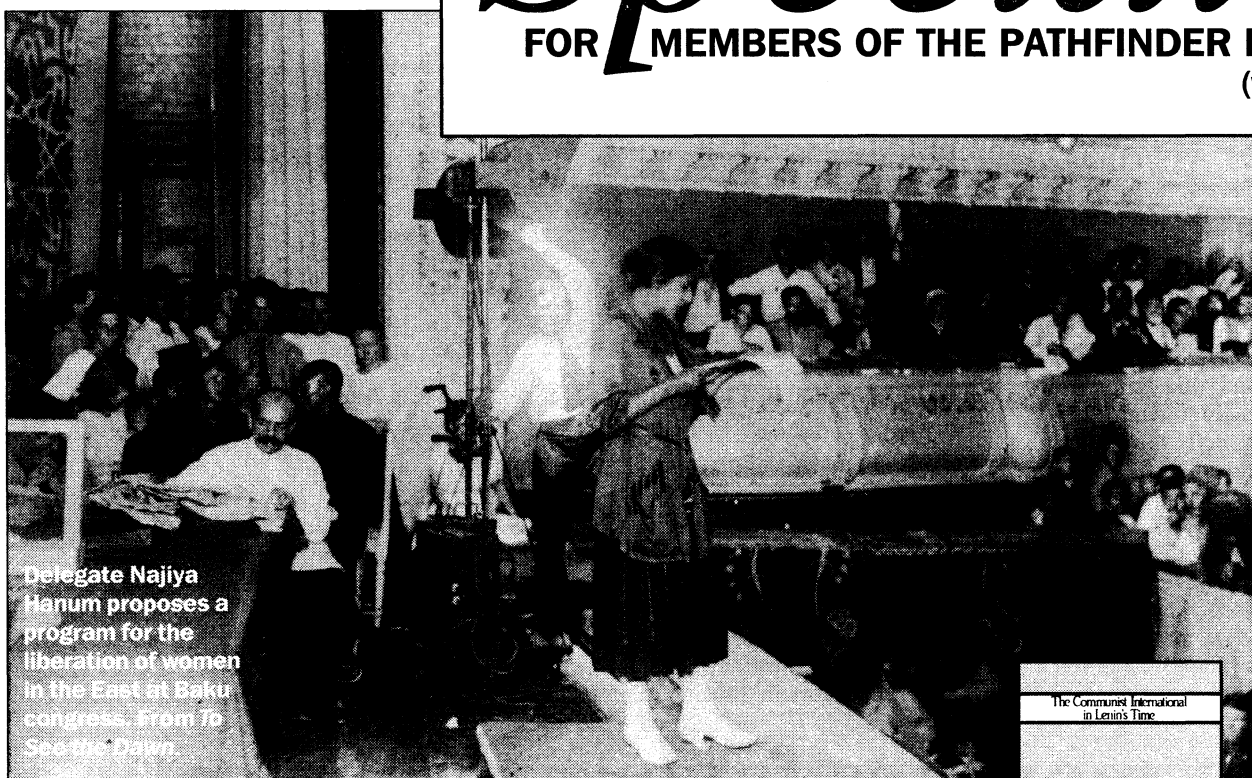
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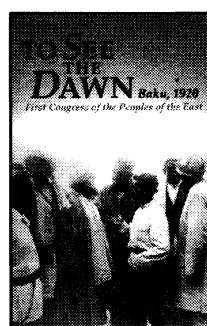
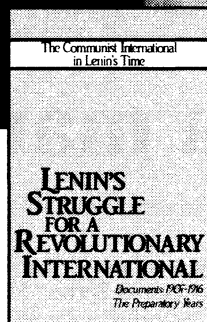
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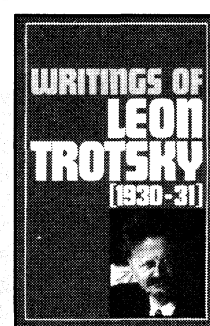
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Hundreds in Greece protest intervention

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — Over 800 people marched to the Greek parliament April 2 to protest the government's decision to dispatch troops to Albania. Once there, demonstrators delivered a petition with thousands of signatures against Greek participation in the UN-authorized force. Smaller protests were also held the same day in Thessaloniki, the country's second-largest city, as well as Patras and Corinth.

Signs and banners at the Athens march, the largest action against intervention to date, read: "Not one soldier for intervention in Albania" and "Solidarity with the Albanian people."

These actions have been organized primarily by the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and its youth organization, KNE. A significant section of the Athens march consisted of young people. "I don't think we should go there," one young woman who asked that her name not be used said. "The uprising is just, I support the people there." A group of six Albanian immigrant workers were also there. "Berisha must go, the

troops are going to help keep him in power," one of them, who also asked to remain anonymous, said. On April 8, a similar action of 200 people took place in the port city of Piraeus. It was sponsored by the Piraeus Committee for Detente and Peace, and endorsed by city branches of the Construction Workers Union, Garment and Leather Union, and Retirees of IKA [the state social security agency].

Several public speak-outs have already been held by various political forces on university campuses in Athens. The walls of these schools are plastered with posters opposing intervention and solidarizing with the uprising of the Albanian toilers.

According to Greek defense minister Akis Tsochatzopoulos, a dispute between Rome, which has the command of the multi-national force, and Athens has been settled. Rome wanted to dispatch the Greek battalion north of Tirana, a stronghold of Berisha. The dispute threatened to scuttle the whole mission. "We agreed on the following deployment: The main [Greek] battalion will be based in Tirana and a company of the



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Rally of 10,000 in Vlore, Albania, March 28. Thousands oppose intervention there.

force we'll send will be based in Vlore," stated Tsochatzopoulos. "Our aim is to start the process that will lead to elections in June or July. This means disarming the citizens and distribution of humanitarian aid at all levels." Meanwhile, according to *Athens News*, "over 100 Greek entrepreneurs" have formed the Coordinating Committee of Greek Investors in Albania to protect their

interests there.

Plans are under way by an ad-hoc coalition of anti-war and political groups here to launch a number of anti-intervention actions the week of the troops' deployment. The events include a speak-out at the Polytechnic University April 16, a march to the Greek Pentagon April 18, and mass leafleting of the army base of Haidari, near Athens.

Logic of Yugoslavia marches favors reunification

Continued from Page 8

the decision of President Tudjman to shut down Radio 101, a station independent of the government. The march was called after a spontaneous rally of 10,000 a day earlier, hours after Tudjman announced the decision. "The groundswell of opposition forced the government to back off, reversing the closure in one day," said Lino Veljak, a professor in Zagreb, who has also been opposed to Croatia's secession and the war from the beginning.

"Back in 1992, Tudjman was able to successfully appeal for 'national unity' against the 'Serbian aggressor,'" Veljak said in an interview, while he was visiting Belgrade. "That's no longer true. Many more people today oppose Zagreb's expansionist plans in Bosnia. We have a much better chance to prevent partition of Bosnia laid out in the Dayton accords, and who knows, 10 or 20 years down the road fight for a unified Yugoslavia again." Under the agreement signed by Milosevic, Tudjman, and Izetbegovic at a U.S. military base in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995 — after strong-arming by Washington — Bosnia is now divided between a precarious "Muslim-Croat" federation and pro-Belgrade Serb forces. The accord laid the basis for the occupation of Bosnia by U.S.-organized NATO troops.

In an interview at the offices of Nezavisnost (Independence), the trade union federation independent from government control, Milan Nikolic, president of the metal workers branch, said Nezavisnost has signed joint declarations with unions in Bosnia, Croatia, and Macedonia opposing partition of Bosnia as well. Nezavisnost organized an antinationalist union conference in Sarajevo in the middle of the war in 1993. The federation has about 150,000 members in Serbia, Nikolic said. It gained somewhat in membership during the antigovernment protests. "Milosevic and Tudjman broke up Yugoslavia by pitting workers of different nationalities against each other," he stated. "We oppose that. We are encouraged because our views against nationalism and partition won greater acceptance in the last four months."

Why workers, others protested

Nikolic said that most protesters turned out into the streets to oppose the annulment of election results. But the deep economic crisis in Serbia has fueled discontent against the government, he added.

Nearly one third of the population in Serbia — about three million people — live in poverty. At least half the republic's factories are closed. Unemployment is hovering at 50 percent. And the government owes months of back wages to many workers and soldiers. The economic crisis, rooted in the decades-old bureaucratic methods of planning and management by the petty bourgeois castes in power throughout Yugoslavia, has been exacerbated by the earlier U.S.-initiated sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro and the depression conditions in the capi-

talist world that adversely effect Yugoslavia's economy.

Nikolic said that among industrial workers joblessness is more acute in Serbia. He said up to 90 percent of the industrial workforce is idle, although half of these workers are still on the payroll of their enterprises and are entitled to an income nearly 70 percent of their previous wage. Those who have jobs make an average of \$100 per month, though in sectors vital to the economy — such as oil refining, electricity generation, and postal services — workers make as much as \$350 per month, Nikolic said. "The regime thus tries to buy off peace among certain layers of workers," Nikolic stated.

