

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
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decline in AFL-CIO ranks
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Pennsylvania miners rally to defend their union

BY FRANK FORRESTAL
AND TONY LANE

BENTLEYVILLE, Pennsylvania—As part of a response to company moves against their union, hundreds of miners at the Maple Creek mine here took part in a union-called "Memorial Day" July 10. The following day, hundreds of miners at Ohio Valley Coal's Powhatan No. 6 mine, less than 100 miles away, also turned out for a union Memorial Day. Both mines are owned by coal operator Robert Murray.

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) announced that the memorial days were organized to commemorate the sacrifices made by miners at Murray's union mines and to protest the bosses' plans.

Mass membership meetings of Local 1248 at Maple Creek and Local 1810 at Powhatan No. 6 were held on the Memorial Days to lay out the union campaign and solicit workers' involvement. Turnout at both meetings was high, with 250 attending the Maple Creek meeting and 300 at Powhatan No. 6.

The UMWA said the memorial days and the membership meetings were the initial volley in a campaign to protest Murray's "abuse of hundreds of coal miners who have accepted frozen and reduced wages and made other sacrifices to keep the company's operations afloat." Murray "used those resources and the workers' goodwill to open nonunion mining companies in an attempt to limit their job security," the union stated.

UMWA international secretary-treasurer
Continued on Page 3

U.S. rulers press ahead with missile shield system

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Making clear its determination to press full speed ahead on deploying an antiballistic missile shield, the Bush administration has announced plans for establishing a command center in Alaska for this system. Built as a test site, administration officials said it could be deployed as a working missile system by 2004 in case of an "emergency."

At the same time, according to a classified Pentagon document recently leaked to the press, the U.S. government is shifting its plans from its longstanding perspective of being ready to fight two wars simultaneously, to the ability to "win decisively" one war.

And in the name of fighting "terrorism," Washington is elevating "homeland defense"—deployment of military forces on U.S. territory—to a central part of its military strategy.

Starting from the initial moves made by the Clinton administration, the Bush White House is taking steps to develop sea-, land, and space-based missile intercept weapons that, if successful, would eventually give Washington a first-strike nuclear capability. This nuclear club could be used to threaten

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Cancel Third World debt!

Workers in Argentina, Brazil protest austerity moves, bosses worry about int'l spread of economic crisis

Workers and farmers in this country have a stake in joining with working people in Argentina to demand cancellation of the foreign debt. Argentina, like most semicolonial countries around the world, is being squeezed by an ever-mounting debt to bankers in the United States, the United Kingdom, and other imperialist centers.

The foreign debt imposed on the Third

EDITORIAL

World is not a relation among equals. It is based on the relationship between a handful of oppressor powers—whose headquarters is in Washington—and the majority of nations oppressed by imperialism. The most industrialized countries, which enjoy a greater productivity of labor, extract huge profits by imposing unequal terms of trade on the semicolonial nations, whose economies are subjected to and distorted by the domination of these imperialist powers. The debt squeeze on Argentina and other semicolonial countries is simply a vehicle to suck enormous amounts of wealth into the coffers of the imperialist banks.

Despite massive interest payments, Argentina's debt continues to grow. Last December the International Monetary Fund offered Argentina a \$40 billion emergency "bailout" loan to forestall default. But today its foreign debt has risen to a record \$130 billion—in a country with an annual gross domestic product of \$374 billion.

Altogether, the Third World debt stands at more than \$2 trillion. Governments have paid many times the value of the original loans in interest, and most have ended up more indebted than before.

The only solution proposed by the wealthy bondholders and their representatives in Washington and other imperialist capitals is to demand that the governments of Third World countries make working people pay—to slash wages and social benefits, raise transportation fares, sell off state-owned industries and lay off thousands of workers, and similar measures. Argentine president Fernando de la Rúa's latest moves

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Workers in Buenos Aires protest in July against government plan to slash wages of public employees and pensions. Workers in Argentina and Brazil have mounted struggles against austerity plans dictated by IMF that assault their jobs and living standards.

Argentina default looms

BY RÓGER CALERO
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

The prospect of a default on Argentina's skyrocketing \$130 billion foreign debt and its international repercussions is producing shudders in markets around the world, at a time of economic slowdown from Brazil to Japan to the United States.

Meanwhile, the administration of President Fernando De la Rúa is caught between the demands by foreign investors for squeezing more blood out of Argentina's recession-battered economy, on one hand, and the growing unrest and resistance by working people there to the brutal austerity measures of the government, on the other.

To protest drastic cuts in wages and pensions proposed by the De la Rúa government, the three trade union federations in Argentina carried out a one-day general strike July 19, shutting down factories, government offices, schools, and public transportation. At the same time, unemployed workers have been blockading highways throughout the country to demand jobs and relief.

The Argentine crisis has caused international jitters, especially in Brazil, where the markets have been reeling from its neighbors' problems all year. The Brazilian currency, the real, has hit a record low against the dollar, and the government has used an energy crisis to carry out austerity measures. On July 17 hundreds of workers protesting bus fare hikes blocked a highway near Brasília, the country's capital.

The cops attacked the protesters with tear gas and live bullets, arresting 20 and wounding 55.

International bankers and investors have been demanding that the De la Rúa government cut the annual budget by \$2 billion to \$3 billion in order to ensure that "investors are confident that Argentina's government will be able to meet future payments" on the foreign debt, the *Wall Street Journal* stated in a July 10 article. The paper pointed to the country's social security system as a major cutback target.

On July 11 De la Rúa announced his lat-

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Japan slips deeper into economic recession

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

From January to March of this year, economic activity in Japan shrank by 0.2 percent. The figure indicates that the world's second largest capitalist economy has entered its fourth recession within a decade, and its second within 18 months. Official unemployment stands at 4.9 percent, a post-war high in a country whose government used to boast of full employment. Business failures over the last year have amounted in value to a record \$209 billion.

The latest bad news from Tokyo coincides with a sharp decline in U.S. economic growth, lower than forecasted rates of expansion in Europe, and the deepening of the crisis facing a number of relatively large semicolonial countries in Latin America and Asia.

The slowdown in Japan, while an integral part of this international unsteadiness, is deeper and has been going on longer than elsewhere in the imperialist world. Japan, once touted as an economic miracle by employers, bourgeois economists, and govern-

ments from New Zealand to the United States, has been increasingly revealed as the weakest link in the imperialist chain.

This fact, and the failure of the Japanese ruling class to so far carry through any serious changes to the banking system or other "structural reforms" in the economy, pose special concerns to the U.S. capitalists and their representatives in Washington. "You cannot have the second largest economy in the world essentially stagnating without impacting the rest of us," said Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, to the Senate financial committee in April.

Prior to the recent election of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has dominated electoral politics since World War II, the government has responded to the economic crisis with a massive spending program focused on construction of roads, railways, and bridges. "This benefited key construction companies with close links to the LDP or its power brokers but the spending had a limited wider economic impact," the

Financial Times reported. The spending has left Japan with a debt of more than 130 percent of its gross domestic product, the highest of any industrialized nation.

Koizumi has said he will instead carry out "painful" measures, including clearing bad loans from the books of banks, slashing capital gains taxes, and cutting back or privatizing a number of state-owned enterprises. His proposals, while short on detail, have been encouraged by the big-business media and by politicians in the United States—including President George Bush, who declared after meeting Koizumi in Washington on July 1 that he had "no reservations" about the prime minister's "reform agenda."

"My fundamental philosophy is that you have to put up with pain today for tomorrow's sake," Koizumi said in an interview on the eve of his trip to the United States, referring to more economic decline, rising unemployment, and falling standards of living for working people. He casts his appeals in a nationalistic framework: "My

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Abortion rights issue underlies debate on stem cell research

BY GREG McCARTAN

The debate over stem cell research has generated divisions among rightist forces in the United States on how much emphasis to put on the question of abortion as part of their assault on women's rights. Columns by opponents of women's rights highlight the fact that many are shifting the focus from abortion to the ideological offensive around the family, divorce, and "loose morals."

The reason the debate over stem cell research is taking place at all is that removal of these cells kills the microscopic human embryo, posing a challenge to the anti-scientific, rightist argument against abortion rights that a human being is created at the moment of conception. Embryonic stem cells have the ability to differentiate and grow into any kind of specialized cells and tissue, prompting scientific investigation to see if they can be used in research for medical cures, or can be employed to repair or replace damaged tissue or organs.

Human embryos can be made in a lab by fertilizing a donated egg with sperm. In about six days of growth, the egg becomes a blastocyst, a cluster of 100 to 600 cells smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.

The identification of stem cells and their potential medical value prompted a flurry of reports from "ethics panels." Arthur Caplan, described as a "bioethicist" by the *Wall Street Journal*, said that stem cell research is "a slippery slope where you could end up with embryo factories." In 1999 the National Bioethics Advisory Commission took the position that while the embryo should not be accorded the rights of a full person, it does deserve "respect as a form of human life."

Debate over lifting ban on federal funds

Five years earlier, the National Institutes of Health had issued a report that was favorable to creating embryos for use in medical experiments. Then-president William Clinton distanced his administration from the finding, leading to a Congressional ban

on federal funding of research involving human embryos.

The Bush administration is now considering a partial lifting of that ban to allow federal moneys to be used for research on frozen embryos that would otherwise be discarded. There are currently thousands of such embryos held at fertility clinics across the country. The research seeks to determine if stem cells can be cultivated into cells that can be used to treat or cure Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart disease, and other afflictions. For example, a scientist in Spain has used stem cells to develop insulin-producing cells that, when transplanted into diabetic mice, cured the animals within 24 hours.

Two recent announcements by scientists have heightened the controversy. Researchers at a Virginia clinic said in early July that they had created human embryos specifically for experimental purposes, something the *New York Times* called "breaking a taboo against creating human embryos expressly for medical experiments."

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts a scientist at Advanced Cell Technology told the press that the company is involved in a cloning project in which a skin cell is inserted into a human egg. The resulting stem cells are a genetic match with the donor of the skin cells. Cells of the same genetic makeup are less likely to be rejected by the immune system.

Most don't believe embryos are people

Several bills before Congress would ban human embryo cloning to produce a new human being; another would forbid cloning even for research purposes. Nine states ban all research on human embryos and four have enacted laws against human cloning. Australia, France, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom currently prohibit reproductive cloning. France and Germany have a ban all human embryo research.

In a July 9 column, Jonah Goldberg, editor of the right-wing *National Review Online*, wrote that he fears "the stem-cell debate is lost" because "the logic that de-



Militant/Brian Williams

Pro-choice march in Washington April 22. In face of wide support for the right to choose abortion, rightist forces are debating how to wage the campaign against women's rights.

nies experimentation on embryonic stem cells forces the acceptance of these embryos as human lives. And I just don't believe that the majority of the American people can be persuaded that embryos are human beings."

Admitting that he disagrees with some conservatives and rightists, Goldberg said that equating "a clump of cells in a petri dish or test tube" with a human life is something that "Catholic intellectuals and others who oppose embryonic-stem-cell research are comfortable asserting as fact. But for the majority of Americans such a position is a hard pill to swallow. It requires, for example, that we ban in vitro fertilization [IVF]—a medical procedure the American people support—because it necessitates the murder of many human lives for the creation of a few lives or even a single life." Once the "fight against IVF was lost, so too was this debate," he wrote.

The next day *National Review Online* deputy managing editor Kathryn Lopez urged Bush "to do the right thing" and "prohibit once and for all the federal subsidy for the killing of innocent human beings." Lopez favors federal funding for research using adult stem cells. She favorably explained the position of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops supporting the prohibition of "embryo-destroying research entirely."

National Review senior editor Ramesh Ponnuru weighed in with a column in the July 23 issue of the magazine entitled, "Cells, Fetuses, and Logic." He noted the "surprising" stance of anti-abortion rights senator Orrin Hatch, who told the press he "cannot equate a child living in the womb, with moving toes and fingers and a beating heart, with an embryo in a freezer." Warning that such a position is a "slippery slope," he added that "surely neither the temperature nor location [of the embryo] is decisive.... Either conception results in a new human being deserving of legal protection or it doesn't."

The *Wall Street Journal* reported July 12 that aides to former U.S. president Ronald

Reagan visited Capitol Hill recently to convey Nancy Reagan's support for federal funding of stem cell research. The report implied that she was influenced by the fact that the former president suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

In an opinion column in the paper that same day, Albert Hunt writes that Bush got himself into "a hole playing political games with embryonic stem-cell research" because the White House stance "confuses the Catholic hierarchy with rank-and-file Catholic voters. There really is no longer a distinct Catholic vote in America; on issues like stem-cell research and abortion, Catholic views are little different than non-Catholic views."

Sen. Connie Mack, a foe of abortion rights who supports the research funding, acknowledged that the debate is "one of those classic issues that, in a sense, redefines some things." He said it made the issue more difficult for Bush when someone like Nancy Reagan, whose husband opposed a woman's right to choose abortion, supported research on embryonic stem cells.

THE MILITANT

Support freedom struggle in Ireland

As they stand up to London's threats and to rightist marchers, supporters of a united Ireland are consolidating their support and forcing breaches among pro-British parties in the north. The 'Militant' carries reports from Ireland and Britain by participants in this struggle. Don't miss a single issue.



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FBI threatens to press 'Cuban spy' witch-hunt

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MIAMI—The top FBI agent here announced that the U.S. government is planning more indictments of individuals it accuses of "spying" for Cuba. The big-business media gave substantial coverage to this threat. This latest move, which aims to intensify a witch-hunt atmosphere against opponents of U.S. government policy and to further undermine democratic rights, takes place a month after five Cubans were convicted on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage and murder.

"There are going to be other people picked up on this matter here," Héctor Pesquera, the special agent in charge of FBI operations in this city, told the *Miami Herald* in an interview published July 10. "We haven't finished our investigation, and I am confident that additional people will be charged in this intelligence network operation."

Asked why these alleged suspects were not charged and indicted earlier, when the FBI arrested 10 people in September 1998, Pesquera replied in vague terms, "There are some investigative and prosecutorial strategies employed in any case."

Paul McKenna, one of the defense attorneys of the five Cubans recently convicted, said the threatened indictments would most likely be brought against individuals who live in Cuba.

Pesquera and other U.S. officials, however, "acknowledge there are more Cuban spies working in the United States," the *Herald* reported—a statement calculated to sending a chill down the spine of all opponents of Washington's policy toward Cuba. "We are continually monitoring as many of the people who are here to conduct illegal or intelligence activities on behalf of the Castro regime as we can," Pesquera said.

On June 8, three Cuban citizens—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero—were convicted in a federal court in Miami of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They could face life in prison. Fernando González and René González, convicted of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent," face possible 10-year sentences. The sentencing is expected to take place in September.

Gerardo Hernández also faces a life sentence on charges of "conspiracy to commit murder" in the deaths of four pilots belonging to the rightist Cuban-American group Brothers to the Rescue. The pilots were shot down by the Cuban air force in 1996, after provocatively entering Cuban air space and ignoring repeated warnings. The prosecution justified the charge by claiming Hernández had provided the Cuban government with flight information about the Brothers to the Rescue operation.

The Cuban government has launched a campaign to oppose the convictions and condemn Washington's hostile policies against Cuba.

The five Cubans were part of an operation to "discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people," the Cuban government said in a statement published in the June 20 issue of the Cuban daily *Granma*.

The arrests and convictions of the five constituted an attack directed not only at revolutionary Cuba but at democratic

rights in the United States. FBI agents broke into their homes repeatedly over the three years prior to the arrests, violating the Fourth Amendment protection against arbitrary search and seizure. The prosecution "evidence" consisted of information the FBI claimed to have collected in these raids, and from short-wave radio transmissions assertedly intercepted between Havana and the defendants. The judge refused a defense motion to move the trial out of Miami. And the big-business media all but convicted the five as spies even

before the trial began.

The media here is reporting favorably on the FBI threats of more prosecutions. "I advocate charging anyone who had anything to do with the [1996] shoot-down and the network whom we can meet the [legal] threshold on," said Pesquera. "I will pursue each of those individuals vigorously. We haven't turned the switch off on this particular network and the shoot-down."

Argiris Malapanis is a meat packer in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Food workers in New Zealand walk out

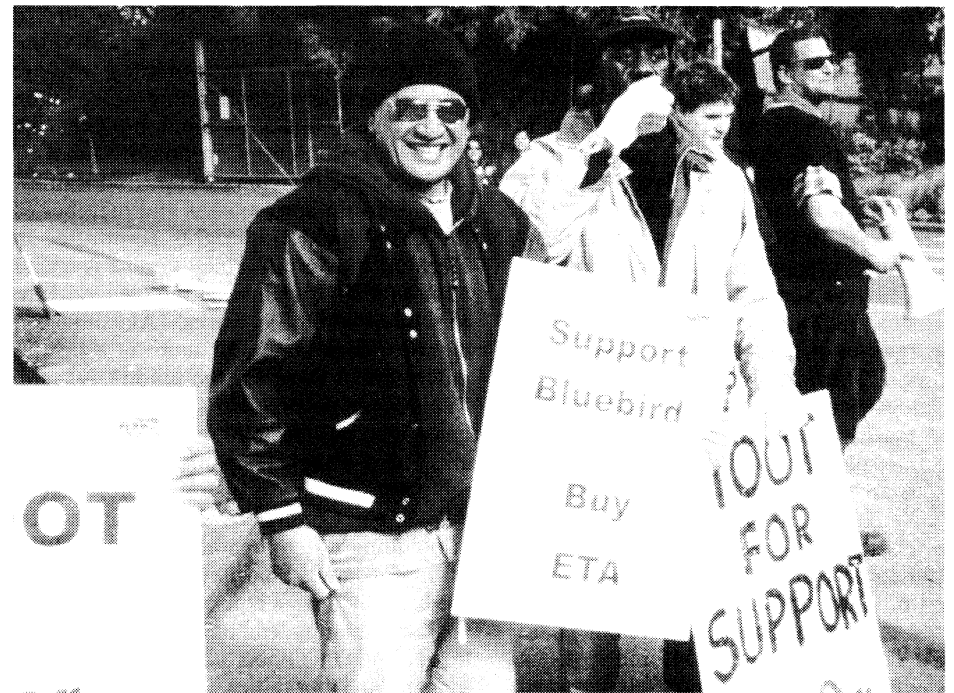
BY MIKE TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Several hundred production and warehouse workers at Bluebird Foods in Manukau City, an area of Auckland, went on strike July 12 to demand a 6 percent wage increase. Scores of workers, organized over their three shifts, have maintained a spirited 24-hour picket line outside the large food processing factory.

