

## SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN

*Support Moorehead-  
La Riva*

5

## Thousands in Prague say: 'Smash the IMF!'

By Bill Dorr  
Prague, Czech Republic



They came to wreck and destroy. From Washington and Wall Street, Frankfurt, Tokyo, the Bourse in Paris and the City of London, silk-suited bankers, financiers and economists descended on this beautiful Central European city to consort with

and dictate to finance ministers from over 100 countries at the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Behind the bankers' smooth professions of concern for the 2 billion people on this planet who go to bed hungry was an ill-concealed hidden agenda—cut wages, raise prices, shut down plants, schools and hospitals, eliminate jobs. And make sure that interest payments continue to flow from the world's poorest countries to the world's richest banks.

But these global economic tyrants could not carry out their agenda in peace or silence. They had to hide behind armies of police and walls of tanks as thousands of protesters from all over Europe filled the cobblestoned streets of Prague Sept. 26.

The bankers had to travel to their hotels in special guarded subway cars as activists fought armored police on

*Continued on page 12*

## FIDEL'S SPEECH

Cuban leader in  
Harlem

8

## SUBSCRIBE WORKERS WORLD

\$2 FOR EIGHT WEEKS  
\$25 for one year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World News  
55 W. 17 St. NYC 10011  
(212) 627-2994 [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

MIXED ADC 101  
4635 SEAN CARSWELL  
GORSKY PRESS  
PO BOX 320504  
COCOA BEACH FL 32832-0504

## WORKERS WORLD



## MUNDO OBRERO

Los Angeles, Cal.

Paro paraliza autobuses,  
trenes y ferrocarriles

16

50¢

# U.S./NATO steal Yugoslav elections

## Soft money and hard threats

By Sara Flounders

On Sept. 26 the State Election Commission in Yugoslavia announced the results of the Sept. 24 elections. The candidate backed by the U.S. government and the European Union, Vojislav Kostunica, received 48 percent of the vote to President Slobodan Milosevic's 40 percent.

Since neither candidate received more than 50 percent, a run-off election has been set for Oct. 8.

Kostunica's immediate reaction was to reject participation in a run-off election and demand that Milosevic concede defeat. Bill Clinton, Britain's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and other NATO leaders who bombed Yugoslavia in 1999 also demanded Milosevic concede.

The first point for the whole international movement that opposed NATO's war against Yugoslavia to keep in mind is that the Yugoslav elections were not "free and fair." Imperialism stole the election through its blatant pressure, bribery and interference.

The elections raise a vital question. Will Yugoslavia be turned over to the Western banks and corporations? Will the assets of industrial enterprises be broken up and sold off, as they have been in every other country in Eastern Europe, Russia and the former Soviet Republics? Will the majority of the population be relegated to living below the poverty line?

The Sept. 24 elections involved three layers of voting. Besides the presidential vote, there were also municipal elections, in which the U.S.-backed opposition won many cities and towns.

There was also an election for the Yugoslav Federal Parliament. The coalition of the United Left, the Socialist Party and the SP's sister party in Montenegro won a strong majority of both houses. In Montenegro it was unopposed, as the pro-Western government abstained from the election. Under Yugoslav law, Parliament has more rights than the president and directs the government, electing the prime minister.

But a setback for Milosevic in the presidential election puts more at risk than the future of one individual. He was the main target of the war carried out by U.S. and NATO—the imperialist world powers—and because of that he has come to symbolize Yugoslav resistance. In addition, he was at the center of the coalition of forces that led Yugoslavia during the 78 days of bombing.

All the social gains of an independent country that had broken free of imperialist enslavement and held out during years of encirclement and war are now endangered.

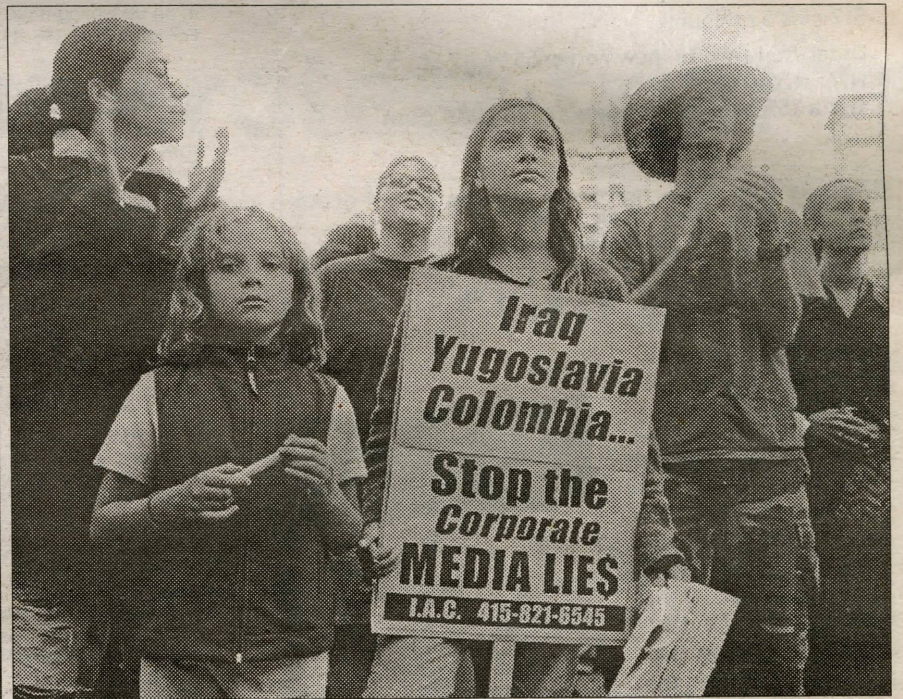
### Western interference distorted election

In this election the U.S. and European Union governments used every possible dirty trick, corrupt practice and payoff, and then bragged about them. Threats of bombing, promises to end nine years of sanctions, intimidation and military maneuvers heightened the tension.

On election day the Pentagon and Croatia held their largest joint military exercises ever—a joint landing on an island in the Adriatic near Montenegro, part of Yugoslavia, to simulate an invasion. Fifteen British war ships have now moved into the

*Continued on page 14*

## SAN FRANCISCO Corporate media fest unmasked



WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

Hundreds demonstrated against big-business domination of the mass media outside National Association of Broadcasters Convention in San Francisco Sept. 23

See page 6

## MUMIA'S CASE

Call for action

3

## STRIKE ROLLS ON

LA transit union power

4

## HIGH OIL PRICES

Who profits?

11



## DETROIT

# Outrage grows after cops kill autoworker

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

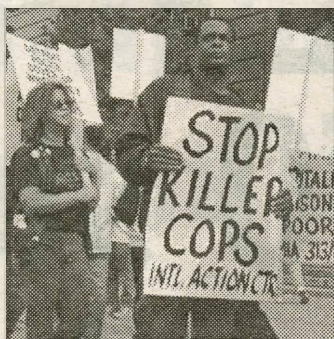
More than 500 demonstrators took their anger at killer cops to Detroit's police headquarters Sept. 23. They chanted, "We won't stop till they charge the cops!" They also demanded the resignation of Police Chief Benny Napoleon and Mayor Dennis Archer.

Friends and co-workers of Dwight Turner organized the protest. Turner, an autoworker, was gunned down on his front porch Sept. 7. His death came less than two weeks after Detroit police killed a deaf-mute gardener, Errol Shaw Sr., for allegedly threatening them with a garden rake.

The police have already played judge, jury and executioner for nine Detroiters this year.

The city administration is acting to try to diffuse the growing movement against the police.

On Sept. 14, more than 500 people packed the auditorium of Christ the King Church in northwest Detroit for a Civilian Police Commission meeting. The heavy police presence and pro-cop speakers didn't intimidate the relatives, friends and supporters of Detroiters slain by the police who came out.



After the Police Commission meeting, Archer appointed a panel to review police department policies on the use of deadly force. The Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality declined an invitation to join the panel, stating: "For three years the DCAPB has itself constituted a truly committed task force in the interest of the community. We have done the investigations, supported the families of victims, called town meetings to inform the community of the severity of the police brutality crisis..."

"All the tasks have been done except the prosecution and imprisonment of killer cops."

On Sept. 22 Archer made another move that police-brutality foes said was too little, too late. He announced he would ask the federal government to investigate fatal shootings by Detroit cops over the past five years.

What will the U.S. Justice Department do? Arnetta Grable has first hand experience. Grable's son, Lamar, was shot and killed by Detroit Police Officer Eugene Brown.

Grable took her son's case to Washington, where



Detroit, Sept. 23.  
WW PHOTOS: CHERYL LABASH

she was ignored. It took tireless organizing and pressure by the DCAPB—which Grable helped organize—to reopen the investigation of her son's murder.

Police and prosecutors initially cleared Brown, Lamar Grable's killer. However, early reports say the new investigation contradicts that. An announcement of whether Brown will be disciplined or prosecuted is expected by early October.

The size of the Sept. 23 protest shows that Detroiters weren't appeased by the police and city administration maneuvers. It was also demonstrated by the enthusiastic response to a speaker at the Police Commission meeting who said the movement must demand community control of the police.

## WW CALENDAR

### BOSTON

**Fri., Sept. 29**

Teach-in Against the Death Penalty. Speakers include Ramona Africa, Kazi Toure and Monica Moorehead. Sponsored by Boston Coalition for Mumia Abu-Jamal. 6:30 p.m. At UMass Boston Harbor Campus, main auditorium. For info (617) 522-6626.

**Sat., Sept. 30**

Election 2000: What's in it for the workers and oppressed? What's next in the struggle to free Mumia? Meet socialist presidential candidate Monica Moorehead of WWP 2 p.m. At 284 Armory St. ("The Brewery"), Jamaica Plain. For info (617) 983-3835.

**Tue., Oct. 3**

March on the Death Debates at UMass Boston. At the first presidential debate, protest to stop the racist death penalty, ban prison construction and demand a new trial for Mumia. Gather 5 p.m. For info (617) 522-6626.

### NEW YORK

**Sat., Dec. 2-Sun., Dec. 3**

Workers World Party National Conference. Watch for details in an upcoming issue of WW. For info (212) 255-0352.

**Fri., Oct. 20**

Workers World Party 2000 presidential campaign rally. Hear Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva. 7 p.m. At 55 W. 17 St., 5th fl. For info (212) 255-0352 or www.vote4workers.org.

**Every Tuesday**

Weekly volunteer meetings. 6:30 p.m. At the International Action Center, 39 W. 14th St., Room 206. For info (212) 633-6646.

### PHILADELPHIA

**Fri., Sept. 29**

Eyewitness Korea. Delegates from a fact-finding mission to south Korea will report on U.S. crimes from 1950 war until now. 7 p.m. At Calvary Church, 48th and Baltimore Ave. For info (215) 724-1618.

### PROVIDENCE, R.I.

**Sat., Sept. 30**

Hear Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party's candidate for president. 6 p.m. At Davey Lopes Recreation Center, Dudley St. Good food by Jim's Kitchen, Tina's Caribbean Rest., Broad Street Rest., and Miss Fannie's Soul Food Kitchen. For info campaign@workers.org.

## WORKERS WORLD PARTY

JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, trans and straight, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

### National Office

55 W. 17 St., New York, N.Y. 10011  
(212) 627-2994; Fax (212) 675-7869  
wwp@workers.org

### Atlanta

P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga. 30301  
(770) 662-6417

### Baltimore

426 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218  
(410) 235-7040

### Boston

31 Germania St., Boston, Mass. 02130  
(Enter at 284 Amory St.) (617) 983-3835;  
Fax (617) 983-3836 boston@workers.org

### Buffalo, N.Y.

349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201  
(716) 855-3055; Fax (716) 852-3402  
buffalo@workers.org

### Chicago

P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680  
(312) 329-6119; Fax (773) 761-9330  
chicago@workers.org

### Cleveland

3030 Euclid Ave., LL1, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 phone/fax (216) 426-0851  
cleveland@workers.org

### Detroit

5920 Second Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48202  
(313) 831-0750; detroit@workers.org

### Houston

P.O. Box 130322, Houston, Texas 77219 (713) 861-5965  
houston@workers.org

### Los Angeles

422 S. Western Ave., Room 114, Los Angeles, Calif. 90020 (213) 487-2368  
fax (213) 387-9355 la@workers.org

### Milwaukee

P.O. Box 16483, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216;  
milw@workers.org

### Philadelphia

P.O. Box 19267, Philadelphia, Pa. 19143  
(610) 352-3625; phila@workers.org

### Richmond, Va.

P.O. Box 14602, Richmond, Va. 23221  
richmond@workers.org

### Rochester, N.Y.

2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB. 303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (716) 436-6458;  
roc@workers.org

### San Francisco

3181 Mission, No. 29, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 (415) 826-4828; fax (415) 821-5782;  
sf@workers.org

### Seattle

1218 E. Cherry #201, Seattle, Wash. 98122  
(206) 325-0085

### State College, Pa.

100 Grandview Rd., State College, Pa. 16801 (814) 237-8695;  
jxb58@psu.edu

### Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 57300, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 588-1205  
dc@workers.org

## A VOICE from HARPER'S FERRY 1859

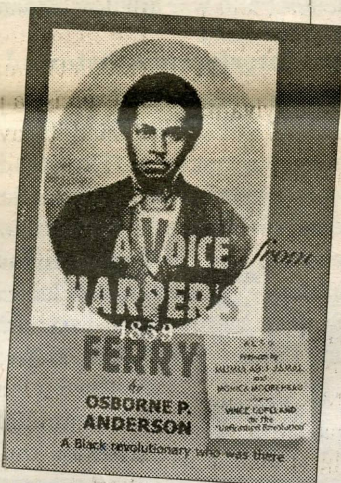
By Osborne P. Anderson  
a Black revolutionary who was there. With an essay on 'The Unfinished Revolution' by Vince Copeland & new prefaces by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead. 128 pp, photographs.

Anderson was the only Black combatant to survive the raid on Harper's Ferry and write about it. His account of this turning point in the struggle against slavery—an armed attack by Black and white volunteers on a citadel of the South—refutes those who try to minimize the role of African American people in fighting for their freedom. Imprisoned Black journalist MUMIA ABU-JAMAL says Anderson's narrative is 'a historical gold mine.'

\$12 plus \$3 shipping

Order from: World View Forum 55 W. 17 St., 5 Fl., N.Y., N.Y. 10011

Get a 15% discount at [www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)



## MARKET ELECTIONS

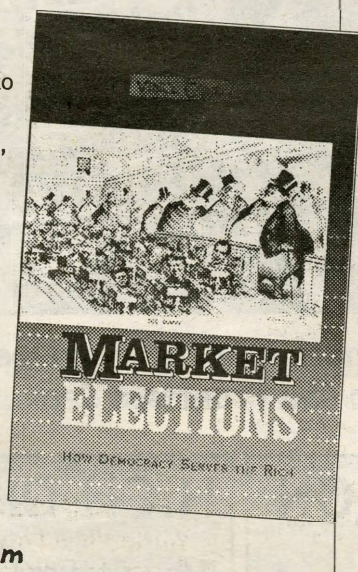
Every four years, big money chooses the presidential candidates. Their war chests filled to the brim, they are then packaged by the media as 'the people's choice.'

It's U.S.-style democracy—of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich.

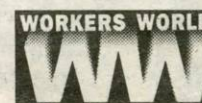
But how do these chosen politicians win the votes of the millions as well as the millionaires?

Order from  
World View Forum,  
55 W. 17 St., 5. fl.,  
N.Y., NY 10011  
\$18 plus \$3 shipping  
Get a 15% discount at

[www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)



## This week ...



### ★ National

Detroit cops kill autoworker .....	2
Pam Africa calls for action on Mumia legal briefs .....	3
IAC's Becker acquitted .....	3
Los Angeles transit strike rolls on .....	4
Washington nurses strike .....	4
Socialist candidates on R.I. ballot .....	4
Moorehead-La Riva 2000 election campaign .....	5
Behind police 'racial profiling' .....	6
S.F. protest hits corporate media control .....	6
Fidel Castro's speech to U.S. movement .....	8
Gas & oil price hike .....	11
Big Oil gets rich, blames OPEC .....	11

### ★ International

U.S./NATO steal Yugoslav election .....	1
Prague anti-IMF protests .....	1
Youths denounce Cuban Adjustment Act .....	7
Vieques protesters brace for new confrontation .....	10
Celebrating El Grito de Lares .....	10
U.S. shelters Haitian death squads .....	10
Imperialist intervention: Illusion and reality .....	13
Int'l observers condemn U.S./EU interference .....	15
Imperialist intervention: In their own words .....	15

### ★ Editorials

Class struggle, parties and elections .....	14
---	----

### ★ Noticias En Español

Apoyo amplio por huelguistas en Los Angeles .....	16
Espmas, mentiras y las relaciones entre E.U. y China ..	16

### Workers World

55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869  
E-mail: [editor@workers.org](mailto:editor@workers.org)  
Web: <http://www.workers.org/>  
Vol. 42, No. 40 • Oct. 5, 2000  
Closing date: Sept. 27, 2000

Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lal Roohk; Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Shelley Ettinger, Leslie Feinberg, Gary Wilson; Assistant Editor: Greg Butterfield; West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva; Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediac, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Teresa Gutierrez, Monica Moorehead; Technical Staff: Gery Armsby, Elijah Crane, Anya Mukarji-Connolly, Lyn Neeley; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World/WW (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106.

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to [info@workers.org](mailto:info@workers.org) for details.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World/WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.



# Pam Africa calls for action on legal briefs

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

An emergency meeting was held in Philadelphia Sept. 23 to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal's supporters up to date on recent developments in his legal case.

