

THE MILITANT

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UN officials propagandize
for Zaire intervention

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 61/NO. 18 MAY 5, 1997

Fujimori regime massacres Peru rebels

BY HILDA CUZCO

In a show of force and blatant brutality, Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori personally directed the April 22 storming of the Japanese ambassador's residence killing all 14 guerrillas who were holding 72 hostages. With the full support of the military, the government of Fujimori took upon itself to end the four-month standoff. His actions won open support from capitalist and imperialist governments around the world.

Members of the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) seized the building December 17, puncturing the air of invincibility the Fujimori regime had built up. The MRTA demanded freedom for 400 of their comrades who are being held in harsh conditions in Peruvian jails.

U.S. government officials applauded the murderous assault and praised Fujimori for his refusal "to give in to terrorism." U.S. defense secretary William Cohen said the

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Cubans celebrate 36 years fighting under banner of socialism

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA, Cuba — "The world has changed greatly in the last 36 years, but the pledge we made on April 16, 1961, stands intact: Socialism will remain on this land, defended by the rifles of the people," said Raúl Castro, minister of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR).

Castro was addressing tens of thousands of working people, students, members of the Territorial Troop Militias, the army reserves, and the FAR who filled the Ernesto Che Guevara square in Santa Clara April 16. The rally was organized on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist character of the Cuban revolution. It was also the main national event, celebrating the triumph of Cuban workers and peasants against the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion of the island at the Bay of Pigs 36 years ago.

At this gathering, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba made public the call for the fifth party congress, which will take place October 8-10. The convention will open on the day marking the 30th anniversary of the fall in combat of Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Guevara, an Argentinian by birth, was heading a guerrilla front in Bolivia at the time seeking to forge a revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of eventually taking power and opening the road to socialist revolution in South America. He was wounded and captured by Bolivian military forces on Oct. 8, 1967. Bolivian army officers murdered him in cold blood the following day after consultation

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No to the imperialist occupation of Albania!

An explosive confrontation — between armed workers and peasants on one side and imperialist occupation troops on the other — is rapidly shaping up in Albania. It's only a matter of time before the powder keg is set off and bloody battles are waged by the Albanian toilers to defend themselves against the imperialist occupation force, whose aim is to attempt to force them to accept as nor-

EDITORIAL

mal the joblessness, social insecurity, and dog-eat-dog competition produced by the workings of capitalism. More than 2,500 troops from Italy, France, Greece, and elsewhere are already in Albania, with more on the way.

Working people around the world have the obligation to speak out in defense of our brothers and sisters in Albania, and demand an immediate end to the occupation of that country. The imperialist bayonets there are not only aimed against the Albanian toilers who've taken up arms, but at the working class world wide.

Albania remains a workers state — one of the countries where workers threw off the yoke of capitalist exploitation and opened the door to constructing a new society. Like the other workers states in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Albania was dominated for decades by a bureaucratic caste who lived as parasites off the working class. This counterrevolutionary layer are wannabe capitalists today, both in the Democratic Party and the Socialist Party of Albania. But neither they nor their imperialist sponsors have been able to reverse the key conquests of the 1944-46 revolution. Every attempt to reimpose capitalist rule — including firings, layoffs, dismantling subsidized prices and social benefits — is met with re-

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An Italian paratrooper stationed in Vlore, the city that has been at center of working-class rebellion against the procapitalist Berisha regime. Aim of imperialist occupation force is to put down revolt and lay basis for restoring capitalism in this workers state.

Italian, Greek troops take up positions

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece — "Operation Dawn," the imperialist military intervention in Albania led by the Italian government along with eight other regimes in Europe, has begun to spread out across the country. Some 2,500 soldiers have now taken position there as part of an expected total of 6,000 troops, in addition to hundreds of armored personnel carriers and tanks. They are encamped mainly in Tirana, Durres, and Fier.

More than 1,000 soldiers of the UN-sanctioned multinational intervention force landed in the port city of Durres April 15. About 120 Greek and an equal number of Italian soldiers have moved from Fier into

Vlore April 21, according to newscasts on Greece's SKY radio, which also reported shooting against Italian soldiers outside of Fier. Vlore is the hotbed of the rebellion that began nearly three months ago against the pro-capitalist regime of Albanian president Sali Berisha.

Albert Shyti, a leader of the Committee for the Salvation of Vlore, told the Albanian daily *Koha Yioft*, "While foreign troops are welcome, they cannot disarm the insurgents who have taken up arms in self-defense and who will not surrender them unless President Berisha resigns." Shyti also repeated the rebels' demands of

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12,500 workers strike Goodyear Tires

BY BETSY FARLEY

GADSDEN, Alabama — On Saturday, April 19, at 11 p.m., 1,800 union workers walked off the job here at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in the first officially sanctioned contract strike since an industry-wide

walkout that lasted 140 days in 1976. The strikers, organized by the United Steelworkers of America, are joined by workers at eight other Goodyear plants across the country in Akron, St. Mary's, and Maryville, Ohio; Union City, Tennessee; Danville, Virginia; Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Topeka, Kansas.

Several of the workers on the picket line Monday evening wore black T-shirts emblazoned with a picture of a cobra and the slogan "If Provoked I Will Strike. Don't Tread on Me! Local 12, United Steelworkers of America."

"We were prepared for this," explained

Donald Hall, a bead builder with 32 years in the plant. "For a long time every Friday was 'black shirt day' and everybody wore them to show the strength of the union."

Foy Heath, who works as a general operator in the plant agreed. "Not one union person has crossed and I don't think anyone will," he said. The workers struck the tire giant over wages and benefits, but the union also wants a common expiration date for contracts covering all Goodyear's union employees. In addition to the 12,500 strikers, another 8,000 workers at other Goodyear locations are currently working under different contracts, and other plants are nonunion. The largest tire manufacturer in North America, Goodyear employs about 90,000 people worldwide.

"The company has no intention of mortgaging its future by agreeing to a contract that would widen a contractual disadvantage with its competitors," stated John Perduyn, Goodyear's vice president of public affairs, in a statement released after the strike began.

Strikers on the picket line here say the company wants the same type of contract that Bridgestone/Firestone got. Workers at both companies were originally organized by the United Rubber Work-

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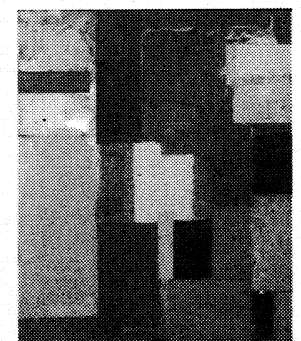
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Jack Barnes

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JACK BARNES
THE CHANGING FACE
OF U.S. POLITICS
Working-class politics and the unions





IN BRIEF

Okinawans: 'No to U.S. bases'

Okinawan protesters flooded the streets April 17, incensed by Tokyo's decision to renew and expand U.S. imperialism's presence on that island. The Japanese parliament passed a bill that gives it the power to open up whatever plot of land it wants for U.S. military installations, of which Okinawa already houses the largest in all Southeast Asia.

Washington's leases for 12 military installations were due to expire in May, and many Okinawan landowners were refusing to renew them. Tens of thousands of residents in Okinawa have joined in demonstrations demanding the removal of the bases. This sentiment mushroomed in 1995 when U.S. servicemen raped a Japanese schoolgirl. More than 31,000 U.S. troops — two-thirds of the total number in Japan — are concentrated in Okinawa.

Kurdish activist is detained

Turkish authorities detained human rights activist and pop singer Sanar Yurdatapan April 16 when he returned to Istanbul from Germany. Onur Yurdatapan, the arrested man's brother, said that the cops ransacked the activist's office and gave no reason for the arrest. Some 12 million Kurds constitute an oppressed nationality in Turkey. They are denied education and broadcasting in their own language, and often face harassment such as forced evacuations. More than 23,000 have died in the 13-year struggle for Kurdish self-determination.

Crisis deepens for Israeli regime

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu squeaked through the threat of being formally charged with corruption April 20. The scandal reflected the tensions that are deepening among the Israeli rulers over their inability to put down Palestinian resistance to the expansion of Zionist settlements. The furor erupted over Netanyahu's appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney general. In January, television reports stated that the lawyer was offered the position in order to minimize the corruption charges prosecutors are seeking for rightist politician Aryeh Deri,



Okinawans and others protest Tokyo's decision to renew U.S. military bases April 17

whose backing the prime minister needed in parliament. Opposition groups and parties immediately began calling for the prime minister's resignation. Netanyahu called the rising scandal and threat of prosecution "an attempt to overthrow the government because of a basic disagreement," and declared that those accusing him "refuse to accept our vigorous objection to a Palestinian state."

Prosecutors investigating the charges stated they did not have enough evidence to indict Netanyahu, but said they had "tangible suspicion" he was involved in wrongdoing.

Miners protest job cuts in Chile

Workers hurled rocks and coins at Jaime Toha, chairman of the state-owned coal mine in Lota, Chile, after he announced April 16 a decision to shut it down. The miners had occupied the work site for two months last year and marched in Santiago, the Chilean capital, to protest the job cuts. Some 1,100

miners, most of them well below retirement age, are scheduled to be discharged immediately and a fight is brewing over severance pay. Unemployment in the area is 13 percent, twice the national average.

More strikes break out in France

Airline pilots from TAT and Air Liberté, two companies in France owned by British Airways, went on strike April 10 against increased working hours and downsizing that are part of a plan to merge the airlines. Also on strike in France are newspaper workers opposing government moves to cut the press subsidies. Their action forced *Liberation* and *Le Monde* to put out their April 17 issues on e-mail only.

Hospital workers, now more than a month into their strike, have rendered most university hospitals sub-functional. Labor struggles have been popping in France as Prime Minister Alain Juppé has accelerated Paris' austerity drive to qualify for a favorable spot in European Union.

Natives protest across Canada

Native activists set up roadblocks and held demonstrations across Canada April 17 in a national day of protest. In Ottawa, demonstrators backed up traffic for nearly two miles with a checkpoint in front of the prime minister's residence during morning rush hour. "We have no economic future in this country, and our people are getting fed up with it," said Ovide Mercredi, a leader of the national assembly of Indian chiefs. Some of the actions in other provinces blocked the Trans-Canada Highway. Protesters say the government there has done nothing to remedy the plight of the 810,000 Natives living in Canada.

Meanwhile, in New York state four days

earlier, 200 protesters blocked a road near the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in protest of government attempts to collect sales tax on gasoline and cigarettes sold by Indian businesses to non-Natives.

Gov't okays public notice of man convicted of sex crime

Texas attorney general Dan Morales declared April 12 that a judge's order forcing an ex-inmate convicted of a sex offense to post a sign on his property stating that fact is within the bounds of law. Morales said the mandatory sign posting is okay when it is related to rehabilitation and protection of the public. He did not say who determines what is "rehabilitating."

In this particular case Ricky Lee Shields, on probation for sex abuse charges, broke a rule of probation and was given the choice of returning to jail or posting a sign that says, "A person on probation for a child sex offense lives here." According to Shield's lawyer, the violated probationary rule was picking up his daughter from daycare after his wife's car broke down.

FBI lab gave fake results, lied

Michael Bromwich, the U.S. Justice Department inspector general, issued a report April 15 charging Federal Bureau of Investigation agents with lying against defendants, preparing sloppy reports, and poor documentation of test results, and said he found serious defects in the FBI's crime laboratory.

The report, based on an 18-month investigation, said the testimony of an examiner in the World Trade Center bombing of 1993, "exceeded his expertise, was unscientific and speculative, was based on improper nonscientific grounds." Bromwich said the agent repeated many of the same errors in the 1995 Oklahoma City explosion. The agent, David Williams, admitted he "overstated" his conclusions on the Oklahoma City case. "This throws the World Trade Center case wide open," said Robert Precht, a lawyer who represented one of the defendants in that case. According to the report, evidence was tainted in dozens of other cases as well.

Same-sex marriage under attack

Legislators in Hawaii are proposing an amendment to the state constitution that would overturn a previous state court ruling that declared it unconstitutional to ban same-sex marriage. In 1993, the state supreme court ruled that banning gay marriage was discriminatory and therefore unconstitutional. Citing the Hawaii ruling, U.S. president William Clinton signed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act last September, denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages and enabling states to reject these unions and deny benefits associated with legally married couples. Since then 18 states have passed laws denying recognition to same-sex marriages.

— BRIAN TAYLOR
AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

Why I read



THE MILITANT

I like reading the *Militant* because it is very informative on what's going on in other parts of the world. It has a lot of information on Cuba, like the recent speech by Fidel [Castro], addressing how Cuba is ready to defend itself against the U.S. embargo or military attack, and that Cuba is not for sale.

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The Militant

Vol. 61/No. 18

Closing news date: April 24, 1997

Editor: NAOMI CRAINE

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Megan Arney, Hilda Cuzco, Martin Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Taylor, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311,2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant

Internet: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

The Militant can be accessed on the internet at: gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org/11/pubs/militant

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

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Imperialists debate how to advance war drive against Russian workers state

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — As Washington leads the imperialist drive to extend the NATO military alliance into eastern and central Europe, the Swedish ruling class has become increasingly active in defending its imperialist interests in the Baltic region. Both the Social Democratic foreign minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén and Conservative opposition leader Carl Bildt have made statements in favor of the right of any nation to join the military alliances of their choice, reflecting their discontent with the fact that the Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — are not slated to be included in the first round of NATO expansion. The U.S.-dominated alliance is expected to move to take in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland this year.

The foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland made a joint statement demanding that while they remain nonaligned countries for the time being, the doors of NATO should be open if they want to join the alliance later. Washington's position on the expansion of NATO into the Baltic states is "Not yet, but later."

The push to expand NATO is part of the imperialists' preparations to directly assault the Russian workers state — the first place where working people overthrew capitalist rule and established the dictatorship of the proletariat. The imperialists need to overturn the social relations established as a conquest of the October 1917 revolution in Russia — the world's number-two strategic nuclear power — in order to advance their aim of restoring capitalism not only there, but everywhere that the propertied classes have been expropriated, from eastern Germany to the Pacific Ocean.

U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright suggested Washington's aims bluntly in an article printed in the February 15 *Economist*. "What logic would dictate that we freeze NATO's eastern edges where they presently lie, along the line where the Red Army stopped in the spring of 1945?"

Finland and the Baltic states are of military strategic importance in Washington's war drive. Finland is the only imperialist country that has a long border with Russia, and it was in the Baltic states that the Soviet Union concentrated most of its military installations — bases and troops — to counter an attack by NATO during the cold war. Today only Kalliningrad is left, a Russian military base sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

Differences between Bonn, Washington

While there is substantial agreement among the NATO governments on taking in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, Washington's plans for further expansion of NATO east and northward are not so welcomed by Bonn and Paris. Bonn would favor bringing Austria into NATO, the conservative Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet* reported, but not Sweden, Finland, the Baltic states, or any of the other countries bordering Russia. The German rulers know this would put a strain on relations between Bonn



Russian president Boris Yeltsin, left, met April 17 with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, right, to discuss disputes over deployment of imperialist troops at Russian borders.

and Moscow. Accounting for two-thirds of the credits and aid the Russian government receives from the imperialist countries, Bonn is Moscow's biggest trade partner.

The French government is now demanding a legally binding agreement between NATO and Moscow as a condition for Paris rejoining the inner command structure of NATO. This would effectively delay and erode the process of the eastward expansion of NATO. When Boris Yeltsin recently met German chancellor Helmut Kohl in Baden-Baden, Germany, they announced a possible meeting on May 27 in Paris between Moscow and NATO to sign such an accord. The rulers in Sweden and Finland fear that such an agreement could block membership of the Baltic states in NATO for the foreseeable future.

Svenska Dagbladet commented favorably on the appointment of Ronald Asmus as the assistant chief in Europe for the U.S. State Department, in an April 2 article headlined, "Appointment in Washington marks interest for the Baltic states." Asmus is the author of a report from the California-based Rand Institute that argues that the inclusion of the Baltic states in NATO is too risky in the first round, and that Sweden and Finland should take more responsibility for the defense of the Baltic states in a defensive pact with those governments for the time being. This is a proposal that neither Stockholm nor Helsinki support.

But in an interview with *Svenska Dagbladet* last June, Asmus also openly stated that Sweden, Finland, and the Baltic states jointly should be taken into NATO later. "Today there is talk about the expansion of NATO eastward, but it's only a question of time until it will be talking about a northward expansion," the paper quotes Asmus as saying.

U.S. secretary of state Albright reportedly



made similar promises to the Estonian foreign minister, who visited Washington in late March.

London and Oslo are opposed to taking the Baltic states into NATO, while the government of Denmark is in favor. Their respective positions reflect the importance Washington will give them as allies in either case. London's and Oslo's importance will decrease if the Baltic states are taken in, while Denmark, Sweden, and Finland expect to gain a more prominent position as allies.

Paris proposes military wing of EU

In mid-March, Paris proposed that the Western European Union (WEU) — today not more than a paper organization made up of the members of NATO in Europe — should move toward merging with European Union (EU). The final step of the proposed merger would have the member states of the EU formalize a military pact. The proposal was soon backed by the governments of Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, and Spain.

The plan was discussed by the EU foreign ministers at the European Union's 40-year anniversary celebration in Rome in late March, where divisions and disagreements could not be hidden. "Only one country has to oppose the proposal to turn it down," noted Irish foreign minister Dick Spring. Dublin — along with Finland, Sweden and Austria — is one of the so-called neutral members of the EU. These four governments, who are not members of NATO, have been cool to Paris's scheme.

Hjelm-Wallén was asked at a press conference whether she would veto the proposal, and cautiously answered, "You don't start a negotiation with a veto." British foreign minister Malcolm Rifkind, who was said to be a mighty ally of Hjelm-Wallén in the discussions, commented, "It is not to the advantage of NATO that the EU is transformed into an organization of collective security." Both London and Stockholm argue that the EU should first and foremost be a customs union with a minimum of joint decision making in other areas and that the union should be widened eastward. The British government is vehemently opposed to the merger plan and has threatened to veto it.