The unionists voted 90 percent in favor striking after contract negotiations broke down. The action began early, however, as workers on the afternoon shift, who were attending a union meeting, learned that the bosses were preparing to move products from the plant and quickly set up the pickets. Meeting outside the plant gate July 17, in heavy winter rain, more than 200 workers voted overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the strike action and picket.

During the negotiations prior to the strike, workers had agreed to lower their claim to 4.5 percent. But after the company refused to settle and the strike began, the demand for a 6 percent increase was reinstated. Workers on the picket line say that steep increases in food, petrol, and other everyday items are among the reasons they decided to walk out. Many also point to the anti-worker attitudes of bosses at the plant.

Workers at Bluebird's factory in Timaru and its Christchurch warehouse have also gone out, making the strike national.



Militant/Terry Coggan

Workers on strike at Bluebird Foods in Manukau City, in Auckland, New Zealand.

Bluebird is a part of Goodman Fielder, one of the biggest food processing companies in Australia and New Zealand. The striking workers are members of the Service and Food Workers Union, which orga-

nizes production workers, or the National Distribution Union, which organizes warehouse workers. Tradespeople organized by the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Workers Union are also on strike.

Pennsylvania miners rally to defend union

Continued from front page

Carlo Tarley stated that Murray "says one thing and does something else. He maintains he wants to build a partnership, yet now it appears he wants to abandon the people who have been the biggest part of the relationship—his UMWA work force."

This year Murray has opened a nonunion operation called the Century Mine close to the Powhatan No. 6 portal. Both are in Ohio. Coal is already being produced from this new

mine and Murray says he plans to get production up to an annual 5 million tons with the installation of a longwall mining machine.

Murray recently announced plans to open another longwall mine a few miles north of Powhatan No. 6. Work has also begun on a new longwall mine, near Maple Creek, that Murray is scheduled to open in 2003.

Maple Creek management replied to the union campaign with a press release that was picked up in the *Observer-Reporter* in Washington, Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh *Tribune Review*. The statement charged Tarley and UMWA with "publishing deliberate lies" about Murray "in an effort to gain UMWA representation at unrelated companies where the employees apparently do not want them."

A letter sent to workers accused Tarley and the UMWA of "trying to use you to create trouble and distrust, and to organize this unrelated company in Ohio."

Maple Creek Mining Inc. also filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board accusing the UMWA of wrongly disrupting operations at Maple Creek to help organize an unrelated mine in Ohio. It also filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Tarley.

Tarley stated that the union campaign at these mines is not "some kind of back door way to try and organize new workers. I'm not saying we don't believe every miner employed at a Murray operation shouldn't belong to the UMWA, but that's not what this campaign is about. This campaign is about fairness and justice for the workers who helped Mr. Murray build his business, and now, as his business expands, these same workers are being left behind. It's a kick in the teeth to them," Tarley said.

Last December members of UMWA Local 1248 at Maple Creek rejected, by a 335-10 vote, a company-proposed contract for Local 1248 members that covered both Maple Creek and the new mine Murray plans to open in Pennsylvania. The rejected agreement provided for an increase of 30 cents an hour each year of the contract period. Because of the wage concessions and wage freeze in place since Murray reopened Maple Creek in 1995, the pay received by

workers at that mine lags almost \$3 per hour behind the wage rates in the contract between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

After the December vote, Murray was quoted in the Uniontown *Herald Standard* as saying that union members "got greedy" and that "there are 500 people who will be in the unemployment line."

Murray is the largest independent, family-held coal producer in the United States. Besides the mines mentioned, he has coal operations in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Illinois, and West Virginia, and has investigated mining opportunities in Utah. Murray-owned mines produced more than 20 million tons of coal in 2000. At a recent government hearing in Washington, Murray said he expected "to be producing at least 30 million tons annually within the next three years."

Frank Forrestal and Tony Lane are members of UMWA Local 1248.

Chinese miners protest

BY GREG McCARTAN

Dispatches from Beijing July 9 reported the blockade of a major rail line by coal miners demanding up to 30 months' back pay. Some 10,000 miners, retirees, and family members marched on the train station in Jishu township, located 1,000 miles northeast of the capital. Three to four thousand people entered the station and blocked the lines.

A spokesperson for the mine bureau confirmed that up to 10,000 workers at the provincial-run mines had not been paid for two to three years.

Bureau officials cited "difficult financial conditions" and their inability to sell the coal as the reason for the arrears. One official acknowledged that the miners "are doing the hardest work for no pay. Their families are living a very difficult life."

Five hundred riot police were mobilized, but a policeman on the scene told the AFP wire service that there had been "no confrontation, the police are there to maintain order. The coal miners are very orderly."

Join the U.S. delegation to the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students

August 8-16, Algiers, Algeria

The festival will bring together thousands of youth from around the globe. Given its location, it is expected to draw attendance particularly from Africa and the Middle East, in addition to Europe, Latin America, North America, and Asia.

The program will offer nine days of discussion and debate on wide-ranging political topics, from the struggles for self-determination in Palestine, Western Sahara, and Puerto Rico, to the U.S. military buildup in Latin America, to the fight for women's rights, to U.S. imperialism's drive to expand NATO eastward.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY: contact the U.S. National Preparatory Committee, 15th World Festival of Youth and Students, 237 W. 23rd St., New York, NY 10011, e-mail: www.usnpc.org; or contact the Young Socialists at P.O. Box 33, New York, NY 10018. Tel: (212) 695-1809.

Increased political activity marks NAACP convention

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

NEW ORLEANS—Several thousand people attended the national convention of the NAACP, which outlined a “five year strategic plan” to increase its membership, defend affirmative action programs, increase voter turnout of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities, and promote election reform and “economic empowerment” of the Black nationality.

Julian Bond, the NAACP chairman, opened the July 7–12 convention emphasizing the voting rights violations in Florida during the 2000 presidential elections and the appointment of conservative politicians in the cabinet of President George Bush. “The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has found that African-American voters in Florida were nearly 10 times more likely than white voters to have their ballots rejected,” Bond stated. He told convention delegates that the NAACP has filed a lawsuit against Florida secretary of state Katherine Harris and others.

Delegates at the convention voted to oppose Bush’s “faith-based initiative” bill, which would allow religious charities access to \$8 billion a year in federal funds. “The NAACP opposes...initiatives which do not include traditional and well-established employment rights, civil rights, and anti-discrimination protections that can be enforced by the nation’s court system,” said NAACP president Kweisi Mfume.

The NAACP is the country’s largest and oldest civil rights organization. Under the leadership of Mfume and Bond, both prominent politicians in the Democratic Party, the NAACP has sought to regain a measure of cohesion as a national organization, influence within bourgeois politics, and corporate financial backing. The size of the convention and range of activities in local areas that participants have been involved in—especially in the South—is one indication of the revitalization of the branches of the organization in many areas.

The resistance of working people across the country to the ruling-class assault on Black rights, struggles against attacks by the employers and the government on the unions, and fights to defend democratic rights all put their stamp on the meeting.

Labor rally and town hall meeting

For working people in attendance, the highlights of the national gathering included a July 10 march and rally to demand higher wages and better benefits for hotel and restaurant workers in the city and a town hall meeting sponsored by the organization’s Youth and College Division. Some 250

people attended the labor action, which included unionists from the United Auto Workers; Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; Service Employees International Union; and United Food and Commercial Workers. AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer Richard Trumka spoke at the rally and was also the keynote speaker at the NAACP labor luncheon held just before the demonstration. He called for support for the fight to force the state of South Carolina to drop felony riot charges against the “Charleston Five,” longshoremen who are under house arrest and facing prosecution around a cop attack on a union picket line in Charleston, South Carolina.

One of the marchers was Alfred Rainey, a 45-year-old auto worker and member of the UAW local civil rights committee in Decatur, Alabama. Rainey said he is trying to strengthen his union at the General Motors plant where he works. “Alabama is a right-to-work state and there is a hostile environment there for the union,” he said. “This is not just related to African-Americans, who number 600 out of 2,700 workers. There are few Hispanics and women in the plant.” Rainey is also vice president of the Morgan County NAACP branch, which is planning a demonstration to protest the killing of James Sharpley, who was shot in the back by a state conservation officer.

In the months leading up to the convention NAACP members and local leaders participated in labor rallies, including a demonstration to support strikers at the Up-To-Date Laundry in Baltimore and a solidarity rally of 5,000 unionists and others in Columbia, South Carolina, to defend the five framed-up dock workers. A contingent of longshoremen joined the NAACP-led march last year of nearly 50,000 people in Columbia to demand the state government remove the Confederate battle flag from atop the Capitol.

“That was the largest march ever held in South Carolina,” said David Walker, presi-



Militant/Osborne Hart

Convention participants joined action defending New Orleans hotel workers

dent of the NAACP branch in Aiken, South Carolina. Walker also joined the June 9 action to defend the Charleston Five. “The flag was removed from atop the Capitol dome, but is still flying on state grounds and is now in our faces, 30 feet from the ground. It must be removed completely and put into a museum,” he said. NAACP branches in South Carolina are planning a state convention in October, where they will discuss planning another march against the racist flag, possibly in January on Martin Luther King Day.

Young activists on campuses

The young people who participated in the convention included high school students who are organizing their NAACP youth branch to deal with social questions on campus. Michelle Newby and Kenneth Anderson, two 17-year-old students in the San Fernando Valley, California, spoke of plans to organize opposition to random body searches of students by school security. They aim to get their NAACP branch involved in

opposing this attack on students’ privacy rights. “They search you if you’re late for school and most of the searches are done to African-American teenagers,” said Anderson. “The school authorities say they have the right to search our lockers at any time,” Newby added.

Newby and Anderson attended the Worldwide Youth Workshop that discussed career “opportunities for people of color in the international arena.” Newby said she wasn’t interested in that workshop but does follow world politics like events in the Middle East and China. “We always get a one-sided view from the U.S. government on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” she said. “The Israeli soldiers shoot those young Palestinian children who are throwing rocks because they know no other way to stop something they think is wrong. It’s like what we did in the ’60s. You do what you have to do to fight. Meanwhile, the Israeli government is preaching that it is nonviolent and wants to sign a peace treaty.”

Budget proposal threatens WIC food program

BY MAGGIE TROWE

As many as 200,000 pregnant women and young children will be turned away from a food-supplement program if Congress adopts the budget being promoted by the White House.

President George Bush requested \$4.1 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This amount is more than \$100 million short of what is needed to fund ev-

eryone who qualifies for the program, which is overwhelmingly working people.

Recent figures show that more than 7 million people participate every month in the program, which provides milk, infant formula, and other foods and nutrition counseling to pregnant women, mothers of infants, infants, and children up to five years old. WIC also provides screening and referrals to other health, welfare, and social services.

One in four new mothers, 45 percent of all infants, and nearly 25 percent of all children under five years of age participate in the program.

WIC is not an entitlement program—one in which Congress guarantees to set aside funds to make it possible for every eligible person to receive the aid—but rather a federal grant program for which Congress votes to authorize a certain amount of funding each year. If the funds don’t cover all those qualified to receive the benefits, then some of them don’t receive it.

In early discussions on the White House budget proposal, Bush said it would provide funds to maintain the “current program level” for the fiscal year. When the figures came out, however, the president’s request was \$110 million short of what is necessary to maintain the current demand for nutritional aid.

The WIC program was founded in 1974, during the first worldwide recession in decades. Its passage was part of the expansion of the social wage won by working people through two previous decades of civil rights struggle by Blacks, which smashed Jim Crow segregation and wrested social and economic concessions benefitting the entire working class.

The first food supplement program was the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, established in 1934 during the Great Depression, when hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers had difficulty buying food and when many farmers produced food for which they could not find buyers.

That year, three major labor battles rocked the country—the Teamsters organizing drive in Minneapolis, the Toledo Auto-Lite strike, and the West Coast longshore strike. Within five years 13 million people were eating federally provided surplus foods.

The first national school lunch program was established by Congress in 1946, during the post-World War II labor upsurge. Congress passed the first permanent food stamp program in 1964.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

Pittsburgh YS chapter kicks off summer school

BY LIZ WAYMAN

PITTSBURGH—The Young Socialists chapter here is launching a summer school class series.

We are going to read six books, starting with *The History of American Trotskyism* by James P. Cannon in its entirety. Then we’ll read selections from *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party* by Cannon, *In Defense of Marxism* by Leon Trotsky, *Capitalism’s World Disorder* and *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, and from *New Internationalism* no. 11 the article titled, “U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War.” Our first class will be Sunday, July 8.

Recently the chapter here has been doing a weekly class on *Socialism on Trial* by Cannon. At the last class, a young woman came for the first time. She is a student at the University of Pittsburgh who has been involved with the Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange—an upcoming visit to Cuba in late July by a group of young people from the United States—and also attended the recent Active Workers Conference. Her presence at the class added a lot and she came prepared with a list of questions from the reading that were all discussed.

Socialism on Trial explains the basic ideas

of socialism through Cannon’s testimony during the 1941 trial of 18 leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters and the Socialist Workers Party who were framed up and imprisoned because of their opposition to Washington’s moves to enter the second imperialist world war. Cannon was one of the 18 and a founding leader of the SWP.

We talked at great length about what it will mean to make a socialist revolution. We discussed the fear expressed by some people that a socialist government run by workers and farmers might make decisions based on prejudice. That led into topics such as race and racism, the fact that capitalism needs racism to survive, and that a workers and farmers government has no interest in racist discrimination but in fact would work to fight against it. Another line of discussion was about how workers and farmers would use their revolutionary government to defend the gains of their revolution.

We also discussed the distinction between the working class, working farmers, the middle class or petty bourgeoisie, and the bourgeois class. That led into what the working class comprises today.

We learned that *Socialism on Trial* provides a good overview of the SWP’s politi-

cal foundation. We also discussed the fact that since the events described in the book the working class has become further transformed by the integration of more Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, and women into its ranks.

In addition, members of the YS chapter in Pittsburgh have been busy working as part of a local delegation to the Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange on fund-raising events. Those going on the trip and their supporters have raised \$300 from donations and a car wash, which has given us enough to buy supplies for making T-shirts, which should bring in close to \$1,000. We will begin printing the T-shirts immediately and will have them ready by the same weekend our summer school starts.

We also planned a fund-raising event at a local club, with bands and other entertainers performing, and all the proceeds will go to fund our delegation. Besides our delegation’s individual contributions, we hope to raise the rest of the money through at least one more fund-raising event. One YS chapter member has also submitted an application to participate in the U.S. delegation to the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algiers taking place in August.

Argentina: default looms, workers resist

Continued from front page

est package of economic austerity measures. He called for slashing wages and pensions of public employees by up to 13 percent. Some 250,000 public employees would be immediately affected by the plan.

The government projects that the plan, if implemented, will result in cuts of \$1 billion in public spending. The provincial governments have agreed to cut their spending by \$650 million over the rest of the year.

Within two days of De la Rúa's announcement, the prices of Argentine stocks and bonds plummeted to record lows, indicating the lack of confidence that capitalist investors have in the ability of the government in Buenos Aires to carry out the draconian cuts in social spending they demand as a condition for investment and loans.

U.S. national security advisor Condoleezza Rice announced July 13 that the Bush administration was carefully monitoring the economic turmoil in Argentina but indicated that Washington had no plans to offer its own "assistance" to help Argentina meet its foreign debt payments. "The best course of action right now is for Argentina to be able to take the steps it needs to take at home," Rice asserted.

Barely seven months ago, the International Monetary Fund granted Argentina a massive \$40 billion "bailout" loan to help keep interest payments on the debt flowing. Yet the debt keeps growing. It is now

spending, including a \$900 million cut in education, workers and students held mass protests, forcing him to resign after only two weeks in office. He was replaced by Cavallo. Since De la Rúa became president in December 1999, the unions have called five national strikes against government austerity measures; the latest is the sixth.

As investors have lost confidence in the Argentine government's ability to stabilize the economy, they are demanding higher interest rates, which have risen to 14 percent, the highest in five years. That in turn has only increased the country's foreign debt.

At the same time, the peso's parity with the dollar is becoming increasingly unsustainable. While it was imposed under the presidency of Carlos Menem—with Cavallo as economy minister—to combat hyperinflation, it has left Argentine exports uncompetitive with neighboring currencies and the euro. Many economists are predicting an inevitable devaluation.

Last month Cavallo established a multiple exchange rate for importers and exporters, giving exporters an 8 percent subsidy based on a floating exchange rate equivalent to the average value of the euro and the dollar.

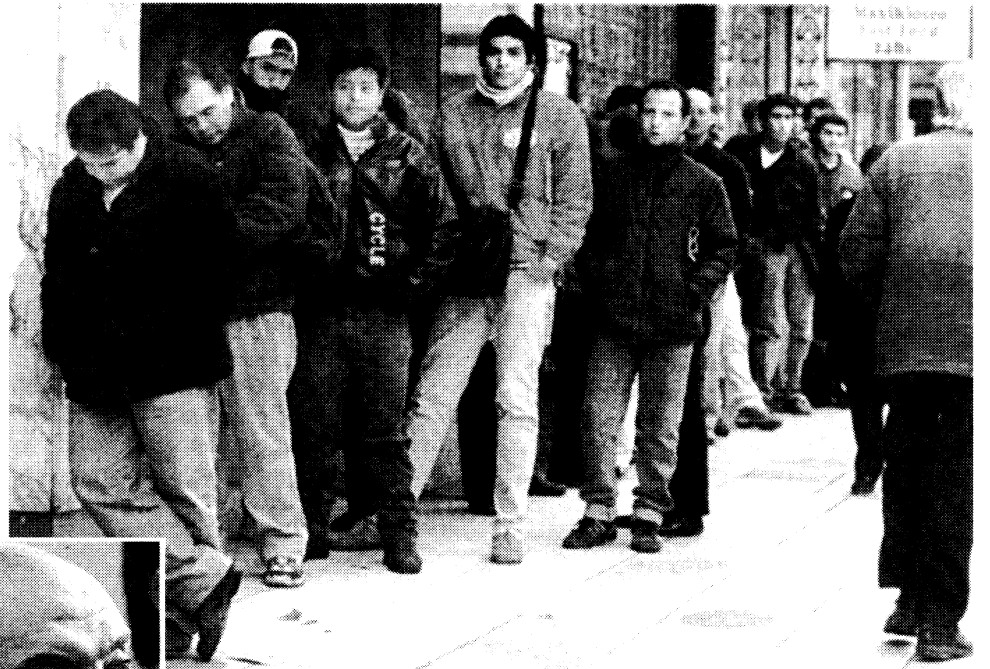
In face of the crisis, the opposition Peronist party, which in the past has sought to distance itself from the regime's austerity policies, has endorsed the government's latest moves. On July 17 De la Rúa signed an agreement with 14 Peronist governors to eliminate the budget deficits in order to assure that the payments to the imperialist bankers continue.

