

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

The politics of economics:  
Che and Marxist continuity

— PAGE 9

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## Court votes to move trial of Brazil land activist

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — After three times delaying its decision, a Brazilian court decided to move the trial of José Rainha from the town of Pedro Canário in Espírito Santo state to Vitória, the state capital. Rainha is a leader of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST). He faces 26 years in prison on frame-up charges of murder in the deaths of a landlord and a cop who assaulted a 1989 peaceful land occupation by MST activists.

The MST leader was convicted in an initial trial in Pedro Canário in June, even though there were no witnesses against him and photos and eyewitnesses confirmed that he was not present when the deaths occurred. The jury pool in the first trial was largely made up of landowners and their supporters. Under Brazilian law, Rainha is entitled to a second trial, and his lawyers made a motion that this be moved outside of Pedro Canário.

According to Dulcinea Pavan from the MST office in São Paulo, a panel of judges voted 4-3 on September 23 to move the trial to Vitória. The landlords immediately appealed this ruling, however, so the fight over where the trial will take place is not over.

Supporters of the fight for justice for Rainha throughout the Americas and in other parts of the world have sent messages of protest to Brazilian officials. For information on the case in the United States, contact the Ad Hoc Committee to Defend José Rainha, c/o UNITE, 1501 NW 29th Street, Miami, FL 33142. Phone: (305) 868-5674. Fax: (305) 633-7478.

## Young Socialists in Canada call convention

BY PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

MONTREAL — Young Socialists in Canada are inviting fighting youth from across the country and the world to attend the Young Socialists Convention to be held here October 31–November 2. "Our aim is to build a pan-Canadian youth organization with centralized principles and campaigns that can lead youth in the struggle against imperialism's march towards fascism and war, in the fight for a government of workers and farmers that can open the road to socialism," said Mick O'Donnell, a leader of the YS in Toronto, at a meeting held in that city on August 23–24. Representatives from YS chapters in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver took part.

"The success of our convention will be measured by the extent to which the YS turns out towards the working class and its struggles, getting revolutionary books and the *Militant* into the hands of fighters such as striking city workers in Vancouver and workers on strike against Fletcher Challenge," a pulp and paper company in Brit-

Continued on Page 6

## Farm workers, janitors rally for union rights

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SACRAMENTO, California — Shouting "¡Sí, se puede!" (Yes, we can do it) and "Justice! Now!", more than 1,000 farm workers and janitors, along with other unionists, students, and community activists, marched through this state capital's downtown area September 18. The "March for Justice" was led by the United Farm Workers (UFW) and the Justice for Janitors organizing campaign of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to press for the right of farm workers and janitors to organize into unions free from intimidation by their bosses and the police.

Janitors from Los Angeles, San Jose, and Stockton rode buses to Sacramento to join the march. They were joined by farm workers from Salinas and Watsonville, and state employees who have been fighting for pay raises. Other union banners identified members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, SEIU hospital workers, and Painters. A busload of students from the City College of San Francisco also participated.

There have been many marches and rallies this year to back the UFW campaign to organize the 20,000 strawberry workers in California. The largest action, held in Watsonville, drew 25,000 people April 13. In June the union scored a victory when Coastal Berry Co., the state's largest berry grower, said it would remain neutral toward the organizing drive. But the growers and their supporters have actively organized against the union, including holding an anti-UFW march of 1,200 in Watsonville August 10.

Sacramento janitors have been fighting for over two years to organize workers at

Continued on Page 4

### Workers in Peru demand jobs



Construction workers aim at wall of a worksite in Lima, the Peruvian capital, September 10. Dozens of workers demonstrated there demanding the government of Alberto Fujimori fulfill earlier promises to raise wages and to create new jobs in the state sector.

## Events will mark 30th anniversary of death of Ernesto Che Guevara

BY VERÓNICA POSES  
AND JACK WILLEY

NEW YORK — October marks the 30th year since the fall in combat of the revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. Across the United States and around the world, workers and youth will participate in actions

opposing the U.S. economic war on Cuba and in forums and teach-ins discussing Guevara's example for fighters today. Many of the events will also protest the recent terrorist bombings in Havana.

Guevara, born in Argentina, was a central leader of the revolutionary war that

toppled the U.S. backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba. After the triumph of the revolution in 1959, he carried major responsibilities in the new government, including as minister of industry and representing the revolutionary government on trips to dozens of countries. In 1965 Guevara left Cuba to lead a mission of internationalist Cuban fighters aiding the national liberation struggle in the Congo. He later led a guerrilla campaign in Bolivia that aimed to help advance the revolutionary struggles that were building throughout Latin America. He was injured

Beginning in our next issue, the *Militant* will feature first-hand coverage from Cuba. Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist*, and Martin Koppel, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, will be reporting on events around the anniversary of the death of Che Guevara and the congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

in combat and taken prisoner on Oct. 8, 1967, and executed the next day by the army on orders by the Bolivian government following consultation with Washington.

In Los Angeles, the Latin American Center at the University of California is hosting a symposium on the legacy of Che Guevara,

Continued on Page 12

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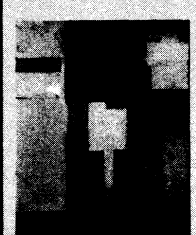
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### Russian workers: if you want coal and electricity, pay us now

Coal miners across Siberia and the Russian Far East began walking off the job September 14, demanding months of unpaid wages. More than 1,500 coal miners and power industry workers picketed the territorial administration building and city hall in Vladivostok, Russia's main Pacific port, September 16.

The strike has spread to at least four regions as coal and gold miners, who have gone nine months without pay, refuse to mine or deliver fuel. The strikers say they will not return to work until they are reimbursed in full, and in Vladivostok they are calling on the territorial governor to resign. The impact of the strike — serious enough for Russian president Boris Yeltsin to send an emergency assessment team to that region — now threatens to halt military production.

### U.S. troops maneuver in Asia

Some 500 U.S. troops dominated military exercises that began September 15 in Kazakhstan. The war games included a few dozen soldiers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. The governments of Russia, Turkey, also participated in the maneuvers, sending small contingents. One of the features of the operation was learning standard NATO commands. An article in the September 16 *Wall Street Journal* quoted a U.S. soldier as saying Moscow would have to accept the new NATO moves "or get out."

Kazakhstan, an oil-rich country once part of the Soviet Union, borders Russia and is located roughly 700 miles from Moscow. A day before the exercise occurred, 25 people picketed the U.S. embassy in Kazakhstan in opposition to the war games.

### Pyongyang: U.S. troops out

Talks between Washington and the north Korean government broke down September 19 after U.S. officials refused to discuss the withdrawal of 37,000 U.S. troops from south Korea as part of a formal end to the Korean War. Many of these troops are stationed along the line between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the southern half of the peninsula, where Wash-



As many as 500,000 people rallied September 21 in Manila to protest moves by Philippines president Fidel Ramos to seek a second term. Above, demonstrators marched in Manila September 19. Trying to defuse the mobilization against changes to the constitutional limits on a president to one six-year term, Ramos said September 20, "I will not run for reelection." The demonstration was held around the 25th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was overthrown in 1986 by mass protests organized throughout the country.

ington has enforced the division of Korea since the 1953 armistice in the U.S.-led war. The U.S. and south Korean governments have stepped up their attempts over the past year to pressure the DPRK into "four-party" talks, which would include Beijing, Washington, Pyongyang, and Seoul.

### Peasant protests in Vietnam

Months of protests waged by peasants in northern Vietnam against unfair taxes, government misuse of public money, the use of collectively owned land as collateral in business deals, and other acts of corruption has pressured Hanoi to purge dozens of government officials, according to a September 18 Associated Press report.

The protests have spread as workers and farmers in some districts have organized sit-ins in front of police stations and govern-

ment buildings. In the Thai Binh province, at least 11 government officials have been arrested, another 30 are under investigation, and a dozen others were forced to resign from their posts.

### Indian military bombs villagers

Late night September 18, Indian government troops began shooting off rounds in Arin village, with the stated aim of targeting Kashmir guerrillas. Four bus passengers were wounded in a gun battle that ensued. The next day soldiers fired mortar shells into the village, killing nine civilians instantly. In all, 12 civilians perished and five others were wounded. Kashmir rebels have been fighting for independence from India for nearly a decade.

### State of emergency in Malaysia

The Malaysian government declared a state of emergency in the island state of Sarawak September 19, shutting down all schools, offices, businesses, factories, and farms. They have recommended that 1.9 million residents remain in their homes, especially those with respiratory difficulties. The heavy black haze, reportedly caused by uncontrolled forest and shrub fires in the neighboring country of Indonesia, has sent thousands to the hospital with respiratory and optical problems and threatens to affect as many as 20 million people in Sumatra, Borneo, Java, and Sulawesi.

Some 100 protesters demonstrated in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur September 21, saying the government had done too little about the environmental disaster. The

day before, the government ordered Malaysian companies involved in open burning in Indonesia — which is illegal — to help the government there pay for fire-fighting expenses.

### Spain-bound immigrants from Morocco drown

Seeking to escape the economic crisis in Morocco, 30 people crammed onto a 15-foot rowboat September 15, and braved the 12-mile-long Straits of Gibraltar to get to Spain. En route the boat sank, drowning at least seven with more than a dozen people missing. Spanish authorities say the few survivors of the trip will likely be deported. In the rural areas of Morocco, which comprise 45 percent of the population, only 10 percent have electricity and 14 percent have potable water. Each year thousands attempt to migrate to Spain — some pay exorbitant fees to be smuggled across border and others use makeshift floatation devices — and hundreds die trying to cross.

### Washington rejects mine treaty

An international conference in Oslo, Norway, September 18 passed a treaty banning the production and use of land mines. The Clinton administration refused to sign the treaty because it could not get its amendments added. These included a nine-year delay on implementation and an exception for Washington to use mines in Korea. The governments of China, Russia, India, Kuwait, and Venezuela have also stated they won't sign the agreement, and several others remain undecided.

### U.S.-Canada salmon dispute

The British Colombian government, accusing U.S. fishing industries of swiping half a million sockeye salmon from Canadian waters, has taken measures to thwart the U.S. government, including attempting to shut down a U.S. torpedo testing range, and filing three lawsuits. The salmon, located off of Alaska, cross over into U.S. waters on their way to spawn. In one incident, an Alaskan fishing vessel was detained by the British Colombian government for three days costing millions of dollars in revenues. This prompted Alaskan senator Frank Murkowski to suggest a Navy escort for future fishing boats. The treaty that dictated how much salmon each country could take expired in 1994.

### Home Depot: unequal to women

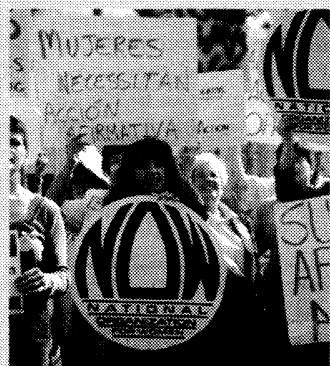
The Home Depot store chain faces sex discrimination suits in Louisiana, New Jersey, and San Francisco. A jury in Oakland, California, has already awarded at least \$1.2 million to Denise Restivo Adams, a former Home Depot worker who alleged sexual harassment and unfair dismissal. The upcoming suits argue that while 35 percent of the company's workforce is female, women face discrimination in advancement and promotions.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

## THE MILITANT

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# Cuts in UK rail safety lead to fatal crash

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

LONDON — Six people were killed and 170 were injured in Britain's deadliest rail disaster since 1988. Many working people are discussing how and why this latest train crash could have happened.

Within hours of the crash in Southall, West London, the driver was arrested and questioned "on suspicion of manslaughter." He has not been charged to date, and is currently free on bail.

Front page pictures of most newspapers featured twisted carriages with banner headlines pointing the finger at the driver. Many rail workers reacted angrily to his arrest and the claim that the crash was caused by human error in missing a signal. One train guard (conductor) from Waterloo station said, "Why do they blame the driver, before they even have an inquiry?" A train driver added, "It could have happened anywhere. What they call human error is really pressure." Workers interviewed asked not to be named, for fear of company reprisal.

The crash on September 19 happened when an InterCity fast train traveling at about 100 m.p.h. struck a freight train that was crossing its path. The engine of the passenger train burst into flames. Carriages were hurled off the rails, trapping riders for up to two and half hours. Other passengers were thrown out of the train. One was decapitated.

As the story has unfolded, it puts a spotlight on declining rail safety standards. Neither of two safety systems on the passenger train were working during its journey at speeds of up to 125 m.p.h. from Swansea to London. According to the driver's log, the Automatic Warning System (AWS) had been "isolated." This device sounds a horn in the cab if a signal indicates the driver should slow down; failure to acknowledge the warning triggers automatic braking. According to the railroad's rules, a train found to have a faulty warning system can complete its journey before being repaired.

In addition, a more sophisticated back up, the Automatic Train Protection (ATP), was not working, although it had been fitted to the train. After a 1988 rail crash at Clapham in which 35 people were killed, an inquiry report called for this device to be used throughout the rail system. But in 1995 the government decided not to implement the recommendation, saying the estimated £1 billion (US\$1.6 billion) cost would outweigh its benefits.

As well, the train had only one driver. Until a year ago trains were not permitted to run at more than 100 m.p.h. without a second driver in the cab. But under a productivity deal with the drivers union it was agreed to have a single driver, increasing the possibility of missing a warning signal.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott announced the day of the crash that the Health and Safety Executive would conduct a public inquiry. It was announced two days later, however, that the inquiry could be delayed well into next year pending the police investigation if there are manslaughter charges against the driver.

The day following the crash, a *Militant* sales team in the area of the crash found many workers agreed with a placard socialists had made reading, "Don't frame the driver. Rail companies are guilty. People before profits." One rail worker said that in the past, slow freight trains would not cross the path of fast trains, but the cost-cutting of today led to this unsafe practice.

Long working hours on the railroad are also an issue. One of the recommendations of the Clapham inquiry was that rail work-

ers should have a 12-hour gap between shifts and not work for more than 13 days in a row. But the rail companies have found other ways to run workers to the bone. At Waterloo rail station, one driver pointed out that his schedule can include working seven hours without a break during an 11-hour shift. Many drivers and guards at that station had signed up for a bonus scheme that only gave them three days off in six weeks and depends on their never being sick or late to work. The scheme was introduced after a round of layoffs.

Survivors of the crash also reported the trains carriages were packed, with large numbers of passengers standing. Rules that can lead to rail companies being fined for overcrowding had been waived for this line.

In past months some rail workers have responded to the cost cutting moves that have led to declining safety standards.

On Connex South Central, 500 drivers imposed a ban on working during overtime and on rest days June 13-25. One in five of its trains out of London had to be canceled as a result. They were reacting to a "restructuring" package of their wages and working conditions, a part of which would have reduced the time for drivers to make safety checks. The dispute is still not resolved.

On Great Eastern Railways, a plan for paying commuters to act as guards on their way to and from work and thus cut the number of full time guards, was scrapped in August after union reaction. Guards are re-



Two separate safety devices that could have prevented the September 19 collision were not working. The crash killed six people and injured 170.

sponsible for the safety of trains. The rail companies are now seeking to implement "driver only" trains, with the guards' role downplayed and shifted towards ticket collection. A ballot in September of guards in the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers (RMT) union opposed this move. Despite the vote, individual rail companies are pushing ahead with "restructuring."

Many rail workers point to the declining

safety standards as a part of a move last year to privatize the rail network with the current 25 rail operators. A few workers also pointed out that the cost cutting moves such as "driver only," as well as major crashes such as Clapham occurred under the government-run British Rail.

Shellia Kennedy is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers union.

## Boat sinks killing hundreds in Haiti

BY ANGEL LARISCY

MIAMI — Hundreds of people died in the latest sinking of a ferry just off the coast of Haiti on September 8. The ferry, the *Pride of La Gonave*, was making a 12-mile journey from the island of La Gonave to the port of Montrouis, 50 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince. The ferry boat sinking was the sixth such disaster there in the five years.

Survivors, estimated at between 30 and 60 people, recounted how after making the trip from La Gonave to Montrouis, people began to prepare to disembark the ferry. Many of them moved to one side of the boat to get in rowboats that would take them to shore, since there is no dock. It was then that the ferry became unstable and overturned in deep water. Only those on the very top level of the boat were able to swim to safety, while others were trapped inside.

The 60-foot ferry was certified to carry 80 passengers. The owner said he had 260 aboard, but survivors say closer to 700 people were making the voyage. The owner of the boat, Edner Dorival, a businessman from Miami, remarked, "I can't blame anyone except the people themselves."

In Haiti ferries are a convenient and cheap method of transportation. On the island of La Gonave, residents rely on sea transport to get most of their food and fuel. In February 1993, a ferry called *The Neptune* went down off Haiti's southern coast while carrying 1,000 passengers, 700 of whom died. There is no agency that regulates Haiti's coastal transportation service. Survivors said the boat had no life preservers and some of its doors had been bolted shut, making it impossible for people to escape.

### Officials downplay number of deaths

When the disaster first occurred, the U.S. Coast Guard reported they sent ships and helicopters to the scene but left soon after it became clear there were few people to be

rescued and there was confusion about the actual death toll.

A U.S. embassy official in Port-au-Prince told the *Miami Herald*, "First we heard from the Haitian Coast Guard and survivors that there were hundreds of dead. Now our latest information is that the figures may be grossly exaggerated."

Haitian government officials claimed that 400 people swam to safety immediately after the accident. Later they downplayed the reports of overcrowding on the *La Gonave*. Claiming a government inspector counted 276 people boarding the vessel, the director of Haiti's National Maritime Service, Venel Pierre, said that a recent inspection showed the ship was in "perfect condition to carry 250 to 300 passengers."