On Aug. 7 Federal District Court Judge William H. Yohn Jr. denied four amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," briefs filed in support of Abu-Jamal. The decision was without legal precedent and of great significance, according to Pam Africa of International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. She said the briefs addressed legal issues crucial to Abu-Jamal's pending review for a new trial.

Africa said that Yohn had not commented when two amicus briefs were filed earlier this year. One of the briefs was filed on behalf of the National Lawyers Guild, National Conference of Black Lawyers and other attorneys' groups. The other was issued jointly by the NAACP and the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union.

But it was a different matter when 22 members of British Parliament and the Los Angeles-based Chicana/Chicano Studies Foundation submitted two more briefs this summer.

## 'Reverse Mumia's conviction'

The last two briefs cut straight to the court's denial of Abu-Jamal's right to self-representation in his 1982 trial, where he was sentenced to death for the killing of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. Supporters of the award-winning journalist and former Black Panther say the racist Philadelphia Police Department framed him.

The Chicana/Chicano Studies Foundation brief also presented evidence, previously unknown to Abu-Jamal and his supporters, of a conspiracy between court-appointed defense attorney Anthony Jackson, Judge Albert Sabo and Prosecutor Joseph McGill. The brief called for Abu-Jamal's conviction to be reversed.

In refusing the briefs, Yohn said, "I will deny the petitions as unnecessary and unhelpful, without comment on the merits of the arguments raised or the merits of the petitioner's underlying claims."

"He says he didn't look at them, even though these briefs suddenly seemed to require action," noted Marlene Kamish, an attorney for the Chicana/Chicano Studies Foundation, at the Sept. 23 meeting.

"Yohn can't say he looked at a brief raising the issues of the denial of Mumia's right to self-representation and Jackson's conspiracy and say it wasn't important, and have this stand up," she explained.

Kamish said several U.S. Supreme Court decisions had overturned convictions when the Sixth Amendment right of self-representation was violated.

She went on to explain that an essential element of any trial is an adversarial relationship between the defense attorney and the prosecutor. "It's this conflict that is supposed to allow the truth to come out. When you don't have this, you don't have a trial."

## Defense collaboration charged

Kamish described transcripts of discussions between Jackson, Sabo and McGill in the judge's chambers, where they discussed how to get a conviction that would be protected from appeal. These transcripts were the basis of the Chicana/Chicano Studies Foundation brief.

The transcripts also show that Jackson discussed Abu-Jamal's defense strategy with the prosecutor and the judge, in clear violation of attorney/client privilege, Kamish said.

The court's refusal to allow Abu-Jamal to represent himself or to have John Africa as a lay advisor in the courtroom was addressed in the British Parliament members' brief.

Kamish explained that five months before his own trial, then-reporter Abu-

Jamal had seen MOVE Organization founder Africa effectively defend himself in federal court and walk out a free man. When he was in a battle for his own life, Abu-Jamal fought for the right to have someone he trusted sit with him to assist his defense.

Sabo denied Abu-Jamal's request to have Africa's assistance. Instead he appointed Jackson to sit at the defendant's table and eventually let him take over the case, despite Abu-Jamal's repeated objections.

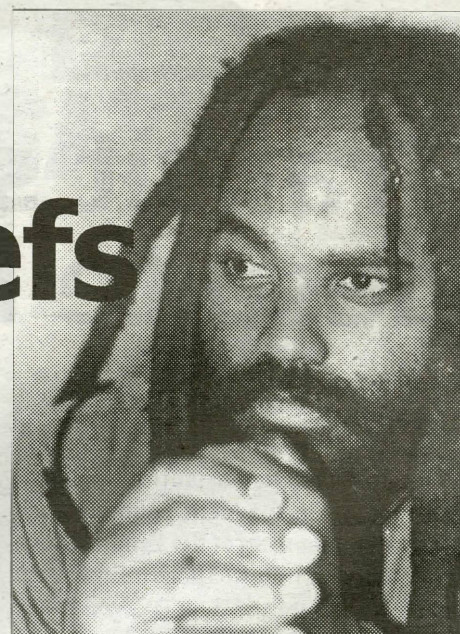
"It's often said that the problem is that Jackson was ineffective," noted Pam Africa. "But actually he was very effective—only for the prosecution, not for the defense."

Africa and Kamish said Jackson gave no opening statement on Abu-Jamal's behalf. He failed to subpoena key witnesses, including Police Officer Wakshul, whose testimony could have refuted the prosecution's phony "confession" story. He failed to present any character witnesses during the sentencing phase that resulted in the death sentence.

## Character witnesses

The Chicana/Chicano Studies Foundation brief also presented compelling testimony from Abu-Jamal's 1995 Post Conviction Relief Appeal hearings. At that time the defense, now headed by renowned civil rights attorney Leonard Weinglass, presented several character witnesses, including late Pennsylvania State Representative David P. Richardson, whose testimony should have been grounds for a reversal of the death sentence. The witnesses all said they had been willing to testify in 1982, but Jackson never called on them.

So credible was their testimony about Abu-Jamal's compassionate and non-violent nature that the district attorney in the appeals hearing conceded it was "not characteristic" of Abu-Jamal to have committed murder.



**FREE MUMIA**

PHOTO: WWW.COSIMAPP-MUMIA.ORG

Kamish explained that there are no grounds to seek the death penalty when the defendant has no prior conviction and is shown to have value to other people, relationships and ties in the community and a non-violent character.

Sabo, who also presided over the 1995 appeal, "unreasonably and erroneously" ruled that the mitigation evidence at the PCRA hearing was "irrelevant," Kamish said, even though the prosecution conceded its relevance.

In 1982 Sabo engineered a Black woman juror's removal with Jackson's and McGill's collaboration. That juror was the only one selected by Abu-Jamal during the two days when he was allowed to act as his own counsel.

Sabo replaced the woman with a white male who became jury foreman, although the man admitted three times that he couldn't be impartial. When Jackson tried to exercise a peremptory challenge, Sabo denied it, saying, "I select him." Kamish said, "He had no right whatsoever to put this man on. Sabo stacked the jury."

Africa and Kamish urged Abu-Jamal's supporters to read all four amicus briefs and the writ of habeas corpus presented by Weinglass. An appeal of Yohn's ruling is underway.

The briefs are available on the Web site [www.mumia2000.org](http://www.mumia2000.org), along with instructions on how to support the appeal effort.

## WASHINGTON

# Becker acquitted at protest trial

By Workers World Washington bureau

In an important legal ruling, International Action Center Co-Director Brian Becker was acquitted of disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Sept. 25. Becker had faced 90 days in jail for charges stemming from the mass police arrests of demonstrators in Washington last April 15.

That demonstration was called by the IAC to demand "Shut down the prison-industrial complex" on the day prior to the planned protests to "Shut down the International Monetary Fund and World Bank" April 16-17.

Attorney Mark Goldstone defended Becker. Goldstone, who represented many of the defendants from the April 15-17 arrests, said to a group of supporters after the trial, "This was an important victory because the court recognized that what was at stake was the First Amendment right to demonstrate.

"This has national implications because it is precisely this right which we have seen was under attack in Seattle and at the demonstrations at Philadelphia and Los Angeles in front of the Republican and Democratic conventions," Goldstone said.

Becker was acquitted in a ruling by Associate Judge Harim Puig-Lugo of the Superior Court. Puig-Lugo ruled that the government had failed to prove its case that the demonstrators on April 15 and Becker in particular had engaged in an "unlawful assembly."

On April 15 police illegally closed a whole downtown block in Washington and arrested 678 demonstrators, tourists, shoppers and passers-by in what has been described as the largest act of preventive detention in recent decades in the United States.

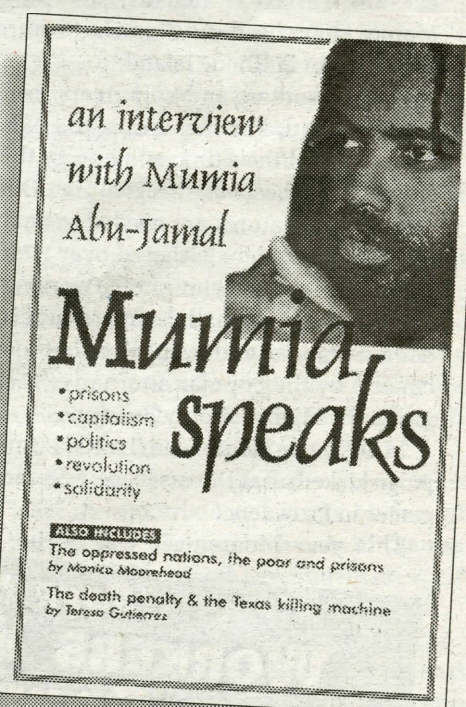
"We were arrested in a planned act of preventive detention by the police," Becker told Workers World. "They wanted to put us in jail not because we were breaking a law but because they

wanted to clear the streets prior to the IMF/World Bank meeting."

While many of the cases stemming from the April 15 demonstration were later dismissed, the Washington district attorney proceeded with the trial against Becker, who is one of the named plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit charging that the cops and government conspired to violate the protesters' constitutional rights.

"We believe they proceeded with this trial because they wanted to get a conviction to defend themselves against the class-action lawsuit for the unlawful arrests of more than 1,300 people that weekend," Becker charged.

Readers who want to participate in the class-action lawsuit defending the rights of those arrested April 15-17, as a witness or potential plaintiff, should go to the Web site [www.justiceonline.org/a16](http://www.justiceonline.org/a16).



**NEW PAMPHLET** from  
World View Forum \$3 + \$1 shipping  
Get a 15% discount online from  
[leftbooks.com](http://leftbooks.com)



## LOS ANGELES

# Transit strike rolls on despite media lies

By Preston Wood  
Los Angeles

In spite of a vicious anti-union campaign waged by the Metropolitan Transit Authority, members of the United Transportation Union are holding strong as their strike, which started Sept. 16, continued into its second week.

The effects of the mass transit strike, which is 100 percent solid, have been far-reaching. Businesses report dramatic losses, health clinics report over 50 percent no-shows for appointments and classes at local colleges are half full. Freeways are jammed as thousands turn to carpooling and taxis to get to work.

The 4,300 strikers—bus drivers, train operators, clerical workers and engineers—are fighting back against an MTA plan to inflict a 15-percent wage cut, drastic benefit reductions, replacement of vet-

eran workers with low-paid, part-time workers, and the elimination of \$23 million in overtime pay over the next three years.

The MTA falsely claims that all bus drivers make \$50,000 per year. Most actually make much less, with starting salaries of \$8.40 per hour.

Despite a vicious campaign in the local press attempting to blame the striking workers for the chaotic situation in the city, support for the strike remains strong, particularly among those low-paid workers who use mass transit—mainly Black, Latino and Asian workers and students, many of whom are immigrants.

At a militant rally Sept. 20, thousands of workers and community supporters marched through the streets of downtown Los Angeles to the MTA headquarters to demand a just contract.

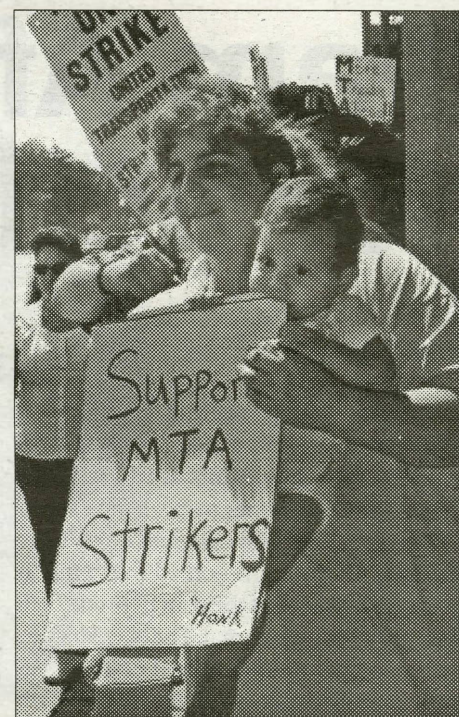
The transit strike is part of a massive labor upsurge that continues to gain momentum here.

In what has to be a nightmare for the bosses, 47,000 Los Angeles County workers from Service Employees Local 660—nurses, paramedics, clerical workers, librarians, and welfare workers—will strike Oct. 2, barring a last-minute agreement.

In addition, members of United Teachers of Los Angeles also promised to walk out if their demands for fair pay, lower class sizes and better shifts are not met.

While granting themselves a whopping 12.5 percent pay boost, the Los Angeles County Supervisors have refused to consider a decent raise for county workers.

"Our members made the sacrifices in the '90s," said Local 660 President Alejandro Stephens. "Now that there's this



Los Angeles, Sept. 18.

unprecedented prosperity, we want our money."

Solidarity among all the unions with the striking transit workers will help ensure more victories in the crucial struggles to come.

## WASHINGTON

# Nurses demand: 'No more forced overtime'

By Malcolm Cummins  
Washington

One feature of the bosses' "New Economy" is forced overtime. It has come to the forefront in many recent labor struggles, including the August strike by Verizon workers and the pilots' struggle at United Airlines.

Forced overtime reached a crisis point for nurses at Washington Hospi-

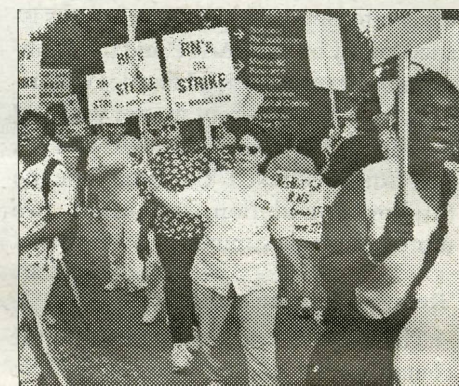
tal Center Sept. 20. About 1,300 of them went on strike, demanding more control over their jobs and lives and better care for their patients.

As one worker, who didn't want to be named for fear of retaliation, put it: "We've had it. We're frustrated and overworked, we don't have time for our families, or even a lunch or dinner break!"

DC Nurses Association Vice President Sue Johnson described how the center

lured nurses with promises of decent working conditions. "They tell nurses in the beginning that they will have three or four patients to care for. Then they just keep adding more and more, until we end up caring for nine or 10 patients. You just can't give quality care with this many patients."

Because of the abysmal workload, many new nurses become angry and quit, leaving even fewer to care for the sick. The low



Striking nurses at Washington

Hospital Center. WW PHOTO: MALCOLM CUMMINS

retention rate leaves older workers tired and frustrated.

Forcing workers to do overtime is a favorite tactic of the bosses because they don't have to hire new workers. Having fewer workers reduces the total benefit costs and gives the bosses more flexibility if they decide to make cutbacks.

# Socialist candidates on R.I. ballot

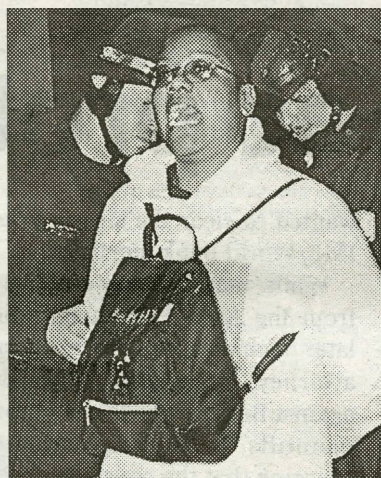
Special to Workers World  
Providence, R.I.

For the second consecutive presidential election, Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva are on the ballot in Rhode Island.

Party members and volunteers from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York donated their time and energy this summer to collect voters' signatures. One thousand signatures are needed to qualify. The petitioners gathered over 1,750 signatures in all, reaching out to working-class people at malls, supermarkets, demonstrations and even a free outdoor concert by the popular alternative rock group the Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

In 1996 the Moorehead/La Riva campaign kicked off at Dorcas Place, a literacy center in Providence.

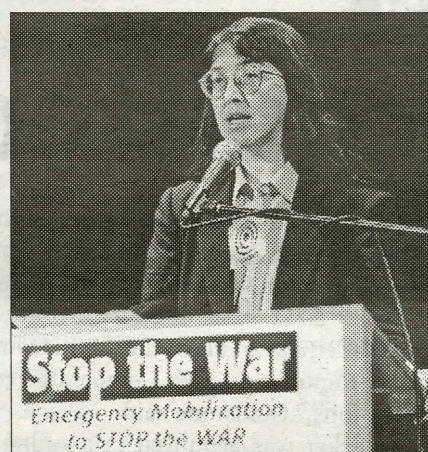
This year Moorehead will be in



WW PHOTO: SHARON AYLING

Rhode Island twice while touring New England from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3.

On Sept. 28, Moorehead will speak at the University of Rhode Island Multicul-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Moorehead, left, arrested at April 15 protest. La Riva, above, speaks at May 1999 teach-in against war on Yugoslavia.

tural Center, Kingston Campus, at 12:30 p.m. That evening she will talk live with Arlene Violet on WHJJ Radio 920 AM from 5-6 p.m. Violet's program is the number-one radio talk show in the state.

That evening Moorehead will also tape a radio program with George Castro of the "Minority Monitor" show to be aired Oct. 1 at 6 a.m. on WSNE Radio 93.3 FM. Castro's listeners stretch from Maine to Cape Cod, Mass., to northern Connecticut.

Then on Sept. 30, there will be a program devoted to Moorehead at the Davey

Lopes Recreation Center at Dudley Street in Providence at 6 p.m. The center is in the heart of Providence's African American community. The Rhode Island WWP Campaign Committee expects a large turnout from the Black and Latin communities due to the high-profile work done by Party members against police brutality following the shooting death of Sgt. Cornel Young Jr. The committee is printing and distributing 5,000 flyers to publicize this event.