The Swedish government is especially pushing for the Baltic states to be taken into the EU. Stockholm argues that if the European Union can be identified as a military pact similar to NATO — as the proposal to merge the WEU and EU indicates — Moscow's opposition to the Baltic states'

EU membership will be similar to its opposition to their NATO membership. Officials in both London and Stockholm also stress the indispensable role Washington's participation has in the military alliance in Europe.

The enlargement of the EU into eastern and central Europe is a top priority for the rulers in Sweden. Percy Barnevik recently stated that the enlargement of EU into eastern Europe is a far more important project than European Monetary Union (EMU). Barnevik has just taken over as chairman in Investor, the investment company of the Wallenbergs — the most powerful ruling family in Sweden.

The Swedish social democratic government has not yet taken a position on whether Stockholm will join EMU when it is scheduled to begin in January 1999. When the governments of Finland and Italy joined the exchange rate system (EMR) between the currencies in Europe last year — seen as a step in preparation for the monetary union — Swedish finance minister Erik Åsbrink said it was not necessary for Sweden to do so to qualify for EMU from the start. Currencies in the EMR are pegged to the mark, with an allowed variation above or below the German currency. At that time — in the fall of 1996 — the Swedish krona had regained much of what it lost in the 1992-93 currency crises, interest rates were low, and inflation the last 12 months was the lowest in Europe.

The government and employers in Sweden have made advances in lowering sick-leave payments and unemployment benefits without stirring up the kinds of labor protests that have taken place in Germany and France. German finance minister Theo Waigel praised the Swedish social democrats for these accomplishments, while criticizing German social democracy as financially irresponsible.

The Swedish government has a "wait and see" position on the EMU similar to that of the British government. It says that the criteria for entering the monetary union — such as having a deficit of not more than 3 percent of the Gross Domestic Product — should be strictly applied, thus projecting the image of a country that is relating to the EMU from the position of strength. Stockholm says it will have a balanced budget in 1998 and a surplus after that. With elections coming next year, the social democrats say that the surplus should be used by local governments to hire more workers in health care, child care and education.

In the government's budget plans published April 15, some 4 billion krona is allotted to the local governments for that purpose in 1997, and 8 billion krona in 1998 (1\$US = 7.7 krona.) The government also projects making it harder to qualify for unemployment benefits, while raising the amount paid from 75 percent of a worker's pay to 80 percent, beginning Oct. 1, 1997.

Carl-Erik Isacson is a member of the metal workers union in Södertälje, Sweden.

Italian, Greek troops in Albania

Continued from front page
the adoption of a new electoral law, new elections, and equal access to radio and television. He warned hundreds of people participating in a recent rally in Vlore, "Go get your guns and take up defense positions."

The National Front for the Salvation of the People is made up of representatives of the various citizens councils that run Vlore and the other Albanian cities where workers and farmers have taken up arms against the Berisha government. It held a meeting with Gen. Girolamo Giglio, the commander of the Italian military force that landed in Vlore April 21.

The Italian armed unit included 570 marines, infantry, and Carabinieri police, as well as several armored vehicles. Another 100 Greek troops traveled by road through the northern part of Albania and took control of a disused military airport near Vlore. Earlier, when a small force of 25 Italian marines arrived in Vlore to "inspect the

harbor," they were greeted by "a group of about 50 Albanians," some of whom were shouting "Down with Berisha," according to the April 18 *Athens News*.

Under the guise of providing security for the delivery of "humanitarian aid," the imperialist powers participating in the military occupation force, as well as Washington, aim to crush the working-class rebellion in Albania and to restore capitalism in that country.

The only way the intervention could get "approved by the United Nations was to say it was for humanitarian assistance," asserted Jean-Marie Boucher, the World Food Program manager for the Balkans.

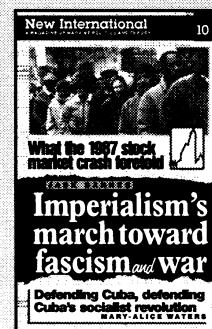
In the last month, the Red Cross has delivered more than 40 tons of food and 15 tons of medical supplies across the country, without using any military escorts. "We've not had a single incident. There's nowhere we have not been able to go," declared Nina Winquist-Galbe, spokeswoman for the In-

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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 International* no. 10. \$14.00



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UN officials push for Zaire intervention

BY MEGAN ARNEY

United Nations officials — backed by Washington — have stepped up their propaganda campaign aimed at justifying military intervention in Zaire. On April 21 Sadako Ogata, head of the UN High Commission on Refugees, assailed the Alliance for Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo/Zaire (AFDL), accusing the antigovernment rebels of killing Rwandan refugees and blocking efforts to repatriate them. This political attack comes as rebels advance closer to the capital of Kinshasa — the last major Zairian city not controlled by the AFDL. Thousands of imperialist troops are also stationed in Brazzaville, Congo, just across the Congo river from Kinshasa.

Rebels say six people were killed over the weekend of April 19-20 by former Rwandan soldiers who are among the refugees in eastern Zaire. Some 100,000 refugees live in camps in eastern Zaire. Most of the refugees are civilians who fled the Rwandan war in 1992, but some took part in organizing mass killings in Rwanda, and now fear returning to that country.

According to the Associated Press, some Zairians living near the camps responded to the deaths by looting and stoning foreign journalists and aid workers. Rebel forces have said they are now fighting former Rwandan soldiers and militiamen near the camps southeast of Kisangani, AP reports.

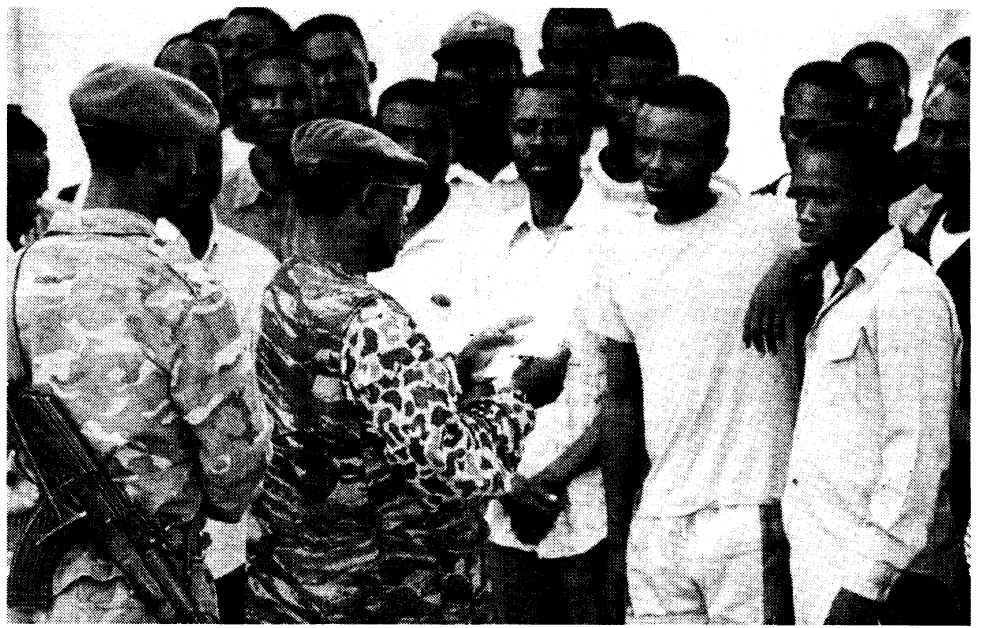
The governor of Eastern Province, Jean-Yagi Sitolo, went on the radio to urge calm. "The population is very upset because the refugees killed six Zairians. We sent a group

of soldiers to investigate," he stated. Since April 21, rebel forces have closed off the camps south of Kisangani to restore order.

AFDL leaders, who have captured half of the country including the most mineral-rich areas, said weeks ago they were willing to open a corridor for the refugees to go back to Rwanda. More recently, the AFDL put a UN airlift of refugees on hold, due to a cholera outbreak in the camps, which they said would have endangered the surrounding population. Since mid-March, there have been 408 cholera cases reported. According to the UN figures, 42 people have died from the disease. The UN airlift was supposed to begin April 18.

For the past week, big-business dailies from New York to Washington, London, and Paris have spouted the need for "humanitarian aid" for refugees in eastern Zaire. The spokespieces for the ruling classes have barely mentioned the bloody attacks by the former Rwandan soldiers, but hyped the response by Zairians. Ogata postulated several reasons for intervention, including alleged attacks and looting of food aid by Zairians, supposed commandeering by rebel forces of jet fuel marked for the airlift, and the "response to the alleged killing of Zairian nationals by refugees," which the UN official says followed an "aggressive radio campaign against the refugees in the region."

Howard French, the *New York Times's* top reporter in Zaire, has been writing articles based largely on accounts by unnamed diplomats and relief officials. In his April 23 piece, French quoted an unnamed "senior



Former Zairian army troops, in plain clothes, sign up to join rebel army in Lubumbashi.

official of one nongovernmental international relief agency" as saying, "Sometimes the rebels go in and shoot a lot of people.... Sometimes they shoot up a lot of people with no pretext whatsoever." French goes on, "According to the relief official, local people in several areas of eastern Zaire say that armed units of [rebel leader Laurent] Kabila's alliance have followed a strategy of lurking near relief operations in isolated areas, picking off and killing straggling groups of Hutu refugees." French doesn't

attempt to substantiate these claims from any other sources.

Striking a similar chord, the *Washington Post* headlined an April 22 article, "Rebels Prevent Relief Workers From Aiding Rwandan Refugees." The big-business newspapers have also continued their display of horrific pictures depicting the conditions of the refugees.

In another maneuver to slander the Alliance, a UN spokeswoman announced April 22 that so-called human rights investigators and forensic experts will travel to eastern Zaire in May to probe alleged killings of Rwandan refugees and civilians by the rebels, according to Reuters news agency. These charges were first touted by another UN official, Roberto Garretón, in early April. Garretón was forced to admit in his reports, however, that the information about the alleged deaths is "frequently inadequate and even contradictory."

On April 19, the State Department urged U.S. citizens in Zaire to leave the country quickly. It said April 18 that it would fly dependents of U.S. embassy personnel out of Kinshasa on April 21.

In the rebel-held city of Lubumbashi, rebels warned Washington and other powers against sending in troops to evacuate their citizens. "Any foreign soldier on our soil will be a target," said rebel finance minister Mwama Nanga Mawanpanga. "Be it American, Chinese, French, whoever — they will be a target."

Foreshadow of downfall for regime

As the rebellion advances, the dictatorial regime of Zairian president Mobutu Sese Seko is in growing disarray. Mobutu came to power as a paid CIA employee in a military coup d'état in 1965 with the backing of Washington. Between 1965 and 1991, Mobutu received more than \$1.5 billion in U.S. economic and military assistance, making Zaire one of the largest recipients of U.S. economic backing in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Zairian government no longer controls the economy, as the rebels have captured all of the mineral and economic-rich areas. State-run airlines can not fly to major cities outside the capital, and according to several reports, the majority of people in Kinshasa support the rebel cause. "We don't fear Kabila. We are afraid of our own soldiers," a nurse named Marie-Claire told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "They [the troops] took our air-conditioning units, passports, fans, and light bulbs, and beat us," she added.

"We want Mobutu to leave. He has been here long enough and he has done nothing for us," Jean-Pierre Booto, a small business owner, was quoted as saying by AP. "We Zairians want a change. We have had enough of Mobutu."

Preparing for the inevitable, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution April 17 calling on Mobutu to relinquish power. Even Mobutu's own political party has taken its distance. "We believe it is time for the president to retire gracefully," said an official in the Popular Movement for the Revolution.

On April 22, the AFDL took control of the city of Ilebo, about 360 miles east of the capital, a Western diplomat told the *Washington Post*. Zairian government troops in Kikwit, who have not been paid since February, have reportedly fled in advance of expected rebel forces.

Keep on giving to Militant Fund drive

BY VALERIE JOHNSON
AND DEBORAH LIATOS

In the final week of the international fund drive for the *Militant*, partisans of the socialist newsweekly and of *Perspectiva Mundial* around the country are picking up the pace of collecting funds to meet the goal of raising \$110,000 by April 26. This week \$18,522 was received at the *Militant* — the largest amount in any single week — bringing us to a total of \$84,226 collected. This means we need another \$25,774.

Supporters across the United States and around the world have reported on plans to use the final week to go over the top in the drive. And, as the capitalist crisis and its ramifications for working people unfolds, each week brings new reasons why a work-

ing-class paper that presents the truth, the facts, and an analysis of world events, is needed.

At fund events, on the job, and at political meetings, socialists continue to win new contributions and to collect remaining pledges from supporters of the paper.

Reports from areas that just completed fund raising meetings show the appreciation of the *Militant* among fighting youth and unionists. If you haven't made your contribution as yet join us by sending a donation right away to: The *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

BY CHRIS RAYSON

SEATTLE — Supporters of the \$110,000

Militant Fund held an event here April 19 to celebrate the irreplaceable role of the paper. Autumn Knowlton, a student leader at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma and active *Militant* salesperson who chaired the event, announced at the end that the 40 readers of the paper at the meeting donated \$2,040 and made over \$700 in new pledges.

In his message to the event, Tomás Villanueva, a leader of farm workers struggles in Washington for over a decade, pointed out that the *Militant* has consistently supported the "struggle of farm workers in the state of Washington in their pursuit of equality and economic justice."

"You folks open many doors for us to get support from labor unions throughout the state. I personally, in the name of farm workers, appreciate your support and wish the continuous success of the *Militant*," Villanueva wrote.

Samantha Kern, a leader of the Spokane chapter of the Young Socialists, explained the central role the *Militant* plays in organizing the chapter's work, citing numerous examples. "We use it as a reference tool to introduce young fighters, potential recruits, to our cause."

Frank Forrestal, an auto worker and Socialist Workers Party leader, gave the featured talk on "Washington's War Drive on Russia and Capitalism's World Disorder" at a fund-raising program.

Marty Boyers in Greensboro reported that "We had a successful fund dinner and meeting last night. Socialist Workers Party leader Ernie Mailhot from Miami was the featured speaker and 25 people attended the event. Four immigrant workers who are active in a union organizing drive at the Case Farms chicken plant in Morganton came. One gave greetings at the meeting. Marcus Tillery, from the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, a group of Black farmers fighting racist farm foreclosures, also spoke."

The Boston *Militant* Labor Forum held a special program to raise money for the fund, reports Gary Cohen. Brian Taylor, a leader of the Young Socialists, spoke on the topic, "Che Guevara, the Cuban Revolution and the Worldwide Struggle for Socialism."

Carol Thomas, a leader of the July 26th Coalition also spoke about why the *Militant* is invaluable for her political work, noting that "The *Militant* gives our struggle dignity."

The final fund chart will be run in the *Militant* next week. All contributions received by 12 noon Tuesday, April 29, will be credited to local goals.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE MILITANT FUND			
Country/City	Goal	Paid	%
New Zealand			
Auckland	\$3,500	\$3,199	91%
Christchurch	\$1,750	\$1,413	81%
Wellington	\$140	\$42	30%
N.Z. Total	\$5,390	\$4,654	86%
France	\$350	\$275	79%
United States			
Denver	\$40	\$40	100%
Salt Lake City	\$2,000	\$1,994	99%
New York	\$12,000	\$11,669	97%
Detroit	\$4,750	\$4,566	96%
Twin Cities, MN	\$6,000	\$5,500	92%
Miami	\$2,000	\$1,755	88%
Atlanta	\$3,500	\$3,005	86%
Houston	\$4,000	\$3,336	83%
San Francisco	\$9,000	\$7,365	82%
Boston	\$4,500	\$3,604	80%
Greensboro, NC	\$2,250	\$1,625	72%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$2,850	71%
Des Moines	\$2,000	\$1,376	69%
Pittsburgh	\$5,000	\$3,380	68%
Washington, D.C.	\$2,800	\$1,889	67%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$5,878	65%
Cleveland	\$2,500	\$1,585	63%
Chicago/Peoria	\$9,300	\$5,528	59%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$3,855	55%
Newark, NJ	\$7,500	\$3,998	53%
Birmingham, AL	\$2,300	\$1,082	47%
Morgantown, WV	\$1,500	\$315	21%
Other	\$683	\$658	96%
U.S. Total	\$103,623	\$76,851	74%
United Kingdom			
London	\$750	\$577	77%
Manchester	\$750	\$105	14%
UK Total	\$1,500	\$682	45%
Sweden	\$200	\$75	38%
Canada			
Toronto	\$1,440	\$1,000	69%
Vancouver	\$1,080	\$256	24%
Montreal	\$2,000	\$433	22%
Canada Total	\$4,520	\$1,689	37%
Australia	\$1,000	\$0	0%
Int'l Total	\$116,583	\$84,226	77%
Should be	\$110,000	\$97,900	89%

\$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

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

WEEK 6

'Militant,' Pathfinder books bring 'real politics' to fighters

BY GREG MCCARTAN

With six days to go in the international *Militant* subscription drive, socialists are turning every effort to reach out to win new readers to the paper and to the revolutionary books published by Pathfinder Press. Heading into the final week of drive, supporters in eight cities have met their goals or are on target. Since the drive is a collective effort of socialists around the world, those leading the campaign are planning to work as hard in the remaining days of the drive as are supporters in cities who have a substantial way to go to meet their goals.

We now have in hand 961 *Militant* subscriptions of a goal of 1,400 and 288 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* toward a goal of 450. In addition to the 317 *New Internationals* sold at the Young Socialists convention, local supporters have sold 423 copies of the magazine of Marxist politics and theory toward the goal of 600. Every subscription received at the *Militant* by the end of the day Tuesday, April 29 will be in the final scoreboard next week.

Over the past several weeks socialists have begun to hit their stride in the getting out with revolutionary literature to conferences, protest actions, and strikes; with literature tables on street corners and college campuses; and door-to-door in working-class communities. Over 200 subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold in each of the last two weeks. From reports received, sales of Pathfinder literature have also grown dramatically.

