

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. rail crashes force government investigation

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 61/NO. 31 SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

## Stock market plunge in Asia worries capitalists

### Thailand 'bailout' means austerity for workers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Two months after the Thai government was forced to devalue the baht, there is no end in sight to the currency crisis that has swept countries through much of Asia. In the week that ended August 29, Malaysia's stock market dropped 11 percent, Thailand's fell 10 percent, Indonesia's 14 percent, the Philippines' 17 percent, and Hong Kong's 8 percent. Stock markets throughout the region continued their plunge September 1, including in Hong Kong, Japan, south Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Thailand.

The tremors have been felt on Wall Street, as well as in Tokyo, Sydney, and other imperialist centers around the world, fueling the stock market roller coaster of the last couple months.

The economic turmoil has cast a shadow over what has been long praised by big business as the "Asian miracle." Hong Kong, Singapore, south Korea, and Taiwan won particular claim as the so-called "four tigers," allegedly proving that capitalism can usher substantial economic growth and prosperity in the third world. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand were also supposedly budding financial "tigers" that offered lucrative returns to capitalist investors. This miracle has not been so apparent for millions of workers and peasants in these countries, however, who will bear the brunt of the latest crisis.

In search of higher profit rates than can  
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### Workers push back antilabor laws in Argentina



In order to avoid a major confrontation with the labor movement, the government of Argentine president Carlos Menem decided August 26 to postpone debate on new antilabor laws until after the October parliamentary elections. Just days earlier, Finance Minister Roque Fernández had threatened that the laws would be imposed by decree if the legislature didn't act on them. A one-day strike paralyzed much of the country August 14, as workers demanded a halt to government austerity and denounced the antilabor bills. Above, demonstrators run after setting fire to a bus in La Plata during the August 14 work stoppage. Even the main union federation, the General Labor Federation (CGT) that generally backs Menem and had not supported the August 14 protests, threatened to strike if the antilabor legislation was imposed by decree.

## SWP leader: join actions around AFL-CIO convention

BY DIANA NEWBERRY  
AND TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — "Labor is Back" is the theme of a series of mass actions and meetings during the AFL-CIO convention that will take place here September 21-25.

A leaflet calling these activities states, "Thousands of delegates from all over the country and unionists from around the world will come to town. There will be rallies, commemorations of historical labor events, exhibits, programs, a huge street party, and a community-labor teach-in." The leaflet was issued by the Pittsburgh Community-Labor Planning Committee and the AFL-CIO Labor Councils of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington/Greene and Westmoreland Counties. It was distributed at the Labor Day march here.

The teach-in will take place at the David Lawrence Auditorium at the University of Pittsburgh on September 21. During the AFL-CIO convention, a Mass Solidarity Rally/March is planned, the leaflet says, that will proceed from the convention center to the Allegheny County courthouse. "The battle against privatization, down-sizing and the fight for a living wage and decent contracts are part of the same struggle. Now is the time to do something about it! Join us!"

"The National Trade Union Committee (NTUC) of the Socialist Workers Party has issued a call to socialist industrial

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## Thousands in San Francisco protest new law against affirmative action

BY BARBARA BOWMAN

SAN FRANCISCO — The day that California's Proposition 209 went into effect, thousands of supporters of affirmative action chanted, sang, and marched their way across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge to protest the law that will supposedly end government sponsored affirmative action in

this state. The police estimated the crowd at 4,000 people. March organizers said 10,000 protesters participated.

Many motorists on the bridge honked and saluted the marchers with thumbs-up signs. Two small planes carried banners opposing the demands of the march. One banner read, "Affirmative action is wrong — Jesse be

gone," referring to Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson, one of the initiators of the march. The other declared, "Real women don't need feminists."

The event, organized on short notice and dubbed the "March to Save the Dream," was called to commemorate the 34th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "March on Washington."

March organizers had agreed not to carry banners and signs and tried to ban singing and chanting, but several contingents captured the anger and confidence of many of the demonstrators. About 30 farm workers, including some from strawberry fields being organized by the United Farm Workers union (UFW), led hundreds in chanting, "Sí, se puede," (Yes, it can be done) as the crowd poured into Crissy Field for a rally after the march.

Fifty law students from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, wore T-shirts that read, "I'm a Boalt Hall student and I support affirmative action" on the front and, "Qualified and here to stay," on the back.

Proposition 209 was approved last November banning affirmative action programs at state and government institutions. Only one Afro-American student was admitted to Boalt Hall this year.

Rashaad Ibrahim, 24, a third-year Boalt Law School student, explained, "We've been having a lot of protests at Boalt Hall against

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## U.S. troops in Bosnia may use 'lethal power'

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Hundreds of supporters of chauvinist Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic confronted 300 heavily armed U.S. soldiers September 1, throwing rocks and swing clubs. U.S. Apache helicopter gunships with video cameras hovered over the area most of the day. The protesters had gathered near the town of Udrigova to regain control of a television transmitter taken over by the NATO occupation force August 28.

Seizing the transmitter is viewed by Washington as key to waging its propaganda campaign, along with stepped up military aggression. "We will use all means necessary, including lethal means, to protect our forces and to continue our mission," said NATO's new military commander, U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, in a press conference at the Pentagon on September 3. "We will not be deterred by mob violence."

The September 1 incident was the third confrontation between Bosnian Serbs and U.S. troops in five days. It occurred two days after U.S. ambassador Robert Gelbard threatened them to halt resistance to NATO operations or "the consequences will be the most serious imaginable."

Gelbard's comments came the day after  
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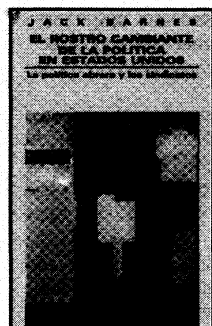
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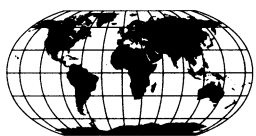
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## Moscow, Beijing sign arms pact

China's Gen. Liu Huaquing signed an arms agreement with the Russian government for the delivery of weapons worth more than \$100 million. Gen. Liu, a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Chinese Communist Party, met with Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin August 27 to discuss further military cooperation and his tour of military factories across Russia. Moscow has sold some \$1 billion worth of armaments to China over the past year. The Kremlin has pressed for strengthening military and political ties with Beijing in the face of Washington's plans to expand the NATO military alliance and station U.S. troops on its borders. Russian president Boris Yeltsin is scheduled to visit China later this year. "Relations between Russia and China are positive as never before," said Chernomyrdin.

## Russian gov't kills Exxon oil deal

Russian natural resources minister Viktor Orlov canceled a \$1.5 billion project with Exxon Corp. to develop oil fields in the Timan-Pechora province. The region contains about 150 million metric tons of recoverable crude oil. Vladimir Tyumarkin, spokesman for the state-owned Russian oil company Rosneft, accused the U.S. oil giant of pushing its weight around and demanding unacceptable conditions from potential partners. Exxon official James Riley said Moscow's decision to annul the pact was "inappropriate." The move, he said, "would not be conducive to encouraging private investment in Russia."

## Sterilization case rocks Sweden

Margot Wallstrom, Sweden's social affairs minister, announced August 28 that a special commission will investigate allegations that up to 60,000 women were forcibly sterilized through government programs for over 40 years to create a "stronger Swedish race." Stockholm admitted that a policy of "ethnic cleansing" was launched in 1935 and involved women with learning difficulties or from non-Nordic ethnic backgrounds. The Swedish government paid \$6,289 in compensation to 16 victims in the past 10 years.

## Honduran peasants win land



**Fourteen indigenous activists suspended a 17-day hunger strike in Tegucigalpa August 15 after the Honduran government promised to turn over nearly 3,000 acres of land to peasants. The activists said they would remain outside the legislature with 200 others until the land deeds were actually in hand. The action was sparked by the government's failure to distribute lands promised in May.**

In Norway, meanwhile, the health ministry acknowledged some 2,000 men and women who had mental illnesses or were poor went through a forced sterilization program between 1934 and 1976. Oslo denied charges that 40,000 women were forced to undergo sterilization experiments of "racial cleansing sciences."

## Former apartheid chief retires

"The time has come for me to retire from active politics," declared former South African president F.W. de Klerk at a Cape Town news conference August 26. De Klerk resigned as leader of the National Party, which instituted and ruled the apartheid system of racial oppression in South Africa for more than 40 years. Under massive pressure from the antiapartheid movement, de Klerk was forced to release Nelson Mandela from jail in 1990, lift the government-imposed bans on the African National Congress and South

African Communist Party, and call the first democratic nonracial elections. Mandela won the presidency in that ballot in 1994. De Klerk accepted a post as one of two vice presidents before he pulled the National Party out of the coalition government in 1996. He had spent the last 18 months crisscrossing the country, unsuccessfully trying to remake the racist image of his organization. "The National Party has been dead for some time," said Andre du Toit, a political analyst at Cape Town University. "But the corpse takes a long time to decompose."

## Brazil dock workers to strike

Dock workers in Brazil voted to strike August 28 against the Santos seaport after Codesp, the São Paulo state ports authority, announced a decision to fire 2,300 workers on September 1 and force them to register at a federal agency on a daily basis. The agency already hires about 7,000 day workers at Santos each month. "We don't want to strike but it is the only weapon we have left," stated Donizete Moura, general secretary of the dock workers union. The ports authority is trying to reduce labor costs as part of its plans to sell 70 percent of the container terminal to private investors. The sell-off is linked to the Brazilian regime's measures to stave off a currency crisis and possible devaluation. Some 36 million tons of cargo passed through the Santos seaport last year, accounting for one-third of the country's foreign trade.

## Washington aids Korea defectors

The government of north Korea broke off arms negotiations with Washington August 27 protesting CIA agents assisting the de-

fections to the United States of its ambassador to Egypt and a trade official at Pyongyang's mission in Paris. Li Gun, north Korean deputy representative to the United Nations, said the Clinton administration's actions was a "grave insult" and reflected "hostility" toward his country. The *Washington Post* quoted an unnamed former senior U.S. intelligence official saying, "It's the first time we don't have to wait until the south Koreans wring a guy's brain out." Chang Sung Ho, former north Korean ambassador to Egypt, is the highest official of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to defect directly to the United States rather than south Korea.

Li said the White House actions could also affect the four-party talks between the governments of north and south Korea, China, and the United State scheduled on September 15 to negotiate a formal end to the Korean War. The Korean people pushed back the 1950 U.S. invasion, which ended the slaughter with the country divided in 1953. Today, Washington maintains 37,000 U.S. troops in south Korea.

## Mitsubishi settles sex abuse case

Lawyers for the Mitsubishi Motors Corporation announced an agreement August 28 to pay \$9.5 million to settle a lawsuit with 27 women, who charged the company of condoning sexual harassment at its plant in Normal, Illinois. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a separate lawsuit in April 1996 accusing the company of sex harassment against more than 300 women.

## 50 million in U.S. live in poverty

The annual report of the United Nations Development Program, released in June, stated that about 50 million U.S. residents — 19 percent of the population of 265 million — live below the national poverty line. The UN study estimated that poverty increased in the United States by 3 percent between 1974 and 1994. Meanwhile, under the new tax law signed by U.S. president William Clinton, 50 percent of the tax cuts will benefit the top 20 percent of income earners.

## Courts block antiabortion law

Judges in three U.S. district courts ruled against laws in several states that prohibited women's access to a method of abortion called dilation and evacuation. Judges Jerry Cavaneau of the Eastern District of Arkansas, Gerald Rosen of the Eastern District of Michigan, and Richard Bilby of the District of Arizona stopped implementation of new state laws against so-called partial birth abortions. Judge Rosen said the ban violated the constitutional rights of women seeking abortions in decision on July 31. Medical experts in Arkansas testified the new law there could be construed to include any abortion procedure at almost any stage of pregnancy.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

# THE MILITANT

## NATO troops out of the Balkans!

*U.S. and other imperialist forces are expanding military operations in the Balkans under the pretext of searching for 'war criminals.' The 'Militant' explains how the NATO war drive there is an attempt to restore capitalist relations in those workers states. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# Yugoslav women meet to oppose war

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

NOVI SAD, Vojvodina, Serbia — Over 125 women from throughout Yugoslavia, joined by small delegations of women from other countries, participated in an antiwar vigil in the central square of this town August 7. They stood in a wide circle — all dressed in black — holding signs against nationalism, war, and war preparations. Signs like “Stop apartheid in Kosovo” held center stage, assailing the conditions imposed on the Albanian majority in the Kosovo region at the hands of the Serbian regime. “People in the town were mostly friendly,” said Natasha a youth from Belgrade, who was handing out flyers to people. “One person even asked how to affiliate with Women in Black; this was a man!”

Women in Black (WIB) has been organizing protests every week in Belgrade for the past seven years against “ethnic cleansing” and the war in Yugoslavia. The protesters here were participants in the sixth international meeting of the Network of Women’s Solidarity Against War.

## Spotlight on Kosovo

The Belgrade regime revoked Kosovo’s autonomous status in 1989. This was part of whipping up a chauvinist campaign, as competing wings of the Stalinist bureaucracy that had ruled Yugoslavia for decades prepared to go to war over the country’s territory and wealth. The ending of autonomy for Kosovo and Vojvodina, where Novi Sad is located, were blows to the gains made by Albanians and other nationalities in the Federated Yugoslav state, as workers and farmers began to forge a new society following the revolution that overturned capitalist property relations there after World War II.

Today the Serbian regime is again scapegoating Kosovo to stir up Serbian nationalist sentiment. “The media is full of stories of attacks on Serbs by Albanians in Kosovo,” said Stasa Zajovic, a central figure in WIB. “Women are a special target of this pro-war campaign. We are being told that we are not real Serbs if we don’t have a lot of babies. They speculate about the year when Serbs will become a minority in Serbia, losing out to Albanians and ‘other Muslims’ like those living in the Sandzak region.”

During last winter’s mass protests against election fraud and for democratic rights in Belgrade, WIB found there was political space to make the occupation of Kosovo an issue and get a hearing. On December 13, after a march of nearly 350,000 people, demonstrators paid homage with a moment of silence for Feriz Blackori, a Kosovo Albanian killed by Serbian police the previous day during interrogation.

About a dozen women from Kosovo attended the conference. Eleonora Halimi, who works for Doctors of the World in Pristina, Kosovo, spoke about the constant harassment that young people especially face from Serb authorities. “The police will come into your house saying they are looking for arms,” she said. “I don’t know of any family who has not had the experience of some member taken in for interrogation.”

“There are no jobs at all” for Albanians there, she added. “Anyone who can possibly leave goes, especially to Germany.”

However, she didn’t have any good words for the leadership of the Albanian independence struggle and was not at all eager to be added to Albania. Those who speak in the name of Kosovo Albanians in the international arena seek financial and political



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Women in Black have protested against war in Yugoslavia since its beginning. Above, members of group outside federal parliament building in Belgrade in 1992.

support from Washington and other imperialist governments. Halimi said she thought investment and development is needed in Kosovo, and doesn’t see that it could come from anyone other than from capitalists. At the same time it leaves a bitter taste in her mouth. A Greek capitalist has been negotiating with the Serb authorities to buy a gold mine there. “We told him ‘don’t buy this. It belongs to the Albanian people,’” she said.

## Challenges facing women

“Women have double chains: Serb occupation, as well as subjugation to men within the family,” said Nazlie Bala from Prizren, Kosovo. The right to know about reproductive functions and control them independently of the family is a key issue. Forms of precapitalist exploitation of women — such as polygamy and the selling of women — that were not widespread but had never been stamped out are now being defended by many conservative men as a form of pre-

serving “cultural identity.” A new consciousness among some young women, who are also fighting for national rights, is taking this on.

“The most impressive thing about the conference for me was the women who were there,” said Ipek Ilkaracan from Women for Women’s Rights in Istanbul, Turkey. She noted that sitting around a table discussing the fight for women’s rights were members of the region’s religious and national groups who are “told by our governments to hate each other.”

In addition to WIB activists, participants included volunteers from many women-oriented NGOs and foundations, and workers from refugee centers. They came from the Yugoslav republics of Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and Macedonia. Representatives of international women’s organizations such as Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights also attended. International participants came from Israel, Palestine, Chechnya, Hungary, Turkey, Greece, the United States, and several Western European countries.

## What next in Yugoslavia?

During the workshop entitled “The war did not end with peace but with a truce — What next?” and in many discussions afterwards, activists gave their appraisal of the situation in Yugoslavia now. The “truce” referred to is the Dayton agreement, imposed by U.S. imperialism on the warring Yugoslav governments. It lays the basis for the partition of Bosnia and provides the pretext for the presence of tens of thousands of NATO troops in Yugoslavia.

Although many appreciated greater mobility on the roads since the Dayton accords were signed, including no longer having to go through Hungary to get from Sarajevo to Belgrade, all pointed to the single most important question as that of the refugees. Jasna Baksic Muftic from Sarajevo explained that there are no immediate perspectives for the return of 1.5 million refugees to their homes, even though the accords were presented as a vehicle for this. The Dayton accords cannot bring more than a cease-fire, she said because “those who signed the agreement for peace are those

Continued on Page 7

# Kurdish refugees describe conditions in Greece

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — “I have been in this country for 14 months already and as of yet nothing has been clarified by the Greek state as to the status of hundreds of us here,” said Karwan Rafiq Mustafa, a leader of the elected Camp Committee of Palia Pendeli, in an interview with the *Militant* in early August. “Since June we have been brought here by the Greek government and put in two camps: Camp A, with 150 people, and Camp B, with 600 people. Camp A is run by Medecins du Monde [Doctors of the World] and has running water, electricity, toilets and food. But Camp B, which is not run by the Medecins du Monde, has none of these.”

A walk through the camp quickly shows the dismal conditions. The Kurdish refugees from Iraq have been assigned this location by the Greek government. They are provided with tents that are rotting through, sleeping 10 to a tent. There is no concrete flooring. With the first rains the tents will turn to sieves and the floors into thick mud. A camp resident walks through pushing a wheelbarrow full of canned milk from tent to tent. Every two or three days each person may get a small can as their ration. The milk is donated by private individuals and some human rights organizations. These conditions stand in stark contrast to the million dollar villas dotting the surrounding posh neighborhood.

“Those of us in Camp B have problems due to vitamin deficiencies,” said another resident, who wished to remain anonymous. “There is no work. We go out to the main square of the town here every morning waiting for bosses to drive by and pick some of us up for day labor. We are forced to compete with Albanian immigrants on the square. They will work for only 3,000 drachmas a day (about \$10), and there have been instances of scuffles between us and them. Those of us that do work have problems getting paid,” said Mustafa. “Right now eight refugees are owed \$2,500 in back wages, which the bosses refuse to pay because they know those workers have no papers. In fact at this time only 30 percent of us have valid temporary residence permits.”

“Even though we are refugees fleeing Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship, the Greek

government is putting up all sorts of obstacles to prevent us from applying for political asylum,” continued Mustafa. He explained that almost a year and a half after Iraqi Kurds first occupied a square in central Athens “only 250 have been allowed to apply. None of us have gotten a response. And new refugees keep fleeing.”