In most cases, however, workers are owed months in back pay. Unpaid wages have recently caused a number of strikes, including by textile workers and teachers in February. About 1,000 taxi and truck drivers rallied in front of the Serbian parliament March 26, demanding a reduction in taxes they pay to the state from 29 percent to 4 percent. Dozens of drivers blockaded street corners throughout downtown Belgrade that evening, shutting down traffic during rush hour. Police did not interfere with the blockades, but did prevent thousands of strikers coming from other cities from entering the capital.

"We can't afford these taxes, we can't live," said one of the drivers who identified himself only as Petrov. He pointed out that competition for income is higher today among taxi drivers. There are now 12,000 drivers in Belgrade, compared to 4,000 a decade ago, since many more jobless workers have gotten licenses to operate taxis in search of income, Petrov said. Food and other prices have been soaring since the beginning of the year as inflation has exceeded 100 percent annually.

Nikolic acknowledged, however, that participation by workers in the November-February protests was low in Belgrade. Those who did take part did not band together or form union contingents, he said, "mostly out of fear of losing their job or going longer without any income."

In other cities, like Nis, one of the republic's largest industrial centers, industrial and other workers were at the center of the protests. The demonstrations actually began in Nis, Serbia's second largest urban center, and spread in 50 other cities.

The biggest turnout of workers in one of the protests in Belgrade was on December 24, when over 10,000 workers staged their own march as part of one of Zajedno's rallies, to oppose a new antilabor law introduced in parliament. The legislation would cut off pay for idled workers who are still on the payroll of state-owned enterprises. "That day, parliament postponed the vote it was scheduled to take because of the strong working-class showing," Nikolic said. The momentum of worker participation petered off, however. Serbia's parliament subsequently approved the bill, but the government has not yet put it into effect.

Despite the economic crisis, the opposi-

tion coalition has been unable to rally the working class on its side, Nikolic and most other people interviewed said.

According to an extensive poll among protesters by the Institute of Sociology Studies of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade, nearly 47 percent of the thousands asked said they turned out to support "the struggle for justice," that is the reinstatement of the election results. About 19 percent said they supported "the fall of communism," and less than 3 percent cited backing for one of the parties in Zajedno as their motive for participating. Only 13 percent of the protesters said they were members of any of the parties in the opposition coalition.

Zajedno lacks popular support

That is largely due to the political program and class outlook of the leading forces in Zajedno, many of whom came out of the former ruling Communist Party and now espouse openly pro-imperialist views.

Vuk Draskovic, head of the Serbian Renewal Movement, is a former member of the League of Yugoslav Communists that ruled Yugoslavia until 1991. Draskovic and his supporters call for the return of the Serbian monarchy that reigned in the country before World War II. He initially joined the Serbian chauvinist wave unleashed by Milosevic in the late 1980s. Subsequently, seeking to bask in the glow of the antiwar protests of the early 1990s, he switched positions and opposed the war against Bosnia.

The second major party in Zajedno is Zoran Djindjic's Democratic Party. Djindjic, who recently assumed his post as the new mayor of Belgrade, championed until recently the creation of a "Serb-only" state and parades as the most ardent supporter of a "free market economy."

"Since he became mayor in February, the only thing he's done is to take down the Star from the top of Belgrade's city hall," chimed taxi driver Petrov, in a not-so-uncommon comment about Djindjic. The star, symbol of the Yugoslav partisans, was erected on that building in 1945, after the victory of the revolution against the country's occupation by Hitler's armies.

The junior partner in Zajedno is the Civic Alliance, whose president is psychologist Vesna Pesic. Most of the members of this group are professors, lawyers, accountants, and other professionals. While Pesic never belonged to the CP, many of its leaders come out of the League of Yugoslav Communists. The group was first formed in 1990 by Ante Markovic, former federal prime minister of Yugoslavia, who is now a businessman living in Austria. Pesic was the only one among Zajedno leaders to oppose the Belgrade-initiated war against other Yugoslav republics from the beginning. But her organization has no social base among workers.

Vesna Petrovic, a lawyer who also staffs the Antiwar Center in Belgrade, is one of the founding members of the Civic Alliance and a former member of the CP. In an inter-

view at her office, Petrovic said the Alliance has a social democratic orientation, "hoping to transform Yugoslavia into a market economy." She acknowledged, however, that "this is a difficult task."

Most of industry and services remain state-owned throughout the Yugoslav republics today. Yugoslavia still ranks 128th among 135 countries in desirability for foreign investment.

The three main opposition leaders visited Crown Prince Alexander Karageorgevich in London recently to discuss strategy about his possible return to Yugoslavia. Even though he was born in England, Prince Alexander still claims the throne of the former Serbian monarchy.

Draskovic, Djindjic, and Pesic — just like Milosevic — are supporters of the imperialist-crafted Dayton accord.

The occupation of Bosnia by 31,000 NATO troops, led by a contingent of 8,500 U.S. soldiers, continues to be a topic of discussion among workers and young people here. As the protest movement got under way in November, Washington, which encouraged the 1992-95 war, decided to extend the NATO deployment in that Yugoslav republic until mid 1998.

Imperialist intervention, though, is not as high on the agenda of debate and discussion as during the 1992 protests. At that time, thousands of students among those opposing the war deserted the Yugoslav army and many took a clear anti-intervention stance.

"Today very few people skip their military service," said student leader Milcic. "It's compulsory. Many of us don't want to do it but we have to. Nobody thinks we will be engaged in fighting." Milcic said he has no formed opinion on the Dayton accords or the NATO occupation of Bosnia. "Time and facts will show if Washington really stands for peace," he said. His friend, Petrovic, had a definite view. "It was necessary to bring the foreign troops in," he said. "We showed that we couldn't keep the peace."

Even among the students who support the presence of NATO troops in Bosnia, however, most said they were adamantly opposed to any foray by Washington into Serbia.

Among the older generation of students who went through the 1992 protests, there was a different reaction. "We disliked the Dayton accord from the beginning," said Aleksov. "We still hate it. I think, though, that NATO troops will eventually leave. It won't be that profitable for them to stay."

Among working people, most of those interviewed opposed the NATO occupation. "The troops should go," said taxi driver Dragan Pejanaj. "This is our business. British, French, Americans have to go. [Bosnia] is our problem."

Bobbis Misailides, a member of the Federation of Foreign Airlines Workers in Athens, Greece, and Tony Hunt from London, contributed to this article reporting from Belgrade.

3,000 oppose Klan at rallies in Pittsburgh

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — More than 3,000 people rallied downtown here April 5 to protest the presence of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). The American Knights, based in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, had been initially denied the right to have a rally in front of the City-County Building on Grant St. in downtown Pittsburgh. As a result of a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), U.S. District Judge Alan Bloch ruled that the city had to grant a permit for the racists.

Two coalitions formed in order to respond to the Klan. One was initiated by the Coalition to Counter Hate Groups. It organized a rally for Market Square, about half a mile from where the Klan was to appear. The theme of their rally was "Not in Our Town" and a "Celebration of Unity."

The Grant St. Anti-Klan Coalition, composed overwhelmingly of young people, wanted to have a rally directly across from where the Klan was to gather. Some of these activists had been involved in the fight against police brutality that galvanized around the murder of Jonny Gammage in October 1995. Others were members of organizations like the Black Action Society, Campus Women's Organization, and New Youth Culture at the University of Pittsburgh, who wanted to make sure that there was a militant vocal opposition to the Klan. Their demands included, "Justice for Jonny Gammage," "Defend Affirmative Action and School Desegregation," "Oppose Anti-Semitism," "Support Gay Rights," and "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Prominent political and religious figures, including the Pittsburgh City Council, urged people to attend the Market Square event. Officials of 10 NAACP chapters held a press conference two days before the protests and urged everyone to stay away from Grant St. and go to the Unity Rally.

In the weeks leading up to the action, city officials tried to violence-bait the action proposed for across the street. Police met with activists in the Grant St. Coalition and showed a video of other "violent" anti-Klan actions. The coalition had stressed in all its publicity that it intended to conduct a peaceful, legal non-violent action, but Mayor Thomas Murphy defended his decision to enclose all the demonstrators in a fenced in area, with access to be controlled by the police, including using metal detectors on all those entering the area.

On the morning of the demonstration, all the streets around the City-County Building were fenced in and barricaded. Several hundred police surrounded the area. They were equipped with face and body shields, gas masks, at least two sets of handcuffs each, and four-foot batons. In addition, there were mounted horse patrols where the demonstrators were to enter the enclosed area.

The organizers of the Grant St. Coalition

stationed marshals outside the "cage," as the area became to be known, and discouraged anyone from entering. They explained that the safety of demonstrators could not be ensured. Instead an impromptu gathering and demonstration began to take place outside the "cage." While several hundred people did elect to enter the enclosed area, most demonstrators stayed outside. The two major newspapers in Pittsburgh estimated there were between 1,500 and 3,000 people at both the Grant St. location and the Market Square locations. This reporter talked to numerous people at Grant St. who had been back and forth between the rallies. The majority of those at Grant St. were young, many of them high school students.