Socialists can discuss how to build on these recent experiences to deepen their use of socialist propaganda as they participate in a growing number of political openings in the class struggle today.

Each week the *Militant* and Pathfinder books become more relevant to fighting youth and workers. The *Militant*, for example, has firsthand reports from Cuba that help get out the truth about the socialist revolution; articles to use to campaign against the imperialist military intervention against the workers state in Albania; news and analysis to combat brutal assaults by the capitalists and imperialists such as that in Peru; and information on the many developments in the class struggle from Europe to Africa, and from the Americas to Asia.

One new challenge to supporters of this effort is organizing to pack and ship the thousands of books and pamphlets ordered by Pathfinder bookstores as part of the big "super-saver" sale being offered by the publisher. Starting this week, a team of ten or so volunteers will be organizing the stock of books, filling orders, and shipping them out around the world.

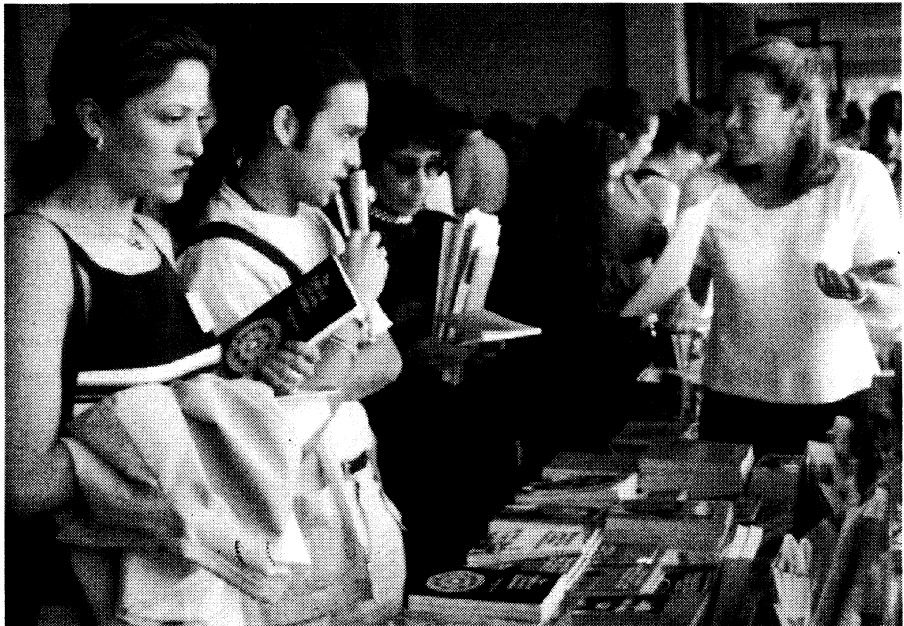
More stories than we have space for have come into the *Militant* this week. Here is a sample from the E-mail and faxes sent in:

From Des Moines Ardy Blandford writes: Socialists from Des Moines and Twin Cities went to the Pedagogy of the Oppressed conference April 17-19, which was attended by about 400 professors and graduate and undergraduate students from around the country, along with community activists to discuss strategies and theories on how to solve conditions of oppression and exploitation. The team sold 19 *Militant* subscriptions, six *New Internationals*, \$500 worth of Pathfinder books for a total of 67 titles, two memberships to the Pathfinder Readers Club, and 15 *Militant* singles. People contributed \$50

to the *Militant* Fund as well.

There was a lot of interest in the eyewitness reports from teams to Albania and Yugoslavia. Many students were interested in learning more about Marxism, the Young Socialists, and the world youth festival in Cuba this summer. One person said after buying a *Militant* subscription and *The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention*: "This is what

theory where students were particularly interested in the article from Yugoslavia by Argiris Malapanis. Another subscription was sold by a team that went



Participants in the National Association of Chicana/Chicano Studies Conference, held in Sacramento, California, April 16-19, bought 73 books, 12 *Militant* subscriptions, and 1 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription. Discussions at the conference included affirmative action, the struggle of farmworkers, immigration, and welfare.

I came for. Something that addresses real politics!"

A thick envelope of subscriptions arrived from Los Angeles this week, pushing them into the "on time" section of the chart. Barry Fatland sent the following note: We've mapped out plans to go over all our goals this week as part of the international effort. This week we sold 12 introductory subscriptions at the *Los Angeles Times* Bookfair at UCLA, as well as 1 subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial* and four copies of *New International*.

In less than six hours two socialists sold 11 subscriptions and three *New Internationals* at the University of California at San Diego. We participated in a protest for voting rights at the congressional hearings in Santa Ana where we sold three subscriptions to *PM* and one to the *Militant*.

Mike Italie sent the following letter on Pathfinder sales at the 15th Annual Conference of the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis: The event was attended by academics across the United States, as well as Australia, Canada, India, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. Conferences organizers said speakers from Iran were denied visas by the U.S. State Department.

Over 20 Pathfinder books were purchased at the conference, for a total of \$270. Six participants took advantage of a special offer on \$15 for *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. A sociology professor who had purchased Pathfinder's *Lenin's Final Fight: Speeches and Writings, 1922-23* at a store in Kansas City said he "looks to Pathfinder for accurate historical writing" and went on to buy the entire six-volume set of "The Communist International in Lenin's Time" containing the documents of the early congresses of the Communist International and related gatherings and events.

Communists in Sweden increased their *Militant* subscriptions by three this week. Catharina Tirsén writes: Two subscriptions this week were sold door-to-door in a dormi-

to Uppsala, a city 80 kilometers north of Stockholm. Youth attending a week-end school organized by the Youth Left on the European Monetary Union came out during a break and bought a subscription as well as several pamphlets. All three copies of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara were sold out.

Janet Roth sent the following from Auckland, New Zealand: A regional trip to Massey University in Palmerston North provided a boost for the circulation campaign. Four socialists from Auckland and Wellington teamed up for an all-day sales table and sold seven subscriptions to the *Militant*, 30 single copies of the paper, and two copies of *New International*. A fighter in the struggle in New Caledonia to win independence from France is among the new subscribers.

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

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
NEW ZEALAND							
Wellington	3	4	133%			1	1
Auckland	35	31	89%	2	2	14	6
Christchurch	25	19	76%	1	1	10	8
N.Z. total	63	54	86%	3	3	25	15
SWEDEN							
	15	12	80%	7	1	10	6
UNITED STATES							
Cincinnati	5	7	140%	1	0	0	0
Tucson	4	4	100%	2	0	0	4
Twin Cities, MN	70	70	100%	10	8	15	14
Miami	30	28	93%	15	14	20	17
Los Angeles	100	93	93%	50	50	50	51
Des Moines	40	37	93%	25	3	20	8
Washington, DC	42	37	88%	15	10	15	12
Greensboro, NC	30	25	83%	15	12	10	12
San Francisco	70	57	81%	30	25	35	26
Boston	30	24	80%	10	8	30	22
Salt Lake City	24	19	79%	10	10	8	11
Atlanta	27	21	78%	14	10	16	16
Seattle	60	44	73%	25	9	25	12
Houston	50	35	70%	20	10	20	12
Cleveland	35	22	63%	7	2	10	3
Birmingham, AL	32	20	63%	5	3	15	2
Detroit	40	24	60%	7	4	15	9
Pittsburgh	45	24	53%	4	1	15	16
Chicago/Peoria	95	49	52%	28	15	40	31
Denver	4	2	50%	4	2	3	0
New York	150	75	50%	75	36	65	20
Philadelphia	35	16	46%	10	8	10	12
Newark, NJ	130	44	34%	45	30	60	11
Morgantown, WV	27	4	15%	2	0	10	9
Spokane, WA	10	0	0%	2	0	6	0
YS convention							317
U.S. total	1185	781	66%	431	270	513	647
UNITED KINGDOM							
London	45	29	64%	8	7	25	20
Manchester	21	10	48%	2	0	10	4
U.K. total	66	39	59%	10	7	35	24
CANADA							
Vancouver	40	28	70%	5	3	15	10
Toronto	30	16	53%	7	3	10	0
Montreal	35	16	46%	10	4	35	26
CANADA total	105	60	57%	22	6	60	36
AUSTRALIA							
	18	9	50%	3	1	10	9
GREECE							
	5	2	40%			3	1
ICELAND							
	10	4	40%	1	0	4	1
PUERTO RICO*							
	1	0	0%	3	0	2	1
International totals	1468	961	69%	480	288	662	740
Should be	1400	1204	86%	450	386	600	514

IN THE UNIONS

CANADA							
IAM	8	4	50%	0	0	7	2
USWA	11	5	45%	2	1	7	2
TOTAL	19	9	47%	2	1	14	4
UNITED STATES							
UTU	55	32	58%	4	4	28	10
USWA	42	18	43%	8	5	31	4
IAM	75	27	36%	15	7	35	5
OCAW	28	10	36%	5	0	18	1
UAW	45	9	20%	10	3	20	5
UNITE	21	4	19%	15	6	15	4
UFCW	14	1	7%	10	3	6	2
UMWA	2	0	0%			2	0
TOTAL	282	101	36%	67	28	155	31
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
AUSTRALIA							
AMWU	4	0	0%	0	0	3	2

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; TGUW — 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.

Students sign up for world youth festival

BY JACK WILLEY

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Plans are under way in several places across the United States for building the delegation to the 14th World Festival and Conference of Youth and Students, taking place in Cuba, July 27-August 4. Delegations of youth from countries around the globe will be discussing central issues in world politics today at the festival.

The next national meeting of the U.S. Organizing Committee for the World Youth Festival is taking place in New York City on May 4. Representatives from national and local organizations and local festival committees are encouraged to attend to review the outreach and organizing efforts, travel and other logistical details, and plans for the activities of the festival.

Activists building a delegation from the United States met several groups of youth interested in the festival at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies conference in Sacramento, California, April 17-19. Six people went to an informal gathering to learn more, including a student at Berkeley High School, members of Frente Unido in Los Angeles and Alianza de la Raza in Dallas, and members of the Latino Coalition in Sonoma, California. Socialists in San Francisco are following up with people interested in the festival over the next week.

In North Carolina several high school students are part of building the delegation. Gabe Taltom, a student at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, found out about the festival from a leaflet posted up at his school. He reports that both himself and Jonathan Harris, a high school student in Raleigh, are raising money to go.

"We went to Cuba two years ago with

our church. When I saw the flyer, I decided to go, but had no idea anyone else in the area was interested. Since then, we've met with a Young Socialists member in Greensboro and plan to build a delegation. This is a great package of events, meeting thousands of young people from all over the world and also getting a chance to see Cuba."

Harris is approaching a local weekly newspaper to write articles about the festival when he returns. Known as a political activist, he has talked up the festival with friends at his high school. He took part in a demonstration several months ago at the Phillips-Van Heusen factory outlet store in Raleigh in support of workers at the company's plant in Guatemala who are fighting for a union contract. So far the company has refused to negotiate.

Activists in Philadelphia recently launched the Philadelphia Organizing Committee for the World Youth Festival. So far, about a dozen people are signed up to go from four area campuses, in addition to activists in the Puerto Rican community.

At the University of Houston, the National Organization for Women, Pan-African People's Progressive Association, Cuba Friendship Committee and Young Socialists are sponsoring a meeting April 24 for all students interested in the world festival. Students at Jones High School in Houston are planning a concert in late May to raise funds for people at the school who plan to go to the festival.

In Washington, D.C., the local youth festival committee and the D.C. "Hands Off Cuba" Coalition are co-sponsoring a video showing of "After the Battle," a documentary about the thousands of Cuban volunteers who fought in Angola against the in-

vasion by the South African apartheid army in the 1970s and 1980s. The showing is taking place May 2.

Joshua Carroll reports that activists there are meeting with a various groups at George Washington University, including at an April 29 meeting of the Arab Club and a meeting with the Latinos for Progress.

The delegation from the United States will be joining several thousand young people for the festival. Organizing committees have been established in over 50 countries and participants are expected from 100 nations. The event, dedicated to revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara, will include workshops and discussions on a wide range of themes. Festival organizers have decided on topics to include: peace, security, nuclear-weapon-free world, international cooperation and friendship, the anti-imperialist struggle, solidarity, national liberation, sovereignty and self-determination, democracy and participation, environment and sustainable development, employment, education, science and technology; childhood, young women, health, culture, social communication, discrimination, racism and neo-fascism, international youth and student movements, and human rights and people's rights.

The total cost for the festival is \$600 for

those who apply by May 15. This covers all expenses for the trip except airfare from the United States to Nassau, Bahamas, or Cancun, Mexico, the meeting points for U.S. participants. Applications must be accompanied by a \$50 deposit and full payment is due by June 30. There will be an additional \$25 charge for those who apply between May 16 and June 30.

For more information and 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.

COME TO THE
**14th World
Festival of
Youth and
Students
CUBA '97**



For more information about the
Festival contact
**U.S. Organizing Committee
for the World Youth Festival**
2565 Broadway #236
New York, NY 10025
Tel: (212) 866-7270

Planning meeting of the U.S.
Organizing Committee for the
World Youth Festival:

Sunday, May 4th
New York City
12 noon to 3 p.m.
Casa de las Américas
104 West 14th Street (near 6th Ave.)

Correction

Last week's article incorrectly reported that the "Justice for Cuba Coalition set up a table at the MEChA conference." Participants in the conference found out about the festival through material distributed by individual supporters of the delegation going to Cuba.

— J.W.

Socialists celebrate 20 years of movement in Utah

BY DAN FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY — Over 30 members, supporters, and friends of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the local Pathfinder Bookstore, and the *Militant* attended a Militant Labor Forum here April 18 to mark the closing of the SWP branch and the bookstore.

Leaders of the party branch reported to the meeting on the accomplishments of the movement in Utah and the broader region over the last two decades and saluted all those who had been part of that effort over the years. Given the small size of the branch in the city, party members here decided that the best way to take advantage of the political opportunities to build the movement today was to help reinforce other branches around the country.

Larry Lane, a member of the International Association of Machinists and the SWP in San Francisco, reported on the farm workers march of 25,000 in Watsonville the previous Sunday. "The march was a real merging of labor with the rising Chicano-Mexican nationalist movement," he said. He added that the march was also partially a response to California state propositions 187

and 209 that attack immigrant rights and affirmative action. Lane described the buses that poured into Watsonville from all over California, rented by the trade unions, but filled as well with many students and other young activists.

Doug Jenness, a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) in Twin Cities, was the featured speaker at the forum, which aimed to raise funds for the \$110,000 *Militant* fund drive. Jenness, a former editor of the *Militant*, spoke on "Washington's Drive to Expand NATO Threatens Russia."

Jenness explained the goal of U.S. imperialism in pushing NATO into Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic was to overturn the Soviet Union and Eastern European workers states through war and re-establish capitalism there. "In spite of Boris Yeltsin's smiles when meeting with President William Clinton," he said, "he is not happy about the prospect of U.S. troops right on the Russian border."

Dan Fein, USWA member at Kennecott Utah Copper's smelter and recent chairperson of the Salt Lake City branch of the SWP, spoke on the closing of the branch and the

Pathfinder Bookstore.

Fein described some of the highlights of the class struggle in Utah over the past two decades and how the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, Pathfinder books and pamphlets, the Militant Labor Forum, and the Socialist Workers Party election campaigns helped workers to defend their class interests during these battles.

The founding of the SWP branch in Salt Lake City in 1977 was partially the result of Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) members at Utah State University at Logan, Utah successfully campaigning for the 1976 SWP presidential slate. Many joined the party at the time. The YSA was also part of the protests against the execution of Gary Gilmore, the first use of the death penalty in the United States since the 1950s, around this time.

In 1978 the SWP began getting the big majority of its members into jobs in basic industry and the industrial unions. Members in Salt Lake City got jobs at oil refineries, the copper mine, the integrated steel mill, and plants that made equipment for copper mines.

In the early 1980s the party expanded by setting up a branch in Price, Utah, in order to deepen its participation in the struggles of miners. Branch members were hired into the underground coal mines, especially those organized by the United Mine Workers of America. Together with other socialists in Salt Lake City, they reached out to miners' struggles across the Western mine fields.

When a strike broke out at the Decker mine north of Sheridan, Wyoming, SWP members often drove there to walk the picket lines and write articles for the *Militant*. When an explosion and fire devastated the Wilberg mine near Price killing one person — the company was trying to set a production record — socialists who were miners fought along with other miners for increased union say on safety issues.

In the mid 1980s, U.S. Steel locked out thousands of USWA members at its Orem mill. Some 13 months later, the mill opened under a new owner as Geneva Steel. SWP members in the union joined others in resisting the deep concessions demanded of the Steelworkers union by the company as a condition for reopening the mill.

Around the same time close to 7,000 miners at Kennecott's huge copper operation were laid-off. Only a fraction of them were called back two years later and the company

implemented an inferior union contract as well.

Over the years, SWP members brought a revolutionary working-class program to those involved in actions against apartheid in South Africa, to marches against the U.S. war on Iraq, to Cuba solidarity pickets at the Federal Building, and to labor solidarity tours of striking UMW members. Most recently, socialists were involved in walk-outs at the high schools to protest the banning of the gay-straight alliance and in plantgate collections at the Kennecott smelter to back the fellow unionists on strike against Wheeling-Pittsburgh.

Fein ended some of the highlights of the past 20 years by saluting all those in the audience and others who helped make this possible. "Tonight we celebrate two decades of revolutionary political work and struggle by the proletarian vanguard in Utah," he said. Some \$610 was collected for the *Militant* Fund, including \$94 which was not previously pledged.

Pat Nixon, an oil worker from Los Angeles, was introduced by the chair. The Los Angeles and San Francisco branches of the party will now have Utah as part of the region they reach out to as protest actions and workers' struggles unfold. After the meeting adjourned, many of those present gave their names and phone numbers to Lane and Nixon for future political collaboration.