“We have already taken to the streets of Athens three times in demonstrations of hundreds demanding our right to political asylum and to being given the means to live as human beings,” he added.

After finishing the tour of Camp B, Mustafa walked to a barbed wire fence. “This is the Berlin Wall separating the two camps.”

In Camp A Sardesh Charezuri, who has been there less than two weeks, said, “Fifty of us were brought here a few days ago. We were rescued out at sea by the Greek navy. The Ukrainian cargo boat we were on had broken down and we were adrift for 88 hours. Due to the presence of women and children and the coverage by the press, they were pressured to tow the boat to the coast and we were given food, water, and medicine.”

“There were 300 of us on the death ship,” continued Charezuri. “We all boarded in Turkey and were from Guinea, Rwanda, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq. The Iraqis were Arab, Kurd, and Turkoman. There were also Arabs from Turkey fleeing. Once in Greece they separated us according to nationality. The Kurds from Iraq were brought here.”

“We paid \$2,500 each for the trip, which was supposed to take us to Italy. We were promised food and water on board but there was none, so we had to buy it.” Charezuri said there were many tragedies, and pointed to a young girl named Vania. “Her mother and sister were separated from her while we were all boarding due to a Turkish police action,” he explained. “We don’t know where they are now — I have taken her under my care.”

“I am from Hallabjah, the place where thousands were massacred by Saddam’s chemical bombs,” said Charezuri. “Conditions in Iraq are impossible due to the war against Iran and then the Gulf War with the United States. Life for all Iraqis is difficult, but especially for the Kurds. And now there

is the Kurdish civil war on top of the intervention of the countries in the area.

“Now they are blocking the implementation of [United Nations] Security Council Resolution 986,” he said referring to the “oil for food” resolution by the UN Security Council. “But it is not Saddam who is paying. It is the Iraqi people, all of them, who are paying. Why deny us food? [Former U.S. president George] Bush encouraged us to rebel and then he allowed Saddam to crush us — Why?” Resolution 986 allows Baghdad to sell limited quantities of oil, with two-thirds of the proceeds earmarked for supplies to relieve those suffering from the UN embargo against Iraq, and the remainder to pay reparations from the Gulf War.

“I sold my house and everything in it,” said Charezuri. “The only way to flee is through Turkey. You can get a visa to Turkey through the Turkoman Front for \$600. Then you get on a boat or walk across the border to Greece. There are now 50,000 Iraqis in Istanbul.” The group from the Ukrainian ship has not yet been allowed to apply for political asylum.

Georges Mehrabian is a chemical worker in Athens, Greece.

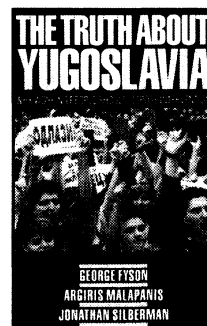
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Pathfinder Fund off to good start

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

As the campaign to raise \$125,000 got under way September 1, supporters of Pathfinder Press in Atlanta, Boston, and Seattle got off to a strong start in setting the kind of pace that will be needed to meet the fund drive goal in full and on time.

In the first one of what they project as weekly installments, Seattle supporters sent in \$800 they received from 10 contributors. This type of collection on a weekly basis will be central to a successful campaign.

The Pathfinder Fund will make possible the publication of several new books, as well as help keep in print the publishers' more than 300 titles by revolutionaries and working-class leaders.

In many places, Pathfinder supporters are already organizing public forums to raise

money for the fund drive. In Boston, the event will center on the book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. In Newark, New Jersey, supporters are planning a fund event to highlight the soon-to-be-published French language edition of the same book, *Le visage changeant de la politique aux États-Unis*.

Supporters in Sweden launched the fund August 29 at a reportback from participants in the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, and the conference of trade unionists from around the world; events that were recently held in Cuba. They plan to contact members of the Pathfinder Readers Club and subscribers to the *Militant* to ask for contributions.

Ved Dookhum explained in a letter that

Birmingham supporters are also planning an event centered around a reportback from the trade union conference. He said local fund backers who are members of the United Steelworkers of America and United Auto Workers adopted a combined goal of raising \$130 in contributions from co-workers.

Starting with this issue of the *Militant*, the scoreboard will reflect all money received in the Pathfinder offices every Saturday. In addition, supporters of the fund are urged to send in stories about how they are raising money for the fund drive.

All workers and revolutionary-minded youth who appreciate the place of Pathfinder books are encouraged to contribute to fund. You can make checks payable to Pathfinder and send them to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund  
September 1 – November 1

CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	%
United States			
Atlanta	3,700	500	14%
Boston	5,500	580	11%
Seattle	8,000	800	10%
New York	12,000	510	4%
Newark	8,500	350	4%
Los Angeles	10,000	410	4%
San Francisco	9,500	300	3%
Washington, D.C.	3,000	77	3%
Philadelphia	4,000	100	3%
Chicago	11,000	220	2%
Cleveland	2,400	30	1%
Birmingham	3,500	0	0%
Des Moines	2,400	0	0%
Detroit	4,000	0	0%
Houston	5,500	0	0%
Miami	3,000	0	0%
Twin Cities	7,000	0	0%
Pittsburgh	5,000	0	0%
Other	2,918	836	29%
U.S. Total:	110,918	4,713	4%
Canada			
Canada	5,300	10	0%
New Zealand			
New Zealand	2,370	0	0%
Sweden			
Sweden	700	0	0%
United Kingdom			
United Kingdom		75	
Other Int'l			
Other Int'l		35	
INT'L TOTAL:	119,288	4,823	4%
SHOULD BE:	125,000	6,250	5%

Fall 1997 'Militant'  
Subscription Drive

Country/City	GOALS		
	Militant	PM	NI
AUSTRALIA	16	3	10
CANADA			
Montreal	30	10	30
Toronto	50	10	20
Vancouver	50	5	5
CANADA total	130	25	55
ICELAND	10	1	5
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	30	2	10
Christchurch	15	1	5
Wellington	3	1	1
N.Z. total	48	4	16
SWEDEN			
Sweden	16	7	8
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	50	12	35
Manchester	25	2	12
U.K. total	75	14	47
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	33	12	15
Birmingham, AL	40	5	15
Boston	40	15	35
Chicago	95	30	40
Cleveland	30	6	10
Des Moines	40	20	20
Detroit	35	8	12
Houston	40	15	15
Los Angeles	110	55	55
Miami	40	22	25
New York	140	70	60
Newark, NJ	120	40	60
Philadelphia	25	8	8
Pittsburgh	48	3	15
San Francisco	70	30	35
Seattle	70	20	20
Twin Cities, MN	70	15	15
Washington, DC	40	15	15
U.S. total	1086	389	470
Int'l totals	1381	443	611
Int'l goals	1300	400	600

UNIONS

Country/Union	Militant	PM	NI
CANADA			
IAM	10	1	5
USWA	5	1	2
Canada Total	15	2	7
UNITED KINGDOM			
AEEU			
RMT	3		2
TGWU	4		3
Total U.K.	7	0	5
UNITED STATES			
UNITE	8	8	6
UAW	50	5	25
USWA	38	4	22
U.S. Total	96	17	53

New Pathfinder distribution  
center opens up in Toronto

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — At meetings in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, some 115 supporters of Pathfinder celebrated the opening of the Pathfinder Press Distribution center in Toronto, and the recent publications of new titles by Pathfinder. These include *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, by Harry Villegas, who fought with Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia and is today a general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, and *El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos*, the Spanish translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes.

The Montreal celebration, held August 16, also hailed the fighting spirit of the Teamsters striking against UPS in the United States. The Toronto and Vancouver meetings, which took place on August 23, celebrated the Teamsters' victory against "Big Brown."

Speaking at the Montreal and Vancouver meetings, Pathfinder Press Distribution business manager John Steele explained the significance of the new distribution center.

"The example set by the UPS strikers is one of many set by workers who are resisting the assault by employers and their governments around the world on our rights and living standards as they drive to increase profit rates," Steele said. "The growing fightback by working people makes revolutionary working-class ideas, born out of more than 150 years of class struggle, more important and attractive as workers and young people look for scientific answers to what is happening to them."

"The books we are celebrating are based on the experiences of revolutionary workers and farmers in Cuba, Bolivia, and other Latin American countries over the past three and a half decades, and class conscious workers in the unions in the United States over the past 20 years. The books and pamphlets explain how working people can forge the leadership we need to carry out a life and death struggle against the horrors of depression, fascism, and war that world capitalism is bringing us. Workers need these weapons and the other titles produced by Pathfinder to become even better, more committed fighters."

In order to more effectively get books like these into the hands of those in struggle on the picket lines, the campuses, and in the countryside, Pathfinder Press, based in New York, has been reorganizing over the past couple of years to build a more efficient "pipeline" for the editing, production, and distribution of books to working people and youth all over the world.

"Setting up the distribution center in Tor-

onto is another piece of this pipeline," said Steele.

Speaking in Toronto, Kathy Logan explained that for the past nine years, outside fulfillment companies have handled the warehousing and order fulfillment for Pathfinder books in Canada. "By taking day-to-day responsibility for the distribution and promotion of Pathfinder books across Canada, through the new distribution center," said Logan, "supporters of Pathfinder will be able to monitor more closely and give more priority to getting Pathfinder books on to the shelves of chains like the Chapters superstores, Coles, Smithbooks, university bookstores, libraries, and independent bookstores. Most working people buy books at stores like these," she noted.

The importance of this was illustrated at all three meetings by comments made by many of the panelists — some of whom had recently returned from a world youth festival held in Havana, Cuba. They spoke about the plethora of books being published and discussed today about Ernesto Che Guevara, as the 30th anniversary of his October 9 murder by the



Bolivian army in collaboration with the U.S. government nears. Almost without exception, these books give a false view of the origin and reasons behind the struggle waged in Bolivia under Che's leadership during 1966 – 67, and the relevance of the lessons of this struggle for today. By placing books like the one by Harry Villegas on bookstore shelves, working people will have access to the facts.

"Because the distribution center will be staffed by volunteers who will do the job of filling orders, packing and shipping books, billing, invoicing, maintaining the inventory and financial books, the distribution costs will be cheaper," Logan continued. "The most important aspect of the decision to establish the distribution operation will be bringing the day-to-day work of distributing Pathfinder books more to the center of the work of building the communist movement."

At all three meetings participants were urged to give donations of \$1,000 or more to a \$10,000 fund for the start up costs of the distribution center. This will pay for the renovations of the warehouse in the basement of the Pathfinder bookstore in Toronto, which were carried out by volunteers from



Militant/John Steele  
Volunteers at new Pathfinder Distribution center in Toronto unloading books August 10. More than 150 years of the history of working-class struggles now are more accessible to fighters in Canada. Left, a participant at Toronto protest against U.S. policy towards Cuba checks out the books.

several cities over a period of five weeks, as well as office equipment and supplies. To date \$8,000 has been pledged.

The distribution center, which officially opened August 18, has begun filling orders to Pathfinder and other bookstores across the country.

COMING SOON FROM PATHFINDER

John Coltrane and the Jazz  
Revolution of the 1960's  
by Frank Kofsky \$23.95

White  
Business,  
Black Music  
by Frank Kofsky  
\$17.95



Order from Pathfinder  
410 West St. NY, NY 10014



SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Labor Day sales kick off 'Militant' subscription drive

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Militant supporters started the subscription campaign with a bang over the Labor Day weekend.

"We campaigned for Rosa Garmendia, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Detroit, where we sold three subscriptions and 62 single issues of the Militant at the Labor Day Parade here," wrote Holly Harkness. Unionists at the rally bought seven Pathfinder titles, including two books from the four-volume Teamster series by Farrell Dobbs. Harkness said participants attending two classes on the Cuban revolu-

tion and the other one on the lessons of the UPS strike bought ten books. The titles they purchased included two copies of Pombo: a Man of Che's 'Guerrilla,' one copy of the pamphlet At the Side of Che Guevara, and a copy of El rostro cambiante de la política Estados Unidos, the Spanish-language edition of The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions.

Activists from Birmingham and Atlanta organized a regional sales team in the southeast, where they participated in a Labor Day rally in Copperhill, Tennessee, and sold five Militant subscriptions and 18 single issues of the paper.

Socialists in the New York-New Jersey area joined in the August 29 march in Brooklyn against the cop torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima and set up Socialist Workers campaign tables. Protesters there bought five subscriptions and 147 single issues of the Militant; one subscription to Perspectiva Mundial; and 188 Pathfinder titles, including 24 copies of the Marxist magazine New International in both English and French, six copies of Pombo: a Man of Che's 'Guerrilla,' and two copies of The Changing Face of U.S. Politics.

Jane Harris from Newark said she sold a Militant subscription to a woman at the demonstration, and then sold two more to fellow rail workers in Hoboken, New Jersey. Both co-workers were interested in the Louima case and the Militant's analysis of the recent UPS strike. Two other rail workers bought single copies of the socialist newsweekly to see if they might be interested in subscribing.

Socialist workers from Newark and Boston joined those in New York for the annual Caribbean Day parade in Brooklyn, where they sold 13 Militant subscriptions, 97 single copies, and 88 Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Socialist activists came up short on the international goals of the renewal drive and the campaign to sell the new Pathfinder titles as the chart shows. "But it was really good to get in gear for the sub drive by having these two campaigns," said Kathy Logan in Toronto. "We did go over several other goals as a result of

the efforts we were making to wrap up a successful campaign. Three days into the first week, we have two New Internationals and three Militant subscriptions — two of which were sold at the labor day parade in Toronto — which is a good start."

BY SARA LOBMAN

Pathfinder supporters in Chicago are taking advantage of several new titles and new promotional material to increase efforts to get local bookstores to carry the publisher's books. "We also wanted to draw attention to the Teamsters series, in light of the strike by workers at UPS," Maggie Perrier said in a note to Pathfinder's main office in New York. Perrier reports that supporters targeted two Saturdays in August, visiting 7 stores.

One store placed an order for 66 books and pamphlets, including 2 copies of Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla' by Harry Villegas, Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs, and 20 copies of Malcolm X Talks to Young People for use in a class. "When we got to the meeting, they had already put up the poster of the Villegas book," Perrier said.

"Please note that our current order includes Land or Death: The Peasant Struggle in Peru by Hugo Blanco," Cindy Jaquith, from the Pathfinder Bookstore in Birmingham, writes. "A number of young people have come in recently requesting literature on the class struggle in Peru. We have sold several copies of Peru's 'Shining Path: Evolution of a Stalinist Sect' by Martín Koppel and one person bought a copy of The Leninist Strategy of Party Building: the Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America. Often after discussion, these customers also pick up a title or two by leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Affirmative action rally

Continued from front page

the new admissions policies, but it's just a small part of a larger sickness. It's important to not let the lie be told that no one sees the wrong in Proposition 209."

Mia Paraiso, 16, marched with 17 other students from Mercy High School, a Catholic girls' school in San Francisco. "I really believe in affirmative action, in giving minorities an equal opportunity starting out. I don't think that Proposition 209 should go through. Even if it goes through the court, they shouldn't enforce it," she said.

Hundreds of demonstrators sported union jackets or hats, but few marched in organized contingents. The presence of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) was evident by a blue truck, one side of which said, "Part-time America Doesn't Work! Support the UPS Strikers!"

The march was called by Jesse Jackson. Sponsors included the National Organization for Women (NOW), the UFW, and the mayor's offices of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Berkeley.

The office of San Francisco mayor William Brown played a prominent role in building the demonstration, including contacting minority contractors that do business with the city urging them and their employees to attend the march. Brown negotiated personally with the park service, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department, and the Sheriff's Department on the policies of the event.

Organizers of the march used park police and National Park rangers to remove people distributing political literature and attempted to prohibit sales of any kind. A "First Amendment area" was set up behind two sets of barricades in the middle of a large parking lot a considerable distance from the rally.

A park policeman confiscated donations

made to an anti-police brutality organization and returned a \$2 donation made by a woman to a pro-choice group. "Don't I have the right to make a contribution to a cause I support?" she asked the cop.

The same officer threatened Militant salespeople with a \$500 citation each if they were discovered distributing "as much as a single leaflet" after the activists refused to hand over copies of their paper.

Jackson will lead a similar march on Sacramento, the state capital, October 27.

Barbara Bowman is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1732 in San Francisco. Cathleen Gutekanst, a member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Richmond, California, contributed to this article.

Subscription Renewal Campaign MILITANT/PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL Final Scoreboard August 2-31						
City/Country	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
United Kingdom						
London	10	13	130%	2	2	100%
Manchester	5	6	120%			
U.K. totals	15	19	127%	2	2	100%
Canada						
Montreal	4	4	100%	2	5	250%
Vancouver	8	8	100%	1	0	0%
Toronto	8	6	75%	2	3	150%
Canada totals	20	18	90%	5	8	160%
United States						
Des Moines	6	9	150%	4	1	25%
Cleveland	7	9	129%	2	0	0%
Philadelphia	10	12	120%	2	2	100%
Miami	12	14	117%	6	6	100%
Boston	8	9	113%	3	2	67%
Atlanta	9	10	111%	3	5	167%
Newark	15	16	107%	8	3	38%
Los Angeles	25	26	104%	10	6	60%
Birmingham	9	9	100%	1	1	100%
Detroit	8	8	100%	2	1	50%
Washington, D.C.	9	9	100%	6	5	83%
San Francisco	17	12	71%	8	0	0%
Twin Cities	20	14	70%	5	1	20%
Houston	12	8	67%	3	0	0%
Pittsburgh	15	8	53%	1	0	0%
Seattle	15	8	53%	5	0	0%
Chicago	18	9	50%	7	0	0%
New York	15	5	33%	8	0	0%
U.S. totals	230	195	85%	84	33	39%
Australia						
Australia	10	8	80%	2	1	50%
New Zealand						
Auckland	5	4	80%			
Christchurch	4	3	75%	1	0	0%
N.Z. totals	9	7	78%	1	0	0%
Iceland						
Iceland	9	4	44%			
Sweden						
Sweden	3	0	0%	1	1	100%
Int'l totals	296	251	85%	95	45	47%
Should be	295	295	100%	95	95	100%
TRADE UNIONS						
United States						
UAW	15	12	80%	3	0	0%
UTU	12	9	75%		1	
IAM	33	20	61%	10	2	20%
USWA	15	8	53%	3	0	0%
UNITE	4	2	50%	4	2	50%
OCAW	10	3	30%			
UFCW	2	0	0%	5	0	0%
U.S. totals	91	54	59%	25	5	20%

PATHFINDER NEW TITLES CAMPAIGN						
Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla,' At the Side of Che Guevara, The Changing Face of U.S. Politics, and El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos						
Units	Pombo		At side of Che		Changing Face	
City/Country	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Australia	15	11	15	24	5	4
Canada						
Montreal	10	9	15	14	5	4
Toronto	15	11	15	18	8	9
Vancouver	10	9	10	7	6	5
Canada totals	35	29	40	39	19	18
Iceland	2	0	4	3	0	0
New Zealand						
Auckland	10	11	10	6	5	1
Christchurch	9	10	8	10	3	4
N.Z. totals	19	21	18	16	8	5
Sweden						
Sweden	6	10		12	0	0
United Kingdom						
London	10	14	20	37	5	5
Manchester	10	7	12	12	5	5
U.K. totals	20	21	32	49	10	10
United States						
Atlanta	20	8	20	8	10	7
Birmingham	20	5	20	3	5	2
Boston	25	12	15	22	5	1
Chicago	40	12	30	27	8	5
Cleveland	20	13	10	5	5	1
Des Moines	15	5	15	10	8	7
Detroit	15	7	15	11	8	3
Houston	15	3	25	5	8	1
Los Angeles	20	20	30	31	10	5
Miami	30	17	20	18	8	4
Newark	30	19	30	38	10	12
New York	25	13	30	43	20	7
Philadelphia	10	11	15	12	5	6
Pittsburgh	30	11	30	12	10	1
San Francisco	15	10	20	14	10	41
Seattle	20	7	30	2	12	4
Twin Cities	25	10	30	8	12	3
Washington, D.C.	15	16	10	15	8	5
Youth Festival		20		39		20
U.S. totals	390	219	395	323	162	135
Int'l totals	487	311	504	466	204	172
In the Unions						
Australia						
AMWU	1	1	2	4	1	2
United States						
IAM	21	8	33	9	11	5
OCAW	5	0	5	2	10	0
UAW	15	9	15	18	5	4
UFCW	4	0	12	3	3	1
UNITE	4	1	8	2	4	2
USWA	16	1	19	3	8	0
UTU	15	3	0	1	15	5
U.S. totals	80	22	92	38	56	17

# New gov't does not quell unrest in PNG

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — The installation of a new government has not brought stability to Papua New Guinea (PNG). Simmering tensions boiled over July 28 in the capital, Port Moresby, when a heavily armed Special Forces unit of the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) raided Boroko police station at dawn and freed Maj. Walter Enuma.