Over the next few days, as it became clear that indeed hundreds were dead, U.S. and Haitian officials did very little to expedite the recovery of people trapped inside the ferry. Divers from the Haitian Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, and other members of the United Nations occupying force in the country have been sharply criticized for the slow pace of their recovery efforts.

As of September 14, only 130 corpses had been recovered. At that time estimates were that over a hundred more were still lodged inside the sunken ferry.

On September 16 United States Naval officials announced they would end the recovery of bodies and declared the official death toll to be 133. Survivors continue to assert that more than 500 were killed and still trapped in the boat. The U.S. Navy said raising the ferry is not an option.

Many family members of the dead waited on the beaches for days after the disaster for the bodies to be brought to shore. Haitian president Rene Preval did not visit the scene until the next day. At that time he didn't address or meet with family members and others waiting for bodies to be found. Instead, he gave interviews to the international press. Preval, commenting that it was impossible to deal with such questions in the 15 months he has been in office, said, "It's a catastrophe, and unfortunately it's the state of the country. Today it's this one, and tomorrow it'll be another one and we'll be left asking the same questions."

### Residents demand a dock be built

Frustrated by the slowness of the recovery of the bodies and the lack of response from government officials, hundreds protested in the days following the disaster, including blocking Haiti's main highway on September 10 and building barricades of burning tires. "Now's the time!" protesters yelled. "Now's the time to raise the boat! Get the bodies!"

This most recent accident has renewed de-

mands for docks to be constructed to allow ferries to tie up and unload passengers at sites around the island.

"Everywhere is an accident waiting to happen," said photo journalist Tony Savino. Savino traveled to Haiti the day after the ferry sinking on assignment for *Time* magazine. Savino noted that all methods of transportation on the island, as well as the roads, are underdeveloped and in disrepair.

On his most recent trip to Haiti, Savino said that Haitians remarked how government officials would not spend money to develop the island, instead paying off the banks. "One Haitian told me, 'We don't have a government, we have boot lickers,'" said Savino.

Government officials complain of a lack of money and resources to provide docks, regulate the sea ways and improve safety. On August 20 the Haitian government and the U.S. Agency for International Development signed an accord for a loan of about \$12 million.

"This accord will allow us to finance the external debt of the government to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other financial institutions," said Planning Minister Eric Deryce on the occasion. "Thus we are going to pay the interest on the debts which have come due for fiscal year 1996-1997, and also those which were not paid in 1996 - 1997. That is the main goal of those funds."

Haitians continue to face an economic crisis with their currency, the gourd, falling in value to the dollar at the same time most items are imported.

Four days after the sinking President Preval visited the scene to report that the recovered bodies would not be turned over to families but placed in a mass grave since decomposition would not allow for identification.

He was greeted with jeers and some family members of the dead broke through security barriers and ran after the president until he was rescued by his security guards and carried on to a boat. "Throw him in the water," yelled the husband of a woman drowned in the boat sinking.

In Miami, the Socialist Workers candidate for City Commission District 5, Rollande Girard remarked, "This reinforces the need to demand that United States and United Nations troops withdraw from Haiti."

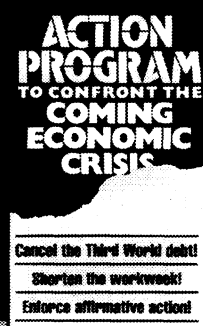
U.S. troops invaded Haiti in October 1994 under the guise of returning the ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. "My campaign has also been raising the demand to cancel the Third World debt," Girard noted. "This is an example of how the working people of Haiti are paying for this debt with their lives."

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# 'Keep up the vital work' of printing Pathfinder books

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — Supporters of Pathfinder's campaign to raise \$125,000 got off to a good start in Auckland, New Zealand, by winning pledges of \$1,911 surpassing an initial goal of \$1,600, reports Felicity Coggan, a member of the Engineers Union there. The pledges were made by participants in a September 6 Militant Labor Forum held for three local delegates who attended the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba last July.

What the Cubans do is the "pinnacle of protest," Matt Howell told the audience. Howell, who attended the festival as a delegate of the Students' Union at the Unitech technical college, said that until recently all he had known about Cuba was that they had good boxers. He explained how reading *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58* by Ernesto Che Guevara had inspired him to find out more about the Cuban revolution. Howell is now reading *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, which he bought at the festival. Two other festival

delegates, Eugene Lepou of the Communist League and Young Socialist member Nathan Simms, described the response to Pathfinder books at the festival. Some 88 titles were sold there by Pathfinder supporters from Australia and New Zealand.

Pittsburgh jumped to the top third of the fund chart following a September 13 public meeting. The program to kick off the fund locally featured a discussion on the shifts in U.S. and world politics today and the value of reading *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. Along with new pledges won, a few participants raised their pledges and several made initial payments bringing Pittsburgh up to \$1,195.

With the halfway point near, fund supporters in Pittsburgh are mapping out plans for the remaining weeks of their drive to raise \$5,000. "We're planning to hold a second fund event focusing on Pathfinder's new title *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*," Chris Remple reports. "The event will be held around October 9, the 30th anniversary

of Che Guevara's fall in combat. We're planning to put together a broad panel of people who have read the book and want to comment on it."

A St. Louis supporter recently sent in a check for \$100 with a note that sets an example for the spirit and planning that will bring the fund in on time and in full. "I plan to send in two more checks of \$100 at the beginning of October and after the 15th," he wrote. "Keep up the vital work!"

The campaign to raise \$125,000 now approaches the half-way point. Careful planning, organizing outreach to potential contributors, and regular payments on pledges through the next five weeks will be key ingredients in this leg of the drive. Total contributions received in New York each week need to average more than \$13,700 to achieve the fund goal of \$125,000.

Contributions should be made to the Pathfinder Fund and mailed to 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014, or contact the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you listed in the directory on page 12.

## \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund September 1 - November 1

CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	%
New Zealand	2,370	840	35%
<b>United States</b>			
Philadelphia	4,000	1,967	49%
Detroit	4,000	1,450	36%
Twin Cities	7,000	2,485	36%
Atlanta*	4,500	1,529	34%
Seattle*	9,000	2,955	33%
Boston	5,500	1,630	30%
Pittsburgh	5,000	1,195	24%
Des Moines	2,400	515	21%
Chicago	11,000	2,266	21%
San Francisco	9,500	1,850	19%
Los Angeles	10,000	1,705	17%
New York	12,000	2,045	17%
Newark	8,500	1,275	15%
Washington, D.C.	3,000	447	15%
Miami	3,000	440	15%
Birmingham	3,500	355	10%
Houston	5,500	550	10%
Cleveland	2,400	30	1%
Other	2,918	1,486	51%
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>112,718</b>	<b>26,175</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Other Int'l</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>INT'L TOTAL:</b>	<b>121,838</b>	<b>27,260</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE:</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>41,250</b>	<b>33%</b>

## Ontario gov't backs off antilabor law

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — The labor movement scored a major victory here September 18, when Ontario labor minister Elizabeth Witmer announced in the provincial legislature that the government was caving in to almost every demand of the Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL) in relation to the government's impending antiunion legislation, Bill 136. Thousands of hospital, municipal, and others of the 400,000 government workers targeted by the legislation were due to begin a series of rotating strikes September 22, leading to a possible province-wide strike in defense of union rights and against hospital closures and other cuts to social services. The walkouts would have been illegal under Bill 136.

The next day Education Minister John Snobelen offered similar concessions to the province's 126,000 teachers, who are also threatening a province-wide strike to defend their union rights and the education system against massive cuts.

Bill 136, and the companion legislation for teachers, which the government intends to pass by the beginning of October, is part of a package of laws forcing the amalgamation of municipalities and school boards. The government aims to "download" the costs of social services on to local government as a means of cutting the social wage of working people. The move would also allow the government to take into its hands the power to set education standards and working conditions for teachers, previously controlled by local school boards and the teachers' unions.

Left unamended, Bill 136 would have banned government workers from striking for up to four years during the "transition" and would have made their wages and working conditions subject to the rulings of a government-appointed commission.

Last July 28 the OFL held an emergency convention in Toronto to map out plans to defeat Bill 136 and the companion legislation targeting teachers.

Despite the government announcement, the labor movement remains on "strike alert." To date the government has refused to meet with union officials to show them in writing the exact nature of its proposed amendments to the legislation, which it says won't be revealed until September 29. In the meantime, the government has announced sweeping changes to the provincial education system that the Ontario teachers' federation says will result in the firing of over 10,000 teachers.

Strike votes among government workers are continuing. In the Canadian Union of Public Employees union there have been strike votes with majorities as high as 94 percent in major cities such as Toronto, Hamilton, and Windsor.

"We're seeing evidence that when people stand up to the school-yard bully, the bully backs down," said New Democratic Party leader Howard Hampton.

"This is a victory for all working people to celebrate and build on," said auto worker Joanne Pritchard, the Communist League candidate for Mayor of Toronto in the November 10 municipal election. "We need to keep up the pressure and drive the govern-

ment back further. Working people need to get up to North Bay for the September 26-27 Days of Action against the Harris government."

North Bay is the home constituency of Ontario premier Michael Harris. Thousands of government workers, teachers, students, and others are expected to take part in the two days of work stoppages, and demonstrations.

John Steele is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2113.



Militant/George Rose

Unionist march in Toronto 'Days of Action' in October 1996

## Korean defector had CIA ties

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The former north Korean ambassador to Egypt, Chang Sung Gil, who defected to the United States, was a "C.I.A. mole," reported the September 29 issue of the *Nation* magazine. "In fact, the CIA may have been courting" this defection "for a very long time," acknowledged *Newsweek* in a September 8 article. "While it's not clear when the agents landed [Chang], it was well before his defection," the article stated.

Washington's spy agency stepped up its efforts to recruit diplomats of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) about two years ago, U.S. government officials reportedly admitted. CIA agents assisted the August 26 defections of Chang and his brother, who was a trade official at Pyongyang's mission in Paris. The DPRK government broke off missile negotiations that were scheduled the next day.

North Korean deputy representative to the United Nations Li Gun called the Clinton administration's provocations a

"grave insult" that reflected "hostility" toward his country. Recent negotiations toward a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War collapsed September 19 after Washington dismissed linking the talks with the withdrawal of its 37,000 troops from south Korea and sending food aid to north Korea.

The negotiations, known as "four party" talks, included the governments of north and south Korea, the United States, and China. In another provocation aimed at the workers states in China and north Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Secretary of Defense William Cohen announced an agreement September 23 stating that Tokyo would provide support for U.S. military operations in the event of a military confrontation in the region. The pact also included enforcing economic blockades and coordination of "defense policies and military postures." The U.S. State Department had announced in August that it had imposed new economic sanctions on north Korea.

## 1,000 march in Sacramento

Continued from front page

Somers Building Maintenance, the largest janitorial contractor in the area. They have faced police surveillance and mass arrests, as well as harassment on the job. Sacramento cops arrested 30 union supporters at a demonstration August 27, as well as eight others at a July 24 rally protesting the firing of two workers who had presented a petition complaining of abusive treatment by their supervisors at Somers. The August rally was filmed by a cop posing as a cameraman for a local TV station. A spokesperson for the police sought to justify their undercover spying, telling the *Sacramento Bee* that such action was a "routine procedure." The cop "was without malicious intent. He felt that if he used a police identification he would bring attention to himself." Protests from the television station have been ignored by the police.

Heladio Muniz, a union janitor now employed by American Building Maintenance (ABM), told the *Militant* that he had worked for two years at Somers. "They mistreated people there," he said. "I was in the union but got fired due to union activity." Muniz said that they are also seeking wage in-

creases and health insurance from ABM, which has a contract with the SEIU janitors. "We want to get the same contract for both," he said.

"I'm here to support the struggles of the working class and poor," Teresa Rodríguez told this reporter. "People see the numbers out here. They try and ignore you, but people working here could see us." Rodríguez and Nicole Alimon, education students at nearby Sacramento State University, said there were many students from their campus at the rally. They had joined the April 13 UFW demonstration in Watsonville, and said MEChA club and other student groups at Sacramento State were supporting the UFW even before then. MEChA, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlán, is a Chicano student organization with chapters on many campuses throughout the country. Rodríguez also took note of the recent strike victories against United Parcel Service and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). "People will appreciate it when BART and UPS workers get that they want," she said.

Jim Altemberg is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5.



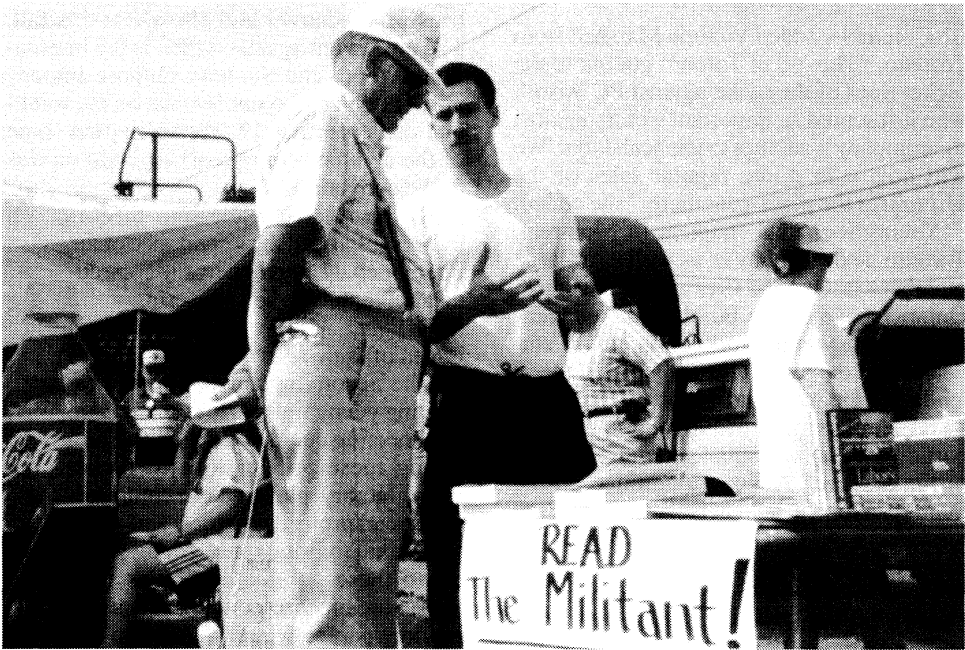
SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Join in October 4-12
'Militant' sales push

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
"We call on all our readers to join Militant supporters in dozens of cities around the world in a special sales mobilization between October 4 and October 12," said Militant editor Naomi Craine.

at political events on Che," Craine said. "Making a special effort to bring other workers and young people to such activities and sign them up to get the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial (PM) will pay off politically.



Young Socialist Doug Nelson on sales table at Labor Day march in Copperhill, Tennessee.

'MILITANT' SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE
September 1 - October 26
WEEK 3
Table with columns: City/Country, Goal, Sold, %, Militant, Goal, Sold, %, PM, Goal, Sold, New Int'l, Sold

Militant supporters will use this target week of sales, and the days leading up to it, to get on or ahead of schedule in the subscription drive, Craine stated.

Here's what Militant supporters report from some of the cities where they've consistently kept ahead so far.

"Due to our early success in the drive we have decided to raise our goal to 40," said Holly Harkness in a note from Detroit. "There's no big trick to our sales. We just try to get out sales teams to campuses, door-to-door, and out of town trips like the 'Ask a Working Woman' conference in Washington, D.C. We've also sold subscriptions out of the Pathfinder bookstore and at Militant Labor Forums.

While the drive's goal is to win hundreds of new subscribers, sub renewals also keep coming in and are often combined with purchases of copies of the Marxist magazine New Internationalist (NI) and Pathfinder books.

and bought nos. 6 and 10 of New Internationalist. His parents are from Trinidad and he was interested in the article on Maurice Bishop and the Grenadian revolution.

Dindo's movie presents a caricature of Che and the guerrilla campaign in Bolivia Guevara led. But many viewers are interested to find out what Che had to say himself and the view of revolutionaries today.

Interest in socialist literature is also considerable among industrial workers. "I have been carrying Militants and PMs in my lunch bag and keeping some in my locker," wrote Maggie Trowe, a member of the United, Food and Commercial Workers and a meatpacker in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Cappy Kidd, a member of the United Auto Workers in Chicago, reported that he and a member of the Young Socialists recently organized a showing of Labor's Turning Point, a documentary on the 1934 Teamsters strikes.

In both of these cities, Militant supporters sent in a good number of subs last week, showing forward motion towards getting on schedule. Larry Lane from San Francisco reported that socialists from the Bay Area and Los Angeles sold about 15 subscriptions to farm workers and others during a regional sales trip to the area around Sacramento, California, September 16 - 21.

As part of making plans for the upcoming target week and beyond, Militant readers can consider joining a sales and reporting team to Puerto Rico scheduled for October 16 - 20.

bookstore. The number is listed on page 12.

BY SARA LOBMAN

"Attached is an order from a university bookstore for 32 books related to Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution," Mary Nell Bockman wrote from Boston.

"While I was meeting with the buyer, I noticed a student whose ears perked up as I started taking out the books and talking about Che Guevara," Bockman continued. "He kept moving closer and closer, looking through different books until he was browsing the 'management skills' section next to where we were.

Pathfinder supporters in Minnesota are organizing an intensive week of sales to bookstores and libraries in that region. Greg McCartan, from Pathfinder's offices in New York, is participating in the special effort. "We did five visits in Madison, Wisconsin the first day," he noted, "and got two orders for 53 books.