The following morning, Jenness gave a class at the Pathfinder Bookstore on "The Struggle Against Fascism in France in the 1930s and Its Lessons for Today - Independent Working-Class Political Action vs. Popular Frontism," which was attended by a dozen people.

That afternoon SWP and Young Socialists members had a booth at the "Earth Jam" festival in Liberty Park here. Eight *Militant* and one *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions were sold, along with 14 Pathfinder books and two copies of *New Internationalist* magazine. A young factory worker named Sausa Lovell wanted to know more about how his bosses make profits through his labor. He bought the pamphlet *The Wages System* by Frederick Engels and he is interested in joining the Young Socialists.

The *Salt Lake Tribune*, the main daily in the city, ran a feature article and picture on the closing of the Pathfinder bookstore and the branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

Dan Fein is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 4347

New Jersey socialists win ballot status



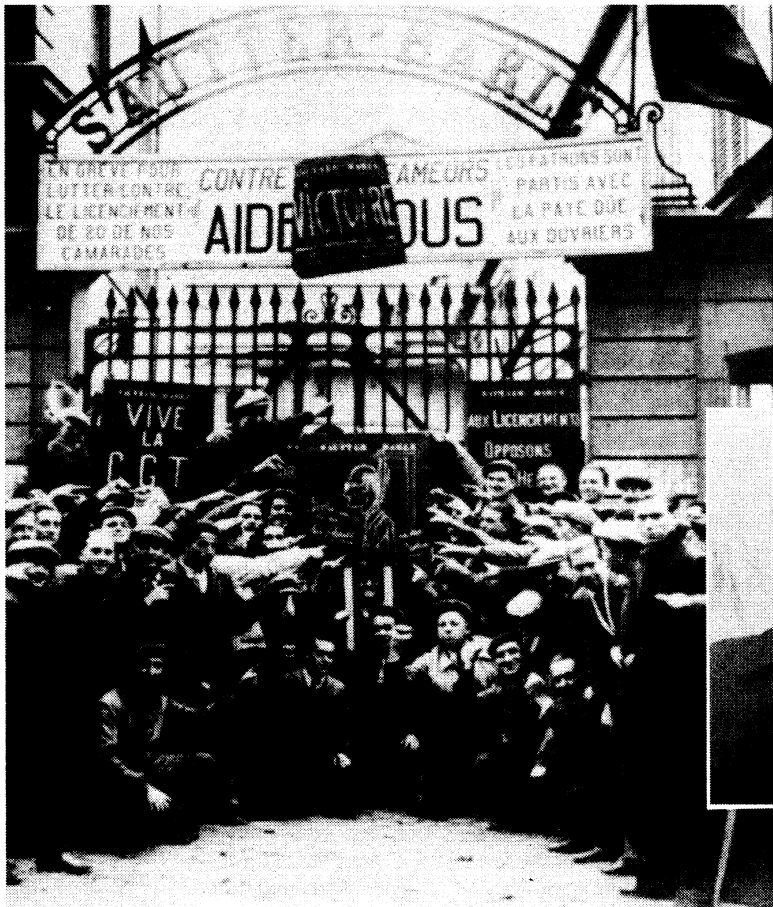
Militant

Three Socialist Workers Party candidates have won spots on the New Jersey ballot. Above, auto worker Bob Miller, the SWP candidate for governor of New Jersey, talks socialism with participants in April 13 farm workers rally in Watsonville, California. Young Socialist member Brock Satter and *Militant* staff writer Megan Arney are running for seats in the State Assembly.

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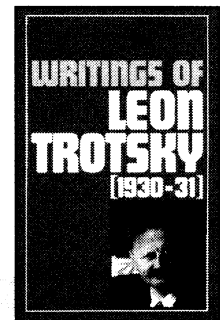


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Writings of Leon Trotsky is a fourteen-volume set covering the years 1929-40, consisting of material not included in Trotsky's other books from these years. All together, the volumes contain 1,700 separate items, amounting to more than 7,000 book pages.

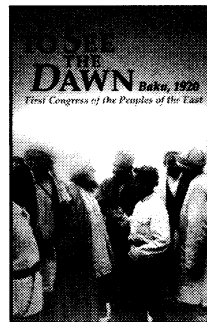
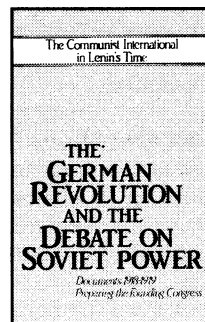
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Cuban Communist Party calls October congress

Continued from front page with Washington.

Choosing Santa Clara as the site for this celebration was a fitting tribute to this communist leader of world stature, three decades after his death. It was an integral part of the multitude of activities being organized across the island throughout 1997 to honor and encourage emulation of the proletarian and internationalist example Guevara set.

Che, as he was known to all, commanded Column no. 8 of the Rebel Army, headed by Fidel Castro, which defeated the forces of the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in Santa Clara in the final days of 1958. The decisive battle for the capital of Las Villas province in central Cuba sealed the fate of the U.S.-backed regime. Batista fled the country in the early morning hours of New Year's Day, 1959, as Santa Clara, the country's third-largest city, fell in rebel hands and the local army garrison surrendered to Guevara.

'Socialism wasn't born in silk diapers'

"Our socialism did not come into this world in silk diapers, but in the rough cotton uniforms of the worker, peasant, and student militias; of the fighters of the Rebel Army and the Revolutionary National Police," stated Raúl Castro, who is also the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

On April 17, 1961, about 1,500 Cuban-born mercenaries hailing from U.S. shores invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of the Caribbean island, which is today part of Matanzas province. The landing, organized by Washington, was aimed at establishing the fig leaf of a "provisional government" that would then appeal to the administration of U.S. president John Kennedy for direct military intervention. U.S. warships had been simultaneously deployed in international waters nearby. But the invaders were held off by the Cuban militias and then crushed within 72 hours by the combined action of the militias and the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The last mercenaries surrendered on April 19 at Playa Giron, the name Cubans use to refer to this historic battle.

Two days before the invasion, U.S. planes painted with the insignia of the Cuban air force bombed the country's air bases and other sites in preparation for the mercenary landing. Seven Cubans were killed and 53 wounded in that attack. On April 16, 1961, at a funeral rally for the victims of the U.S. air raids, Cuban president Fidel Castro gave a speech confirming the socialist character of the revolution. He addressed tens of thousands of militia members and other Cubans who poured into the streets of Havana with their rifles on their shoulders and marched to the cemetery in tight formation to pay tribute to their fallen comrades and show their determination to defend the revolution. While that mobilization was going on, the ships carrying the mercenaries were steaming toward Cuba.

"Our homeland was in mortal danger," Raúl Castro noted in his Santa Clara speech, referring to these events. "This is how our socialism was born." (See full text of

Castro's speech on facing page.)

Call for fifth party congress

"In order to continue defending our socialism, which was born in the uniform of our *mambises*, our rebels, our militia fighters, our internationalists ... and to safeguard our free and sovereign homeland, the Fifth Congress of the party has been called," Raúl Castro stated. The *Mambises* were the 19th century armies of Cuban independence fighters against Spanish colonial rule, made up in large part of newly freed Black slaves.

Prior to Castro's speech, José Ramón Machado Ventura, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party, read the call for the party congress. The call was issued by the party's Central Committee at its sixth plenum, which took place April 11.

Fidel Castro, who is also first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, other members of the party's Political Bureau, government ministers, generals of the FAR, members of the National Executive Committee of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), and leaders of other mass organizations took part in the Santa Clara event.

"The fifth congress will begin its sessions on October 8 of this year, on the 30th anniversary of the fall in combat of the Heroic Guerrilla," the convention call states. "It will conclude on October 10, the day when our country was born with the ringing of the Demajagua bell by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, who initiated the war for national independence." Demajagua was the plantation where Céspedes, one of the country's national heroes, proclaimed Cuba as an independent republic in 1868, launching the first war for national liberation against the Spanish colonialists.

In addition to pre-convention discussion by party members, the call says, a much broader discussion will be organized among millions of Cubans at workplaces and meetings of mass organizations across the country over the next five months. Discussion will be based on pre-congress documents that will be published by the party's Central Committee.

The congress will be "guided by the results of the broad popular debate that the party will promote through discussions involving the entire people," the call states. "We will focus our attention on economic efficiency, social justice, and defense — inseparable parts of and prerequisites for victory in the political battle and the struggle over ideas."

Declaration of 'Mambises'

Victoria Velázquez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), opened the Santa Clara rally with brief remarks. The UJC leader and Carlos Valenciaga, president of the Federation of University Students, presented Fidel Castro with albums containing the signatures of hundreds of thousands of Cuban youth on the Declaration of the *Mambises* of the 20th Century.

This document was drawn up and signed by 250,000 officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry. It was presented to the Cuban president on March

15 at a rally in Havana. [The text of the declaration was published in the April 28 issue of the *Militant*; Fidel Castro's speech at the March 15 gathering was run in the April 14 *Militant*.]

The Declaration of the *Mambises* affirms the determination of Cuba's working people to defend their sovereignty and socialist revolution. It is a concrete response to Washington's escalation of the economic war against the Cuban revolution, registered in the misnamed Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, also referred to as the Helms-Burton act.

The call for the fifth party congress describes this law, signed by U.S. president William Clinton in March of last year, as the "Slavery Law" — a popular term in Cuba now.

The Helms-Burton act specifically calls for the removal of Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro from the government, and the dissolution of Cuba's Interior Ministry, as preconditions for the U.S. Congress to consider lifting the 35-year-old trade and economic embargo against the Cuban people.

Millions of working people here have reacted with outrage at this imperial law, which many Cubans have dubbed the "Helms-Clinton law." Cuban workers and farmers are also indignant at a January 28 report by Clinton in which the U.S. president offered "aid" of \$4-8 billion if the Cuban people got rid of the two most prominent leaders of their revolutionary government.

The military officers took the initiative with the Declaration of the *Mambises* in a demonstrative rejection of Washington's effort to split Cuba's armed forces. The attempted bribery by the U.S. government has also drawn the contempt of a large majority of the population.

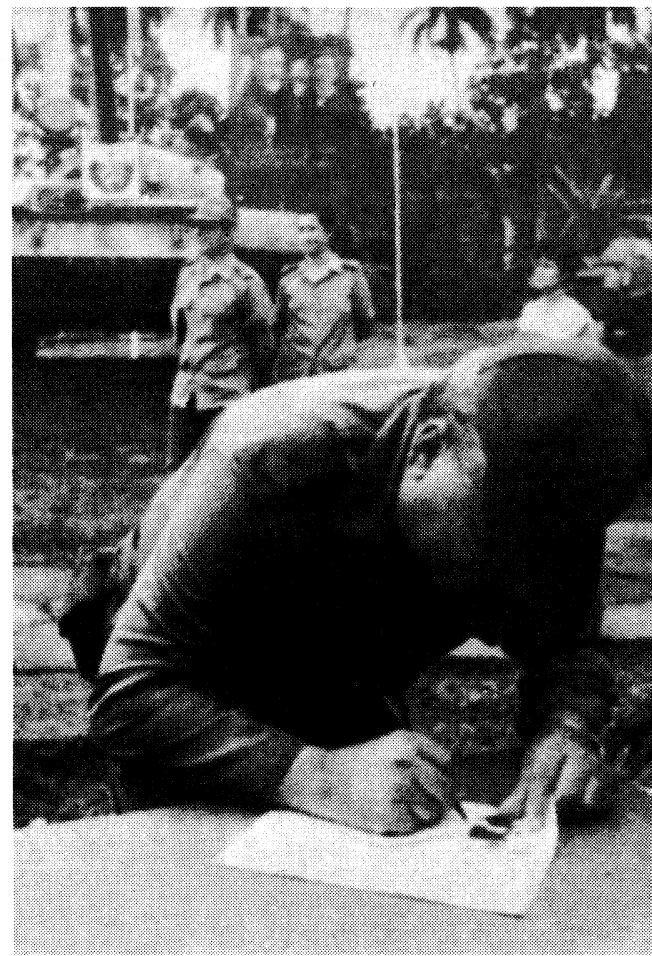
'I'd rather die fighting for dignity'

"I'd rather die fighting for dignity than be bought off with 30 pieces of silver," said Magali Díaz, a sewing machine operator at the Luis Fernández Rodríguez underwear factory in Guanabacoa, 15 miles east of Havana, which is organized by the National Union of Light Industry Workers (SNTIL). "That's how most of us in this factory, in this barrio, in this municipality feel." Díaz was responding to a question on Clinton's "offer" to the Cuban people by *Militant* reporters who interviewed her in the plant April 17.

Díaz explained that the factory is named after a member of the local militia who was killed at age 16 fighting the counterrevolutionary invaders at the Bay of Pigs. His mother is now retired from that plant and is still a member of the SNTIL union local there. "Workers renamed the plant in honor of Luis, after expropriating it from Viti, the owner," Díaz stated. The Viti family fled to Miami after the triumph of the revolution in 1959, several workers said. "Luis didn't die in vain," Díaz stated. "Since then we've had our own government. And despite the tremendous difficulties of the special period we have stood up to the imperialist monster. We won't allow the Yankees to come and take back our plant."

The "special period" is the term Cubans use to describe the economic crisis triggered by the abrupt end of aid and trade on favorable terms with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries at the opening of the 1990s.

Militant reporters spoke to Díaz after a ceremony where a delegation of CTC leaders awarded a red-and-black flag with Che Guevara's image to workers at this plant. The flag carried the slogan "To be like him." Similar meetings took place in 300 garment factories throughout the country that day.



Granma/Carlos Canova

In February, 250,000 military officers signed the Declaration of the 20th Century *Mambises*. Hundreds of thousands of workers, students, and others have signed since then.

Each plant gets to keep or return the flag next year depending on whether workers fulfill goals they have adopted for productivity improvements, reduction of waste, voluntary labor, and other targets. *Militant* reporters participated in these events in five garment factories.

Díaz and most other workers interviewed said they had already signed the Declaration of the *Mambises*. Meetings to discuss this document, along with the Law for the Reaffirmation of Dignity and National Sovereignty passed by Cuba's National Assembly as a counter to the Helms-Burton Act, had taken place in these factories.

These meetings are part of a broader movement being organized around the country by trade unions, student groups, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, and other mass organizations to involve the overwhelming majority of the population in discussing and signing the *Mambises* proclamation. The campaign resembles the signing of the Second Declaration of Havana — Cuba's internationalist manifesto of revolutionary struggle — by millions of Cuban workers and farmers in 1962.

CTC leaders say up to 500,000 Cuban workers have signed the Declaration of the *Mambises* so far. More than 120,000 residents of Villa Clara province had signed by April 16. Their signatures were presented at the Santa Clara rally.

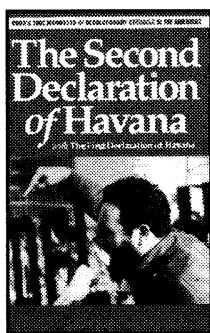
The call for the fifth congress describes this movement as "our second Baraguá protest."

The Baraguá protest was issued in March 1878 by Antonio Maceo, a central military leader and strategist in Cuba's wars for independence. In that declaration, Maceo condemned the terms of the accord that ended the first war for national liberation and vowed to continue the struggle. Most of the other generals of the army fighting for independence had signed that pact. Maceo, a symbol of revolutionary intransigence in Cuba, rejected surrendering to the Spanish rulers. He was killed in battle on Dec. 7, 1896, during the second war for independence.

"We will be marching in Havana on May Day," said Clara Ester Fonseca Tavares, another worker at the Guanabacoa underwear plant, "where we'll present our signatures." Hundreds of thousands of workers are expected to turn out here on May 1, the international day of the working class, which the CTC has dedicated to Che Guevara this year. The workers and farmers planning to fill the streets and squares of the capital and other cities and towns on that day will get their chance to express the response of Cuba's toilers to the offer for "aid" from the imperialists to the north.

Workers interviewed at the Guanabacoa factory were looking forward to joining the May Day celebration with their own banners. As Ana Rosa Doris put it, "If the U.S. government doesn't already know they can't defeat us, we're going to let them know."

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'Socialism will remain in this land, defended by the rifles of the people'

The following is the complete text of a speech given April 16 in Santa Clara, Cuba, by Raúl Castro, minister of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) and second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. The speech was published in the Cuban daily *Granma*. The translation and subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY RAÚL CASTRO

Thirty-six years ago, on a day like today, Fidel [Castro]'s voice proclaimed, before Cuba and the world, the socialist character of our revolution.

It was the first revolution on this continent that culminated in the complete sovereignty of a nation, embarking on a road that both consolidated genuine independence and led to the full liberation of mankind from the yoke of capitalist exploitation.

These were solemn moments of grave danger.

The bodies of the raw and inexperienced antiaircraft gunners who had fallen in combat were not yet buried.

Mercenary planes, displaying the insignia of our air force, had carried out a cowardly surprise attack the previous day on the airports of San Antonio, Ciudad Libertad, and Santiago de Cuba in an attempt to wipe out the few planes we had.

To render posthumous tribute to the young heroes, tens of thousands of militiamen and women, shouldering their weapons, marched in tight formation to the gates of the cemetery in our capital.

Fidel had not yet concluded the funeral address, when U.S. warships carried out a mock landing west of the capital to lead us into a diversion and as a tool of psychological warfare.

It was the prelude to the invasion of our national territory. From the funeral ceremony, we marched straight to the trenches.

The ships carrying the invasion force were already steaming through the Caribbean toward some point on our sacred land. Behind them were U.S. warships — whether to encourage them or to land marines in a second stage of the invasion, we did not know.

How our socialism was born

Our homeland was in mortal danger. This is how our socialism was born.

With guns raised, the humble men and women of our country, free and masters of their own destiny for the first time in four and a half centuries, swore to defend their socialist homeland.

Over the next three days, this oath was emblazoned, with the fire from those arms and the blood and lives of many people, on the sands of Playa Larga and Playa Girón, on the southwest coast of what was then Las Villas province.