A photo of Moorehead and information on the WWP campaign will be included in the League of Women Voters' "Rhode Island Voters' Guide '00," a publication which will be distributed free throughout the state. This gives the campaign the potential to reach up to 50,000 voters who may otherwise never hear of the Moorehead/La Riva ticket, due to the big business media's restricted coverage of non-capitalist candidates.

Moorehead will also take part in activities in the Boston area that weekend, including a teach-in on Mumia Abu-Jamal at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sept. 29 and a protest outside the first Bush-Gore presidential debate Oct. 3.

Check the Web site [www.vote4workers.org](http://www.vote4workers.org) for updates on the New England portion of this exciting socialist campaign.

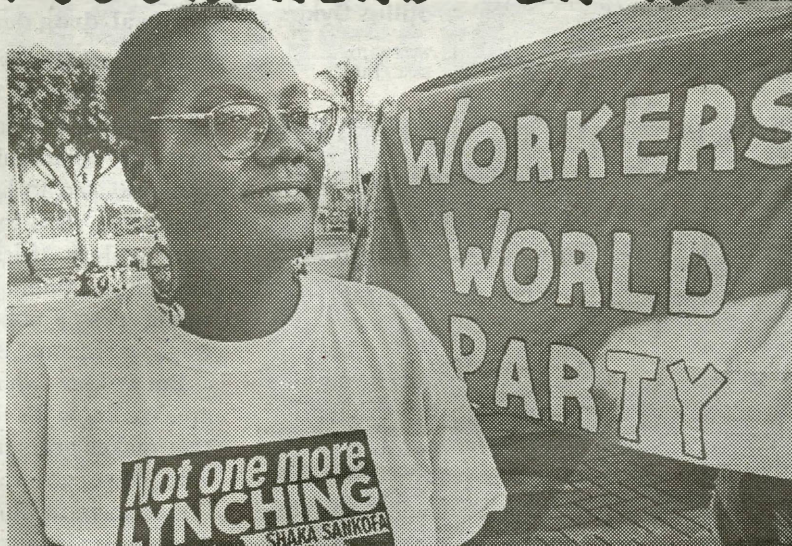
Save the date  
**WORKERS WORLD PARTY**  
**CONFERENCE**  
NYC • Dec. 2-3  
Call 212-255-0352 or e-mail: [campaign@workers.org](mailto:campaign@workers.org)  
[www.vote4workers.org](http://www.vote4workers.org)



# A PROGRAM TO SHUT IT DOWN

# Fight Capitalism!

## MOOREHEAD-LA RIVA 2000 ELECTION CAMPAIGN



Monica Moorehead for president



Gloria La Riva for vice president

# STOP plunder by corporate bosses through solidarity & mass struggle

**Monica Moorehead & Gloria La Riva** have been in the struggle for social justice for over 25 years as members of Workers World Party. Now they are running against the twin big business candidates, Bush and Gore, to bring a message of solidarity, struggle and socialism into the election.

Bush and Gore got their political training in the corporate boardrooms and political backrooms.

Moorehead and La Riva got theirs at strikes and picket lines, demonstrations, sit-downs and sit-ins against the racist, exploiting system of capitalism.

A vote for them is a protest against a system in which a \$7 trillion economy can leave 30 million people in poverty. It's a vote of opposition to a system in which billions can be made on the stock market while half the Black children and 17 percent of all kids go to bed hungry. It's saying no to the bosses piling up obscene wealth while workers' wages are stuck at the 1970 level.

Bush and Gore want to give the budget surplus to already rich bondholders. Moorehead and La Riva say give everyone a quality education, decent jobs, housing

and childcare instead.

That leaves plenty of money for free, quality healthcare for everyone, including medicines, and a secure retirement. Stop corporate welfare and take back the \$300 billion that the Pentagon uses for imperialist war and intervention against countries like Iraq, Yugoslavia, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Sudan and Colombia.

Racism and national oppression are poisonous tools of the corporations to keep the workers divided. Unity means fighting against the low wages and substandard living conditions that are forced on Black, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native people most of all.

It's time to tear down the racist and inhuman prison-industrial complex. Two million prisoners, most of them Black and Latino, all of them poor, need real rehabilitation under community control. Abolish the racist death penalty and racial profiling.

All this can be done—but not under capitalism. Most of the vast wealth created by the workers in factories, offices, mines and fields now flows steadily upward into the bank accounts of the rich.

Moorehead and La Riva know full well

that you don't win political rights or social and economic gains by voting. It takes mass mobilization and militant struggle. Like the sit-down strikes and labor struggles of the 1930s that won the right to organize, welfare, social security and protective labor laws. Like the civil rights movement that ended segregation and won affirmative action.

A new movement of militant resistance to global plunder by giant corporations exploded on the streets of Seattle last year. Moorehead, La Riva and Workers World Party have participated in every phase of it. They were both arrested April 15 in Washington, fighting the prison-industrial complex, the IMF and the World Bank.

They have been in the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier and the Puerto Rican political prisoners; the

struggles for justice for Shaka Sankofa, Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, Matthew Shepard and Tyisha Miller. They have opposed police brutality and the racist death penalty. They have fought for a woman's right to abortion and for lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights.

They have fought to end the blockade of Cuba and to send Elián González home.

All these movements have put the power structure on the defensive. Add to this a growing number of strikes where workers are winning better wages and benefits and job security. It all points to a new phase of the struggle here that can push the ruling class back.

But the root of global economic inequality is capitalism. That's why the Moorehead/La Riva campaign is for socialism—where the workers take over the economy and run it for human need, not for profit.

## Message to the Nader movement

Ralph Nader is running a third-party presidential campaign on the Green Party ticket. He points out that the Democrats and the Republicans are captives of the corporations. He has exposed corporate devastation of the environment, and advocated for workers' rights to organize. He is promoting universal health care. The Workers World Party campaign totally agrees with him on all these points.

Nader has been attacked for taking votes from Democrat Al Gore. His attackers should be condemned for clinging to an imperialist party that has just spent six years collaborating with Newt Gingrich in attacking the people.

But it takes more than Nader's program to build a truly progressive, anti-monopoly movement in the United States.

Racism, national oppression, sexism, and oppression of lesbian/gay/bi/trans people not only cause untold mass suffering, but they are a prime political weapon in the arsenal of the monopolies to keep the workers divided. This should be at the top of the agenda of any campaign against the monopolies.

The giant monopolies are behind militarism and war as part of their quest for world domination—including the wars and sanctions against Iraq and Yugoslavia. The Pentagon is their instru-

ment. The Pentagon should be abolished, not made cheaper and more efficient as Nader advocates.

China, despite dangerous capitalist inroads, is still a sovereign socialist country representing one-fifth of the human race. The monopolies now want to trade with China after years of sanctions, but their aim is to destroy Chinese socialism. The Pentagon has war plans against China. Agitating against trade with China is protectionist and dangerously panders to anti-communism.

Any progressive election campaign must, in addition to laying out a program, promote and agitate for mass mobilization and militant solidarity, which is the only way that workers and the oppressed have ever made any fundamental gains under capitalism.

Finally, technological development has laid the material basis for global human prosperity. But in the hands of the monopolies this growth has brought mass suffering and degraded the environment.

Nader's program is to go back to competitive capitalism. But this is both unrealizable and undesirable, because competitive capitalism is also a vicious form of class exploitation. The workers need to take the productive forces away from the monopolies and use them to fulfill human need.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

- ▶ End racism and national oppression
  - Stop police brutality
- ▶ Tear down the prison-industrial complex
- ▶ Free Mumia Abu-Jamal
  - Leonard Peltier,
  - the Puerto Rican prisoners of war and all political prisoners
- ▶ Abolish the racist death penalty
- ▶ No more wars for big business
  - Abolish the Pentagon
  - Stop the sanctions against Iraq & Yugoslavia
  - End the blockade of Cuba
  - No U.S. intervention in Colombia or the Middle East
  - U.S. troops out of Korea
  - U.S. Navy out of Vieques
- ▶ Full rights for all immigrant workers and their families. ■ The INS must go
- ▶ Stop sweatshops. ■ Full pay, benefits, union rights for all workers
- ▶ Full rights to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.
  - Legalize same-sex marriage
- ▶ Union wages for prisoners. ■ Money for schools, housing and childcare, not jails
- ▶ Restore and expand affirmative action
- ▶ Shut down the IMF and World Bank.
  - Cancel the debt of poor countries
  - Reparations for the underdeveloped countries and oppressed peoples
- ▶ Force the pharmaceuticals to distribute drugs on demand to turn around the AIDS crisis in Africa and elsewhere
- ▶ Union jobs at a living wage for all
  - Defend the right to organize
  - Ban strike breaking
- ▶ End workfare slavery and the scapegoating of poor women. Restore and expand welfare and social programs
- ▶ Full rights for the disabled
- ▶ Equal pay for equal work.
  - Equal pay for comparable work
  - Tax the rich. ■ Stop corporate welfare
- ▶ Free, universal health care
- ▶ Full reproductive rights, including abortion rights and no forced sterilization
- ▶ Save the environment.
  - Make the corporations pay for clean-up



## Behind police tactic

# 'Racial profiling aims to divide workers'

From a talk by Julius Dykes at a Buffalo, N.Y., Workers World Party forum Sept. 16.

In 1942, over 120,000 Americans were stripped of their businesses and their homes and incarcerated for the duration of World War II. They had committed no offense. They were convicted of no crime. They were suspected, subjected to curfews, arrested, had their property confiscated and were imprisoned because of the color of their skin and their national origin or the national origin of their parents.

The internment of Japanese Americans in 1942 was an egregious example of what can happen when skin color and national origin are substituted for evidence and become, by themselves, a basis for suspicion and punishment.

But it was not the only egregious example. During the time of the internment, Jim Crow laws and formal racial segregation existed in the South and were so reified that virtually no one could imagine it ending.

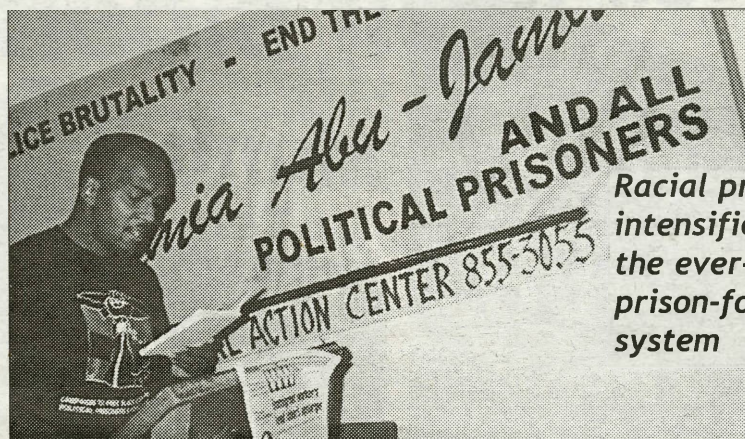
Today, the internment of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent is nearly universally recognized as something shameful—an act of war hysteria and racism. Similarly, few today are prepared to defend the formality of Jim Crow laws.

But on highways and streets, in airports and at customs checkpoints, skin color, irrespective of economic class, is once again being used by law enforcement officials as a cause for suspicion and a sufficient reason to violate people's rights.

### Tool of racist repression

First of all, let's establish right from the beginning that racial profiling is and always has been just another racist, repressive tool of the state to keep Black people and other people of color oppressed, intimidated, in fear and always in the midst of a potential frame-up.

This policy, like many other anti-people policies, has been intensified in the past decade or so for various reasons.



Julius Dykes

WW PHOTO:  
DARCY FRANCE

**Racial profiling has intensified to feed the ever-growing prison-for-profit system**

One of the main reasons is to feed the ever-growing prison-for-profit system.

Another is the fact that more and more people are coming into political consciousness and seeing this rotten corrupt system for what it is, and resisting it!

And this practice of profiling can serve as a subtle means to divide us and leave us all vulnerable.

Racial profiling may be a relatively new term, but it's definitely an old concept. Tracey Maclin, a professor at Boston University School of Law, says that the problem of "driving while Black" can trace its historical roots to a time in early U.S. society when court officials in cities like Philadelphia permitted constables and ordinary citizens the right to "take up" all Black persons seen "gadding abroad" without their master's permission.

And what are the consequences of racial profiling for African Americans—or Asians, Arabs, Latinos—as a matter of local, state or federal government practice?

### 1976: Supreme Court upholds profiling

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court supported the actions of the U.S. Border Patrol agents who selected cars for inspection in Southern California partly on the basis that drivers were of Mexican descent.

The Supreme Court maintained that since the intrusions by the U.S. agents on selected drivers were "quite limited" and

only involved "a brief detention of travelers during which all that is required ... is a response to a brief question or two and possibly the production of a document," the practice was upheld.

And recently in upstate New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that police officers did not violate the Constitution when they stopped every Black man in Oneonta on Sept. 4, 1992, after a white woman said she had been attacked in her home by a young Black man.

The controversy surrounding racial profiling is intense. In the national spotlight are two New Jersey state troopers, John Hogan and James Kenna. They were indicted on Sept. 7, 1999, on attempted-murder and assault charges resulting from a shooting during a routine traffic stop on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1998 that left three of the four unarmed young Black and Latino men involved seriously wounded.

The troopers were also indicted earlier that year on 19 misdemeanor charges of falsifying their activity logs to conceal the disproportionate number of minority drivers they were accused of stopping on the highway.

When you look at the disproportionate profiling of Blacks and Latinos, you can clearly see that it equates Blacks with crime, with wrong doings of some sort.

And in recent years, this guise has been the "War on Drugs," which is no more than a mass frame-up of African Americans and other people of color.

### The real 'drug dealers'

In the 1970s, when tons of heroin was being shipped from Southeast Asia and brought into the United States, we saw poor communities throughout the U.S. addicted to heroin. This enabled the ruling class to further destabilize and exploit African Americans and label them criminals. And this gave the ruling class a political justification to wage war against Black people.

But we know who the real drug dealers are. We know it's this U.S. government that makes arms deals and drug deals with puppet governments set up by U.S. imperialism in Third World countries. And we also know it's the big U.S. banks that launder the drug money.

But you and I are supposed to believe that Black youths are somehow responsible for bringing drugs into this country. I read an article that was written in the 1980s that said that at that time the drug trade was worth more than \$300 billion a year. So you know it's worth a lot more than that by now.

But you and I are supposed to believe that somehow, over \$300 billion a year is coming through the projects within the Black communities of this country. That's absurd! It's insanity!

But, unfortunately, when this racial profiling and stereotypical thinking starts to seep into the minds of our working class—through fake cop shows and fabricated crime statistics about Blacks and other people of color—this becomes a real threat to our movement: It can divide us.

Because this whole issue of racial profiling, just like all the other racist policies, reinforces white supremacist ideology that is rooted in capitalist society. That's why it's imperative that white progressives come out in full force against this policy.

Ultimately the police, as a force of repression against the majority, must be eradicated along with the whole capitalist state—branch and root!

## SAN FRANCISCO

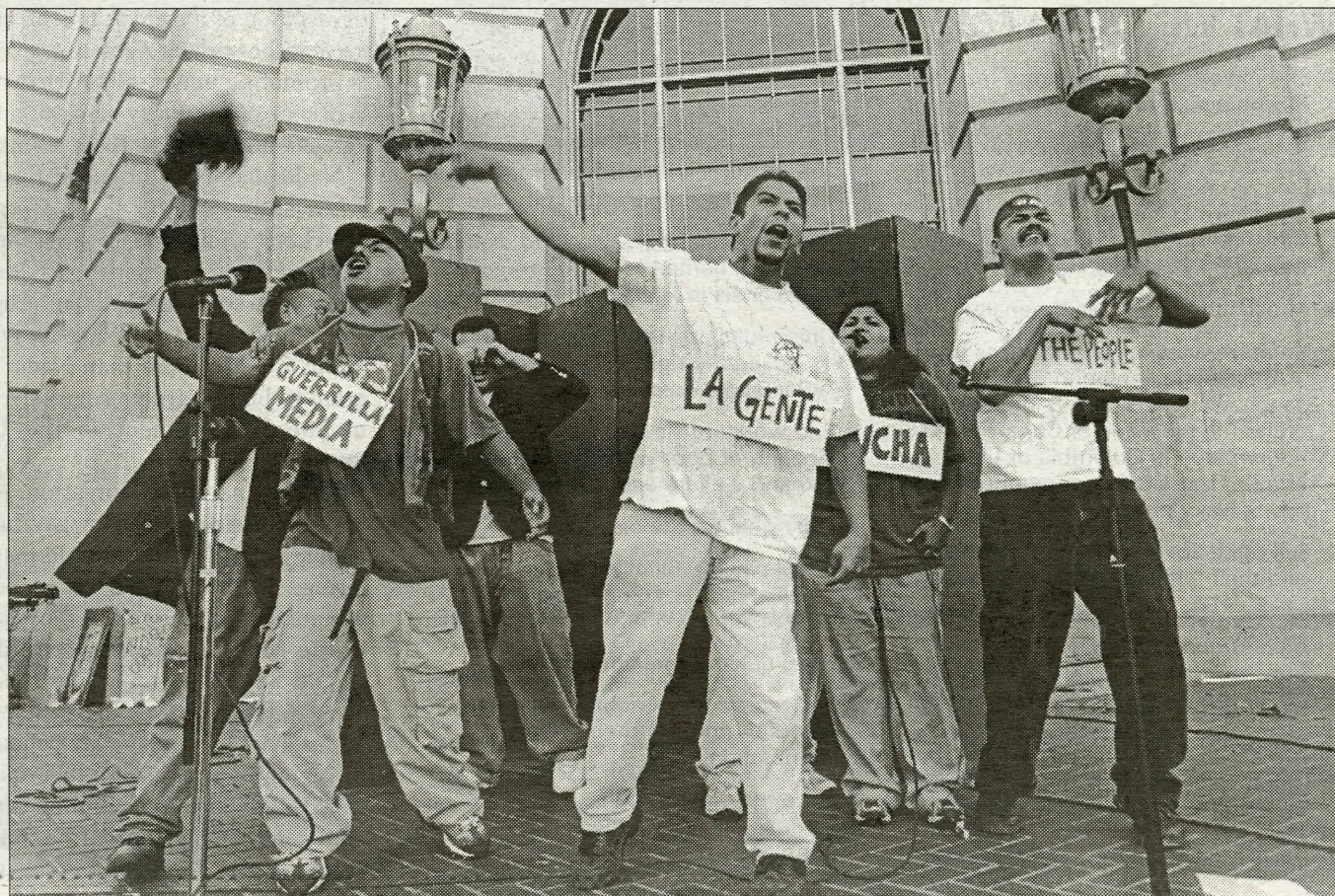
# Protest hits corporate media control

Hundreds of people marched from San Francisco's United Nations Plaza to Union Square Sept. 23 to protest the National Association of Broadcasters convention and the corporate monopolization of the airwaves. The NAB was the main lobbying group that pushed the 1996 Telecommunications Act through Congress. The Telecommunications Act allows corporate broadcasting companies to own up to eight stations per city.