The cloth edition of Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla' is now available. One library wholesaler has placed an order for 37 copies. Many libraries prefer ordering cloth-bound books to paperbacks.

Civil war in Algeria escalates, 85 killed

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

At least 85 people were killed September 23 in the second-worst massacre in six years of civil war in Algeria. Two days earlier, an armed group slaughtered 53 civilians, following the killing of 19 alleged "Islamic militants" by the government security forces.

The most recent killings occurred in an area considered a stronghold of the FIS, which is banned in Algeria. Washington and other imperialist governments support the military-backed regime of Algerian president Liamine Zeroual. They "view the possibility of any attempt to oust him with apprehension" since "he has kept Algeria's oil and gas flowing," the New York Times reported September 11.

IN THE UNIONS
Table with columns: Country/Union, Goal, Sold, %, Militant, Goal, Sold, %, PM, Goal, Sold, New Int'l, Sold

AEEU - Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU - Amalgamated Metal Workers Union; CAW - Canadian Autoworkers Union; EU - Engineers Union; MWU - Meat Workers Union; IAM - International Association of Machinists; OCAW - Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT - National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGUW - Transport and General Workers Union; UAW - United Auto Workers; UFBGWU - United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; UFCW - United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA - United Mine Workers of America; UNITE - Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA - United Steelworkers of America; UTU - United Transportation Union.

# YS in Canada calls founding convention

Continued from front page

ish Columbia, added Victoria Marshall from Toronto. "The YS in Toronto got out to the picket lines of the strike against PC World, who just scored an important victory against the company's attempt to use scab labor. We will now start doing regular sales of the *Militant* at the plant-gate there," she added.

Young Socialists chapters in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, as well as at-large members in Quebec City and Woodstock, Ontario, have begun building the convention among young workers on strike, students, and others. Maria Isabel LeBlanc, a leader of the YS from Montreal, said that "YS members from Montreal and Toronto participated in the annual general assembly of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, held in Hull, Quebec, September 19-21. This was an important opening to build the YS and meet dozens of fighters for women's rights who were interested in getting subscriptions to the *Militant* and buying Pathfinder books that put forward a working-class perspective." In total, eight subscriptions to the *Militant* and a number of Pathfinder books were sold at the event.

Young Socialists from Toronto and Montreal will also join in the Days of Action organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour in North Bay, Ontario, September 26-27 against bill 136, which would prevent public sector workers from being able to strike. Fearing a growing confrontation with the labour movement, the Ontario government of Michael Harris announced September 18 that it would not go ahead with the antiunion legislation.

On September 27 municipal workers from throughout Quebec will demonstrate in Quebec City against attempts by the provincial government to take \$500 million in cuts from their salaries. Conetl Tonatiuh García Ramírez, a high school student who just joined the YS in Quebec City, said, "It's good that the workers are saying enough is enough — not everyone understands that the problem isn't just in workers' salaries but in the economic system." YS members from Montreal plan to participate in the protest along with Ramírez and other youth.

In Vancouver, YS members are going to picket lines of workers on strike at Fletcher Challenge, and to the Yakima Valley, in Washington state, to meet up with farm workers. Jacob Gavin, a YS leader from Vancouver, said, "The Young Socialists is participating with others in protests against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which will hold a series of meet-

ings of leaders from several imperialist countries in Vancouver and elsewhere this fall. The next event against APEC is the International Youth and Students Oppose Imperialist Globalization conference on the weekend of September 19. We've invited some of the activists we're working with on this to the convention."

At the August leadership meeting, YS leaders discussed the importance of the international campaign by the communist movement to sell subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and issues of *New Internationalist* in building the upcoming convention and recruiting young fighters to communism. The meeting decided to lead the YS in taking these publications to picket lines, factory plant gates, campuses and social protest activities, and at the same time to bring other young fighters to these political activities. The leadership meeting concluded that this is a key part to winning youth to understanding the revolutionary potential of the working class.

As part of building an organization that includes youth who are Quebecois, English-speaking, and of other nationalities, the meeting discussed the importance of having revolutionary books in French. These books are essential tools to reach out to revolutionary minded youth and workers who are Quebecois, which is one reason why the YS is participating in the fund drive for Pathfinder Press. This drive is raising funds to keep Pathfinder books in print and publish new titles, including translating communist books into French. The French translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* is scheduled to be out by the time of the YS convention, and the agenda will include a celebration of the book's publication.

To prepare for the founding convention,



Militant/John Steele, left, above: Monica Jones



By reaching out to other revolutionary-minded youth and students at events like the rally for Quebecois sovereignty (above), the fight for a woman's right to choose an abortion (left), strikes, and other labor actions, the YS in Canada has tripled its size since 1995. The convention will enable the YS to consolidate and strengthen its forces in Canada.

ity, but a key part of the line of march of working people in Canada towards taking political power out of the hands of the capitalists. Other topics include the need for a revolutionary communist youth organization and communist party as part of struggling for a socialist revolution in Canada; the struggle for a workers' and farmers' government; the Cuban revolution and its importance in world politics; the fight for women's rights; and the struggles of Quebecois and other oppressed nationalities.

The upcoming convention will elect a Central Committee, responsible for leading the YS between conventions. There will also be a YS fund drive following the gathering.

For more information on the Young Socialists in Canada or the convention, call (514) 284-5547 in Montreal, (416) 588-8591 in Toronto, or (604) 872-8343 in Vancouver.

## Sex offender laws limit rights in Britain

BY PAUL DAVIES

MANCHESTER, England — The British government is pressing ahead with a range of measures to restrict democratic rights, including the establishment of a National Sex Offenders Register. Guidelines for using this register were drawn up in collaboration with the Association of Chief Police Officers, and include giving police the power to selectively release the names and ad-

resses of those on the list to public organizations and communities where former prisoners are now living. The list will in large part comprise of those who have been convicted of rape and child sex abuse, but it will also include "indecent" between men and the possession of indecent photographs of children. Anyone who has been jailed for these offenses for more than two and a half years will be placed on the register for their entire lives. They must also report to the cops every time they move to a different home.

Initially 6,000 names will be placed on the register, with an estimated 3,500 being added every year. The Home Office says that 110,000 people in England and Wales have been convicted of sex offenses.

This step comes after similar legislation was adopted in the United States, known as "Megan's Law," that requires neighbors, schools, and other institutions to be notified when anyone convicted of a sex offense moves into the area.

Several recent incidents in this country illustrate the impact these laws can have. In Sterling the local media published the name of a man undergoing a sex offenders treatment program and he was besieged at the hostel where he lived by a crowd of people. The police eventually drove him to a secret location. In Birmingham a local council housing officer informed residents that a convicted sex offender was moving into the area, and the person had to be moved at a secret location after local protests. In Middlesbrough the local council has announced that it will deny convicted sex offenders the right to accommodation on council housing estates.

Announcing the guidelines on disclosure of information from the National Sex Offenders Register, government minister Alun Michael said nothing of these incidents, but acknowledged that the general release of information has led to vigilantes attacks on individuals wrongly named as pedophiles. He stated that the "general release of information has big dangers," but "we are not talking about automatic notification of the local community." An article in the

Manchester *Guardian* describing the measures adopted by the British government bore the title, "Pedophile guidelines expected to end 'outing'."

What Michael described as a "graded response," however, gives the police the power to choose when to release names on the register to schools, local child protection agencies, and communities.

It will also be tied to new legislation making it a crime for a convicted sex offender to seek work with children, and allow employers more powers to dig into the background of job applicants. In effect the laws impose a second sentence, without the right to a trial or a jury, after that handed down by the court.

Giving the police the powers to maintain the list also gives them the opportunity to pull in and question those previously convicted when a new crime occurs in the area where they are living.

The courts have also been using allegations of child abuse to undermine the right to the presumption of innocence. In Orkney in September 1996 two children were adopted against their mother's wishes following allegations of child abuse that were never proven.

The establishment of the National Sex Offenders Register comes as the government plans additional attacks on democratic rights in the name of combating crime. The Home Secretary announced that courts will be able to add bans on driving licenses and the withdrawal of passports to those who are convicted of a crime and receive "community sentences."

Parliament will also discuss plans to extend house arrest curfews — enforced by electronic tagging — to juveniles, fine defaulters, petty offenders, and those on bail. Just as the national sex offenders register gives the police the powers to publicly name those convicted of rape and child abuse, so the government is also proposing to give the courts the right to "name and shame" those convicted of juvenile offenses.

Debbie Delange in Manchester contributed to this article.

### Young Socialists Convention

October 31- November 2 ♦ Montreal, Quebec

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- Solidarity with striking workers
- Self-determination for Native people
- Defend women's rights
- Stop racism and police brutality
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For more information, call or write:

#### Young Socialists

Montreal: 4581 St. Denis, H2J 2L4, (514) 284-5547, 104614,2606 @ CompuServe

Toronto: 851 Bloor St. W., M6G 1M3, (416) 588-8591, 103474,13@ CompuServe

Vancouver: 3967 Main St., V5V 3P3 (604) 872-8343, 103430,1552@ CompuServe

- ☐ I am interested in attending the YS convention
- ☐ I am interested in joining the Young Socialists
- ☐ Enclosed is \$12(Can) for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

TELEPHONE



# 'I'm not an America First candidate'

BY JEFF POWERS

SEATTLE — "Who do I make the check out to?" a tall, bearded man asked as he approached the socialist campaign table. "The Socialist Workers Campaign Committee," replied Scott Breen, candidate for mayor of Seattle. He thanked the man, who turned out to be a union member, for his \$100 contribution, and signed him up for a subscription to the *Militant* newspaper.

Breen had just finished speaking from the floor at a mayoral candidates forum organized by the Washington Environmental Alliance for Voter Education. Although the sponsors had excluded him from the platform, campaign supporters picketed against the exclusion and supporters were allowed to set up a table inside. Breen was introduced by the program moderator and allowed to speak for a few minutes from the floor during the discussion.

Exclusion was the exception, however. Breen participated equally in seven other public debates. One couple sent a contribution of \$20 to the campaign with a note reading, "We heard you at the Washington State Arts Council Forum. Bravo!"

In addition to Breen, an aerospace mechanic at The Boeing Company, the socialist candidates in the Seattle municipal elections include Chris Rayson, a railroad worker at Burlington Northern Santa Fe, for Port of Seattle Commissioner, and Robbie Scherr, a chemical worker at Boeing, running for Seattle City Council. All three are active union members.

At a mayoral candidates forum hosted by the Seattle Film Industry, a sharp debate broke out over finding jobs in the industry. Several people in the audience complained that they were losing jobs to Vancouver, British Columbia. What could be done to keep those jobs in Seattle, they demanded?

Several of the capitalist candidates got big applause when they said that Seattle's mayor

should find a way to better compete with Vancouver.

"I'm not a Seattle First, or America First candidate," Breen explained. "Workers need to unite across borders and fight for jobs for all, not to compete with each other, which is why the Socialist Workers Party proposes a shorter workweek, with no cut in weekly pay. The workers in Vancouver have a right to a job, too," he said to scattered applause.

He pointed to the example of the UPS strikers, "where workers who were full-time and better paid supported workers who were part-time, and got lower wages and their unity in struggle won a better contract for both." All the socialist candidates visited the Teamsters picket lines during the strike against UPS, building support for their strike through the campaign and in their unions.

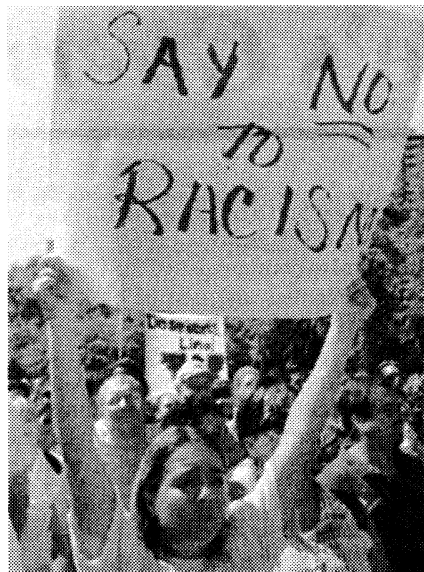
At the August meeting of the International Association of Machinists, Local 751A, which Breen is a member of, one of the Teamsters strikers who spoke to the 200 union members there took time in his remarks to thank Breen for his support. At the same union meeting, Breen took the floor to announce his campaign for mayor.

In addition to the debates, there was some newspaper, TV, and radio coverage, including in the *Seattle Times* and the *Post Intelligencer*.

During the campaign, Breen requested a leave of absence without pay to campaign in the last week before the September 16 primary elections. Several of Breen's co-workers, including his union steward, actively voiced their support for this request to management.

Boeing denied the leave. At first, the general manager told Breen that granting him a leave to run for office was like giving him a leave to look for another job. Co-workers didn't buy that, especially after reading Boeing's document entitled "Employee Involvement in Political Activities." Section

## Oil worker runs for Houston mayor



Militant/Barbara Graham

Patti Iiyama (right) declared her support for actions like 5,000-strong rally for affirmative action in Austin, Texas, September 16.

BY BARBARA GRAHAM

HOUSTON — Standing on the steps of the Houston city hall, flanked by supporters holding bright blue signs saying "Jobs for All," "Defend Affirmative Action" and "No to the Death Penalty," Patti Iiyama, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, announced in a press conference that she and her supporters had collected 1,000 signatures on petitions to place her name on the November 4 ballot.

The requirement for ballot status is 631 signatures.

Iiyama, 52, is a refinery worker at the Lyondell-Citgo Refinery in Houston and a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227.

"Unlike the other candidates in this election race, my campaign unequivocally supports the fight taking place to-

day to defend affirmative action. We support the students at the University of Texas in Austin who have called for UT to reinstate affirmative action in admissions and scholarships," declared Iiyama to several reporters from local TV stations and newspapers. "I also urge a 'no' vote on the misnamed Houston Civil Rights ballot initiative."

The Houston Civil Rights initiative, patterned after Proposition 209 in California, seeks to eliminate affirmative action in city purchasing, construction, and professional service contracts.

The oil worker also explained her campaign's championing of fights by working people for better wages and working conditions, such as the victory against UPS and the on-going fight by locked-out workers at the Crown refinery in Houston.

## Boeing harasses socialist candidate

BY AUTUMN KNOWLTON

SEATTLE — "I am protesting The Boeing Company's attempt to intimidate me for expressing my political views while running for mayor of Seattle," Scott Breen, the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Seattle, declared at a press conference September 23. Just two days after the September 16 primary eliminated Breen from the general election, he was called into a meeting with an official of Boeing's Employee Relations-Ethics Department. Breen is an assembler-installer at Boeing's Everett plant and a member of the International Association of Machinists.

At that meeting, he was told that he was being investigated for his statements criticizing Boeing during a radio talk show a week earlier. Breen had spoken about his campaign on the popular Dave Ross Talk Show on KIRO Radio September 11.

In the presence of his IAM union steward, the Boeing official asked Breen questions about the program. It was implied that his appearance on the show might have been in violation of Boeing rules.

"The socialist views I expressed on KIRO were the same I had publicly espoused throughout my campaign," Breen told the press conference. "I have said many times and in many ways that Boeing puts its profits ahead of human needs and public safety."

In his statement to the press, Breen explained that this is an attack on the right to free speech for all working people. "Boeing hopes to scare workers away from talking to the news media, to the public, and to each other about the effect of Boeing's speedup of production on the job."

Breen said that co-workers who heard about the company's veiled threat responded with comments like, "This sounds like Gestapo tactics," and "What ever happened to free speech?" The unionist reported that IAM officials he spoke with said they will defend him if the company attempts disciplinary action against him.

Breen urged "everyone concerned with defending democratic rights to protest Boeing's recent scare tactic against me."

Earlier in the day, Breen had spoken at a hearing of the Public Disclosure Commis-

sion (PDC) in Olympia, Washington, describing the harassment he faced from Boeing. At that hearing, the PDC voted to continue the exemption from publicly disclosing the names, addresses, and employers of contributors to the Socialist Workers 1997 Campaign.

The campaign is still fighting a ruling by the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission denying an exemption disclosing names under city reporting requirements.

## Minneapolis: socialists fight to overturn laws that limit free speech

BY JEFFREY JONES

MINNEAPOLIS — Supporters of free speech here are fighting to overturn two city ordinances regulating the sale and posting of political literature, arguing that they violate First Amendment rights.

Minneapolis mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton has begun to receive letters denouncing citations issued against Doug Jenness, who is a campaign supporter of Jennifer Benton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, for selling the *Militant* and posting fliers.

Among the letters are those from Chris Spotted Eagle, Native American activist, filmmaker and board member of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union; Roxanne Gould, Director of the American Indian Learning Resource Center at the University of Minnesota; and Tim Davis, Chairperson of the Grassroots Party of Minnesota. More than 150 names have been collected on petitions demanding that the charges against Jenness be dismissed.

A public meeting, hosted by the Militant Labor Forum, has been set for October 10 to hear speakers and messages calling for dismissal of the citations and support for a civil lawsuit against the ordinances that were allegedly violated.

At a news conference here on September 18, Benton announced that she had filed the legal action that day in U.S. District Court.

4B stated, "The company will make reasonable efforts to adjust the work schedule of an employee-candidate for state and local public office.... Where work schedules permit, the employee may be granted leave without pay." After this was brought to the attention of Human Resources, the company still refused his request for a week's leave, but changed the reason, saying that "work schedules" did not permit it.