It was the first great military defeat inflicted on the United States on this continent, previously proclaimed the private preserve of the Empire's gamesmen, the U.S. monopolies.

Our socialism did not come into the world in silk diapers, but in the rough cotton uniforms of the worker, peasant, and student militias; of the fighters of the Rebel Army and the Revolutionary National Police.

Its baptism of fire, in combat against the nation's enemies, was carried out not with holy water but with the blood of patriots, spilled once again on this island by its brave children in its long struggle for freedom, in its long path to independence.

Every April 16, as part of the events to commemorate this date, thousands of militia members and reservists throughout the country are given promotions or medals.

For more than a decade, this event has also been an occasion to honor representatives of the writers, artists, journalists, and institutions that in their work reflect the most outstanding fighting traditions of our people.

This is fitting homage to all those who have taken up this theme with unique artistic ability and who, through their creative labor and their links to military units, have

contributed significantly to the country's preparedness to defend socialism and strengthen the patriotic military and internationalist spirit and revolutionary traditions of the combatants of the FAR and of the entire people.

Warmest congratulations to the comrades

into the streets of all cities and towns throughout the country to reaffirm their determination to fight imperialism and pay tribute to Ernesto Che Guevara in the year marking the 30th anniversary of the fall in combat of the Heroic Guerrilla and of his comrades on Bolivian soil.



Rally in Havana, August 1960, to support nationalization of imperialist-owned land.

who were promoted, decorated, and given awards.

The world has changed greatly over the past 36 years, but the pledge we made on April 16, 1961, stands intact: Socialism will remain in this land, defended by the rifles of the people!

We have ratified this irreversible decision each time yet another fighter has fallen in combat in the long struggle to safeguard, as Che said, our "genuine and irrenounceable independence."

True to Che's example and ideas

On the 30th anniversary of the death of Che and his fellow internationalist combatants, our most worthy tribute is to be true to his work, his example, and his ideas at this time of danger, difficulties, and glory for the homeland.

In order to continue defending our socialism, which was born in the uniform of our *mambises*, our rebels, our militia fighters, our internationalists; to ensure we do not lose the achievements of justice that are ours and the right to attain everything we aspire to; and to safeguard our free and sovereign homeland, the Fifth Congress of the party has been called today.

The previous congress, a congress in arms, as Fidel described it, took place as we were entering the Special Period, under the most difficult conditions our people had ever faced.

It is impossible to recount in a few words the long battle to resist that has unfolded since then. The call to the congress, read here by comrade José Ramón Machado Ventura, concisely highlights the key moments of the extraordinary historic experience the Cuban nation has lived through.

The harsh test of these years has strengthened our party. Its leaders and members have been steeled and are better prepared to confront the new challenges, with the confidence that comes with the modest gains we have made.

We have the certainty that we can build socialism even under these complex circumstances, since the people have maintained their unity, patriotism, dignity, and loyalty to the pledge made to history and to our martyrs. It is not necessary to repeat the solid arguments put forth in the call, or its appeals to maximize the efforts to carry through the big tasks before us both in the economy and in the areas of politics, ideology, and defense.

Lastly, let me mention the upcoming May Day celebration, a day when the workers and the entire people will, in their millions, pour

geous insinuations about their future role in a hypothetical Cuba newly subjected to Yankee designs.

Voluntary offers to add their signatures to the Declaration immediately came from the students of the FEU (Federation of University Students) and FEEM (Federation of High School Students), the rest of the youth through the UJC (Union of Young Communists), the Pioneers, the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Federation of Cuban Women, the peasants, the intellectuals, in short, the entire people.

What was accomplished here in the city of Santa Clara stands out among all these expressions of patriotism.

Thousands have signed declaration

When you launched the initiative of a mass signing of the declaration on March 23, coinciding with the Day of Defense, something truly amazing happened.

In a matter of hours, more than 120,000 residents of Santa Clara signed the document, and they were later joined by thousands of other citizens who for various reasons had been unable to do so at that time.

Likewise, a unanimous response came from the university and high school students, as well as our Pioneers and other youth, who at this rally also turned in hundreds of thousands of signatures. And this process is in full swing among workers, housewives, retirees, and the rest of the population.

The Second Protest of Baraguá — as Fidel called it — led by the *Mambises* of the 20th Century, is the forceful, firm, and unequivocal response by the Cuban people to the latest version of imperialism's sinister designs against our country.

As we stand before the figure of Che Guevara at the scene of one of his most brilliant victories, we issue the call for the Fifth Congress of our party, which will open 30 years to the day that he gave his generous life and inscribed his name in the history of Latin America and the world as one of the greatest figures of this century.

At this crucial moment in our history, we declare once again:

We shall never betray the trust placed in us! We shall never betray the memory of our dead! As long as a single Cuban with dignity remains on this land, the cry with which our leaders made the enemies of our homeland tremble a thousand times will resonate through our mountains and plains: *Viva Cuba libre!* [Long live free Cuba!]

Notes

¹ "Track II" of Washington's strategy to overthrow the Cuban revolution involves expanding travel to Cuba by certain U.S. academics, greater access to universities in the United States by Cuban professionals on a case-by-case basis, and leeway for non-governmental organizations to finance antigovernment activities in Cuba under the banner of the "free flow of ideas."

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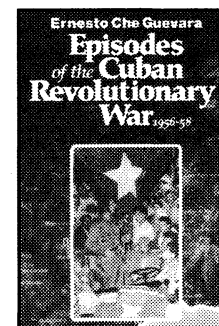
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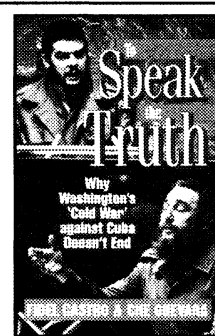
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10,000 strikers fight deep cuts in Canada

BY ROGER ANNIS

CALGARY, Alberta — Some 10,000 strikers at the Safeway grocery chain are pressing their fight across the province of Alberta. The workers walked out on March 26 against a company "final offer" for a new contract that refuses to restore big wage cuts given up in 1993, and which deepens the company's drive to become a largely part-time, near-minimum-wage employer. Many strikers are expecting a lengthy battle.

"The company is trying to wear us down, to get more and more to cross the picket lines and return to work," explained striker Jason Nicol at a picket line rally here on April 12. "They hope the customers will see that as a sign that it's no longer worth the inconvenience to shop elsewhere."

About 200 strikers and supporters participated in the rally. The action was part of an effort by the striking union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, to boost the visibility of the strike. Another 500 people rallied at a picket line in Edmonton, the provincial capital, on the same day.

A province-wide vote by workers on the company's final offer was conducted March 31 to April 2. Seventy-eight percent voted it down. Here in Calgary, the second largest city in the province, the vote was 60 percent against.

About 1,500 union members have crossed the picket lines, according to the union's estimate, while Safeway has kept its stores open with scab labor. The company refused an offer by union officials on April 4 to modify the union's demands in exchange for the company returning to the bargaining table. The union has been without a contract since March, 1996.

"Our strike is an example for all the unions," explained striking worker Joe Loria at a union picnic following the rally in Calgary. "We have to stop letting the companies push us around."

Loria and co-workers Chris Metcalfe and Sean Kinney took a few minutes to explain the issues in the strike. All three work part-time and are high school students. "The full-time workers are fighting to get back the wage rates they gave up in 1993. Us part-timers want a guaranteed number of hours per week, the same pay increase schedule that we now have, and we're against a cap on the maximum salary."

In 1993, Safeway workers gave up \$2.85 per hour from the top salary rate after the company pleaded poverty and threatened to close all its stores in the province. The union also accepted a new wage rate of just above minimum wage for new employees.

Today, 82 per cent of the workers at Safeway are part-time. Many of those are high school and college students. There is no longer any promotion or hiring into full-time positions. New employees start at \$6.40 or \$6.80 per hour and receive an increase of approximately \$1 per hour after each 500 hours of work. Safeway wants to cut that

increase to an average 46 cents. It wants to cap the maximum wage that a worker can earn at \$14 per hour, down from the current \$16, and it is refusing to restore paid sick leave for part-time workers that was given up in 1993.

"The company is offering a signing bonus if we take their contract, but that is meant to deceive," said Metcalfe. "We will lose big time if the company gets the new pay scale."

The union is also seeking a guaranteed minimum of number of hours per week for part-timers. It wants the available hours of work to be assigned according to seniority rather than the arbitrary system currently in place. The hours of many part-time workers are typically limited to as little as four or five per week while the company hires at will into the minimum wage rate.

"The company is limiting our hours in order to discourage the higher seniority workers and get us to quit," explained Nicole Tuttle, a university student and part-time cashier. She spoke while picketing a store here on April 11. Five of her six family members work at Safeway. "Before 1993, my brother was getting 20-24 hours per week. Since then, he has dropped down to 5-10."

The striking workers are very encouraged by the support they are receiving from Safeway customers. There is a widespread, spontaneous boycott of the strike-bound stores by many customers who are choosing to shop elsewhere.

"The support from the customers has been very strong," explained Matt Vandebeld while picketing at the rally in Calgary. He is a part-time worker and university student. "We're hearing that business is down 50 percent or more. The sup-



Safeway strikers walk picket line in Calgary, Alberta.

port is strongest in the working-class areas of town."

In Lethbridge, Alberta, the only city where grocery workers voted narrowly to accept the company offer and have not joined the strike, striking meat department and delicatessen workers report a big drop in customers.

News reports in the *Calgary Herald* and the *Edmonton Journal*, the two largest daily newspapers in the province, concede that business in the strike-bound stores is way down. "This strike has been a public relations mess for Safeway because it has caught the public imagination in a way few strikes do in Alberta," the *Journal* wrote in an April 12 editorial that called on the union to surrender its issues. "[The strike] has dramatized the plight of part-time workers struggling to get by on inadequate hours of work."

"We've got to keep up actions like the

one today," said Vandebeld, "so that customers know we want them to keep up their support."

"We're organizing for a big show of support for the strike on the May 3 weekend," explained strike coordinator Larry Zima in an interview.

On that day, the Canadian Labour Congress is organizing a day of protest in 27 cities across Canada against the attacks on social programs and other workers' rights being waged by the federal and provincial governments. Rallies will take place in Calgary and Edmonton, and according to Zima, "Our fight will be front and center at those actions."

Roger Annis is a member of the International Association of Machinists in Vancouver. Sarah Dave in Lethbridge, member of the Young Socialists contributed to this article.

L.A. 8 score victory against INS

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has granted green cards to two of the Los Angeles 8, whom it has been trying to deport for the past decade. Meanwhile, the Justice Department, parent agency of the INS, said it would continue its effort to deport the other six people. All eight have faced the same political charges.

The decision to grant legal residency to Aiad Barakat and Naim Sharif was made, without explanation, by a special INS legalization unit. The attorney general's office said the unit is independent of the main Justice Department.

Reporting the decision, the *Los Angeles Times* called it a "stunning development."

The apparent disarray in the government comes after a series of setbacks to its drive to get the seven Palestinians and a Kenyan

out of the country, on the basis that they are supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which Washington has labeled "terrorist."

Backed by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and the American Civil Liberties Union, the eight have won a federal court injunction blocking deportation while the court considers their charge that they had been targeted for illegal selective prosecution. Earlier they won a landmark civil-liberties ruling that immigrants are entitled to the same free-speech rights as citizens.

The government's particular moves against the eight have been based on differences in their legal status.

Two of them, Michel Shehadeh and Khader Hamide, were already legal residents when arrested by INS agents in 1987. To deport them, the government must first

strip them of their residency status. An immigration judge was holding a hearing on this until the injunction halting the deportation was issued.

The INS has been trying to get rid of the other six by charging them with various technical visa violations.

Meanwhile, Barakat and Sharif applied for green cards. The unexpected decision to grant them residency puts the Justice Department in a particularly tight spot in its declared determination not to drop its case against Shehadeh and Hamide.

Shehadeh who is now the ADC's West Coast regional director, discussed the government's situation in a phone interview.

"Their position is absurd, crazy," he said. "The charges against us are identical. How can they give green cards to Aiad and Naim and still keep trying to take away our residency?"

Deputy Attorney General Philip Bartz insisted the Justice Department would pursue the case against the other six. He declared it proper "to remove someone from the U.S. for engaging in fund-raising activities on behalf of a terrorist organization."

Racist cop found guilty of Chicago killing

BY JOHN STUDER

CHICAGO — On April 19, in a special Saturday court session, Chicago cop Gregory Becker was found guilty in the killing of Joseph Gould, an African-American and former vendor for *StreetWise*, a newspaper sold by homeless people.

Becker, who was off-duty, and a companion were approached by Gould on July 30, 1995, when they left a bar on the city's near North side. Gould, carrying a rag and bucket to clean car windows, approached Becker and his date.

Becker claimed that Gould "pestered" him, and pulled a gun out of the trunk of his car. Becker pistol whipped Gould and then shot him in the head. After Gould fell dying to the ground, Becker and his companion jumped in his car and fled the scene.

Even though the reports indicated Becker killed Gould in cold blood, he was charged with armed violence, involuntary manslaughter, and official misconduct, not murder. After being arrested, Becker was suspended from the police force.

Becker's defense was based on the claim that Gould had wrestled for the cop's gun and it went off accidentally in the struggle.

Becker was forced to admit Gould had both hands full with the bucket and rag when he supposedly attacked the cop. Becker claimed Gould used the rag to try and grab his gun.

Becker said he saw Gould fall after the shot, but didn't think Gould had been hit, so he drove off.

The jury deliberated for less than seven hours before returning with a verdict finding Becker guilty on all charges. When the verdict was read, Becker starting trembling and turned green. He was taken to the hospital, claiming chest pains, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

Becker faces a minimum 15-year mandatory prison sentence on the most serious charge of armed violence. The charges of involuntary manslaughter and misconduct carry sentences of 3 to 5 years.

"We waited a long time for this, almost two years," Gwendolyn Gould, the sister of Joseph Gould, told reporters after the verdict. "Maybe now other officers will think twice before they pull their gun and leave someone to lay there like an animal in the street."

The trial also took place in the context of

a series of cases involving cop brutality and frame-ups in the Chicago area. During the two-week trial alone, the big-business papers reported on two cases of cop violence. A gang of white thugs, including at least two cops, attacked Edward Stacy, a Black man who attempted to enter a bar. Stacy was head butted to the floor, beaten, and hit on the head with a pistol. When he fled, one of the attackers fired a shot over his head. Another victim of police violence, Shirley Alejos, called a press conference to demand an answer to why the two cops who beat her in 1994—a fact the city admitted—still had not been charged with any crime.

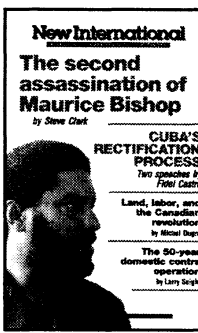
On April 16, the Chicago City Council was forced to pass a resolution calling for public hearings on discrimination and misconduct by the city police.

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless had organized demonstrations against the cop murder of Gould before and during the trial. The case was widely publicized, with the trial splashed on the front page of both Chicago daily papers.

John Studer is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1011.

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After 15-year fight, framed man is freed

BY ALEJANDRA RINCÓN
AND AARON RUBY

HOUSTON—In a widely celebrated victory among immigrants, especially Mexicans, frame up victim Ricardo Aldape Guerra was released April 16 from Harris County jail here. He spent nearly 15 years in jail, 11 on death row.

Aldape Guerra's case became a symbol of both frame-ups at the hands of the police and of the harsh treatment meted out to Mexican immigrants. His release was greeted with celebrations both in Houston and Monterrey — his hometown. "He became a symbol of the injustices against the undocumented immigrant," said María Jiménez, local director of the American Friends Service Committee, who was active in his defense.

Live TV coverage of his homecoming and the crowd of a thousand that gathered in Monterrey to meet him was featured on both English and Spanish language television and the following day in the press. "From the beginning it was all a lie," Aldape Guerra stated at a press conference following his release, "They robbed me of 15 years of my life."

Aldape Guerra had been charged and convicted of the July 13, 1982 shooting death of a Houston cop. Since his arrest he maintained that an acquaintance, Roberto Carrasco Flores, shot the cop after both of them were stopped for a traffic violation in

southeast Houston. Aldape Guerra ran frightened from the scene and was later arrested. Carrasco Flores was killed later that day by Houston police, who found the gun that killed the officer under his body. The police alleged that it had been planted.

Aldape Guerra was presented, handcuffed, to young people rounded up by the police as witnesses, who were intimidated into identifying him as the gunman. Defense lawyers added that the prosecutors failed to disclose exculpatory evidence and used false evidence. After two of the witnesses retracted their statements identifying Aldape Guerra, they were further intimidated and threatened by the police.

Aldape Guerra's defense filed an appeal in 1982 eventually reaching the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to consider it. In 1994 he was taken off death row and granted a review of his trial after overwhelming evidence was presented pointing to a police frame-up. Regular rallies were held by supporters outside the Huntsville prison and the Harris County jail.

On April 14, Judge Frank Maloney ruled that testimony from six prosecution witnesses had been coerced and intimidated by Houston police. Maloney had scheduled a new hearing for May 19. In light of the loss of the frame-up witnesses for the prosecution, District Attorney John Holmes decided not to retry Aldape Guerra. "It's really regrettable," he complained.



Militant/Patricia Moore

Ricardo Aldape Guerra's fight for justice won support both in the United States and Mexico over many years. Above, September 1992 protest in Houston.

After being released from Harris County jail, Aldape Guerra was detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) because of his "illegal status" in the United States. At the INS detention center, Aldape Guerra was "offered" the option of voluntary departure or review of his immigration status by an INS official.

In response to broad support among Mexicans on both sides of the border, the Mexican government made an exceptional request for clemency. The review of his trial was attended by the Mexican counsel in

Houston.

Mexican government officials had requested that Aldape Guerra be allowed to fly directly from Houston. That request was denied.