Imprisoned since July 25 on charges of raising an "illegal force" during the June national elections, Enuma helped lead the March 17-26 military revolt against the hiring of foreign mercenaries by the increasingly corrupt and dictatorial regime of then Prime Minister Julius Chan and headed the operation that deported the mercenaries.

The March mutiny sparked a mass revolt, with demonstrations by youth, students, workers, rank-and-file soldiers, and shantytown dwellers that gathered enough strength to force Chan to step aside pending an inquiry into the hiring of Sandline, a U.K.-based mercenary outfit. The government had hired Sandline — at a cost of \$US36 million — to prosecute the nine-year war to thwart independence for Bougainville and restore operations at the Australian-owned Panguna copper and gold mine.

After freeing Enuma, the Special Forces soldiers took control of PNGDF headquarters at the Murray Barracks and placed

PNGDF head Brig. Gen. Leo Nuia under house arrest. The one-day mutiny was not accompanied by street protests.

Newly elected Prime Minister Bill Skate, who took office July 22 after weeks of behind-the-scenes maneuvering following the June elections, met with the mutineers at the barracks. Skate rejected their demand that a blanket amnesty be granted to military and civilian participants in the March revolt but issued an order that all charges be suspended pending a second official inquiry into the hiring of the mercenaries. This inquiry began in late August. Meanwhile the PNGDF launched its own investigation into the matter. It is the third investigation so far.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* immediately labeled Skate's move a "capitulation" but editorialized August 1 against taking any disciplinary action, fearing another "full-scale crisis."

Former brigadier general and PNGDF head Jerry Singirok, who led the March revolt, was to have been charged with "sedition" on July 29. During the revolt, Singirok was sacked as Defence Force commander by Chan. Chan later installed Nuia, known as the "Butcher of Bougainville" from his time as head of operations there in 1990.

On July 10 Singirok was dismissed from the military. Viewed as a hero by many for his role in March, Singirok has since been discredited, especially among middle- and



Soldiers celebrate in Port Moresby March 26 after a nine-day mutiny and mass protests forced PNG prime minister Julius Chan to step aside. Instability continues today.

lower-ranking soldiers and working people, after admitting he received £30,000 (\$US2,000) in secret payments from Franklins, a British arms dealer and competitor of Sandline.

Australian minister for foreign affairs Alexander Downer reacted to this latest stage in the PNG rulers' crisis with arrogance typical of PNG's former colonial master. "I am very concerned about this and I want to emphasize the point that we expect the Papua New Guinea Defence Force — and by that I mean every single member ... without exception — to respond

to the instructions of the civil authority."

In a further indication of the deepening crisis of governmental authority, however, the police defied Skate's directions and re-issued their warrant for Major Enuma, the *Herald* reported August 1.

## June elections

PNG politics has generally been volatile, with around 50 percent of incumbent politicians losing their seats at each election. This time, 56 of the 109 MPs were elected for the first time.

But in results unprecedented in Westminster-style parliamentary elections anywhere, Chan, two-time former prime minister Paias Wingti, and former acting prime minister John Giheno — whom Chan installed after stepping aside during the first Sandline inquiry — all lost their seats.

Skate, the People's National Congress parliamentary leader and Port Moresby regional governor, ran on a campaign of anti-corruption rhetoric after having called on several top government officials to resign during the March crisis, including Chan's deputy prime minister, Chris Haiiveta. In office, however, he reappointed Haiiveta as deputy prime minister.

Jerry Wais, a student at the University of Papua New Guinea, a center of the anti-Chan protests, said, "Bill Skate told all the students that he would fight corruption, so we supported him. He betrayed us."

Vikki John, a leader of the Sydney-based Bougainville Freedom Movement, told the *Militant* from Port Moresby July 28 that there was widespread anger and dismay at the formation of the coalition government. But the last-minute decision to back the government by prominent activist leaders of the March revolt who stood for Parliament as Independents and won, such as Melanesian Solidarity (Melsol) leader Peti

Continued on Page 7

## Talks planned on future of Bougainville

BY JOAN SHIELDS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — The Papua New Guinea government announced at the end of August that it would take part in talks on the future of the island of Bougainville. The talks are scheduled for the end of September at the Burnham Military Camp, outside Christchurch.

Earlier, two weeks of talks there between representatives of opposing factions from Bougainville culminated in the signing of the Burnham Declaration July 18.

Sixty delegates participated in the talks, including representatives of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), which has been fighting for the island's independence from Papua New Guinea (PNG) since 1988; the pro-independence Bougainville Interim Government; and the PNG-backed Bougainville Transitional Government. No high-level representatives of PNG's government took part in those negotiations, although one PNG member of parliament was present.

The talks were hosted and funded by the New Zealand government.

The Burnham Declaration means that the Bougainville leaders now approach the PNG government for peace negotiations as one body, not separate factions.

The declaration did not call an immediate halt to hostilities. Instead, it calls for a United Nations "peacekeeping" force to be invited to Bougainville for no longer than three years. A declaration of cease-fire will take effect when the first contingent of peacekeeping forces arrives.

The declaration calls for the demilitarization of Bougainville, including a complete withdrawal of PNG armed forces within an agreed time frame. All Bougainvilleans will also lay down their arms under the supervision of the peacekeeping force.

In talks with PNG, the declaration says the Bougainville representatives will call for a lifting of the blockade so that aid can reach the island, and for an undertaking to ensure the people of Bougainville democratically exercise their right to determine their political future.

The war in Bougainville began in December 1988 when angry traditional landowners forced Australia's CRA-owned Panguna gold and copper mine to close. The mine accounted for 40 percent of Papua New Guinea's export earnings, but less than 1 percent of the profit went back to Bougainville. Mining also caused environmental devastation on the island, affecting agriculture.

The BRA demands NZ\$14 billion (US\$9 billion) in damages from CRA and independence from PNG. A Bougainville independence movement initially developed

prior to Papua New Guinean independence from Australia in 1975.

It has been estimated that thousands of people have died since war broke out. Many of these deaths are a result of the blockade imposed by PNG that prevents medicine and food reaching Bougainville.

The PNG Defence Force has resorted to brutal methods to crush the independence struggle. These include massacres in Bougainville villages and military raids against the Solomon Islands, which the PNG government accuses of providing a haven for Bougainville rebels.

The Australian government, PNG's former colonial master, has armed, trained, financed, and advised PNG armed forces in the fighting on Bougainville, and Australian-supplied helicopters and patrol boats are a central part of the war effort. Despite this, the PNG army has been effectively defeated on Bougainville by the BRA.

In January the PNG government signed a US\$36 million contract with mercenaries from Sandline International to prepare a new offensive ostensibly alongside the PNG De-

fence Force. It was suspended in March following a 10-day army mutiny and rising mass protests.

New Zealand's imperialist rulers have seized on the opportunity presented by the peace talks to pose as "neutral peacemakers" in the Pacific. An editorial in the July 7 *Sydney Morning Herald* commented: "New Zealand's special diplomatic skills, unique in the Pacific, are being applied to bring the warring parties together. It is the best chance yet for peace in Bougainville."

Australian and New Zealand armed forces cooperate closely, and "civilian" pilots from both countries have piloted Australian-supplied helicopter gunships on Bougainville throughout the war.

New Zealand's Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon presided over the signing of the Burnham Declaration. He said that the New Zealand government would be willing to commit troops to participate in the UN peacekeeping force.

Joan Shields is a member of the Meat Workers Union in Christchurch, New Zealand.

## Document highlights Australia-NZ tensions

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND — A briefing paper of the Australian government leaked during July has caused a controversy in Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. According to a report in the July 19 issue of the Auckland daily *The New Zealand Herald*, "the paper was prepared jointly by the Australian Foreign Ministry and Treasury for the Treasurer, Peter Costello, as a briefing for a meeting last weekend of economic ministers from the 16-member South Pacific Forum."

The paper highlights growing conflicts between Canberra and Wellington over policy towards the South Pacific. It criticizes the New Zealand government for its "initiative in hosting" recent negotiations involving forces from Bougainville, saying it "did not fully consult Australia," and points to emerging differences over the Indonesian military takeover of East Timor.

The *New Zealand Herald* reports that the "93-page document — marked 'AUSTEO' meaning Australian Eyes Only — divides the 14 island states [the Forum excluding New Zealand and Australia] into six groups, based on economic and social conditions, with headlines such as 'Melanesian mayhem,' 'Imprudent Micronesians' and 'Bottom of the heap.'"

The only substantial sections of the document published verbatim by the *New*

*Zealand Herald* deal with the New Zealand government. The paper states that "New Zealand policy in the South Pacific is a mix of cooperation and competition with Australia..."

"Old habits die hard," the paper continues, "and many politicians and officials in Wellington still like to believe that New Zealand, because of its smaller size, links to Polynesia and Maori and Islander population, is part of the Pacific in a way that Australia is not and understands the region better."

The paper criticizes "New Zealand's early response to Australian efforts to promote economic reform in the South Pacific," but states that "because of the threat to [Wellington's] interests posed by the problems of its associated territories in the Cook Islands and Niue [prime minister James] Bolger and Foreign Minister [Don] McKinnon have become more robust with the island countries over economic reform."

The government document refers here to austerity measures imposed on the Cook Islands by its former colonial ruler, the New Zealand government, in 1996. "Even so," warns the paper, "we still cannot assume that New Zealand will support Australian policy because of a continuing desire for 'product differentiation.'"

The text describes the New Zealand First leader, Winston Peters, who is Deputy Prime

Minister and Treasurer, as a "loose cannon," and an "opportunist" who "would not be above exploiting New Zealand sensitivities towards Australia."

No minister in the New Zealand coalition government has objected to the remarks about Pacific Island states. An article in the *New Zealand Herald* of July 27 reported that "high-level Australian sources" said "material from New Zealand intelligence helped to form the damaging Australian assessments of Pacific leaders and countries." Bolger refused to comment on this report. He and other leading National Party Cabinet ministers have consistently played down the importance of the leaked paper.

Figures in New Zealand First, the minority partner in the coalition government and a party marked by sharp nationalism and rightist policies, have taken a different tack. The New Zealand First deputy leader and minister for Maori affairs, Tau Henare, said the report's description of Winston Peters was "absolutely nasty.... They are a pack of mongrels as far as I am concerned. And I would ask the Australian government to apologize."

Winston Peters apologized for Henare's remarks and deflected the blame for the report from the Australian government. The rightist politician instead ascribed the report to "dingoistic" bureaucrats. The dingo is a native Australian dog.



# Washington steps up war moves in Bosnia

Continued from front page

hundreds of Karadzic supporters threw rocks at UN officials and an explosion went off near a rail station in the vicinity of Banja Luka, which killed one person and injured two others.

The previous day, August 28, a U.S. helicopter dropped tear gas on 1,000 people in Brcko, who were attempting to wrest control of a police station seized by U.S. troops that day. A 17-year-old Bosnian Serb high school student was injured by a bullet that ricocheted when a U.S. soldier reportedly fired his pistol into the pavement. Another U.S. GI threw a rock wounding a 60-year-old man.

Two U.S. soldiers were also injured in the altercation, a Bradley armored vehicle was hit by a firebomb, and 15 United Nations police vehicles were destroyed. The GIs had taken positions around the police station to prepare for a confrontation. They were backed by dozens of Bradley fighting vehicles. Humvees with mounted machine guns were deployed around the town, while U.S. helicopters hovered overhead.

## Escalating military confrontations

Over the past two months, Washington has expanded the scope of the NATO occupation force in Bosnia resulting in an escalation of military confrontations with Bosnian Serbs supporting Karadzic. Some 350 British and Czech soldiers stormed six police stations in Banja Luka on August 20. This assault followed a July 10 coordinated attack in Prijedor, where British troops, backed by NATO warplanes, killed one man and arrested a former police chief who they whisked off to the imperialist war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. According to the July 19 *Washington Post*, an unnamed military official said the NATO warplanes were prepared to launch air strikes against a range of targets if they met stiff



NATO forces surround police buildings in the northwest Bosnian town of Banja Luka August 20 to seize weapons.

resistance.

NATO's stepped-up aggression was initiated after U.S. government officials acknowledged they have made little headway toward their goal of reestablishing "market relations" in Bosnia and elsewhere in Yugoslavia. Citing a failure to implement the U.S.-engineered Dayton accords, which codified the partition of Bosnia and paved the way for the NATO invasion, the Clinton administration has thrown its political and military muscle behind Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic. Washington organized a split between her and Karadzic. Plavsic was expelled from the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) on July 20. SDS is the ruling group in the part of Bosnia under control of pro-Belgrade Serbs. The seizure of the police stations and television transmitters by NATO troops is part of Washington's plans to slice the Bosnian territory held by pro-Belgrade forces into two parts with parallel governments.

Plavsic, who served as one of two vice presidents during the war in Bosnia, was appointed as president of the Bosnian Serb republic by Karadzic, who was forced to step down after being indicted on "war crimes" charges by the tribunal in The Hague.

As the recent protests against the NATO occupation began spreading, the big-business press in the United States and Britain urged Washington to stay the course. An editorial in the August 29 *Financial Times* of London advised the imperialist occupiers "not to let themselves be intimidated by this sort of 'popular resistance.'"

Meanwhile, Plavsic, referred to as a "quivering" by the state-owned radio and television station in territory controlled by pro-Belgrade Serbs, has announced the formation of her own political party, the Serb National Association.

## Crisis in PNG

Continued from Page 6

Lafanama and Father Robert Lak, who defeated Wingti. University students are planning a public meeting to demand an explanation.

University student Joe Ala summed up the June election results this way: "Now we realize that the same government is still in power. Although there is a different captain, it's the same ship with the same crew." Meanwhile, soldiers at the Murray Barracks in Port Moresby reportedly asked to be relieved of duties in mid-August because of a food shortage. PNG's National Broadcasting Corp. said the soldiers, who had not been fed for two days, were buying their own food to cook outside the barracks; similar shortages were reported at other military bases as well.

Doug Cooper is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union in Sydney.

The U.S. capitalists calculate that the resistance in Bosnia to imposing the Dayton agreement and its "market reforms" would drop sharply if Karadzic would exit the region and leave the leadership to Plavsic. But Plavsic, while condemning Karadzic as corrupt and rallying sentiments against him, has a tiny base of support among Bosnian Serbs.

## Resistance to NATO has roots

"No one likes these politicians in Pale," a farmer in the village near Omarska remarked. "We know they are all getting rich. But this does not mean we will support Plavsic selling us out to the West. We know who our real enemies are. Besides do you think she just found out about corruption? She wants power just like the rest of them."

"NATO says it has come here to help us. But none of us trust NATO," said Vlada Stevanic, a 38-year-old Bosnian Serb farmer in Gornja Omarska. "How can we trust anyone who tried to kill us?"

Stevanic was referring to the two-week bombing campaign led by U.S. war planes in August and September of 1995 directed against Karadzic's forces. Up to 1,000 shells a day rained on the city of Sarajevo. A Tomahawk cruise missile landed in Stevanic's cow pasture, blew out the windows in his house, and killed one of his goats.

"We were all in bed when the missile landed," Stevanic stated. He said the NATO assault released radiation into the ground that destroyed crops. "A lot of people have been sick here since the attack," he added.

These previous U.S.-led assaults are the source of the deep mistrust among many Bosnian Serb residents who have begun to confront Washington's stepped-up attempts to impose its domination over them. "There is a feeling among most Serbs that foreigners should not be here telling us how to live our lives," said another farmer in Omarska. "I wish they would leave."

## Yugoslav women meet

Continued from Page 3

who waged the war and because it fails to satisfy any side of the conflict."

"Where I live now is a 'reserve,' which does not belong to anyone," said a young refugee originally from the Krajina area of Croatia, now a resident of a refugee camp in Serbia. "It is impossible to obtain the documentation they require to allow you to go back home, even though you supposedly have the right." Refugees are also marginalized in the areas where they temporarily live. According to Zajovic, one out of three residents of Serbia is not a constitutional citizen.

Baksic Muftic said that Bosnian refugees have begun to organize across ethnic and religious lines over the last year into a multicultural Organization for the Return. "They have held conferences of about 200 people in Sarajevo, Mostar, and other Bosnian towns."

One young woman from Sarajevo said that in her town "People are tired of nationalism, of hunger, of churches, and of mosques. Fewer people attend services," she said. Others disagreed with her assessment in the discussions under the theme "The globalization of patriarchy, conservatism, and fundamentalism" that dominated the second day of the conference. Sentiment was definitely in favor of her conclusion, though, that "healing the economic wounds will recreate a multiethnic Bosnia, which is the only one possible."

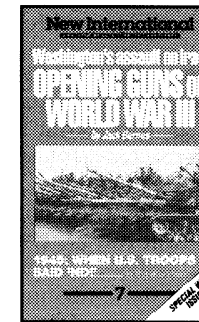
"An army cannot bring peace" was a common statement, but the workshop did not call on the NATO occupation force to leave, nor did it denounce Dayton. Even among those who saw Dayton as intervention from foreign powers eager to control a part of Yugoslavia, there were illusions in the international war crimes tribunal of The Hague. "Who can bring them to justice? There is no one in Yugoslavia strong enough to do it," said Vanda Perovic from WIB in Belgrade.