Commenting on the Boeing's refusal, Vern Dunn, one of Breen's co-workers, said, "If it had been a salaried Republican running, he'd have gotten all the time off he wanted." Dennis Frazier, another co-worker, commented, "I find the most distressing thing is that Boeing finds it convenient to not follow their rules when its inconvenient

for them."

The Friday before the primary election, *The Boeing News*, a weekly newspaper put out by the company, ran a column titled, "Boeing Employees in the race." Among other candidates it included Breen and Scherr, identifying their affiliation as Socialist Workers Party. After reading that Scherr was a socialist candidate for Seattle city council, one 24-year-old worker approached her to discuss her political ideas and got a subscription to the *Militant*.

The September 16 primary resulted in Paul Schell, the Democratic Port Commissioner and Charles Chong, a Democratic City Council member, advancing to the General election in November. Scott Breen finished sixth among the 11 candidates.

The complaint contends that the city ordinances "leave the right to exercise First Amendment activity to the unbridled discretion of governmental officials, without setting forth definite, objective standards for the exercise of that discretion."

Randall Tighe, a prominent civil liberties attorney locally and Benton's lawyer, also filed a motion for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order that would bar the city from enforcing the ordinances in question while a ruling on the suit is being considered.

U.S. District Judge John Tunheim will hear the arguments on the suit, but no date has been set. Jenness' arraignment is October 8. The maximum penalty is \$700 and 90 days in jail for each citation.

The citations against Jenness, who was also the SWP candidate for mayor of St. Paul, were issued when he was staffing a campaign table on Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue, the city intersection with the most foot traffic. A Minneapolis police officer, moonlighting for an association of area merchants, gave a citation for selling the *Militant* without a permit and another for posting a campaign flier on a lamppost.

"Even though Socialist Workers campaigners have had tables many times in the past few years on this intersection," Benton stated, "this was the first time they have even

been warned, let alone cited, under these ordinances."

Tighe told a St. Paul *Pioneer Press* reporter that the absence of standards in granting licenses for selling and posting means "the department head and the City Council person of that ward has the discretion. So they could say, Sharon Sayles-Belton could sell literature but Jennifer Benton could not."

Sayles-Belton is running for reelection as mayor of Minneapolis and is backed by the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party. The Republican-endorsed contender is Barbara Carlson, a former radio talk show host.

Benton, who placed eighth out of 14 candidates in the September 9 "nonpartisan primary," is continuing her campaign and is calling for write-in votes.

Sayles-Belton, responding to a request from Benton that the citations be dismissed, said she supports "First Amendment rights of free speech and your right to conduct a political campaign. The exercise of these rights may, however, be subject to civil and criminal regulation." In her letter, the mayor referred Benton to the city attorney's office.

Benton said that "Sayles-Belton has avoided taking a stand against these undemocratic ordinances and acts as if she has no influence. We're going to keep the pressure on her to dismiss the citations and support the effort to overturn the ordinances."

# Praises for 'Pombo: A Man of Che's *Guerrilla*'

Below we reprint three recent reviews of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* by Harry Villegas. The first is from the September 5-12 issue of *Claridad*, a pro-independence weekly published in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The next review appeared in the September 5 issue of the *Tribune*, a weekly paper reflecting the views of the left wing of the Labour Party in Britain. The third is from the September issue of the library newsletter *Wisconsin Bookwatch*, and was also included in the electronic magazine "Internet Bookwatch."

**Pombo: A Man of Che's *Guerrilla*** by Harry Villegas Tamayo. 365 pp. New York, 1997. \$21.95.

## From *Claridad*:

Three decades after his death at the hands of the Bolivian military and U.S. advisors, interest in Che Guevara is growing and his perspectives and actions continue to be the focus of debate worldwide. One important contribution to this discussion is *Pombo: A Man of Che's guerrilla: With Che Guevara in Bolivia, 1966-68* by Harry Villegas.

Published by Pathfinder Press, of New York, the book is a never-before-published diary and account of the 1966-68 revolutionary campaign that Ernesto Che Guevara led in Bolivia. In its pages Villegas, a young veteran of the Cuban revolution who was just twenty-some years old and a member of Guevara's general staff, tells the story of the effort to forge a new leadership on a continental level capable not only of toppling the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Bolivia, but also accelerating the fight for national liberation in Latin America. The rise in struggles of workers, peasants, and youth culminated a few years later in a massive revolutionary wave that was felt throughout the Southern Cone of the American continent.

## From the *Tribune*:

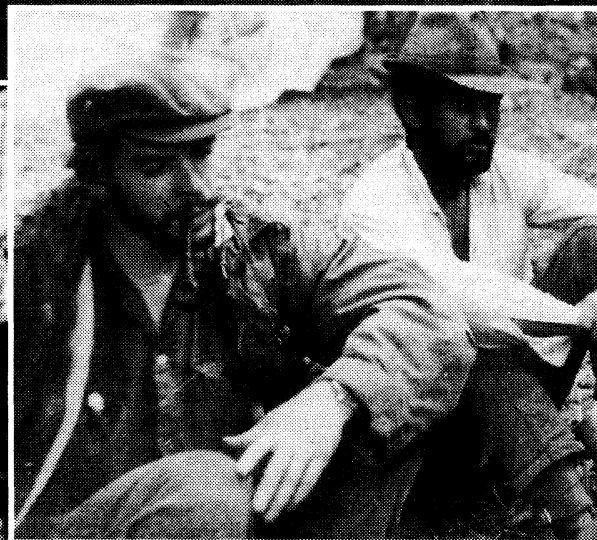
It is almost 30 years since the death of Che Guevara at the hands of the Bolivian army in an isolated forest settlement. No document speak of his courage and audacity — and that of his Cuban and Bolivian comrades — with such clarity and authenticity as this book.

Pombo — real name Harry Villegas — is a black Cuban and veteran of the revolu-

tionary war and a series of internationalist campaigns in the Congo (1965), Bolivia (1966-68) and Angola (1981-90). He was also commander of the Guantánamo border brigade in the seventies and one of his country's most decorated military heroes.

Pombo's story is an epochal narrative. It marks an exemplary internationalist spirit which Cuba gave — and despite huge present obstructions and limitations — continues to give to the struggling peoples of the world.

When Che Guevara decided to turn from the task of



Top, Militant/Joseph Hansen; above, courtesy Richard Dindo  
Top, delegates hear Fidel Castro address conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity in Havana, August 1967. The slogan reads, "The duty of every revolutionary is to make the revolution." Above, Che Guevara and Harry Villegas (Pombo) in Bolivia, late 1966 or early 1967. Left, combatants in the guerrilla in Bolivia, left to right, Urbano, Miguel, Marcos, Che, Chino, and Pacho.

institutionalising the revolution in Cuba to building another on the mainland of South America, it was to Vietnam that he turned for his inspiration: "To create two, three... many Vietnams — that is the watchword."

Yet, despite the genius and charisma of his commander, Pombo's narrative is about a tireless collective effort by a group of men and women whose creative tenacity and stamina was breathtaking in its assurance.

Guevara's prediction was that it would take seven to 10 years to build a revolution in Bolivia, and from there to move on to Peru and, incrementally, to the rest of the continent to found a "great socialist America."

Thus, this Caribbean island, this "small

point on the map of the world", as Pombo wrote of his own country, would issue a challenge to the system of imperialism everywhere — and particularly to its source, the "thieving eagle" of the north.

The journal itself is naked, fast-moving — like the campaign it describes, with little emphasis on reflection, extraneous emotion or descriptive detail.

Only occasionally does Pombo stop to behold the beauty of the terrain in which his struggle is being waged, under a sun "that could split rocks". He suddenly pauses to think of his son, his wife on their anniversary or his mother on Mother's Day. He tells of the tribulations of obtaining food and fresh water, of eating snail soup or a captured cat. He describes Guevara ordering them, one by one, to urinate into the dried-up radiator of their only vehicle.

He does not glorify Guevara. Staying close to the principle of "revolutionary truth" that marked the guerrilla's reports and communiques, it is enough for Pombo simply to tell the actions of his selfless commander.

There is Guevara's insistence on freeing all prisoners after explaining to them the purposes and objectives of the struggle, condemning any inclination to humiliate those captured; his willingness to embrace the sanction imposed for any disciplinary slippage — such as allowing his weapon to be submerged in the water as they cross a river; his anger at his comrades allowing him to sleep long when he was sick; the infernal asthma that racked his body during his last days; his "iron will" enabling him to cross a ravine in the hours before his death.

Guevara, Pombo and their comrades are human exemplars, not icons but real people — strong, weak and eternally willful — and, through this narrative released by history for a new generation.

CHRIS SEARLE

## From *Wisconsin Bookwatch*:

*Pombo: A Man of Che's Guerrilla* is 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 (the alias of Harry Villegas) who was a member of Guevara's general staff, a young Cuban freedom fighter still in his 20s and already a veteran of a decade of struggle around the globe. Harry Villegas is today a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. His

day-by-day account of an epic chapter in the history of the Americas illuminates the times he lived through and which would foreshadow the titanic class battles that are beginning to manifest themselves in contemporary American society as we enter the 21st Century. *Pombo* is highly recommended reading for political and military history reading lists and will engage anyone with an interest in the memoirs of a most remarkable man.

## The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

The following review appeared in the September/October 1997 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. It was included in a roundup of "significant books of the last 75 years" compiled by the magazine's reviewers.

*The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA. New York: Pathfinder, 1994, 467 pp.5

The republication of Che Guevara's *Bolivian Diary* together with accounts by other veterans of his failed insurgency in the high Andes is intended, its editor Mary-Alice Waters writes, "to bring to life for a new generation of revolutionary-minded fighters worldwide this work by one of the great communist leaders of our time." The diary was found in Guevara's knapsack by the Bolivian military after his capture and murder in 1967. It was first published in the United States in 1968 in a special edition of *Ramparts* magazine, instantly becoming a required component of the radical student's catechism. Che's diary remains a fascinating read, dispirited and hopeful at the same time, and abruptly terminated. Guevara believed he was "opening the final stage of the liberation of the Americas." In this he was resoundingly mistaken, but his death and the recent unearthing of his remains in Bolivia have created a mythology that will likely long survive the end of the Cuban revolution he has also helped to romanticize.

## Available from Pathfinder

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

HARRY VILLEGAS TAMAYO  
(POMBO)

A never-before published story of the 1966-68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara. \$19.95 in English, \$21.95 in Spanish.

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*Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*  
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### The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's day-by-day chronicle of the 1966-67 guerrilla campaign in Bolivia, a painstaking effort to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants. \$21.95

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.



# Che Guevara and Marxist continuity

Below are excerpts from "The Politics of Economics: Che Guevara and Marxist continuity" by Steve Clark and Jack Barnes, published in issue no. 8 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. Clark is the managing editor of *New Internationalist*, and Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The issue also includes two articles written by Guevara in the 1960s and articles by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba; Cuban economist Carlos Tablada; and *New Internationalist* editor Mary-Alice Waters written between 1988 and 1991 as part of a discussion, both in Cuba and worldwide, on the lasting importance and historical weight of Guevara's contributions to the political continuity of communism. *New Internationalist* is copyright © by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY STEVE CLARK  
AND JACK BARNES

Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the outstanding Marxists of the twentieth century, sought to chart a course that would allow working people to organize and to answer in practice the single biggest question of world politics: How can we rid the world of capitalism — with its exploitation, dog-eat-dog individualism, wars, racism, oppression of women, and economic and social crises — and effect a transition toward a communist society free of these horrors? Thus, his political contributions ... are important today not only for the workers and farmers of Cuba, with whom, correctly, his contributions are most closely identified; these contributions are also vital for the toiling majority of humanity and the revolutionists of action everywhere who are its vanguard.

The transition toward socialism was initiated more than seventy years ago with the victory of the October 1917 revolution in Russia. Under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, the workers and peasants overthrew the state apparatus of the previous landlord-capitalist regimes. The Bolsheviks then mobilized the toilers to work together with the newly formed workers' and peasants' republic to expropriate the landlords and capitalists. The Bolsheviks built a new toilers' army to defend their conquests; launched an international communist movement to aid fellow workers and farmers around the world in emulating their struggle; and initiated the enormous political effort to construct the economic and social foundations to begin the transition to socialism.

The Soviet workers' and peasants' government initiated a radical land reform; expropriated capitalist property in industry, banking, and wholesale trade; established a state monopoly of foreign trade; and led a campaign, to establish workers' control of industry and advance on that basis toward workers' management. These steps made it possible for the working class and its vanguard to begin economic planning and marked the accomplishment of a historic task — the establishment of a workers' state, the dictatorship of the proletariat. Such steps are necessary for the revolutionary toilers to begin building socialism. In and of themselves, however, they cannot guarantee a continued advance toward socialism.

## Transformation of property relations

In Cuba the social transformation in property relations and the establishment of a workers' state was carried out at the opening of the 1960s under a revolutionary leadership whose best-known central figure after Fidel Castro was Ernesto Che Guevara. Guevara was an Argentine who had originally trained as a physician and had joined the Castro-led July 26 Movement and the initial cadres of the Rebel Army in Mexico in the mid-1950s. At the time of the victory over the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, Guevara was thirty years old.

A workers' state presides over a transitional society. Having thrown off the domination of the capitalist mode of production, it initially inherits the social relations of production from that prior system of exploitation, oppression, and fierce competition among workers over jobs, promotions, and economic advantage. Depending on the caliber of its political leadership, on the size and



Militant/Monica Jones

Members of volunteer construction brigade build hospital in Havana, 1988 or '89 during Cuba's rectification process, aimed at turning around the political effects of economic methods borrowed from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Between 1986 and the early 1990s, ten of thousands of people across Cuba participated in volunteer brigades to build child-care centers, schools, housing, and family doctors' office-homes. Through volunteer labor, Guevara wrote, man "starts to see himself reflected in his work and to understand his full stature as a human being."

experience of the working class, and on the pace of advances or setbacks in the world revolution, a workers' state can go forward toward socialism and in the process establish new social relations; or — as in the case of the horribly deformed workers' states in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China today — backward toward laying the social basis for the counterrevolutionary restoration of capitalism as it reinforces the values and norms of bourgeois social relations. In fact, as the history of the past six decades has illustrated, these transitional societies can sink well below the highest points of human culture reached under bourgeois democracy.

If the dictatorship of the proletariat is not based on new social relations of production, neither is it the "first stage of socialism." Humanity's socialist future will begin only with the completion of the world revolution, which will usher in the kind of international cooperation among working people that can qualitatively surpass the productivity of human labor achieved by the industrially advanced capitalist societies....

The course Guevara advocated and sought to implement as part of the leadership of the revolution in its early years cannot be reduced to what is usually thought of as "economics." Instead, he concentrated his energies on what might more accurately be called the *politics of economics*.

## Raise political consciousness of workers

Guevara's aim was not to come up with ways to administer economic production and distribution, approaching the working class from the outside, as one "input" or "factor of production" (albeit the most important one, the "human factor," as Stalinist-trained economists often put it). The goal was to organize and raise the political consciousness of workers, enabling us to exercise growing control over the economic and social decisions that simultaneously shape production and our own lives. The aim was to increase workers' powers to, determine society's collective needs, as well as conscious command over the allocation of labor and resources to meet them. Through this effort, working people would transform their own values and attitudes; their creativity and imagination would begin to be freed from the stunting and alienating conditions of life and work under capitalist social relations.

Guevara placed the development of ever greater technical and administrative skills, voluntary labor, political consciousness and participation, and the self-transformation of working people at the center of revolutionizing the social relations of production and exchange. The course he advocated was the opposite of a policy that — in the name of "greater efficiency" — relies on a state planning bureaucracy to, administer the producers, while it "provides" them a broader social welfare net. Such a course, he was convinced, would only demobilize, depoliticize,

and demoralize working people, thereby erecting the ultimate barrier to advances in the productivity of human labor.

The task of the revolutionary government and its communist leadership, Guevara held, is to create organizational forms that increasingly draw the working class into competent administration and management of economic enterprises and into informed decision-making on the social and political priorities of the workers' state. From this standpoint, for Guevara the acid test of any system of economic planning and management was whether it advanced or set back this line of march — the only road toward socialism and communism.

## Opposite of Stalinist manuals

Guevara explicitly counterposed this Marxist approach to the views presented in contemporary economic manuals produced in the Soviet Union, all of which took as their starting point Stalin's 1952 booklet *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.* There Stalin argued that the key to the transition to socialism was to "get to know" the laws of motion of capitalism (such as the law of value) in order to "master them, learn to apply them with full understanding, utilize them in the interests of society, and thus subjugate them, secure mastery over them."

Stalin's heirs took this negation of the foundations of Marxism for a "theoretical breakthrough" and pushed it a step further, frequently elevating the law of value to the status of a universal law of social development. This conveniently provided a scientific-sounding rationalization for the increasing social inequality between the privileged caste dominating the state and party appa-

ratus in the Soviet Union and the vast majority of workers and peasants, as well as for the increasing social differentiation within the working class itself.

Guevara explicitly polemicized against this view that building socialism is a task of administrators adept in manipulating laws and mechanisms inherited from capitalism. Instead, he insisted, it is a revolutionary task based on advancing the political consciousness and collective experience of the working class, as the blind laws of capitalism wither away.

## The 1963-64 debate in Cuba

In 1963-64 Guevara took a prominent part in a public debate in several Cuban journals on alternative perspectives on the organization of the Cuban economy. The discussion focused on contrasting evaluations of two approaches to economic planning and management being implemented simultaneously in Cuba in those years.