Aldape Guerra was driven handcuffed by immigration officials to the border between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico. Hundreds turned out to cheer and applaud his arrival in Matamoros. He then took a flight to his hometown of Monterrey, accompanied by the Governor of the Mexican state of Nuevo León.

12,500 workers walk out at Goodyear Tire Co.

Continued from front page

ers (URW). Some 4,200 workers struck Bridgestone/Firestone for 10 months in a labor battle that ended in May 1995, when the URW officialdom ordered the strikers to make an "unconditional offer to return to work." Workers returning to the plants had their wages slashed from an average of \$17 an hour to an average of \$12 an hour, and had to work "flexible" 12 hour shifts.

The URW was then merged into the USWA in June, 1996. The USWA officials focused their energies on a consumer boycott and corporate campaign against the company until a tentative agreement was reached. A contract was finally signed at Bridgestone/Firestone in December 1996 that included implementation of a seven-day, 12-hour rotating shift schedule and the introduction of a two-tier wage scale with new hires working at 70 percent of base pay for the first three years.

"We've been working the 12-hour shifts for some time," said Hall, "and I'd like to see the percentage of people who have had heart attacks, nerve problems, stress, knee

and back problems because of it." The average age of the Gadsden workforce is 48 years old, according to another striker.

Fayetteville workers join the strike

Although they are covered by a separate agreement, 2,300 workers at Kelly Springfield tire manufacturer in Fayetteville, North Carolina, struck the plant April 22. Goodyear owns Kelly Springfield, which also has tire plants in Freeport, Illinois, and Tyler, Texas. The union contract at the Fayetteville plant expired in September 1996. Workers rejected two proposals by wide margins, and continued to work under the old contract's terms as talks continued.

Hall said workers at the Gadsden plant have been supporting the steelworkers on strike against Wheeling-Pittsburgh. "We've had collections at our plant. We need to do what they did in Poland a few years back, when all the workers in the country just sat down. That would make our unions stronger again."

Negotiations between the company and union continued in Cincinnati on April 22,

although the local union presidents have gone home. They will return to the negotiations if a tentative settlement appears close.

Betsy Farley is a member of USWA Local 12014 in Birmingham, Alabama.

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS
AND BRAD DOWNS

AKRON, Ohio — The United Steelworkers of America Local 2 hall overlooks the sprawling complex of Goodyear production, research, and office buildings here.

The hall was a flurry of discussions on April 22, the third day of the strike. Union members talked about the contract negotiations taking place in Cincinnati and about the assaults against union pickets by Goodyear management personnel crossing the picket lines.

Carl Leatherman, the Skilled Trades Chairman of Local 2, said that on Monday, April 21, members of the union parked their cars at the gates of the plant to help stop management from entering. On both Mon-

day and Tuesday, hostile nonunion Goodyear employees threatened and hit union pickets with their vehicles. Ed Smith, a Local 2 member hit by one of the vehicles, said the pickets filed reports with the Akron City and Goodyear police and would demand an end to this intimidation.

Frank Bell, a Local 2 member and tire builder for 35 years, said the local was trying to get union contractors working on projects in the complex to honor the picket lines. Leatherman added that the union electricians had promised not to cross.

According to Bell, "Goodyear officials are doubling their salaries and asking us to cut ours. They want to take away just like Bridgestone/Firestone did." On the picket line, Bill Wagner, a racing tire builder for 30 years, said another important issue was the unions demand for one contract expirations date in common with all the Goodyear plants. "We would have a stronger, more united union," he added.

Mike Fitzsimmons is a member of United Auto Workers Local 2015 and Brad Downs is a member of UAW Local 1005, both in Cleveland, Ohio.

Auto workers strike another GM plant

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

PONTIAC, Michigan — Another battlefront in the struggle between the United Auto Workers and the Big Three automakers (Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors) opened here at midnight April 22. Six thousand members of UAW Local 594 walked out of the General Motors Truck Group plant here after months of negotiations for a local contract broke down.

The GM Truck Group includes the Pontiac East assembly plant where 4,100 union members build the full-sized and extended cab Chevrolet CK and GM Sierra pickup trucks on three shifts.

The UAW and GM reached agreement on a national contract last fall, but 30 local contracts still have not been settled. General Motors, which trails its competitors in productivity, is trying to cut jobs at many plants. At the Truck Group, GM claims their operations are "overstaffed." But Local 594 is demanding that 600 jobs be added to the assembly line.

The local struck for six days in April 1995 over similar demands. They won an agreement for union members to staff a Lear Corp. plant in nearby Rochester Hills, where seats for the trucks are built. But the union claims that the company has reneged on a second agreement to stop outsourcing work from

unionized engineering operations in the Truck Group.

Lee Allen, a 31-year sanitation worker, was on the picket lines the first day of the strike. Salaried personnel were driving in and out of the plant all day. One particularly aggressive driver knocked Allen over as he barreled into the driveway. Allen was not seriously hurt, he said, but pickets noted the license plate number and reported the incident to the local police and the union.

About 40 percent of GM's truck production comes from Pontiac East. The assembly line builds more than 7,000 vehicles each week.

Each extended-cab pickup truck sold can bring as much as \$8,000 in profit for GM. But GM official Jack Smith has declared that the company is willing to weather these kinds of strikes to get the job cuts they need to improve their bottom line. Negotiations were set to resume April 24.

Meanwhile, local strikes continue at GM's Oklahoma City assembly plant and at Chrysler's Mound Road Engine Plant in Detroit. A total of 31,400 workers are idled from all three strikes.

The Oklahoma City strike by 3,500 UAW members is in its third week with no settlement in sight. The union is fighting to keep 500 out of 900 jobs cut by the company

when the production of the new Chevrolet Malibu and the Oldsmobile Cutlass began. The *Oakland Press* reported that workers at GM's assembly plant in Wilmington, Delaware, where the Malibu is also built, have started an informal slowdown to protest personnel shortages there and to support the strikers in Oklahoma City.

And a major slowdown is shaping up at Chrysler, where 22,000 workers in Canada, Mexico, and the United States have now been laid off as a result of the strike by 1,800 members of UAW Local 51 at the Mound Road Engine plant. The union is opposing the company's plans to send drive shaft production to a Dana Corp. nonunion parts plant. The move would cost the union 250 jobs.

The strike began April 11. No face-to-face meetings had been held between the local and the company as of April 23. Like GM, Chrysler is showing that it is willing to take a multimillion dollar loss in the strike in order to push the union back on the issue of outsourcing jobs. Chrysler already outsources more production work than GM or Ford, but nowhere near as much as its Japanese competitors.

Holly Harkness is a member of UAW Local 235 in Detroit.

BY JIM ROGERS
AND LISA POTASH

DANVILLE, Virginia — USWA Local 831 members here walked out after one hour of the midnight shift Sunday night April 20 and set up pickets in front of the Goodyear plant.

There are 1,850 workers at the plant. The workers in the local voted overwhelmingly to strike with only 17 voting against. So far only one has crossed the picket line.

Fifteen workers staffed the picket line on Tuesday morning. Most cars that passed honked their support for the strikers. Striking worker Henry Daniel said the main issues in the strike are the company's attempt to institute continuous operations throughout the whole plant, increase the cost of benefits, lower pay for new hires for three years, and go from a three-year to a six-year contract. "Every three years at contract time we generally have to strike for a day or two to get a good contract, but this one looks like it will be longer. We won't go back until we get what we want," Daniel said.

Workers said they had gotten a pledge of support from a union local in Roanoke, Virginia, at a Yokohama tire plant.

Jim Rogers and Lisa Potash are members of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 294-T in Eden, North Carolina.

Italian, Greek forces go into Albania

Continued from Page 3

ternational Committee of the Red Cross. "There is no famine here. Not a single person is starving," she added. The revolt was sparked by a dire economic crisis and the collapse of fraudulent government-backed "investment" schemes, into which a third of the population had poured money and many of whom lost their life savings. The insurgents demand Berisha's resignation, democratic reforms, and compensation.

In whole areas of the country, including most major cities in the southern region, the population is armed and does not recognize the authority of the president or the month-old government of national reconciliation. The regime includes Berisha's Democratic Party, as well as the opposition Socialist Party, both of whom favor pro-capitalist "reforms." It was this government that called for an international intervention force in order to strengthen its position and disarm the rebellious working people.

In the insurgent cities, however, the toilers have held their ground. In Elbasan, the Greek daily *Kathimerini* reported that of the 18,000 Kalashnikov rifles taken from armories, only 3,000 have been retrieved.

On April 18, a Greek tank carrier with two dozen armored personal carriers, supply trucks, and more than 100 soldiers was ordered by the Italian command to dock in Durres and not Vlore. The reason given by the Italian command was the possibility of mines in the port. Two days earlier, Italian troops were attacked by armed men outside of Vlore. Vlore is considered to be "very dangerous" and "concerns remain over how Vlore's population, especially the uncontrolled gunmen," will receive the military occupiers, according to the *Athens News*. Rivalry between Athens and Rome for a larger role in the imperialist force is combined with this fear of how working people will react to the force's deployment.

A worker with a Kalashnikov rifle guarding the headquarters of the Committee of National Salvation in Vlore told London's *Financial Times*, "the Italians have robbed us for centuries." When asked what he would do if an Italian soldier tried to disarm him, he replied, "I would skin him alive and his mother would cry for him in Italy." Albania had been a colonial possession of Rome, and was occupied by Italian forces during World War II.

Reflecting friction between the imperialist powers, the Government Council for Foreign Policy and Defense (KYSEA), presided over by Greece's prime minister, asserted that the multinational force was not being adequately coordinated and that the Italian regime has been unable to deploy the troops properly. Athens also proposed that "an ad hoc political committee be formed by France, Greece, and Italy to oversee preparations for elections in Albania, and the disarming of the rebels." In an interview with SKY radio on April 20, Greek defense minister Akis Tsochadjopoulos stated that because deployment was moving too slowly, Athens would, "on its own initiative," begin distribution of food to the areas of the South where the Greek minority lives in time for Greek Orthodox Easter. Athens views the existence of this minority as an opportunity to play a larger role in the area. He also said the number of Greek soldiers in Albania could reach 1,000. The government of Italy is providing the largest contingent with 2,500 troops, France 1,000,

Turkey 700, with Spain, Romania, Austria, and Denmark also participating.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Sixth Fleet of NATO's Southern Command is not far away in the Adriatic.

The provisional government, headed by the Socialist Party's Bashkim Fino, agreed to hold elections on June 29. Franz Vranitsky, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) representative in Albania, has been involved in patching together a new election law for Albania. It changes the system of proportional representation used in the elections to one that weighs the election results in favor of the highest vote-getters, enabling the formation of a stronger government.

Making little headway in convincing working people to surrender their arms, imperialist forces and the Fino government have retreated from their position that the insurgent cities must be disarmed before elections can take place. Instead they hope that the elections — and the multinational force — will pave the way to regaining control of the country. Helweng Petersen, president of the OSCE, said that "re-establishment of trust toward the authorities is a pre-

condition for disarming the people." After the election, Petersen said, the OSCE will examine how the disarming of the rebels "can practically be done." Berisha does not agree, however, and continues to call on the parties of the opposition to disarm the rebels. In a statement to the press, the Democratic Party said that it disagreed with holding elections on June 29. It said the "dissolution of the committees of the rebels is a precondition for holding elections." Divisions have also deepened within the Democratic Party. At least 12 of its deputies have now joined in calling for Berisha's ouster.

Stories of the methodical arming of Berisha supporters continue to appear in the press in Albania, according to the Greek daily *Eleutherotrypia*. Armed gangs loyal to Berisha continue to carry out terrorist acts. Gunmen have reportedly shot up a hospital in Lushnje. In Vlore, a hotel housing journalists was reportedly attacked while a leader of the National Front for the Salvation of the People was giving an interview.

Intervention has continued to polarize politics in Italy. Besides the Communist Refoundation Party, the Republican Party also has opposed the deployment of Italian

troops in Albania. Giorgio La Malfa, leader of the RP, in an interview with Italy's daily *Corriere de la sera*, said, "The problem in Albania is political and it is called Berisha. The real problem is not hunger, but the conflict between supporters and opponents of Berisha." Meanwhile, Clemente Mastella, leader of the Christian Democratic Center, which supports Berisha, in a speech to the Italian parliament denounced "Greek nationalists who are pressing Italy and which have hegemonistic aims" in Albania.

In Thessaloniki, northern Greece, hundreds protested as the first troops boarded the warship *Samos* heading for Albania, in an action organized by the Communist Party. More than 300 people participated in a rally and march to parliament in Athens on April 17, shouting "Not one soldier to Albania!" The action was organized by the Committee in Solidarity With the Rebels in Albania.

Natasha Terlexis is a member of the federation of Foreign Airline Employees in Athens. Militant staff writer Maurice Williams contributed to this article.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Che Guevara, the Cuban Revolution and the Struggle for Socialism. Panel discussion led by John Hill, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 2546 Pico Blvd. (2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (413) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Eyewitness Report from Cuba. Speaker: Martin Koppel, participant in reporting team to Cuba and editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*. Koppel is also the author of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Peru's Shining Path, Anatomy of a Reactionary Sect*. Sun., May 4, 4 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Palestinians Resist Israeli Offensive in the West Bank. Speakers: Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 87 Halsey St. (corner of Halsey and Linden). Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Why We Should Defend Abortion Rights! Speakers: Rose Ana Berbeo, Socialist Workers Party and other participants in the recent Young Feminist Summit in Washington, D.C. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 59 4th Ave. (corner of Bergen). Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Israel: Expansion Fuels Palestinian Rebellion. Speaker: Dave Rowlands, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (304) 291-5043.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Defend the Social Wage. Stop Attacks on Education, Health, and Social Welfare. Discussion with participants in recent student protests. Fri., May 2, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281 3297.

BRITAIN

London

After the General Election: What Lies Ahead for Working People. Speaker: Jonathan Silberman, leader of the Communist League, and trade union activist. Fri., May 2, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. (100 yards from the Old Vic Theatre, nearest tube Waterloo). Donation: £2. Tel: 0171 401 2409.

CANADA

Montreal

Who is Responsible For Peru Massacre? Panel followed by a discussion. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. 4581 St. Denis (Metro Mont-Royal). Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Rebellion in Zaire. Speaker: Malcolm McAllister, Communist League. Fri., May 2, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

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—CALENDAR—

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

March to Support Freedom for Róisín McAliskey. Sat., May 3, 1 p.m. Assemble at British Consulate, 600 Atlantic Ave., across from South Station. March to German consulate, Copley Place. Program, 2:30 p.m. at Copley Plaza. Sponsored by Irish Northern Aid, P.O. Box 864, Boston, MA 02130. For more information, call (617) 436-7411.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fund-raiser for D.C. Area Participants in the 14th World Festival of Students and Youth. Film showing: "After the Battle." Sponsored by the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition and the D.C. Committee for the World Festival of Students and Youth. Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. N.W. (entrance on Decatur Place, near Dupont Circle Metro station). Donation: \$3. For more information, call (202) 452-5966.

Two-party system — California's governor, Peter Wilson (Republican) says it's "a possibility" that he would support executing youth aged 14. Assembly Speaker



Harry Ring

Cruz Bustamante (Democrat) responds that he might vote "with a tear in my eye," to execute "hardened criminals" at age 13 or 14.

Trump this — "Principal for a

Day" at Public School 70 in the Bronx, real estate mogul Donald Trump staged a lottery for free Nikes. Andrés Rodríguez, an 11-year-old student, asked, "Why do you offer us sneakers if you could give us scholarships?" Trump: "Truth? I don't know the answer to that question."

Better than brains — Somebody asked Trump if he had considered sending his kids to a public school. Response: "I'm going to give the politically incorrect answer. I never even thought about it." To a reporter he added, "That's one of the advantages to wealth."

It does seem that way — "I think Bill Clinton understands the

power of money in politics." — Democratic Party pollster Mark Mellman.

Free-market medicine — For seven years Boots Pharmaceuticals, maker of Synthroid, suppressed a UC San Francisco study which it had sponsored. University researchers found that inexpensive generic versions of the medication do just as well in treating insufficient output of thyroid hormones. The seven-year hush-up cost users an estimated \$2 billion.

Jobs program — The prison population in England and Wales is expected to swell by 30,000, requiring a multimillion-pound program to build at least 30 new jails.

No cost-of-living index? — England's police are working on a national point system pay scale for informers. Work is also in progress on a secret national data base of registered snitches. This is intended to curb the sale of the same info to several agencies.

Prescription for profit — "It's a myth that for-profit hospitals are efficient. They save money by laying off nurses, then hire consultants and bureaucrats to figure out how to avoid unprofitable patients and maximize revenues.... They're fat and mean" — A spokesperson for a group of Chicago-area doctors favoring national health care.

We're astonished — A couple

of years ago, Starbucks, the caffeine folks, pledged to buy coffee from growers who share its "values," including an asserted commitment to treat its workers with dignity and respect. Like for instance, the Guatemalan plantation that pays \$1.25 a day for an entire family's work.

The way to go — Airbus, the European plane-making combine, is pressing development of the A3XX, which will replace Boeing's 400-passenger 747 as the world's biggest passenger plane. The *Times* of London says duty-free shopping malls and self-service cafeterias will be included "in an attempt to make the 800-seat jets more attractive to passengers."

How did Stalinism come to triumph in USSR?

In 1917, the toilers in Russia established a workers and peasants regime and carried out one of the most deep-going revolutions in history. Within 10 years political degeneration set in and the working class was driven from power by a privileged bureaucratic layer led by Joseph Stalin. *The Revolution Betrayed*, is a classic study that explains how and why this bureaucratic caste was able to take political power in the Soviet Union. The book was written by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the revolution who formed the Left Opposition in 1923 to battle this parasitic cancer and continue a communist course based on revolutionary inter-

BOOK OF THE WEEK

nationalism.