The government has used the impending debt default to try to blackmail workers into accepting economic "sacrifices." Labor minister Patricia Bullrich even appealed to workers to "donate one hour's wages" for a national fund to help the government dig out of the crisis. The proposal was met with derision among working people.

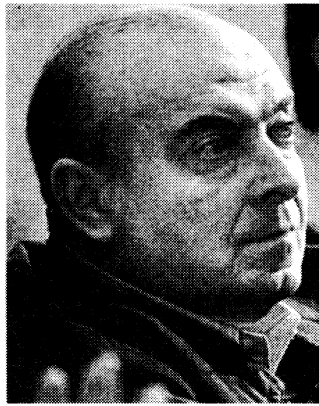
Instead, workers shut down the country July 19. The protests began the day before with a strike by the Association of State Workers (ATE). Thousands of public employees and pensioners marched through Buenos Aires to protest the 13 percent wage and pension cuts.

In a display of unity in action, the general strike was carried out by the two public wings of the General Labor Confederation (CGT) and the smaller Confederation of Argentine Workers (CTA).

Also on July 18, some 4,000 unemployed workers blocked the highway near the city



Above, workers in Buenos Aires line up to apply for a single job. Left, economy minister Domingo Cavallo, hated architect of austerity program.



of La Plata in the province of Buenos Aires. They organized a huge caravan along the road, in a protest to demand jobs. Some 300 cops tried unsuccessfully to prevent the action. The blockade was organized by a

union formation called the Class and Combative Current (CCC) and several unemployed organizations including the Teresa Rodriguez Movement of Unemployed Workers.

Jobless workers take action

Around the country from north to south, jobless workers have been setting up roadblocks to demand that the government provide jobs, food, and unemployment insurance. In a growing number of cases, industrial workers who lost their jobs have been involved.

At the end of June, 100 laid-off meatpacking workers in the central province of Santa Fe blocked a major highway to Buenos Aires, demanding relief payments that were promised to them. A total of 1,300 workers have been laid off from the U.S.-owned meatpacking giant Swift and other companies. The packinghouse union's general secretary, Jose Fantini, told the press that many times the relief payments are not paid on time or not paid at all.

In General Mosconi, a city in the northern province of Salta, unemployed workers have been blocking the highway that connects Argentina and Bolivia since May 30. They were joined by construction workers demanding wage parity. Some 40 percent

of the workforce in this city of 20,000 are jobless. Many are former oil workers who lost their jobs after the Menem government sold off the oil company, YPF.

On June 17 the conflict exploded when border cops firing tear gas and rubber bullets removed a group of 60 protesters from the highway. Two people were killed by gunfire, 14 protesters were wounded, and 39 were arrested.

The next day, a group of protesting workers attempted to take over the nearby Refinor oil refinery. The government attacked them with 1,000 cops.

A national focus of labor protests has been the airlines. Workers at Aerolíneas Argentinas have been resisting the bosses' attempt to slash jobs, impose new work rules, and lower wages, under the threat that it will otherwise be forced to close Aerolíneas.

The airline, purchased 10 years ago by the Spanish government, is now facing more than \$1 billion in debt. In April the airline withheld the employees' pay, supposedly because of the huge debts racked up by Aerolíneas.

Hundreds of airline workers have carried out actions at the Buenos Aires airports, blocking the main highway to Ezeiza International Airport and threatening to occupy the runways.

On July 14, hundreds of airline workers crashed the wedding of Cavallo's daughter, pelting the economy minister and the well-heeled wedding guests with eggs. Cavallo was virtually besieged inside the church for two hours. The airline workers protested the consequences of the airline's privatization and demanded action.



Workers at Aerolíneas Argentina display poster of crucified flight attendant in April protest over nonpayment of wages.

more than half the country's gross domestic product.

Explaining his "zero deficit" plan, De la Rúa vowed that his government will stop "living off borrowed money" and will only spend what it collects. Economy minister Domingo Cavallo insisted that "Argentina will meet its obligations, pay the interest on its debt."

Cavallo has also denied that Argentina will devalue its currency, the peso, which has been pegged to the U.S. dollar since 1991.

Argentina has been in a deep recession for the past three years. The official unemployment rate is now 16.5 percent, and is even higher in the Buenos Aires area, where the largest concentration of industry is located. The pegging of the peso to the dollar has maintained prices for many basic goods that are extremely high for most working people.

Foreign investors: pay debt

The priority for capitalist investors abroad and at home, however, has been to pay the ever-rising foreign debt. They have pressed the government to dismantle the social security system and other social gains that working people in Argentina have won in struggle over the past six decades.

While the regime has made some headway in its attacks, it has increasingly bumped into working-class resistance. In March, when economy minister Ricardo López Murphy announced sharp cuts in social

'I didn't sign on to nursing for slave labor,' says unionist in Canada contract fight

BY JOE YATES

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—The Conservative provincial government in Nova Scotia backed down July 5 and agreed to send its contract dispute with hospital workers and nurses to binding arbitration. Premier John Hamm said it would not enforce strike-breaking Bill 68.

The government adopted Bill 68 on June 27 ordering an end to strikes by hospital

workers. The law allowed the government to impose contracts and levy \$2,000 fines against union members who didn't go along. The same day, 2,900 health-care workers went on strike and 2,100 nurses respected their picket lines.

The following day the workers returned to work but threatened to resign en masse. More than 1,450 of the 2,100 nurses at the province's largest hospital signed letters of resignation. This came on top of a sustained mobilization, which included demonstrations and walkouts. The workers are represented by the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union and the Nova Scotia Nurses Union.

In face of these labor protests the *Globe and Mail*, one of Canada's two national newspapers, published an editorial saying that Bill 68 "was a stupid, provocative move." The editorial said, "The right to withdraw services is not only a valued part of collective bargaining, but a crucial safety valve in a province that pays nurses less than any other province."

On July 5, the Nova Scotia newspaper *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* said in an editorial that the government should resign if it could not come up with a compromise with the unions. "We can't replace the nurses. But a new government can always be cobbled together," the editorial read.

The mood of the hospital workers was captured by cardiac nurse Fay MacNeil, who said, "I didn't sign on to nursing to do slave labor. I didn't sign on to lose my rights."

Laboratory technologist Tammy Freeman said in a confrontation with Hamm in the foyer of the provincial legislature, "It's not just people working in the hospital. You have people all across the province angry."

The nurses have been demanding a 20 percent increase over three years, while the government was offering 10.5 percent. Other hospital workers have demanded 9 percent with cost-of-living adjustments, while the government has offered 6 percent. The nurses and health-care workers also are demanding a reduction in the brutal workloads and the hiring of new workers. The outcome of the arbitration should be known by mid-August.

This year has seen many clashes in Canada between health-care workers, on one hand, and the employers and their government, on the other. Paramedics have walked off the job in Edmonton, hospital and nursing home workers in Saskatchewan spent nearly a week on picket lines, New Brunswick hospital support staff were legislated back to work, and British Columbia nurses are continuing their fight for a contract despite a law that makes illegal their ban on overtime.

From Pathfinder

Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War

by Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 10. Also contains

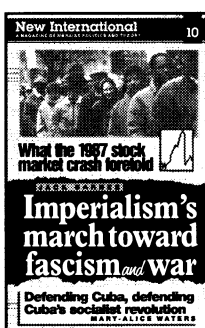
- What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold
- Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution by Mary-Alice Waters
- The Curve of Capitalist Development by Leon Trotsky

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 11. Also contains

- The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today by Mary-Alice Waters
- Socialism: A Viable Option by José Ramón Balaguer
- Young Socialists Manifesto



Both \$14. Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Tampa police use of 'facial profiling' sparks protests

BY RACHELE FRUIT

TAMPA, Florida—The use of "facial profiling" by the city police, with cameras scanning the faces of people walking through downtown, has sparked widespread outrage among many here, who regard it as an infringement on their rights carried out under the pretext of "fighting crime."

The police in this city became the first in the country to adopt the use of so-called face-printing technology. They use 36 cameras, linked with a software program called Facelt, that scan the faces of people walking along Seventh Avenue and compare them with 30,000 images in a database of people that the police deem suspicious. According to press reports, the database, maintained jointly by the county sheriff's office and the Tampa police, includes records ranging from "people with criminal records" to "runaways," to "terrorists."

The Tampa cops and the FBI first used similar high-tech surveillance equipment during the Super Bowl last January, scanning the faces of more than 100,000 people without their knowledge as they entered Raymond James Stadium.

The City Council then approved, in a one-year "trial period," the use of the surveillance system in Ybor City, near downtown

Tampa, where people gather in large numbers, especially on the weekends. To promote this spying technology, the company providing it won't charge the city government unless it chooses to keep it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) publicly released a letter to city officials July 6, demanding information on "what is being done with the captured video images of thousands of unsuspecting visitors and residents under a new video surveillance program."

In the letter, Randall Marshall, legal director of the Florida ACLU, requested a copy of the police department's records on the use of the electronic snooping during the Super Bowl, and threatened to file a lawsuit against the city.

On the night of July 14, around 100 people held a protest in Ybor City against the police surveillance plan. They came wearing disguises such as bandannas, Groucho Marx glasses, and gas masks to register their opposition to the "Big Brother is watching you" police tactics.

May Becker, 29, a student at the University of South Florida, told the July 15 *St. Petersburg Times*, "Being watched on a public street is just plain wrong. We shouldn't be treated as criminals."

Workers in south Korea stage one-day strike to oppose arrests



Some 100,000 workers in south Korea went on a one-day nationwide strike July 5 to protest government moves to arrest union leaders involved in a June 12 general strike for wage increases and better working conditions. The June action paralyzed airlines, auto plants, and shipyards.

The protest was organized by the Tampa Bay Action Group, a coalition of 30 organizations affiliated with the People's Global Network.

Interviewed by the *Militant*, Eric Rubin, one of the organizers of the protest, said,

"Facial profiling is no different than racial profiling. The powers that be say they are using it supposedly to fight crime, but it is another way to criminalize people, particularly communities of color."

He added, "The national response comes from people's concern about the questions of civil rights and invasion of privacy, but it is really much deeper than that."

In the July 15 *St. Petersburg Times*, columnist Jan Glidewell wrote, "My fear is that the unplanned piecemeal surrender of our privacy might not be as sinister as [some people think] but that, one way or the other, it will be very difficult to get it back once it is gone."

Opponents of the new police surveillance planned to attend a July 19 meeting of the Tampa city council to protest. "This has to be stopped dead in its tracks," said Rubin.

Tampa is the first city in the country where the "Facelt" technology is being used for routine surveillance, but Virginia Beach is seeking a \$150,000 state grant for a similar system.

The ACLU issued a statement July 11, together with Congressman Richard Army, calling on state and local governments "to stop using these dangerous technologies now." They demanded to know the extent to which the federal government is funding "facial-recognition" technologies.

The statement pointed to Colorado, where the Department of Motor Vehicles is moving ahead with a plan approved by the legislature to create a database containing computerized three-dimensional facial maps of all people applying for driver's licenses.

The statement said, "There is an alarming potential for misuse of all of these systems. Used in conjunction with facial-recognition software, for example, the Colorado database could allow the public movements of every citizen in the state to be identified, tracked, recorded and stored."

Rachele Fruit is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1625.

U.S. delegates back World Youth Festival

Thousands of young people from around the world will be converging on Algiers, the capital of Algeria, August 8-16 to take part in the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students. The program offers nine days of discussion and debate on wide-ranging political topics, including the struggles for self-determination in Palestine, Western Sahara, and Puerto Rico; the U.S. military buildup in Latin America; and U.S. imperialism's drive to expand NATO eastward (See ad on page 3 for information on how to attend).

Some youth organizations that have been involved in preparations for the festival, however, recently backed away from their participation. They have called for a boycott of the festival, arguing that holding it in Algiers would give political endorsement to repressive actions by the Algerian government, and warning that the civil conflict in that country would make it "unsafe" to travel there.

In recent months there have been sustained street actions by hundreds of thousands of working people and youth in Algeria protesting repression by national police forces and supporting the struggle by

the Berber people, an oppressed nationality in Algeria and throughout North Africa, for the right to be taught in their native language in school.

Nonetheless, the organizers of the festival report that delegations from all six continents are continuing full steam ahead with their plans to attend the gathering in Algiers. Juan Carlos Frómata, a leader of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba and member of the International Organizing Committee of the festival, reported in a July 11 interview from Algiers in last week's *Militant* that at least 1,000 youth are coming from around the Americas, including 600 youth from revolutionary Cuba. He also noted that there will be a large participation by youth from around Algeria, including from the majority-Berber regions.

Printed below is a statement issued July 4 by the U.S. National Preparatory Committee for the festival, expressing opposition to the boycott call.



In light of a call by some organizations

to boycott the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students scheduled for Algiers August 8-16, the United States National Preparatory Committee (U.S. NPC), which is organizing a delegation to this festival, believes the following statement is necessary:

The 15th World Festival of Youth and Students is an anti-imperialist gathering. The struggle against imperialist domination remains a life and death question for the vast majority of the toiling masses on a world scale. Those of us building the world festival oppose all forms of racism and sexism and national oppression, which only serve the interests of the imperialist powers to divide and rule.

The U.S. NPC supports the rights of ethnic minorities in Algeria, including the language and cultural rights of the Berber people. We are aware that organizations participating in the 15th World Youth Festival have a variety of views on these questions. We stand for an open discussion and debate on all these issues and support participation in the festival proceedings of all organizations and individuals that support the festival's aims. Building and going to this festival is not an endorsement of the actions or political course of the current government in Algeria, any more than has been the case with prior festivals.

At the same time, we are not naive or blind to the fact that the imperialist powers, with the French government in the lead, have their hand in trying to instigate unrest in Algeria that could result in putting a government in power that is more amenable to their interests. They have never forgiven the Algerian people for their victorious war of liberation that resulted in independence from French colonial rule in 1962. First and foremost, the Algerian people have to address their internal conflicts. We oppose any imperialist intervention in Algeria.

The U.S. NPC stands unconditionally for open participation in the festival and is opposed to any effort to exclude any organizations or individuals other than those who oppose the festival's goals. Those calling for a boycott are simply taking advantage of a volatile situation in Algeria to advance their political aims, which include pulling young people behind the bandwagon of organizations that are openly pro-imperialist.

We call on young people to consider all these facts as they make a decision to participate in the August 8-16 gathering. We encourage them to be part of the U.S. delegation that will join young people from many other countries in Algeria for a discussion on the struggle against imperialism around the world.

N.Y. meetings protest denial of U.S. visas to Cuban unionists

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK—Trade unionists and others held meetings here to protest the U.S. State Department's denial of visas to a five-person leadership delegation of Cuban trade unionists. The five had been invited to speak in 25 U.S. cities and Puerto Rico on the role of the unions in Cuba and how working people there are involved in defending the gains of their revolution.

The five unionists are Pedro Ross, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), Cuba's labor federation; Leonel González, director of international relations of the CTC; Manuel Montero, head of the CTC's North American Interests Bureau; Diana García, general secretary of the Public Administrative Workers Union; and Edison Brown, an official CTC translator.

On July 11, U.S. authorities informed the CTC leaders that the visas had been approved. Two days later, however, on the eve of their departure, they were informed that the visas had been rescinded.

In a letter to the tour sponsors, Ross protested the U.S. government's action, saying

this was part of its "hostility toward this small country whose people have resisted heroically for 42 years" Washington's aggression and threats against revolutionary Cuba.

He noted that the intended visit was aimed at building on the success of a similar speaking tour last year, in which González, Montero, and Brown were part of the CTC delegation.

Organizers of the speaking tour asked supporters of democratic rights to send protest messages to the State Department. In some of the cities where events were scheduled for the CTC leaders, the meetings were turned into speakouts against the visa denials.

In New York, 50 people turned out for a July 18 meeting at the hall of Local 1199 of the hospital workers union. Luis Matos, of Local 1199 and the U.S. Health Care Trade Union Committee, and other speakers, condemned the U.S. government's refusal to grant visas to the Cuban unionists as an attack on the rights of working people both in the United States and Cuba. A similar meeting took place the evening before at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

from Pathfinder

Che Guevara Talks to Young People

"We are attacked a great deal because of what we are. But we are attacked much, much more because we show to every nation of the Americas what it's possible to be. What's important for imperialism — much more than Cuba's nickel mines or sugar mills, or Venezuela's oil, or Mexico's cotton, or Chile's copper, or Argentina's cattle, or Paraguay's grasslands, or Brazil's coffee — is the totality of these raw materials upon which the monopolies feed." —Che Guevara, July 28, 1960

\$15.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Carpenter union gains highlight AFL-CIO membership decline

BY GREG MCCARTAN

AFL-CIO president John Sweeney and Carpenters union president Doug McCarron announced July 16 they are continuing discussions on questions that led the half-million member construction workers union to leave the labor federation in March. The AFL-CIO chief said his goal is the reaffiliation of the Carpenters union.

McCarron led the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners out of the AFL-CIO, he says, because "despite the strong words and good intentions, the more fundamental changes have not been addressed." Under McCarron the Carpenters reversed substantial losses in membership, growing from 349,000 in 1995 to around 550,000 today. The percentage of union members in the construction industry rose from 17.8 percent to 19.1 percent in 2000.

Overall, the percentage of union workers in the United States fell last year to 13.5 percent, or 16.2 million, which is 200,000 less than in 1992. Union membership in privately owned companies fell to 9 percent in 2000, down from 9.4 percent the year before. The percentage of public employees in unions rose slightly, from 37.3 to 37.5 percent during the same period.

The July 23 *Fortune* magazine notes that McCarron's "defection highlighted Big Labor's central crisis: declining membership. The AFL-CIO spends a lot of money on public relations, lobbying, campaign contributions, and bureaucratic featherbedding—funds McCarron believes would better be spent on recruitment. 'We're surrounded by opportunity,' says McCarron.... 'There are a million unrepresented carpenters out there who should get fair wages, health care, and a pension.'"

In a May 2 press release, Sweeney said that during the negotiations between the AFL-CIO and Carpenters officials, "the disaffiliation remains in effect" at "every level of the labor movement." During this time the Carpenters "may participate in Building Trades Councils as well as AFL-CIO state federations and central labor councils on an *ex officio* basis, and all bodies will be encouraged to work informally and cooperatively with Carpenters local unions."

For Sweeney, the failure to reverse the decline in membership, a central component of his election pledge in his campaign for president of the labor federation in 1995, has become a crisis for the AFL-CIO officialdom as a whole. Many of his supporters have argued that there is a "new labor leadership" that can revitalize the unions, pointing to the recruitment figures racked up by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)—which Sweeney previously headed—the fastest growing union in the country.