Guevara advocated what was called the budgetary system for financing state enterprises ("budgetary finance system" for short). Under the budgetary finance system, these enterprises were financed centrally by the state bank from funds budgeted in accordance with the national economic plan and state planning agencies. Enterprises had no funds of their own to use at their individual discretion. Money relations between the enterprise and state bank, and among state enterprises themselves, were simply accounting procedures to monitor implementation of the state plan and establish indexes to reflect the relative costs of goods produced by various enterprises (and trace their trends up or down).

"In a budgetary system, with properly functioning systems of controls and supervision," Guevara wrote, "there is no need for the bank to be involved in investment decisions. These are political decisions concerning economic policy that are in the purview of the state's Central Planning Board.... The bank should concern itself with scrutinizing fund withdrawals according to proper procedure, which is its specific function."

The alternative "economic accounting system" was in use in enterprises organized by the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, then headed by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, as well as in those accountable to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, directed by Alberto Mora. This was a method of planning and management, adopted from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, that relied substantially on use of capitalist market mechanisms, profit criteria, and material incentives. Under that system, state enterprises retained their own funds, out of which they financed expenditures and investments in line with broad targets set out in the state economic plan. (This system was thus also referred to as "financial self-management.") Transactions among state enterprises were organized on the basis of money payments, and enterprises took loans at interest from the state bank to, carry on their operations and expand. As a result, the

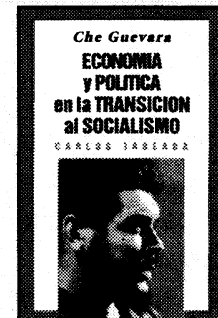
Continued on Page 14

for further reading

## Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism

In *New Internationalist* no. 8

Ernesto Che Guevara, Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Carlos Tablada, Mary-Alice Waters, Steve Clark, Jack Barnes  
Debates from the early 1960s and today on the relevance and importance of the political and economic perspectives defended by Guevara. \$10.00 Also available in Spanish.



## Che Guevara: Economics & Politics in the Transition to Socialism

CARLOS TABLADA

Drawing extensively on Che Guevara's speeches and writings in the 1960s, this book looks at his practical and theoretical contributions on economics and politics in the transition to socialism and their importance for

today. Available in English \$17.95, Spanish \$19.95, and French \$26.95

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# Syphilis 'study' on Blacks was atrocity

**BAD BLOOD: the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment — a tragedy of race and medicine, by James H. Jones. 272 pp. New York: The Free Press, 1981. \$14.95**

"It was one of the worst atrocities ever reaped on people by the government. You don't treat dogs that way."

— Albert Julkes, whose father was a participant in the government project called the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — This excellent book chronicles the history of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. Author James Jones explains how from 1932–72, Black sharecroppers and day laborers were victims in a federally-financed racist

vice (PHS).

Nearly 400 Black men infected with syphilis went untreated for decades in the experiment conducted there. Another 200 men who were supposedly free of the disease served as "controls." The men were not told they had syphilis, which can cause mental illness and death. Medical officials told them they would receive free medical treatment for what they called "bad blood." They were never treated for the disease, even after penicillin was found to be a successful cure in the mid 1940s.

"They just kept saying I had the bad blood — they never mentioned syphilis to me, not even once," said syphilis experiment survivor Charles Pollard in 1972, the year the study ended.

**Jim Crow South**

"Macon County has been economically depressed throughout the twentieth century," Jones stated. It is located in east central Alabama, 30 miles east of the state capital Montgomery, in a southern region called the "black belt" because of the rich dark soil. Cotton was the county's main crop, produced mainly by Black sharecroppers, who eked out a meager existence by farming white property owners' land in return for a share of the crop they produced. The census of 1930 listed Macon County's population at just over 27,000 — some 82 percent of whom were Black.

This was the Jim Crow South, under which Blacks were denied citizenship rights; including the right to own land, to vote, or to compete for jobs on an equal basis with white workers.

Enforced by government action and Ku Klux Klan terror, Blacks in the South were denied access to decent housing, education, health care, jobs, and much more. All these conditions were worsened by the Great Depression, which began in 1929, and hit the already impoverished rural areas the hardest.

**Widespread venereal disease**

At the time, venereal disease was widespread, especially among the poorest workers and farmers. When the Tuskegee experiment began, the rate of syphilis among the



Protests against segregation in the 1960s broadened radicalization of young people that helped force end to the most outrageous racist practices against Blacks.

Black population of Macon County was 36 percent. Tuskegee had the nation's highest rate of syphilis at the time. The treatment for syphilis that then existed was difficult and expensive — a combination of mercury and arsenic compounds that usually took more than a year to administer, often with severe and even fatal side effects for the patient.

Venereal disease was not the only health problem the Black sharecroppers of Macon County faced. Pellagra (a disease caused by a deficiency of Vitamin B), and the effects of chronic malnutrition, hookworm and other parasites, typhoid fever and other diseases fostered by lack of basic sanitation, such as running water and indoor plumbing, were also widespread.

Few rural toilers, especially those who were Black, had access to medical care of any kind; many lived their entire lives without ever seeing a doctor except in the most dire emergencies — and not always then. This, in part, explains the willingness of the Black tenant farmers of Macon County and the other sites to cooperate with the "government doctors," as the PHS doctors were called.

Those who came to the clinic to have their blood tested to see if they needed treatment for syphilis were not told what disease they had or how it could be controlled and

treated. As Dr. H.L. Harris, Jr., a Black physician reported after a visit to Macon County, explained in *Bad Blood*, "The people were entirely ignorant of the character of the disease for which they were being treated, the reports submitted stating that one's blood was bad, in which case he should report to treatments at the designated center, or that the test showed that one's blood was all right, in which case no treatment was necessary." Many of those who knew they needed medical help for one or another condition but who didn't happen to have syphilis were sent away, being told their blood was all right.

Under the impact of the civil rights movement and the broad radicalization of the 1960s that widened concern for human rights, the experiment began to run into trouble. Some doctors began to grow fearful that news of the study would inevitably reach the general public, resulting in damage to the PHS's reputation.

On July 25, 1972, the *Washington Star* carried a story on the experiment after a young PHS investigator — one of several young health workers seeking to end the study informed an Associated Press reporter. The experiment finally ended.

A year later, the surviving victims sued the government in a class action suit that was settled out of court in December 1974. "The plaintiffs agreed to drop further action in exchange for cash payment of \$37,000 to every 'living syphilitic' who was alive on July 23, 1973," the settlement stated.

Heirs of those who had died also received some compensation, as did the men who served as "controls" and their heirs. The government also agreed to provide free medical care for the survivors and their families.

The book noted a review of the study's statistics in 1969 showed that at least 28 and perhaps as many as 100 men died as a direct result of complications caused by syphilis. Other people had developed serious syphilis-related heart conditions that may have contributed to their deaths.

## IN REVIEW

"study." This once-buried chapter of Black and working-class history was again in the news earlier this year, when President William Clinton issued a formal apology to the survivors of the 40-year experiment at a White House ceremony on May 16.

Henry Foster, a Black physician who was derailed from approval as Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General in 1995, served as chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Tuskegee Institute's John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital from 1965–73. He claimed he knew nothing about this atrocity during that time. Foster also served as president of the Macon County Medical Society in 1970.

In *Bad Blood*, Jones explained how the Tuskegee experiment began at Andrew Hospital in 1932. "The germ that causes syphilis, the stages of the disease's development, and the complications that can result from untreated syphilis were all known to medical science" at that time, he noted.

The program, however, was a direct outgrowth of a series of experimental venereal disease control clinics carried out in six southern states, including Macon County, Alabama, that started in 1930. The clinics were set up by the U.S. Public Health Ser-

## 400 march against Arizona INS raid

BY BETSY McDONALD

CHANDLER, Arizona — Close to 400 outraged residents of the Phoenix area marched 12 miles in searing Arizona heat September 13 to protest recent roundups of undocumented workers in nearby Chandler and the Yaqui Native American village of Guadalupe.

Between July 27 and July 31, Chandler police, working with the U.S. Border Patrol, conducted a massive sweep of hotels, small manufacturing plants, residential areas, and downtown streets. In the process of arresting and deporting over 400 people, they stopped thousands simply because of their skin color, demanding to see proof of residency.

Roy Hoy, a hotel worker at the march, told the *Militant* this was his first protest action. He had been at work at the Wyndham Garden Hotel when the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) came in and

took six women housekeepers and one dishwasher. Then the INS went on to Ryoby Outdoor Products, a lawn furniture manufacturer, and rounded up 80 more workers.

Chicanos and Latinos and other workers like Roy were aroused to defend the rights of undocumented workers along with their own civil rights.

They formed the Chandler Coalition for Civil and Human Rights. The Coalition filed a \$35 million lawsuit against the city. Along with Tonatierra, a Phoenix civil rights group, they planned the march from Guadalupe to Chandler.

City officials of Guadalupe responded by calling in the Maricopa County sheriff's deputies and INS agents against the day laborers who gather in Guadalupe looking for employment. The week before the march, the INS rounded up and deported 50 Mexican nationals. They stopped prospective employers and warned them about the illegal-

ity of hiring undocumented immigrants.

The Yaquis, offended by their city's action, held a mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church before the march and a number of Yaquis in ceremonial dress danced in the procession.

Speakers at the rally voiced concern and called to alert other communities to prevent government officials and law enforcement officers from cooperating in sweeps like those against undocumented workers in Chandler and Guadalupe.

## Rally protests cop brutality

BY EDWIN FRUIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Close to 200 people marched and rallied here on September 12 to protest police brutality. Participants came from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and other areas. Among those who spoke were the mothers of Anthony Baez and Antonio Rosario, both killed by New York City police. Samuel Nicolas, the cousin of Abner Louima, who was beaten and sodomized by cops in Brooklyn, also addressed the people present.

The action was organized by the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York and cosponsored by a number of anti-police brutality groups from around the country. Ron Daniels, executive director of the center, chaired a rally prior to a march to the Justice Department. While people rallied outside the Justice Department, a delegation went inside to speak to Richard Roberts, chief of the Criminal Section and an aid to Attorney General Janet Reno.

Among those present at the meeting were Narves and Jonny Gammage, Sr., the par-

ents of Jonny Gammage, who was killed by suburban Pittsburgh cops in October 1995.

The marchers then proceeded to the Washington Convention Center where the Congressional Black Caucus was hosting a Legislative Conference. Among the workshops being sponsored was one led by Rep. John Conyers entitled African-Americans and Police Misconduct Brain Trust.

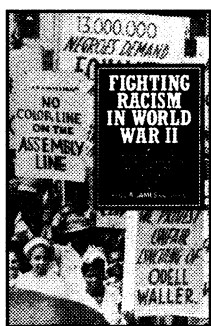
Speakers there included relatives of those killed by cops, people who had been brutalized by cops and several "expert" witnesses. Robert Wilkins, a District of Columbia public defender and a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Maryland State Police spoke about the suit. He explained that Maryland troopers were still conducting a disproportionate number of drug searches of cars driven by African-Americans almost two years after agreeing to stop doing so as a result of a 1992 lawsuit.

At the conclusion of the hearings an announcement was made that members of the House Judiciary Committee would be going to New York to hold a hearing on police brutality.

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# Organizing is theme of labor convention

## AFL-CIO officials call for unionization, voter registration campaign

BY BETSY FARLEY  
AND ERNIE MAILHOT

PITTSBURGH — The 22nd constitutional convention of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations opened here September 22 with stepping up efforts to organize workers into unions as one of its main themes.

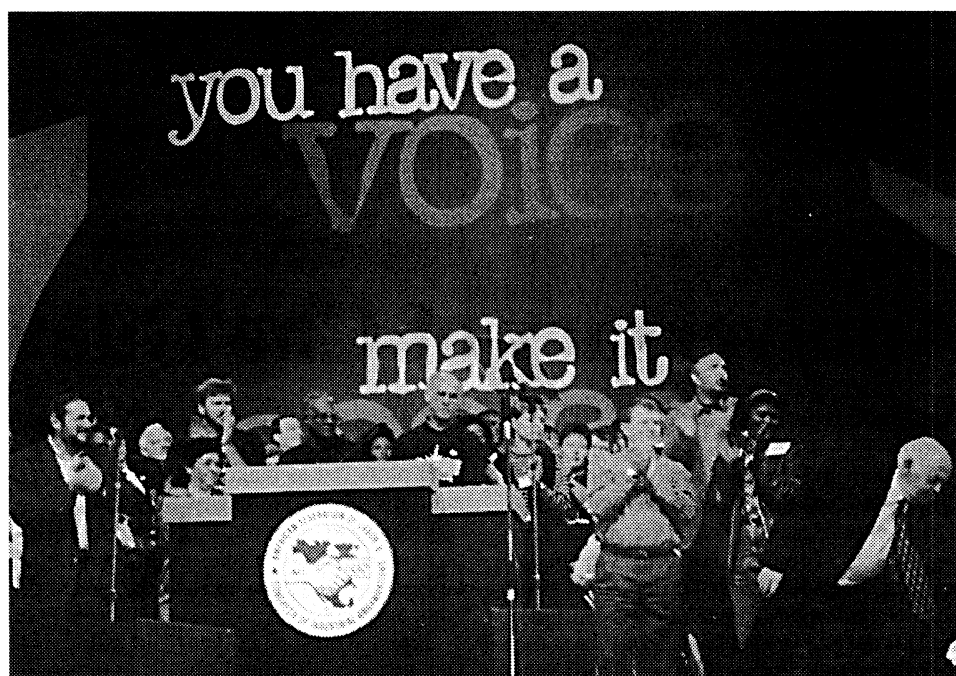
Dozens of workers who have been part of union organizing drives in recent months joined AFL-CIO president John Sweeney on the stage at the David Lawrence Convention Center. Many of these workers gave brief descriptions of their struggles. Laura Barrera, a hotel worker from San Francisco, addressed the convention in Spanish with English translation. She described the recent victory of 900 workers winning union recognition for the first time ever at a Marriott Hotel. She ended her speech to a cheering audience with, "*Adelante, adelante, a la victoria!* [Forward, forward, to victory!]"

Along with Barrera, garment workers, meatpackers, steelworkers, Teamsters, nurses, teachers, and others introduced their fights to more than 1,000 union delegates and guests from the United States and 100 international guests attending the convention. They described union organizing victories including 30,000 new state employees in Maryland, 5,000 Continental Airlines mechanics, and 2,000 New York City asbestos workers.

Discussion in much of the convention, and at several public meetings organized in conjunction with it, was marked by the recent strike victories of the Teamsters at United Parcel Service and of Bay Area Rapid Transit workers, who pushed back the two-tier wage setup. Together with the steelworkers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, these strikes represent a significant shift. After two decades of retreat by the labor movement, these battles pushed back major employer offensives that would have further weakened the working class.

### Union organizing drives

In his opening speech to the convention, Sweeney outlined proposals for launching more organizing drives. "Our membership numbers are beginning to creep back up because of more than 2,000 organizing victories won by workers like those who are with us on this stage," he said. Among oth-



Militant/Lea Sherman

New union members who helped organize their workplace gather on convention stage

ers he pointed to the struggles by members of the United Farm Workers union among strawberry workers in California and apple pickers in Washington state.

According to an AFL-CIO information packet given out at the convention, the labor organization has increased the percentage of its operating budget that goes to organizing from 4 percent in 1995 to 30 percent today — more than \$30 million. In addition, training programs for organizers are being increased, and officials say an orientation to organizing entire industries and geographic areas is being promoted.

A number of officials and delegates spoke of winning neutrality agreements from companies. This would allow workers to win union recognition solely by getting the majority of workers in a workplace to sign union cards. In such cases a follow-up NLRB election is not held.

Ray Shawn Ward, 21, and Tara Davis Ward, 25, spoke about their fight to organize pork processor Carolina Foods in Tar Heel, North Carolina, into the United Food and Commercial Workers union. In spite of winning an overwhelming majority of the 4,000 workers to sign cards for the union,

the company was able through intimidation and other methods to defeat the union in the NLRB election held afterward.

Ray Shawn Ward explained that the majority of the workforce is Mexican immigrants. "The Mexicans are mostly supportive of the union and were very active in the struggle," he said. Although he has been fired because of his leadership in the drive, the union activist explained, "I'm not going to give up. We don't feel like we are losers; you only lose if you give up the fight."

While the convention was stamped by the organizing fights and strike victories, the AFL-CIO officialdom continued to point to the Democratic Party as the way forward for labor. Sweeney called for a campaign to register 4 million new union voters by the year 2000, as well as encouraging union members to run for office.

Several Democratic Party politicians including President William Clinton, Rep. Richard Gephardt, and Sen. Tom Daschle addressed the convention, as well as Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

Herman stressed that the labor victory at UPS was "a victory for collective bargaining," and that the strike ended "when both

the management and the workers realized they could not survive without one another."

### Discussion on 'fast-track' trade

In his remarks, Gephardt called for "governmental action to bring a fair face to capitalism." He also stated, "I am not opposed to fast-track authority for the president in negotiating trade agreements, as long as protective measures for jobs, workers, and the environment are included."

"Fast track" refers to the Clinton administration's proposal to renew legislation giving the president the ability to draft trade deals that must be voted up or down by Congress without amendment. The White House aims to use the fast track to exert the domination of U.S. capital by extending the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to other countries in Latin America. Many in the officialdom of the unions oppose the fast track from the narrow view that this would mean the loss of "American" jobs.

The Teamster strike at UPS was often mentioned at the convention, but nothing was directly said about the government intervention into the union that was announced immediately after the victory at UPS. This attack, in the form of forcing a new election on the union and threatening to not only remove Ronald Carey as president but disqualifying him from running in the forced election, was addressed by Carey at a press conference on the second morning of the convention. Carey said an investigation should be launched into James Hoffa, Jr. election campaign finances. Hoffa ran against Carey in the recent Teamster election and is expected to be his opponent in the upcoming election.