Karen Gilboa from Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh said "I think the KKK should get out of Pittsburgh. Hate should stop right here." A group of students also came from Baldwin High School, just down the street from where Gammage had been killed. At about 1:30 p.m. there was a roar from the crowd. About 40 KKK members had arrived on the steps of the City-County Building, most of their faces hidden in black and white robes. The chanting from the counterdemonstrators got louder.

Many people came from outside Pittsburgh to protest the Klan. In Morgantown, community activists and students from West Virginia University formed the Morgantown Mobilization coalition. Two radio talk shows



Militant/Phil Norris

Protesters rallied April 5 against the Ku Klux Klan in Pittsburgh

focused on the action, and several carloads of people ended up coming to Pittsburgh.

Alpha Phi Alpha, a Black college fraternity, was holding its national convention in Pittsburgh. Andrew Ryan, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, came to the Grant St. action with other fraternity members. "I felt it was important to come and support the protesters," he said.

Members of the Black Action Society at the University of Pittsburgh marched to Grant St. with a banner. Joyce Keyes explained, "I wanted to see the KKK and I felt it was important that the community showed unity in rallying against them." A contingent representing Anti-Racist Action (ARA) from both Columbus and Kent University

in Ohio were also present. ARA has mobilized its members for other anti-Klan actions in Ohio and Michigan, and the group endorsed the Grant St. action in Pittsburgh.

The two-hour action at Grant St. was a big success. At the end of the action demonstrators marched en masse to the Market Square rally and joined those there who had been listening to a host of speakers. There the biggest applause went to speakers who demanded justice for Jonny Gammage.

Edwin Fruit is a member of the International Association of Machinists in Coraopolis, Pa. Contributing to the article were Cecilia Ortega, a member of the United Auto Workers in Cleveland and Maurice Peret from Morgantown, West Virginia.

Auto workers strike in Oklahoma City

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO, IL — Crimping GM's effort to regain lost market share — its lowest level in decades — about 3,500 members of Local 1999 of the United Auto Workers (UAW) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, walked off their jobs April 5, halting production of two of the auto maker's most popular cars.

The Oklahoma City strike is the second within a month to hit the auto giant. Recently the union settled a two-week strike at GM's Fort Wayne Truck Assembly plant with the company agreeing to add 276 jobs. The issues in the Oklahoma City dispute are strikingly similar to the Fort Wayne walkout.

The UAW and GM signed a national contract last December, but Local 1999 has been without a local contract since September. This is the UAW's first strike at this plant.

GM workers in Oklahoma City joined the UAW in 1978 as part of a rise in working-class militancy in the South, which led to the successful organizing drive of the United Steelworkers of America Local 8888 at the giant shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. Both these victories, as well as others, were a blow to the employers, who thought the

South was their turf.

The main issues in strike, as in the Fort Wayne strike, are jobs and health and safety. The union is demanding the company hire hundreds of additional workers. GM claims the union broke an agreement that said 900 of 4,500 jobs would be eliminated when production of the new car models began last fall. The union denies this claim. Most of the jobs on the company chopping block are filled by temporary workers. According to the union, the workforce has fallen from 4,200 to about 3,600.

As in the Fort Wayne strike, UAW workers are also rebelling against unacceptable working conditions on the job: job combinations (overloaded jobs), forced overtime, rejection of personal time off and vacation time, and a qualitative increase of on the job injuries, which have tripled in the past year. The union is also demanding that outsourced work be returned to the plant.

Oklahoma City workers make the 1997 Chevrolet Malibu and the Oldsmobile Cutlass. The strike takes place just as the auto maker launched a \$1 billion national advertising campaign and when sales for the new Malibu model shot up 230 percent in March.

Under these conditions, one would think that the strike should be settled in the short term. But the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "People close to the situation say GM is determined to show as much resolve in Oklahoma City as during a 17-day strike in March 1996 at two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, which shut down practically all of GM's North American production."

Whether Oklahoma City becomes a showdown fight with the world's largest auto maker or not, it is clear that GM's drive to improve "productivity" and raise profits is running into resistance from the UAW and International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE). Slashing 50,000 to 70,000 jobs is GM's stated goal.

According to the *Oakland Press*, a Detroit-regional daily, UAW local 594 in Pontiac, Michigan and Local 5960 in Orion Township, Michigan, have asked for strike authorization from the International in Detroit. Last month, workers from Local 5960 organized a slow-down of the newly popular 1997 Park Avenue car. Authorization requests have also come from UAW members at a GM transmission plant in Warren, Michigan and from a foundry in Saginaw, Michigan.

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

Hundreds protest NY cop brutality

Continued from front page

police station, "He was running and running. I told him, 'Kevin, stop running.' Then the cop shot him. I didn't see a machete or a knife."

Dozens of people protested outside the 33rd Precinct Station House during the day after the shooting, until cops invited them inside for a two-hour "question-and-answer" session. Residents of the Washington Heights area, a working-class neighborhood that is mostly Latino and Black, gathered in small crowds on the streets and denounced the cops for the killing. A number of people said they saw the cops step on Cedeno's back and handcuff him after he was shot and questioned why the victim was not taken to the closest hospital.

A woman who identified herself as the mother of Damin Samson, one of Cedeno's friends, said, "How could they take the cop for trauma to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital three blocks away and let Kevin bleed to death while they take him to Harlem Hospital, which is 18 blocks away? They wanted that boy to die."

Luis Alvarez, who was discussing the killing with a number of people a block from the shooting site, told a *Militant* reporter,

"It's not true that he was holding a machete." Alvarez said he was coming home from work when he saw the group of youths that Cedeno was with when he was shot.

Cedeno is the fourth person in two months the cops have shot and killed for supposedly threatening the police with a knife. The other three were José Sánchez, Donald Davidson, and Deonaima Matan.

At the Racial Justice Day demonstration in front of City Hall on April 7, Iris Báez, whose son Anthony was killed by the cops in 1994, said, "Now we have another boy dead, a 16-year-old. No more killing. This killing of youths has to stop." Báez is an activist with Mothers Against Police Brutality, a group whose members have participated in numerous speak-outs against police brutality in New York.

On April 8, the family of Kevin Cedeno held a news conference in front of the family's apartment building on 159th St. Hundreds of community residents gathered around to show support for the family and demand justice. Some held up homemade signs and pictures of Kevin and other victims of police killings.

"My son didn't deserve to die like that," said Kevin's mother, Roma Cedeno. She said

the family had moved to the United States from Trinidad to "make a better life. But here our people live in a community where we are disrespected," she said. "Where it's okay to shoot us in the back one, two, three, or four times, as many times as it takes to kill us."

A lawyer for the family, Michael Hardy, said, "Normally a person who shoots someone in the back should be arrested and prosecuted for murder. That's what we're calling for."

Barbara Petillo, said she came to show support for the family. "I have a 19-year-old son," she said. "And every time he goes out, I don't know whether the drug dealers will get him or the cops. The cops have a license to kill. They have no right to touch our kids."

Another community resident who declined to give her name, said she thought people needed to teach their kids to have more respect for the police to avoid these kinds of problems.

But Petillo said, "I don't care what they say he was doing, they had no right to shoot him in the back."

Amy Husk contributed to this article.

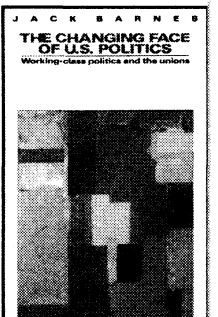
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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Reportback from Watsonville and Other Labor Actions. Speakers: Jeanette Conchas, United Farm Workers community organizer; Macario Camorlinga, International Association of Machinists organizer; a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) at Guess plant; and others. Fri., April 25, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. (2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

NATO Expansion and the Threat of Imperialist War. A program to benefit the *Militant* newspaper fund. Fri., April 18, 6:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Translation in Spanish and French. Donation: \$4. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Challenges Facing Packinghouse Workers: A Discussion. Speaker: Richard McBride, packinghouse worker in the United Food and Commercial Workers, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 19, 7 p.m. Buffet dinner: 6 p.m. 7414 Woodward (one block north of Grand Blvd.)

Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$5. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Speak-out to Protest Against Human Life International. Oppose assaults on women's right to abortion, end gay bashing, anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim, and other racists attacks. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

How to Fight the Right — A Speak-out Against Banning Late-term Abortion. Speakers: Megan Arney, Socialist Workers candidate for State Assembly, 29th district; Stefanie Trice, member of Young Socialists, and has just returned from Young Feminist conference in Washington, D.C. Fri., April 25, 7:30 p.m. 87-A Halsey St. (corner of Halsey and Linden). Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Growing World Capitalist Disorder: Working People Fight Back. A Militant Fund Celebration. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, member,

National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, participant and *Militant* correspondent during the 1989-1991 strike at Eastern Airlines. Sat., April 19, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6 p.m. 2000C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Stop the New Attacks on Mumia Abu-Jamal! Panel discussion with Pam Africa, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Hattie McCutcheon, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Auto Workers union Local 1069. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Elizabethtown: 'Family Values' and the Religious Right. Speaker: Linda Poss, parent, Elizabethtown school district; Connie Allen, Socialist Workers Party, member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 8-901. Fri., April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Both events will be held at 1906 South St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Washington's Drive to Expand NATO Threatens Russia. Speaker: Doug Jenness, editor of

The Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis and author of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*. A former editor of the *Militant* newspaper, Jenness is currently a member of the United Steelworkers of America and the Socialist Workers Party in Minnesota. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 1065 East 3300 South. Donation: \$5. Tel: (801) 474-3385.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Support the Palestinian Struggle; End U.S. Support to the Israeli Regime! Speaker: Brian Williams, contributor to the *Militant* newspaper, and member of the United Steelworkers of America. Fri., April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Black Farmers Fight Government Discrimination. Speaker: Gary Grant, of the Black Land Loss Fund, Tillery, North Carolina. Fri., April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Both events will be held at 1930 18th St., NW (at 18th & Florida, entrance on Florida). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Rebellion in Zaire: No Imperialist Troops! Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League and AMWU. Fri., April 18, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281-3297.