Another theme at today's protest was to challenge the criminalization of microband, low-power radio stations that pop up on radio dials across the country. At a rally before the march, the Chicano theater group Teatro Campesino described those stations as guerrilla media and an important alternative voice in poor communities.

Signs, banners and chants from the International Action Center denounced the corporate media for distorting or ignoring important issues, like the case of death-row political activist Mumia Abu Jamal, escalating U.S. intervention in Colombia and the deaths of 250 Iraqi children each day due to the U.S./UN sanctions.

—Story & photo by Bill Hackwell





## While U.S. blesses hijackers

# Youths denounce Cuban Adjustment Act

By Gloria La Riva

On Sept. 25, over 300,000 Cuban youths and workers rallied in Havana to denounce the U.S. government's actions in rewarding the air pirates who stole a Cuban aircraft. Those who stole the plane risked the lives of the passengers, including three children. For their illegal act, they were granted permanent entry into the United States almost immediately.

A Cuban pilot, Angel Lenin Iglesias Hernandez, stole a duster plane on Sept. 19 in the province of Pinar del Rio to fly himself and nine other Cubans to the United States. Using a ruse to deceive Cuban air traffic control and avoid pursuit, he claimed that he was being hijacked. Iglesias planned to fly to Florida. Instead the plane crashed into the sea after running out of fuel.

A greater tragedy was averted when a passing Panamanian-flag cargo ship rescued the plane-wreck victims from international waters. However, one of the Cubans—23-year-old Yudel Puig Martinez—drowned when the plane crashed. The other nine survived.

According to U.S.-Cuba bilateral agreements against illegal migration and hijacking, the U.S. government is legally bound to prosecute or return those people responsible for hijackings and smuggling. The first agreement between the two countries to prevent hijacking was signed in 1972, and the policy was reaffirmed in the September 1994 U.S.-Cuba Migratory Accords.

Instead the United States has harbored Cubans who have committed these crimes against the island and refused to try them. In doing so, Washington deliberately entices and encourages further crimes of hijacking, human smuggling and murder.

For example, on Aug. 8, 1994, Leonel Macias Gonzalez hijacked a Cuban boat with 26 Cubans aboard, and shot and killed one of the boat's officers, Robert Aguiar Reyes. As the boat neared U.S. waters the U.S. Coast Guard guided the boat and passengers to Florida.

Cuba demanded Macias' return for prosecution. Instead, a U.S. immigration judge granted "asylum" to Macias. That was his reward for committing murder and hijacking a boat.

Similarly, in the latest air piracy, the U.S. government declared two days after the incident that Iglesias and the other adults committed "no hijacking" and will not be prosecuted. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesperson Patricia Mancha said all nine surviving Cubans will be paroled to the United States.

### U.S. harbors hijackers and kidnappers

Thanks to the 1996 U.S. federal law called the "Cuban Adjustment Act," Cubans who arrive in this country illegally are automatically considered "political exiles." They are granted permanent residency after a year, along with immediate work permits and social services. These Cuban immigrants are granted luxuries and privileges not bestowed on immigrants from any other country.

The Cuban Adjustment Act is one of



Havana, Cuba, Sept. 25: 300,000 march against Washington's Cuban Adjustment Act.

several U.S. laws meant to destabilize Cuba, the only socialist country in the Western Hemisphere. Since the Cuban Revolution triumphed in 1959, the United States has caused tremendous suffering to the Cuban people using a brutal blockade. Then it has cynically tried to portray Cuba as a country that people "flee" because of political persecution. Hence the automatic designation of Cuban immigrants as "political exiles" under the Cuban Adjustment Act.

The truth is that virtually all immigrants to the United States, including Cubans, come for economic reasons. Yet there are some unscrupulous Cubans who know that, if they make it to the United States, they will be received with open arms by the imperialist government and Miami right wing—especially if they make a claim of "political persecution." They are willing to steal a boat or a plane, or even engage in smuggling of Cubans to make a considerable profit as well.

That seems to be the case with the plane-wreck survivors. It is interesting that the same thuggish gang that surrounded Elián González during his captivity in Miami is now swooping down like vultures on the families of the shipwrecked plane. They need to recover some of their discredited image. In a pitiful repeat, the Miami media made a big deal of the toys that 6-year-old Andy Fuentes, one of the survivors, was given on a shopping spree.

### Castro leads young marchers

Contrasting this odious scene in Miami were the spirited and moving speeches at the Sept. 25 Havana rally, which began at 9 a.m. in front of the U.S. Interests Section.

Cuban President Fidel Castro led the marchers to the U.S. Interests Section,

carrying flags and chanting slogans against the Cuban Adjustment Act.

The many youth speakers at the rally affirmed their dedication to struggle for their homeland and socialism, and to reject the "siren song" of U.S. imperialism.

Israel Perez Gonzalez, an eighth grader, said, "We know that [U.S.] imperialism carries out an aggressive, exploitative, expansionist and inhuman policy which has been dedicated to passing murderous laws against our country without regard for the harm they cause, like the Torricelli law, the Helms-Burton law, and the most murderous of all, the Cuban Adjustment Act, or better said, the Law of Murder of Cubans, which encourages illegal emigration, which offers benefits to Cubans that are denied to other immigrants."

Yanexis Zayes de la Fuente of the National Secretariat of the Cuban Federation of Middle School Students said: "The economic blockade will never succeed in stopping the advance of the socialist revolution, which each day becomes more just, because principles cannot be blockaded."

"And for those who are attracted

to the market of brand-names and propaganda, and who choose to take the dangerous journey in search of the 'wonderland,' a warning: Under capitalism the poor run the greatest risk, because it is a crime to be poor. In that 'wonderland,' 5 million Americans are homeless, 44 million people have no healthcare, and up to 50 percent of poor children are Black. And that man, George Bush, who wants to be king of the empire, has a record of executing 133 people in his five years as governor.

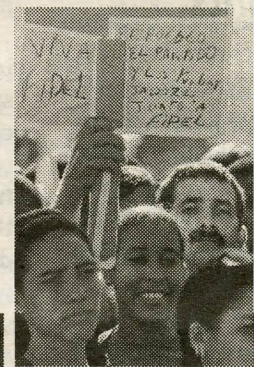
"No sentence would be truly just to condemn the U.S. government for promoting illegal immigration, no sentence could compensate us for the number of lost lives and the impunity of the assassins."

The Cuban Olympics team sent a statement of solidarity to the rally.

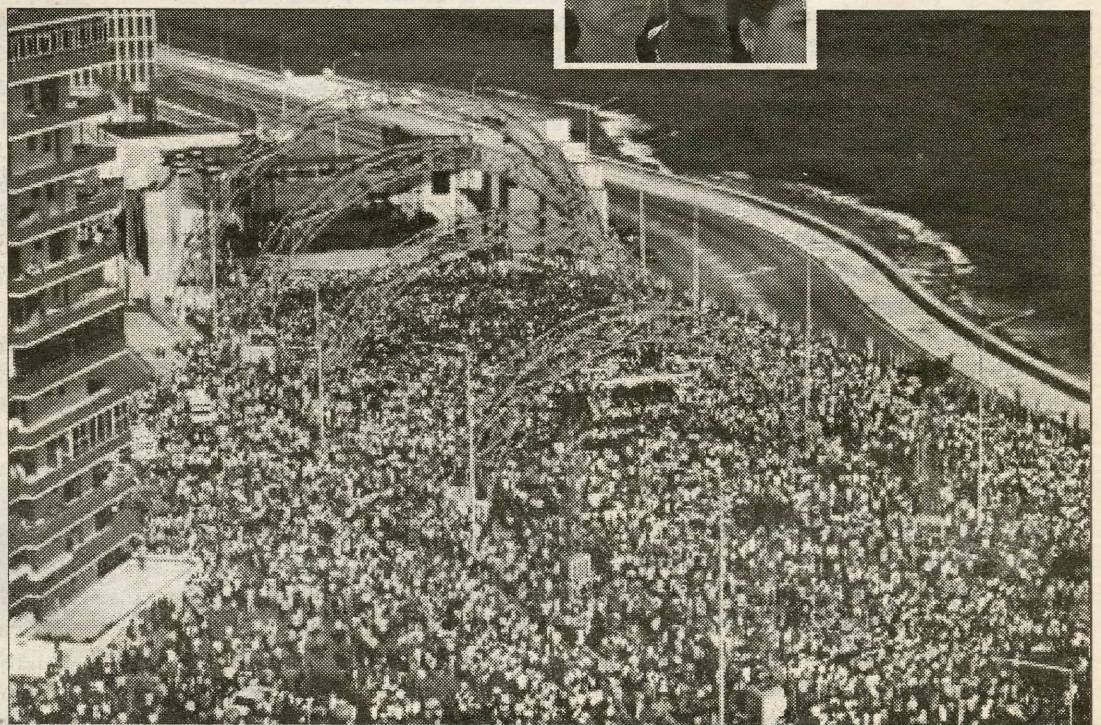
The overwhelming majority of Cubans choose to stay in their country. They have not fallen for the Hollywood images of the United States. They have a strong sense of solidarity with their country, their fellow Cubans and their socialist system.

The Cuban government's position is that Cubans who wish to leave can leave, but it must be by legal and safe means. And entry must be guaranteed by the United States or another country. A plane flight out is required—not an illegal and dangerous craft like a boat or raft.

In the same way that the people of Cuba mobilized tirelessly to bring back Elián, another massive national campaign is underway in Cuba. This campaign, launched upon little Elián's return, demands the cancellation of the Cuban Adjustment Act. This will be an important theme of discussion and action among the 4,000 delegates at the upcoming Second World Meeting of Solidarity and Friendship with Cuba in November 2000.



**'The economic blockade will never succeed in stopping the advance of the socialist revolution, because principles cannot be blockaded.'**





## HARLEM, N.Y.

# Fidel Castro's speech to

Two weeks ago Workers World published the speech of Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Republic of Cuba, to the United Nations Millennium Summit. It focused on the catastrophic situation facing the Third World. Here we publish excerpts from his speech to the solidarity rally held in Riverside Church, Harlem, New York, on Sept. 8, 2000. The talk was frequently interrupted with applause and comments from the audience.

**O**n my way here, I recalled my four visits to the United Nations. The first time, I was thrown out of the hotel near the United Nations. I had two choices: pitching a tent in the United Nations courtyard—and as a guerrilla fighter who had recently come down from the mountains, it would not have been all that difficult for me—or heading for Harlem, where I had been invited to stay in one of its hotels. I immediately decided: “I will go to Harlem because that is where my best friends are.” (Someone in the audience shouts, “My house is your house.”)

Thank you very much. That is what they used to say to me in many beautiful homes where very wealthy people lived. They had those little signs that read exactly like that. Later, when we did something to help the poor, they definitely removed the signs. However, *if you can sense the generosity of the humble.*

I am sure you can understand that it is not easy for me to visit New York; there is more than enough proof of that. This time it was definitely not easy, and many of my compatriots were very worried. We are living in a special period, and I do not mean the special period in Cuba, which has been brought about by the double blockade, but rather the special period of presidential elections. And I have received all kinds of threats, from killing me to sending me to a U.S. prison.

### On human rights in Cuba

Simply by reducing infant mortality in our country from approximately 60 deaths per 1,000 live births in the first year of life to less than seven per 1,000, we have saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. We have protected the health of all children free of charge and guaranteed a life expectancy of over 75 years. Moreover, we have not only preserved lives but also guaranteed free education for all, and not a selfish and mediocre education but one based on solidarity and excellence. A study carried out by UNESCO, a UN agency, revealed that our children possess almost twice as much knowledge as the average child in the rest of Latin America.

We have also saved the lives of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of children in Africa and other parts of the Third World throughout the years of the Revolution, and we have provided health care for tens of millions of people. Over 25,000 health care workers have taken part in these internationalist efforts. This is called a “violation of human rights,” and it is why we must be destroyed.

### How Cuba has survived the blockade and special period

[The Cuban people] with exemplary courage have withstood 41 years of a blockade enforced by successive governments of the most powerful country in the world in political, economic, technological and military terms. Furthermore, for the last 10 years, they have withstood the double blockade that resulted from the collapse of the socialist bloc and the USSR. We were left without markets and without a source of supplies of food, fuel, raw materials and many other essential products that we paid for with our earnings, and in order to pay, of course, we needed to trade. If nobody buys anything from a country, that country will not have anything with which to buy from those who deprive it of earnings.

This country, where we are right now, is one of the few countries in the world that could be almost totally self-sufficient in terms of the basic elements for maintaining life. But the same cannot be said of a small isolated country, or a medium-sized country or even a large country in Latin America. None would have been able to withstand this for even two weeks, and we have withstood it for 10 years. And for several years now, little by little, we have managed not only to survive but also to gradually increase our economic production, although we have still not bounced back to the rates we had before the double blockade that forced us into what we call the special period.

Suffice it to say that a daily caloric intake of 3,000, more or less evenly spread, was reduced overnight to 1,800 calories. It now stands at around 2,400 calories. But not even that stopped us from doing what we should. Throughout these 10 years, we added 30,000 new doctors to our health care network and we have not closed a single clinic, or a school or a classroom. Our country has never been subjected to those so-called economic shock policies that wipe out hospitals, schools, social security and vital resources for low-income people. We have resisted and not a single one of those measures was ever used, and those that we did implement to confront this terribly difficult situation were discussed with all of the people, not just in our National Assembly.

### On Cuba's elections

We do have a National Assembly—even though many people ignore it—characterized by a democratic spirit that fills us with pride because it is the neighbors who put up the candidates, nominate them for delegates of their districts and elect them by direct and secret ballot. No candidate is nominated by the party. They are all freely nominated by the district residents—no

more than eight and no less than two candidates from whom one is chosen—and elected on the basis of their own merits and capacity.

These district delegates make up the municipal assemblies and these municipal assemblies, established at the grass roots level, nominate the candidates to delegates of the provincial assemblies and the deputies to the National Assembly. These delegates must also be elected by direct and secret ballot and must obtain over 50 percent of the votes cast. Almost half of that National Assembly is made up of these district delegates who are, as I have explained, nominated and elected by the people, with no intervention by our Party. The only role played by the Party is to guarantee the

observation of the procedures set forth in our Constitution and our laws for the electoral process.

Nobody needs to spend a penny, not a single one.

The district candidates campaign together as a group, as do the candidates to the National Assembly who are nominated in every municipality, proportionally to the size of each municipality, although every one must have a minimum of two deputies in the

National Assembly. This is the procedure, the method we have developed to guarantee the democratic principle. Yet, as I was telling you, when we adopted measures to confront the difficult situation of the special period all were discussed, first of all, at the grass-roots level, with workers, farmers, students and other mass organizations, at hundreds of thousands of assemblies and later at the National Assembly. Then, after they had been studied by the National Assembly, they were sent back to the grass-roots level for further discussion before their final adoption by the Assembly.

These measures protected everyone and guaranteed social security for all. Among the main measures adopted were taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and other sumptuary items. Medicines, food or other essential products were never taxed and despite everything, we still could ensure a liter of milk a day for every child up to the age of 7. And do you know how much the population had to pay for that liter of milk? According to the official exchange rate, 1.5 cents of a U.S. dollar, one and a half cents.

We still have a ration card and we will maintain it for a number of food-stuffs. But a pound of rice, which costs between 12 and 15 cents on the world market—without including the cost of transportation from distant places, since we cannot buy it from the country closest to us, and without including the cost of internal transport, distribution and the rest—is sold to consumers for just under one and a half cents. And a pound of beans is sold for the same price as a liter of milk, 1.5 cents of a dollar.

In our country, the vast majority of citizens pay 0 cents of a dollar for the

homes they live in because today, as a result of the revolutionary laws, over 85 percent of homes are owned by the families who live in them, and they do not even pay taxes on them. In the remaining homes, located in out-of-the-way places deemed essential for industry or services, the tenants pay an extremely low rent or are granted usufruct of them.

That is why when people say that someone earns \$15 or \$20 a month in Cuba, I say that you have to add X amount for what they would have to pay for housing if they lived in New York, X number of dollars for the cost of education, another X number of dollars for health care, and other rising costs. I am not saying that we are not poor, or that we do not have needs; but we have distributed our poverty or resources as fairly as possible.