In the first two days of the convention delegates approved several resolutions, including expanding the AFL-CIO constitution's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation along with race, creed, color, or sex.

Three resolutions on U.S. relations with Cuba were referred back to the Executive Council. The resolutions from the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 304 and the San Francisco Central Labor Council called for lifting the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

The third, from the Florida State AFL-CIO, called for continuing the U.S. government's anti-Cuba policies.

Gloria Johnson, an AFL-CIO vice president and president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, made a special presentation to one session of the convention on the recent Ask a Working Woman conference sponsored by the AFL-CIO. "In the past 12 years more women have been organized into unions than men," Johnson said. "Now women comprise 40 percent of the AFL-CIO membership and that percentage is growing."

AFL-CIO executive vice president Linda Chavez-Thompson also spoke, calling for a "national grassroots campaign" to launch a fight for equal pay for women, union organization, and quality childcare.

## Unionists discuss organizing battles

BY TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — Two days before the national convention of the AFL-CIO, leaders of the 13 million member labor federation hosted a national conference here on union organizing. More than 300 delegates and guests, including rank-and-file unionists fresh from the battle fields of union organizing campaigns, participated in the September 20 organizing conference.

During the course of the meeting, workers described their experiences with company victimizations and government inaction in the face of blatant violations of labor laws — firings, violent attacks by company thugs and other forms of retaliation used by the bosses to intimidate workers who come forward to establish unions. Fighters spoke of battles they were involved in, including the ongoing campaign to organize farm workers in the strawberry fields of California and the effort to unionize one of the largest hog slaughtering facilities in the country, located in Tar Heel, North Carolina.

Maribel Hernández, a restroom attendant at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas explained in Spanish how 5,000 workers won union recognition there by forcing the hotel to recognize the union authorization cards as proof of majority support for the union.

Las Vegas is also the focus of a plan to organize the building trades. These unionists have stepped up their outreach for support, including to the largely immigrant workforce in the hotels. Several workers who arrived on the second day of the convention have been on strike against the Las Vegas Frontier Hotel since 1991. They shared the platform September 24 with dozens of Teamsters from UPS who won their 15-day strike against the largest package handler in the United States.

Another focus of the convention is the effort by the AFL-CIO to "build labor/community coalitions." As part of this, the Community-Labor Planning Committee for the AFL-CIO convention organized a teach-in September 21. Close to 300 people were at the "Labor is Back" event, held at the University of Pittsburgh. Workshops included "Working Women and the Unions" and "Diversity Shouldn't Mean Divided." Keynote speakers there were AFL-CIO executive vice president Linda Chavez-Thompson and Richard Trumka, the secretary-treasurer of the labor federation. A half dozen similar teach-ins have been held around the country, from Columbia University in New York City to the University of California at Los Angeles leading up to the AFL-CIO convention.

Also held as part of the convention activities, the Community-Labor Planning Committee for the AFL-CIO convention arranged to dedicate three historical markers in Pittsburgh, indicating important benchmarks in the history of the working class in the United States and its fight for industrial unions.

Early Tuesday morning, delegates were bussed to the site where the 1877 Great Rail Strike began for a dedication there. Rail bosses of the Baltimore & Ohio and Pennsylvania RR called in the state militia to put down a rebellion of rail workers in Pittsburgh protesting a 10 percent pay cut and imposition of an unacceptable work load. Ultimately the struggle was lost, and on one of the bloodiest days in Pittsburgh an estimated 40 workers died.

About 50 delegates and guests took part in a similar unveiling of the historical marker at the Martin Luther King, Jr. elementary school, which is built on the spot where the

first CIO convention was held in 1938.

On September 24, another marker was dedicated in downtown Pittsburgh in front of the posh Westin William Penn Hotel that now stands on the spot where the precursor to the AFL was founded in 1881.

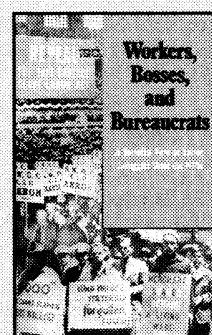
Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson, who is addressing the convention September 25, is scheduled to lead a march of the delegates from the convention to downtown Pittsburgh in a March and Rally for Good Jobs.

### For further reading from Pathfinder

#### The Great Labor Uprising of 1877

by Philip S. Foner

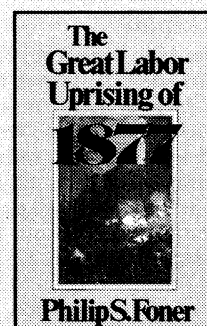
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# Activists plan rally for immigrant rights

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — The "March and Mass Rally for Immigrants' and Poor Peoples' Rights" slated for October 12 here in New York City is shaping up. Activists in Austin, Texas, and Los Angeles, California are hosting similar regional demonstrations.

Miguel Maldonado of the Coordinadora '96, an immigrant rights coalition that called the 25,000-strong national march on Washington, D.C., for immigrant rights last year, reported that locally, a series of meetings in various communities are being organized to help maximize participation in the action. Several meetings and activities are being

planned by Bangladeshi community activists to promote participation from this immigrant group in the march.

Dominican activists have planned a meeting in Washington Heights in Manhattan September 26 to build participation, and other meetings are in the works, including in the Haitian community in Brooklyn. Anger over the torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima by city cops exploded into two massive protests in August demanding justice for Louima. The fact that the cops

responsible are not in jail and that other incidents of police brutality against Haitians have since come to light has sparked larger interest in that community in the October 12 protest.

Pointing out that the new immigration laws went into effect this past April, which include provisions for narrowing the possibilities for political asylum and making it easier for federal agents to deport immigrants, the demonstration demands are: Human and Constitutional Rights; Equal

Opportunity and Affirmative Action; Citizenship Now and Amnesty for Undocumented Immigrants; No More Police Brutality; Free Public Education for All Children through University; Reform Labor Law and Increase the Minimum Wage to Cost of Living; and Expansion of Health Services.

The demonstration will assemble at 10 a.m. at Columbus Circle, march down Broadway to 42nd Street, then to the United Nations for a rally at 1:00 p.m. at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza. For more information call: (212) 505-0001.

## Anniversary of Che Guevara's death

Continued from front page  
October 24 - 25.

A broad array of political groups have formed the Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The coalition is organizing a march, film showing, and teach-in under the demands: End the U.S. embargo!, Repeal Helms-Burton!, and Lift the U.S. travel ban! Speakers at the teach-in include Rafael Noriega, Third Secretary of the Cuban Interests Section; Betsey Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*; and April Knutsen, a professor at the University of Minnesota and co-chair of Women Against Military Madness.

Gaetan Whiston, a steelworker and young socialist, said, "This is the first time in many years that a broad solidarity event of this type is taking place. And, it's directly linked to people who want to explain and learn more about Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution."

In Chicago, the October 8 Coalition has called a "Unity March and Rally to End the Embargo against Cuba" for October 8. The group includes a couple dozen political activists who also participated in the 14th

World Festival of Youth and Students. Youth from around the world came out of the festival pledging to make October 8 an international day of solidarity with Cuba. The coalition sent out a mailing announcing the protest to 1,800 people and are getting to college campuses to meet with student organizations.

Sarah Wood, a 21-year-old student at DePaul University and activist in the coalition, explained why the demonstration is taking place on the day of Che Guevara's death. "Che was an internationalist. He defended the right to self-determination of all nations and people. The embargo is a case of the U.S. denying the self-determination of Cuba. They have the right to free trade like any other country."

Ricky Gamboa, a 16-year-old high school student, said he's building the protest because "Cuba has set the standard for equality and instead of being celebrated, it is being condemned."

A "Che Guevara commemoration conference" is taking place at the University of Houston on October 4-5. The conference includes a range of workshops from the ideas

of Che Guevara to the struggle for Irish unity. Scheduled speakers include Angela Davis, presidential chair in Feminist and African American Studies at the University of California; Fernando Pérez Maza, First Secretary of the Cuban Interest Section; Steve Clark, managing editor of *New Internationalist*; and Blanka Kalzakorta of Senideak, a Basque political prisoner support group. A number of youth and student organizations, including the Irish Unity Committee, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), National Organization for Women and the Young Socialists are sponsoring the event.

The Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee is hosting a report-back event from the world youth festival at a community center, October 4. On October 8 the committee is carrying out educational tabling and picketing at midday and a picket line and rally in the evening in front of the Federal Building.

In addition to these events, in cities around the world, Militant Labor Forums will discuss the ideas of Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution.

### PATHFINDER FUND CELEBRATIONS

#### CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

**Pathfinder Press Benefit.** An event to help Pathfinder continue publishing writings of revolutionary leaders. Speaker: Dennis Richter, national committee member, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: Dinner \$5, program \$5. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

#### San Francisco

**The Changing Face of World Politics Today — From Belfast to Havana to the U.S.** Speaker: Brian Taylor, Socialist Workers Party National committee; Samanta Kern, Mills college student, and member of the Young Socialists. Sat., Oct. 4, 4 to 7 p.m. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. Donation: \$10. For more information, call (415) 285-5323.

#### NEW JERSEY Newark

**Pathfinder Fund Celebration.** Celebrate the life and ideas of Ernesto Che Guevara and the new Pathfinder Press publication of *Che Guevara, Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* in Spanish. Speaker: Verónica Poses, Socialist Workers Party National committee. Sun., Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:30 program. Donation: \$10. 87 A Halsey St. (1 block west of Broad St., 2 blocks north of Raymond Blvd.) Tel: 973-643-3341.

## — CALENDAR —

#### FLORIDA Miami

**Demonstrations at Cape Canaveral Against the Cassini Nuclear Launch.** Sat., Oct. 5, 1 p.m. For more information, call Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, (352) 468-3295. Email: fcpj@afn.org

#### MARYLAND Baltimore

**Political Prisoner Conference: A Call to Action.** Featured speaker: Geronimo ji Jaga (formerly Geronimo Pratt), former Black Panther, won his freedom after 28 years Cointelpro frame up. Oct. 10-12. Registration begins Fri., Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. Rally at 7 p.m. Registration: \$5 donation. For more information call, Nzinga (410) 276-7221; Karen (410) 655-4405; Sarah (410) 243-7950. Marshall E. Conway support Committee, P.O. Box 41144, Baltimore, MD 21203-6144. E-mail ecstruggle@aol.com

#### MINNESOTA Minneapolis

**End the U.S. Embargo! Repeal Helms-Burton! Lift the U.S. Travel Ban! March:** Wed., Oct. 8. Meet at 4:15 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Law School (West Bank). March to the old Federal Bldg. (4th and Marquette in downtown for a 5 p.m. rally). **Film:** Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 9 and 10, 7:30 p.m. 125 Willey Hall, University of Minnesota (West Bank) Free. **Teach-In:** Sat., Oct. 11, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mississippi Room, Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota. Free. For more information, call (612) 728-0112 or write the Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba c/o Resource Center of the Americas, 317 17 Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

#### CORRECTION

The article "Sweden: sterilization policy sparks debate" in the September 29 *Militant* incorrectly identified Carl Bildt as a leader of the Social Democrats. Bildt is a leader of the Conservative party in Sweden, and made the statement quoted in the article at that party's congress.

#### MASSACHUSETTS Boston

**Protest the Terror Bombings Against Cuba!** Panel discussion. Fri., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. **In Defense of Immigrant Rights.** Panel discussion. Fri., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. Both events held at 780 Tremont St. (corner of Mass. Ave. and Tremont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

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**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (773) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511

**IOWA: Des Moines:** 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505 Tel: (313) 875-0100.

**MINNESOTA: St. Paul:** 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-

Speakers: Luis Tirado and Luis Senabria, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners; Fermín Morales, member International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 98; and Lizette Ortiz, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. Fri., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

#### AUSTRALIA Sydney

**Tariffs: A Discussion on Unemployment and Recent Labor Struggles.**

Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Fri.,

6325. Compuserve: 103014,3261

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 87A Halsey. Mailing address: 909 Broad St., Suite 320. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Compuserve: 104216,2703

**NEW YORK: New York City:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Brooklyn, NY Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064,2642 ; 167 Charles St., Manhattan, NY. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Compuserve: 103253,1111

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Compuserve: 104502,1757 **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785. Compuserve: 103122,720

**TEXAS: Houston:** 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 380. Zip: 77087. Tel: (713) 847-0704. Compuserve: 102527,2271

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Ave.) Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407,3345.

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#### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket Post Office, NSW 1240. Tel: 02-9281-3297. Compuserve: 106450,2216

#### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL.

Oct. 3, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281 3297.

#### NEW ZEALAND Christchurch

**Instability, Polarization and Resistance — Politics in New Zealand Today.** Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

**The Legacy of Che Guevara on the Thirtieth Anniversary of His Death.**

Speaker: Joan Shields, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 10, 7 p.m.

Both events held at 199 High St. (Corner High and Tuam). Donation: \$3. Tel: (03) 365-6055.

Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve: 101515,2702

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766. Compuserve: 106462,327

#### CANADA

**Montreal:** 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 104614,2606

**Toronto:** 851 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M3. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

#### FRANCE

**Paris:** MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

#### ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

#### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

#### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362



He must have buried it — At last report, Bobby Whipple was in critical condition. Miami-area cops pumped 23 bullets into Whipple, who suffers brain damage, because



Harry Ring

he looked "irate" and had his hand in a sock which, they said, appeared to contain a gun. The police said they're still searching for the gun.

**Poison for profit** — For years,

farm workers in California have protested the heavy use of poisonous pesticides as a menace to workers and consumers. Now a study shows that from 1991–95 the use of carcinogenic chemicals increased 129 percent. The heaviest dosage was found in the strawberry fields, target of a major United Farm Workers organizing drive.

**'Power' fable** — The *Wall Street Journal* did a feature on plants where workers are assertedly "empowered" as "team members," which is mainly working faster and policing one another. Mused one worker: "They say there are no bosses here. But if you screw up, you find one pretty fast." When

doing locker inspection, another nonenthusiast refuses to report the less tidy. He states: "I say to myself: I'm empowered and I ain't doing this."

**Puzzle: Why don't bosses like unions?** — "Overall, the hourly wages of union workers are 30 percent higher than those of nonunion workers, and their fringe benefits are typically worth two to four times as much." — *New York Times*, August 31, 1997.

**The 'master races'** — Like Sweden and Norway, the governments of Denmark, Finland, Estonia, and at least one Swiss canton borrowed a leaf from Nazi Germany in conducting forced sterilization of

ethnic and other social "undesirables." And it's now charged that Austria continues the practice.

**...meanwhile** — The Japanese government has refused to compensate or apologize to more than 18,000 disabled women who were forcibly sterilized. An official said the sterilizations were legal under a statute on the books from 1948–96.

**It figures** — A survey showed that British rail travelers pay the highest fares in the world. The report said that there's been a 12 percent rise since privatization began.

**Landlord Heaven** — For the second year in a row, New York took the prize as the state where

rents, measured in relation to income, are the highest in the country. By federal standards, no less, about half the people can't afford the rent they're paying.

**Liberal inquisition** — The Vatican is relaxing procedural rules in trials of theologians and priests suspected of heresy. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, will permit those facing the inquisitor to have a "trusted adviser" at the hearing.

The move came in the wake of protests over excommunication of a Sri Lankan priest. He had refused to sign a declaration that all the Apostles were males, therefore, no female priests.

## Workers state is a weapon in the class struggle

This October marks the 80th anniversary of the Russian revolution — the first time the working class and its allies succeeded in taking and holding state power, opening the door to the task of building a new, socialist society. Below we reprint an selection that describes some of the immediate tasks that faced the working class, under the leadership of the Bolshevik party, in Russia.

The excerpt is taken from the article "Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

Today," by Mary-Alice Waters. The entire article appears in issue no. 3 of the Marxist magazine *New International*, which is copyright © 408 Printing and Publishing Corp. Reprinted by permission.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

By leading the toilers to establish a workers' and peasants' government, the working class of Russia had made it possible to begin "wresting by degrees" all productive property from the capitalist class and concentrating it in the hands of the state, in order to increase the total productive forces as rapidly as possible.

In the 1875 *Critique of the Gotha Programme*, Marx had explained that, "Between capitalist and communist society lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other. Corresponding to this is also a political transition period," Marx wrote, "in which the state can be nothing but the *revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat*."

Basing himself on this foundation of Marxist program and strategy, Lenin explained in his January 1918 speech to the Third All-Russian Congress of Soviets that, "The great founders of socialism, Marx and Engels, having watched the development of the labour movement and the growth of the world socialist revolution for a number of decades saw clearly that the transition from capitalism to socialism would require prolonged birth-pangs, a long period of the dic-

tatorship of the proletariat, the break-up of all that belonged to the past, the ruthless destruction of all forms of capitalism, the co-operation of the workers of all countries, who would have to combine their efforts to ensure complete victory."

Lenin went on to explain that the transition would be particularly difficult given the material conditions existing in Russia. "It goes without saying," he pointed out, "that the transition to socialism in Estonia, that small country in which the whole population is literate, and which consists of large-scale farms, cannot be the same as the transition to socialism in Russia, which is mainly a petty-bourgeois country," with agriculture just emerging from semifeudal forms of organization, and a low level of literacy.

Confiscation of capitalist property was initially limited to cases where capitalists abandoned their factories, engaged in sabotage and decapitalization, or refused to abide by legislation ensuring workers' control and better job conditions. The desire of the most militant workers to move faster with the expropriations required patient political leadership.