Imperialists prepare to intervene in Zaire

Continued from front page

craft, is also off the coast, carrying 1,388 Marines. Thousands of imperialist troops, including from the United States, France, Britain, and Belgium, are now deployed in the region, and are prepared to enter Zaire to "evacuate their citizens." In addition, Paris, with 9,000 troops in Africa, has its second-largest military base in the Central African Republic, just north of Zaire.

On April 7, Kabila objected to the imperialist intervention, saying "They could move in at any time. They don't recognize the sovereignty of our people." Kabila called the moves by the imperialists "a threat to our territorial integrity."

A plethora of pictures and articles in the big-business press have touted the suffering of refugees. These are used to bolster the imperialists' argument for intervention under the auspices of "humanitarian aid."

Most of the refugees are civilians who fled the Rwandan war in 1992, but some took part in organizing mass killings in Rwanda and fear returning to that country. Rebels have said for weeks that they would open a corridor for the refugees to go back to Rwanda. In another maneuver to slander the Alliance, Roberto Garretón, a UN official, recently proposed a commission to look into allegations of mass murders by rebels. There has been zero evidence, however, to back up the claim. In his report, Garretón himself acknowledged that the information about the alleged deaths is "frequently in-

adequate and even contradictory."

Since the rebels captured Zaire's third largest city, Kisangani, on March 15, the momentum toward overthrowing the Mobutu dictatorship has swept into the south and central parts of Zaire. The rebels advanced south to Kamina — a rail center and a key part of the mineral-rich Shaba region — and went on to Lubumbashi.

The Associated Press reported that while fighting was sporadic there, rebel troops were welcomed by thousands of Zairian people. The rebels captured the city April 9 after defeating forces from Mobutu's Presidential Guard. Groups of cheering onlookers had gathered outside one army barracks in the city on April 8, as government troops tied on white headbands to signal their switch of allegiance to the rebels. Sgt. Kafua Otamba of the 21st brigade said, "We've suffered enough in Zaire over the last 30 years. We must get rid of Mobutu. We've had no pay and we have no food." Lubumbashi is the heart of Zaire's copper belt and cobalt mining.

The rebels of the Alliance captured the

city of Mbuji-Mayi on April 4. Taking the central Zairian city was strategically the most important after Kisangani. The diamond-mining center of Zaire, Mbuji-Mayi is the country's richest source of hard currency with an estimated \$20 million in official monthly revenue for diamonds.

Meanwhile in Kinshasa, moving to prop up his decrepit regime, dictator Mobutu approved the appointment of opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister, only to arrest him a week later. The appointment on April 1 of Tshisekedi marked the desperation of Mobutu regime.

Two days later, Tshisekedi ordered parliament dissolved and announced a new cabinet excluding members of Mobutu's party. He proposed to the rebel forces to form a coalition government and offered them six of 24 ministerial posts in his cabinet, including those in charge of defense, external trade, and foreign affairs. Rejecting the offer, rebel spokesman Raphaël Ghenda told Agence France-Presse in Goma, "We want the departure of Mobutu. Tshisekedi and his government are part of the Mobutu admin-

istration." On April 5, the Zairian opposition withdrew support from Tshisekedi.

Mobutu recalled parliament for a session April 7 to oust Tshisekedi. In response, several thousand protesters set up barricades of burning tires and police fired tear gas to turn back about 1,000 demonstrators heading for the parliament to stop the April 7 opening session. Mobutu then declared a state of emergency on April 8, which includes a ban on demonstrations, a curfew, and the appointment of military governors. The next day government forces arrested Tshisekedi, and Mobutu named army Gen. Likulia Bolongo to replace him. "Tshisekedi was brought to his home for his own safety," Defense Ministry spokesman Leon Kalima said. "He is not under house arrest." Hundreds of troops fired tear gas at some 10,000 protesters, who were demonstrating in support of the prime minister.

Delegations from the Mobutu regime and the rebel forces were in South Africa for negotiations for a cease-fire that began April 5. The talks ended April 8, however, as rebels continued their march west and south.

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'Peacekeeper' — The Air Force declared Northrop Grumman's B-2 stealth bomber combat ready and said it's buying 21 of them for \$45 billion. They have a range of 11,000



Harry Ring

miles with a single aerial refueling and carry up to 20 conventional or nuclear bombs.

Accidents will happen — A Japanese nuke plant 70 miles from Tokyo was hit by two fires and an

explosion last month. Experts said that 37 workers were exposed to radiation but did not suffer "Immediate" harm — assuming, they judiciously added, that data provided by the government nuclear agency was correct.

... meanwhile — London's *Financial Times* reported that "senior officials" at the Japanese nuke plant "played golf during and after the accident" "They felt 'it would be wrong' to cancel the game on the day they had reserved the golf course."

A truly great society — Philip Fox, 71 and alone with his dog, suffered a heart attack and found himself in the San Diego area Scripps

Memorial Hospital. Candice Batze, a technician, befriended him, even taking care of his dog. Several days after Fox's discharge, she met him in the hospital lobby, hungry. She got him some bread, crackers, jelly and milk. She was fired for theft.

National security? — A report to the British government warned that slaughterhouse practices were putting consumers at increased risk of infection from E. coli, the bacteria that recently killed 20 people in Scotland. The report said slaughterhouses routinely accepted animals whose hides or fleeces were contaminated with bacteria-bearing feces and urged a national standard defining "unacceptable contamination" of animals destined for slaughter. The report was

suppressed for a year.

That's that — That suppressed report also said that instead of washing contaminated areas of animals, which spreads bacteria, workers should cut away dirty parts. "However," explained the *Times* of London, "the process is labor-intensive and would not be popular in an industry with tiny [?] profit margins."

Cogent — Paul Robinson, head of the agency through which Lockheed Martin manages the U.S. nuclear stockpile, worries that undue reductions in the size of the stockpile may compel the Pentagon to aim its missiles at large civilian centers rather than pinpointing a greater number of military targets.

He apparently was too upset to explain the result of zeroing in on a "military target" like the Kremlin, situated in a huge metropolitan area.

See, they're catching up — In Santiago, Chile, cops stopped 49 drivers for using cellular phones while driving. They found that a third were talking into fake phones.

Time is money — In England, rail unionist disclosed that a woman killed by a train was left lying on the track nearly four hours. Up to 20 train drivers were ordered to take their trains over the body. Great Eastern line officials said the order was given out of consideration for passengers, not concern about paying late arrival penalties.

Leon Trotsky takes up the fight against fascism

BY HILDA CUZCO

What is fascism and how can it be combated? That question is on the minds of growing numbers of workers and youth around the world, from the 50,000 who marched against the National Front in Strasbourg, France, March 29 to the protesters who dogged Patrick Buchanan during his 1996 presidential bid in the United States.

The best way to get some answers is to dig into the writings of Leon Trotsky. After the death of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin in 1924, Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian revolution, took up the task of defending the revolutionary course against the bu-

tion, reinforced by the military machine and based upon the disorientation of the people and their submission to it," he explained in the article titled "American Problems." "After some time their feelings can change and they can become rebellious against the dictatorship." (*Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1939-40*, page 338)

Betrayal of Social Democrats, Stalinists

Fascism was able to triumph in Italy, Germany, and elsewhere as a result of the betrayals of the main workers parties—the Social Democracy and the so-called Communist parties that looked to the Stalinist regime in Moscow. The leaders of these parties, which held the allegiance of millions of workers, refused to mobilize an effective defense against the fascist gangs. Such a struggle would have shifted the relationship of forces in favor of the working class and opened the possibility for a revolutionary offensive.

In "A declaration to the Congress Against Fascism," written in April 1933, Trotsky points out the treacherous role of the Social Democratic bureaucracy that opened the road to fascism in Germany. "The top layers of the German Social Democracy are now trying to adapt themselves to Hitler's regime in order to preserve the remainder of their legal positions and the benefits that accrue from them. In vain! Fascism has brought with it a swarm of starved and ravenous locusts who demand and will obtain the monopoly of jobs and securities for themselves. The destitution of the reformist bureaucracy, a secondary result of the defeat of the proletarian organizations, represents the payment for the uninterrupted

chain of treachery of the Social Democracy since August 4, 1914." (*Writings of Leon Trotsky (1932-1933)*, page 174).