A layer of lesbian activists were the one of the most youthful and energetic components of the conference, determined that human rights and women's rights must also apply to them. Also attending the conference were several young men who had refused to fight in the Serbian army during the course of the war. As many as 50 percent of the young men called up refused to present themselves to fight against the work-

ing people of Slovenia and Croatia. "We have won an amnesty for those deserters," explained Bojan Aleksor from Belgrade. They are pardoned on condition that they do their service now. "Most people are doing it, although there is also a strong movement of conscientious objectors."

Natasha Terlexis is a member of the Foreign Airline Workers Union Federation in Athens, Greece.

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## Swedish gov't moves to limit speech

BY INGE HINNEMO

The Swedish government is proposing to parliament that pornographic material depicting sex with children — both printed material and videograms — be excluded from the constitutional law on freedom of the press. A parliamentary committee has already proposed to make illegal the possession of any such material that does not have an "accountable publisher." Printed materials with an "accountable publisher" are covered under the constitutional law on freedom of the press, and only the publisher can currently be prosecuted for the content.

The government proposal means that possession of all material characterized as child pornography will be illegal. It has not been said what the penalties will be for breaking this law. If the penalties include a prison sentence, the police will have the authority to search people's homes if they are suspected of possessing child pornography.

The Social Democratic minister of justice, Laila Freivalds, presented this proposal as she received a delegation from the Red Cross, the Swedish Unicef com-

mittee, Save the Children, and Children's Right in Society (BRIS). These organizations presented a petition with more than 90,000 signatures supporting the criminalization of all possession of child pornography. That demand has been the rallying call of a campaign initiated in response to the frequent publication in the press of cases of child abuse, pornography rings, and reports on kidnappings and murders of children.

Several voices representing the Swedish press have argued against infringements on the constitution. Their main concern has been that it would be illegal for journalist to obtain such pornographic material for investigative purposes. But some have also warned that it is serious to break a constitutional principle. The Press Ombudsman Per-Arne Jigenius warned in daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, "In another situation you could imagine 90,000 signatures to remove other constitutional protections."

Critics have also pointed to that there are laws prohibiting acts of child abuse that are enough for the police to go after the abusers.

# Asia currency crisis

Continued from front page

be extracted at home, capitalists from the United States, Japan, and other imperialist countries set up factories to exploit cheaper labor and serve as export platforms in Asia, Latin America, and the Mideast. Since the start of the 1990s they have also poured billions into the stock and bond markets of what are often called the emerging markets in the semicolonial world.

Since 1991, the gross domestic product in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia has risen by roughly 7–10 percent a year, compared to about 3 percent in the United States. An article in the September 2 *Financial Times* noted that this growth was based on the “gap between the output per person in the tiger economies and that in the most advanced economies in the world. This gap defines the opportunity for catching up.” In Thailand, the economic “miracle” has meant that between 1970 and 1995, per capita income rose from 11 percent of the level in the United States to just 28 percent. Because of their close ties to U.S. capital, most of the governments in Asia had pegged their currencies to the U.S. dollar in some way. This helped keep export prices stable and assured investors of the security of their funds.

## Thai devaluation sparks crisis

In May of this year the Thai baht came under attack from speculators who sought to drive down the currency as not worth what the government said. For a while the Bank of Thailand sought to defend the baht, using its reserves to prop up the currency. Then on July 2, bank officials announced they were allowing the currency to float — that is freeing it from any set relation to the dollar. It immediately plunged more than 17 percent against the U.S. currency.

An article in the August 3 *New York Times*, headlined “The Overfed Tiger Economies,” summed up what many capitalists saw as the problem in Thailand. “Speculators realized that Thailand’s policy of linking its currency to the dollar and the yen... was unsustainable unless the country could improve productivity, lower wages and rein in the banks and corruption,” wrote David Sanger. “To make their point, they started selling the Thai baht, and the Government spent billions in the markets trying to fend off the attacks. Eventually the dam broke.”

The governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines rapidly came under pressure to make similar moves with their

currencies, as Thai exports were now substantially cheaper. All three currencies were devalued substantially over the following two weeks.

The economic crisis has had immediate repercussions for working people. When a local currency is devalued, the cost of imports rises. Inflation shot up in Thailand, especially food and fuel prices. Overall prices were up 4.9 percent in July compared to one year earlier; for staples such as rice and flour the increase was 42 percent.

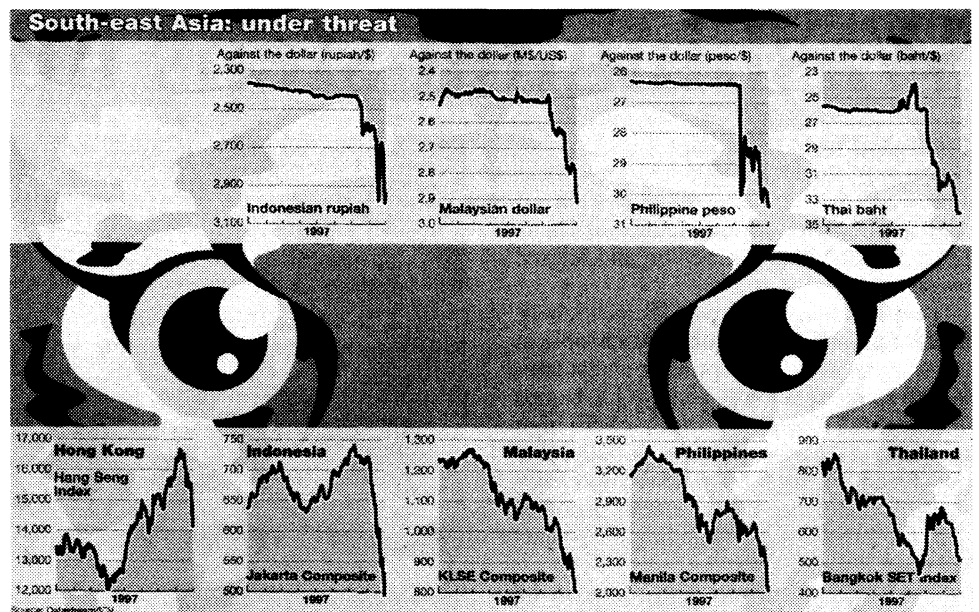
Soaring interest rates also take a toll. Banks in the Philippines raised their overnight lending rate to 33.5 percent September 1, up from 12 percent the previous Friday, in an effort to prevent the further weakening of the country’s peso. Such moves tend to push up all interest rates, including those on credit cards, mortgages, and other personal loans.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has pledged to prop up the stock market with public pension money, in spite of rules that supposedly cap stock investments at 15 percent of such funds. At the same time, Mahathir loudly blamed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and financial speculators for the crisis, calling them “ferocious beasts.”

With the Thai economy still reeling after more than a month, the IMF and various governments in Asia offered \$17 billion in “bailout” loans to Bangkok. Tokyo is putting up a quarter of the amount, as is the IMF. The remainder will be loaned by several other capitalist governments and Beijing.

Japanese companies account for half of all foreign direct investment in Thailand, and Japanese banks hold 60 percent of foreign loans there. The currency crisis has had a sharp impact on companies that have plants in Thailand. The Japanese automaker Mitsubishi, for instance, will face at least a 20 percent increase in costs for importing materials from Japan for its Thai operations, an estimated \$500 million in debt owed by these plants, and a sharp decline in car sales there.

On August 27 Toyota — Japan’s leading auto manufacturer — warned that sales in Thailand could fall by between 20 and 30 percent this year because of the economic turmoil caused by the baht’s devaluation. The Thai auto market is dominated by Japanese companies, which have invested heavily there, having identified the country as a base of their ambitions for expansion in Asia. Toyota opened up a second factory in



Graphs like this, showing Asia stock market plunge, run in many bourgeois papers.

Thailand this year to manufacture its “Asia car.” Honda opened up a plant in 1996, and several Japanese auto parts makers have also set up shop.

Nissan, Japan’s second-largest automaker, had already laid off 200 seasonal workers due to sluggish sales before the baht’s depreciation. Since then it has closed a commercial-vehicle factory for August and reduced production at another plant.

## ‘Bailout’ means austerity for workers

For these reasons, imperialist investors have big stakes in the attempted “bailout” of Thailand.

This is the largest such effort since Washington spearheaded the \$50-billion loan to Mexico. After the Mexican peso plunged 40 percent against the dollar at the end of 1994, U.S. banks and other institutions feared that the Mexican government could default in interest payments on the country’s huge foreign debt — which stood at \$98 billion, or 38 percent of Mexico’s gross domestic product last year. Washington quickly cobbled together \$50 billion in “loan guarantees” to Mexico’s lenders, \$20 billion of which came from the U.S. Treasury and the rest from the IMF and banks in Europe. In exchange, the U.S. rulers forced the Mexican government to deposit all revenues from the state-owned oil monopoly Pemex in an account at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York until Mexico repaid the loan.

The Mexican regime also agreed to carry out a harsh austerity plan that included capping wage increases well below the rate of inflation and increasing sales taxes from 10 to 15 percent. U.S. government officials later bragged that Washington profited handsomely from the deal, making an extra \$500

million in interest payments on the guarantees by charging premium rates supposedly to make up for the risk involved.

The conditions that Bangkok must meet in order to receive the bailout funds are stiff. The money is only supposed to be used to pay back investors and to rebuild foreign currency reserves that were depleted in the attempt to defend the baht. To get the loans, the Thai government agreed to carry out austerity measures that include holding down public-sector wage increases and keeping interest rates high in the name of reducing the government’s deficit. It must also end the policy of providing unlimited support to flagging financial institutions and stop guaranteeing deposits.

## Measures don’t calm investors

So far, however, this arrangement hasn’t succeeded in calming investors’ worries over the Thai economy. On August 22, the day after the IMF formally approved its portion of the loan, the baht hit a new low, based on concern that the package was insufficient. Hours after the loan approval, the Bank of Thailand disclosed that it has \$23.4 billion in currency “swap contracts” that come due in the next 12 months. Much of this speculative debt was a result of the central bank’s attempt to defend the baht prior to July 2. Overall, Bangkok faces some \$80 billion in foreign debt.

Economists are now predicting the Thai GDP will have a growth rate of less than 2 percent this year, and not much better in 1998, compared to 8 percent in 1996. Chaiyawat Wibulswasdi, the governor of the Bank of Thailand, said that the bailout will cost “perhaps 1 percent of GDP” over the next year. This is by far the most conservative estimate of that cost.

An article in the August 30–31 *Financial Times* referred to comments by Neil Saker of SocGen-Crosby, a regional brokerage house, who warned Thailand’s economic woes could worsen yet. “Not only does the... rescue package put together by the International Monetary Fund and Japan look insufficient to meet Thailand’s needs,” the article stated, “but the government of Chavalit Yongchaiyudh is too weak to implement the reforms mandated by the IMF, Mr. Saker says.”

In fact, many of the countries engulfed in the current financial crisis have been shaken by labor protests and other political upheavals recently, which make prospects for imposing austerity none too rosy. Nationwide strikes against an antilabor law swept south Korea at the beginning of this year, for example. A series of protests in Indonesia prior to the May elections there shook the dictatorial regime of Suharto. And Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty July 1, ending 150 years of British colonial rule.

Many commentaries in the big-business press are trying to be reassuring. “The east Asian model has not collapsed,” insisted Martin Wolf in a column in the September 2 *Financial Times*. The current turmoil is a chance for Asian governments to “put their houses in order,” he argued, and there’s no reason why the “miracle” can’t continue.

But others remain worried. “Do Asia’s Troubles Affect Wall Street? You Bet,” read a headline in the *Wall Street Journal* August 18. Referring to the recent turbulence on the New York Stock Exchange, it said, “Two things are clear. The corrections are coming more frequently; there have been a string of bad Friday’s since July 1. And the corrections are being experienced in the similarly bullish trends on other bourses around the world.”

# Montserrat residents demand disaster relief

BY MARTIN HILL

LONDON — In the last half of August, demonstrations against the colonial regime in the Caribbean island of Montserrat became common. Such protests have not been seen there since the 17th century.

The protesters are demanding adequate aid from the British government, the colonial master, after the country of 11,500 people was devastated by the eruption of the Soufrière volcano. The blasts have made much of the island uninhabitable, including the capital, Plymouth. More than 7,000 people have already left for neighboring islands. Four thousand remain in the northern — and less developed — part of Montserrat, in the one remaining safe zone.

But the volcano continues to erupt and the government’s response to the disaster has caused an upheaval. On August 19 police with riot shields broke up demonstrations of angry residents after Bertrand Osbourne, the colony’s chief minister, refused to provide details of the evacuation program. Osbourne said there was no need for a complete evacuation of the island. “We haven’t been advised that we have to do that or that has become necessary,” he said.

Many of the remaining residents are living in makeshift accommodation, in crowded and unsanitary conditions. They are desperately short of housing and health services.

Montserratians are angry at the British government’s refusal to provide sufficient aid to meet the needs created by the disaster. According to the August 30 *Economist*, “the islanders face an impossible choice: a

tiny sum of money to leave everything behind, or else stay without adequate shelter.”

Clare Short, London’s current international development secretary, has offered islanders who wish to settle on other Caribbean islands their transportation and £2,400 (US\$3,870) per person. Those who wish to resettle in Britain would have their air fares paid, be given work permits, and have access to welfare benefits for only two years. Despite having no home to return to, they would not be offered British citizenship. Finally, those who wished to stay, were promised that £40 million (US\$64 million) would be spent on new housing and other developments.

Many islanders fear that the British government is trying to force them to leave the island by what the August 30 *Economist* called “a sinister mixture of bribes and delay in providing new housing.” The magazine referred to a comment by well-known calypso singer Arrow, who said, “This society is ready to blow.”

The dangers posed by the volcano, and closure of the island’s only airport in June, have stopped tourism. This comes after visitor arrivals in 1996 dropped to half of those in 1995. Processing imported rice for the British and other markets in Europe, a big source of revenue, has fallen significantly. Restricted port activities have also reduced the assembly and re-export of electronic products. The economy now depends mainly on aid from London.

Insurers no longer provide cover for property. At the end of August, two Caribbean-based firms, Nemwil and United Insurance,

sent letters to homeowners in Montserrat warning that insurance coverage would be terminated August 28. Royal & Sun Alliance, the largest UK-based insurance group, said it is considering doing the same. Between them, the three companies account for nearly all the insured property on the island.

Householders on the island have been paying premium rates for coverage and must agree to meet the damage bill themselves if the cost does not exceed 10 percent of a home’s value. The August 23–24 *Financial Times* of London quoted a Montserrat resident saying, “It’s scandalous. They’ve been taking people’s premiums for years and years and years. Now when there’s possibility of a claim, they take advantage of the small print. People have got enough on their plate without having this land on them.”

UK cabinet minister Short has pointed to the recent protests by Montserratians demanding adequate financial aid as evidence of greed. “It will be golden elephants next. They have got to stop this game,” she stated, causing more uproar in the Caribbean island. She further sought to justify her decisions on the amount of aid with this statement, “My department’s budget is designed to help the poorest people on earth and I have to be very responsible about how to spend it.”

This stance by the British government has brought criticisms even from capitalist politicians in the region. London’s handling of the situation is a lesson “on how not to respond to a disaster,” remarked Jamaica’s prime minister Percival Patterson.



# N.Y.: thousands demand justice for Louima

BY AL DUNCAN

NEW YORK — Thousands of demonstrators marched across the Brooklyn Bridge August 29 in a massive protest against police brutality and in support of police torture victim Abner Louima. Carrying posters and toilet plungers, at least 15,000 marchers chanted "What time is it — Louima time" and "PBA, KKK, different name same thing," referring to the Policeman's Benevolent Association, as they made their way to city hall.

Demonstrators were responding to an appeal by Louima, made from his hospital bed, that the best way for those who opposed police brutality and were angered by what had happen to him was to join the march.

Samuel Nicolas, Louima's cousin, spoke on the injured man's behalf at the rally at City Hall. Nicolas reported, "His bladder is punctured. His intestine is lacerated. He may never go to the bathroom the way he used to. But his spirit is not broken. He said, 'I shall not die.'"

Speaking for himself Nicolas said, "We are here because there are a lot of Abner Louima's who did not live to tell his story... This movement will continue until all these criminals are behind bars."

The march, which was called by the Haitian American Alliance and Haitian Enforcement Against Racism, and supported by many other groups and prominent individuals, received front page coverage in all this city's dailies. It began at Grand Army Plaza, a well-known location in the borough of Brooklyn and proceeded over the Brooklyn Bridge to New York City Hall in Manhattan.

Abner Louima, a 30-year-old Haitian immigrant, was arrested outside a Brooklyn nightclub on August 9. On the way to the police station house he was beaten at two separate locations by different gangs of cops. After arriving at the 70th Precinct, two cops dragged him into the men's bathroom with his pants down, forced a toilet plunger into his rectum, and then into his mouth. Louima said the cops shouted "stupid nigger" and other racial insults as they beat him.

So far, two officers from the 70th Precinct, Justin Volpe and Charles Schwarz, have been charged with brutalizing Louima. Two other officers, Thomas Wiese and Thomas Bruder, are charged with beating Louima on the way to the police station.

Wendy Allen, a 28-year-old workers who is white, came as soon as she got out of work. "I came to support what is going on," she said. "If it helps to keep people motivated it will be a really good thing."

She said some of her friends couldn't believe the cops would carry out such a brutal act. "I think it happens all the time," she said. "I learned that growing up in New Jersey." Allen's brother had been brutalized by the cops many years ago.



Militant/Megan Arney

**Demonstrators carry pictures of other victims of police brutality**

When asked why he was at the march, Al Liburd, a 24-year-old student who attends Brooklyn's Kingsboro Community College said, "To show them that there are a lot of people who support him [Louima]. I also want to let the Haitian community know that they aren't alone."

Underscoring this point was the presence of a number of other victims of police brutality, such as Max Antoine from New Jersey, who now is in a wheelchair after being savagely beaten by cops in Irvington, New Jersey. Anthony Rosario Sr., was also there, and told how his son was shot numerous times in the back while laying on the floor with his hands outstretched by two NYPD officers.

A contingent of members of National Postal Mail Handlers Union Local 300 participated, carrying their union banner, as well as another supporting the Louima case and protesting police brutality.

Also marching in the demonstration were the three main Democratic Party candidates for mayor of New York, Rev. Al Sharpton, Manhattan borough president Ruth Messinger, and Sal Albanese. Sharpton and Messinger spoke at the City Hall park rally.

Former New York mayor David Dinkins also marched and spoke to the protesters. His comments were generally well received by the crowd, but his call for the marchers to "recognize that not all New York Police Department officers are guilty of brutality,"

was met with boos.