The prices of basic medicines are the same as they were in 1959, over 40 years ago. At that time they were cut by half because one of the first things the Revolution did was to lower the price of medicines and those who are administered these medicines in a hospital do not pay a penny for them. And if they need a heart transplant, a liver transplant, other transplants or costly operations or treatments, they do not pay a penny. This is what the Revolution did for the people.

### An offer to train poor U.S. medical students

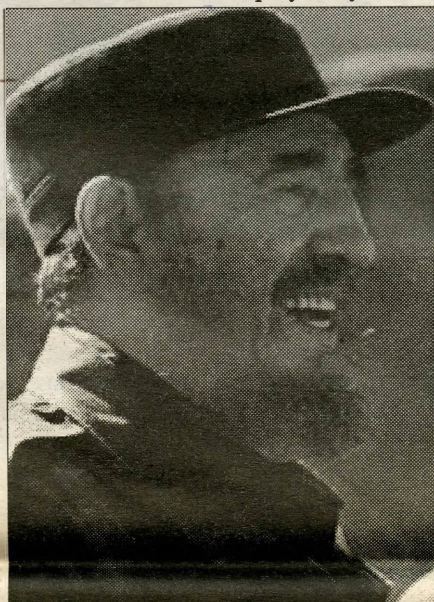
At the moment there must be over 4,000 students from Latin America and the Caribbean studying medicine in Cuba, and that is a conservative estimate. Soon there will be 10,000. Our country has done this in spite of the blockade and at absolutely no cost to the students, who are provided with adequate food and living quarters, laboratory equipment, textbooks and clothing; and other costs are covered as well, such as transportation to and from the school. The invitation was opened to students from all over Latin America as a way to promote unity, brotherhood and cultural exchange.

I recently learned something that really amazed me. We were visited by some members of the Congressional Black Caucus and as I was telling a lawmaker from Mississippi about these programs he said: “Listen, there are a lot of places in my district where there isn’t a single doctor.” I said, “What! Ah, now I see: you are the Third World of the United States.” And I said: “We are prepared to send you a few doctors free of charge, the same as we do for other countries of the Third World.”

I suddenly realized the way things really are. You always hear about how wealthy the United States is, about its gross domestic product of over \$8 trillion, and so on, and suddenly there I was talking to a respected member of the U.S. House of Representatives who said that there are not enough doctors in his district. That is why I said, “We can send doctors.”

And remembering the schools I immediately added, “And there is something more: listen, we are prepared to grant a number of scholarships to poor youth in your district who cannot afford to pay the \$200,000 it costs to get a university degree.”

The member of the U.S. House of



Cuban President Fidel Castro



# U.S. movement

Representatives said to me that other minorities face the same situation and he told to me about the Chicanos, about the Indian reservations and about other parts of the country, and he meant not only to Latinos and immigrants but also to people born in the United States.

I can say here that we are prepared to accept 250 students a year from the United States' Third World. They will learn Spanish as well, and they will get to know young people from all over the hemisphere to whom they will teach all they know about America and its culture and the others will teach them about theirs. I already said a figure, 250 scholarships per year, but for the first pre-med course beginning in March we could offer 500 to include other minorities. We would not choose the candidates, they would be selected by the members of Congress who want to help poor young people in their districts to study medicine, and these young people would commit themselves to go back home after they graduate as doctors.

## On U.S. society

There are serious social problems even in such a rich country as this, the richest in the world. I want to mention some of them. Thirty-six million people, 14 percent of the population, live below the poverty line, a rate twice as high as that of other developed countries. Double that of Europe and Japan. Forty-three million people are not health-insured and another 30 million have such low medical coverage that it is practically non-existent. There are 30 million illiterates and another 30 million functional illiterates.

Cuba did not make this up, these are official figures from international organizations. Among the Black population the rate of poverty is over 29 percent; the rate for the whole population is 14 percent. Among Black children the figure reaches 40 percent. In some cities and rural areas in the United States it is over 50 percent. Despite economic expansion, the poverty rates in America are from two to three times higher than those in Western Europe, and 22 percent of American children live in poverty. These are official figures.

Only 45 percent of all workers in the private sector have social security coverage. It is estimated that 13 percent of the total U.S. population will not live beyond 60 years of age. Women still earn only 73 percent of what men earn in comparable jobs and make up 70 percent of part-time workers, those who have no right to any social benefits. Between 1981 and 1995, 85 percent of new workers with more than one job were women. The richest 1 percent of the population, who in 1975 owned 20 percent of the wealth, now owns 36 percent. And the gap keeps widening.

There is not one millionaire, not one person who belongs to the upper middle class, among the 3,600 people sentenced to capital punishment who are now on death row in U.S. prisons. One might wonder why. You perhaps have a better answer than I do. I am not accusing anyone, I simply say what is going on.

In the whole history of the United States not one single white man has ever been executed for having raped a Black woman. Nevertheless, and this is an historical fact, during the time that rape was considered a capital crime, of

the 455 people executed for rape, 405 were Black: that is to say, nine out of 10.

A recent study by a non-governmental organization indicates that Black men have a 13 times greater chance of being given longer sentences than white men when it comes to drug-related offenses, although there are five times as many white men dealing drugs in the United States.

More than 60 percent of the women in prison in the United States are African American or Hispanic.

## On Shaka and Mumia

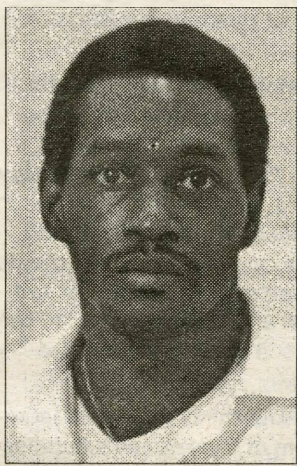
You know that our people vigorously condemned the judicial murder of Shaka Sankofa for a crime he did not commit, despite the unanimous condemnation of world public opinion and even that of many governments in the world. I requested a lot of information, data, and details. I even went as far as to look at small maps and sketches of the place where the crime he was accused of was committed. Only one person claimed to have seen him, at night, from quite a distance, a quick glance that not even the most sensitive camera could have recorded, that, and other evidence, led me to believe in his innocence. I am not saying this because someone claimed it was true, but because I analyzed all the information and reached that conclusion.

A televised round table was held in our country in which internationally known figures participated. I can see from here one person who took part in that round table.

I am equally well aware that for some time now you have been caught up in a very just struggle, a struggle which our people also fully support: the struggle for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist sentenced to death whose unfair trial has given rise to a giant protest movement throughout the world.

When, as is the case with the African Americans, racial discrimination is added to social marginality, tens and tens of millions of people suffer horribly from this injustice, including those who have never been sentenced to death nor to prison. Actually, they were born sentenced to be humiliated every day of their lives.

I am more or less white. I say more or less because there is no ethnic group that can claim purity. I visited the United States in November 1948. I had gone to visit Harvard. I wanted to study economics. I already had revolutionary ideas but I wanted to equip myself with more knowledge.



'You know that our people vigorously condemned the judicial murder of Shaka Sankofa for a crime he did not commit. ... A televised roundtable was held in our country.' Left, Sankofa. Right, roundtable participants.



On the journey back to New York, I traveled in a cheap second-hand car bought for \$200 or \$300, one of those sold for a bit more than they are worth as scrap metal, and I drove along those highways down to Florida to go on to Cuba by sea in a ferry. I stopped several times in some places for lunch, a meal or to buy something. I perceived contempt more than once, sort of a disparaging attitude just because I spoke another language or because I was Hispanic. I had the impression that it was not only certain ethnic groups that were discriminated against but also people of any other nationality who spoke a different language.

Therefore, we could remind those who so hate Cuba, the Revolution and myself in particular that they should thank the Revolution every now and then, because without the Revolution there would not be many Cuban millionaires [in the U.S.], without the Revolution there would not be a so-called Cuban American National Foundation, without the Revolution there would not be Cuban members of the U.S. Congress, they would not be able to sponsor certain bills, they would not be courted in the election campaigns, they would not be granted their every wish even though a large majority of them do not vote.

## On Elián González

Elián is doing wonderfully. You can hardly imagine what a happy boy he is, how intelligent he is, what a serious boy he is, he is really extraordinary. Vast crowds did not welcome him—just as we said—but only some schoolmates and his closest relatives. Not one of us, not a single [Communist] Party or State official was there. The family spent six minutes greeting those who were there to welcome them and then immediately left the airport with Elián. He did not miss classes, not even the day he left the United States. In two months, with his family, his teacher and his little classmates, he had made extraordinary progress and later, in Cuba, from June 29 up until July 28, he had intensive classes together with his classmates who were here. He graduated on a par with all the other children and moved up to second grade.

We can count on the support of the whole population, the cooperation of all our people not to approach him when



Juan Miguel González and Elián González leave for home in Cuba.

he goes to school, not to shout slogans at him, to treat him like any other child. He has only appeared on television a few times, and that is because the people were demanding it.

He is living in the same modest house where he lived before. He is studying in the same school, he has the same teachers, and his same classmates from first grade are still with him and will be until the fourth grade. Also, in the middle of this month his father began working in the same modest work place because that is what he wanted. Not only the little boy but his father also became very respected in our country. He resisted all pressures, even when they tried to buy him out with his son, with promises to return him the child if he stayed to live in the United States. Millions of dollars, and he never wavered, not for one second.

Our people will never forget and will always thank the American people who spoke out en masse in favor of the legitimate rights of a father and his son. Once more I said to myself: the American people are very idealistic, therefore, for them to support an unjust cause they first have to be deceived, they have to be made to believe, like in Vietnam and other places, that that was right. In this case, they learned the truth due to a variety of factors, particularly through a million people marching in a struggle that extended for seven months and which still continues against the Cuban Adjustment Act, for the victims it creates. That struggle is also being waged against the Torricelli Act, the Helms-Burton Act, the blockade and the economic war.

## On fighting for equality

I am not claiming that our country is a perfect model of equality and justice. We believed at the beginning that when we established the fullest equality before the law and complete intolerance for any demonstration of sexual discrimination in the case of women, or racial discrimination in the case of ethnic minorities, these phenomena would vanish from our society. It was some time before we discovered that marginality and racial discrimination with it are not something that one gets rid of with a law or even with 10 laws, and we have not managed to eliminate them completely, even in 40 years.

We are aware that there is still marginality in our country. But there is the will to eradicate it with the proper methods for this task to bring more unity and equality to our society. On behalf of my Homeland, I promise to keep you informed about the progress of our efforts.



# Vieques protesters brace for new confrontation

By Berta Joubert-Ceci  
Washington

"We are here not to ask, but to demand peace for Vieques—to tell President Clinton that we are not willing to continue living under a state of war."

Those were the words of Ismael Guadalupe, spokesperson of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, during a Sept. 23 rally in Washington. The rally was organized in solidarity with the people of Vieques, a small island of Puerto Rico that has been used as a U.S. Navy bombing range since 1941. This, the largest rally for Vieques held

in Washington so far, took place outside the White House. It comes at a time when both the United States and Puerto Rico are immersed in deceitful bourgeois election campaigns.

It's also a time when the U.S. Navy has taken on the so-called "good neighbor" policy towards Vieques, trying to instill the island's residents with a favorable view of the Pentagon and shift the outcome of a referendum in favor of a continued military presence.

But those at the rally spoke of the determination of the Viequeses to oust the Navy once and for all. As Guadalupe said, "The struggle in Vieques is not for sale."

Speakers said presidential candidate Al Gore's statement a day earlier—calling for the Navy's early withdrawal from the island and supporting President Bill Clinton's directive for a military withdrawal after three years—was an opportunistic attempt to win the votes of Puerto Ricans in the United States.

Congressperson Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois said: "The U.S. military are a bunch of liars. We will not stop our fight until the people of Vieques tell us that the Navy is gone."

There was also international solidarity at the rally. Father Jeonghyeon Mun came from south Korea representing the struggle against U.S. bombing at Mae-hyang-ri.

Mun said: "We have strong solidarity for each other. Vieques is not isolated. The people have many friends in the world and we are among them. U.S. troops out of Korea and Vieques!"

## El Grito de Lares sparks solidarity

That day Lares, Puerto Rico, saw the largest ever held demonstration to commemorate the anniversary of "El Grito de Lares," the 1868 armed uprising against Spanish colonial domination. For the first time in 30 years, all the pro-independence forces united in a single massive demonstration.

The struggle of La Isla Nena—"the

## More attacks on vote count

# U.S. shelters Haitian death squads

By G. Dunkel

Over 100 supporters of the Tonton Macoute death squads held a public meeting in Brooklyn, N.Y., Sept. 10 to promote former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier as a candidate in Haiti's November presidential election.

Toto Constant, wanted in Haiti for complicity in the murders of 3,000 people, lives the peaceful life of a real-estate broker in Queens.

Still the United States complains that Haiti's May 21 parliamentary elections were "flawed" even as it shelters some of the most vicious fascists Haiti has ever known.

The Macoutes are a fascist organization that engaged in torture and murder to repress Haiti's people during the decades long Duvalier family dictatorship.

Both the New York Daily News and Newsday gave prominent coverage to the Macoute meeting. The gathering was widely seen as a maneuver by Duvalier supporters to influence the elections, rather than a serious bid for Duvalier's return, which would almost surely ignite a civil war.

During Duvalier's rule and that of his father, over 40,000 Haitians were killed by the Macoutes and billions were stolen from the national treasury, without the U.S. government saying more than "tsk-tsk."

Constant was the head of FRAPH, an organization set up by the Haitian Army to do the work of the Macoutes during the 1991-1994 coup against Aristide. Constant has admitted that while heading FRAPH he was also on the CIA payroll.

## Workers, peasants back Aristide

Last spring's elections saw 18 of 19 contested seats go to Ex-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party. Since Aristide's political strength is based on his support among the impoverished workers and peasants, Washington would prefer to see his opponents win.

All summer the United States conducted a political pressure campaign to force the Haitian election board to count the May 21 vote the way it feels it should be counted, not as Haitian authorities consider proper. The U.S. State Department says it does not consider this to be interference in the internal affairs of a sover-

eign nation, but rather "promoting democracy."

The rule in Haiti is that a candidate needs 50 percent plus one vote to be declared the winner without a runoff election. The way this is calculated by the Haitian board of elections is to take the votes of the top four candidates, add them up and see if one of the top four has 50 percent plus one. The U.S. position is that they have to count the votes of all the candidates.

There were between 15 and 25 candidates for each seat. Washington's position would have meant 10 runoffs out of 19 seats.

Generally, the people knocked out of the runoffs by this rule would have been U.S. backed candidates. The opposition wouldn't have won many, if any, more seats. It would have cost more, let the U.S. meddle more and frustrated the people with having to go to the polls again and again.

Both the United States and Canada, Haiti's two largest foreign aid donors, threatened to cut off assistance if the vote was not recounted. The Organization of American States sent a mission to Haiti in early September to add further pressure for a recount.

The OAS failed to change the tally. So U.S. Ambassador to the OAS Luis Lauredo announced Sept. 5 that Washington will send all development aid to private organizations, not to Haiti's government.

The United States also threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in pending loans from international financial institutions.

Forwarding the aid to private groups allows Washington to claim that it has not cut off aid to the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. At the same time it puts tremendous financial pressure on Haiti.

New York's Haitian community responded strongly Sept. 7. Hundreds turned out for a street protest to support Haitian sovereignty from foreign interference while President René Préval gave his address to the United Nations Millennium Summit.

The increase in world oil costs has hit Haiti hard, abruptly raising prices for many goods. The sudden spike of inflation, together with U.S. financial and political pressure, will make the situation in Haiti even more unstable.



Washington, Sept. 23.

Baby Island," as Vieques is known—has been the spark for unity among these groups.

The struggle in Vieques has reached a mature stage. The cause has been taken up by community organizations throughout the Big Island of Puerto Rico.

During this week of solidarity with Vieques, a group called Florecer Viequense (Blooming Vieques) crafted hundreds of paper flowers made by residents from poor communities in the northern part of Puerto Rico. Group spokesperson Zoraida Figueroa explained that "poor people cannot afford much, but wanted to be part of the struggle, so they made flowers, each representing the solidarity of one person in the community."

The Citizen's Commission for the Rescue of Caimito, a group fighting speculators, developers and governmental agencies that build luxury neighborhoods at the expense of the poor and the environment, has also joined the surging move-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

On the morning of Sept. 23, 1868, hundreds of insurgents on foot and horseback stormed the city of Lares, Puerto Rico. As the army of freedom fighters approached, workers and African slaves staged an uprising that weakened the Spanish military garrison.

The Puerto Rican people announced their victory by raising the flag of the newly proclaimed Puerto Rican republic at the town plaza. The Spanish flag, a hated symbol of tyranny, was lowered and burned.

The people rejoiced as they heard for the first time the solemn words of the outcry, "Que viva Puerto Rico libre!"—Long live free Puerto Rico! Their victory was short lived, and the rebellion was crushed by bloody suppression. But El Grito de Lares came to symbolize the desire of the Puerto Rican people for self-determination and sovereignty from the colonial rulers in Spain and later the United States.

One hundred and thirty two years later, the auditorium of the Women's Building in San Francisco was filled with people who celebrated the uprising. Music, spoken word performances, dances and speeches filled the evening.

Solidarity with the people of Vieques was high on the agenda. Deborah Santana gave an update on the struggle against U.S. Navy exercises there. A statement from the Filipino community was read.