Meanwhile, the Communist Party in Germany refused to recognize the actual danger of fascism and instead denounced the social democracy as being "social fascists," no better than Hitler's forces. In the "Turn in the Communist International and the German Situation," September 1930, Trotsky blasts the CP for not organizing a fight against fascism and calling for a united front of all the workers parties. "If the Communist Party, in spite of the exceptionally favorable circumstances, has proved powerless to seriously shake the structure of the social democracy with the aid of the formula of 'social fascism,' then the real fascism now threatens this structure, no longer with wordy formulas of so-called radicalism, but with the chemical formulas of explosives...."

"The policy of a united front of the workers against fascism flow from this situation. It opens up tremendous possibilities to the Communist Party. A condition for success, however, is the rejection of the theory and practice of 'social fascism,' the harm of which becomes a positive menace under the present circumstances." (*The Struggle against Fascism in Germany*, page 70)

The need for united workers' defense

On Feb. 6, 1934, fascist riots imposed the bonapartist government of Gaston Doumergue in France. In the October 1934 article "Whither France?" Trotsky emphasizes the need to lead an organized defense against fascist forces through workers militias. "We need mass self-defense and not

the militia,' we are often told" by the CP and the Socialist Party, Trotsky wrote. "But what is this 'mass self-defense' without combat organizations, without specialized cadres, without arms? To give over the defense against fascism to unorganized and unprepared masses left to themselves would to play a role incomparably lower than the role of Pontius Pilate. To deny the role of the militia is to deny the role of the vanguard. Then why a party? Without the support of the masses, the militia is nothing. But without organized combat detachments, the most heroic masses will be smashed bit by bit by the fascist gangs. It is nonsense to counterpose the militia to self-defense. The militia is an organ of self-defense." (*Leon Trotsky on France*, p. 44).

Building a revolutionary party was key to fighting fascism, Trotsky emphasized. "In every discussion of political topics the question invariably arises: Shall we succeed in creating a strong party for the moment when the crisis comes? Might not fascism anticipate us? Isn't a fascist stage of development inevitable? The successes of fascism easily make people lose all perspective, lead them to forget the actual conditions which made the strengthening and the victory of fascism possible," he wrote in 1940. "No occupation is more completely unworthy than that of speculating whether or not we shall succeed in creating a powerful revolutionary leader-party. Ahead lies a favorable perspective, providing all the justification for revolutionary activism. It is necessary to utilize the opportunities which are opening up and to build the revolutionary party." (*Struggle against Fascism in Germany*, pages 447, 452)

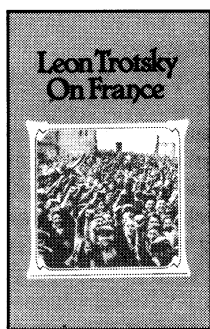
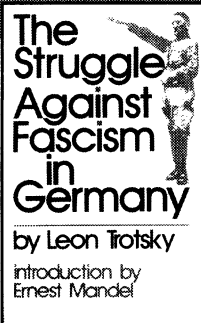
BOOK OF THE WEEK

reaucratic caste lead by Joseph Stalin. Until his death in 1940 at the hands of a Stalinist agent, he fought to build the kind of international leadership needed to lead the working class and its allies to take power in a time of capitalist crisis, rising fascist forces, revolutionary possibilities, and impending imperialist war.

One of the points Trotsky stresses is that fascism is not just a military dictatorship, but a movement whose sole objective is to crush the workers' organizations and atomize the working class. Its foundation is the petty bourgeoisie. In contrast, "A military dictatorship is purely a bureaucratic institu-

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Leon Trotsky on France

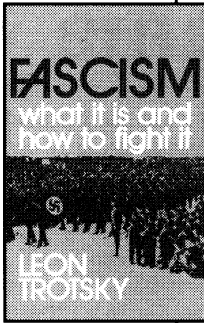
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— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



April 21, 1972

NEW YORK — A rally of about 300 people was held outside of the Bronx County courthouse on April 10, the day Puerto Rican nationalist Carlos Feliciano was to have been sentenced. (The sentencing has been postponed until May 3) The gathering reflected the interest the case has generated, especially in the wake of the deal that has been offered by Bronx district attorney Burton Roberts to drop all charges relating to the use or possession of bombs or weapons.

Feliciano was charged in both Bronx and Manhattan courts in May 1970 with bombing or burning buildings. A two-year campaign to free him has been waged by militants in the Puerto Rican freedom struggle and civil libertarians.

At the rally Feliciano and his lawyer, William Kunstler, further explained the legal situation. Feliciano said he would go to trial on the Bronx charges if the Manhattan court doesn't accept the reckless endangerment plea in exchange for dropping their charges.

Kunstler predicted that the Manhattan prosecutors office would not go along with the Bronx deal. Even if the deal is accepted by both courts, Feliciano will withdraw the guilty plea and stand trial on the original charges if he is sentenced to serve more time for reckless endangerment than the nearly two years he spent in jail awaiting trial.



April 19, 1947

COLOMBO, Ceylon, Apr. 8 — While Bombay and Calcutta and other cities in India are in the throes of communal clashes, the class struggle in Madras reached a new dramatic height today when over 100,000 workers downed tools in protest against the congress Government's arrest and detention of Comrade Antonypillai, Trotskyist President of the Madras Labor Union. Comrade Antonypillai, who is a member of the Central Committee of the BLPI, is also a member of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress.

Monday, March 31, the day of the General Strike, was quite reminiscent of the August 1942 days. Armed police at every ten yards, Gurkha troops and motorcycles with machine guns, armed trolleys, patrolling railway lines. This was the Congress answer to a protest of the masses.

The protest strike raised a hue and cry in the Congress press. The Conservative "Hindu" called for special legislation to illegalize strikes of this nature. There was not a single bourgeois paper in Madras that did not denounce the strike. This howling found a feeble echo across the Palk Strait, in Ceylon where the imperialist *Times* of Ceylon traced the source of all trouble to "the export of Ceylonese Bolsheviks to India!"

See page 9 for special discount on Writings of Leon Trotsky

Imperialist hands off Albania!

Working people and youth around the world should join the thousands of their brothers and sisters in the Albanian city of Vlore, as well as protesters in Greece and Italy, in organizing demonstrations, picket lines, and speak-outs against the military occupation of Albania now under way.

The goal of Rome, Paris, Athens, and their imperialist brethren is to speed the day when these capitalist powers can overturn the remaining gains of the 1944-46 Albanian revolution and reestablish the complete domination of wage slavery in that country. The pretext for military intervention, securing distribution of “humanitarian aid,” is a transparent fraud. Leaders of the rebel defense councils have repeatedly stated they are capable of organizing distribution of food, medicines, and any other aid shipments from abroad. Humanitarianism — professed by Rome, Athens, or Paris — is also a bald-faced lie.

Italian imperialism was the former colonial power dominating Albania before World War II. Mussolini’s fascist armies attempted to perpetuate that superexploitation of the country’s toilers through a massive invasion in 1939. The Italian and German occupiers were defeated by a popular partisan movement that then led a successful socialist revolution, abolishing capitalism and establishing a workers state by 1946. Recently, the Italian navy exposed Rome’s “humanitarian” face when it sunk an Albanian boat full of refugees, drowning dozens.

The Greek rulers have invaded Albania three times this century with the goal of annexing part of the country. Athens now says it intends to send part of its contingent right into rebel-held Vlore, the cauldron of the anti-Berisha

rebellion. One of the stated aims of the invaders is to take the weapons out to the hands of the armed toilers, thus aiding either the hated Berisha regime or another pro-imperialist administration.

Washington, which propped up Berisha with military and economic aid for five years, has decided not to deploy troops at the moment trying to position itself for future intervention if its capitalist brothers in Europe come up short of their goal. That’s what U.S. imperialism did during the 1992-95 war in Yugoslavia. It let the Yugoslav toilers bleed, posing as a defender of peace while secretly encouraging the slaughter, creating the image that its rivals in Europe are incapable of “stopping the war.” Washington then bombed Bosnia, paving the way for the imperialist-crafted Dayton accord and the subsequent U.S.-organized occupation of parts of Yugoslavia by NATO troops. The Clinton administration, which gave its backing to the Italian-led expedition, is mulling a similar scenario in the case of Albania.

Before the imperialists can accomplish their goals, however, they have to confront and militarily defeat not just the toilers in Albania and other workers states, but working people in their home countries as well. Labor resistance to the bosses’ profit drive in Italy, Greece, France and other capitalist centers, along with the initial opposition in the streets against intervention, objectively aids the Albanian toilers. This is the time to tell the truth about the Albanian and Yugoslav revolutions and their accomplishments, and organize actions demanding: Imperialist hands off Albania! Not one soldier or penny for intervention! Open the borders to all Albanian refugees!

Help sell, fund the ‘Militant’

Continued from front page

the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister *Perspectiva Mundial*, and of selling 1,400 new subscriptions to the *Militant*, 450 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 600 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Reports from supporters printed in this issue, and those I’ve spoken to on the phone, all point to the great response they’ve gotten on sales in the week since the Young Socialists convention. They show it’s entirely possible to reach these goals by the April 26 deadline. Meeting these goals will be intertwined with expanding sales of Pathfinder’s arsenal of books by revolutionary and working-class leaders.