Also speaking was Norman Siegel of the New York Civil Liberties Union, who now serves on Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's newly created commission to look into police brutality. He used his remarks to call for a stronger Civilian Complaint Review board capable of dealing with the nearly 2,000 bad cops that he says are on the NYPD. Offering a different assessment of the Mayor's commission on police brutality was 42-year-old Larry Johnson, who lives five blocks from the 70th Precinct. "It's a joke," Johnson stated, "Giuliani had to run to do something to appease the people in New York, because he knows they ain't gonna put up with this."

Eric Tan, of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, received big applause from the marchers. In a speech at the Grand Army Plaza assembly area, Tan declared, "Blood is on the hands of both the Democrats and Republicans who didn't do a damn thing when these crimes were committed," by the New York cops.

Some 2,500 police lined the route of the march and rally. No major confrontations occurred during the day, but at the conclusion of the rally, more than 100 protesters were arrested as they returned to Brooklyn via the bridge. The cops claimed that they attempted to block traffic onto the bridge. They were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with governmental administration.

When asked what should be done next, 43-year-old Yves Roche, who was at the march with several others from his union, Hospital Workers Local 420, AFSCME Dist. Council 37 said, "Don't have justice — going to keep on marching."

*Al Duncan is a member of the United Transportation Union in Newark, New Jersey.*

## Socialist Workers in N.Y. win ballot status

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — In a victory for democratic rights, the commissioners of the New York City Board of Elections voted September 4 to place three Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot.

After having turned in more than 10,000 signatures to appear on the ballot, the Socialist Workers campaign of Olga Rodríguez for Mayor, Wendy Lyons for Comptroller, and Shoghi Fret for Public Advocate received notice on August 22 that their petitions were being challenged. Francis G. Hoare and Ilene A. Zucker, the two individuals who challenged the petitions of the Socialist Workers campaign, claimed they contained "an insufficient number of signatures pursuant to the election law." The legal requirement is 7,500.

In her statement to the election board hearing, Rodríguez declared, "The challenge to the right of the Socialist Workers Party to be on the ballot is an attack on the democratic rights of all. It is a particular slap in the face to the more than 10,000 working people and youth who signed to place my name for mayor on the ballot."

The Socialist Workers ticket "is the only working-class voice on the New York ballot," she continued. "Since we announced, we have walked the picket lines with the Teamsters at UPS, participated in demonstrations around the brutal torture by city cops of Abner Louima, and spoken out for the rights of immigrant workers."

Leading up to the hearing, supporters of the campaign issued a press statement and appealed to all those who defend democratic rights to speak out against the ballot challenge. Among those who responded was Laurence Adams, president of National Postal Mail Handlers Union Local 300. He

wrote, "This is to register the strongest protest over efforts to deny ballot positions to the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party on grounds that appear frivolous and contrary to the election law."

Gerry Coleman, the National Political Educational Director of Irish Northern Aid committee, wrote, "The Socialist Workers Party have consistently spoken out on the struggle for justice in Ireland. Their voice in the upcoming New York City mayoral election is one that should be heard — as should all voices that represent a legitimate constituency."

"In this era of bipartisan politics...amidst increasing worker frustration, it does not come as much of a surprise that the long-standing democratic powers challenge the SWP's growing appeal as a political alternative," wrote Alissa Pines, an organizer for the United Farm Workers. "We will not tolerate this violation of our civil liberties and democratic rights."

## Lessons of the UPS strike

Continued from Page 11  
many other examples.

Employers priding themselves on stealing UPS business would have had to push their workers that much harder to try to achieve a victory for their class.

Teamsters union members who are drivers for Airborne Express here in San Francisco made it clear where they stood on this. About a week into the strike some 40 Airborne Express drivers circled the UPS facility here in their trucks during lunch time in a gesture of solidarity with their brothers and sisters. They weren't celebrating the new business their employer was "winning."

UPS management used the argument that the strike would cost the company long-term customers as a club to try to get the unionists to end their strike. Now the company uses the same arguments as an excuse to delay recalling all the strikers. "UPS appears to be carrying out a stupid, vindictive policy to punish local UPS workers who stood up for their rights," Teamsters spokesperson Craig Merrilees recently told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Even though boxes are piling up, the company is refusing to put UPS workers back on the job." But the victorious workers have gained confidence and are in a much better position to resist

speedup and force the company to recall strikers and hire enough employees to handle the work load.

The strike ended because UPS management blinked. The owners of the largest company of its kind worldwide decided they did not want their business to become the employers' guinea pig in a test of the relationship of class forces, whose outcome was far from certain. The lessons of the Teamsters victory and the solidarity they won are not lost on other workers or on the employing class. The bosses fear that other battalions of workers will press wage demands that endanger their ability to keep our real average wages falling. Their nervousness over this threatens to topple the great "Wall Street miracle" of the last decade.

The management at Federal Express announced August 20 that they were going to pay bonuses to their 90,000 employees as a reward for the increased business handled by the company during the strike. I conjecture that this sudden generosity on the part of Fed Ex management has to do with the fact that the Teamsters are attempting to organize Fed Ex workers into the union.

*Norton Sandler is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1871.*

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# Crashes force gov't rail investigation

BY KAY SEDAM

MIAMI — A long list of railroad accidents has made national news over the last several months. In response, the U.S. Federal Railway Administration (FRA) announced it would step up investigations, putting the CSX and Union Pacific railroads under particular scrutiny. Why the rail industry is becoming increasingly unsafe, and what to do about it, is a growing discussion among rail workers and others.

Some of the incidents in the last three months include:

- Two CSX trains in St. Albans, West Virginia, were involved in a rear-end collision June 7 that resulted in one fatality, two injuries, and hundreds of people being forced to stay indoors for hours due to poisonous smoke emanating from the train's burning cargo.

- On June 22 two Union Pacific trains in Devine, Texas, collided when they both ended up on a single track. Four people died, 33 train cars derailed, and fuel tanks carrying 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel ignited. The accident occurred on a track line without signals, where permission to run on the track is established by written orders and radio communications.

- In Washington D.C. on July 8 three cars of a CSX train derailed after colliding with an Amtrak train. A flatbed car laden with truck trailers sideswiped the passing Amtrak train. Officials knew hours before the accident that the trailer was leaning but did nothing about it because a supervisor had ruled it was safe.

- In Cypress, Florida, a CSX tank car carrying hydrogen peroxide sprung a leak following a derailment June 4, and in Charlotte, North Carolina, a CSX train tumbled into a creek after the trestle gave way in July.

- On August 9 an Amtrak train carrying hundreds of passengers derailed north of Kingman, Arizona following a bridge trestle collapsing. More than 150 people were injured.

- A 30-car derailment occurred near Jolly, Texas, August 17 on the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe line following a crew report that "they may have struck an automobile or been struck by an automobile."

- In Texas two engineers were killed on August 21 when a runaway Union Pacific train with no one aboard collided head-on with another freight, triggering a spectacular blaze. The unmanned train rolled nearly 10 miles at speeds up to 60 mph.

## Investigations at Union Pacific, CSX

Union Pacific (UP) is the country's largest transporter of hazardous materials and chemical substances. It has been increasing the amount of hazardous material it ships — now an average of 7.5 percent per year. From 1993 through 1996, UP had 28 derailments, collisions, or other accidents involving chemical spills or releases. The Texas wreck sparked the FRA investigation.

At CSX, after an initial inspection of the railroad's operational tests and inspections

program, the FRA initially concluded that CSX's program implementation did not "achieve the intended objectives."

For the past three years, CSX officials stated the company had an accident rate of 1.92 accidents per million train miles operated. That was the lowest rate among the nation's biggest railroads, they claim. But year-to-date, CSX has had 14 more reportable accidents than it had for the comparable period last year.

Expected to take at least 60 days, the FRA's safety review team at CSX will examine, among other things, the railroad's dispatching system; review its operational procedures; track inspection and network of traffic signals.

This implementation of a "safety team" at CSX comes after a verdict against the rail giant in a wrongful-death suit involving a Cooper City, Florida man, Paul Palank, killed in a 1991 train crash. The jury awarded the man's survivors \$50 million for the rail company's failure to maintain the railroad properly and "violating the public trust."

"This whole thing was about sending a message," said juror Linda Frankel. "This was about punishment, about trying to make sure this railroad and all railroads, stop violating the public trust."

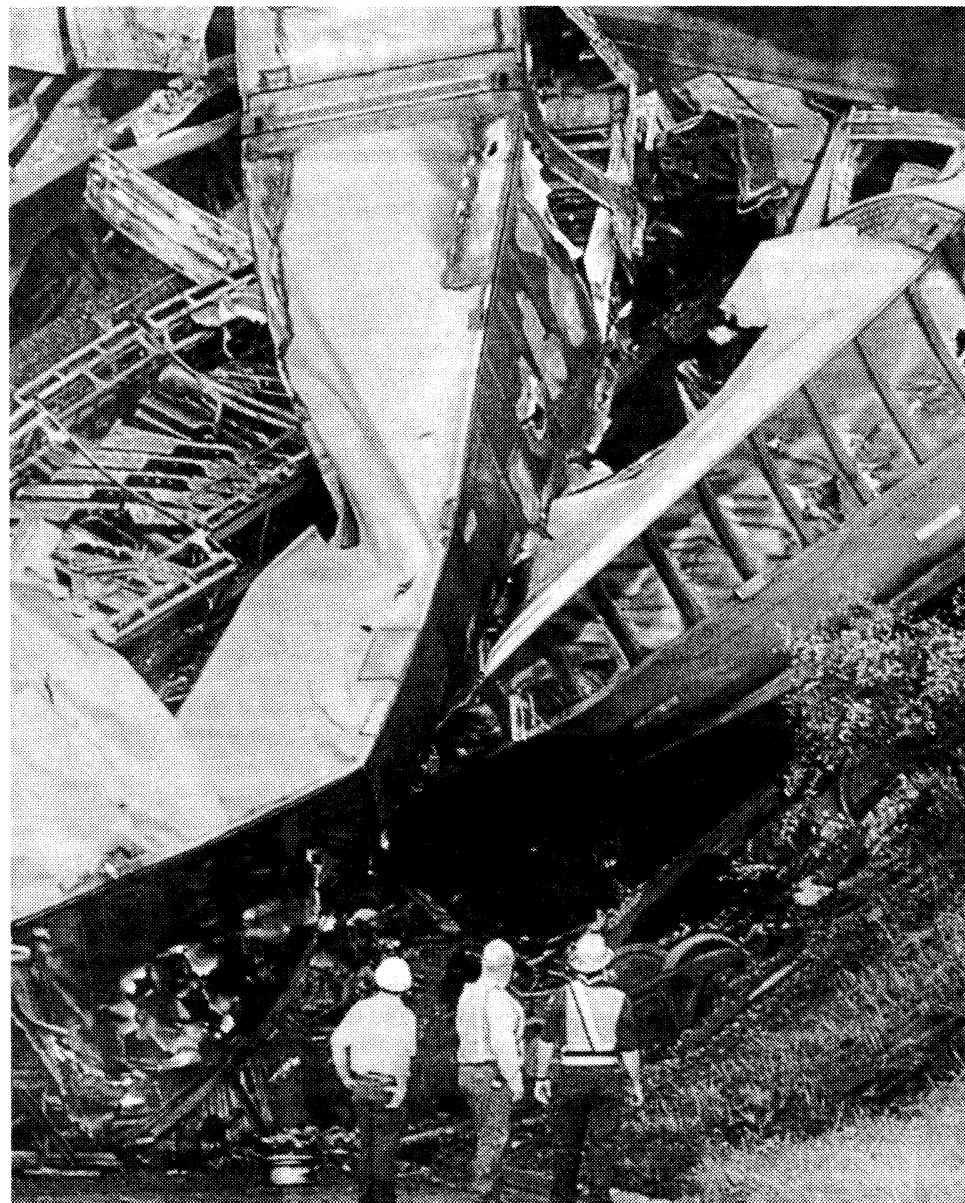
The lawyers for the Palank family presented evidence that a broken switch pin that caused the accident was not located and repaired because of company downsizing, overworked inspectors — including one who falsified his inspection reports — and a diminishing willingness to make necessary expenditures to maintain safety on their rail lines.

## Workers express opinions on safety

Recently the vice president and general manager of CSX's business operations Paul Sandler has been speaking at a series of company-sponsored "town hall meetings." The purpose of these meetings, as explained in the CSX Florida Business Unit newsletter, is for CSX to "gain a better insight of our safety problems and to deliver a uniform message concerning safety and quality of life issues." The increase in "human factor" derailments and the negative impact that this is having on CSX business was a focal point.

At the "town hall" meeting at the yard in Hialeah, Florida, company representative Sandler stated that CSX had downsized a little too much. But now CSX would turn this error around by hiring new employees in all departments. Transportation employees, who will have to pay over \$3,700 to attend CSX's "rail school," will be coming in at 75 percent of scale wage.

CSX employees at the Hialeah town meeting were given the opportunity to express their evaluation of the safety record and conditions of the Hialeah yard. A car inspector said he genuinely fears for his life when he is inspecting a cut of cars and a switching crew at either end of a tracks is "kicking cars" and putting together trains.



Head-on collision of two Union Pacific freight trains in Devine, Texas, southwest of San Antonio, June 22, left four people dead and two injured.

The car inspector told of the increase in air hoses being run over, which he must replace immediately because they are used to charge the brakes of trains about to depart.

A crew that works a job for Amtrak, located in the adjacent yard, sighted the numerous derailments caused by the very long trains that are switched with a two-person crew. One conductor said, "You can't be at two places at once, at both ends of a 15-car Amtrak train."

Many of the railworkers at Hialeah Yard complained of the unsafe working conditions both in the yard and in the industrial areas. They told of piled up garbage on the track, water-covered tracks after a storm, and in general the lack of maintenance of the lines. In a two-month period this summer, at least four derailments in the yard made it hard for trains to depart. In the last year, the Hialeah Yard bosses have hired about 20 new transportation workers. Some of the newly hired workers explained how quickly they were expected to take on responsibilities they had no idea would occur.

Reflecting workers' concern over safety, members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) demonstrated in Washington, D.C., April 28 to protest the rising number of deaths of railworkers and the intransigence on the part of the rail bosses' to the safety question.

On June 10, following a coal train accident in West Virginia, the BLE union on CSX railroads staged a three-hour walkout to protest the death of engineers in this accident. President William Clinton slapped an injunction on the BLE to force it to end its protest.

Union Pacific and the United Transportation Union (UTU) have now established a joint safety initiative. Under the agreement issued July 11, the two plan to address a variety of issues including injury prevention; employee "quality of life"; derailment prevention; and grade crossing safety. The UTU and FRA also announced that they had formed a safety partnership.

In another development last February, the FRA required Wisconsin Central Transportation Corp. (WC) to improve track and equipment inspection, training measures, and operating practices. The requirement followed an FRA safety audit of WC's operations; the audit followed two UTU petitions asking FRA to prohibit WC from using one-person crews, and to ban the use of remote control locomotive operations by WC and all other railroads. WC then was required to suspend use of one-person crews, and increase safety-related spending.

Kay Sedam is a member of the UTU Local 1138 at CSX Hialeah Yard.

## Two workers killed at steel mill

BY GARY BOYERS

DETROIT — Marvin Cosby and John Fox, steelworkers at National Steel's Great Lakes Division, were crushed under 100 tons of metal August 23. The workers, trestlemen at the mill's blast furnace on Zug Island, were killed when a breeze bin collapsed onto the shanty where they were taking a break. Local police and firefighters from the city of River Rouge were summoned at 3:53 a.m., nearly 40 minutes after the accident. The local authorities had never dealt with an industrial accident of this magnitude, and turned the rescue operation over to the steel mill workers. River Rouge police detective Sgt. John Keck praised the rescue effort by steelworkers on the scene.

"There were some real feats of heroism," Steelworkers "responded immediately, trying to find out if anyone was in there in very unsafe conditions," Keck said. The workers devised a plan to get the men out without injuring them further. The detective said "I've never seen

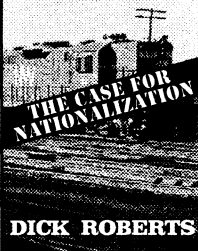
a group of guys act with such respect and professionalism when one of their own went down." It took nearly 12 hours to recover the two bodies. Cosby, 32, had just under two years in the plant while Fox, 21, had a year and a half's seniority.

Cosby was the father of three small children, while Fox left behind a three-week old daughter. Members of Steelworkers Local 1299 at Great Lakes donated more than \$10,000 to the families of their two co-workers.

Earlier this year, the Michigan Occupational and Safety Administration fined the Great Lakes division more than \$10,000 for "infractions" related to the Memorial Day death of James Brillhart in the plant's Cold Mill. Brillhart, a 43-year-old crane repairman, was crushed to death by an adjacent crane while helping to repair an out-of-service unit.

Gary Boyers is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1299 at National Steel's Great Lakes mill.

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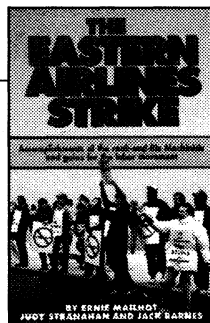
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# Did UPS competitors do struck work?

BY NORTON SANDLER

SAN FRANCISCO — What attitude should class-conscious workers have taken toward UPS's competitors during the recent Teamsters strike against the parcel delivery giant? *Militant* reader Nick Gruenberg raises this question in a letter published on page 15.

"It seems to me that the decision by almost all shippers to try to send their packages other ways was a victory for the strikers," Gruenberg says. "That competitors of UPS were able to carry most of it was an advantage for the strikers.... It doesn't seem

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

to me that UPS's competitors were handling 'struck work.'"

I don't believe class-conscious workers should be concerned with whether "shippers" — who in this case included computer companies, home appliance producers, clothing stores, and other employers — were able to move their merchandise around. A strike is a work stoppage. Workers use it as their most powerful weapon to defend themselves from attempts by their exploiters to siphon off even a higher portion of the value we produce. By stopping production, which often requires help from workers in other industries, union members put pressure on the boss and on other employers who use the company's products or services. Being able to keep or get production going — in this case shipping packages — helps the boss, not the strikers.

The government and most big business did use the U.S. postal service, the major airline and railroad companies, and smaller shippers to move freight around to ease the pressure on UPS and other employers and give the bosses some breathing space to see if they could defeat the Teamsters. Their effort proved futile, but it was strike breaking nevertheless.



Militant/Sarah Ullman

**Police try to prevent strikers and supporters from stopping UPS trucks driven by scabs in Watertown, Massachusetts, August 7. During 15-day walkout, Teamsters forced company to virtually halt operations. This success, working-class solidarity, and the inability of the government and big business to channel all struck work through the U.S. post office and other UPS competitors helped the strikers win.**

The walkout against UPS showed that the wealthy who rule this country can develop tactical differences among them in a major class battle. UPS, Washington, and other employers didn't see eye-to-eye in how to handle the strike.

### Washington tried to break strike

Most in the ruling class hoped the strike would result in a crushing defeat for the Teamsters, one that would send a chill through the working-class. They hoped and worked to inflict blows on the Teamsters on a scale that could dwarf the impact of the defeat of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) in 1981. That's when then president Ronald Reagan fired 12,000 PATCO members for daring to strike. The rulers are girding their teeth to accomplish

this against a large number of industrial workers, preferably organized by a sizable union nationwide. They badly need to inflict such a defeat on the union movement as part of reversing their declining profit rates. The 185,000 workers who struck UPS seemed a good target for such a foray.