The following excerpt is from the chapter "The Soviet Thermidor," a term Trotsky defined as "a triumph of the bureaucracy over the masses." *The Revolution Betrayed* is copyright © 1937, 1972 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Footnotes are by the *Militant*.

BY LEON TROTSKY

The proletarian character of the October revolution was determined by the world situation and by a special correlation of internal forces. But the classes themselves were formed in the barbarous circumstances of czarism and backward capitalism, and were anything but made to order for the demands of a socialist revolution. The exact opposite is true. It is for the very reason that a proletariat still backward in many respects achieved in the space of a few months the unprecedented leap from a semifeudal monarchy to a socialist dictatorship, that the reaction in its ranks was inevitable.

This reaction has developed in a series of consecutive waves. External conditions and events have vied with each other in nourish-

ing it. Intervention followed intervention. The revolution got no direct help from the west. Instead of the expected prosperity of the country an ominous destitution reigned for long. Moreover, the outstanding representatives of the working class either died in the civil war, or rose a few steps higher and broke away from the masses. And thus after an unexampled tension of forces, hopes and illusions, there came a long period of weariness, decline and sheer disappointment in the results of the revolution. The ebb of the "plebeian pride" made room for a flood of pusillanimity and careerism. The new commanding caste rose to its place upon this wave.

The demobilization of the Red Army of five million played no small role in the formation of the bureaucracy. The victorious commanders assumed leading posts in the local Soviets [councils], in economy, in education, and they persistently introduced everywhere that regime which had ensured success in the civil war. Thus on all sides the masses were pushed away gradually from actual participation in the leadership of the country.

The reaction within the proletariat caused an extraordinary flush of hope and confidence in the petty bourgeois strata of town and country, aroused as they were to new life by the NEP¹, and growing bolder and bolder. The young bureaucracy, which had arisen at first as an agent of the proletariat, began now to feel itself a court of arbitration between the classes. Its independence increased from month to month.

The international situation was pushing with mighty forces in the same direction....

In the second half of 1923, the attention of the Soviet workers was passionately fixed upon Germany, where the proletariat, it seemed, had stretched out its hand to power. The panicky retreat of the German Communist Party was the heaviest possible disappointment to the working masses of the Soviet Union. The Soviet bureaucracy straightway opened a campaign against the theory of "the permanent revolution," and dealt the Left Opposition its first cruel blow. During the years 1926 and 1927 the population of the Soviet Union experienced a new tide of hope. All eyes were now directed to the East where the drama of the Chinese revolution was unfolding. The Left Opposition had recovered from the previous blows and was recruiting a phalanx of new adherents. At the end of 1927 the Chinese revolution was massacred by the hangman, Chiang-kai-shek, into whose hands the Communist International had literally betrayed the Chinese workers and peasants. A cold wave of disappointment swept over the masses of the Soviet Union. After an unbridled baiting in the press and at meetings, the bureaucracy finally, in 1928, ventured upon mass arrests among the Left Opposition.

To be sure, tens of thousands of revolutionary fighters gathered around the banner of the Bolshevik-Leninists.

The advanced workers were indubitably sympathetic to the Opposition, but that sympathy remained passive. The masses lacked faith that the situation could be seriously changed by a new struggle. Meantime the bureaucracy asserted: "For the sake of an international revolution, the Opposition proposes to drag us into a revolutionary war. Enough of shake-ups! We have earned the right to rest. We will build the socialist society at home. Rely upon us, your leaders!"....

It would be naive to imagine that Stalin, previously unknown to the masses, suddenly

issued from the wings full armed with a complete strategical plan. No indeed.

Before he felt out his own course, the bureaucracy felt out Stalin himself. He brought it all the necessary guarantees: the prestige of an old Bolshevik, a strong character, narrow vision, and close bonds with the political machine as the sole source of his influence....

The bureaucracy conquered something more than the Left Opposition. It conquered the Bolshevik party. It defeated the program of Lenin, who had seen the chief danger in the conversion of the organs of the state "from servants of society to lords over society." It defeated all these enemies, the Opposition, the party and Lenin, not with ideas and arguments, but with its own social weight. The leaden rump of the bureaucracy outweighed the head of the revolution. That is the secret of the Soviet's Thermidor.

NOTES

¹ The NEP (New Economic Policy) was launched in early 1921 to restore production and trade and establish a link with the peasantry, after the economy had been devastated from years of hardship and famine stemming from the 1918-20 civil war.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 5, 1972

NEW YORK, April 23 — Antiwar demonstrators, their number estimated at more than 100,000 by the National Peace Action coalition (NPAC), thronged midtown Manhattan yesterday in the largest antiwar demonstration New York has seen in three years.

Undeterred by the cold, steady rain and despite a virtual news blackout on plans for the demonstration, protesters began assembling across the street from Central Park as early as 9 a.m. Thousands waited in nearby restaurants, under awnings, and in doorways until the march began. Others huddled under umbrellas, made paper rainhats, or poked holes in big plastic garbage bags to use them as raincoats.

Although most of the marchers were young, there was plenty of diversity. A contingent of more than 200 came from Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood, N.J. It included 30 members of the school band. Another group brought along two drums, a tambourine, and cymbals.

LOS ANGELES — Led by a contingent of Chicanos, thousands of people joined in a march and rally here April 22 against the Vietnam war.

As they marched down Wilshire Boulevard, longtime residents agreed it was one of the largest antiwar demonstrations ever held in this city. It was comparable to the Chicano antiwar moratorium held here in August 1970.

There was a broad range of constituencies represented in the line of march.

In addition to the Chicanos, there were Asian-American, Black and Armenian contingents.

There was a women's contingent, a gay women's contingent, and a gay men's contingent.



Russian revolution leader Leon Trotsky wrote *The Revolution Betrayed* to respond to the bureaucratization of the Bolshevik Party led by Joseph Stalin.

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

May 3, 1947

DETROIT, Apr. 24 — In the biggest demonstration of labor's power in this industrial citadel, more than 275,000 white and Negro workers, men and women from office and factory, led by the CIO, but including many members of AFL, railroad unions and independents marched into Cadillac Square this afternoon, jamming all the streets for blocks around.

The shutdown of the auto plants was complete. The local capitalist press admitted that 500,000 workers left the plants at the appointed hour, striking proof of the virtually unanimous support of this demonstration.

The massive demonstration was imbued with the consciousness of the great need for labor unity to hurl back employer attacks. Many placards called for "Labor — CIO, AFL Independent Unions — Fighting Together." One of the biggest ovations came after a reference to the need of unifying all labor. Recognizing this need, other placards supported the coal miners: "Stop Murder of Miners — Human Life Before Profits."

In memory of victims of the Centralia, Ill., disaster, the assembled thousands maintained a thirty second silence.

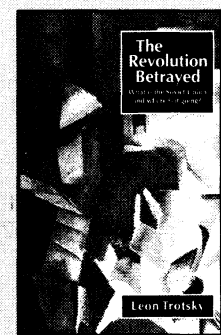
This most massive worker's demonstration in Detroit's history adjourned with the singing of the union's traditional song, "Solidarity."

But this did not terminate the demonstration. Many thousands then marched over to the Bell Telephone Co., forming a huge picket line, in solidarity with the striking telephone workers.

Other thousands lined the streets to witness this mass demonstration of solidarity in the face of which the cops preferred to remain quietly in the background. It was truly a revival of the "Spirit of 37" for which many banners called.

Available from Pathfinder

The Revolution Betrayed
What Is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?
Leon Trotsky



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Protest massacre in Peru

The vicious assault by the Peruvian regime of Alberto Fujimori on the guerrillas of the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement should be condemned by working people around the world. In the name of rescuing 72 hostages, his troops organized a systematic massacre of all 14 rebels who had taken over the Japanese ambassador's residence, aiming to set an example for anyone who would stand up and fight.

In carrying out this atrocity, Fujimori won enthusiastic praise from Washington and other capitalist governments around the world.

This operation was directed by the same president who suspended the constitution in 1992 and gave broad repressive powers to the military in the name of fighting terrorism. Over the last six and a half years, the Fujimori regime has trampled democratic rights, jailed its opponents under horrendous

conditions, and imposed brutal austerity measures. All of this again is carried out with the financial and political aid of Washington.

The rulers in Peru and elsewhere attempt to gain acceptance for their barbaric acts by dehumanizing and smearing the Túpac Amaru rebels. But their violent repression is aimed not only at the rebels, but at all who seek to resist the capitalist assaults on their living conditions and democratic rights.

The extent of brutality and violence the wealthy rulers of the United States and their subordinates in Peru and elsewhere are capable of, has been demonstrated once again in the cold-blooded and well-prepared military assault and killing of the Túpac Amaru rebels.

The *Militant* urges our readers to join with others in denouncing this brutality by the Fujimori regime and its U.S. backers.

No intervention in Albania!

Continued from front page
sistance, even if dispersed, politically confused, and without clear class-conscious leadership. The rebellion that swept southern Albania at the start of this year, demanding the ouster of the swindler president Sali Berisha, is once again confirmation.

It's that resistance that the imperialist invaders want to break. If they were to succeed in crushing the working class and its ability to fight back, not just in Albania but throughout the workers states, particularly in Russia, they could open the door to a new wave of capitalist expansion on the blood-soaked soil they have retaken.

Using the bogus pretext of facilitating food distribution — which even Red Cross officials say is not needed — Rome, Athens, Paris and other imperialists launched their military intervention to try to take a stab at this ultimate goal. Washington, for tactical reasons, has decided not to deploy troops in Albania for now, while stepping up preparations to directly assault the workers state in Russia. With soldiers occupying Yugoslavia and pushing to expand the NATO war machine in Eastern Europe, the Clinton administration is trying to position itself for future intervention in Albania if the military operation there backfires in the face of the regimes of its NATO allies and rivals.

The U.S. government had propped up the Berisha

regime with military and economic aid for five years. Now the White House is pondering a scenario for Albania similar to the role it played around Yugoslavia: encouraging a slaughter, while presenting itself as a "peacekeeper" in order to organize a subsequent occupation force.

While allied in their desire to overturn the workers states, the increasing tensions among the different imperialist powers — from Washington and Paris to Rome and Athens — are another piece of the explosive situation. The squabbles between the rulers of Italy and Greece over who gets to send troops where in Albania are just a glimpse of the rivalries and conflicts to come. And these conflicts will now play out in the middle of Europe, where the last world imperialist war began.

The imperialist war drive will intensify the class struggle as workers battle the bosses attempt to squeeze more profits off our backs. Air traffic controllers, electrical and others workers who have organized recent strikes in Italy, Greece, France, and in other capitalist countries are aid to the fighters in Albania.

Class-conscious fighters, youth, and other opponents of imperialist war around the world should celebrate the resistance in Albania, and join in protesting the military occupation. All imperialist troops out of Albania now!

Fujimori regime massacres rebels

Continued from front page

Peruvian government "acted responsibly," adding that Washington played "virtually no role. We have offered services to the Peruvian government, the exact nature of which I really can't say."

State Department spokesperson Nicholas Burns blamed the rebels. "One thing is clear," he said, "the MRTA bears the full responsibility for this outcome. We are not going to second guess the Peruvian government."

According to a NOTIMEX wire story, CNN in Spanish reported that the Central Intelligence Agency supplied the Peruvian government "advice" and "high technological surveillance equipment," adding that Washington "even provided [the Peruvian government] with a Schweizer airplane supplied with special surveillance equipment to track down the movements within the residence" where the MRTA members held 72 hostages.

CIA spokespeople refused to comment when asked by reporters if it had aided the regime in preparations for the assault.

Referring to the two soldiers and a Supreme Court Justice Carlos Giusti Acuña who were killed during the attack, Fujimori said he was "sorry for the loss of three human lives," showing his consistent contempt for the guerrillas. MRTA members claimed the following day that three of the young fighters inside the residence laid down their weapons and tried to surrender, but were shot down by the commandos.

The surprise attack took place around 3:30 in the afternoon and lasted about 40 minutes. Among the 25 hostages wounded were Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela and Japanese Ambassador Morihita Aoki. The rebels had been taken by surprise as they played indoor soccer in the main hall of the residence. Others were sleeping when 150 special forces troops attacked the residence through the front door with explosives, from the rear, and through the roof. All 14 rebels, most of them men and women less than 20 years old, died in the attack. This included Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the 43-year-old leader of the group.

The MRTA rebels had seized the Japanese ambassador's residence in the exclusive suburb of San Isidro, near the capital city Lima, during a diplomatic social gathering celebrating the birthday of Japan's emperor. The rebels captured more than 500 hostages included high ranking Peruvian officials, local and foreign diplomats, and entrepreneurs. The MRTA released most, keeping 72 people hostage. Among them two cabinet ministers, two ambassadors, police and military officials, and Japanese and businessmen. Six U.S. citizens were released a week after the takeover.

In the assault, carried out in broad daylight and in the presence of hundreds of local and international reporters and television networks, the combined military contingent — elite naval troops, police and army special units — quickly ran to their positions under the command of president Fujimori who was stationed in a nearby building.

Troops set off a huge explosion in a tunnel under the main hall that rocked the residence, which was followed by an assault by commandos who charged inside the compound with intense firing. Reportedly two blasts occurred, combined with intense firing that lasted less than an hour, while heavy smoke and fire flames could be seen from the roof.

After the slaughter, Fujimori arrived in the compound with the authoritarian arrogance that has characterized his six-and-a-half year rule wearing a bright blue bulletproof vest amid the last explosions. "I didn't waver for a single minute in giving the order for this rescue operation," said Fujimori as he bragged that there was no other way to end this crisis. The celebration ceremony, presided over by the president, concluded with the singing of the national anthem, and later he addressed the nation to explain his decision and to praise the soldiers.

Washington did not hesitate, however, to place all the blame of the military blasts on the MRTA rebels. While president William Clinton, who hosted Fujimori in Washington during the crisis, did not make an immediate statement after the attack, he expressed relief that the hostage crisis in Peru was over. While claiming he "not entirely taken by surprise" about the military storming at the residence, Cohen insisted that Washington had received no "official warning" of Fujimori's decision. "I believe that the Peruvian government acted in a responsible fashion," said Cohen in an interview with CNN.

The Japanese government, while regretting they were not advised of the surprise attack, expressed full support for the Peruvian government's actions. "There should be no one who can criticize President Fujimori for this decision," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters in Tokyo. The Chief Cabinet Secretary, Seiroku Kajiyama said the "timing could not have been better."

A statement from the Vatican said that result of the hostage-taking "was a lesson to terrorists," while Pope John Paul II expressed "profound grief" for the deaths in the raid.

Capitalist regimes in Latin America also backed the assault. From the Dominican Republic, president Leonel Fernández, who had offered asylum to the guerrillas, congratulated president Fujimori. "I lament the loss of life and that injuries resulted from the military operation, but I celebrate the fact that most of the hostages were rescued unharmed," said Fernández.

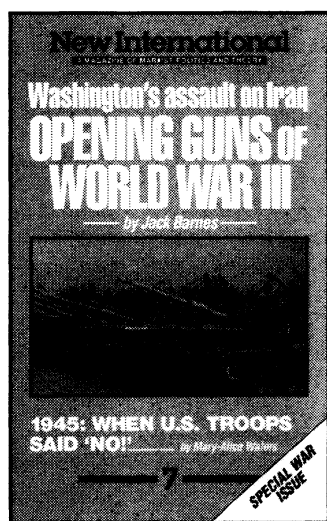
President Carlos Menem of Argentina said he "would have acted in the same way, the same manner," and praised Fujimori for his "spectacular courage."

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan applauded "the determined efforts by the government of Peru over the past several months to find a negotiated solution." During the crisis Fujimori carefully built up an international image that he was doing all he could to negotiate the release of the guerrillas.

Equally, the *Jornal do Brasil*, a Brazilian daily, made a similar statement. "Fujimori unleashed the right blow at the right time," it said. Contrasting with these celebrations, a group of demonstrators painted "Murderers" and "Fujimori Assassin," on the walls of the Peruvian Embassy in Guatemala City, while others threw stones breaking windows and guards fired into the air in retaliation.

Meanwhile, Isaac Velazco an spokesman for the MRTA told the Associated Press Television in Germany that the "blood spilled will never be forgotten, and sooner or later, justice will be done in Peru." The rebels had refused any kind of safe passage if their main demand of freeing their 400 jailed comrades were rejected by the Peruvian government.

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Strike pushes back auto parts boss in Canada

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

began calling 900 members of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers locals in the Rodeo, Los Angeles, and Santa Maria refineries into their offices. They read from a prepared statement either offering or not of-

fering jobs with Tosco. As of the writing of this article, about 200 of the workers were either not offered jobs or chose to retire. This attack on the union membership was not done by seniority. Many members not hired speculated that the company got rid of "troublemakers," union activists, and workers who had filed grievances and workers compensation cases. The majority of those not hired are over 40 years old. A majority of those not hired at the Rodeo refinery are members of oppressed nationalities.

When workers first caught wind of Tosco's "last and final" offer in February, there was near unanimity for its rejection. The statewide negotiations caught this wind and formally rejected the offer. It included 15 percent cuts in the workforce at all refineries, the gutting of seniority for the layoffs, and big job combinations calling for operators to do maintenance work, thereby threatening more jobs of maintenance workers. Included in Tosco's package was the total elimination of the fire and safety department, with the idea that all operators would be trained to do their duties.

There were at least three protests by oil workers in Los Angeles involving hundreds of members against accepting Tosco's concession proposals. This included a march of about 150 oil workers to the hotel where the negotiations were taking place. At the Rodeo refinery, more than 125 workers and community supporters protested March 5 against the then-proposed layoffs. Informational picket lines went up at the hotel where negotiations were held.

Many oil workers got to hear for the first time the positions of the environmental and community groups. Before, company propaganda spread by the local union officials, claimed these groups wanted to shut down the refineries and throw workers out of a job. But what they heard was that these groups thought more workers should be hired and the refineries forced to adhere to strict standards with review by both the community and the union — free of company pressure.