Of course getting out to where there are fighters is key to our success — the march to support farm workers in Watsonville, California; the Young Feminists Summit in Washington, D.C.; conferences of Chicano students; picket lines of striking auto workers at General Motors and Chrysler; protests against police brutality; actions in solidarity with the Irish struggle; and many other events. Then we take these experiences along with the papers and books to co-workers, working class neighborhoods, and campuses as well.

Participants in all these fights need what they can find only in the *Militant* — a socialist voice and fighting working-class perspective. To be an effective fighter — to know who your allies are and who they aren’t — you need to know the truth, from what’s happening in Albania and Yugoslavia today, to why class-conscious fighters must oppose the imperialist war drive against these workers states. You need the coverage the *Militant* will feature in coming issues from a reporting team to Cuba that will include Argiris Malapanis, *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel, and Pathfinder editors Mary-Alice Waters and Mike Taber. The only way to get this, and much

more, is to get a subscription. Fighters also need the strategic lessons of the workers movement that are in *New International* and the books published by Pathfinder.

A centerpiece of the special Pathfinder sale is the six-volume series of the Communist International in Lenin’s Time, and the 14-volume *Writings of Leon Trotsky* series, available for a fraction of the usual price. Reading and studying these books is essential for learning the continuity of communist leadership and the building of a revolutionary working-class party.

Raising money for the Militant Fund goes right along with this. More than \$15,000 came in over the last week — the best collection to date. A highlight was the eyewitness reports from Albania given by Argiris Malapanis in New York and Toronto, which together raised some \$4,000. This included supporters of the socialist press paying their pledges, giving new contributions, and participating in an auction of several photos from the trip.

While there’s still about \$55,000 to go to meet the fund goal, if supporters collect all the pledges currently made and keep winning new contributors, we will go well over by April 26. Nat London, an auto worker in Paris, said a fellow worker gave \$25 last week; this can be repeated in factories where the *Militant* is sold all over the world.

By reaching out over the next several weeks to successfully complete the subscription drive and Militant Fund, and launch a renewed effort to sell Pathfinder books, we can build on the momentum of the Young Socialists convention — expanding the reach of the socialist press and winning new forces to the working-class vanguard.

Fraternally,
Naomi Craine
Editor

Troops head toward Albania

Continued from front page

posed the deployment, causing a crisis in Prodi’s social democratic coalition. The government doesn’t “have a majority to lead the country, let alone an international mission,” stated former premier Silvio Berlusconi of the rightist opposition coalition.

As a condition for approving Prodi’s motion for troop deployment, Berlusconi forced the government to place its future in the hands of Italian president Oscar Luis Scalfaro. At a meeting immediately after the parliamentary ballot, the president asked Prodi to seek a confidence vote from parliament. The premier announced he would do so on April 10.

Rome’s performance “worries all the allies in the multinational force,” stated Spain’s secretary of state for foreign affairs. This is the first time since World War II that Rome will lead an imperialist expedition. The last time was in 1939, when Benito Mussolini’s fascist armies invaded Albania with 100,000 troops and 400 planes.

Opposition to intervention inside Italy solidified among sizable layers of working people after thousands poured into the streets of Vlore, the hotbed of the Albanian revolt, a week earlier. Angry crowds of up to 7,000 people in Vlore repeatedly denounced the sinking of an Albanian boat by the Italian navy in international waters near

the Italian port of Brindisi, as well as the planned intervention. Eighty-seven refugees reportedly drowned in the March 28 assault, though only four bodies have been recovered so far. On April 6, youth opposed to intervention hurled eggs at an Italian navy cruiser docked in Brindisi.

After an initiative by rebels in Vlore who got the grudging agreement of the Socialist Party and other opposition groups to sign a declaration demanding in writing the resignation of Berisha, the government crisis in Tirana deepened. Berisha’s Democratic Party threatened to quit the “national reconciliation” government of premier Bashkim Fino, an SP leader.

On April 5, hooded armed thugs organized by pro-Berisha forces attacked Fino’s convoy with grenades outside Shkoder, the largest city in northern Albania, where Berisha has a strong base of support. No one was injured in the assault. The police in that city pled ignorance and has made no moves to arrest the culprits. The prime minister was forced to return to Tirana. The SP leadership then demanded the dismissal of officials of the Interior Ministry, run by the Democratic Party.

Both of these parties, however, which represent competing layers of the bureaucratic caste that has ruled for decades in Albania, are strong advocates of imperialist intervention, hoping to quell the working-class revolt.

Palestinians resist Zionist expansion in West Bank

Continued from front page

ing with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in an effort to reestablish talks between the Israeli regime and Palestinian Authority head Yassir Arafat. This April 7 meeting, however, fell short of the goal, as it became clear that Tel Aviv has no intention of backing off construction of the 6,500-unit Zionist settlement project.

Besides the killings in Hebron, there have been several other cases of Palestinians being murdered by Israeli troops and Zionist thugs. A settler shot two young Palestinians in the village of Kharbata April 7, killing one. The Israeli military claimed that the shooting occurred after the settler’s car was stoned. But Jamal Ibrahim, shot in the leg during the attack, said the assailant “passes through the village all the time, even though there is a bypass road [for settlers].... He got out of his van,” Ibrahim continued, “and began shooting. He had an M-16 and a handgun he held in his mouth while shooting.”

In addition to daily protests, rallies, and skirmishes throughout the West Bank, Palestinian fighters firebombed a truck carrying Israeli soldiers April 2. Some fighters have also carried out suicide bombings inside Israel.

Meanwhile, under the pressure of Palestinian resistance, several Arab heads of state have felt compelled to speak out against Tel Aviv’s colonial expansion. The 22-member Arab League announced March 31 their decision to halt moves to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime and renew an economic boycott. The Libyan government has denounced the settlements and is calling for action to counter the construction. Tehran is bringing up claims that diplomats kidnapped in 1982 are in “the prisons of the Zionist regime.” In Lebanon, Tel Aviv continues to face stiff resistance from the Hezbollah guerrilla fighters, who are waging a struggle against the Israeli occupation of the southern portion of their country.

There are even grumblings from the Egyptian regime, which has tried to foster better relations with Tel Aviv. The settlement plans are “strengthening those terror groups which had begun to dissolve and encouraging them to unite,” stated Gen. Hassan el-Alfi, the Egyptian interior minister. “When the people feel there is injustice ... millions will be provoked.”

Netanyahu complained on March 31 that these forces are “ganging up” on him.

The Israeli government confiscated a third of the land to be used for the Zionist housing project from real estate developer David Mir, who is now trying to sell the land back to Arabs. “I have the solution: cancel the confiscation,” Mir said, explaining that the land is still technically his, since he has yet to receive any payment. “I want to develop in peace with our neighbors.” He will be undergoing Supreme Court hearings on his claim.

But Interior Minister Eli Souisa said Mir “has nothing to sell. It [the land] belongs to the state.”

An op-ed piece by Stephen Cohen in the April 7 *New York Times*, entitled “Give Peace a Push,” called on the U.S. government to intervene and stabilize the situation. “Without the leadership of an American President, Middle East states will resort to war or terror,” Cohen declared.

The Clinton administration is pushing for what it calls “short-term confidence-builders,” like opening the airport in Gaza so Palestinians don’t have to go to Israel to travel abroad, granting more passes to work in Israel, and building some new housing for Palestinians. In exchange, Arafat is to keep the Palestinian cops on top of the resistance. This approach has yielded very little up to now. Despite attempts by the Palestinian Authority police to hold back some of the protests, the struggle is spreading.

Washington has vetoed attempts to condemn the Israeli settlements at the United Nations. This makes more difficult and potentially more volatile any initiatives by Washington in the Middle East.

Arafat was quoted by AP as saying, “The Israeli aggressive measures and acts, its tight security measures, and the military mobilization imposed on the Palestinian lands are equal to a declaration of war.” He was talking to a conference of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Netanyahu accused Arafat of giving the “green light” for the deployment of bomb martyrs.

Meanwhile, the class struggle within Palestinian territory continues to bubble. Thousands of teachers in Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah struck April 6, in the first major work stoppage faced by the Palestinian Authority. Strikers were demanding a doubling of their salaries. Currently, the average teacher’s pay covers just over 50 percent of the average family’s living expenses. The Palestinian Authority, after a year of protests and smaller strikes, offered teachers a 10 percent increase in wages.

Just a day prior to the strike, Education Minister Yasser Amr fired 19 of the organizers of the protests. The next day droves of students protested outside the Ministry of Education demanding Amr’s resignation; the firings were rescinded that same day. Amr’s argument for the dismissals was that the labor struggle was challenging Arafat’s government at a time of severe political crisis.

10,000 workers protest budget cuts in Scotland

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a

be 6 percent. In Glasgow alone, £80 million (US\$128 million) will be cut from the budget, 1,500 jobs lost, and an increase of 22 percent in the council tax. Added to this was the announcement on March 1 that water prices

On March 5, teachers in Glasgow walked out for the first time in 10 years. Five thousand teachers and their supporters gathered in George Square later that day to demonstrate against planned cuts in education. Further strike days and protest actions are planned.