A PATCO-style defeat of the Teamsters would have led to lower expectations in the working class as whole in terms of wages and working conditions, and reinforced the notion employers have been putting forward for years about the "strike weapon" being a thing of the past. A victory for the bosses in this case would have been the springboard for deeper assaults on the unions and the entire working class.

The owners of UPS, whose long-term goal is also to crush the Teamsters union, in

this instance called for the Clinton administration to invoke Taft-Hartley legislation and force union members back to work. The White House opposed the demand and preached neutrality, while working overtime to help UPS weather the walkout by other means. Through its postal service, the U.S. government became the major player in trying to alleviate the crisis the employing class as whole faced. We should remember that UPS carried not only small personal packages but important freight for big business. Being able to use the post office as a strike-breaker was crucial in any plans the rulers had to muster enough staying power in the battle to impose a PATCO-style defeat on the Teamsters.

Postal workers, airline workers, and some rail workers, felt the impact of what the bosses were striving for as soon as the strike began. The post office began to move as many parcels as it could through the mail. Days off were canceled in postal facilities like the one at the San Francisco Airport where I work. The government opened 20 new package-sorting facilities around the country, hired part-timers, extended their hours, and added Sunday deliveries for some categories of priority mail.

Much of the mail in this country is moved by the major airlines. Airline workers had to deal with peak summer luggage volume. On top of that, our bosses demanded that the planes be socked full of mail.

The attempted speedup also affected workers at other parcel delivery companies as their owners scrambled to chew off some of UPS's customers.

Union members and other workers had no stake in working harder than usual as the bosses tried to deal with their crisis. As other vultures among the employers and their government tried to bite off some business, it was important for unionists to put extra attention into working safely so that injuries were minimized.

### Working-class solidarity hurt bosses

Poll after poll in the big-business press repeatedly emphasized that the Teamsters at UPS had majority support in the working class and other layers of the population. If the bosses were going to go to the wall to defeat the Teamsters, they would have had to confront much more sharply not only the workers on strike but the tremendous solidarity that was building up. If UPS had tried to hire scabs on a massive scale and seek government support and police protection to escort them through picket lines, the move could have provoked a more direct confrontation with the entire working class.

Expressions of working-class solidarity were concrete and numerous. *Militant* readers who took part in the August 29 demonstration in New York against the torture of Abner Louima by New York cops, for example, reported that members of the National Postal Mail Handlers Local 300 distributed a flyer during the march that they had produced during the UPS strike. The flyer explained their union local's opposition to hiring "casual workers" during the walkout so the post office could handle the increased volume. The *Militant* reported

Continued on Page 9

## Labor Day rallies highlight union struggles

BY JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — "No scab papers" adorned the lead banners of two marches, as tens of thousands of trade unionists, many with their families, marched into the city center September 1. The parades were led by contingents of the newspaper workers who struck this city's daily newspapers in July 1995 and are still fighting to regain their jobs. Most contingents in the both marches displayed "No News or Free Press Wanted Here" on floats, banners, and signs.

Teamsters and building trades unionists marched into downtown from the west, accompanied by the blast of air horns from the dozens of trucks and pieces of construction equipment. Most area unionists paraded in from the north, down Woodward Ave., the city's main street.

The largest contingent was made up of the dozens of United Auto Workers local unions. Some locals displayed the products they make, driving new trucks and cars or displays supplied by their employers. Others built floats celebrating their history. UAW Local 235, made up of workers from American Axle Manufacturing, one of the units recently sold off by General Motors, proudly announced its 60th anniversary. UAW Local 51, which struck Chrysler's Mound Road Engine plant last spring, distributed a large orange button like the one worn on the picket line declaring, "Strength in Solidarity."

The marches ended at this area's first "Labor Fest." Held in a small park with music, food, and a children's area, official displays were set up under tents by some unions, union-endorsed Democratic Party politicians, and organizations endorsed by the AFL-CIO, such as those protesting sweat shops or building support for the United Farm Workers campaign to organize strawberry workers. Other groups that were not invited into the tents, from the local Labor Party chapter to the Socialist Workers campaign, set up tables around the park.

The gathering gave people a chance to exchange experiences. Auto workers who have recently been on strike talked to teach-

ers who had voted the week before to send their wage demands into binding arbitration, in face of a new Michigan law sharply increasing penalties for teachers who strike. Lots of people wanted to talk to newspaper workers. Gary Rushnell, a locked out, printer commented, "We felt down after the judge rejected ordering the newspapers to return us to work, but today gives us a real boost. It's great that so many people turned out. Maybe this — after the UPS strike and the march against union busting June 21 — will open up some corporate eyes."

John Sarge is a member of the UAW.

BY DAN FEIN

COPPERHILL, Tennessee — Some 250 strikers against Boliden Intertrade and their supporters marched and rallied here on Labor Day. Most of the 260 strikers are members of International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU) Local 401. Others belong to the Boilermakers, the International Association of Machinists, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Since the walkout began on April 30, 1996, only one union member has crossed the line.

Alton Welch, who worked as an acid plant operator for 24 years, told the *Militant*, "The issue here is flexibility — they are trying to take away seniority rights by making us do anything on any day. If we can't or don't know how to do the job, they want to be able to send us home without pay."

In 1987 the company closed down the mining, milling and smelter operations and laid off thousands. Since then the company has only run the acid plant, with just 300 workers.

Welch added, "The company hired 90 replacement workers a few months after the strike, and said that they are doing 110 percent production, but that's a lie. The plant can't survive on what they have working now and I don't care if it doesn't survive."

Delane Dills, with 36 years in the mine, said, "All retirees lost their medical coverage on our last contract in 1993. This was

very cruel to us — how could old men go out and buy insurance?" The least senior striker has 22 years in the plant.

One sign on the rally stage read "IBEW Local 175 fighting against Swedish discrimination." A leaflet put out by ICEW has the headline, "There is a war in Tennessee and Sweden's business forces are holding Union jobs Hostage!!!"

The mining operation has been bought and sold many times over the years. The sign and leaflet refer to the current owner: Boliden Intertrade, a division of the Swedish parent company Trelleborg AB.

Describing conditions in the plant, B.J. Taylor, a striker with the Boilermakers, said, "In August 1996, 700 of us were tested for asbestosis and 400, including myself, came up positive. The union-hired lawyers said that none of us met the criteria to receive any benefits. All that asbestos is still in the plant."

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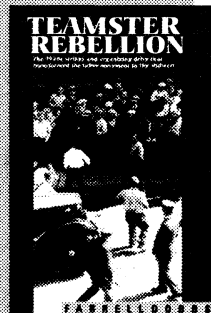
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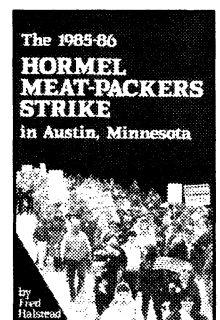
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# Support for Scottish parliament grows

Continued from Page 16

been on strike in the last few months. Over the last year or so, visits by former Scottish secretary of state Tory Michael Forsyth became the focus for protests. At the May general election, every Conservative member of parliament (MP) in Scotland, as well as Wales, lost their seat.

One of the arguments used by opponents of devolution is that "public spending has traditionally been higher in Scotland and Wales than in England," as former prime minister John Major put it in an article published in the August 30 *Times* of London. "The English accept that resources should be allocated according to need," Major continued. "But as living standards have risen in Scotland over the past 20 years this transfer of resources has become progressively less defensible." The former premier said that if the new Scottish parliament is given the power to cut income taxes, "my constituents would not take kindly to, in effect, subsidising tax cuts in Scotland."

Statistics, however, show that the standard of living is much lower here, compared to England. Scottish unemployment, for example, stood at 6.6 percent in June, compared to 5.7 percent in the entire United Kingdom. A report on mortality rates published last year by the registrar general of Scotland showed that 15 of the 20 areas in Britain with the highest death rates are in Scotland, with the top eight all Scottish.

## What devolution proposal includes

The proposed Scottish parliament would have lawmaking powers over areas such as health, education, local government, and most civil and criminal law. London would remain in control of foreign policy, defense and security, constitutional affairs, relations with the European Union, employment legislation, transport safety and regulation, social security policy and administration, and specific health questions such as abortion, human fertilization and embryology.

The government paper that lays out the Labour Party's proposals for the Scottish parliament emphasizes that Scotland will remain part of the United Kingdom. "The UK parliament is and will remain sovereign in all matters," it states. "But as part of the Government's resolve to modernise the British constitution Westminster will be choosing to exercise that sovereignty by devolving legislative responsibilities to a Scottish parliament without in any way diminishing its own powers."

Scotland was an independent kingdom prior to the union with England in 1707. Since unification, however, Scotland has retained its own legal system, education, state church, and other institutions. This was a British concession to the Scottish ruling class.

This will be the second vote on devolution in Scotland. In 1979, nearly 52 percent of those who cast ballots voted yes in a similar referendum. But because of a clause requiring approval by at least 40 percent of eligible voters, the proposition was defeated.

This time around, polls indicate a higher percentage of the 5.1 million residents of Scotland will support the devolution proposal.

In a 1979 referendum held in Wales, the devolution proposal for that region was defeated by a 4-1 margin in a turnout of 59 percent.

## Future of UK at stake

Even though the upcoming referendum in Scotland does not include the option of independence, the future of the United Kingdom is very much part of the discussion.

At the August 30 STUC congress, Sandy Boyle, speaking for the organization's general council, said that "maintenance of the status quo is the slippery slope to independence." The Scottish National Party (SNP), which is pro-independence, calls devolution "at least a step in the right direction." On July 27 the SNP National Executive Committee voted to recommend a Yes vote on Labour's proposal.

In the August 30 *Times* article, John Major said that devolution would "eventually lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom." Michael Ancram, the Conservative party's constitutional affairs spokesperson, stated August 27 that the Scottish National Party's support for Labour's proposition is a dangerous sign. "They see a Yes vote as the first real step on the road to independence for Scotland," he said.

Ian Wilson, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, a branch of the sectarian Protestant organization, added his voice to the opposition campaign. He wrote in the *Orange Torch* newsletter that "if it is the expected Yes, then we have absolutely no choice but to redouble our efforts to push back the tide of green [Catholic] corruption that has disgraced Scottish politics for too

long."

The Labour Party leadership, on the other hand, is arguing that devolution poses no threat to the integrity of the UK. "Scotland will remain firmly part of the United Kingdom," insists Donald Dewar, Labour's secretary of state for Scotland, in a foreword to the Westminster document on devolution.

The document states, "The Government wants a United Kingdom which everyone feels part of, can contribute to, and in whose future all have a stake. The Union will be strengthened by recognising the claims of Scotland, Wales, and the regions with strong identities of their own. The Government's devolution proposals, by meeting these aspirations, will not only safeguard but also enhance the Union."

Supporting tax varying powers for the Scottish parliament, the Labour Party argues that "all real parliaments have tax powers." While a few representatives of big business have voiced opposition to the proposed right of the parliament to vary tax rates, most claim a neutral stance. The August 31 *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper quoted a spokesperson for Scottish Equitable saying, "Even if there were extra costs it would still be cheaper to have a business based in Edinburgh than in most other places throughout Britain, especially London."

Speaking to the August 30 STUC congress, Donald Dewar said he was very aware of the business concerns, but added that devolution would produce a "grown up parliament with grown up responsibilities.... There is not going to be a power to vary corporate taxation."

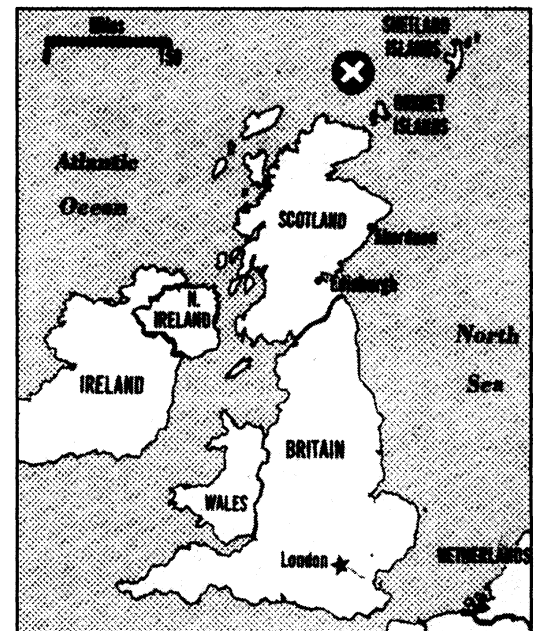
"I really do think there are a lot of positive features in the Scottish par-

liament for business," said STUC general secretary Campbell Christie at the meeting.

With the death of Diana Spencer, campaigning on devolution was suspended by all parties until after her funeral. A festival organized to celebrate the centenary of the STUC was also canceled. However, the referendum will go ahead.

Bill Lockston, a telecommunications worker from Aberdeen, said in an interview that one of his workmates "summed up a common response among workers when he said he hoped [devolution] would do something for the lives of working people, but he didn't hold out much hope for that."

Anne Howie is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union in Manchester, England.



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and a panel discussion on the fight to push back police brutality. Fri., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Resistance in Palestine.** Speaker: José Aravena, Young Socialists. Fri., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.

**A Socialist Look at the Economy: What's Ahead for Working People?** Speaker: Jay Ressler, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Both events held at 87A Halsey St. (1 block west of Broad, 2 blocks north of Raymond).

Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**The Working Class Alternative to the Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression.** Speaker: Mary Martin, Socialist Workers candidate for City Council. Sat., Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St. NW (18th & Florida, entrance on Florida). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Christchurch

**Secret Witnesses: An Attack on Democratic Rights.** Fri., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 199 High St. (Corner High and Tuam). Donation: \$3. Tel: (03) 365-6055.

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## CALENDAR

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Meet the Socialist Candidates!** Hear: Socialist Workers gubernatorial candidate Robert Miller and State Assembly candidates in the 29th C.D. Megan Arney, and Brock Satter. Sun., Sept. 7 Reception at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. 87A Halsey St. (1 block west of Broad, 2 blocks north of Raymond). Donation \$5. For more information, call (973) 643-3341.

#### Jersey City

**Video Showing of 'Law and Orange Order.'** Presented by Hudson County Irish Northern Aid. Speaker: Gerald Lally, member of the Brehon Law Society and eyewitness to the recent violence in Northern Ireland. Wed., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. Summit House, 510 Summit Avenue. Donation requested.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Sydney

**Pathfinder Fund Celebration.** Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League, New Zealand. Sat., Sept. 20, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$5.

**Class on Politics in New Zealand.** Sun., Sept. 21, 2 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 19 Terry St., Surry Hills.

For more information on both events, call (02) 9281-3297.



**And if he were an Arab?** — An Israeli military court rid itself of the case of the soldier who opened fire in a Palestinian marketplace,



Harry  
Ring

wounding four people. The court decided he was psychotic and ordered that he be confined to a mental hospital for an undetermined period. He will not stand trial.

**A government you can trust** — The Pentagon says thousands of GIs

who were given nasal radiation treatments back in the '40s and '50s may be at risk of further health problems. The low-key cautionary note did not mention the countless children of military personnel who also received the radiation as a treatment for inner ear ailments.

**If Jesus smiles on you...** — Plans are projected for a religious theme park outside Las Vegas. It will feature interactive scenes from the Bible, camel rides, a Noah's Ark zoo and a virtual reality hell, but no heaven. ("We don't know what it's like yet," the head man said.) There will be a statue of Jesus, 33 stories tall. They hope to attract heavy Las Vegas losers in need of spiritual balm and also bring some religious

folks to the casinos.

**Plow 'em under** — Waiting your turn in an emergency room, you may not realize there's a surplus of doctors. But the feds do. The new Clinton budget includes money to expand a New York pilot project to pay teaching hospitals to train fewer doctors. The hospitals will use the subsidies to hire lower-wage health workers and take other cost-trimming steps.

**Makes them sick** — Shares dropped in Gist Brocades, the Dutch antibiotic biggie, when the company warned that increased productive capacity had pushed down the price of penicillin and a smaller profit was anticipated.

**For some, definitely** — Former Secretary of State George Shulz and Charlotte Swig, San Francisco's chief of protocol, tied the knot and celebrated with a big bash. Some 650 guests nibbled on 1,000 crab cakes, 200 pounds of prawns, 200 racks of lamb (with four kinds of tomatoes) and 35 beef fillets. Enthused the bride, "Is this American, or is this American?"

**Cultural note** — To catch the public eye, London advertising agencies are picking spots in unexpected places. Like in the underground where passengers are "crush-loaded" into hot, crowded — and sweaty — cars. Now you can grab for a strap to

hang onto and find yourself clutching a mock Intensive Care Vaseline deodorant can.

**The fragrance of creativity** — "We're catching people just as they reach for a strap — just the time they will be thinking about body odor." — Spokesperson for the ad agency that gave birth to the smell-good campaign.

**Also the same wages?** — At the new Mercedes-Benz plant near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, everybody is a "team member." From the top boss down, all employees wear polo shirts sporting their first name. There is no executive parking and no executive dining room. Just one canteen for all.

## Irish press reviews Bolivian diary of Cuban general

Below we reprint a review of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* by Harry Villegas, published by Pathfinder Press. The review appeared in the August 23, 1997, *Andersonstown News*, a newspaper published in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was published under the headline, "More than just a poster boy: A fascinating new account of life in the jungle with Che Guevara, by one of his comrades."

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

BY ROBERT MCMILLEN

Just last month, the mortal remains of a legendary revolutionary and his comrades were located in a secret unmarked grave in the Bolivian jungle.

Three decades after his death in Bolivia at the hands of the Bolivian military and their US advisers, interest in Ernesto Guevara — Che to you and me — is growing and while any debate on Che seems to focus on those ubiquitous posters, the philosophy still remains a focus of worldwide discussion and debate.

In Belfast last week to promote a new book on the man whose face adorned bedsits across the land in the 70s was Tony Hunt from Pathfinder Books — an American left-wing publishing company who have just published a fascinating account of Guevara written by a comrade in arms in the war in Bolivia.

Harry Villegas is now a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces but between 1966 and 1968 he was a member of Guevara's general staff in their efforts to forge a continent wide leadership capable not only of overthrowing the US-backed dictatorships in Bolivia but of accelerating the

struggle for national liberation in Latin America. These struggles of workers, peasants, and youth culminated a few years later in a massive revolutionary upsurge throughout the southern cone of South America.

"I think it is the internationalist dimension that makes Che so popular even today," explained Tony who distributes Pathfinder books from his London office.

"He really was a man of the people. He started off as a doctor and as he travelled throughout Argentina he saw the conditions of ordinary people and the horrific conditions in which they were forced to live. That direct confrontation with poverty turned him into the revolutionary we know today.