'Numbers totally unsatisfactory'

But last February Sweeney called a special meeting of the presidents of member unions to discuss organizing. He told those present that "not only are the numbers totally unsatisfactory, but if we don't begin to turn this around quickly and almost immediately, the drift in the other direction is going to make it virtually impossible to continue to exist as a viable institution and to have any impact on the issues we care about."

The SEIU, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the United Food and Commercial Workers unions each organized 50,000-70,000 new members last year. The Teamsters, United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, and Machinists reported even more modest results, each organizing between 10,000 and 20,000 new members. About 10 of the 66 unions affiliated to the AFL-CIO carried out about 80 percent of the organizing over the past several years, according to press reports.

While the number of new members organized into AFL-CIO unions each year has risen from around 100,000 to about 400,000 since Sweeney took office, it is still less than what is needed to keep up with normal attrition and plant closings. Labor officials say they must bring in 500,000 new members a year just to keep total membership figures the same. Although several international unions have devoted a larger share of the

yearly budget to expanding their membership rolls, many still allocate a mere 5 percent of expenditures to organizing efforts.

Two of the biggest organizing efforts during Sweeney's tenure came a cropper. These were the much-proclaimed drive to bring union representation to 20,000 strawberry pickers in the Salinas Valley around Watsonville, California, and the campaign to organize 60,000 construction workers in Las Vegas.

Unwilling to mobilize the labor forces needed to back farm workers in their fight against the antiunion offensive unleashed by the agricultural companies that dominate the Watsonville area—assaults that included sending goon squads into the fields—pro-union strawberry pickers were pushed back in their efforts to win union recognition.

And what Robert Georgine, president of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department, called in 1996 the "largest organizing campaign ever to be launched in the labor movement," including a \$5.2 million war chest, ended in Las Vegas with little more than a whimper before the unions ever got onto the field of battle.

New York Times reporter Steven Greenhouse commented, "In contrast to the organizing situation, Mr. Sweeney has had major success in persuading unions to do more on the political front," meaning lobbying and trying to get "friend of labor" Democrats elected to office. AFL-CIO organizing director Mark Splain told the newspaper, "The American labor movement in terms of political operations and political juice has showed its stuff. The issue is, is there a way for the labor movement to duplicate that type of success in organizing?"

Carpenters union victories

Faced with an antiunion drive by the construction companies over the past two decades, the Carpenters union ended up taking a different tack. In many major cities the construction bosses simply began refusing to use union workers, dramatically lowering the percentage of union job sites in the industry. Wages, working conditions, safety, seniority, and pensions went out the window as well.

McCarron's background is in the Southwest, most notably the 1992 five-month strike of mostly Mexican- and Central American-born drywall workers in Los Angeles. In the end, 49 contractors were forced to negotiate with the Carpenters union. The *Militant* reported at the time that the agreement provided "for union recognition, hiring to be done through the union hall on a rotating basis, medical insurance, and a pay scale. With an estimated 4,000 dry wall hangers in southern California, the struggle was the largest union organizing drive occurring in the United States.

"The victory was a result of daily mass picketing that involved thousands of dry wall workers throughout southern California. Hundreds of workers mobilized in demonstrations against police attacks and several deportations of strikers carried out by the Im-



Militant/Hilda Cuzco
Carpenters union pickets D'Agostino's market in New York last August against non-union contractor. They often account for 60 percent of workers on a construction site.

migration and Naturalization Service (INS)."

The *Militant* noted, "Wages of dry wallers were cut drastically over the past 10 years, from an average of \$15 an hour to barely \$5 an hour. The contract raises wages from four cents per square foot of drywall hung to seven and a half cents per square foot. The contract guarantees time-and-a-half pay after 40 hours of work, something that was rarely paid before the strike.

"Southern California's multi-billion-dollar homebuilding industry invested plenty of money, lawyers, and political connections to break the strike. The police, antiriot SWAT police teams, the INS, and the courts were all used against the strikers.

"But with determination, discipline, and solidarity, the drywall workers were able to break through the obstacles they faced, win a victory for all workers, and set an example of how to organize."

Since 1995, McCarron has cut the union's administrative staff in Washington from 240 to 25 and hired 600 new organizers, many of them Latino workers with experience in or connections to the industry, and boosted organizing funds to 50 percent of the union's budget. The union is demolishing its Washington office and putting up a 10-story building to lease for \$20 million a year. The union's 1,700 councils were organized into 55 regions, and responsibility for organizing was taken from locals, whose officials tend to focus on "servicing" the local membership, and given to the regional bodies.

The Carpenters union now often accounts for up to 60 percent of workers on a construction site, making it more of an industrial-type union in the construction industry.

'Immigrants are not the problem'

The assault by the bosses pressed construction workers to resist deteriorating conditions and organize the unorganized in order to keep the employers from getting rid of the union altogether. Many workers in the Carpenters union began to see the life-or-death need to bring immigrant workers into the union.

For example, in May 2000 thousands of construction workers massed in New York to condemn the decision of New York University to use nonunion contractor Alex Forkosh to build a student dormitory. The previous day 5,000 building workers took to the streets to demand better wages, the

largest action of construction workers since 40,000 marched through Manhattan two years earlier to respond to the bosses' anti-union drive.

The *Militant* reported that John Hyland, a union construction worker and member of Carpenters Union Local 608, "insisted on making his opinion clear about immigrant workers, given that many of the workers employed by Forkosh hail from other countries. 'We're not against nonunion workers, we're against nonunion contractors. God bless anyone trying to make a living. They pay somebody \$6 an hour for a job that they should be paid \$30 for. They are usually immigrant workers,' he said. 'I wish everyone of them could get union scale wages. They're not the problem. It's the greedy bastards they work for.'"

Carpenters and other construction union members in the New York area have made famous the giant inflatable rats that have become both a symbol of resistance by working people and of the greed of the "rat" employers. Last August the Carpenters union set up a picket in front of a D'Agostino's supermarket to protest the use of a nonunion contractor to repair the roof.

Carpenters union members have also joined workers in struggle in other industries, such as on Teamsters picket lines last year in the fight to organize the Overnite trucking company.

Sixty workers at Utah Structural Coatings in Salt Lake City walked off the job April 30 over nonpayment of wages, arbitrary reductions in wages, deduction of insurance premiums without providing benefits, and failure to provide adequate safety training and equipment. The Rocky Mountain Regional Council of Carpenters responded to the fight and is now representing the workers.

Victor Bautista, a Carpenters union organizer, told the *Militant* at the time that when he first met with company owner Chris Utley, "He refused to negotiate with the union, denied all the charges, and said, 'I am going to call the INS.' I asked him, 'Why are you doing all this?' He said, 'They are illegal. They don't deserve to be paid the same,'" Bautista said.

"This is not just about money. Sometimes you have to stand up for your rights," the union organizer added. "We are going to prove this is not a country just for people who speak English."

Louisiana shipyard ordered to reinstate workers

BY TONY DUTROW

HOUSTON—Northrop Grumman has been ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to reinstate 22 workers fired for union organizing activity at the company's shipyard in Avondale, Louisiana, between 1994 and 1997. The company was also ordered to purge the files of 12 other workers disciplined for supporting the union drive during that period. It will also have to compensate all the workers—those fired or sanctioned—for lost pay, benefits, and seniority.

The New Orleans *Times-Picayune* reported July 11 that Administrative Law Judge Philip McLeod also required Avondale bosses to repay \$5.4 million in legal fees they had passed on to the U.S. Navy, which had agreed to assume these costs as part of its support to the antiunion stance of the shipyard owners.

Northrop Grumman Ship Systems vice president Den Knecht said that the company will appeal on the grounds that the previous owners are responsible. Avondale became a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp. in April, after the military contractor purchased Litton Industries.

In 1993 the shipyard workers voted in their majority to be recognized by the New Orleans Metal Trades Council. That vote was challenged by Avondale in an attempt to stall the organizing effort. A federal appeals court sided with the Avondale bosses in 1998 and threw out the election results.

The Avondale shipyard is the largest employer in Louisiana, with 4,000 workers, and until the winter of 1999 it was also the largest nonunion shipyard in the country. At that time, Litton purchased the shipyard, not long after the union strike victory at the

Ingall's shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi, also owned by Litton.

The new bosses agreed to recognize the New Orleans Metal Trades Council if a majority signed authorization cards. This was accomplished in short order, as workers signed up in their vast majority, department by department. On Dec. 19, 2000, a union contract was finally signed at Avondale.

For five decades workers fought to unionize the shipyard, with safety as a life or death issue. Between 1974 and 1996, 34 workers were killed on the job, and hundreds were injured. Last summer, three more workers fell to their death as improperly secured scaffolding collapsed.

Tony Dutrow is a meat packer and Socialist Workers Candidate for Houston City Council.

Why Japan economy is the weakest link in the imperialist chain

Continued from front page

top priority is to rebuild the economy and create a proud and confident Japan," he told the parliament in early May.

So far, however, the new prime minister's actions and program have not matched his rhetoric.

Origins of Japan's crisis

In addition to the world crisis of capitalism and the current economic downturn, the Japanese superwealthy ruling class, unlike in North America and in many countries of Europe, never carried out a thoroughgoing revolution to overturn the feudal aristocracy. Feudal families dominated politics, the military, and the economy before and during World War II. The rulers in Japan never embarked on a land reform like the Home-Steak Acts enacted during and after the Civil War in the United States, nor did they push through a bourgeois banking reform as did their U.S. counterparts in wake of the bank failures at the opening of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

After Japan's defeat in World War II, the occupying U.S. military implemented measures, including suffrage for women and a land reform, which were presented as steps to modernization. The U.S. rulers, however, were concerned only with restoring a stable capitalist state in Japan and with blunting future threats of the Japanese military.

Working people suffer the most from the backwardness that marks social relations in Japan. Women, for example, still endure extreme discrimination in employment. Millions, even college graduates, are tracked into "miscellaneous workers" jobs such as "office ladies" to "brighten up the office." They are expected to quit when they marry or have children. Reports on employment of women in Japan all point to a distinct "M" curve, where employment peaks for women around age 25, falls dramatically, then picks up again when children have left the home around age 45. There is little child-care available and part-time and "temporary" employment is a feature of working life for women, few of whom are employed in industrial jobs.

Despite passage of an anti-discrimination law in 1985, most reports say little has changed. Last year Tomoko Haneda won a rare lawsuit against Sharp Electronics for extreme wage disparities between herself and male employees. "It has been over 10 years since we got an equal employment opportunity law in Japan," she said, "but the situation for women remains pathetic. The only way it can improve is if we engage in the battle."

Immigration is low in comparison to other imperialist countries, although it is growing, and working people from Korea and elsewhere in Asia have mounted struggles for their rights. To "stem the tide" of people who illegally enter the country by air, who numbered 6,828 last year, the Japanese government has recently increased the number of immigration officials at airports. Officials

say there were 51,459 people who either overstayed or violated their visas last year, a 7 percent decline over the previous year.

These are both factors that have made it harder for the employers in Japan to cut wages and increase productivity through speed up, extension of the workday, and other measures relative to their imperialist rivals. The union officialdom has built its base on job-for-life guarantees for a layer of workers, refusing to build the unions as fighting instruments of all workers and trying to merge their interests with those of the Japanese bosses.

The export successes of a small range of Japanese firms and the generalized growth of the economy for several decades after World War II masked the weaknesses in Japan. But this was hidden even after that period of growth had come to an end as a stock market and real estate bubble during the 1980s continued to lift the fortunes of a number of banks and other enterprises.

Banking crisis

The stock market crash of 1987, which began on Wall Street but immediately reverberated around the capitalist world, burst the bubble, leading to a decade and more of precipitate decline in Japan. Since then the banking system has remained in a deep crisis.

The banks in Japan hold many of their assets in the form of real estate deeds and stocks and shares, as well as loans to now unprofitable enterprises. In January 1999, commercial land prices in the country were more than 75 percent below their level nine years earlier. The slump in real estate prices continued last year, with property prices falling almost 5 percent nationwide.

With similarly disastrous results, the banks have been handcuffed to the stock market as it has tobogganed downwards through the 1990s. While the markets in the United States and Germany quadrupled their paper value in the decade to June 2000—during the boom that preceded the current slump—the Japanese stock market lost nearly half its value.

Today the Japanese banking system remains in a deep crisis. This is reflected in the level of "bad loans" held by the major banks. According to economic observers, if non-performing bank loans are added to loans "needing attention"—the two lowest categories in the government's official classification system—then bad loans amount to more than \$1.25 trillion, equal to more than one-quarter of the country's annual economic output.

The luster of the Japanese economic "miracle" has also faded on the country's manufacturing and service sectors.

Aside from a relatively small number of firms in the consumer electronics, auto, steel, and machine tools industries, most Japanese capitalists are unable to compete with their rivals in the United States, and can only survive by dint of massive government subsidies or protectionist measures. One study published in late 2000 by the

ing, both by Jack Barnes, and copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. The previous day they sold \$253 worth of books.

One man who bought the pamphlet said, "What the U.S. did to the Congo years ago is the same thing they are doing today all over the world."

Flyers were also distributed announcing the weekly Militant Labor Forum in the Garment District. A young woman waiting in line for the film came over to the table, looked over the titles and told those staffing the table, "This is the kind of organization I've been looking for."

The same day \$80 worth of books were sold at a table inside the Garment District, including a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.



Hisao, a towel-making company in Japan. Low productivity in many industries, massive bad loans being carried by the banking industry, and a slowing world economy are factors that have sent Japan into another recession. Official unemployment is nearing an unprecedented 5 percent; real figures may be twice that.

McKinsey Quarterly claims that average productivity per worker in Japan is 31 percent lower than in the United States. The per capita gross domestic product in Japan stood in 1999 at \$23,100, the ninth highest in the world, compared with \$31,500 in the United States.

While firms like Sony and Toyota boast higher productivity than their European and U.S. competitors, companies in Japan that produce for the domestic market are 37 percent less productive than their U.S. counterparts. The McKinsey study found that businesses in retailing, health care, housing construction, and food processing—accounting for 18 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 22 percent of employment—are only 56 percent as efficient as U.S. firms.

The "Toyotas and Sonys, accounting for only about 10 percent of all economic activity in Japan," the report says, "are the exception and not the rule. The remaining 90 percent of economic activity takes place in companies that do not export products, instead providing domestic manufacturing and services. Save for national origins, these companies share nothing with Toyota. They are subscale, poorly managed, antiquated, insulated from competition, and woefully unproductive."

The report says that 70 percent of new single-family homes in Japan are built by traditional master carpenters working mostly alone with traditional tools.

Agricultural protections

As an island nation that can be subjected to naval blockades, the Japanese rulers prioritize policies that heavily protect agricultural production. According to an article in the *Financial Times*, imported rice is penalized by tariffs of almost 1,000 percent. Tokyo "is also in a bitter dispute with China about its curbs on imports of *shiitake* mushrooms, leeks, and *tatami* rushes used for mat-making," continued the report.

The government's restrictions on agricultural imports raise the shelf price of rice, wheat, and beef to between three and six times the world average.

For example, faced with pressure from some Japanese capitalists for a trade pact with the Mexican government that would have removed quotas and tariffs from that country's agricultural products, the Japan External Trade Organization predicted that such a deal would result in an "overall collapse of existing systems and far-reaching effects on domestic [agricultural] production." Even negotiations for a tariffs-busting trade agreement with Singapore, a city-state with almost no farming sector, was scuttled after the agricultural ministry raised the alarm about imports of ornamental fish and cut flowers.

While Koizumi has said he is in favor of sweeping measures that break with the previous LDP practice of massively subsidizing inefficient industries and projects initiated by major construction firms, subsequent statements have raised doubts about his readiness to take on whole sectors of the ruling class that benefit from such policies. "American officials are waiting for evidence

that Japan's latest recovery plan will actually be implemented," wrote Richard Stevenson in the July 8 *New York Times*.

On July 10 the finances and economics ministers announced that a supplementary budget to stimulate the economy might be in the cards. Koizumi insisted that this was only an option, and that if it eventuated the money would be allocated differently than in the past.

The many U.S. business advisers and "assets managers" in Japan, and the mouthpieces of capitalism in the United States, are urging the government on to greater efforts. "Japanese companies must be forced to abandon their old ways, and the only way to accomplish this is to present them with hard budget constraints. In other words, more will have to go bankrupt," wrote the editors of the *Wall Street Journal* in March.

U.S. firms favor an end to traditional restrictions that hamper their attempts to buy out bankrupt Japanese businesses at bargain basement prices. In one of an increasing number of such deals, the Dallas-based Loan Star Fund bought out the Tokyo Sowa Bank Ltd. in January. Loan Star Fund's owners had bought bad loans in Japan for the past three years.

Whatever measures undertaken by the Koizumi government against "bad loans" and in favor of foreign investment and ownership will inevitably lead to more layoffs and social dislocation for working people. The only question is how massive the impact will be. Japanese economists scoffed at predictions by the economics minister that the reforms announced June 22 would throw no more than 100,000 to 200,000 people out of work. "Either Koizumi hasn't fully grasped the consequences of his policies," several argued, "or he isn't truly serious about reform," reported the *Washington Post*.

Viewers of 'Lumumba' in N.Y. buy wide range of revolutionary books

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—Many of those going to see *Lumumba*, the newly released film about the leader of the independence struggle in the Congo now showing in New York, have purchased a wide array of communist literature from a table set up on the sidewalk outside the Film Forum theater in Manhattan.

In the past week, socialists from the city's Garment District have sold 182 copies of the newly reprinted Pathfinder pamphlet *Revolution in the Congo*. On Sunday, July 14, filmgoers bought \$350 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. In addition to the new pamphlet, the socialists sold copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder, The Working Class and the Transformation of Learn-*

from Pathfinder

Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

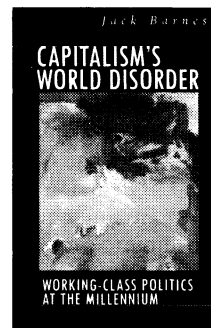
BY JACK BARNES

"The capitalist rulers offer us social disaster. They offer us depression. They offer us death from curable disease. They offer us war. They offer us fascism. They offer us an unending list of horrors. But we offer ourselves the ability to prevent those horrors from becoming the final reality, the confidence that we can transform that future."