Health and safety are important issues, both for the unionists and those who live near the refineries. A January explosion at Tosco's Avon refinery, not far from the recently purchased Rodeo facility, killed one worker and injured 44 others.

The sentiment for strike action against Tosco mounted as the company refused to backtrack on its concession demands. This was particularly evident at a series of local meetings on March 25. Worker after worker demanded action be taken to halt the job cuts. Instead, members of the negotiations committee argued that a yes vote would put the local in a "better position to fight down the road."

In the March 18, 1997, issue of *Financial World*, Tosco's rise to the top of the refining business was duly noted. "Tosco is also not afraid to duke it out with the unions.... It succeeded in renegotiating the terms of the labor agreement with the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union representing workers at the [Trainor, Pa.] facility." The *Financial World* writer noted that "Reducing the workforce at UNOCAL should not be as difficult because the local union's three-year contract, signed this past February, does not require a new owner to abide by its terms."

Under pressure from International and local officials, the membership of the locals in Santa Maria, Rodeo, and Los Angeles voted the new concession contract up by 52-48 percent in balloting March 27-28th. The Los Angeles refineries voted the contract down by small margins, but the Rodeo membership voted it up by a vote of 191 to 64.

Owens Corning strikers reject contract offer

FAIRBURN, Georgia — Cheers went up from the dozens of strikers on hand April 9 to hear the results of the vote that turned down Owens

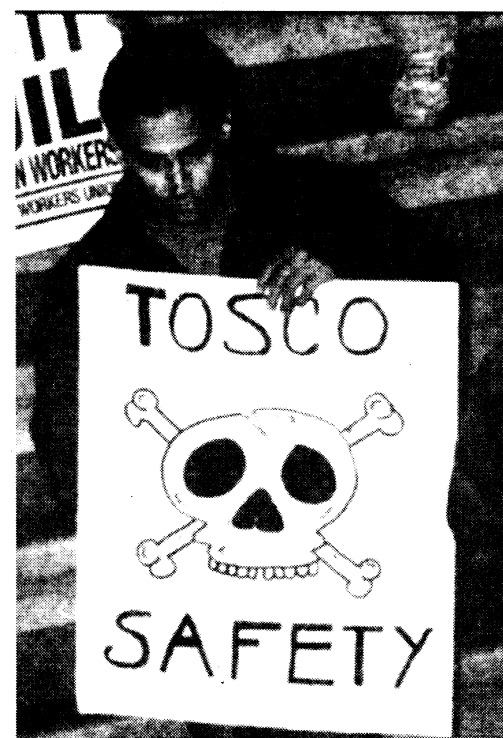
Cornings' latest contract offer. Workers had gathered around a tent set up as a strike center across the street from the plant while the votes were being counted. The 331 members of Local 236 of the Glass Molders and Potterers union went on strike March 26 in this town 20 miles south of Atlanta, in the first strike ever at the plant. In spite of Georgia being a "right to work" state, all but 4 of the 331 workers have joined the union.

Strikers Glenna Thompson, Pam Crawford, and Linda Zaske jumped up and down with excitement when they heard that the membership had rejected the company offer. Thompson was glad that the union had decided to "stand our ground."

Zaske pointed out that: "We've all stuck together as brothers and sisters." Crawford explained that this contract offer was voted down because the union is strong enough to fight for more. "The union is together," she said. "There's no sense going back in for the same thing we went out on strike for."

Owens Corning, which manufactures insulation, is demanding concessions from the union. A number of strikers see this contract fight as a test for the company's other plants whose contracts expire in the weeks ahead. Owens Corning operates plants across the United States and in Canada.

At first the company demanded a two-tier wage setup, but backed off after the union rejected this outright. Local union president Willard Marks told the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, "Any union that accepts a two-tier system will self-destruct." Marks explained that the April 9 rejection of the Owens Corning's second offer effectively answered the company's claim that the union officials forced the strike: "They can say the leadership went on strike the first time. On this contract proposal the negotiating com-



Tosco Refining Co. jeopardizes workers' safety with recent merger.

mittee didn't recommend what to do. The membership rejected it. It is rejected."

The company has also backed down from their original proposal to force job combinations that would reduce the number of job classifications from 48 to 22. But Owens Corning continues to demand that workers go through "education" programs and then pass tests in order to qualify for the jobs that will be redefined.

Several strikers at the April 9 gathering across from the plant said the company's plan is to get rid of older workers and force younger workers to work at a faster pace on the "new" jobs. This is seen as a direct attack on seniority rights, and is the basis for vote by the union ranks to twice reject the company's proposals and keep up their fight.

Joanne Pritchard, member of CAW Local 1285 at Chrysler Bramalea; Omari Musa, a member of OCAW Local 1-326 at Unocal in Rodeo, California, who was not rehired by Tosco; and Michael Italie, member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Atlanta, contributed to this week's column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

OAKVILLE, Ontario — About 600 workers at the Lear Corp. here struck for 48 hours over mandatory overtime and for wage parity with another Lear plant in Whitby, Ontario, that supplies seats to General Motors of Canada. The Oakville plant supplies seats for Ford's nearby Windstar minivan plant. Margaret Manwaring, a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 707 at Ford, told the *Militant* that production in the van plant was disrupted, as dummy seats had to be installed to drive the vans off the assembly line. The unfinished vans soon overflowed Ford's parking lots.

The strikers accepted a contract that includes provisions for working out a system that ends overtime at the Lear plant in Oakville when Ford is not working overtime. Lear workers in Oakville will be making \$21.25 (CAN) an hour by the end of the three-year contract. Workers at the Big Three — Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors — in Canada will be earning approximately \$23.75 plus cost-of-living raises at the end of their three-year contract.

Tosco buys refineries, forces many workers out

OAKLAND, California—Tosco Refining Co. concluded its buyout of four California Unocal refineries April 1. Beginning one week prior to the formal take over, former Unocal supervisors hired by Tosco

LETTERS

Fight anti-immigrant law

Some 80 people gathered in downtown Houston April 7 to protest the so-called Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, signed into law last fall by President William Clinton. The event capped a week of protests outside the local headquarters of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The new law contains a broad range of attacks against immigrant rights. These attacks include denying the right to appeal deportations and making it considerably harder for undocumented immigrants to gain legal status.

Protesters at the vigil demanded that the U.S. government grant permanent resident status to all Guatemalan and Salvadoran immigrants who came fleeing the brutal wars backed by the U.S. government in those countries. As has become customary for such events, the vigil was a lead story in the Spanish-language media, while the English-language press buried it in the back pages.

Most of those in attendance were Central American immigrants targeted by the legislation. Among those who spoke was Juan, 37, who recounted how, as a former draftee of the Guatemalan army, he had witnessed the devastating massacres routinely carried out by the army and then blamed on guerrilla forces.

He also stated that the signing of the peace accords has done little to ensure peace in Guatemala, citing as evidence the recent kidnapping and murder of several Guatemalan student activists.

Guadalupe, a 17-year-old student at Robert E. Lee High School in Houston, said, "The U.S. government owes a great moral debt to the people of Guatemala for all the military aid and training it provided the Guatemalan army. The least it can do is give permanent residence to the Guatemalans who are here."

Also speaking at the vigil was Sara Chamorro, a U.S. citizen whose husband, a 25-year-old Chilean immigrant with temporary resident status, was deported under retroactive enforcement of the new law. "This law is discriminatory against all Hispanics, against all immigrants," she said, "and it's only going to get worse if we don't do something about it."

Paul Coltrin
Houston, Texas

Rent regulation laws

Landlords, real estate interests and their representatives in New York state have begun the most serious campaign to date against the state regulations that limit rents on 1.2 million apartments in New York City and its suburbs. Rent regulation laws protect 2.5 million tenants,



over one-half of all city renters.

The laws, which have been extended every 2-4 years since they were first adopted during World War II, are currently set to expire June 15. They limit the amount rents can be increased and restrict the grounds on which a landlord can evict tenants. They also require landlords to continue services and make repairs in regulated buildings.

While some politicians, like New York City mayor [Rudolph] Giuliani, who is running for reelection, said they favor of an extension of the laws, many have begun a pub-

lic campaign to gut them. Joseph Bruno, the State Senate majority leader, has led the assault, claiming the laws stifle new housing construction. "The greediest people in this whole debate are those who are living in subsidized units that don't need to be subsidized by other taxpayers. Let 'em move to the Bronx. Let 'em move to Queens. Let 'em move around in the city like everybody else has to do in the whole world," Bruno says.

In 1993, means testing was introduced with a law that ended rent controls for households earning

more than \$250,000 and paying rents of \$2,000 or more.

In an editorial on December 9, 1996, the *New York Post* argued for ending all of the rent regulations outright. The *New York Times* weighed in with an editorial on April 8, 1997 calling the existing laws "outmoded and unfair to tenants and landlords alike." They called for "phased decontrol." Agreeing with the *New York Times*, Governor George E. Pataki has come out in support of eliminating rent regulations on apartments as they become vacant.

The Metropolitan Council on Housing has organized a coalition of tenant and tenant rights organizations in "Showdown '97," an intensive lobbying effort focused on state legislators in Albany. They have sponsored panels throughout the city in an effort to mobilize people for a May 20 Tenant Lobby Day in Albany.
Ruth Robinett
Vivian Sahnner
New York, New York

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.

Peasants in Brazil march for land

BY HILDA CUZCO

Tens of thousands of peasants and supporters converged in front of the presidential palace in Brasilia April 17 chanting, waving flags, and demanding land, employment, and justice. Many carried sickles and machetes used for work. The mass demonstration in the capital city of Brazil concluded a two-month march demanding the government immediately step up the distribution of land.

Contingents totaling some 1,500 landless peasants began the march to Brasilia in February from three points across the country — São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso — and received support at the places they stopped along the way. The final rally marked the one-year anniversary of the massacre of 19 peasants in Eldorado dos Carajás by the Pará state police.

In the biggest challenge to date to the regime of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, thousands of students, union workers from across the country, metal workers, public, and retired employees as well as members of the clergy joined the rally. *Globo* television network of Brazil estimated the crowd at about 30,000 people, while organizers say there were 100,000. More than 2,000 military police and army troops lined the streets during the demonstration.

The rally was called by the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST), which organizes peasants to fight for land in this country where 20 percent of the population owns nearly 90 percent of the land.

The *Los Angeles Times* quoted Gilmar Mauro, a MST leader saying that the rally, "has mobilized the society. If we don't come to an agreement [with Cardoso], we will continue to organize the workers. No social transformation in the world has happened without a fight."

"My hope is to get land," said Luís Beltrani de Castro, an 89-year-old sugarcane worker who made the 630-mile march from Promissão, São Paulo. "And to demand agrarian reform and justice ... from the president in a nation where [the authorities] kill the landless like they did last year."

Cardoso, who had initially criticized the march, felt compelled to meet with the peasant leaders the day after the rally. There the president promised to take steps to meet the



Last year, some 2,800 peasants, above, demanded and won land from an unused plantation in the state of Sergipe. Tens of thousands marched April 17 in Brasilia, inset.

MST demands. Cardoso also stated that an administrative reform is necessary at the National Land Reform and Settlement Institute (INCRA), which manages the agrarian reform, in order to speed up the process. The Brazilian press reported that the government plans a package of measures to be implemented in May to try to defuse the protests. One of them would be the creation of a *Banco de la Tierra* (Bank for Land) that would facilitate loans to the peasants to buy land at subsidized interest rates, payable in 30 years.

The government claims to have given land to more than 100,000 families since

1995, including 62,000 last year, and Cardoso has promised to settle 280,000 families by 1999. The MST insists, however, only 25,000 families received land in 1996. "We investigated and found that most of these families had received their land well in the past," explained Egidio Brunetto, an MST leader.

Families organize land takeovers

The MST's central activity has been organizing actions where peasants take over tracts of land and then demand the government grant them title to it. Following the meeting with Cardoso, MST leaders vowed to expand the *acampamentos* (squatter camps) from 40,000 to 200,000 landless peasant families.

In response to these occupations, the land owners have hired *pistoleiros* — paid thugs — who often attack the peasants. Last year alone 47 peasants were killed, including women and children. In Rio Bonito de Iguá in the south, two members of the MST were killed in an ambush January 16.

Immediately after these killings, the organization announced its plans to "step up the campaign to occupy unproductive estates." The government has responded to this and other reported confrontations by sending more cops. A January report by Land Policy Minister Raoul Jungmann said the government has launched a "general disarmament" in southern Pará, led by the federal police, with logistical support from the army. During their meeting with the president, the peasant leaders denounced the interference of military police in the *acampamentos* in southern Brazil.

In Pontal, São Paulo state, the local television news showed in January a young rancher rebuking 5,000 landless peasants and threatening them from his horse. He turned out to be the vice president of the Rural Democratic Union, a vigilante group made up of big landowners. "The next attempted invasion, there'll be a killing. They want a body, they'll have it," he declared. This terrorist outfit says it will stage its own march in Brasilia to reaffirm the ranch owners' so-called land rights.

Referendum Party pushes rightist line in UK vote

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Thousands of people attended an election rally organized by the Referendum Party here April 13. Estimates of the attendance varied from 7-10,000. One of the party leaders claimed it had been the largest party political rally since World War II. The Referendum Party is a rightist formation that is campaigning in the election on the single issue of calling for a referendum on moves to achieve European integration through the European Union.

Speakers at the April 13 rally consistently evoked past British wars. One party leader, John Aspinall, said, "We fought off the Spaniards when we had to. We fought off the French at their most powerful, when we had to. We twice fought off mighty Germany, when we had to."

The war mongering was underlined by chauvinist rhetoric. "This century a million Britons have given their lives so that our island should remain free" said George Gardiner. "You will never find me selling that birthright for a mess of *potage au feu* and sauerkraut."

The Referendum Party leader, billionaire financier and member of the European Parliament James Goldsmith, has dubbed his outfit the "rabble army."

"We are the rabble" Goldsmith declared at his party conference, attended by 4,000 last October. "And we have had enough. So we will fight in every part of this nation and, through our example, we will be present in the struggle for democracy in every nation in Europe."

Goldsmith projects this army as ordinary people pitted against "politicians" who he variously accuses of "betrayal," "surrender,"

and "lying."

"We are not politicians and do not want to become politicians," Goldsmith states. "We are people drawn from every walk of life, from every region of the nation, and from every major political party — left, right, and center. Among us are doctors, teachers, businessmen, housewives, farmers, fishermen and others."

Goldsmith's rhetoric is heavy on criticism of "the establishment." He stated, "Before the war, it needed Churchill, overriding the active hostility of the establishment, to provide the strength to come to the rescue of Europe." He also gives high praise to the "strong leadership" of former French president Charles De Gaulle, who came to power in 1958 through a military coup, and he has made public his intention of winning to the Referendum Party leaders of the British military.

By campaigning on the single issue of a referendum on Europe, Goldsmith seeks to make the most of divisions in the Tory (Conservative) party, and regroup forces from its right wing. The billionaire funded the European Foundation, headed by William Cash, a right-wing, "Euro-sceptic" Tory Member of Parliament (MP). He has announced a list of 93 MPs, most of them Tories, against whom he'll not stand candidates and former Tory cabinet minister Norman Tebbit has stated that the referendum alliance proposed by Goldsmith could be extended to other issues.

On 8 March Tory MP George Gardiner defected to the Referendum Party, receiving public sympathetic backing from some other Conservative Party MPs.

While claiming to be "nonpolitical" and

not interested in power, Goldsmith in fact has a broader rightist agenda. One example is his attempted alliance with the Ulster Unionists. In December last year, James Nicholson, an Ulster Unionist member of the European parliament (MEP), joined the Europe of Nations political grouping headed by James Goldsmith. The main unionist parties in Northern Ireland — the Ulster Unionists and Democratic Unionists — are right-wing forces that have links with rightist street gangs and paramilitary organizations that defend the "union" of Britain and Ireland and terrorize Catholic communities.

Defense of this colonial "union" has invariably been a plank of right-wing forces in Britain. The last most important rightist force to emerge out of national capitalist politics was Enoch Powell. Now 84, and out of parliamentary politics for 10 years, Powell is remembered for his infamous "rivers of blood" speech when he campaigned for "repatriation" of immigrants. Powell was also always anti-Europe and a staunch defender of the union with Ireland. In 1974 he stood down as Tory MP for Wolverhampton over the Heath government's decision to join the European Union, then called the Common Market. Then he joined the Ulster Unionists, becoming an MP for them.

Goldsmith is also staunchly anti-immigrant. In his book *The Trap*, the billionaire warns of hundreds of millions of immigrants from the Third World.

Goldsmith gets wind in his sails from what the Tory, Labour, and Liberal Democrat leaderships are saying. For example, the framework of the television broadcasts of all the major parties has been "nation before party," the slogan coined by Goldsmith

in his broadcast.

Labour Party chief Anthony Blair used the image of a bulldog, the very symbol adopted by Goldsmith and historically associated in politics with Winston Churchill. Labour Party campaign manager Peter Mandelson explained that Labour had already reclaimed the Union Jack and it was now reclaiming another symbol of "unity, pride, and patriotism."

The Liberal Democrats in their TV broadcast, prominently displayed party leader Patrick Ashdown in battle fatigues, playing up his life as a former army officer.

So far one Labour MP, Peter Shore, has openly defended Goldsmith. Goldsmith has publicized a list of Labour MPs against whom he'll not be standing candidates. The list includes Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone and Dennis Skinner — all from Labour's "socialist left" — because of their anti-European views.

Some parties which claim to be avowedly socialist have joined the anti-Europe bandwagon. For example, in its election manifesto, Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party says that it "is totally committed to complete withdrawal from the European Union, or Common Market — that is the only way that Britain can retain control of its economy and its political powers."

Likewise while Goldsmith was starting his election campaign with fishermen on the Cornish coast, expressing his anger against the Spanish for alleged fishing quota violations, the *Morning Star*, the newspaper associated with the Communist Party of Britain, carried an editorial which ranted against "quota hopping" and the "betrayal" of the British fishing industry.