"But he saw his role in terms of a worldwide struggle against injustice so during his life he was active throughout South America, in Cuba and in the Congo."

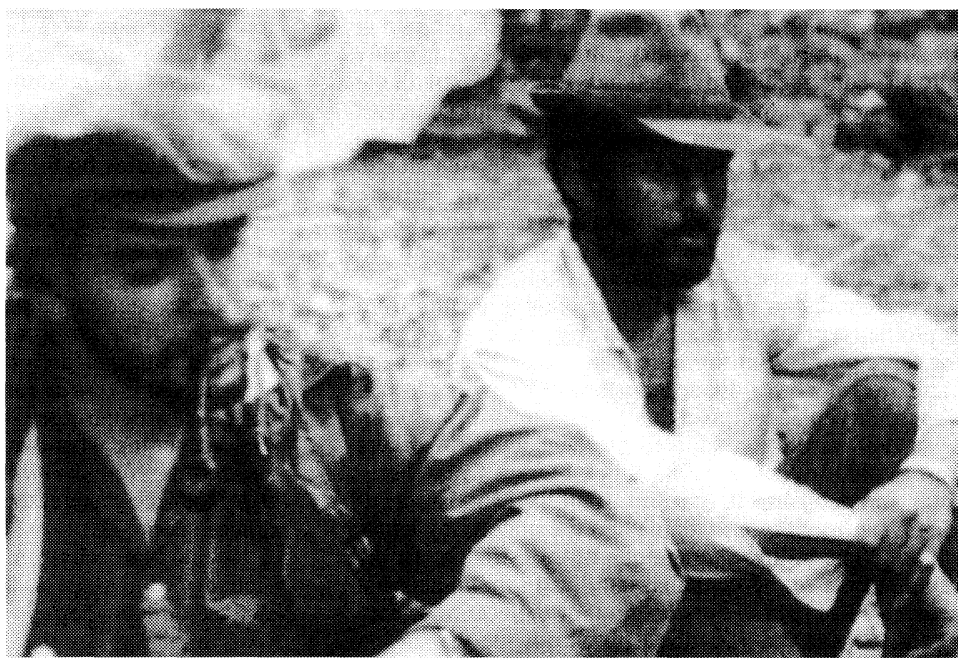
Harry Villegas, known by his nom de guerre Pombo, worked and fought alongside Che for a decade — in Cuba, Bolivia and the Congo — and is one of the guerrilla unit's three surviving veterans.

"Following Che's death, he commanded the group of combatants that was able to elude the encirclement jointly organised by the Bolivian Army and the US military and intelligence forces."

Pombo's account of workers peasants and young people taking to the streets in Argentina has echoes of the USA where black people were demanding their right to dignity, as French students united with factory workers to fight for a socialist utopia and, of course, as the Civil Rights movement here stood up against a corrupt sectarian regime. It was indeed a time when the world seemed to be ready to divest itself of the injustice of centuries and start afresh.

Harry Villegas dedicates the book to the young people of the world who want to know more about Che Guevara.

"It is my hope that these young people get a better understanding and appreciation of the



Pathfinder Press courtesy of Richard Dindo

Che Guevara, left, and Harry Villegas (Pombo) in Bolivia, late 1966 or early 1967.

times we are living through and of the greatness of the human values embodied in Che's life, expressed through his early and lifelong decision to fight for humanity," writes Villegas.

Pathfinder has also published the speeches of Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro and Malcolm X.

"We believe it is important to go back to

what people actually said and let people make up their own minds rather than have history interpreted for them by people who have a certain agenda," said Tony.

People in Ireland will certainly agree with that. *Pombo: A Man of Che's guerrilla: With Che Guevara in Bolivia 1966-68* by Harry Villegas is published by Pathfinder Press at £14.99.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



September 15, 1972

The deaths of 11 Israeli participants in the Olympics on Sept. 5 brought forth a hypocritical uproar of indignation from government officials and news media in capitalist countries around the world.

Such Israeli atrocities against the Arab people do not produce headlines or condemnations from capitalist government officials and politicians. The purpose of this campaign is to make the criminal look like the victim: to make Israel appear as the victim of Arab violence rather than the criminal oppressor of the Arab peoples.

Such Israeli atrocities against the Arab people do not produce headlines or condemnations from capitalist government officials and politicians.

No. The uproar over the killings at the Olympics has been consciously manufactured by the imperialist powers and the media they control in order to try to turn public opinion against the Palestinian liberation movement. The enormous publicity cannot be explained simply because the killings occurred dramatically at the Olympics. This can be seen by comparing the media response to the killings at this year's Olympics with the response to the massacre of Mexican student protesters just 10 days prior to the opening of the Olympics in Mexico City in 1968....

Another pernicious feature of the anti-Arab campaign over the Munich killings is blatant racism. For example, the *New York Times*, an influential mouthpiece for a section of the capitalist class, called the guer-

rillas "fanatics" who had "plumbed new depths of criminality."



September 15, 1947

The spotlight in Great Britain last week remained on 140 miners at Grimethorpe, a colliery surrounded by hills of slag in a bleak, grim valley of Yorkshire. These 140 miners were still holding out in a wildcat strike that began Aug. 11.

What gave this strike dynamic impact was the rank and file solidarity of miners in other pits. As many as 60,000 downed tools in sympathy. The forces arrayed against the Grimethorpe strikers were enormous: the district officials of their own National Union of Mine Workers, the national officials of the union, the members of Parliament from the area, the Coal Board and the rest of the Government apparatus and the capitalist press....

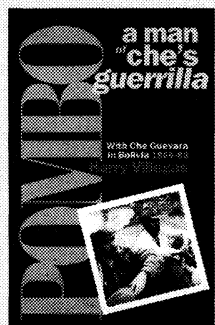
The most violent attempt to break the strike came from Arthur Horner, well known Stalinist who is secretary of the National Union of Mine Workers. He called the valiant 140 strikers "traitors to the nation," according to the Sept. 9 *Daily Worker*....

The Yorkshire workers answered by sending flying squadrons to spread the sympathy walkout still further.

The Attlee Government and the union bureaucrats called a meeting of the Yorkshire miners with the objective of getting a vote to return to work. Out of 2,600 in the mine area, only 700 showed up. They listened and argued for three hours and then the majority voted to stay out.

Available from Pathfinder

### Pombo: A Man of Che's Guerrilla

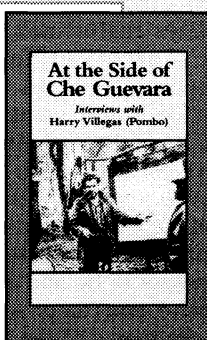


Harry Villegas

A never-before-published story of the 1966-68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara. It is the diary and account of Pombo—a member of Guevara's general staff, a young Cuban fighter still in his 20s and already a veteran of a decade of struggle around the globe. Harry Villegas, known the world over by his nom de guerre, Pombo, is today a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. His day-by-day account of his epic chapter in the history of the Americas illuminates the times we are living through and foreshadows the titanic battles that will mark the Americas of the 21st century. **\$21.95**

### At the Side of Che Guevara: Interviews with Harry Villegas (Pombo) by Harry Villegas

Villegas talks about the struggles he has taken part in over four decades—from Cuba, the Congo and Bolivia, to the war in Angola and the defeat of the South African apartheid army at Cuito Cuanavale in 1988. Above all, he explains the importance of Guevara's legacy for new generations of fighters the world over. Also available in Spanish **\$4.00**



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

# The end of the Asian 'miracle'

Capitalism is a dead end for the overwhelming majority of humanity. The only way forward for workers and farmers around the world is to take power out of the hands of the employing classes and begin to build new societies where human needs, not profits, are the priority — socialist societies. That's the lesson of the economic crisis sweeping southeast Asia today.

For years, the bourgeoisie has pointed to the Asian "tigers," as well as a few countries in Latin America, as models of how capitalism could expand and lead to the "emergence" of some of these countries out of underdevelopment, out of the semicolonial world. For a while, relatively fast economic expansion and the growth of a sizable middle class gave the appearance that political stability and economic growth were a possibility, though for millions of workers and peasants the "miracle" remained a nightmare.

But the plunge in Asian currencies and stocks over the last two months shows the lie in this. So did the 1994 crash of the Mexican peso, the shock waves it sent through Argentina, and the current economic crisis shaping up in Brazil. No Third World country can or will develop today into an economically advanced industrial power with the class structure of the United States, Canada, the countries of Western Europe, Japan, Australia, or New Zealand. No new centers of world finance capital are going to emerge.

This isn't the fault of bad economic policies by the Bank of Thailand and other such institutions. It's a function of the normal workings of the imperialist system — the high-est, and final, stage of capitalism.

The foundation of capitalism is reaping profits from exploitation of labor. Each boss is driven to keep expanding these profits. But for more than two decades now the capitalist rulers worldwide have faced a growing crisis in their ability to accomplish this goal.

A 1988 resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party, titled "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold" and published in issue no. 10 of the Marxist magazine *New International*, explained the underlying cause of this. "The falling average rate of industrial profit accruing to the ruling capitalist families in the imperialist countries lies behind the evolution of the economic factors that make the initiation of a worldwide depression inevitable in the coming years," it said. "As a result of this fall, starting as early as the mid-1960s in Britain and as late as the mid-1970s in Japan, a crisis of decelerating capital accumulation has been deepening throughout the major world capitalist economies." In the United States, for example, the after-tax profit rate on investment in factories and machinery dropped from an average of 8 percent in the mid-1960s to just over 4 percent in 1988. That trend has continued since.

The cumulative consequences of this decline in profit rates that the SWP resolution pointed to include: Intensified interimperialist competition; overproduction of goods capitalists can sell profitably and the resulting excess productive capacity; declining capital investment in capacity-increasing plants and equipment; speculative binges in the stock markets and debt explosion; increased bank and business failures; the devastation of semicolonial countries; farm crises in the imperialist countries; declining real wages and accelerating speedup; and rising unemployment.

As a result of intensified price competition, the capitalist rulers have faced growing deflationary pressures in recent years, with many prices falling. The entire capi-

talist system has been mired in depression conditions since the opening of this decade.

In July, the Producer Price Index in the United States, which measures wholesale prices, dropped for the seventh month in the row — unprecedented in the 50-year history of the index. This is a sign that a deflationary explosion — with values of consumer products, real estate, and other assets dropping, while at the same time factories are shut, production curbed, and millions are laid off — may not be far off. Few human beings alive today have lived, or can imagine from experience the horrible implications of such a development. The last time was the late 1920s.

The deflationary trends are behind the stagnation in labor productivity that has fueled a debate among the rulers in the imperialist countries over the viability of their "Wall Street miracle."

In their attempt shore up their profit rates, the employers need to squeeze much more out of working people, both in semicolonial world and imperialist countries. They force workers to work faster, more hours, and with less pay. Millions of toilers feel the results of this drive on their bodies. Carpel tunnel, damaged backs, and other injuries are the price for producing more for the boss.

So why is "labor productivity" stagnating as recently released figures by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show? Washington and other capitalist powers measure productivity as the *revenue from sales* of what workers produce per hour, not as the actual number of shirts workers sew or cars they assemble per hour. Deflation means that the revenue capitalists get from selling what we produce remain the same or drop, even though workers bust their hump to increase output.

Capitalist investors forced the devaluation of the Thai currency, which triggered the current crisis, because they weren't getting what they wanted in higher productivity and profits. Now they will use the bludgeon of austerity to try to force changes that intensify further the exploitation of labor.

But the rulers confront a real obstacle they cannot get around: the working class. From the wave of protest strikes against antilabor laws in south Korea at the start of this year, to the upsurge that has set back the austerity plans of Argentine president Carlos Menem, to the recent strike by UPS workers in the United States, labor resistance to the implications of the looming capitalist economic catastrophe is slowly but surely mounting. As Cuban president Fidel Castro aptly put it in a speech to the 17th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers last year, "the exploiters are starting to get afraid again. They're afraid of social upheaval, afraid of social explosions, afraid of chaos." They are becoming afraid of the toilers' resolve to resist.

As they participate in this resistance, socialist workers point to the fundamental question involved: the root of the problem is the wages system itself, it's capitalism. It has to be overthrown. It can't be reformed. Socialists seek ways to unite the working class around demands such as jobs for all, cancellation of the foreign debt of third world countries, international working-class solidarity, and support for the struggle for land of toilers in the countryside. And at the same time they work to build the kind of political parties that can lead the toilers to take power, replace the capitalist regime with a workers and farmers government, and open the door to transforming society and creating new men and women in the process.

# British monarchy is in trouble

The British state machine has gone into overdrive, orchestrating a massive political campaign to draw millions of people into mourning the death of Diana Spencer. The big-business media is hourly encouraging people to queue outside the palace in which she lived. The route of the funeral procession is discussed constantly. Campaigning over the referenda on devolution for Scotland and Wales has been suspended until after the funeral. Sporting and cultural events are being forced to cancel or become the target of attacks in the press. Big business is helping to get maximum attendance in the funeral by closing down shops and other operations during the procession. A national minute of silence is being called by the press.

What's behind all this? The British rulers face a problem with the monarchy — the institution they rely on to keep their United Kingdom together. This imperialist state is cracking a bit, as the devolution referenda in Scotland and Wales and the renewed talks on Northern Ireland's future demonstrate. The hoopla around Princess Diana is part of a losing battle to shore up the crown.

As economic and social crises deepen in a capitalist state that takes the form of a constitutional monarchy, the crowned head of state becomes more important, not less, as an institution that can "speak for the entire nation." In a bourgeois republic without a monarchy, the president often assumes Bonapartist powers and authority under such conditions. But in a constitutional monarchy, remnants of feudalism preserved by the bourgeoisie with few intrinsic vested powers — the crown and the unelected House of Lords — grow rather than diminish in their im-

portance for maintaining stability amid the increasing brutality of capitalist life and rule.

In addition to the prospect of local parliaments being elected in Scotland and Wales sometime soon, and negotiations with Sinn Fein over whether British rule will continue in the six northern Irish counties, the ruling class in Australia is gearing up to shed the Queen as its head of state.

The bourgeoisie in the United Kingdom has begun to divide. The new British prime minister, Anthony Blair, has been speaking for some time for those who think they have to present some answer to growing nationalist agitation in Scotland, which is itself a product of widening regional disparities and inequalities exacerbated by the capitalist crisis. That's why Blair's Labour Party felt pressure to make similar proposals concerning Wales, where the economic and social devastation is even greater than in Scotland due to the rapid decline of the coal industry.

The now deposed Conservative politician John Major, on the other hand, argues that devolution in Scotland and Wales will lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom.

If you add to this the unstoppable fight for Irish freedom in Belfast, Derry, and elsewhere in Ireland and the historic decline of the British pound, you can understand the strains that are pressing on the seams of the United Kingdom. Its historic forced retreat from acting as an effective world power continues. The demise of the crown — this reactionary feudal institution — comes along the way. There is nothing in this for working people to feel sad about.

# Join upcoming labor actions

Continued from front page

workers to respond to the Pittsburgh-area unionists' invitation," said Joel Britton, a member of the party's NTUC and of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers in Chicago. "All SWP members active in the same industrial unions in each city should immediately meet, discuss, and decide taking the necessary steps to ensure they can take part in these activities as fully as possible, along with some of their fellow unionists and young people from their areas."

According to a press release by the local planning committee, the AFL-CIO convention proceedings will be held at the David Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. "The city known as the 'crucible of America's industrial age' is also the city where the modern labor movement began," the release says, "with the formation of the American Federation of Labor in 1881 and the founding of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1938. In 1955 the AFL-CIO merged into today's federation, which will be returning to the city of its roots for its 21st Constitutional Convention...."

"AFL-CIO delegates, editors and members are invited to participate in the week's events."

Activities include dedication of historical markers at the sites of the 1877 railroad strike massacre and the founding of the AFL and of the CIO, as well as music programs organized by the Musician's Union president Anne Feeney.

This convention will take place as the ruling class is still debating the adverse impact of the victory of 185,000 Teamsters against United Parcel Service in one of the most important labor battles of the last 15 years, said Britton. It will register the fact that the retreat of the labor movement has bottomed out some time ago. "We can expect that officials and rank-and-file members of trade unions who recently pushed back the attacks from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., who are organizing to sign up farm workers into the union, and who struck General Motors in several auto plants this year will be there."

Thousands of delegates are expected to stream into Pittsburgh, some of whom have first-hand experience in these struggles. The literature publicizing the convention and the activities surrounding it clearly encourages participation not just from union officials but from rank-and-file members as well.

Some of these unionists are becoming battle-tested as polarization grows and the employers counterattack after every union initiative, Britton said. Union organizers near Watsonville, California, for example, were recently chased off the fields for trying to sign up strawberry pickers. Growers there organized a pro-company rally involving a number of workers. But the United Farm Workers is continuing its drive to sign up apple and strawberry pickers and other agricultural workers.

The venue itself is far from the usual haunts for official union gatherings, Britton said, such as the luxurious hotels in Miami Beach, Florida, and Las Vegas, Nevada, where previous AFL-CIO conventions were held.

Peggy Kreiner is a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 121 at LTV Steel in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. She is also a member of the Pittsburgh branch of the SWP. "I am going to go to these events around the AFL-CIO convention and will encourage my co-workers to do likewise," she said in an interview. "The discussion that socialist workers can bring there, as participants in a number of labor battles with a class-struggle perspective and with literature with the lessons of the working-class movement for 150 years, will be the first topic of our agenda at the next meeting of socialists in the USWA here," she said. "We will also urge young workers, students, members of the Young Socialists, and other youth who may not be in unions now to come along."

Diana Newberry is a member of the Young Socialists National Committee. Tony Dutrow is a member of the USWA Local 1557 in Pittsburgh.

# Correction

The article "Washington pushes for domination of Caspian Sea Oil" in the September 8 *Militant* made the following statement that contains two errors. "Harry Flashman was the main character in a series of mystery novels, authored in the mid-1800s by British writer George MacDonald Fraser," the article said. "Flashman was a regional spy used by the British crown and other colonial powers in their designs to dominate the region at the time. Kipling wrote similar stories using a character name Kim."

Fraser published a series of novels using Flashman as the fictional character beginning in 1969, not in the mid-1800s. The last such story, *Flashman and the Angel of the Lord*, was published in 1994. Harry Flashman's activities as a fictional spy did take place in the mid-1800s. Also, Rudyard Kipling published one novel using Kim as a fictional character, not several stories as the article said. The novel, titled *Kim*, was published in 1901.



# Health-care workers in Minnesota vote in union

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a

a boost on July 22 when 60 unionists participated in a solidarity rally at the Anoka clinic. The action included members of the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers of America, Amalgamated Transit Workers Union, and others.

willing to give in.

## Shipyard workers in Maine approve contract.

BATH, Maine — Members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local S6 at Bath Iron Works voted 1,979 – 1,831 to accept the new three-year contract proposed by management at a mass meeting Sunday August 24.

The vote — by secret ballot — followed two hours of lively debate in the Portland Civic. Bath Iron Works employs 7,300 workers, 5,200 of whom are members of the IAM. The shipyard, which builds destroyers for the U.S. Navy, is owned by defense giant General Dynamics.