Also available in

Spanish and French. \$23.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



Patrice Lumumba: 'We fought to win our freedom'

Last week the *Militant* published a review of the film *Lumumba*, which is showing at a number of theaters across North America, along with an excerpt from the newly reissued Pathfinder pamphlet *Revolution in the Congo*. The pamphlet describes the anticolonial struggle in the Congo, which won formal independence from Belgian colonial rule in 1960, the role of anti-imperialist leader Patrice Lumumba in the Congolese freedom struggle, and how, under the cover of the United Nations, U.S. and Belgian imperialism intervened in the Congo, orchestrating the overthrow and assassination of Lumumba to install a pro-imperialist regime.

One of the best-known public statements by Lumumba, who became the Congo republic's first prime minister, is his speech on June 30, 1960, at the ceremony in Léopoldville (now Kinshasa) where independence was officially proclaimed.

At the event, Belgium's monarch at the time, King Baudouin, declared with typical arrogance that the independence of the Congo was "the crowning of the work conceived by the genius of King Leopold II," whose decades-long colonial rule had been notoriously brutal. Baudouin was followed by Joseph Kasavubu, the new president of the Congo, who offered submissive words

of praise for the colonial power.

Then Lumumba, who was not officially scheduled to speak, took the podium and presented the following speech. The sharp truth of his words, broadcast on radio, won enthusiastic support among the Congolese people, while earning the hatred of the imperialist rulers from Washington to Paris.



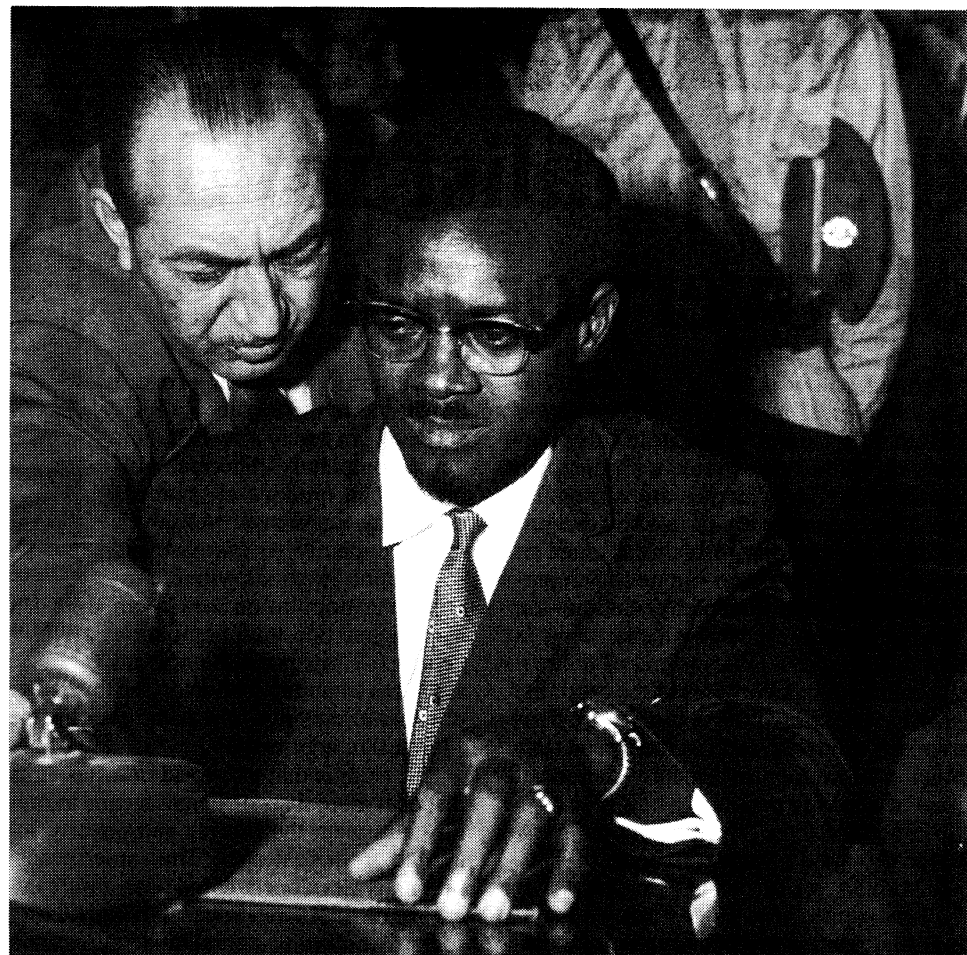
BY PATRICE LUMUMBA

Congolese men and women:

As combatants for independence who today are victorious, I salute you in the name of the Congolese government.

I ask all my friends, all of you who have fought unceasingly at our side, to make this 30th of June 1960, an illustrious date that will be indelibly engraved upon your hearts, a date whose meaning you will teach your children with pride, so that they in turn will tell their children and their children's children the glorious story of our struggle for freedom.

For though this independence of the Congo is today being proclaimed in a spirit of accord with Belgium, a friendly country with which we are dealing as one equal with another, no Congolese worthy of the name can ever forget that we fought to win it, a fight waged each and every day, a passion-



United Nations
Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the newly independent Republic of the Congo, at press conference at the United Nations on July 25, 1960.

ate and idealistic fight, a fight in which there was not one effort, not one privation, not one suffering, not one drop of blood that we ever spared ourselves. We are proud of this struggle amid tears, fire, and blood, down to our very heart of hearts, for it was a noble and just struggle, an indispensable struggle

if we were to put an end to the humiliating slavery that had been forced upon us.

The wounds that are the evidence of the fate we endured for 80 years under a colonialist regime are still too fresh and painful for us to be able to erase them from our memory. Back-breaking work has been exacted from us, in return for wages that did not allow us to satisfy our hunger, or to decently clothe or house ourselves, or to raise our children as creatures very dear to us.

We have been the victims of ironic taunts, of insults, of blows that we were forced to endure morning, noon, and night because we were blacks. Who can forget that a black was addressed in the familiar form, not because he was a friend, certainly, but because the polite form of address was to be used only for whites?

We have had our lands despoiled under the terms of what was supposedly the law of the land but was only a recognition of

Continued on Page 13

Malcolm X on U.S. intervention in Congo

Printed below are excerpts from speeches by Malcolm X that discuss the role of anti-imperialist leader Patrice Lumumba and the struggle against imperialist intervention in the Congo. The first piece is from a talk he gave at the first public rally of a new political group he had established, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which was held on June 28, 1964, at the Audubon Ballroom in New York. The second excerpt is from a radio broadcast on New York station WMCA on Nov. 28, 1964. At the time, some three years after the murder of Lumumba, his followers were waging a struggle against the pro-imperialist regime in the Congo, and the U.S. and Belgian governments were organizing military operations against the insurgents, who had captured virtually the entire eastern Congo.

Both items can be found in *By Any Means Necessary*, a collection of speeches by Malcolm X. Copyright © 1970 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.



BY MALCOLM X

Lumumba [is] the greatest black man who ever walked the African continent.

He didn't fear anybody. He had those people so scared they had to kill him. They couldn't buy him, they couldn't frighten him, they couldn't reach him. Why, he told

the king of Belgium, "Man, you may let us free, you may have given us our independence, but we can never forget these scars." The greatest speech—you should take that speech and tack it up over your door. This is what Lumumba said: "You aren't giving us anything. Why, can you take back these scars that you put on our bodies? Can you give us back the limbs that you cut off while you were here?"

No, you should never forget what that man did to you. And you bear the scars of the same kind of colonization and oppression not on your body, but in your brain, in your heart, in your soul, right now.



I think too much time is spent by newspapers, commentators, and some of these so-called scientists who are supposed to be authorities trying to prove that the Congolese are savage, that they are not fully developed, that they are not able to govern themselves. Most of the things that we've seen in print usually are designed toward that end, and this is not done actually to prove that they are savage as much as it is done to justify what the Western powers are doing in the Congo, or the presence of the Western powers in the Congo, and primarily the presence of the United States.

The basic cause of most of the trouble in the Congo right now is the intervention of

outsiders—the fighting that is going on over the mineral wealth of the Congo and over the strategic position that the Congo represents on the African continent. And in order to justify it, they are doing it at the expense of the Congolese, by trying to make it appear that the people are savages. And I think, as one of the gentlemen mentioned earlier, if there are savages in the Congo then there are worse savages in Mississippi, Alabama, and New York City, and probably some in Washington, D.C., too.

Che on lessons from Lumumba on the fight against imperialist rule

Printed below are excerpts from an Oct. 29, 1961, speech by Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution. The speech was given at the inauguration of the Patrice Lumumba sulphate metals factory, located in the Cuban town of Santa Lucía in Pinar del Río province. Thousands of workers from the area, as well as African youth studying in Cuba, attended the ceremony, which took place nine months after the U.S.-backed assassination of the Congolese anti-imperialist leader.

In his speech Guevara refers to the fact that Lumumba, in response to an imperialist-backed secession in Katanga province—while faced with a government and army ridden by divisions and factions conciliatory to imperialism—requested United Nations troops to help defend the newly independent government. Washington and Brussels used the UN cover to intervene militarily in the Congo, organizing the overthrow and assassination of Lumumba.

The complete text of the speech appears in Spanish in Vol. 5 of *Ernesto Che Guevara: Escritos y discursos* (Havana: Editorial de Ciencias Sociales, 1977), a nine-volume collection of Guevara's writings and speeches. The translation is by the *Militant*.



BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

The name of this plant represents an entire memory and an entire lesson. The Ministry and the workers here have named it after the Congolese martyr Patrice Lumumba.

We can show the African students who today honor us with their presence in our land, studying and learning new professions, how Cuba is open to the world and is great

enough to embrace as its own all the sacred names, all the martyrs who have fallen, and unfortunately will continue to fall, in the long struggle by humanity to achieve its full liberation. That is why Patrice Lumumba is a symbol, a symbol that unites us with all the unredeemed peoples of the world.

However, it is also a lesson. Lumumba was murdered by imperialist troops, but he was also a victim of his own errors. He was unable to see in time that you can't believe the imperialists, that you can't give a single inch on the road to liberation, that you can never halt the people when they begin to fight against the empires.

He believed in their word, he believed in the United Nations, he believed in [Dag] Hammarskjöld, the secretary general, who was nothing more than a servile imperialist *gusano*. He believed all the lies, and he thought that, armed only with the naked truth, not backed up by physical weapons, by an entire armed people, that it was possible to fight against everything belonging to the past, against those enemies who are also our own enemies. And at the first weakness, the first time a halt was made in the revolutionary road, Lumumba was arrested and savagely murdered.

They murdered him because they knew he could not be bought off. They murdered him because he was an authentic expression of his people. They murdered him because he was a popular hero. But they also murdered him because he was unable to see in time that a people on the road to their liberation can never be halted.

There you have it, comrade workers, as a lesson—the name of Patrice Lumumba.

Newly reissued by Pathfinder

REVOLUTION in the CONGO

By Dick Roberts

Describes the struggle against Belgian colonial rule, the 1960 independence victory of the Congolese workers and farmers under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba, the role, under UN cover, of Washington and other imperialist powers in the overthrow and assassination of Lumumba, and the continuing freedom struggles there in the early 1960s. \$3.

By Any Means Necessary

by Malcolm X Speeches tracing the evolution of Malcolm X's views on political alliances, women's rights, intermarriage, capitalism and socialism, and more. \$15.95.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



Che Guevara Talks to Young People

Ernesto Che Guevara, the Argentine-born revolutionary who helped lead the first socialist revolution in the Americas, speaks as an equal with the youth of Cuba and the world. \$14.95

What's behind the capitalist myth of 'overpopulation'

Printed below is an excerpt from *Too Many Babies? The Myth of the Population Explosion* by Joseph Hansen. In this pamphlet, the author takes issue with the view that humanity faces a crisis of overpopulation. That argument is still used by defenders of the status quo to blame a range of social problems—from hunger to unemployment to environmental pollution—on working people, especially those living in the semicolonial world, instead of the real cause: the normal workings of the capitalist profit system. Equally reactionary are their proposed solutions, such as the forced sterilization of women or slashing the social gains of working people.

Supporters of the "overpopulation" view frequently draw on the arguments of Thomas Malthus, a 18th century English writer and opponent of the 1789 French revolution. Malthus asserted that human population inevitably increases more rapidly than the available food supply.

These excerpts are taken from the concluding section of the pamphlet. Copyright © 1960 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



BY JOSEPH HANSEN

The Malthusian theory reduces man to little more than a gullet and a set of reproductive organs.

Viewing food sources as relatively fixed, the Malthusian sees no way of assuring gullets of the future their wherewithal unless today's reproductive organs are neutered in one way or another. The supply of gullets must be kept in balance with the supply of roast beef and apple pie—otherwise the world will go communist. The Malthusian program can thus be stated in a single sentence:

For the sterilization of human beings, especially the colored ones in colonial areas!

We can see why such a program appeals to those who depend on stocks, bonds, rents, and interest for their livelihood. It comes natural in these circles to agree that parasites must be unintelligent to multiply faster their source of nutrition.

Marxists take a decidedly different view of humanity. They note that man has hands and a brain, the capacity to use tools and an inclination for teamwork. These have made him, in distinction to all other animals, a food producer. This is the secret of mankind's conquest of the earth, a conquest that would remain an impenetrable mystery if we were to confine ourselves to Malthusian concepts. (Where did these expanding numbers get their food?)

In remote antiquity, when human beings were only good gatherers, hunger was to be expected. Even after shifting from hunting to stock raising and culture of plants, fam-

ine remained an ever-present threat due to the low technological level. In today's world, hunger is completely abnormal. Humanity can produce all it needs and many times over. Moreover, man's capacity to increase his food supply expands with the increase in population and at an ever-higher rate than population growth. A big population is an asset, not a liability. Failure to see this rather obvious argument is the basic flaw in the Malthusian argument.

The truth is that the world now has at its disposal more than sufficient means to rapidly eliminate the hunger and poverty inherited from past ages. The same means, rationally developed, could soon assure everyone on this planet a decent living. Luxury for all, including abundant leisure time, could be realized within a relatively few years.

These means are not a recent acquisition, like the capacity to make Sputniks, intercontinental rockets, and H-bombs. We have had the means to end hunger since at least 1914, if not some time before.

Does that sound startling? Not so long ago it was considered rather obvious. The years of McCarthyism, of screaming about the "communist menace," of teaching the most sordid careerism and cynicism to our youth have brought a great relapse in social awareness. We have to relearn some painful lessons.

Let's begin with the wealth and manpower wasted in World War I. Imagine those millions of men taken from the trenches and put to work in the plants and mills and farms for peacetime production. Add the efforts of those behind the lines who were turning out guns and bullets and tanks and high explosives. Bring in as shock troops on the peacetime front the millions who lost their lives in the imperialist conflict. On top of this include what could have been done with the means of production that were wiped out.

When you have finished visualizing how those mighty forces could have advanced civilization, please repeat it—on the greater scale of World War II.

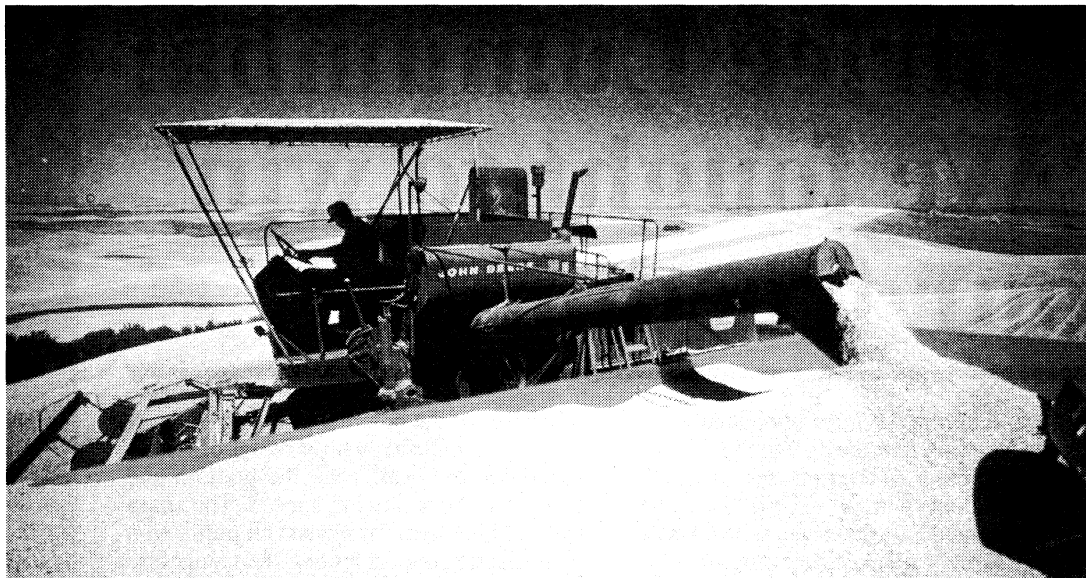
Finally add all the wasted effort going into preparation for World War III. Since Truman dropped the first atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. alone has been spending some \$40,000,000,000 a year on "Operation Nuclear Annihilation."

Destructive character of capitalism

Suppose that the trillions spent in the past half century to destroy the flower of humanity and the wealth accumulated by generations had been wisely invested in schools and hospitals and homes, in mines and mills, farms and factories, highways and railroads, ships and ports, wouldn't ours now be a world of boundless abundance? Who can doubt it!

If you really stop to think about it, considerations as powerful as these are not needed to show that we have the means to end poverty quite rapidly. Simply consider where we would be today had all the factories that were closed down in depressions and recessions in the past half century been run at top capacity. Or consider how much farther ahead we would be if we had eliminated the useless duplication and appalling waste due to blind competition. Or if the billions of dollars spent in idiotic advertisements were put to useful purpose. Consider how much more productive our economy would be if the standing armies were eliminated, the swollen government bureaucracies trimmed down, and the millions of people wasting their lives in these pursuits were given worthwhile occupations.

The parasitic way of life to which our rulers are accustomed is another costly item worth examining, but far more important is their habitual policy of blocking basic industry from running at full capacity. Most injurious of all is the barrier deliberately created by the monopolies to expanding our industries at the rate



Barley harvest in Washington State. Humanity is capable of producing all it needs. The problem is not too many people but a system, capitalism, that serves only the interests of a billionaire minority.

the needs of the people call for. If our industries were just turned loose, this alone would quickly give us such wealth, provided it were properly distributed, as to make hunger and poverty a thing of the past.

All right, many voices among the younger generation will reply; all this was not our responsibility. Our parents and grandparents failed to meet the obligations of their time. But our generation can correct all this. We can end the capitalist nightmare and assure the victory of socialism. We will do everything in our power to arouse our generation to its great responsibility and its unparalleled opportunity. Still we are not sure about the food supply after we win.