Olin Web from the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood, LaDonna Williams from Midway Village and Henry Clark from the West County Toxins Coalition talked about the common struggle of people in Vieques and African Americans in the United States against military and corporate poisoning of their communities. Web, Williams and Clark were part of a Bay Area delegation to Vieques in August.

Spoken word performances by Rico Pabon of Prophets of Rage and dynamic Brazilian and Caribbean rhythms from Loco Bloco Drum and Dance Youth Ensemble opened and closed the event. Many in the audience signed up for protests during "Fleet Week," the annual spectacle where an armada of U.S. Navy ships occupies the San Francisco Bay.

The event was organized by the Vieques Solidarity Coalition, Comite '98 Por Un Puerto Rico Libre and Casa Puerto Rico.

—Saul Kanowitz



ment to oust the Navy from Vieques.

In Mayaguez, on the west coast of Puerto Rico, 50 people started a walk through the northern part of the island in support of Vieques. They hope to reach Fajardo, the point of departure for Vieques on the east coast, by Oct. 1.

Along their walk the group has met with students and others, spreading the word that an important demonstration will take place on Vieques Oct. 1.

#### Military practice scheduled

That day, the U.S. Navy and NATO plan to resume military practice. Two battleships stationed in Virginia are scheduled to practice bombing in Vieques.

But the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico are preparing to stop them. As Carlos Zenón said at the Washington rally, "Three times the Navy wanted to bomb Vieques [this year] and three times we got in and stopped them."

This time the activists are better prepared than ever before. They plan a massive rally with many different components, including acts of civil disobedience both in Vieques and throughout Puerto Rico. Plans are being laid to transport activists from the Big Island to Vieques. A flotilla of dozens of fishing boats will sail there from Fajardo.

The government is also preparing. It wants to make this protest as difficult as possible for the activists.

Norma Torres, from the Vieques Women's Alliance, told Workers World that the government had reduced the number of ferryboats carrying passengers between Puerto Rico and Vieques to only one.

The struggle of the people of Vieques won't be stopped by a lack of ferryboats. When their own lives and those of their loved ones are endangered daily by the impact of Navy practices—be it poisoning of their water and soil or ordnance falling from the sky—they have made it clear they will make whatever sacrifices are necessary to get the U.S. Navy out.

## Oil and gas price hike

# Who should pay?

By John Catalinotto

For the working class in the United States, the rapid increase in the price of crude oil from historic lows two years ago has meant a sudden drop in real income.

This takes the form of increases in the cost of gasoline, which especially hits those many workers who commute to work by automobile. Higher prices for heating oil will also soon hit the pocket-books as cold weather kicks in.

So far it is not a real "crisis," that is, there have been no major shortages of either gasoline or heating oil.

To address the problems caused by this price hike, it is first necessary to eliminate some myths about its causes.

First, this price hike, as with earlier oil "crises" that brought even higher prices for crude oil in current dollars, has brought the usual attacks on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC. These usually include warnings about the grave dangers of a new world power center, and are accompanied by vicious reactionary attacks on Arab and other Middle Eastern peoples.

These tales are as exaggerated now as they were in the mid-1970s, when OPEC was able to first limit the production of crude oil. And what happened then? The biggest OPEC oil producers like the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti monarchies could do nothing with their extra dollars but either buy U.S. weapons or invest them in U.S. and British banks.

Despite the prominence of the Saudis, all the money they make goes into Western banks—which invest it wherever they think they can make the most profit.

A more populist, nationalist government like the Iraqi regime was able to provide health care, education and some development. But all OPEC countries' economic development remained subject to imperialist control of markets, banks and military superiority.

The attempt to blame OPEC for the price surge is a diversion from the real culprits—speculators on the world markets, the big oil companies, and the instability and chaotic nature of the world capitalist system itself.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has become an OPEC spokesperson as he hosts the OPEC meeting in Caracas. Chavez argues that OPEC should serve as a bulwark against the economic imperialism he sees as damaging to developing countries.

In response to calls from the United States and Europe for OPEC to take steps to lower prices, Chavez told listeners to his Sept. 24 radio call-in show: "How nice it would be if they also lowered prices for the things they sell us—computers, medicine, cars and the interest on foreign debt."

Chavez is only defending legitimate popular interests when he tries to avoid the kind of collapse in prices that took place following the capitalist depression in East Asia in 1997-1998, when crude oil prices dropped under \$10 a barrel, driving Venezuelans into poverty.

#### Who pays for the oil?

The impact of these lower prices on the capitalist system was to encourage extravagant use of oil products—including greater production and sales of gas-guz-

zling vehicles like SUVs, expanded air travel and military exercises. It also discouraged oil exploration, research and development of alternate energy sources like wind and tides, and conservation efforts like public transit or better home insulation, because it was cheaper just to burn oil.

What is important is not that crude oil be dirt-cheap, but that working people not be the ones to pay the costs of spikes in prices.

For example in Belgium this September, where taxes on gasoline are high compared to U.S. rates, the cost per gallon went over \$4 and sparked mass demonstrations. Individual entrepreneurs like truck and taxi driver-owners were active in these, but also workers.

The Workers Party of Belgium raised the demand of including gas prices in a cost-of-living index, which would then be used to calculate wages and result in a wage increase. This transfers the cost to the bosses from the individual workers.

It would be important to find a similar formula here so that the struggle is clearly between workers and bosses. It should not be diverted to a battle that pits workers here against the needs of developing countries.

In the long run, a planned world economy would seek out alternate energy sources—especially those more friendly to the environment—while the use of oil is slowly phased out. In the meantime revenues from oil would be used to diversify the development of the oil producing countries.

# Big oil gets rich, blames OPEC

By Rubin Kanowitz

Recent developments in the petroleum industry are taking on worldwide significance. Higher prices for crude oil, refined oil products and natural gas are said to be causing a crisis in capitalist business activity.

If past experience is a guide to how the corporate-dominated news media will handle this problem, they can be counted on to further demonize the foreign oil producing countries, especially the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, in a racist way. All 11 OPEC members are located in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The OPEC countries are already subject to intense economic, political and diplomatic pressure in the campaign to bring crude oil prices down. But a closer look at the state of the oil industry shows that any blame for the economic pain that has descended on workers and oppressed people in the United States, Europe and other countries rests squarely on the major international oil companies, the banks and the workings of the capitalist system.

#### Blame Big Oil, not OPEC

As of late September, world crude oil production was estimated to be 77 million barrels per day. At prices of \$30-\$40 per barrel, this represents annual revenues of \$850 billion to \$1.1 trillion.

Of the 77 million barrels produced each day, about 40 million enter into

world trade—that is, they are produced in one country and consumed in another. Of these 40 million barrels, OPEC production accounts for close to 29 million.

When crude oil prices dipped from \$30 per barrel in 1997 to \$10 in 1998, the major international oil companies sharply reduced their exploration and production investments.

Expenditures for oil wells, for example, dropped from \$3.8 billion in 1997 to \$3.0 billion in 1998 in the United States. Gas well expenditures dropped from \$7.2 billion in 1997 to \$6.8 billion in 1998, while total drilling expenditures dropped from \$13.9 billion to \$12.4 billion in the same period.

U.S. crude oil production declined from 6.3 million barrels per day in 1998 to 6.0 million in 1999 while worldwide production rose about 1 percent.

These figures reflect Big Oil's reaction to that drop in crude oil prices. Develop-

ment of new crude oil sources, like the Caspian Sea region, were put on hold until prices might rebound to generate sufficient profits to justify the investment.

It is those sharp cutbacks in production investments that have caused today's tight crude oil market and higher prices.

Today there is little unused production capacity. OPEC has increased production three times so far this year, by a total of 3.2 million barrels per day. Unused oil producing capacity worldwide is now just 2 to 3 million barrels per day—almost all of it in a few countries, including non-OPEC Mexico.

#### The natural gas example

The dynamic of capitalist overproduction followed by underproduction is apparent in natural gas as well. The United States produces nearly all of its natural gas from within its own borders. No blame can be placed on other countries

for sharply higher prices, limited supplies and other injustices of the market place. It is all the doing of the U.S. petroleum industry.

The price of natural gas at the point of production is now \$3.40 per thousand cubic feet—double what it was last year, the U.S. Energy Department reports. The wholesale price is about \$5 per thousand cubic feet—up from \$2 last year. Some experts say the price could reach \$7 per thousand cubic feet.

The American Gas Association says that natural gas inventories are down 15 percent from a year ago.

The U.S. government announced Sept. 22 that it would release 30 million barrels of crude oil from the country's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This involves a transfer, not a sale, to the oil industry. This oil is to be returned after the winter heating season, when prices will presumably be lower.

Supposedly, the oil transfer is to help force prices down, especially for heating oil. But who will benefit from this arrangement?

Heating oil demand is seasonal. Will a cold winter trigger big heating oil and natural gas price increases? Since both fuels are cost items to big corporations, landlords and utilities, the possibility exists for a general inflation to result.

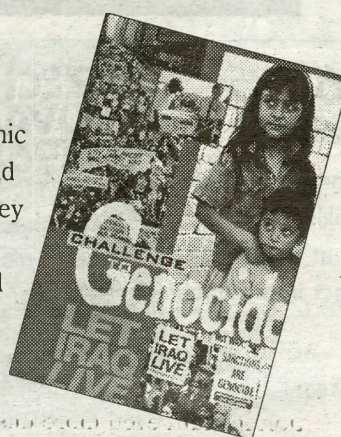
Of tremendous importance is whether higher prices will mean inadequate heating for tenants, especially those who are most vulnerable—seniors and other people living on fixed incomes.

## Challenge to Genocide: Let Iraq live

Essays and reports on the devastating effect of economic sanctions on Iraq since the Gulf War. Features "Fire and Ice," a chapter by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Also personal memoirs from many who defied sanctions and U.S. law by taking medicines to Baghdad as part of the May 1968 Iraq Sanctions Challenge.

\$12.95 Discounted 15% when purchased at

[www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)





## Tanks, tear gas can't stop protests

# Thousands in Prague say: 'Smash the IMF'

Continued from page 1

bridges and intersections leading to the Prague Congress Center. IMF-WB delegates who dared travel the streets in chartered buses found themselves surrounded by angry crowds.

### Democracy, capitalist style

Czech President Vaclav Havel sent tanks into the streets of Prague to intimidate the anti-corporate protesters. He sent 15,000 cops and 2,000 soldiers to gas them, beat them and spray them with water cannon. Teams of FBI agents sent from the United States supervised the Czech police forces.

Havel, a former anti-communist dissident and darling of the Western corporate media, is a longtime servant of capital. After the overthrow of socialism in Czechoslovakia in 1989, he rented out the wall of his home to Campbell's Soup for an advertisement.

Massive police force managed to stop three columns of protesters from actually reaching the IMF-WB meeting. But it failed to intimidate the marchers, who repeatedly charged police lines in an effort to break through and confront the bankers. On the Gottwald Bridge, demonstrators fought the police hand to hand for hours amid chants of "No pasaran."

### 'Capitalism, a shame and disgrace'

The rest of Prague belonged to the demonstrators, and anti-capitalist slogans in a dozen languages echoed through its winding streets: "Smash the IMF," "Cancel the debt" and "Capitalism, a shame and disgrace."

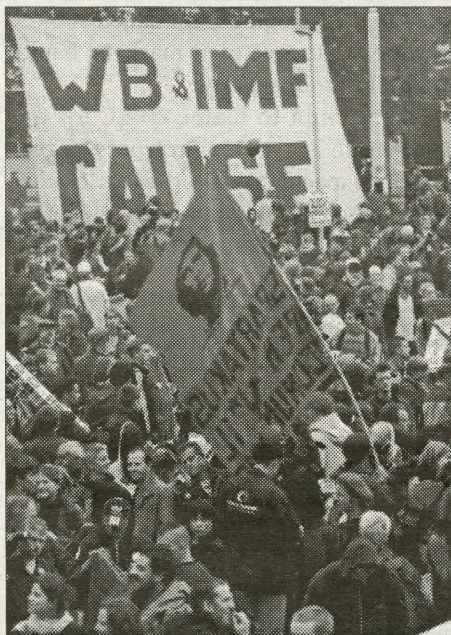
The Prague metro was shut down for a day so the bankers could travel without being confronted, and many shuttered businesses bore signs saying "Closed Until the IMF Protests Are Over."

Throughout the night, street fighting continued in and around Wenceslas Square. Demonstrators surrounded the state opera, forcing the IMF and World Bank to cancel a dinner they had planned to hold there.

### Mass arrest of Czech citizens

Late in the night, having failed to break the protests, police began rounding up and arresting ordinary Czech citizens on streets around the city center. While the corporate media claimed the majority of protesters were foreign, of the 422 people arrested, 392 were Czech citizens. They are being held in the city of Plzen, far from Prague, and have so far not been allowed to speak to lawyers.

Tuesday's battle was the climax of a week of protests. These included a 3,000-strong Stop the IMF march on



Sept. 23, organized by the Communist Union of Youth and backed by trade unions and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

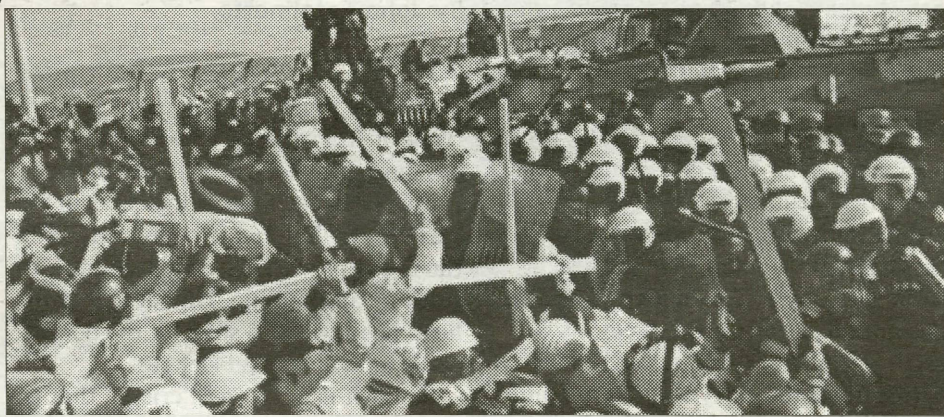
That same day there was a 1,000-strong antifascist march to counter a rally by the neo-Nazi National Alliance. Racist skinheads who try and terrorize Roma and other people of color found the tables turned as protesters chased them through the streets. A few of the racists escaped unharmed.

Most of the protesters who came to Prague were young, many of them students, many of them teenagers. But there were also construction workers from Greece, steelworkers from Germany, railroad workers from France, public employees from Britain and dock workers from Seattle.

The contingents from Italy and Spain were especially large and militant and took the front line in fighting the police. Marchers from Germany and Scotland carried flags demanding justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

A delegation from the International Action Center in the United States distributed a statement headlined "Abolish NATO, the IMF's strike force!" It called the IMF and NATO "partners in genocide" and demanded "U.S.-NATO Hands off Yugoslavia." The statement also exposed the racist U.S. prison system and urged international support for Abu-Jamal.

Hundreds of Czechs joined the



Militant protests in Prague forced IMF-World Bank to end their meeting a day early.

PHOTO: PRAGUE INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

protests despite months of hysterical violence-baiting by the government and media aimed at turning the population against the protesters. Eighty percent of the Czech Republic's media is owned by foreign corporations.

Members of the Czech Communist Youth Union and the Socialist Youth of Slovakia marched behind a banner saying, "Stop the dictatorship of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund." They chanted "Black and white, unite and fight" and "Prague, Seattle, take it all the way, we will expropriate capital."

Marching with them was Mario, an 18-year-old Roma man from Slovakia. "In the past 10 years everybody in Slovakia has become poor, but the Roma are the most poor. Under socialism most Roma people worked in heavy industry, but now we are 90-percent unemployed. The government tries to make us scapegoats, and there is a growing racist movement. We have to fight back."

Dragan, a 35-year-old Serbian construction worker, said he would stand on the front lines of every demonstration. "I've lived in Prague for nine years," he said. "People here now have more freedom to travel abroad, but that's the only thing that's better. Life has become much harder—there is no social security. The Czech Republic is being walked like a poodle by international monopolies and has been dragged into the aggressive NATO alliance."

He was particularly outraged at the campaign against Yugoslavia. "It's all lies," he said. "I'm Serb but Croats, Bosnians, Albanians are my brothers. We are a multi-ethnic country. They call Milosevic a nationalist but all he wants is an independent Yugoslavia."

### Labor supports protests

At Saturday's rally Petr Simunek, president of the Trade Union Association of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, explained why his union supported the protests. "IMF and World Bank policies have destroyed most of the social gains we had under socialism and they want to take the rest. The biggest blow is the destruction of heavy industry."

"There is 10-percent unemployment in the Czech Republic today but in industri-

al areas like north Moravia and north Bohemia it is 25 and 30 percent. For those who are working, prices and rents have gone up much faster than incomes. But it is not only here.

"Throughout the world 9,000 people are plunged into poverty every day because of policies dictated by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund." Simunek condemned U.S. and European Union economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, Cuba, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and north Korea.

Also taking part in the protests or applauding from the sidewalks were older Czech people who remembered the mass labor demonstrations of 1948 that overthrew capitalism in Czechoslovakia.

Since 1989, when socialism was overthrown here and the country divided in two, the Czech Republic has been held up as a supposed "success story" of capitalism in East Europe. It might seem that way in Prague, where there is a lot of tourism and foreign investment. But since the economic crash of 1998 much of the country has been plunged into poverty.