ON THE PICKET LINE

way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Ten thousand public sector workers and their supporters gathered here in drenching rain and gale force winds March 1 to demonstrate opposition to planned budget cuts by all the local government councils. The march and rally were organized by the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) and the public sector union, Unison. Buses traveled from Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Elgin. Contingents from the Edinburgh schools joined the event, including teachers, students, and parents.

The fiscal 1996-1997 year has been filled with cuts in services and job losses across the whole of Scotland. Last April, London replaced the former 62 regional and district councils with 32 "unitary" councils. Eight thousand jobs were slashed in the initial six months of the reorganization.

No council has challenged the budget cap limits imposed in mid-December by the UK government's Scottish Office. The Highland Council threatened in February to break the government capping levels in protest, but backed down at the eleventh hour.

Local councils announced new budgets that comply with the spending limits March 6. They include major cuts in social services and an average increase of 10.7 percent in council taxes — three times the rate of inflation. In comparison, the average tax increase in England will

will go up 50 percent due to cuts in the government subsidizing of sewage charges.

Unemployment is mounting here, as reported by the *Scotsman* October 18. The article announced the Department of Employment's the latest statistics for unemployment in the UK at 7.7 percent for white males and Black males at 17.6 percent. The same article described another study that found the jobless rate for Black males to be as high as 60 percent on one housing estate in Edinburgh.

The new council budgets introduce compulsory redundancies (layoffs). The January 15 *Scotsman* quoted Glasgow Council member Robert Gould saying, "It's now clear that compulsory redundancies are unavoidable." Until now redundancies and job cuts have been carried out through volunteers, early retirements, and hiring freezes.

These attacks have met with resistance by workers. On February 1, a demonstration in Edinburgh of 20,000 teachers and their supporters from all over Scotland rallied in Glasgow. It was organized by the Education Institute of Scotland (EIS) and the STUC.

Hundreds of schools were closed March 6 by Unison workers opposing the cuts. Some 25,000 janitors, administrators, and clerical staff from Edinburgh, Midlothian, Glasgow, and West Dunbartonshire took part in what was the latest in the largest series of council strikes since 1989.

In Glasgow, the council officers were prevented from meeting March 6 to adopt the new budget because, as Gould explained to the *Scotsman*, "staff and councilors would have had to run the gauntlet of striking Unison workers picketing City Chambers in protest of the cuts."

University workers walk out in Ontario

WINDSOR, Ontario — "Their real target is to break the unions. They started with the hospitals — they just closed 10 in Toronto. We're target number two," explained Tom Amdonovski, a member of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1001, as he picketed a drive leading onto the University of Windsor.

The 270 CUPE members — custodians, maintenance, grounds keepers, and food service workers — went on strike on February 19 in face of major concession demands. They have kept up picket lines around the clock.

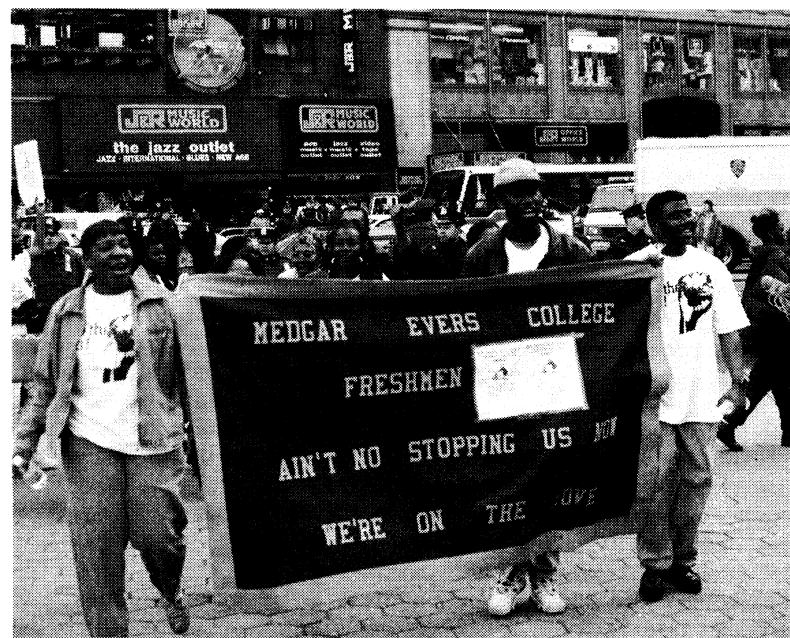
John McGinlay, the local's vice president, reported that "the university administration originally demanded a 27 percent wage roll-back" from the 153 part-time food service workers, most of whom are women, as well as cuts in medical benefits. "After the union appealed to Pay Equity Board they came back with a demand for a 14 percent roll-back to all food service workers. All workers in other classifications would face a 13-week layoff with no right to bump to other jobs. They then modified that to four weeks layoffs."

The strike is evident everywhere around this campus in the shadow of the Ambassador Bridge, which links this city with Detroit. Trash is piling up, parking lots are almost empty, and every entrance has a picket shack, fire barrel, and pickets.

Students who live in the dormitories and relied on university cafeterias before the strike can now be found in the restaurants in the area.

Strikers describe the actions of management as an attempt to divide

Students march for education in New York



Militant/ Marc Lichtman

More than 400 students rallied March 27 at City Hall in New York protesting against cuts in education at the City University of New York.

the local. With the demand of wage cuts for a majority of workers, the 100 full-time union members in other job classifications were offered a 3 percent wage increase. Full-time workers haven't had a raise in five years. The part-time workers were only organized two years ago and their wages were increased to union scale then.

The campus workers are reaching out for solidarity. They urge other campus workers and students to honor their picket lines. The union organized a rally of 500 on campus March 18.

The faculty union's executive board voted to support the strike, but allowed each union member decide whether to honor the picket lines. Pete Thomas, a student strike supporter, reported that "only two out of the nine professors in the Social Work Faculty are holding classes and many of the secretaries only come into work one or two days a week."

John McGinlay estimated that over 40 percent of the professors had either suspended classes or were holding them off campus.

Workers on the picket line quickly point to the provincial government of Michael Harris as emboldening management. Pat Hunt, a custodian, said he thought, "The Harris government has given

them a shield to hide behind." Because of recent labor law changes the university will be able to contract out the unionists jobs in mid-August if there is no settlement by then.

On March 20, the university went to court demanding an injunction against the union to bar picketing at the campus. The court limited the union to four pickets per entrance and set a maximum of a two-minute delay for anyone demanding to cross the line. Hunt explained that the injunction "hadn't changed much, we usually only have four pickets anyway. The court order recognizes our right to hold support rallies."

He pointed out that the unionists were facing harassment. "Several pickets have been hit by cars speeding onto the campus. One person was in the hospital six days. A student sitting on his bicycle at a picket line was hit yesterday by someone racing through an entrance."

Strikers are upbeat. A button on most coats around the campus sums up what they are demanding: "All we want is fairness."

Elizabeth Kealey in Manchester, England, and John Sarge, a member of United Auto Workers Local 900 in the Detroit area, contributed to this week's column.

LETTERS

Gay rights fight in Texas

Over 3,000 Texans marched to the Capitol in Austin on March 23 to demand passage of the hate crimes bill introduced in the Texas legislature.

Rainbow flags, chants and honks of approval from spectators driving by dominated the "March of Justice," a demonstration calling for an end to hate crime against gays and lesbians.

A group of about 30 anti-gay protesters greeted marchers at the gates of the capitol building, holding up signs that said, "God hates fags" and "All fags will go to Hell."

As gay-rights advocates gathered on front of the capitol building, politicians, organization representatives and a minister addressed the crowd, encouraging marchers to support proposed state legislation that would enhance penalties for crimes motivated by the victim's sexuality, race, ethnicity or religion.

The church minister said religion-based homophobia is a perversion of faith. "Those of the radical right who use religion to justify their violence are society's pervers," he said.

The Ku Klux Klan has been involved in dozens of documented

gay and lesbian-bashing incidents in Georgia and Texas, he added.

Jeanne Sommerfeld, president of Texas NOW, said a lesbian night club in Atlanta was bombed recently by a group called the "Army of God," who vowed, "We will target sodomites."

Equality for women cannot be achieved, Sommerfeld said, until gays and lesbians achieve equality. "When [the laws] prevent gays from getting rights and women from having abortions, they are attacking our entire community," she said. North Carolina, South Carolina and Atlanta have passed laws banning same-sex marriage. California, among other states, has anti-gay legislation pending.

Hordes of people came to the march from Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Marcos, Waco, and San Antonio. Dozens of groups, including the Texas Civil Rights Project, Mexican American Legal Defense, Family Planning Association, NOW, churches, community organizations and student groups from University of Texas at Austin, Southwestern University and University of Houston, arrived to show their support for gay rights.