Let us suppose then that America has gone socialist. The victory in the USA was sufficient to knock the pins out from capitalism in the rest of the world; and the Soviet workers carried through the restoration of proletarian democracy in their area. Economic rivalries and national hatreds have been displaced by their opposites—economic collaboration and the brotherhood of man. The best minds of all countries have assembled to work out preliminary plans for a joint effort of all peoples to make this earth really habitable.

Unleashing productive potential

What about the food supply? We can imagine the delegates from Africa and South America reporting that if only 20 percent of the land reserves in those continents are counted, 900,000,000 more acres are immediately available for cultivation. The delegates from Oceania report another 100,000,000 acres available in their area. The Russians and Canadians might report another 300,000,000 acres available if only 10 percent of their subpolar soils are brought into production. This would increase the world's cultivated area to some 3,000,000,000 acres, leaving another possible 5,000,000,000 acres for further exploration and development.

What would the U.S. delegates say? Perhaps something like this: "Under capitalism we exhausted 100,000,000 acres of virgin soil in less than two centuries. However, our scientists are convinced that we can restore this. Naturally, we're putting back into production the 22,500,000 acres of fertile soil that were withdrawn in the old 'soilbank.' Also, of course, we are making available immediately \$9,000,000,000 in corn and wheat and we don't know how much butter and canned stuff, stored in caves by the old government, that may still prove edible. And our farmers are saying that now that they are free to really start farming, they're going to break all the old records in producing food."

On this basis a population of 28,000,000,000—ten times the present figure—could be fed comfortably even on the basis of old techniques.

However, the world's best scientists might bring in a preliminary report on some stirring possibilities. "Since we no longer have to waste our talents on producing fiendish things like H-bombs, nerve gases, and self-guiding rocket missiles, we can now turn our attention to what we have long wanted to do. Already we can see immense potentialities in farming the sea—not to mention extracting minerals and metals from it. In addition we know from rather primitive experiments carried out in capitalist days that hydroponics may prove to be one of our best bets; we can grow bigger, tastier, and more nutritious fruits and vegetables in tanks than in soil, and we can use artificial light. All this, of course, constitutes only transitional measures. The future points to synthetic foods; and laboratory reports already indicate startling gains in this direction."

We can see some of the world's top engineers and technicians impatiently waiting to report on the tools and machines available to mankind. In an advance release they state that it will prove sobering to discover how much of our plant equipment is obsolete but that even here the virtues of rational planning will become evident. Machines that would be junked in the race for profits under capitalism can be saved for many years of almost cost-free service while fully automated plants are built in great complexes.

Will sufficient power be available for such ambitious projects? That will no doubt get a laugh. "Power! That used to be a Malthusian bugaboo. The discovery of atomic power knocked that one out. Besides we have enormous resources in the tides and in solar radiation which remained untapped under capitalism. Even water power is still to be fully developed. We propose to save our fossil fuels for much more fruitful use than burning them up the way they did in the days of capitalist savagery."

Our conservationists will take their place, too, under the batteries of TV cameras as the world listens to this historic conference. They will discuss plans for restoring our streams and lakes to the crystal-line purity that was taken for granted before capitalism converted them into sewers and cesspools. And representatives of the health departments of our great metropolitan centers will discuss the quickest means to end pollution of the air we breathe.

What will be the most important resource of all to be considered? Why, people of course. Our labor force. The active ingredient in the great overall plan to tie the world economy together in a scientific way. Most amazing of all the changes will be the approach to this resource. Under capitalism, the labor force got least consideration of all the components in the factory system. In fact, although it was clearly the source of profits, the capitalists generally approached labor as "the enemy."

"Now this has been completely revolutionized," we can hear them say. "The profitability of an undertaking is approached as a bookkeeping figure, of interest only as it might affect the new aim of production—the welfare of humanity."

The capacity of working people

"Every aspect of the labor force is now of first concern, from its care in prenatal stage to the days of final achievement in old age. New educational needs, multiplicity of skills and tasks demanded in the next years, health, leisure opportunities, general participation in physical labor, administration, exploration in science, and the development of the arts—all of these topics are to be weighed now in determining the first great goals for all mankind to unite upon."

The conference will not go beyond a preliminary inventory and first approximation of aims, it is true; but what a dividing line it will mark from the past. The mass of humanity will get its first true estimate of itself as a living force. Won't they laugh at such a simple problem as liquidating poverty and hunger? What will really interest them is the mighty challenge of building a truly human civilization on this earth.

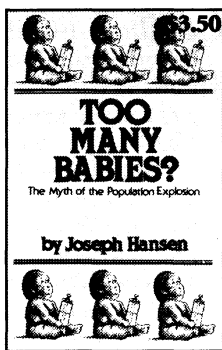
Will the size of the labor force be a question of importance? Undoubtedly it will. Most likely when the world pool of manpower is carefully studied, it will be found small in relation to the task of cleaning up the untidy mess left by capitalism; and certainly it will be regarded as only a pioneer band in building the bright new system of socialism, a society that will eventually mobilize the collective efforts of tens of billions of human beings.

From Pathfinder TOO MANY BABIES? The Myth of the Population Explosion

By Joseph
Hansen

If in the midst of abundance part of the population goes hungry, Hansen explains, this is due not to the quantity of human beings on the earth but to the quality of the economic system under which they live—one that dooms millions to starvation in the shadow of bursting granaries and warehouses.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



U.S. rulers press ahead on missile shield

Continued from front page

governments not to its liking, particularly north Korea and China, and ultimately its imperialist rivals in Europe.

The Bush-backed missile plan proposes building a "test bed" in Alaska that would include a command center and five missile silos at Fort Greely, near Fairbanks, and another five silos on Kodiak Island, off the southern Alaskan coast. Over the next few years the U.S. military also plans to expand testing and put in place an airborne laser that would be mounted on the nose of a Boeing 747 in order to destroy missiles in the "boost" phase—shortly after takeoff. Ships would be equipped with Aegis radar technology enabling interceptors to be launched against missiles over the ocean.

As an immediate step, the Pentagon is requesting \$8.3 billion—a \$3 billion increase—in next year's budget for development and deployment of a missile shield. Since the early 1980s some \$50 billion has already been spent on this project.

In June in a meeting with NATO defense ministers, U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld made clear to his European counterparts that the Pentagon intends to move as swiftly as possible to develop and deploy an antiballistic missile shield, even before testing of the system is completed.

'Collision course'

In early July the State Department instructed U.S. embassies around the world to inform foreign governments that Washington planned to test not just land-based interceptor missiles but "other technologies and basing modes such as air- and sea-based capabilities." A department spokesperson added, "These tests will come into conflict with the ABM Treaty in months not years."

In testimony on the same subject before the Senate Armed Services committee, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz stated, "So we are on a collision course. No one is pretending that what we are doing is consistent with that treaty. We have either got to withdraw from it or replace it."

The Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, signed by the U.S. and Soviet governments in 1972, allows research, development, and limited deployment of ground-based antiballistic systems, but forbids deployment of a shield against long-range missiles in any state except North Dakota. It also bars research on and development of sea, space, and mobile ground systems.

Three tests of an interceptor projectile targeting a dummy warhead were conducted during the Clinton presidency, two of them unsuccessful. On July 14 of this year, the Pentagon announced, an interceptor "kill" vehicle fired from Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands successfully hit a dummy warhead 140 miles above the Pacific.

The Republican leadership on Capitol Hill hailed the results of the \$100 million test. "We're going to do it," stated Senate minority leader Trent Lott. "We should put this right at the top of the agenda."

Many Democrats in Congress, who argue for building a more limited missile shield, urge a slower deployment timetable

with more testing. "If you put this on a fast-track testing regime, it could hamper its ability to move forward," stated Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a Democrat from California.

Democrat Joseph Biden, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, congratulated the military for its successful test but added, "It's not a real world test yet. We have a long way to go."

Following the test, the Pentagon said it intends to conduct up to 17 flight tests involving ground- and sea-launched missiles in the next 18 months. Washington has also said it intends to unilaterally reduce its nuclear arsenal by 1,000 weapons, or nearly one-seventh, in the coming year. This would leave some 6,000 nuclear weapons. The plan includes scrapping 50 MX missiles, 33-B-1 bombers, and replacing nuclear-tipped missiles on two Trident submarines with conventional weapons.

"Why take matters to the point of placing under threat the entire internationally agreed structure of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, including its core, the 1972 ABM Treaty?" asked a Russian foreign ministry spokesperson, responding to the most recent U.S. missile shield test.

Both the Chinese and Russian governments have stated that if Washington unilaterally abandons the treaty, they will build a new generation of multiple-warhead nuclear missiles.

In a visit to Moscow, Chinese president Jiang Zemin and Russian president Vladimir Putin signed a treaty of "friendship and cooperation" July 16. The pact, the first such treaty since the Sino-Soviet military pact of 1950, expresses their joint opposition to Washington's missile plans and strengthens



Missile with dummy warhead, launched July 14 from U.S. military base, was hit by "kill" missile launched from Marshall Islands as part of test for developing U.S. missile shield.

military cooperation between the two countries. They also agreed to not aim their strategic nuclear weapons at each other.

Over the past year Russia has become China's largest supplier of weapons, although trade volume between the two countries last year was \$8 billion compared with \$115 billion of goods exchanged between the United States and China.

Preparing for the war at home

The Pentagon's new strategy document outlines the goal of preparing the U.S. military to fight a war at home. This was reported in the July 13 *New York Times* but not widely publicized. The paper reported,

"For the first time, defense of the American homeland is incorporated into guidelines for American military strategy that are ultimately used to request money for the military."

The plan calls for eliminating the perspective officially adopted by the Pentagon in 1993 of being prepared to fight two major regional wars simultaneously. Instead, their aim will now be to "win decisively" one major war while conducting "small-scale contingencies of limited duration in other areas of the world."

"We haven't been able to do two-major-theater wars for years," an unnamed military officer told the *Times*. "We paid it lip service. The new terms are supposed to acknowledge the realities of the world today. It's time we matched our forces to our strategy."

Under the Clinton administration the Pentagon changed its structure to include for the first time a North American command and began training its military forces for use inside the United States. Congress in 1999 authorized the Pentagon to place specially trained National

Guard units in the largest population centers for possible deployment throughout the country in case of what is deemed a "terrorist" threat.

Washington is also moving to put in place its own rapid reaction intervention force. A *Washington Post* article reported, "In order to move quickly when a crisis erupts, key combat units from all the armed services would be organized into Global Joint Response Forces capable of setting up operations in a hostile environment within 24 hours, according to the proposal presented by a retired air force general James McCarthy, who headed Rumsfeld's review panel on changing conventional forces."

Workers in Iran demand back wages

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

More than 250 workers from the Jamco clothing factory and Shadanpoor shoe factory in Tehran held a joint protest demonstration July 15 in front of Majles, Iran's parliament. Many of the workers have not been paid in four months, and some as long as 11 months.

This is the latest in a series of demonstrations that these and other workers have been holding over the past year to demand their back wages. They have demonstrated in front of various ministries, rallied at President Mohammad Khatami's office, and at times have blocked the highway linking Tehran to the nearby industrial town of Karaj.

After the 1979 Iranian revolution, in which working people mobilized in their millions, overthrowing the U.S.-backed shah and winning a number of social and political gains, these factories were for a brief period controlled by workers. Afterward they were run by various state ministries or *bonyads* (foundations). In recent years they were sold off to private investors, at which point workers began having trouble collecting their wages. Some of the new owners are stripping the factories of machinery and other material to sell off rather than investing capital to run production.

Shams Elahi, a worker at Jamco, told ISNA, the Iranian Students News Agency, that they have not been paid for 11 months. "During the [1980-88 Iran-Iraq] war, the owner of this factory was on the other side of the river," he said, meaning that he was outside the country. "Now that he has returned, they let him take over the factory—but why?" he asked indignantly.

After Jamco was privatized in 1994, the bosses began importing cloth and selling it on the black market, said Mirvali, a representative of workers at the plant, according to the Tehran daily *Kayhan*. For this they were sentenced to three and a half years in prison. But despite that the factory was returned back to them, Mirvali said.

The Shadanpoor shoe factory, with 475 workers, has been taken over by Rasekh Afshar, son of the man who owned the factory before the 1979 revolution. Yashai, a worker at Shadanpoor, told ISNA, "We fought for years in revolution and in war.

Two of my brothers were martyred.... [Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini] always warned us to be vigilant so the revolution would not get taken over by alien influences, but unfortunately that has happened now. Why are working people, longtime fighters of the revolution, being treated this way?"

Yashai added, "We the fighters of yesterday have become the refugees of today. Our own brothers pull guns on us, and fire in the air [to scatter us]."

A woman worker with 15 years on the job in Shadanpoor rushed to the ISNA reporter to be sure the press heard her grievance against the authorities. She said, "They are only saying freedom of speech, but what is the use if our voices are not heard anywhere. And is it right that women toilers are beaten up by security forces right here?"

Workers were referring to the attack on demonstrators that took place in front of Majles that day.

In their attempt to get into the Majles to talk to the representatives, workers reportedly broke the building's railing and part of its door. The riot police fired in the air, sprayed the demonstrators with tear gas, and attacked them. Eight workers were injured.

Three representatives of the workers were able to meet with Mehdi Karrubi, the Majles speaker. Ali Taali, director of the political police in Tehran province, told a press conference that Karrubi had assigned four commissions to investigate the workers' situation and propose a solution. He acknowledged that the incident in front of Majles was the result of the harsh conditions workers in the country are facing. No one was arrested, he said. ISNA reported that the news agency's photographer and reporter were detained briefly and were released after their film was confiscated by security forces.

Kayhan reported July 16 that at a meeting with Karrubi and members of Majles it was decided, as a temporary measure, to find a way to channel funds for the payment of back wages to workers at Jamco and Shadanpoor. Workers dispersed after two Majles representatives informed them of this decision, the paper said.

Abolghasem Sarhadizadeh, general secretary of the Islamic Labor Party and a mem-

ber of Majles, said in an interview with ISNA, "In previous years we never faced a labor crisis such as the one we face today. Only during the [Iran-Iraq] war, when the oil prices plummeted, did such a crisis erupt, but it rapidly came under control with the help of state managers. Today we have a crisis despite having capital and raw material."

Sarhadizadeh expressed opposition to the government's "open door" policy of encouraging imports. "So long as internal production is stagnating and products are not selling, and so long as we have not prepared ourselves to be able to join the world economy, it doesn't make sense to open the borders for imports of commodities," he stated.

With the loosening of the virtual monopoly of foreign trade established after the revolution, the unequal terms of trade between Iran and imperialist countries—which enjoy higher productivity—have led to a growing plunder of Iran's national resources, a situation faced by all semicolonial nations.

Majles representative Gahraman Bahrami Hassanabadi also noted that "the labor crisis is intensifying." Layoffs and nonpayment of wages weigh heavy on workers, he said, and "the hiring of temporary workers is the biggest source of exploitation of workers, pushing them to the brink of devastation." Official statistics put the unemployment rate at 15 percent, but unofficial estimates cite higher figures.

Another Majles representative, Soheila Jolodarzadeh, warned that "the labor crisis is not taking place at a particular political juncture, but it can have political consequences." She joined with those who believe that the large number of imports are due to illegal smuggling. "If the smuggling of textiles and household goods were prevented, then those industries would not go bankrupt."

In June workers from the Cheet-e-rey textile factory staged a protest in front of Majles demanding back pay. Their ranks increased to 1,000 when they were joined by workers from the Shadanpoor plant with the same demands. At that time, demonstrators were not attacked and, according to press reports, workers at Cheet-e-rey won their wage demands.

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Workers in Australia protest state attacks on compensation pay

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia—Workers have mobilized in their tens of thousands over recent months to oppose sweeping changes to the workers compensation system in the state of New South Wales (NSW), including a 24-hour walkout by a quarter of a million union members at the end of June. The latest antilabor assault is being pushed through by the Labor government of Premier Robert Carr.

State Labor industrial relations minister John Della Bosca announced the proposed "reforms" in late March, claiming that the workers compensation system is losing tens of millions every year through exorbitant fees to lawyers. Carr later claimed that fraudulent claims by workers was another major problem. WorkCover, the government department that has responsibility for both workplace safety and workers compensation, says it faces a growing deficit that now stands at \$A2.18 billion (\$A1 = US 52 cents).

Proposals for changes

The proposals include eliminating the right of injured workers to a hearing determined by a court; introducing medical assessments, with no right of appeal, heard by appointed commissioners who do not need to be medically qualified; and changing how permanent impairment is assessed to a system using the American Medical Association's guidelines. The latter move means a sharp cut in the level of lump-sum compensation for permanent disabilities and for pain and suffering and a cap placed on lump-sum entitlements.

The change to an "administrative" system would also virtually eliminate the right of workers to sue for damages under the common law.

Protest actions began in mid-April with Public Service Association members who work in Parliament House setting up a picket line in the foyer on April 11.

Also in April, some 100,000 building workers, members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, downed tools in a 24-hour statewide stoppage. Maritime Union members working on state-owned Sydney commuter ferries organized a 24-hour fare-free day. Workers on state-owned commuter trains and buses followed

suit in Sydney. The unions estimated that the government lost \$A4 million in revenue. Members of the Fire Brigade Employees Union organized a statewide stoppage and sent 50 fire engines to drive by Parliament in protest.

Members of the Electrical Trades Union stopped servicing the lifts in Parliament House and the 40-story Governor Macquarie Tower that houses state government offices. Ambulance workers who are members of the Health and Research Employees Association also took action.

Unionists also picketed offices of Labor members of Parliament in their electorates to pressure them to support amendments to the legislation.

After the month of actions, the Labor Council called a moratorium on protests and further industrial action on April 30 to allow for negotiations.

On June 19, the Labor Council renewed its campaign of fare-free days on public transport, and organized a peaceful, mass picket line of 1,000 in front of Parliament House to block Labor politicians from entering to introduce the government's bill. "We have spent the best part of the last two months negotiating with the government in good faith," stated Labor Council official John Robertson.

Shortly before 2:00 p.m. a wall of cops forced a path open and escorted the Labor MPs into Parliament by a side entrance to cries of "Scabs! Traitors! Bastards!" Then a dozen mounted police cleared the street. No one was arrested, although about 20 protesters were detained.

Workplace safety is a big topic of discussion among workers on the job and on picket lines as increased line speeds, productivity drives, and other cost-cutting measures by the bosses to protect their profit rates take their toll.