A Czech worker from Plzen told Workers World how he now works 120 hours a week to support his family. The extent of the desperation here is shown by the fact that Prague has become the center of prostitution in Europe. The World Bank's own figures, released shortly before the meeting, admitted a drastic rise in poverty and inequality throughout East and Central Europe in the past five years.

At press conferences and in media statements IMF and World Bank officials decried the poverty they have helped cause and threw around phrases like "humane investing." And some of the protest organizers spoke of "reforming" the IMF and World Bank. But as several protesters put it, "A tiger will never become a vegetarian."

The feelings of most of the protesters who spoke to WW were summed up in a slogan chanted by young Czech Communists: "Why are we here? Stop the IMF! What do we want? Smash the IMF! What will we do? Unite and fight! What will we win? A world for us!"

As of Sept. 27, protests are continuing in the streets of Prague.

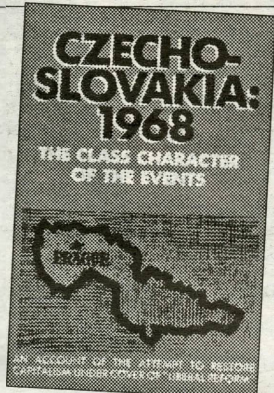
## Czechoslovakia: 1968

### The class character of the events

Read an account of the attempt to restore capitalism under cover of 'liberal reform.' This booklet reprints articles from Workers World newspaper at the time. Includes Fidel Castro on the Warsaw Pact intervention and a postscript by Sam Marcy.

\$1.50 plus \$2 shipping 65 pages

Order from World View Forum, 55 W 17 St., NY, NY 10011



## Did the Pentagon poison Iraq's people and U.S. soldiers with radioactive weapons?

Learn about the criminal use of depleted uranium in

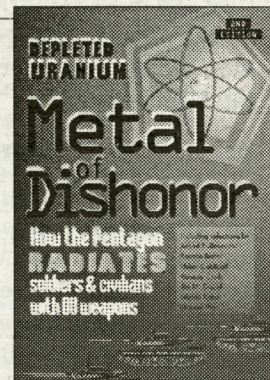
## METAL OF DISHONOR

Book \$12.95 plus \$4 shipping

INT'L ACTION CENTER 39 W. 14 ST., NY, NY 10011

<http://www.iacenter.org>

Order online for a 15% discount at [leftbooks.com](http://leftbooks.com)





## Illusion and reality

# What happens when imperialists get their way

By Deirdre Griswold

What will it mean for the people of Yugoslavia if the U.S. and other imperialists get their way and break down that country's resistance?

No one can have escaped the steady tide of propaganda meant to convince the world that life will be better if Yugoslavia gives up its struggle to remain independent of the imperialist world order and allows the bankers, investors and military strategists of the "West" to have their way.

However, we don't have to imagine what would happen. Imperialist intervention, in many different forms, is nothing new. The United States, in particular, has intervened in other countries hundreds of times in the 20th century. Every time, there has been a loud propaganda campaign in the mass media to soften up the population at home and in the target country. Only the noblest motives have been claimed. Whether the intervention was covert or overt, by troops, CIA agents, or economic sanctions, it was always undertaken to "help" the people of the area.

Many books have been written to show that just the opposite happened.

Former Central Intelligence Agency and State Department officers like Philip Agee, William Blum and Ralph McGehee have exposed the murderous workings of the U.S. government's secret global police. They and author Michael Parenti have produced detailed chronicles of who, what, when and where Washington has carried out assassinations, invasions, covert operations and other forms of intervention to achieve its ends.

What happens after a successful intervention? Does it bring improved material and political conditions for the people? If new, pro-U.S. leaders have been installed, are they crusaders for democracy, human rights and social justice?

### What the Cold War accomplished

The most massive struggle against any country, short of an outright war, has of course been the Cold War against the Soviet Union. For decades the world was on the razor's edge of a nuclear war as the U.S. initiated one doomsday weapon system after another, all aimed at the USSR. Over a trillion dollars was spent in the Reagan years alone in the effort to overturn the USSR's planned economy and open up the Soviet bloc to capitalist penetration.

All this was supposedly to help the Soviet peoples and the "captive nations" of Eastern Europe achieve freedom and the good life. Of course, Hitler said the same thing when he invaded the USSR in 1940.

Czarist Russia had barely emerged from feudalism when the regime was overthrown in a workers' revolution in 1917. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union within a generation had built a modern, industrial infrastructure despite its backward origins and the vast destruction it suffered in World War II. Because of its socialist planned economy, this country—which a generation before had been made up of feudal estates drawing their wealth from starving and illiterate peasants—was the first to launch a space satellite and the first to put a person in orbit. But it went bankrupt trying to keep up with the U.S. in the arms race.

### Bought elections and prostitution

Today the USSR is no more. The various Soviet republics have been split into small countries ruled not by idealistic social reformers but by political allies of the ruthless new capitalists, who themselves often got their start as overseers for foreign capital. Private armies scramble over control of what once were publicly owned resources.

To make sure the Communist Party would not come back, the U.S. poured billions of dollars into the election of Boris Yeltsin. Then, as now in Yugoslavia, this open buying of the vote, accompanied by dire threats, succeeded in stampeding the electorate. Later, however, Yeltsin became so hated by the Russian people that his popularity sank to 5 percent in the polls—probably the lowest figure ever, anywhere, for a sitting president.

There is no hiding the social results of all this foreign capitalist intervention. What once were free and universal health-care and education systems are in smoking ruins. Private schools and doctors cater to the capitalist elite. Many communities have sunk to a subsistence-level existence, as shown by catastrophic figures on lowered life expectancy and a rise in preventable diseases like tuberculosis and AIDS.

Women have been thrown back into semi-slavery. The first to be fired and last to be hired in the new "competitive" economy, they sell their bodies rather than starve. Prostitution is now the largest growth industry for women in the eastern countries, and many are actually sold to foreign sex-business entrepreneurs.

But there's another side to this picture. Lucky Western investors in "emerging markets" have realized 20 to 30 percent annual returns on their money. A wealthy person in New York or Los Angeles with enough capital to take advantage of high-risk investments—risky because of the political instability of these new regimes—can

now enjoy a palatial estate, perhaps even a private plane, because of their "killings" in the stock market.

The oil companies that have cased out the areas of the former Soviet Union went into a feeding frenzy over the Caspian Sea and its potential for offshore drilling. And U.S. public relations firms now get to feature Russian notables like Soviet "reformer" Mikhail Gorbachev in Taco Bell commercials. How's that for progress?

Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America that had traded with the Soviet Union on more equal terms than with the imperialists, and that had received technical help and education from the Soviet bloc, were also thrown into crisis by the downfall of the USSR. Cuba, north Korea, Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam and many more have gone through excruciating economic readjustments in order to survive in a unipolar world dominated by the U.S.

Does anyone in the U.S. ruling establishment offer even one word of regret for what they have done? Could communists in the USSR have painted a bleaker picture of what would happen if the capitalists took over?

### Blessings delivered by gunboat

Closer to home, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean know the effects of U.S. interventions all too well. Throughout the 20th century, Washington many times resorted to gunboat diplomacy to enforce the exclusive "right" it had established in the Monroe Doctrine to dominate the Western Hemisphere.

If U.S. intervention is a blessing, as its promoters claim, then Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Guatemala, Haiti, the little island of Grenada and other recipients of Washington's kind attentions must surely have reached paradise by now. They have been "blessed" so many times over the last century.

There is not room in this article to provide even minimal information about the many U.S. interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The list is far too long. Fortunately, they have been chronicled by the authors cited above, whose books are readily available.

Highlights include the CIA overthrow of the Guatemalan government in 1954, followed by 33 more years of U.S.-sponsored death squad attacks on the people that left 200,000 Guatemalans dead, mostly Indigenous peasants. The 1965

***There is no hiding the social results of foreign capitalist intervention in the former USSR. What once were free and universal health-care systems are in smoking ruins. Many communities have sunk to a subsistence-level existence.***

invasion of the Dominican Republic by U.S. Marines to prevent the election of a progressive figure. The contra war against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. The setting up of death-squad governments in El Salvador that crushed the popular opposition. The long occupation of Panama followed by invasion in 1989. The invasion of Grenada in 1983 after the election of a leftist government.

Perhaps wealthy tourists who jet into private enclaves in these countries can see paradise in the beaches and mountains. But let them go where the people live and the squalor will quickly drive them back to their gated compounds.

Economic investment from abroad is limited to getting out the raw materials and operating assembly industries in tax-free zones where workers are paid pennies per hour and risk their lives if they join unions. For the people, there are open sewers, broken roads, dirt-floor shacks, little education or health care, massive unemployment—no way out except to try and get to the U.S. by any means to work at sub-minimum wages.

U.S. domination has brought nothing but misery and terror for the vast majority of the people. That is why, despite all the repression, revolutionary movements continue to rise and fight both the national oligarchies and their U.S. protectors.

To project such a future for a capitalist Yugoslavia might seem far-fetched. But so it seemed with the Soviet Union. And now it has turned out to be true.

Those fighting to retain national independence and state control over the basic means of production in Yugoslavia are trying to avoid this fate. They are looking for the most effective ways of fighting back. Whatever they do, their cause is just. They can say, as Fidel Castro told the court in 1953 after he led a guerrilla attack on the Moncada barracks, "History will absolve me."

## NATO in the BALKANS

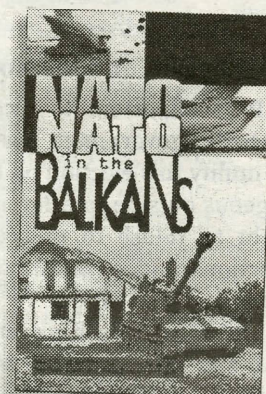
### Voices of opposition

This book will open your eyes. It will help you understand what is happening in the Balkans. It will inform the new generation of anti-war activists now emerging in opposition to NATO expansion.

\$15.95 Discounted 15% if purchased from

[www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)

WW Publ. 55 W. 17 St. NYC 10011.



## WAR LIES VIDEOTAPE

### How Media Monopoly Stifles Truth

Have you ever wondered whether the news you hear is true?

Who makes the news and how?

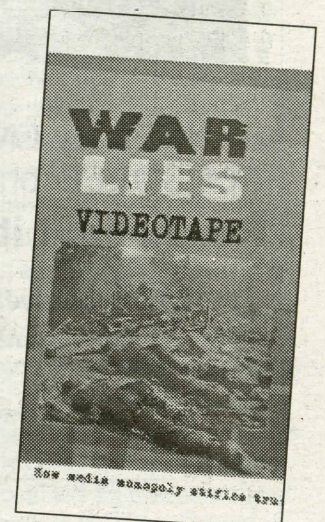
How do mega-mergers and the consolidation of media outlets affect what you see on the evening news?

What's the truth behind the U.S./NATO bombing of Yugoslavia?

\$15.95 Discounted 15% if purchased from

[www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com)

WW Publ. 55 W. 17 St. NYC 10011.





# editorial

## Class struggle, parties & elections

**T**he attempt by the United States and its imperialist allies to manipulate Yugoslavia's elections and steal that nation's independence has raised once again the relationship between electoral politics, political parties and class struggle.

During the Soviet Union's existence, it was common for imperialist politicians and pundits to insist that their main complaint about communism was that it was a "one-party system" and thus not democratic. They claimed that if the socialist states allowed political parties—especially capitalist parties—to contest for office, relations could be friendlier.

Like the rest of imperialist propaganda, this was a lie. The truth was that the capitalists were waging a merciless class war against the socialist states. They were trying to regain what they saw as their "right" to exploit, that is, to rob the workers. Armies, political parties, media, spy organizations, even churches and aid groups were instruments of the capitalists in that class war.

In their own backyard, the imperialists scorned democratic rights. When a democratic institution threatened the fundamental interests of the imperialists, they considered it a valid target. For example, in 1970 a pro-socialist government came into office in Chile, led by President Salvador Allende. Washington saw this Socialist Party government as a threat, not only to the profits of ITT and the big copper companies, but to the U.S. anti-socialist strategy worldwide.

After three years of U.S.-led and financed destabilization programs, economic sabotage and conspiracy with the Chilean armed forces, Washington and its agents succeeded in overthrowing the Allende government and destroying democracy in Chile.

When socialist or revolutionary governments allowed pro-capitalist parties the right to organize and contest elections, it was no guarantee that this government would be free from other, more openly aggressive imperialist pressure.

From 1979 to 1990 the Nicaraguan Sandinistas allowed bourgeois parties to contest elections, and had beaten them fairly. Still, the United States financed and armed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries during that whole period to drain the lifeblood of the nation. Finally a war-weary populace voted out the Sandinistas and voted in a U.S.-financed puppet.

Yugoslavia offers perhaps the most obvious example. For over a decade now not one or two but dozens of openly capitalist—even monarchist—parties have organized and contested elections in Yugoslavia, representing every nationality and every nuance of political thought. Compared to the United States, where two big capitalist parties with virtually identical programs fight over the spoils of governing, there has been a rich political life in that Balkan country.

Yet this opening to formal bourgeois democracy did not save Yugoslavia from imperialist sabotage, destabilization, military threats and finally an all-out military attack, all leading to this latest assault using the elections as a weapon against a people.

The working class and progressive movement, especially in the United States, should keep this in mind not only as this vicious struggle unfolds against Yugoslavia, but also as imperialist demands are made against Cuba, China, north Korea and Vietnam. To defend the gains made for the workers and toilers of these countries, to defend the very independence of these countries against imperialism, the ruling parties have every right to refuse to allow their enemies to organize. Indeed, they have the duty to refuse them.



WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

## Subscribe to Workers World

**BANNED by CNN, N.Y. Times, L.A. Times?  
CENSORED on the Web?**

**Read about it in Workers World!**

- ☐ \$25 for a one-year subscription  
☐ Send more information about Workers World Supporter Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: WW Publishers, 55 West 17th St., 5th fl., N.Y., NY 10011

## Soft money, hard threats

## U.S./NATO steal Yugoslav elections

*Continued from page 1*

Mediterranean. A U.S. aircraft carrier in the Adriatic Sea has moved closer to Montenegro.

The major media here—the New York Times on Sept. 20 and the Washington Post on Sept. 19—have described in detail the exact amounts funneled into the opposition parties, radio and TV stations and newspapers. The U.S. Congress publicly voted on \$77 million in open interference. Then on Sept. 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to send another \$105 million to aid anti-Milosevic forces in Serbia and Montenegro.

These articles describe suitcases of cash handed over at the border, endless supplies of computers, fax machines, cell phones and the trainers to use them. These goods have been passed to the opposition through front organizations, NGOs and media outlets.

Weeks before the election, Western-funded polling organizations announced that Kostunica would win a sweeping victory. For the West's media monopoly beaming into Yugoslavia, there were only two options. Either Milosevic would lose or there would be massive fraud.

The U.S. State Department announced that even if Milosevic won by overwhelming odds, Washington would refuse to accept the results.

### How should movement evaluate these events?

Those who opposed NATO bombing in 1999 and all the militant activists who have taken on the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, globalization and sweatshops have a stake in what happens next in Yugoslavia.

Are they ready to stand in solidarity with whatever steps are necessary to keep another country from being forced under the boot of the IMF and World Bank?

Washington, London, Paris and Berlin have openly intervened and bragged of it. In the face of these admissions, those in office in Yugoslavia have every right to void the elections and disqualify the opposition.

In the United States, France, Britain or Germany, would such an election have been allowed to continue? In the United States no political organization is permitted to accept funds from another government for political purposes unless it publicly registers as an agent of a foreign power. The U.S. ruling class is determined that only it should control the electoral process.

Any U.S. politician found accepting contributions, bribes or payments of any kind from a foreign government is disgraced, attacked and could face criminal indictment.

Just the allegation that the Clinton administration accepted a contribution from an ethnically Chinese businessperson who might have had contact with China sent every politician running for cover.

### Corruption and treason

It is important to recognize that the Yugoslav government has the moral right to nullify this election on the basis of outrageous outside interference. It has every right to refuse to proceed with further elections under conditions of war, sanctions and occupation.

The Parliament has every right to establish a criminal inquiry into the funding sources of the opposition. Government

prosecutors have every right to indict and jail the politicians and publications that have corrupted the election process.

The masses have every right to go into the streets and denounce the opposition parties and publications as agents of a foreign power.

Kostunica, until now a minor politician considered a Serb nationalist with a long history of anti-Communism, consistently maintains that he has not accepted any money from the West. He has even criticized the NATO bombing and sanctions. No Yugoslav politician could win significant votes if seen as a NATO stooge.

It may be true that he personally has not pocketed any money. But Kostunica has surrounded himself with political parties and organizations that are toadies to the NATO countries. His whole campaign has been publicized by radio and television stations and newspapers wholly and openly financed by grants from Washington and Berlin.

He is supported by the U.S. and European imperialist powers because his political program, even if it criticizes NATO, embraces the very policies that NATO is demanding. He is the easiest of the politicians to make into a pawn because he has no personal base. He is the candidate of a bloc of 18 small feuding political parties that have no common interests or ideology. They are united only by opposition to the government and their willingness to accept foreign funds.

### U.S. engineered coups and counterrevolutions

The big U.S. monopolies and banks and Washington itself have never accepted an election as "free and fair" if it put their class interests in danger or brought the masses onto the scene. Since the end of World War II the U.S. has organized the overthrow of more than 50 governments.

In Chile in 1973 the CIA organized a military coup to drown the progressive legally elected government in blood. It did the same in Iran in 1953 and in Guatemala in 1954.

In 1990 the U.S. orchestrated the overthrow of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Washington had cobbled together a 20-party coalition whose only aim was to overthrow the government and restore the old propertied class. It promised to end the "Contra" war and sanctions and provide massive aid if the popular Sandinistas were defeated.