Often the Bolsheviks' job was to slow them down, while educating them to organize and prepare for future measures.

In the early months of the Russian revolution it was common for workers to get together and demand that their factories be expropriated. "I told every workers' delegation with which I had to deal," Lenin said, "when they came to me and complained that their factory was at a standstill: you would like your factory to be confiscated. Very well, we have the blank forms for a decree ready, they can be signed in a minute. But tell us: have you learnt how to take over production and have you calculated what you will produce? Do you know the connection between what you are producing and the Russian and international market? Whereupon it turns out they have not learnt this yet; there has not been anything about it in Bolshevik pamphlets, and nothing is said about it in Menshevik pamphlets either."

In pursuing this course, the Bolsheviks demonstrated their recognition not only that the transition from capitalism to socialism would take an entire historical epoch and was only possible on a world scale — the epoch of the dictatorship of the proletariat — but that even the transition in one country from



Russian workers reporting for voluntary labor for reconstruction of Moscow in 1921

capitalist to socialist property forms — that is, from private ownership to state property — would be accomplished over a more or less extended period, depending on the given country's degree of economic development.

It would take time for the Russian working class to acquire the consciousness, experience, and skills to begin managing state-owned factories and participating in the process of national economic planning. Meanwhile, it was to the benefit of the workers and peasants to take advantage of those few capitalists who would continue investing their capital in production, and, even more importantly, the much larger layer of managers and middle-class technicians whose skills were still needed by the revolution.

The decisive question was not the pace

of the transition, but whose interests the new state power defended.

The class struggle does not end when the state power of the exploiters is overthrown, Lenin explained. "The dictatorship of the proletariat, is the *continuation* of the class struggle of the proletariat in new forms," he emphasized in the outline for a pamphlet on the dictatorship of the proletariat drawn up towards the end of 1919. "That is the crux of the matter."

There is one decisive new fact, however. The proletariat now fights with a powerful weapon in its hands — a state, an instrument of coercion now to be used *against* the exploiters instead of on their behalf.

"The state is only a weapon of the proletariat in its class struggle. A special kind of cudgel, rien de plus!"

A cudgel. Nothing more!

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



October 6, 1972

DENVER, Sept. 16 — On this day 162 years ago in Dolores, Mexico, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla gave the cry of revolt initiating the Mexican independence struggle: "Long live the Virgin of Guadalupe! Death to the Gachupines [Spanish]!" Independence from Spain was won 11 years later in 1821.

This date is now celebrated in the Chicano movement and Chicanos in Denver today honored it for the fourth year in a row with a demonstration and parade.

The parade concluded with a rally at the state capitol. The combined participation in the parade and rally was about 5,000. All along the parade route there were militant and spirited shouts of "Chicano Power!" "Que Viva La Raza!"

The connection of the Chicano self-determination struggle to the struggles of the oppressed from Puerto Rico to Southeast Asia was stressed in the rally speech by Crusade for Justice leader Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales. He emphasized the need for the Chicano movement to support all such struggles.



October 6, 1947

DETROIT, Sept. 28 — A motorcade of more than 250 residents went to Lansing yesterday to demand that Governor Sigler and the special session of the Legislature immediately pass a state law freezing all rents and declaring a moratorium on evictions.

The demonstration was sponsored jointly by the Great Detroit Tenants Council, the UAW Housing Department and the Wayne County CIO Council.

Jack Lesnik, vice-president of the Wayne County CIO Council and organizer of the demonstration, outlined the tasks facing the tenants in Michigan. Ernest Dillard, chairman of the Brewster Project Tenants Council, spoke on the solidarity of white and Negro tenants and the similarity of their problems.

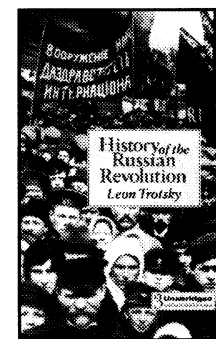
The tenants then crossed the street and set up a picket in front of the Hotel Olds, home of Sigler and most of the legislators. They carried signs reading: "Evict Kim Sigler," "Freeze Rents," "We Had Foxholes, Now Give Us Homes," "Stop Evictions," etc.

New International no. 3

**Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to Today** by Mary-Alice Waters

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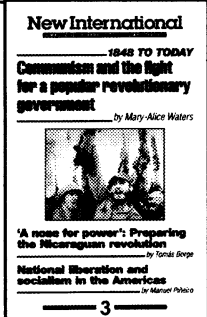


**The History of the Russian Revolution**

Leon Trotsky

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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 real legacy of Che

Thirty years ago on October 8, Ernesto Che Guevara was captured by Bolivian army forces near La Higuera, Bolivia. The Argentine-born revolutionary, who by that time had become a central leader of the Cuban revolution, was murdered in cold blood the next day by Bolivian army officers after consultation with Washington.

The 30th anniversary of Guevara's death has attracted much attention from enemies and friends of the course Che advocated and for which he gave his life. We urge our readers to join in building and taking part in events in the United States and elsewhere (see front-page article) that will mark this working-class anniversary, expose new generations to Che's proletarian and internationalist example, and can broaden opposition to Washington's unrelenting economic war on the Cuban people.

Imperialist forces have attempted over the last year to perpetrate bourgeois myths of who Che was and what he stood for, to divide him from Cuban president Fidel Castro and the rest of the communist leadership in Cuba, and to use the occasion of the anniversary to attack the Cuban revolution. Articles in the bourgeois press, books, and movies produced in the imperialist countries consciously falsify what Che did and why. One of the most sophisticated is John Lee Anderson's *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*. The book presents one of the most damning charges that could be made against a revolutionary leadership: it implies that the decision to launch the Bolivia campaign lacked serious political grounds, that is was an adventure.

Other more crude smears have been reissued

in new garb, such as the decades-old accusations that Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders wanted Che out of Cuba because of political differences, and that they rejected steps to rescue him and his comrades from death in Bolivia.

Socialist workers, young socialists, and other class-struggle fighters have an obligation and an opportunity to answer this capitalist propaganda offensive politically. Revolutionists have a wealthy arsenal in several languages to use in response.

Pathfinder's editions of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* rank among the top-notch tools. The article "Che Guevara and Marxist continuity" in *New International* no. 8 is an invaluable weapon in this battle of ideas and should be used along with that title. Che's *Bolivian Diary, Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* by Harry Villegas, and Joseph Hansen's *The Leninist Strategy of Party Building* — all published by Pathfinder — provide the revolutionary movement's record and course of conduct at that time and lessons for today.

Thousands of young people on campuses, in factories, and farms can be won today to emulating the example Guevara set within the United States and other imperialist countries. Selling books and pamphlets such as those mentioned above and organizing classes to study and discuss them collectively is part of accomplishing this goal. They go hand-in-hand with building and participating in teach-ins, seminars, and other activities marking the 30th anniversary of Che's fall in combat this month.

We urge all our readers to join these efforts.

# No to forced sterilization!

The recent publicity over forced sterilizations in Sweden reveals a side of the brutality of class society. Some 63,000 people were sterilized under "racial hygiene" and "social" policies in Sweden between 1935 and 1975 — most of them women forced to accept the procedure against their will. Minorities such as gypsies, travelers, and those deemed of "mixed race" were in the forefront of people who were to be "cleaned up." Poor working-class women with many children, young women born in families with alcoholism, mental illness, or diseases, pregnant unmarried women, and boys and girls in reformatory were also victims.

The conservative politicians and the bourgeois press in Sweden and internationally are trying to place the blame on the social welfare state. They seek to put an equal sign between the social gains working people have won — such as child-allowances, union wages, school lunches — and policies like forced sterilization.

The racial hygiene policy in Sweden was built in unity between all the bourgeois parties in Sweden. Even though they draped it in different ideological forms, the racist and anti-working-class

content of this policy was supported by both the Nazis and the social democrats.

One of the aims of this policy was to strengthen the institution of the family. The counterpart to the sterilization policy that scapegoated "undesirables" was an effort by the social democracy to shore up the family, including with maternity benefits of different kinds and rent subsidies for couples with many children. The 1938 abortion law denied women the right to choose, instead putting the decision on whether a woman could have an abortion or not in the hands of the authorities. To end her pregnancy, a woman could be forced to undergo sterilization. It was not until the civil rights movement, the radicalization among youth, and the women's liberation movement forced the government to change the law in 1975 that a woman had the sole decision over her body, including if she wants a sterilization.

"We" are not all part of the guilt, as both social democratic and conservative officials are saying today. Working people have no guilt in this policy — they were its victims. The least the guilty can do is to give immediate compensation to the victims.

# Guevara and Marxist continuity

Continued from Page 9

money "profits" of an individual enterprise, and credit and interest policies of the state bank, played a substantial role in determining economic priorities....

Guevara recognized that the laws of motion of capitalism — to the degree they persist during the transition to socialism — will by their very nature tend to reinforce capitalist social relations and bourgeois values that lead away from rather than toward socialism and communism. Thus, the operation of these capitalist laws and methods needs to be restricted and counteracted from the outset by conscious social planning and voluntary collective activity by working people. The communist leadership must promote methods consistent with the revolution's historic goal: *the social transformation of the individual human beings* carrying out the reorganization of economic and social relations. To rely on methods inconsistent with these ends will reproduce the capitalist social relations and divisions that the revolution was made to combat and replace in the first place. It will not only block the advance toward socialism but will guarantee inefficiency, waste, corruption, class polarization, and depoliticization.

The accuracy of Guevara's judgment can be seen in trends that increasingly developed in Cuba following the turn in the early 1970s toward reliance on political rationalizations and economic

methods borrowed from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In October 1987 Castro remarked that were Guevara "to have seen a group of enterprises teeming with two-bit capitalists — as we call them — playing at capitalism beginning to think and act like capitalists, forgetting about the country, the people, and high standards ... he would have been appalled." And this corrosion reached beyond administrative and managerial layers to growing sections of the working class itself, resulting in demoralization, absenteeism, routinism, lack of concern about quality — even profiteering — and the breakdown of class solidarity.

The pace of the transition to socialism was not the key issue for Guevara. Nor did he anywhere suggest that the consciousness, attitudes, and values that will characterize human beings in a communist society could be rapidly achieved in Cuba, or in any other single workers' state.

"We understand that the capitalist categories are retained for a time and that the length of this time cannot be determined beforehand," Guevara explained. "But the characteristics of the transition period are those of a society throwing off its old bonds in order to arrive quickly at the new stage. The *tendency* must be, in our opinion, to eliminate as vigorously as possible the old categories, including the market, money, and, therefore, the lever of material interest — or, to put it better, to eliminate the conditions for their existence."

# What did hoopla over Diana Spencer show?

In a letter published in last week's *Militant* reader Frank Gorton stated, "Your editorial 'British monarchy is in trouble' has some problems of its own." I do agree with Gorton that the editorial he is referring to, published in the September 15 *Militant*, had some problems. But not the kind he suggests. The political problem with that editorial was reflected in its headline, "British monarchy is in trouble." Consistent with this view, the editorial concluded by saying that the United Kingdom's "historic forced retreat from acting as an effective 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."

The reader would get the impression that the *Militant's* position was that the British monarchy was somehow weakened through the events in the UK in the aftermath of Diana Spencer's death. A news article in the Sep-

tember 22 *Militant*, titled "Funeral spurs debate on UK monarchy," explicitly stated that "the stability of the monarchy

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

was severely undermined" following Spencer's death.

But the opposite is true. The British crown was stabilized that week and developed closer and better relations with the Labour Party government of Anthony Blair.

Some writers and editors in the big-business press pointed to this reality. "One immediate, and surprisingly widespread conclusion, at least in the press, has been that the princess's death and the popular reaction to it both bode ill for the British monarchy. Few think it doomed but many think it weakened," said an editorial in the September 6 *Economist*. "This week's emotions actually illustrate one of the monarchy's greatest strengths.

"This is that it focuses attention on human beings rather than on the more abstract world of political institutions or documents," it continued. "This week, the royal family has most often been guilty of looking remote, or stuffy, or rigid rather than frail; and, important though they may now seem, these are sins that are likely in the end to be forgiven or disregarded. Only when it looks truly inadequate will the monarchy be genuinely vulnerable."

The British "royal family" was relieved that Diana Spencer, who had become a nuisance to them, was no longer in the way, their few displays of grief notwithstanding. And Blair made a point of stating in the middle of the hoopla around Spencer's death, "The monarchy is a tradition which we want to keep. But the monarchy adapts and changes and will change and modernize with each generation."

It's true that the United Kingdom has been experiencing strains along its national seams. The recent pro-devolution votes in Scotland and Wales and the unstoppable fight for Irish freedom are ample proof. But there are no signs of weakening of the monarchy at the moment — an institution the British rulers need to keep their imperialist state together. As the September 15 editorial correctly pointed out, the importance of the crown grows in times of economic and social crisis, as the bourgeoisie uses it as an institution that can "speak for the nation" to maintain stability.

There are differing views among the UK rulers on the monarchy, a feudal remnant, and its interrelationship with other institutions of capitalist rule. That's a problem for the ruling class, however, not for workers. When the working class takes power out of the hands of the capitalists, it will deal in passing with ending the monarchy.

## Nothing progressive in outpouring for Spencer's funeral

Unlike what Gorton suggested, there was nothing progressive reflected in the hundreds of thousands who laid flowers for Diana Spencer or went to her funeral. "I think we will find that the adoration of the dead princess was not orchestrated by the British state machine," Gorton said. "The sense of loss displayed by millions of people is a criticism of those that wield power in the United Kingdom." He also stated that only by establishing a government of their own will workers in Britain "achieve the humanitarian values which they appear to identify with Diana Spencer."

I disagree. Spencer lived her entire life off wealth, much of which came from inheritance of the royal family she became part of for a period. Like many other bourgeois figures, her sexual exploits, bulimia, and travails made headlines regularly. She preached dehumanizing charity for "the poor." In short, she perpetrated thoroughly reactionary bourgeois values heaped on the masses of the workers.

The outpouring of the "adoring crowds" was nothing but a mass expression by working people and middle-class layers being sucked into what we may describe as pornographication of politics — organized largely by bourgeois politicians, especially those in the ultraright. Today a capitalist social crisis is deepening in the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries. But a communist leadership is not yet growing out of rising mass workers struggles and no solutions are being offered on any mass level to the burning problems created by the decline of capitalism. Under these conditions, growing numbers become susceptible to crank ideas, conspiracy theories, and a variety of reactionary explanations of why society is gripped with crisis. It is the ultraright that benefits from this.

It is from this vantage point that class-conscious workers must respond to and politically explain the interrelated sexual and financial scandals involving ruling-class figures — including those Diana Spencer and her former husband and possible heir to the British throne, Charles Windsor, were involved in. From the standpoint of the working class, it's much better when every worker couldn't care less about the sex life of Spencer, Windsor, or any other public figure.

This type of scandalmongering, which surrounded much of the coverage of Spencer's death, is an effort to exacerbate and profit from middle-class panic and to drag workers along into the pit of resentment and carnal envy. The outpouring over Spencer's funeral reflected the emotional frustrations and sexual misery that are widespread among middle-class layers and among layers of working people under capitalism in decline. A front-page article in the September 13 *New York Times*, titled "Diana's death resonates with women in therapy," was an indication of that.

Finally, I think revolutionaries should never refer to Diana Spencer as "princess" or "Princess of Wales," as the news article in the September 15 *Militant* did. It's part of standing up to the rulers' efforts to prettify their figures among workers.

— ARGIRIS MALAPANIS



# Should auto workers enlist in Ford's war against GM?

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — At the Ford Electronics plant in Markham near Toronto, where I work as an assembler, production was shut down for two hours September 8 to celebrate the unveiling of the company's new name.

The day shift of about 600 was herded into a huge tent erected in the parking lot for the occasion. There we were shown videos with a live satellite hookup to Frankfurt, Germany, where the new company president acted as MC for the event. The hookup included São Paulo, Brazil; Enfield, England; and Dearborn, Michigan, where other Ford workers were shown also waiting for the unveiling of the new name. At the end of a 25-minute countdown broadcast to Ford facilities around the world, there it was — "Visteon" — a giant multibillion dollar auto parts and systems corporation made up of 68 factories on four continents. This reorganized division of Ford Motor Co. is designed to compete on the world market

said, "The GM workers are just like us. We have nothing against them. They are working for a living."

Others expressed concern about how this move by the company would affect the upcoming contract negotiations. The IAM contract for the production workers at the plant expires in January.

These comments get to the heart of the matter. There is nothing in Ford's competitive drive against GM that is in the interests of Ford workers. Our interests lie with our fellow toilers — whoever they work for, and in whatever country they work.

## Car industry heading for massive crisis

There is unprecedented "overcapacity" developing in the world auto industry as the depression conditions engulfing the capitalist market, caused by falling profit rates, continue to unfold.

According to an article in the May 10 *Economist*, by the year 2000 the auto bosses around the world will have the capacity to produce 22 million more cars a year than the estimated 60 million that can be sold. The article points out that in the past, GM and Ford had a profit rate of at least 8 percent when their factories were producing at least 70 percent capacity; now that rate has fallen to below 5 percent. The article states that the auto industry is heading for a crash that could result in some firms going under and several "capacity-cutting merges" that would mean layoffs. The largest 13 auto manufacturers currently employ about 2.5 million workers worldwide, with many more working in parts plants and auto-related facilities.