Workers on the picket line at Amcor's Smithfield cardboard factory, told the *Militant* July 7 how they responded to a recent incident where a worker became trapped in machinery and had his legs crushed at the company's Brooklyn, Victoria, plant. One of his legs had to be amputated to free him. Elvis, a union delegate, explained that the



Cops arrest unionist on picket line June 19 outside Parliament House in Sydney, Australia, protesting attack on workers compensation by New South Wales government.

boss then tried to get workers to immediately restart the machinery. The workers walked off the job in protest and when the company refused to discipline the boss, walked off again. While out the second time, they voted to stay out as part of the fight for a new national collective agreement. Workers at Amcor plants nationwide took strike action in solidarity.

Safety an issue on wharves

Workplace safety is also a big topic of discussion on the wharves. Maritime Union members at Patrick Stevedores' Port Botany container facility have seen half a dozen potentially fatal incidents in the last two years, as the company pushes workers to work faster.

In some instances, serious injuries occurred. Injured workers, many of them temporaries, receive only a percentage of their usual wage while on workers compensation.

WorkCover itself is badly understaffed. It conducts fewer and fewer workplace inspections and long delays in investigations of accidents are the norm.

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) state secretary Andrew Ferguson noted April 18, "Working people understand why there is a problem in NSW: it is the systematic noncompliance with the law on the part of bosses—and the government's failure to police compliance."

The \$A2.18 billion WorkCover deficit exists on paper only. It assumes holding a surplus for potential future payments, based on statistical models that project payments over 40 years to every worker currently injured or likely to be injured in the next 40 years. According to John Wynyard, chair of

the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association Workers Compensation Group, very few recipients get compensation for 40 years, thus sharply reducing future liabilities to a fraction of what the government claims.

In face of the impending approval of the government's first round of legislation by Parliament, thousands of workers attended stop-work meetings June 27 around the state, including some 2,500 workers and union officials at Sydney Town Hall. Later, in Wollongong, Newcastle, and Dubbo, workers voted to walk off the job for 24 hours. They joined workers in the construction, manufacturing, electrical, and printing industries, bringing 250,000 workers off the job in the strike action.

Doug Cooper is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia.

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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Defend the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Elyse Hathaway. Fri. July 27, 7:30 p.m. 3926 Mission St. Tel: (415) 584-2135.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Patrice Lumumba and the Revolution in the Congo. Speaker: Pattie Thompson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. 1212 N. Ashland, 2nd Floor. Tel: (773) 342-1780.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

The Cuban Revolution and the Struggle against Imperialism in Africa Today. Fri., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 372A 53rd Street. Tel: (718) 567-8014.

OHIO

Cleveland

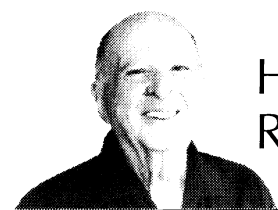
A Socialist Answer to the LTV Steel Crisis. Speaker: Eva Braiman, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Cleveland. Fri., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 11018 Lorain Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (216) 688-1190.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Protest Israeli Attacks on Palestinians. For a Democratic, Secular Palestine. Fri., July 27, 7:30 p.m. 5237 N. 5th Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

'Right-to-die' state—In Virginia, one person in seven has no health insurance coverage. Of these, 67 percent are full-time workers.



Harry Ring

What about safety in numbers?—"Airbus is planning to introduce the world's largest passen-

ger plane, carrying up to 1,000 passengers, without conducting a full evacuation test. The company said it was afraid that people could be permanently injured in the exercise."—News item.

Like we say, nothing's perfect—"The safety system being fitted across Britain to stop trains that jump red lights cannot guarantee that it will prevent accidents because the driver will receive no warning if it malfunctions."—The Times, London.

They can't do everything—Sev-

eral major airlines have grounded some of their Boeing 757 jetliners because of cracks in a blade that directs air flow through plane engines. The cracks were discovered at least eight months ago, but, parts needed for the blade repairs are in short supply says Pratt & Whitney, maker of the engines. And, assures Boeing, even if one engine conked out the 757 could stay aloft on the other.

New export product—Faced with a court order to relieve prison overcrowding, the governor of Alabama, Donald Siegelman, is offer-

ing other states the opportunity to take some surplus inmates. However, he says, the state won't pay more than the \$26 a day it spends to keep a prisoner.

The image-makers—Health and nutrition writer Jane Brody notes a Food and Drug Administration finding that some cosmetics touted as improving skin condition can cause more skin problems than they cure. She cites FDA's Dr. John Bailey, who observes: "Image [of youth and beauty] is what the cosmetic industry sells through its products. And it's up to the con-

sumer to believe it or not."

Learning treat—If you haven't read Pathfinder's *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* you're missing out. By Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed, it's a timely, particularly lively Marxist work.

Mark it down—The readers whose clippings help keep this column going should be sure to note our new address. Send clippings to Great Society c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011.

Patrice Lumumba: 'We fought for our freedom'

Continued from Page 9
the right of the strongest.

We have known that the law was quite different for whites and blacks; it was most accommodating for the former, and cruel and inhuman for the latter.

We have known the atrocious sufferings of those banished to remote regions because of their political opinions or religious beliefs; exiles in their own country, their fate was truly worse than death.

We have known that there were magnificent mansions for whites in the cities and ramshackle straw hovels for blacks, that a black was never allowed into the so-called European movie theaters or restaurants or stores; that a black traveled in the hold of boats below the feet of the white in his deluxe cabin.

Who can forget, finally, the burst of rifle fire in which so many of our brothers perished, the cells into which the authorities threw those who no longer were willing to submit to a rule where justice meant oppression and exploitation?

We have grievously suffered all this, my brothers. But we who have been chosen to govern our beloved country by the vote of your elected representatives, we whose bodies and souls have suffered from colonialist oppression, loudly proclaim: all this is over and done with now.

The Republic of the Congo has been proclaimed and our country is now in the hands of its own children.

We are going to begin another struggle together, my brothers, my sisters, a sublime struggle that will bring our country peace, prosperity, and grandeur.

We are going to institute social justice together and ensure everyone just remuneration for his labor.

We are going to show the world what the black man can do when he works in freedom, and we are going to make the Congo the focal point for the development of all of Africa.

We are going to see to it that the soil of our country really benefits its children. We are going to review all the old laws and make new ones that will be just and noble.

We are going to put an end to the suppression of free thought and see to it that all citizens enjoy to the fullest all the fundamental freedoms laid down in the Declara-

tion of the Rights of Man.

We are going to do away with any and every sort of discrimination and give each one the rightful place that his human dignity, his labor, and his devotion to the country will have earned him.

We are going to bring peace to the country, not the peace of rifles and bayonets, but the peace that comes from men's hearts and their good will.

And in order to achieve all this, dear compatriots, rest assured that we will be able to count not only on our tremendous strength and our immense riches, but also on the assistance of many foreign countries, whose collaboration we will always accept if it is sincere and does not seek to force any policy of any sort whatsoever on us.

In this regard, Belgium has finally realized what direction history was moving in and has not attempted to oppose our independence. She is ready to grant us her aid and her friendship, and a treaty to this effect has just been signed between our two equal and independent countries. I am certain that this cooperation will be beneficial to both countries. We for our part, though we shall continue to be vigilant, will respect all commitments freely made.

Thus the new Congo, our beloved republic that my government is going to create, will be a rich, free, and prosperous country, with regard to both its domestic relations and its foreign relations. But in order for us to reach this goal without delay, I ask all of you, Congolese legislators and citizens alike, to aid me with all the strength at your command.

I ask all of you to forget the trivial quarrels that are draining our strength and threaten to earn us the contempt of those in other countries.

I ask the parliamentary minority to aid my government by constructive opposition and to stay strictly within legal and democratic paths.

I ask all of you not to shrink from making any sacrifice necessary to ensure the success of our great undertaking.

I ask you, finally, to respect unconditionally the life and, property of your fellow citizens and foreigners who have settled in our country. If the behavior of these foreigners leaves something to be desired, our justice will be swift and they will be expelled from the territory of the republic; if, on the



United Nations

UN troops on patrol in the Republic of the Congo, March 1963. Washington and Brussels used UN cover to intervene militarily in the Congo, organizing the overthrow and assassination of anti-imperialist leader Lumumba in January 1961.

other hand, they conduct themselves properly, they must be left in peace, for they too will be working for the prosperity of our country.

The independence of the Congo represents a decisive step toward the liberation of the entire African continent.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, my dear compatriots, my black brothers, my brothers in the struggle, that is what I wanted to say to you in the name of the government on this magnificent day of our complete and sovereign in-

dependence.

Our strong, national, popular government will be the salvation of this country.

I invite all Congolese citizens, men, women, and children, to set to work to create a prosperous national economy that will be the crowning proof of our economic independence.

Honor to those who fought for national freedom! Long live independence and African unity!

Long live the independent and sovereign Congo!

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



July 30, 1976

ABC-TV news reporter Brit Hume and a crew of television cameramen set up their equipment and lay in wait. They had converged on the home of CIA Director George Bush in the early morning hours of July 16.

Only days before, Bush had officially acknowledge for the first time that the CIA relies on buggings and burglaries to obtain information on American citizens abroad. Bush did not deny that this policy continues today.

His admission appeared in a sworn affidavit filed in response to questions put by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance as part of their lawsuit against government harassment.

ABC-TV was in suburban Washington to record Bush's response to the public disclosure. Do the burglaries continue? they asked him. Aren't they illegal?

Bush refused to provide details about the dates or locations of the foreign electronic surveillance. Secrecy was necessary, he said, to protect the "sources and methods" of the CIA. A twenty-nine-page Justice Department legal memorandum filed with the Bush affidavit asserts that the CIA has a right to keep secret details about its activities under something it calls the "secret of state privilege."



July 30, 1951

Above everything else, American troops in Korea want to go home.

This is made clear in an Associated Press dispatch from Kaesong, July 22.

"American soldiers in Korea," the dispatch states "using a parody on the 'Prisoners song' that goes like this:

"Now if I had ten thousand dollars,

"I'd go to the general and say:

"I am leaving Korea tomorrow,

"Because no boats are leaving today."

But the reporter continues, "Peace in Korea will not mean that Johnny will be marching home right away. Even after withdrawal from Korea, the chances are that the U.S. Eighth Army will move to Japan and Okinawa. The latter is being developed as a U.S. base and a treaty is in the works with Japan on stationing American troops in Japan after the occupation ends.

Since the beginning of the Korean war the American troops have told reporters that they did not know why they were there, and they did not believe in the war. Both the soldiers themselves and the overwhelming majority of the American people have wanted to bring the troops home and end the war.

But U.S. imperialism has by no means given up its plan to dominate Asia, to suppress and destroy the independence of the Asian peoples.

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— Fidel Castro, March 1961

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters.

In English, Spanish, and French.



**Special offer
\$10
through Sept. 3**

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

U.S. war moves at home, abroad

This past week Washington took new steps to test and rapidly deploy a missile intercept weapon. And the *New York Times* disclosed parts of a classified Pentagon strategy document that elevates “homeland defense” into one of the four pillars of U.S. imperialist military doctrine and “officially gives the military domestic duties in battling terrorism.” The events help shed some light on what the superwealthy U.S. ruling class is preparing for in the world.

Their drive to be able to target the workers states of China and Korea—and ultimately Russia and Washington’s imperialist competitors—with a nuclear first-strike capability is an extension of their policies at home. The U.S. rulers know they must confront working people who are resisting and who will ultimately fight for power as the ravages of the world capitalist economic crisis and the brutalities of the old social order take an increasing toll, both in other countries and in the United States. To salvage their crisis-ridden system, open up a new era of capitalist expansion, and maintain their dominance as the world’s only “hyperpower,” the U.S. ruling class must ultimately take on and defeat the potentially most powerful working class in the world right at home.

In October, then-defense secretary William Cohen gave a speech that got right to the point. According to the American Forces Press Service, “Cohen said that when he first proposed formation of a ‘commander-in-chief for homeland defense’ the idea was controversial. ‘Immediately there were questions being raised as to whether or not this would intrude upon the constitutional prohibitions of getting our military involved in domestic affairs,’ he said.” The reported added, “Cohen said the United States must deal with the

question now. ‘I believe that we, as a democratic society, have yet to come to grips with the tension that exists between our constitutional protection of the right to privacy with the demand that we made on the need to protect us.’”

The Clinton administration did set up the North American command and appointed a commander-in-chief of homeland defense who has the resources of all branches of the military. It also set up the post of “counterintelligence czar” later filled by a Bush appointee.

In *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, Jack Barnes explains that the czar will “draw together Washington’s ‘anti-terrorist’ operations from Iran, Korea, and Cuba, to the new immigrant living down the block. It will draw together the U.S. rulers’ ‘war on drugs’ from the new U.S. military bases in Columbia and Ecuador to working-class neighborhoods and factory locker rooms across North America. It will centralize the U.S. governments informers, wiretapping, snail-mail and e-mail snooping, and other secret police operations against both ‘enemies’ abroad and the labor movement and social protest organizations at home.”

Barnes adds that the U.S. rulers “know they will face more and bigger battles as international capitalist competition drives them to slash wages, extend the workday, intensify speedup, cut social security protections, and crush the unions. And they are preparing to defend their class interests.”

Our job is to prepare as well to strengthen working-class unity across borders and to build a movement that can place in power a workers and farmers government that will once and for all take power out of the hands of the warmaking capitalist ruling class.

Defend women’s right to choose

The debate among conservative and rightist forces in the United States over federal funding for stem cell research on frozen embryos reflects the divisions among foes of a woman’s right to choose abortion. Some recognize that, despite an ideological offensive, government restrictions, and ultrarightist attacks over the past decades, support for a woman’s right to control her own body remains deeply held among working people in this country.

Despite having lost ground in access to abortion facilities for working women under successive Democratic and Republican administrations in federal and state government, women have refused to be pushed back to the time when their reproductive rights were dictated by the state, the church, or their husbands or fathers. The 1973 Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion meant that for the first time the right of women to decide whether or not to bear children was recognized.

Reproductive freedom is a fundamental right of women—a precondition for full equality and liberation. Without the right to control her own body, a woman cannot exercise effective control over her life or join as an equal in social and political life. Defending this right against those seeking to keep women in second-class status is vital to the interests of working people.

The spirited and confident march of thousands of defenders of a woman’s right to choose abortion in Washington this past April was another confirmation of the determination of millions of people to oppose attacks on abortion rights.

The fact that many abortion rights foes recognize they have “lost the debate” over federal funding of stem cell research is one indication of how the unscientific ideological underpinnings of the oppression of women are heading down a “slippery slope” as many rightists fear. Working people and science—which is in the interests of the working class—are winning out over the backward attempts by the government, begun under the Clinton administration, to impose a taboo on embryonic research. Capitalist politicians have sought to stymie attempts to

pursue what may be a promising avenue of medical work by denying it federal funding or banning it outright as some states and governments have done. Restrictions and attempts to create fear around basic scientific advances—such as gene manipulation of crops to give them resistance to disease and other beneficial traits—only prevent the forward march of the working class and all humanity.

Instead of targeting the right to abortion, many opponents of women’s rights are shifting the focus of their propaganda campaign to reinforcing the family structure under capitalism, undermining the right to divorce, and decrying the “loose morals” of “independent women.” The right-wing magazine *National Review*, for example, features on the front page of its July 23 issue an article proposing a constitutional amendment that says: “Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.” Targeting recent civil union laws that allow the marriage of same-sex couples, *National Review* says the constitutional provision is needed to “end the abuse of the judicial process and protect both marriage and democracy in America.”

The goal of this offensive against women’s rights is to undermine women’s self-confidence; reinforce their second-class status; make individual families—above all women—bear the responsibility for health care, child care, education, and care for the elderly; and try to make women think they should not be equals with men in economic and political life.

The wider resistance among working people today to the offensive by the employers and the government against our living standards and rights, and the openness to reaching out in solidarity to defend these hard-won gains, provides ample opportunity to deepen the fight for women’s emancipation. That fight is a central component of the coming revolutionary struggles to replace the government of the exploiters and oppressors with one of working people, as part of the worldwide battle to uproot capitalism and bring an end to class society on which the oppression of women is based.

Cancel the Third World debt!

Continued from front page
to satisfy the imperialist investors and bankers—to cut pensions and public employees’ wages by 13 percent—is the latest example of the brutal disregard of the capitalist rulers for the well-being of millions of working people.

The exploiters’ austerity demands are couched like a blackmailer’s note. IMF officials tell the Argentine government, “You must cut back, or there will be no more loans.” The government tells the provincial governors that “you must achieve a ‘zero deficit,’ or be responsible for the country’s ruin.” And they all turn to working people to demand “sacrifice” in order to avoid financial collapse.

Washington and its cohorts, however, are increasingly worried that the Argentine government, despite its best efforts, will default on the debt. They are aware of the weakness of the economies of other semicolonial countries such as Brazil and Turkey, and are afraid that an Argentine default may have serious international repercussions. Their problem is compounded by the downturn in the economies of imperialist countries from Japan to the United States.

The biggest problem facing the capitalist ruling classes, from Washington to Buenos Aires, is that working people

are not submitting meekly to their demands to accept even lower living standards and increasingly give up their national sovereignty to the imperialist powers. For the past several months, unemployed workers around the country—including meat packers, construction workers, oil workers, and other industrial workers—have been organizing and protesting. They have blockaded highways, have stood up to police assaults, and have reached out for support to employed workers. The July 19 general strike in Argentina is another sign of the growing confidence of working people. Similar labor resistance is unfolding throughout Latin America, from Brazil to Ecuador.

Joining the fight to demand cancellation of the Third World debt is a way for working people in the United States to wage a common fight for jobs and decent living conditions for all working people. Such a fight will lead increasing numbers of working people to see that capitalism offers nothing more than economic catastrophe, brutality, and war, and that a movement of the toilers needs to be built to remove the billionaires from power, establish governments of workers and farmers, and join in the fight for a world based on human collaboration and solidarity—socialism.

Cop violence in Maryland

Continued from Page 16

about how the United States is the home of human rights is lies,” he said.

A number of workers at Smithfield knew about some of the other cases reported, including Archie Elliott and Prince Jones.

Elliott, a 24-year-old construction worker, was driving home through District Heights after work in June 1993. He was stopped by two cops who said he failed an alcohol test, and he was handcuffed behind his back and locked in a police car. He was wearing shorts and tennis shoes, with no shirt or socks. The cops then claimed they saw Elliott, still handcuffed behind his back, pull a gun from his shorts and aim at them. They fired 22 shots, hitting Archie Elliott 14 times and killing him, still handcuffed. The gun the cops claimed to find was unloaded and was never checked for fingerprints.

No charges were ever filed against the killer cops. A civil suit brought by the family was thrown out by the U.S. Court of Appeals and rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But Archie Elliott’s mother, Dorothy Elliott, a school teacher in PG County, has refused to go away. She has participated in numerous picket lines and protest meetings for eight years and has extended her solidarity to the families of other victims of the cops.