The new contract includes a \$1,000 signing bonus, a \$700 bonus in 1998, and a 25-cent-an-hour raise in 1999. The management also agreed to increases in accident and sickness benefits and to up its contributions to the pension plan.

Many workers attending the meeting believed that an improved contract could have been won

through strike action. For many securing an increase in wages, instead of getting one-off bonuses, was the main issue. One worker summed up his feelings by pointing to his T-shirt. It read "We Want More Money." The union negotiation committee unanimously proposed that management's offer be voted down and that a strike be organized.

In the days before the vote workers staged rallies and militant on-the-job protests in support of a better contract.

Workers told *Militant* reporters that they had made bonfires out of the copies of the contract distributed by management. Every hour on the hour workers began to "put the hammer down" by banging hammers and pipes on the ship's hulls or on tool boxes and scrap metal set up for the purpose. The clanging sound echoed for miles up the Kennebec River.

The August 21 *Boston Globe* reported that a number of people called the police "to say they've been awakened by the sound of a thousand hammers striking metal." Police eventually intervened and

asked the union to stop the round-the-clock protest, which they did — only to start up again when negotiations reached an impasse.

Despite the deep differences of opinion reflected in the vote, the discussion was carried out in civil terms as workers weighed their options.

For many older workers the experience of the three-month strike in 1985, after which workers were forced to accept a concession contract, weighted heavily in the scales against taking action. Others pointed to the full order book at the yard and contrasted the big bonuses for BIW and General Dynamics executives to the modest raises offered to the workers.

*Andy Buchanan, a member of United Auto Workers Local 1596, and Elena Tate, a high school student, in Boston; and Doug Jenness, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9198 in Roseville, Minnesota contributed to this column.*

## ON THE PICKET LINE

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

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Employees at two medical centers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area won two victories recently.

One week after more than 400 unionists rallied at the Nile Health Care Center, a nursing home in south Minneapolis, management dropped its refusal to negotiate a contract with some 180 workers.

Since June 19, when employees voted for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 113 to represent it, the nursing home owners had been waging an anti-union campaign and stalling talks.

On July 24 Nile administrators announced that they will sit down with union representatives by August 15.

The action on July 17 drew hundreds of union activists attending an AFL-CIO-organized regional conference in Minneapolis convened to discuss enrolling more members into unions. More than 800 participated in the conference, which was one of 13 such gatherings held around the country this summer.

AFL-CIO president John Sweeney presented the keynote address, which highlighted the example of the fight being conducted by strawberry pickers in California. Sweeney headed the march to the Nile Nursing home.

On July 31, 250 workers at the five facilities operated by Mork Clinic in several northern suburbs won a union recognition election. The vote was 135 – 59 in favor of representation by SEIU Local 113. The workers' organizing effort got

The victory at Mork marked the health-care union's seventh victory this year. Some 1,200 new members have been added to the union's rolls bringing the total membership to 11,000. The SEIU has recently added six full-time organizers to its staff and played a major role in the AFL-CIO-organized conference.

## Navistar to shut plant after union rejects offer

Navistar, the largest medium and heavy truck manufacturer in the United States, said August 19 it will close its Indianapolis Casting Corp. (ICC) foundry late next year and lay off 650 workers. The company made the announcement after United Auto Workers (UAW) members at the factory rejected the company's offer.

A week earlier the Chicago-based Navistar reached a master contract deal with the UAW, which was approved by union members by a vote of 63 percent in favor. The August 20 *Wall Street Journal* described the deal as a "cost-cutting plan." The company employs about 8,000 production workers nationally, organized by the UAW.

Workers at the Indianapolis foundry, however, rejected a related contract for that plant. The local pact would have frozen wages for all current employees for five years and lowered hourly pay for new hires. It would have also required some workers to move from Indianapolis to Navistar's truck-making facility in Springfield, Ohio.

Company officials said the ICC foundry would no longer be profitable enough "particularly in the face of competition from foundries in Latin America, where labor costs are significantly lower."

Navistar chairman John Horne said the company could still reopen negotiations with the union if the Indianapolis UAW members were

## Miami ATC leader given probation

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

MIAMI, Florida — In an attack on opponents of Washington's policy towards Cuba, Walfrido Moreno, president of the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC), was found guilty of battery and sentenced to 60 days probation on August 13.

Dade County judge Mercedes Bach also ordered Moreno to perform 40 hours of community service, pay \$162 in court costs, and attend anger-control classes. He has also been ordered to stay away from Angel Zayon, a right-wing activist who is a reporter for WSCV-Channel 51.

Moreno, who is 80 years old, was accused of slapping Zayon. He pleaded no contest to the charge of battery.

At an April 2 press conference, Moreno had responded to insults and provocations by Zayon against Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade (BAM). The conference was called by the Bri-

gade, the ATC, and the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba to oppose Washington's attacks on Cuba and to present to the press some Cubans who originally left the island on rafts and had just returned from visiting Cuba.

After the April press conference, Zayon carried out a slander campaign against Moreno, Gómez, and other activists who oppose U.S. policy towards Cuba. This included Zayon's appearance on several right-wing Spanish-language radio shows in the Miami area.

Zayon's right-wing campaign against Moreno and other anti-embargo activists has had limited support. This is evidenced by the fact that, after launching this campaign, Zayon was dropped as a radio commentator on one of the Spanish-language radio stations. In addition, Zayon wasn't even interviewed by his own TV station, Channel 51, after Moreno's sentencing.

A number of people from the ATC and the Miami Coalition to

End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba were present in court to support Moreno.

Janet Post, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami commented on Moreno's trial. She said "this is an attack from a point of weakness."

"The right-wing media and organizations have become increasingly more frustrated with their loss of support in the Cuban American community as a whole. Cuban Americans continue to travel to Cuba and a growing number oppose the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba."

Zayon told the press he will file a civil suit against Moreno and Andrés Gómez for slander.

"My campaign calls for organizing the broadest opposition possible to any civil action launched by Zayon against Walfrido Moreno and Andrés Gómez," Post said.

*Rollande Girard is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Miami City Commission, Group V.*

## LETTERS

### Taxes in Europe

I think the series of articles run by the *Militant* in recent months by Carl-Erik Isacson on economic developments in Europe have been helpful in looking at the political situation there. Likewise, the Sept. 1 article "Kohl Backs Down Over German Budget" is very useful.

I wanted to raise two questions that could be taken up in future coverage.

The article points out that "Capitalists and their spokespeople in Germany accused the politicians of having buried Germany's chances to emulate the kind of 'supply-side' tax remedies that have benefited the economies of the United States and Great Britain — that is, cutting taxes on the employers."

The article seems to say that corporate taxes are being significantly raised in France, on hold in Germany, and cut in England. Is this differentiation solely due to the pressures of the projected European Monetary Union or are there other factors?

Also, Isacson writes that in France, "Corporate capital gains, previously taxed at 19 percent, will be permanently taxed at the same rate as profits." The only corporate tax mentioned is the 41.6 percent that represents the new 1997-98 tax increase. Is this "corporate tax" dif-

ferent than the tax on profits or is the capital gains tax in France being doubled?

*Janet Post  
Miami, Florida*

### More on UPS strike

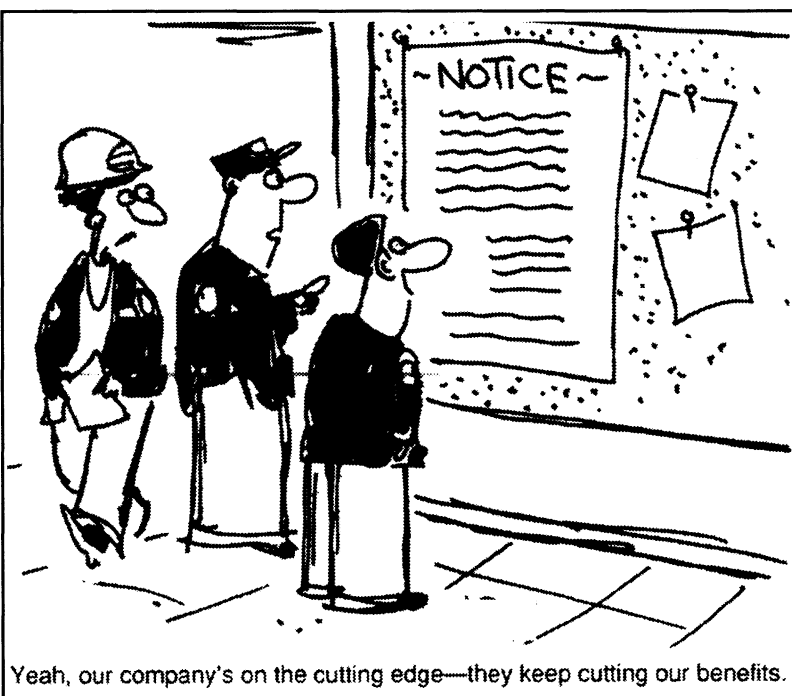
I have a question about one aspect of your coverage of the UPS strike. It seems to me that the decision by almost all shippers to try to send their package other ways was a victory for the strikers. That competitors of UPS were able to carry most of it was an advantage for the strikers. The blows that were dealt were concentrated on UPS and its profits, making it easier to win support for the strike. It doesn't seem to me that UPS's competitors were handling "struck work." Could you explain your position on these questions in more detail?

*Nick Gruenberg  
Midfield, Alabama*

### Irish leader gives briefing

On August 9, 1997, Martin McGuinness gave a political briefing to the members of the NORAIT tour and Derry Republicans. From my notes I reproduced most of the question and answer session with Martin McGuinness responding:

Q: What is the American government position on deportations?



A: We are sure that there will be no more deportations... that is justice.

Q: What are the feelings of the POWs about the peace process?

A: We have begun a series of meetings with the POWs.... The prisoners are totally supportive of the peace process.... They will refuse to be used as bargaining chips.

Q: Does the Dublin government support Sinn Fein's goals?

A: John Hume, Gerry Adams, and the Dublin government have all signed a public statement that no "internal settlement" will be acceptable.... This will make it very hard for the government to draw back.... The South Africans told us to trust nobody; we go into negotiations trusting ourselves alone.

Q: Questioner had met a youth who fears the collapse of social benefits after British withdrawal.

A: This is a false argument, we offer not the dole, but a future with employment.... We are trying to bring about a total economic change on this island.... Their vision should not be the dole, but a united Ireland, with social equality and employment for all.

*Roy Inglee  
Elsmere, Delaware*

### U.S. attack on Oahu

August 6 marked the 52nd anniversary of the American atrocity against Hiroshima. On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan made a point not to target civilian populations on the island of Oahu. On August 6, 1945, the United States made a point to target, bomb, and attack hospitals, schools, orphanages, religious shrines, the elderly and disabled.

*J.L.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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.

## Sinn Fein to join talks with London

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — Sinn Fein is invited to attend all party talks beginning September 15 on the future of Ireland, Marjorie Mowlam, London's minister for Northern Ireland, announced August 29. Mowlam's announcement means that Irish republicans and the British government will sit down for formal negotiations for the first time since London imposed the division of Ireland in 1921.

Sinn Fein has issued a document stating that in the talks the party will push for "the broad nationalist objective of an end to British rule in Ireland." Mowlam has admitted that "the options of the Union and a united Ireland are on the table."

This move registers the growing strength of the movement for national self determination and has ratcheted up the turmoil and feuding among the pro-British Unionist parties.

Meanwhile, nationalists are pressing forward the fight for Irish freedom on the streets.

The newly relaunched prisoners campaign, Saoirse, is planning a massive eve-of-talks rally at Belfast City Hall on September 14. The rally will be preceded by feeder marches from different parts of Belfast. Saoirse spokesperson Martin Meehan said, "The issue of the prisoners must be kept high on the agenda for the talks... we are calling on people to take to the streets to support our demand for the release of political prisoners."

In a gesture towards such demands, London downgraded the security status of 13 Irish prisoners in England, moving them out of the 'special secure units' and allowing open visits under close supervision. Sinn Fein welcomed this move as a "small step." But spokesperson Michael Brown simultaneously called for the transfer of all 26 prisoners in England "to jails in Ireland, pending their immediate release."

In South Armagh, 100 young people held a protest outside the newly expanded British Army base at Faughill mountain on August 24. The rally was reported in the August 28 issue of the republican paper *An Phoblacht* as the first in a series of militant mobilizations to be organized by the newly formed Sinn Fein Youth.

The progress achieved by nationalist fighters is continuing to work its way throughout the Irish Republic. In a statement indicating a shift from the position of the previous Irish government, new Irish premier Bertie Ahern said July 24 that a settlement in the North would need to "overcome previous failures going back to 1920." He

### Stop the extradition of H-Block Four!



Militant/Cathleen Gutekanst

About 100 people rallied outside the federal building in San Francisco August 22 to protest the decision of U.S. District Judge Charles Legge to deny bail to the remaining three H-Block Four Irish political prisoners — Kevin Barry Artt, Pól Brennan, and Terence Kirby. This sets the stage for their extradition to Northern Ireland, sought by London. A similar protest was held the same day in San Diego. The three are among 38 Irish inmates who escaped from the infamous Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland in 1983. They were held in the H-Block part of the jail, known for the harsh treatment of prisoners. They were arrested in California between 1992 and 1994 and held for extradition. Jimmy Smyth, the fourth of the H-Block Four, has already been deported to N. Ireland. The Irish American Unity Conference, which organized the protests, is asking people to demand from U.S. president William Clinton that the extraditions be stopped and that their rights be included in the British-Irish all-party talks under way.

added, "in the longer term a united Ireland achieved by agreement still offers the best and most durable basis for peace and stability."

Politics in the Republic is currently dominated by the debate on who will be nominated for the post of Irish President. Previ-

ously a nominal office, it is clear that the race for the presidency reflects the growing backing for the nationalists. The two front runners are John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader from Derry, Northern Ireland, and former premier Albert Reynolds. Both have backed Sinn Fein's

presence in the talks. If Hume wins the presidency, this would further signify that capitalist politicians in the Republic consider Northern Ireland part of Ireland.

There is clearly unease amongst the rulers about the negotiations. An editorial in the August 29 *Times*, for example, said Mowlam's move was "a remarkable concession from a democratic state.... Armed terrorists will be invited to shape the future of the United Kingdom without having to surrender a bullet or dilute their revolutionary aims." The editorial said the republicans "are dictating the direction of the peace process."

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble reacted to Mowlam's announcement by claiming the republicans had "blood on their hands." But he kept open the possibility that his party will participate in the talks. Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist Party leader, announced that his party would not take part in any talks with Sinn Fein.

Meanwhile, *An Phoblacht* reports violent feuding between the pro-unionist paramilitary groups, with the Ulster Volunteer Force threatening to "wipe out" another organization, the Loyalist Volunteer Force. Sinn Fein's Alex Maskey described this development as the work of the British military, intent on destabilizing the negotiations.

At the same time, London's *Independent* said that "most of the Protestant population seems to favour engagement in talks together with Sinn Fein."

Despite the absence of open opposition to negotiations with Sinn Fein, the British ruling class is still dragging its feet. The August 29 *Times* editorial said that "There is a powerful case for a principled Unionist refusal to discuss the future of this democracy with armed terrorists." But in the same breath it added, "A Unionist presence at the table should make it more difficult for London and Dublin to agree a nationalist settlement." The *Times* editors suggested that the wisest course for London would be to press for "proximity talks which do not require direct contact with Sinn Fein."

The Irish nationalist party, however, is insisting on face to face talks. "My answer to proximity talks is a flat no," said Sinn Fein leader Mitchel McLaughlin.

## Support for Scottish parliament grows

BY ANNE HOWIE

GLASGOW, Scotland — On September 11 people in Scotland will go to the polls to vote on the creation of a Scottish parliament

for the first time since the founding of the United Kingdom. Two questions will be decided in the devolution referendum: whether there should be a Scottish parlia-

ment, and whether it should have the power to vary the basic rate of income tax by 3 percent.

A referendum on whether to create a similar parliament in Wales will take place September 18.

The Labour Party promised these votes as part of its manifesto for the May elections, which swept Anthony Blair into Westminster against a backdrop of increasing labor resistance, particularly to cuts in social services.

Ian McCalman, president of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), the largest teaching union here, told the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) that in Glasgow alone 250 teaching jobs have been cut in the last year. The STUC held a special congress in Glasgow on August 30.

In response to these attacks, 5,000 members of the Glasgow Association of the EIS went on strike for three days, beginning March 5, when 10,000 people demonstrated in support of the striking teachers. The union also organized a march of 20,000 in January as part of its campaign to defend jobs and oppose cutbacks in education. The STUC organized another demonstration of 10,000 March 1, against public sector cuts. And 25,000 janitors, administrators, and clerical staff from Edinburgh, Midlothian, Glasgow, and West Dunbartonshire took part on March 6, in what was the latest in the largest series of local council strikes since 1989.

Workers in the rail industry and on Caledonian MacBrayne ferries have also

Continued on Page 12

## Diana Spencer's death spotlights troubles of British monarchy

BY JIM SPAUL  
AND MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales; Harrods heir Emad Mohammed al-Fayed; and Henri Paul, a security officer from the Ritz hotel who was driving the car, were killed in Paris in a high-speed car crash in the early hours of August 31. Spencer's bodyguard, the fourth person in the car, was seriously injured.

Six photographers and a motorcycle driver who were following the car are under investigation for "involuntary homicide" in the case.

Before the bodies were cold, the saturation press coverage of the princess's death began.

Fayed was buried the following day. There have been no reports of when Paul's body will be released to his family for burial. Investigators say they found high level of alcohol in the driver's blood.

The day of the crash, regular television and radio programs were replaced with hour after hour coverage of the accident and commentary hailing Spencer as "the people's princess." Political events such as the street festival for the 100th anniversary of the Scottish Trades Union Council were called off and campaigning around the referendum on Scottish and Welsh devolution was suspended.

Throughout the week the press has persistently promoted signing books of condolence throughout the country, including mobile libraries taking books to sign to small villages.

Much of the coverage has praised the high profile activity of the princess with charities and in opposition to land mines.

Pundit after pundit has expressed concern over the loss of a woman who was the popular face of the royal family — despite her divorce from Prince Charles of Wales — and concern over the need to rehabilitate the monarchy. "Her legacy should help to pro-

tect the monarchy" the *London Times* stated, and warned, "The sense of a family which only reclaimed her when she was safely dead could be disastrous. Not since the Abdication has the Palace needed sound heads as it does today. The nation will want a state funeral. There should be no impediment to this least of all from the Palace itself."

The "fact that many in the British establishment hated Diana is what makes the outpouring of grief so politically interesting," wrote author A.N. Wilson in a *New York Times* column September 3. "In recent years, the popularity of the monarchy has declined dramatically.... None of us know whether the actual institution of monarchy — which is the very fabric of the British constitution — will survive."

As of September 3 neither Elizabeth Windsor the Queen nor her son Charles the Prince of Wales, have made public statements.