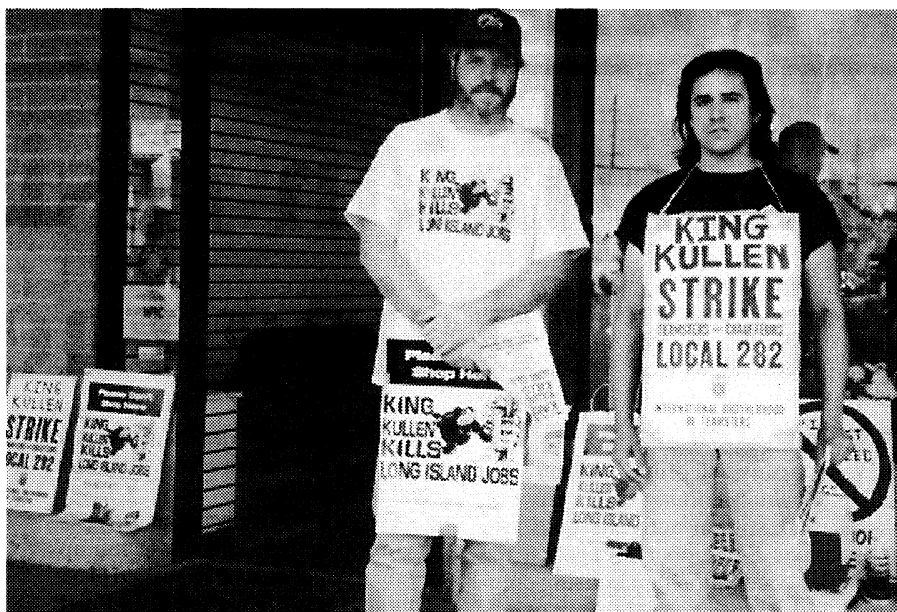
Over the last year Ford management has instituted what they call the Ford Production System or FPS, centered on "lean manufacturing" and the "elimination of waste." Many workers are suspicious that waste refers to them and that FPS is simply a code word for having fewer workers produce more in a shorter period of time for less pay and benefits.

These suspicions are well-founded.

Writing in the August issue of the *Mo-saic*, the Ford Electronics magazine, company spokesperson Laura Trotter states that "when FPS was introduced, there was a lot of resistance, and there still may be resistance... (but) we must do this to increase our profit margins. We sell a lot of cars but our profit margin is too low." She claimed that becoming "lean" does not mean lost jobs or downsizing but being "competitive."

But reducing "labor costs" is exactly what FPS is all about. As profit rates fall and the

## Teamsters strike wins solidarity



Militant/Nancy Rosenstock

Some 135 King Kullen workers, members of Teamsters Local 282, went on strike September 2 after the company closed its Westbury, Long Island, warehouse. The large supermarket chain is moving its operation to a nonunion warehouse. Angry and determined, the workers have fanned out to picket all the King Kullen stores on Long Island, urging customers to boycott the store. On September 13 they were joined by workers from other Teamster locals and other unions — including UPS workers who were recently on strike. Ron Kellner, who drives a dump trailer and is a member of Local 282, said, "We went out to the UPS picket lines and we came out here because the construction trades are always going on strike, so we're always joining each others' lines."

## UNION TALK

with Delphi, the largest automobile parts company in the world. Delphi is owned by General Motors.

With "inspirational" slogans such as, "We will be the best," company officials vowed that if we all pull together to "grow" a "competitive profit center," the future will be rosy for management and workers alike. Gary VanderHaagen, vice president and general manager of the electronics systems division of Visteon, announced that Ford would conquer the world, particularly in "emerging markets" like Thailand. By pulling together behind the Visteon vision "we" could "kill Delphi," he said.

The plant manager appealed for a new era of trust and cooperation between bosses and workers. This vision of the future was endorsed from the platform by the presidents of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union locals in the plant.

Many workers applauded the unveiling during the event. In the following days, however, there was a lot of skepticism voiced on the shop floor.

"It's all lies," said Karen Bryant, an assembler in the plant for over 12 years. "We are going to lose jobs out of this. They have already cut seven positions on my line."

In response to the appeal of the Ford bosses to join with them against GM to "kill Delphi," assembler Mohammed Quarishi

market shrinks — the vision of massive sales to so-called emerging markets has been shaken by the recent currency crisis in Thailand and other countries in Asia — the auto bosses are driven to cut prices against their competitors. Since the real value of an automobile is determined by how much labor power goes into it over a given period of time, and since the market price centers around this value, the bosses have to drive down the amount of labor power that goes into producing each vehicle and the cost of that labor power to them. This is done through line speed up, combining jobs, more expensive computerized robots, forced overtime, attrition of the labor force through retirements, permanent layoffs, part-time work, two-tier wages, wage cuts, and other means.

This war between the auto giants is also a war against our unions. Thousands of GM workers who have lost their jobs through downsizing, or who have injured themselves through speedup and forced overtime, know this. On September 4, in Vilvoorde, Belgium, the French-owned Renault S.A. plant shut down, throwing 3,100 auto workers into the street. The increase in repetitive strain injuries at Ford Electronics, the pressure to do overtime, the introduction of more powerful robots that turn out more units with less human labor, is all evidence of what the auto bosses have in store for us as the price competition becomes more ferocious and the

drive to increase profit rates more frenzied.

We cannot defend ourselves by enlisting in their war and by accepting the false view that we can get job security by killing the jobs of workers at GM or any other auto company.

The only way we can defend ourselves as the crisis unfolds is to start with our needs as members of the working class throughout the world, not the profit needs of the billionaire families who own the auto companies.

GM workers in the United States, who have been fighting forced overtime by demanding more hiring, deserve our support. Our unions need to support other workers who have decided to draw a line in the sand against the drive of the bosses to lower wages and weaken unions, like the UPS Teamsters who recently used union power to force "Big Brown" to put 10,000 more workers on full-time.

To win a contract that strengthens our union and our position in relation to the company we need to start from the reality of the struggle between our class and the owners of capital on a world scale — not the dangerous illusions being pushed on us by the bosses and their Visteon vision.

John Steele is a member of Local 2113 of the IAM at Ford Electronics. Sylvie Charbin, also a member of IAM Local 2113, contributed to this article.

## — LETTERS —

### How Che led fighters

I thought the article "Cuban generals speak at youth festival" (September 22 *Militant*) was excellent. It gave a picture of how these fighters were educated by Che Guevara in the Rebel Army, and have since put to use the lessons they learned to advance the proletarian line of the Cuban revolution. However, I wanted to clarify one point.

In the article, Enrique Acevedo is quoted relating his experience in the squad of the "Descamisados" (shirtless ones) in Che's column. The term requires some explanation. *Militant* readers may get the impression that Che created a squad of Rebel soldiers who were forced to go shirtless as punishment. In fact, Che would have found such a procedure repellent. He always insisted that human beings had to be treated with dignity, regardless of whether they were his own troops or enemy prisoners.

As Acevedo writes in his memoirs appropriately titled *Descamisado*, the squad "was named after the followers of Perón" in Argentina. Juan Perón was Argentina's dictator, overthrown in 1955, who attempted to portray

himself as an opponent of the country's oligarchy. To highlight his populist image Perón termed his plebeian supporters as "descamisados," who the country's landowners and capitalists detested and feared.

When Che was given command of the new Rebel column in July 1957, he adopted this term used in his native country, but he did so in a humorous vein. It was an educational tool to instill discipline, and combatants who committed minor infractions were sent there. Use of this term also served to educate the raw recruits — many of them in their teens — in international politics.

Mike Taber  
Brooklyn, New York

### Opposition to Israeli gov't

Occasionally another side of the reality of the Israel-Palestine conflict creeps into the local media. A front-page article in the September 10 *Atlanta Constitution* is entitled "Israel's harsh policies breed bombers, grieving mom says." Thirteen-year-old Smadar Elhanan was one of the victims in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem in early September.

When asked for a comment by Israeli journalists, Smadar's mother, Nurit Peled-Elhanan, is quoted as saying: "The government breeds the terrorists. They start them, they fertilize them ... [by] invading their property, starving them, humiliating them, oppressing them."

Smadar's father, a graphic artist, designed posters for Israeli peace groups urging withdrawal from the occupied territories. Her grandfather, Gen. Mattityahu Peled, resigned from the Israeli armed forces because of the Israeli government's unceasing hostility toward the Palestinians.

A representative of Yasser Arafat's Palestine National Authority spoke at Smadar's funeral, as did an Israeli Arab who worked for the family.

The comments of Smadar's mother and the history of her family reveal, for once, the opposition of many Israeli Jews to the brutal, racist policies of the Israeli government and army. It's a stance more Americans should emulate and oppose the pro-Israel policies of the U.S. government.

Bob Braxton  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Scottish independence?

In the article on the Scottish devolution debate in the last issue of the *Militant* (September 22), I was surprised to see that after correctly calling for a vote for a Scottish Parliament, Marcella Fitzgerald stated that the Communist League is "in full support of Scotland's fight for independence." From the standpoint of support for the right of self-determination this has no real meaning as it is clear that Scottish separatism today is a minority tendency. It appears that instead Fitzgerald is herself "advocating" independence, a sharp break from the previous position of Communists on this subject. It's useful to look at the debate around Catalonia in the 1930s, which has many parallels with the situation of Scotland.

When Maurin, a leader of the Catalan Federation, raised the banner of Catalan independence, the Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky replied: "The workers will fully and completely defend the 'right' of the Catalans and Basques to organize their state life independently in the event that the majority of these nationalities express themselves for complete separation. But

this does not, of course, mean that the advanced workers will push the Catalans and Basques on the road of secession. On the contrary, the economic unity of the country with 'extensive autonomy of national districts,' would represent great advantages for the workers and peasants from the viewpoint of economy and culture." (The Spanish Revolution, p. 78)

Surely this offers a better framework for approaching the question of Scottish nationalism today, to support the fullest possible regional autonomy, e.g. a Scottish parliament, to support the decision of the majority of the Scottish people should they decide for independence, but to continually warn against the illusions of Scottish nationalism.

Pete Evans  
London, England

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.

## Palestinian resistance heightens crisis facing the Israeli regime

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

The regime of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is coming under growing pressures. Palestinian activists held two demonstrations September 20 against the Israeli settler occupation of a housing complex in Ras al-Amud, a mostly Arab neighborhood in Jerusalem. At the same time, ultrarightist forces are pressing for deeper penetration into the territories of Palestinians, whose continued resistance is winning solidarity throughout the region, including among a layer of Israeli working people.

Tensions began heating up after scores of armed cops escorted 11 Israeli settlers into two houses in Palestinian-controlled east Jerusalem September 14. Miami millionaire Irving Moskowitz, who says he owns the two buildings, also proposed constructing 70 more Israeli homes in that district. Residents immediately came out in protest.

Bitya Klein, one of the settlers, explained their aim is to "build a ring around Jerusalem and this [Ras al-Amud] was the only place there wasn't a piece.... Jerusalem belongs to us."

Israeli infrastructure minister Ariel Sharon said he supported the settlers' actions because they would rule out the possibility of a contiguous Palestinian capital in Jerusalem. Under agreements signed between Tel Aviv and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in 1993, all final decisions on how Jerusalem is divided and who governs it will be reserved for final-status talks, which are not even under way.

On September 17, hundreds of Israelis joined with Palestinians protesting against the settlements. An increasing number of Israeli citizens have come out against the step-up in Israeli settlement expansion into the Arab territory.

In another instance of opposition to Tel Aviv's policies against the Palestinian people, Yuval Lotem, a lieutenant in the Israeli Army reserve, was recently jailed for 26 days for refusing to work in a prison where Palestinians are kept without trial. "There is no enlightened occupation," Lotem said, "no good jailer when the prisoner is jailed without justification.... These are political prisoners held because of their opinions, not because of anything else they've done. If they had done anything, they would have been indicted."

On the morning of September 20, protesters held signs calling on settlers to leave the neighborhood and save the peace process. Later, dozens of protesters blockaded the road to the area. Police fired rubber bullets at the activists, who retaliated with stones.

The *Washington Post* describes the cop presence on the scene as "a virtual armed camp."

The next day Palestinian activists trying to reclaim the house ran up against police and were pushed back trying to enter. They included Fuad Haidieh, an Arab man who contends he never sold the disputed property that Moskowitz claims to have purchased. The government eventually reached an agreement with the settler families that they would move out, but 10 seminary students could occupy the homes.

Palestinian Authority president Yasir Arafat said the settlement was a "clear violation" of the peace agreements. Speaking at the 108th session of the Arab League, which took place in Cairo September 20, Arafat called on the 22 Arab governments represented there to freeze normal relations with Israel until negotiations with Tel Aviv made favorable advances. The League passed a resolution condemning the Israeli government as culpable for the breakdown in the peace process, but did not boycott the regime.

Netanyahu announced September 21 that Tel Aviv would issue 4,000 permits to Palestinian construction workers, loosening a ban that prevented Palestinians from traveling to Israel. A week earlier 10,000 Palestinians gained entry. When the ban was instituted following September 4 suicide bombings in Jerusalem, unemployment in West Bank and Gaza Strip skyrocketed to 70 percent. It has crept back down to the previous figure of 40 percent as Tel Aviv has slowly reopened its borders.

### Rifts in Israeli government

Netanyahu also tried to distance the regime from the occupation at Ras al-Amud, publicly condemning the action and claiming no prior knowledge of the settlers' intent. But some of his advisors told the press that the government knew well in advance of Moskowitz's moves. Under pressure from Palestinian unrest, Netanyahu initially threatened to remove the settlers by force.

Several members of Netanyahu's cabinet threatened to walk out if the settlers at Ras al-Amud were forcibly removed. Among the most outspoken supporters of the settlers are Sharon, who is a senior figure in the ruling Likud party; Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani; and Ehud Olmert, the



Some 300 Palestinians march near Bethlehem late August, to protests Tel Aviv's closure of the city. Youth above snatches up a stone in response to Israeli soldiers who shot tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters.

mayor of Jerusalem.

Foreign Minister David Levy backed Netanyahu's stance on the Ras al-Amud settlement. He declared he would not remain in a government that undermines the "peace process." Israeli defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai took a similar position.

At the same time individual Zionists are following a course of direct confrontation with Palestinian fighters. Right-wing organizations threatened to send more of their supporters to Ras al-Amud if Tel Aviv attempted to evict the settlers. Moskowitz vowed to continue construction of apartments in Ras al-Amud, despite Netanyahu's claims that he would block the project.

Yaacov Schwartz, a 63-year-old Israeli factory owner, staged his own kidnapping September 20, telling police that he had been overpowered and abducted by two Arabic speaking hitchhikers. After disappearing for two days, his wife Elisheva went on national television accusing "Islamic militants" of kidnapping her husband, and called on U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright — on

tour in the Mideast at the time — to intervene. After evidence found by cops did not match Schwartz's story, he admitted to lying. Associated Press reports that the *Haaretz* newspaper said Schwartz "had taken part in dozens of demonstrations by the extreme right."

The Israeli government declared September 23 that it identified four suicide bombers who set off blasts in Jerusalem between July and September. Ten days earlier Israeli authorities had arrested relatives of those they claimed were suspects and forced them to give blood samples for DNA testing. The Zionist regime's standard practice is to carry out punishment — such as demolition of homes — against families of those accused of actions against the Israeli state.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Israeli government troops invaded six villages in the northern West Bank September 21, arresting 50 Palestinian men. A spokesperson for the Israeli army said the this assault was "conducted as part of activities to deter and prevent terror." In the village of Asseira Asamaleh, one of the focal points of the raids, Israeli authorities imposed a curfew the night before. The next day all Arab males age 17 and older were herded into a school courtyard, while soldiers

searched houses.

Israeli security forces shut down the central mosque in Dura, West Bank, and a youth club in the nearby village of Samoa September 22, claiming they were suspected of having dealings with Hamas, a Palestinian group taking responsibility for some of the bombings. Israeli troops left orders that the mosque be closed for two months, which Dura residents ignored.

### Rising unemployment in Israel

Inside Israel itself, unemployment has risen to a three-year high of 7.7 percent. There are at least 17 cities in Israel where unemployment has surpassed 10 percent. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, in the second quarter of 1997 Israel's gross domestic product grew by an annual rate of just 1.6 percent, down from 2 percent growth in the first quarter.

Israeli finance ministry director-general Shmuel Slavin said the government will have to implement more budget cuts, but assured workers that the "reforms" recently adopted by the government would not be against their interests.

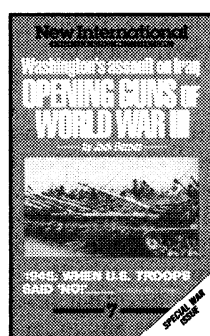
The Histadrut union federation in August threatened to launch a general strike against these "reforms." Trade union officials accused Tel Aviv of reneging on union contracts, firing union workers, and trying to replace them with unorganized workers at sub-union-scale wages.

The Israeli regime also faces problems in Lebanon, where it occupies the southern part of the country. Speaking at a September 21 rally, Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah warned Tel Aviv that his organization would strike Israeli installations, as well as its tourist industry if the Zionist state targets public utilities in Lebanon. Hezbollah has been fighting to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

A little more than a month earlier pro-Israeli militiamen bombed the Lebanese city of Sidon, killing at least 10 civilians. The aerial assault also disabled power lines, cutting off electricity to 80,000 residents.

The next day Hezbollah rebels and Lebanese soldiers responded with 80 Katyusha rockets including firing into Israeli territory. Nasrallah said, "We can live without them [utilities] for some time, but we will not live a second without dignity."

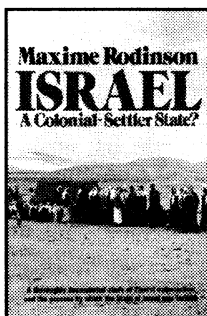
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George Novack

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