Wayne Cheney, one of the cops who killed Archie Elliott, killed another man, Michael Reed, stopped for drunk driving, less than two years later. The cops did not even claim that Reed was armed. Cheney had also shot and wounded another man in 1989. Cheney, who is Black, is still a PG cop.

Prince Jones, a student at Howard University, was killed on Sept. 1, 2000, by a PG cop out of uniform who was driving an unmarked car. The cop followed him for two hours through PG County, Washington, D.C., and into Fairfax County, Virginia, where the killing took place. The police have never claimed that Jones was a suspect in any crime. The cop shot 16 rounds into the back of Jones’s car, hitting him in the back five times and killing him.

Demonstrations protest killing

There were a number of demonstrations protesting this killing, including by other students at Howard. But the prosecutors in PG County, in Fairfax, Virginia, and the U.S. Justice Department have so far decided not to file charges against the cop, Carlton Jones, who is on the narcotics squad. The only action taken was an announcement by Prince George’s state attorney Jack Johnson that he would no longer let Carlton Jones testify in court because he had admitted lying in a previous case.

Prince George’s County was the topic of a National Public Radio “Talk of the Nation” program on Feb. 24, 2000. The program celebrated PG as a symbol of the rising Black middle class. The program host, Juan Williams—who was one of the authors of the civil rights movement documentary *Eyes on the Prize*—pointed out that the large majority of elected officials in the county are Black, including County Executive Wayne Curry, State Attorney Jack Johnson, U.S. congressman Albert Wynn, and School Superintendent Iris Metts.

On the newspaper’s web site, washingtonpost.com, a July 5 feature was a “Live Online” discussion with Edythe Flemings Hall, president of the Prince George’s chapter of the NAACP.

Hall argued, “All police officers are not the same. However, the bad ones make it hard for the lawful officers.” Then she said, “With the exception of a few lone voices...most Prince Georgians have not demanded much in the way of reforms. We cannot expect others to do for us what we will not do for ourselves. Poor people need middle class people to speak up for them. However, middle class people are slow to action.”

Hall has it wrong. The experience in protesting cop violence in Prince George’s County and elsewhere is that it is primarily working people who have shown the guts to speak out.

Stu Singer works at Smithfield Packing in Landover, Maryland, and is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27.

From Pathfinder

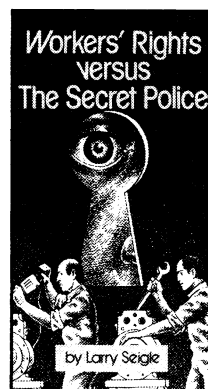
Workers’ Rights versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups. \$3

Washington’s 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation.

In Spanish. \$6.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Che Guevara on the transition to socialism

Reprinted below is an excerpt from *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada. The French edition of this title is one of the "Books of the Month" featured in July (see ad below for special offer). The piece quoted appears in the chapter titled "The Marxist conception of politics as concentrated economics and its importance in economic management under socialism." Copyright © 1989 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY CARLOS TABLADA

As a revolutionary economist, Che never lost sight of the fact that, under socialism, what is economically rational could not in itself serve as the barometer of what is socially rational. The formation of a new type of human relations would have to be the central objective of every effort; other factors would be positive or negative to the degree they helped accelerate or retard that process. Otherwise, a grave risk would be



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Members of voluntary minibrigade work on housing construction near Havana, 1990. Guevara explained that socialism cannot "be achieved with the help of the dull instruments left to us by capitalism." Building a new society without the dog-eat-values of capitalism requires cultivating "a new consciousness toward society."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

run that the need to overcome the poverty accumulated over centuries would lead the revolutionary vanguard to view success in production as the sole central goal, losing sight of the reason for making the revolution in the first place. Seeking purely economic gains could lead to the application of methods that, while producing economic successes in the short run, could mortgage the revolutionary future through gradual erosion of the process of raising consciousness. No one described this phenomenon better than Che:

A complete education for social labor has not yet taken place in these countries, and wealth is far from being within the reach of the masses through the simple process of appropriation. Underdevelopment, on the one hand, and the usual flight of capital to the "civilized" countries, on the other, make a rapid transition without sacrifices impossible. There remains a long way to go in constructing the economic base, and the temptation is very great to follow the beaten track of material interest as the lever with which

to accelerate development.

There is the danger that the forest will not be seen for the trees. The pipe dream that socialism can be achieved with the help of the dull instruments left to us by capitalism (the commodity as the economic cell, profitability, individual material interest as a lever, etc.) can lead into a blind alley. And you wind up there after having traveled a long distance with many crossroads, and it is hard to figure out just where you took the wrong turn. Meanwhile, the economic foundation that has been laid has done its work of undermining the development of consciousness. To build communism it is necessary, simultaneous with the new material foundations, to build the new man.

And once again, he made the same point:

It is not a matter of how many kilograms of meat one has to eat, nor of how many times a year someone can go to the beach, nor how many pretty things from abroad you might be able to buy with present-day wages. It is a matter of making the individual feel more complete, with much more internal richness and much more responsibility.

Thus for Che economic rationality meant the best possible use of resources so as to enhance the multifaceted development of both society and communist education.

That does not mean that building communism can be compatible with economic

bankruptcy. The point is that the efficiency of administrative management under socialism cannot be measured *exclusively* by the total amount of values created. It must also be gauged by the degree to which the economic structures help bring closer the new society, through the transformation of men. It must be gauged by how well man is developed socially in a communist direction, precisely on the basis of the new economic structures.

In building communism the relative weight of economic achievements, on the one hand, and achievements in raising consciousness, on the other, was clearly established by Che:

Socialism is not a welfare society, nor is it a utopian society based on the goodness of man as man. Socialism is a system that arises historically, and that has as its pillar the socialization of the basic means of production along with equitable distribution of all of society's wealth, in a framework of social production. In our view *communism is a phenomenon of consciousness and not solely a phenomenon of production.*

We cannot arrive at communism through the simple mechanical accumulation of quantities of goods made available to the people. By doing that we would get somewhere, to be sure, to some peculiar form of socialism. But what Marx defined as communism, what is aspired to in general as communism, cannot be attained if man is not conscious. That is, if he does not have a new consciousness toward society.

This conception was summed up in a few words by Che to a ceremony on August 21, 1962, honoring outstanding Cuban workers, as well as some visiting workers from the German Democratic Republic:

Productivity, more production, consciousness—these are the foundations upon which the new society can be built.

It is extremely important to clarify this question, since revisionist theories of the transition period are sometimes cloaked under technocratic formula used by bourgeois social theorists to argue that Marxism-Leninism is outmoded. These revisionist theories separate economic from political-ideological considerations. They assign primacy to economic models whose central aim is to maximize profits, frankly pushing off to the side the revolution's reason for being.

Their watchword is: "Let's concern ourselves with maximizing economic growth, the rest will follow." And that is how they seek to smuggle in the rotten fruit of capitalism. To understand that there is no automatic relationship between abundance and communist consciousness, it should be sufficient to analyze the motivations of the typical citizen of U.S. "consumer society."

LETTERS

Longshore unions in South

In researching a forum on the fight of the longshoremen in Charleston, South Carolina, I found a couple of references I think *Militant* readers will be interested in. In W.E.B. DuBois's *Black Reconstruction*, he writes, "One of the best Negro unions was the Longshoremen's Protective Association of Charleston. In 1875 it was described as 'the most powerful organization of the colored laboring class in South Carolina...' It had successfully conducted a number of strikes, and it was the most successful labor union among Negroes."

In *Organized Labor and the Black Worker 1619-1973*, the author Philip Foner explains that in 1902 the International Longshoremen's Union had the highest Black membership in the United States after the United Mine Workers of America. The book contains a number of references to the role of different longshore unions in the fight against racist discrimination.

C.W.
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Rail workers picket

Upwards of 50 railroad workers, some with spouses and children, picketed the local offices of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway on Wednesday, June 13. The protest, organized by United Transportation Union Local 324, was an informational

picket targeting the railroad's "availability" guidelines, which were unilaterally imposed over the last year. This attendance policy makes it much harder for railroad crew members to take time off from work. As the United Transportation Union local's flyer calling for the picket explained, "Railroad crews are tired of being tired."

The picketers pointed to the steady reduction of railroad crew sizes in recent years as rail bosses seek a competitive edge. "The recent runaway train in Ohio," their flyer explained, "is a classic example of too few people doing too many jobs." The rail workers appealed to the public, explaining, "People in communities like yours deserve to have safe, alert, well-rested crews operating these trains through your community."

Spirits on the picket line were high as many workers expressed the view that an action like this was overdue. While no one seemed to expect an immediate change in the railroad's policy, most were encouraged that action was being taken.

Geoff Mirelowitz
Seattle, Washington

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. 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.

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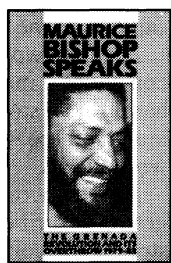
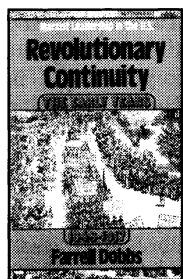
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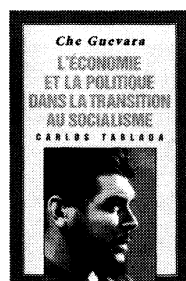
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Youth stand up to fascists, cops in UK

BY PAUL DAVIES

BRADFORD, England—"The cops came at us on horseback, beating us with batons, like it was a game of polo. They had rubber bullets ready to use on standby—do they want this to become like Northern Ireland?" said Ugar Khan, describing attempts by several hundred police officers to take control of Manningham, a predominantly Asian part of this city in the north of England.

Young people from the area erected barricades and fought running battles with the cops after the police failed to stop the fascist National Front (NF) from attacking a young Asian in the city center, after an Anti-Nazi League rally.

"The NF jumped one of our lads and he was taken to the hospital to have stitches in his head," Khan reported. "Why do they come here? The police are supposed to defend us but they don't. If the NF come again, we will sort them out."

Throughout the night of July 7, the police struggled to take control of the area. Reports of the number of cops injured have risen to 200. The events in Bradford occurred weeks after similar police attacks on youth in Burnley and Oldham.

Since then, capitalist politicians and community leaders have condemned the "violence" by those seeking to push back the cops. "The NF came down, ignited this and off they went—why were they allowed here in the first place? The Labour Party is supposed to be in government, so why do they allow racists to do this?" asked another resident of Manningham who did not wish to be named. Referring to the broader social tensions in the area, he said, "I don't like violence, but if you keep blowing up a balloon eventually it will burst."

The following Saturday, when *Militant* reporters visited the area, around 30 vans of riot police were gathered in the city center. A local taxi driver who was Asian explained that throughout the day many people had been too scared to come out of their homes.

"The point is: why should we be treated as second-class citizens. Too many Asians are sick and tired of being looked down on," said Jaid Khan, a young taxi driver from the White Abbey Road area, where the police violence was concentrated. "I don't agree with rioting—and those who did it were a minority, but the police were too heavy-handed."

Some 90,000 people of Asian descent live in Bradford, one of the largest Asian populations in the north of England. Many came to the city in the 1960s to work in the thriving textile industry, which has now all but disappeared. Unemployment in the city stands at around 6.4 percent, but some Manningham residents say that it is as high as 40 percent among young Asians.

"After graduating, I spent two years unemployed before I had to move away from the area to look for work," said Amer Akbar, a young man from Manningham who was visiting his home town. "The deprivation in the area is the underlying problem. On top of that you have harassment from the police. I have been stopped on numerous occasions by the cops for no reason—just to be questioned and searched." He added, "The Macpherson report into the murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence in south London, stated that the police were institutionally racist. We've known that all along."

"There are many companies that refuse to employ people from Manningham," explained Jaid Khan. A local Asian man fought and won a discrimination case against Grattons, a mail order firm and one of the main employers in Manningham, when they refused to offer him a job."

Routine harassment by the cops

Khan described the routine harassment that he and many other Asian taxi drivers face from the cops who pull them over for minor driving offenses, remove their license plates, and stop them from driving through the weekend—the most lucrative period of the week.

Alongside police harassment and rightist



Cops in riot gear attack Asian youth in Bradford, England, who were protesting attacks by the fascist National Front in their community.

assaults, many Asians face routine discrimination in housing. Salim Ahmed described how one Asian family was forced to move out of the Holmewood council estate, which is predominantly white, after Nazi graffiti was daubed over the front of the house. He also explained that a few days ago an Asian restaurant in the Greeengate area had been firebombed.

Several young Asians in the Manningham area spoke of their opposition to the actions of those who battled with the cops. One young woman echoed calls made by local member of Parliament Marsha Singh that

the cops should be allowed to use more force. Salim Ahmed, who came to Bradford from India in 1966, said that Home Secretary Blunkett "should have allowed the police to use tear gas and water cannon on those who riot in our communities."

Like most others, however, he said the conflict had been started by the National Front, who should not have been allowed to enter the town.

In the days after the street actions in Bradford, bourgeois politicians have attempted to scapegoat the victims of police violence for the social conditions in which

they live. Ann Cryer, Labour MP for nearby Keighley, asserted, "A great deal of the poverty in the Asian community in Bradford and Keighley is due to the fact that many of our Asian community do not speak English." She urged the government to consider adding further restrictions to immigration by requiring that those applying to immigrate to the United Kingdom be able to speak English.

Responding to Cryer's racist comments, Liberty Cloak, a Filipino resident from Bradford, said, "It is wrong to make speaking English a requirement for immigration—people travel from all over the world to the Philippines, where I come from, but they do not have to speak our language to do so."

Cryer argued that Asian parents living in the United Kingdom should organize arranged marriages for their children with other Asians living in the country, rather than abroad; "It would be better if they selected the partners for their children from the sort of home-grown variety of Muslim Asians."

Shahid Malik, a member of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee who was assaulted by cops during recent street actions in Burnley, opposed Cryer's views. He said Cryer "might think that she is doing the right thing by speaking out against arranged marriages, but she is doing the work of the extreme right wing."

Joyce Fairchild, Julie Crawford, and Paul Galloway contributed to this article.

Cop brutality in Maryland sparks outrage

BY STU SINGER

LANDOVER, MARYLAND—At least 122 people shot, 47 of them dead, others paralyzed and permanently injured. Two dozen lawsuits by people mauled by police dogs. False murder confessions coerced from people who were later exonerated.

This is part of the documented casualty toll inflicted by the police against working people from 1990 to 2000 in Prince George's County, Maryland, which borders Washington, D.C.

Many protests have been organized by survivors of the attacks and by families and friends of the victims. But not one cop has been jailed. Police and government officials have declared every police shooting to have been justified.

A series of front-page articles in the *Washington Post*, which ran under the heading "A Blue Wall of Silence" from July 1 to 4, have called attention to the record of police violence in this county of 800,000 people, which, according to the 2000 census, is 63 percent Black and 7 percent Latino. *Post* reporters Craig Whitlock and David Fallis described 15 months of investigations, piecing together autopsy reports, unreleased FBI reports, and interviews with people shot by the police, their families and friends, and with lawyers, cops, government officials, and community activists.

The headlines of the four-part series give a picture of what they cover: "Officers Killed with Impunity," "Police Routinely Clear Their Own," "Mentally Ill People Shot," and "Deaths in Custody."

The *Post* reported it did its own survey of the 50 largest local police departments around the country to determine how many fatal police shootings occurred in each.

Record number of fatal shootings

According to the *Post* study, the Prince George's County police were the worst in fatal shootings per cop and per arrest. Based on the number of shootings per resident, the five worst areas were Washington, Baltimore, Detroit, New Orleans, and Prince George's County, Maryland. In a 1998 study, the *Post* had reported that cops in the U.S. capital shot and killed more people per resident than in any other large city. In fact, Washington's officers fire their weapons at more than double the rate of police in New

York, Los Angeles, Chicago or Miami.

The *Post* articles report that in Prince George's County, "Since 1990, almost 90 percent of the people killed or wounded by officers have been Black or Latino." This



Militant/Stu Singer

Dorothy Elliot, whose son was killed by cops in Prince George's County, Maryland, has participated in many protests.

was done by a police force that is 53 percent white. But the killer cops are Black as well as white.

To the more than 300 workers at the Smithfield meatpacking plant here in Landover, Prince George's County—which most people call PG—the *Washington Post* articles and the extensive coverage on radio and television that followed were no surprise. In discussions at work, many reported their own experiences with the local cops.

A number of workers noticed that one of the *Post* articles included a photo of a former co-worker, Senee "Quita" Waiters, whose brother Dwayne was killed by PG cops in 1997. The photo of the Waiters family was in the third *Post* article, headlined "Families' Pleas for Help End in Gunfire."

According to the *Post*, since 1990 the PG cops killed six and wounded six more mentally or emotionally disturbed people. In

seven of those cases the police had been called to help a suffering family member.

That is what happened to 21-year-old Dwayne Waiters, a college student. He suddenly started running in and out of the house and smashed a window. Quita said, "I didn't know what was wrong with him. I thought somebody slipped him a mickey."

Dwayne's father Robert sat on his chest, pinning his arms and legs to the floor while waiting for police to respond to the 911 call. Two cops burst into the apartment with guns drawn and pointed the guns at the father. "I kept saying, 'This is my son, this is my son!' But if I hadn't gotten up they would have shot me," Robert Waiters said.

Dwayne then ran into the kitchen, and the two cops followed and shot him 12 times, with four bullets in the back and half the shots from less than two feet away, leaving powder burns.

The cops wrote identical one-page statements describing the shooting, claiming Dwayne had reached for a knife so they had fired in self-defense.

But the only knife found, a butter knife on the kitchen counter, did not have Dwayne's fingerprints. And under cross-examination in a lawsuit filed by the Waiters family, both cops said they did not know if he had a knife.

The *Post* reported that one of the cops who killed Dwayne Waiters, Robert Hettensouer, killed another unarmed man two years later. Altogether, he has killed three unarmed men and shot at two other people, but missed.

Charlene Reeves, who works in the packing room at the Smithfield plant, described how cops from Suitland, one of the towns in PG County, severely beat her son and one of his friends. After she protested the beating, a bullet was fired into her house. The bullet came from the kind of gun used by police.

Another worker described seeing a PG cop shoot a man to death for shoplifting a ham from a store. "The man was obviously hungry, there was no cause to kill him," the worker said.

Another worker, a Latin American immigrant, described how often he sees cops stopping Blacks and Latinos in the Langley Park area of PG County, where he and many other Latino co-workers live. "All that talk

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