Alejandra Rincón



Houston, Texas

Don't use 'Jim Crow'

The editorial in issue #12, "Op-

pose racism, sexism in army" contains a minor factual error. The last sentence in paragraph 3 says, "Military units were subject to official Jim Crow segregation until 1954,

and de facto segregation for much longer." Official Jim Crow segregation was ended by executive order of President Harry S. Truman on July 16, 1948. (Source: Young Reader's Companion to American History, p. 221) The de facto segregation was, of course, around much longer. As an aside, it is my opinion that a majority of readers of the *Militant* today, especially new readers, do not know the term "Jim Crow." It should be retired from all but historical articles.

Michael Pennock
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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The *Militant* represents a standard of excellence that remains unsurpassed in both the independent and mainstream media.

W.C.
Freehold, New Jersey

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

France: 50,000 protest fascist Le Pen

BY PAUL DAVIES
AND DEREK JEFFERS

STRASBOURG, France — More than 50,000 demonstrators took to the streets here March 29 to protest the fascist politics of the National Front (FN). It was the largest demonstration ever held against the National Front and the largest action in Strasbourg since the end of World War II.

The fascist party held its convention in Strasbourg, hot on the heels of its recent electoral victory in Vitrolles, a suburb of Marseilles. Its candidate won the election for mayor in that city, taking a majority of all votes cast for the first time. The National Front has also won mayoral elections in three other cities.

"I'm here because [FN leader Jean-Marie] Le Pen not only targets immigrants, but also wants to drive women back into the home and blames young people for the crisis," explained Monique Melo, who is unemployed and came from Narbonne 600 miles away. She had also recently traveled to Paris to participate in actions in defense of immigrants without legal status, known as the *Sans Papiers* (Without Papers), who are fighting for their right to stay in France.

The demonstrators came from cities all over France. The French daily *Le Monde* estimates that over a half of the demonstrators were under 25 years old. Some also came from Germany, Belgium, Holland, and the United Kingdom. Many marched in contingents organized by antifascist coalitions or in contingents of political parties. There were few union banners. Some of the demonstrators had marched earlier in an action of 100,000 in Paris to protest against the newly adopted "Debré law," which restricts the rights of immigrants. A week before the Strasbourg action 10,000 demonstrated against the FN in Marseilles and a similar number turned out to protest at St. Etienne. According to the French daily *Liberation*, "for the last four months, not a single leader of the far right party has gone out into the provinces without taking with him a large number of protesters."

The Strasbourg demonstration had been built in the preceding week by major capitalist dailies like *Le Monde*. Leaders of political parties marched at the front of the demonstration, including Lionel Jospin of the Socialist Party and Robert Hue of the Communist Party. The only person who spoke briefly following the demonstration was Socialist Party mayor of Strasbourg, Catherine Trautmann. She had previously backed the decision to send 2,000 extra riot cops to the city to police the demonstration. Trautmann rejected a request from a petition of 17,000 signatures that she ban the

National Front from meeting in Strasbourg.

Following the demonstration several workers at the GEC-Alsthom transformer factory outside Paris eagerly sought out a workmate who participated in the demonstration. One worker, Gerard Mahe, commented, "Did you see the number of police there? I think they're the only political party in France that is protected like that."



At left, February demonstration of 100,000 in Paris against anti-immigrant Debré law. Above, youth building rally against convention of fascist National Front party. Protests reflect deepening polarization in France.

The action was opposed by the ruling RPR/UDF coalition government, who held their own small protest against the National Front, which only 100 people attended.

Prior to the action students had scaled the cathedral walls and tossed sheafs of burning paper from its roof, symbolizing the burning of the local Synagogue during the German occupation of Alsace Lorraine in World War II. Throughout the demonstration there were many expressions of French nationalism and French flags were carried by several marchers.

Expressions of French nationalism

One banner exclaimed, "They won't get Alsace Lorraine again," referring to the Nazi occupation of the city. Strasbourg is in Alsace Lorraine, which was not only occupied as was the rest of France, but was also incorporated back into Germany for four years during the war and its citizens forced to serve in the German army. Following World War I in 1919, Paris annexed Alsace Lorraine from Germany, as the victorious imperialist powers sought to dismantle German economic and military strength, in their own favor.

Some of the protesters who spoke to reporters from the *Militant* said the recent growth of the National Front was a result of people in rural areas voting for the "simple proposals" that the fascists put forward to "complex problems." This reflects a common view promoted by bourgeois political commentators that there is a growing "Le Penization" of working people. Melo said Le Pen "uses racism as a means to attract people, because everyone is a little bit racist."

Cecile Valleix, who is 24 years old and came from Paris to the demonstration, expressed a different opinion. "The National Front has been growing because the other parties are not very credible. I don't think the FN is credible, but it does answer peoples' fears. The other parties tend to avoid the problems. People end up voting for the FN because it pretends to have solutions for unemployment," Valleix said. "Are all the people who vote for the FN hardcore racists? I don't think so. There are several things that can be done. First you have to explain to people that Le Pen is lying, that he has no real answers to their problems. But at the same time you need to propose an alternative."

Unemployment in France has reached

12.8% of the workforce. The victory of striking truck drivers in November to reduce the retirement age has inspired a series of smaller labor actions around the country. In

by the major capitalist parties — including those on the left. The government has used a December subway bombing to relaunch its attack on democratic rights through the "Vigipirate" program. Some 1,800 heavily armed soldiers are part of this operation along with cops. They patrol cities around the country, routinely interrogating Arab and Black youth in railway and subway stations. In the week prior to the demonstration, the parliament gave its final approval to the anti-immigrant Debré law, letting police keep the passports of so-called illegal immigrants.

The French Communist Party has given political backing to the anti-immigrant campaign. At the CP's congress last December, it called for "genuinely effective action against ... illegal immigration."

The French rulers' austerity drive is accompanied by an increasingly aggressive drive toward war. French imperialism has led calls for foreign intervention into Albania and Zaire in recent weeks. It is trying to use its military capacities and its influence in its former colonies to assert itself against its rivals in Europe, and particularly its chief competitor, the United States.

In the conditions where all the main political parties continue to scapegoat immigrants for the effect of the economic crisis, the National Front is able to get a hearing from sections of the middle class and some demoralized layers of the working class. Its convention in Strasbourg was attended by 2200 delegates. They heard FN leader Bruno Megret rail against the corruption of other bourgeois politicians. "The great alternative (of the FN) must replace the little alternative," he said. "The real debate is between the political classes and the FN."

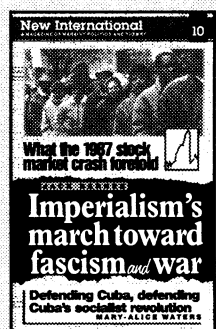
FN leaders also made a point of using the convention to draw fire away from their racist, anti-working class policies by focusing on alleged and proposed denial of their democratic rights.

The convention approved a proposal to reform the constitution to enshrine a national preference for all those citizens of French origin. During the convention Le Pen used thinly veiled anti-Semitism to complain that former French President François Mitterrand had attended a protest against the FN "surrounded by Israeli flags."

Feeding on the discontent with the government and in response to the upsurge in workers struggles, the National Front has adopted more anti-capitalist rhetoric and Le Pen has advocated a "third road" that is "nei-

Continued on Page 12

From Pathfinder



Imperialism's march toward fascism and war

Jack Barnes
How the working class and its allies respond to the accelerated capitalist disorder will determine whether or not imperialism's march toward fascism and war can be stopped. In *New Internationalist* no. 10. \$14.00

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Irish activist wins asylum in U. S.

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Partisans of the Irish freedom struggle scored a victory March 27 when a U.S. immigration judge rejected Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) attempts to deport Irish independence fighter Brian Pearson back to Ireland. He was instead given political asylum.

Pearson, now a 45-year-old carpenter, was imprisoned in Northern Ireland for more than 10 years for his involvement in an Irish Republican Army (IRA) attack on a police barracks there.

Upon release in 1988, Pearson immigrated to the United States to avoid government persecution. Now 20 years after the original arrest, INS officials who say Pearson's time was served for a "criminal offense," want to deport him.

Pearson said that he was part of a movement facing "total occupation, where we were fighting for basic civil rights."

London has dominated Ireland for centuries. In 1969, British troops were sent to the northern part of the island in response to the rising civil rights movement by Irish nationalists, directly occupying northern Ireland for more than the last quarter-century.

Judge Phillip Williams ruled in favor of Pearson, explaining that bombings and other campaigns he carried out during that time were "political offense[s]" that were "in the context of a conflict and/or insurrection and was clearly in furtherance of the objectives of that conflict."

"The British lie was exposed today," Pearson said.

Gerry Adams, president of the Irish republican party Sinn Fein, said March 28, "Justice has been done in the case of Brian Pearson.... It is the hope of Sinn Fein as well as Irish America that Brian Pearson's case will be the first victory. The other men facing similar legal battles can take heart from this decision. Justice has prevailed and hopefully will continue to do so in the remaining cases to be decided."

Meanwhile, the right-wing weekly *The Sunday Telegraph* in Britain attempted to slander Sinn Fein, claiming the "Irish terrorist group" supplied the detonator used in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the U.S. federal building in Oklahoma City. The supposed source is a U.S. government informer. Adam called the accusation "preposterous rubbish."