In this situation, much like the one today in Yugoslavia, Washington succeeded in manipulating the election to drive out the Sandinistas. But the U.S. never came through with the aid, and now some of the lowest-paid sweatshops in the world operate in the "Free Trade Zones" of Nicaragua.

### 'Free elections' in a country under siege

Yugoslavia, like Nicaragua, illustrates the dangers of holding an election in the midst of an unrelenting war, sanctions and occupation of part of the country by foreign armies. With their dominance of the world media, the lure of material goods, the bribes and the threat of further punishment, these powers were able to reach right into the country.

President Milosevic was trying to get a mandate by calling a vote when the opposition seemed divided, weak, discredited. But the imperialists quickly strengthened them using tactics refined over decades of



interventions.

Yugoslavia, a small, beleaguered country maneuvering to survive, has allowed dozens of openly pro-imperialist parties to maintain offices, staff, publish newspapers, organize and to participate in elections. These concessions have only further emboldened the enemies of the Yugoslav workers.

Even though the imperialists complained that they were not allowed to monitor the elections, hundreds of foreigners did come in as election observers and certified that they were "free and fair"—that the government honestly and legally abided by all election procedures. But this shifted attention from the actual fraud taking place: the massive intervention and intimidation by imperialism.

The political opposition was allowed to engage in practically unrestrained acceptance of foreign assistance, advice and media hype. The whole process was corrupted by an army of Western advisers and pollsters.

#### Will U.S./NATO forces succeed?

Reports from election observers and even the big-business media show there is a hard core of working-class support for Milosevic from those who see him as a defender of the country against NATO. Even among those who naively voted for Kostunica out of anger against Milosevic, there are many who want to resist Western imperialism.

The question facing the Yugoslav masses now is will the Western multinationals, on the basis of this election distorted by intervention, be able to capture the state apparatus and open the door to super-exploitation?

Will the enemy that failed to break Yugoslavia's resistance with 78 days of bombing be able to take over by manipulation of an election—or will the government be able to resist?

If the left organizations and patriotic parties in Yugoslavia resist, will the progressive and working-class and anti-war movements in the West defend them against an inevitable propaganda blitz from the West and a possible new military campaign?

#### What can be done?

One contribution to this effort could be a Commission of Inquiry to examine the corrupting role that the U.S. government, the European Union, their NATO military arm and their international financial organizations played in the Yugoslav election.

This Inquiry could gather and publicize information on these institutions' efforts to subvert and overthrow the Yugoslav government. It could also gather information on the open and secret funding of political parties, organizations and publications by U.S. government agencies.

The Inquiry could deepen international understanding of Yugoslavia's problem by incorporating testimony and reports on U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of other governments. This would include the overthrow of other popular governments in Guatemala, Panama, Chile, Iran and Indonesia and also intervention in elections in Italy, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guyana and others.

Activists in other NATO countries could organize their own Commissions of Inquiry and public hearings to examine how this latest intervention violated their laws. Similar information came to light earlier when hearings and tribunals in many countries put U.S. and NATO leaders on trial for war crimes against Yugoslavia.

The importance of international solidarity should never be underestimated. Yugoslavia must not stand alone.

# Int'l observers condemn U.S./EU interference

By John Catalinotto

Two hundred and ten international observers from 54 countries—including current and former parliamentarians, representatives from political parties and organizations, as well as scholars, journalists and activists—were in Yugoslavia monitoring the elections.

In a statement issued Sept. 26, they made it clear that they had "had free, unobstructed access to the relevant activities and particularly to the voting on the 24th [of September] when observers visited polling stations in different parts of Yugoslavia, including Montenegro and Kosovo." They emphasized that, regarding the Yugoslav authorities, a smooth and orderly election took place with no intimidation of voters, "equal or superior to the ones in their own countries."

Their comments about the election process in Montenegro and in Kosovo, as well as on interference from outside Yugoslavia, are worth quoting:

"In Montenegro, the 20 foreign observers witnessed an overall atmosphere of intimidation of the voters, originating from the government of Mr. Djukanovic

[president of Montenegro] which is boycotting the elections. Everywhere there were huge billboards telling people not to vote. These had the appearances of threats: 'Don't vote or else...'

"Some of those who did vote, told the observers that they felt voting was risky for them and could lead to the loss of jobs and other forms of harassment, as the polling stations were watched by the police and cameras not belonging to the media were pointed at the citizens coming to vote.

"At one poll Serbian refugees from Kosovo told the observers that hundreds of them had been left off the voters' lists, although they had the necessary documentation to be able to vote. This situation was brought to the attention of the Montenegrin Electoral Commission and a more detailed report will be forwarded to the Federal Electoral Commission of Yugoslavia.

"The observers feel strongly that the so-called 'international community' has been abusive of Yugoslavia and democratic principles, in declaring weeks ahead that the election will be 'rigged' and heaping constant abuse at the authorities in Yugoslavia who are trying

to carry out a complicated, multi-level election in stressful conditions.

"This abuse has continued after the election, with leaders of Western countries declaring only a few hours after the election that Mr. Kostunica has won, as if they would have had privileged access to the voting results! This leads us to wonder whether if Mr. Kostunica in fact comes first, whether his election will also be considered fraudulent, because, after all, 'everybody knows' that the election was rigged.

"The observers believe that there has been undue interference in the Yugoslavian election by the Western powers, in particular by the United States, which has seen fit to interfere to the tune of \$77 million to various opposition movements and organizations, including the 'independent' media. This is a shameful—and no doubt illegal—intrusion into the affairs of a sovereign nation. Also the attempts by the European Union to bribe Yugoslavian voters to vote in a certain way in order to be "rewarded" with the lifting of sanctions and other goodies, must be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*Following are excerpts from news reports in the New York Times and Washington Post detailing Washington's illegal intervention in the Yugoslav elections.*

The New York Times, Sept. 20, 2000

### Milosevic, Trailing in Polls, Rails Against NATO

By Steven Erlanger

BELGRADE, Serbia, Sept. 19—In his race for re-election, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia is running against NATO and the United States, not against his democratic opposition.

He is not entirely mistaken to do so. The United States and its European allies have made it clear that they want Mr. Milosevic ousted, and they have spent tens of millions of dollars trying to get it done.

Portraying himself as the defender of Yugoslavia's sovereignty against a hostile, hegemonic West led by Washington, Mr. Milosevic and his government argue that opposition leaders are merely the paid, traitorous tools of enemies who are continuing their war against him by other means. In March 1999, NATO began a 78-day bombing campaign to drive Serbian forces out of Kosovo.

The Yugoslav elections are on Sunday, but there has hardly been a day since the bombing began that state television news has not railed against "NATO aggressors."

The money from the West is going to most of the institutions that the government attacks for receiving it—sometimes in direct aid, sometimes in indirect aid like computers and broadcasting equipment, and sometimes in suitcases of cash carried across the border between Yugoslavia and Hungary or Serbia and Montenegro.

**Charges of Chinese influence-buying in the 1996 U.S. presidential campaign caused a political storm in Washington. That episode pales by comparison to American political interference in Serbia, locus of a \$77 million U.S. effort to do with ballots what NATO bombs could not—get rid of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.**

Even before the Kosovo war, the United States was spending up to \$10 million a year to back opposition parties, independent news media and other institutions opposed to Mr. Milosevic. The war itself cost billions of dollars. This fiscal year, through September, the administration is spending \$25 million to support Serbian "democratization," with an unknown amount of money spent covertly to help the failed rallies of last year, which did not bring down Mr. Milosevic, or to influence the current election. For next year, the administration is requesting \$41.5 million in open aid to Serbian democratization, though Congress is likely to cut that request.

Independent journalists and broadcasters here have been told by American aid officials "not to worry about how much they're spending now," that plenty more is in the pipeline, said one knowledgeable aid worker. Others in the opposition complain that the Americans are clumsy, sending e-mails from "state.gov"—the State Department's address—summoning people to impolitic meetings with American officials in Budapest, Montenegro or Dubrovnik, Croatia.

But there is little effort to disguise the fact that Western money pays for much of the polling, advertising, printing and other costs of the opposition political campaign.

The Washington Post, Sept. 19, 2000 (Final Edition)

### U.S. Funds Help Milosevic's Foes in Election Fight

By John Lancaster, Washington Post Staff Writer

Charges of Chinese influence-buying in the 1996 U.S. presidential campaign caused a political storm in Washington that has yet to fully abate. By some measures, however, that episode pales by comparison to American political interference in Serbia, locus of a \$77 million U.S. effort to do with ballots what NATO bombs could not—get rid of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

In the run-up to national elections on Sept. 24, U.S. aid officials and contractors are working to strengthen Serbia's famously fractured democratic opposition. They have helped train its organizers, equipped their offices with computers and fax machines and provided opposition parties with sophisticated voter surveys compiled by the same New York firm that conducts polls for President Clinton.

More generally, they have sought to foster what one aid consultant calls "democracy with a small 'd,'" funneling support to student groups, labor unions, independent media outlets, even Serbian heavy metal bands that stage street concerts as part of a voter registration drive called "Rock the Vote."

Underscoring worries about Serbia and Montenegro, the Pentagon yesterday began a global shift of forces to bolster the U.S. military presence in the Balkans. A carrier battle group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln left Thai waters ahead of schedule and headed toward the Persian Gulf, which will free up another carrier group, led by the USS George Washington, for movement to the Adriatic Sea, Defense Department officials said.



# Apoyo amplio por huelguistas en Los Angeles

Por Preston Wood  
Los Angeles

Miembros de la Unión Unida de Transporte de Los Angeles (UTU por las siglas en Inglés) representando a 4300 choferes de autobuses y operadores de trenes, se dirigieron hacia las líneas de piquete el 16 de septiembre después de estancarse las negociaciones con la Autoridad Metropolitana de Transporte (MTA por las siglas en Inglés.)

La huelga cerró el sistema de transporte público, segundo en tamaño en la nación, incluyendo a autobuses, trenes subterráneos y ferrocarriles.

El jefe de la Federación de Trabajo del Condado de Los Angeles Miguel Contreras y Presidente de la UTU James Williams denunciaron al MTA por la falta de negociaciones de buena fe con los trabajadores.

Contreras explicó que los representantes de la MTA carecieron de autoridad adecuada de aprobar un acuerdo. Durante las conversaciones, los negociadores fueron forzadas a consultar por teléfono con los oficiales elegidos antes de poder acordar sobre puntos específicos.

## Sindicatos respetan líneas de piquete

Dos otros sindicatos, la Unión Internacional de Transporte y Comunicaciones representando a 650 trabajadores oficinistas, y la Unión Amalgamada de Transporte (ATU por las siglas en Inglés) representando a 1800 mecánicos, también se tiraron a la huelga en contra de la MTA en solidaridad con los choferes y operadores.

Docenas de sindicatos están respetando a las líneas de piquete. Cinco autobuses temporales llevando pasajeros a la estación de trenes Union Station fueron cancelados el 18 de junio después de choferes miembros del sindicato Teamsters (camioneros) rehusaron cruzar las líneas de piquete, según la Prensa Asociada.

A riesgo es el negativo de los trabajadores de acordarse a \$2 millones de sacrificios de lo que ya tienen en los acuerdos colectivos actuales. La MTA quiere reducir el salario de los choferes por un 15% reduciendo las horas en el cambio del horario a cuatro días en la semana. Serían forzados a trabajar una jornada de entre 10 y 12 horas sin pago de horas extras.

La MTA también quiere reducir las horas extras por contratar empleados de horas parciales, que eventualmente reemplazarían a los choferes de horas completas por atrición.

Además de lo que la MTA se refiere a "crear una nueva semana de trabajo", la gerencia quiere recortar los beneficios para los miembros del sindicato.

Hoy, la MTA dice que no tiene fondos. Pero la agencia ha sido acusada hace mucho de manejar mal sus recursos y mal planeamiento. Hace cinco años, la MTA construyó un nuevo edificio por su dirección general de 26 pisos con una cúpula de vidrio.

Ahora quiere transferir su déficit que según reportes va a llegar a una suma de más de \$430 millones durante la década que viene, en las espaldas de los choferes, oficinistas, mecánicos e operadores. La

MTA a la vez está amenazando con alzar las tarifas si no se sale con las suyas.

La MTA asevera falsamente que los choferes y operadores ganan alrededor de \$50.000 el año. En realidad, los choferes comienzan con \$8 la hora. Solo un puñado de choferes con muchos años en el trabajo ganan a \$20 la hora.

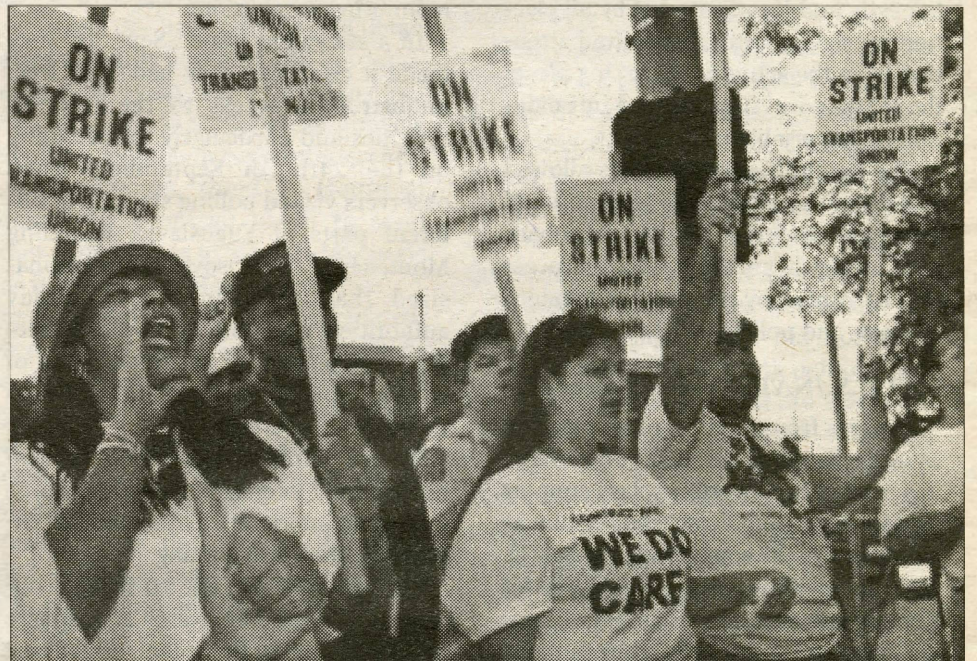
## Solidaridad de parte de los pasajeros

A pesar de una campaña masiva en los medios de comunicación para crear un ambiente de hostilidad entre los huelguistas y el público, hasta el periódico, bien conocido por su posición anti sindical tuvo que admitir en el número del 16 de junio que apoyo abrumador por los trabajadores, especialmente de parte de los pasajeros que usan los autobuses y trenes a diario.

Un 68 por ciento de los 500.000 trabajadores pasajeros, usuarios de los autobuses y trenes ganan menos que \$15.000 el año. Más de tres cuartas partes de ellos son negros y latinos y muchos también son inmigrantes.

"Yo culpo a la MTA por crear una situación difícil", dijo Shepard Petit, un estudiante deshabilitados que usa el autobus para viajar a la universidad.

Mientras tanto, los sindicatos y organi-



Los Angeles, 18 de septiembre

zaciones comunitarias juran apoyar activamente a los huelguistas. "Esta lucha es de todos nosotros," dijo John Parker del Centro de Acción Internacional de Los Angeles. "tenemos empeño en juntarnos con todo el mundo en Los Angeles para movilizar una campaña en solidaridad con los trabajadores de la MTA de huelga. Los ban-

cos y corporaciones deben pagar los impuestos para proveer los salarios y beneficios por los trabajadores de transporte y a la vez proporcionar mejor servicio para todos los que dependen del transporte público.

"Confiamos en que el sindicato saldrá triunfante", Parker dijo.

## EDITORIAL

# Espías, mentiras y las relaciones entre E.U. y China

Después de haber detenido al científico físico chino, Wen Ho Lee en grilletes por nueve meses y rehusándole el derecho de hablar su propio idioma, el Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos dio una vuelta repentina y admitió que ellos no tenían ninguna evidencia para comprobar que Lee era un espía.

El frágil caso y la manera brutal de la corte en el manejo de Lee fueron exitosos en animar la ira y la resistencia entre sus amigos científicos y dentro de la comunidad asiática de aquí. La gente se puso furiosa ante la obvia discriminación racial. Los científicos de descendencia asiática comenzaron a rehusar trabajos en proyectos militares.

Pero en un caso de esta contundencia política, la falta de evidencia, la exposición de discriminación, aún la creciente resistencia entre los colegas de Lee, no son suficiente para explicar la vuelta de 180 grados por el gobierno. Eventos similares no fueron suficiente como para parar la ejecución de Shaka Sankofa en Texas en junio del año en curso. Ni tampoco, en lo que es quizás un caso más análogo, paró al gobierno de los Estados Unidos al comienzo de la Guerra Fría contra la URSS comenzando desde la trama contra Ethel y Julius Rosenberg.

Parece que este es justo el caso que algún fiscal estadounidense tenía en mente. Como un reporte en la edición del 12 de septiembre del The New York Times menciona, "Aún unos investigadores del gobierno su-

girieron que una vez que fuera entendido completamente, el papel del Sr. Lee era comparable al de Julius y Ethel Rosenberg, quienes fueron ejecutados después de haber sido acusados como espías soviéticos en 1953."

De lo que el caso de Lee se trata va más allá que el hado de este individuo científico, quien ha sido abusado por aquellos a quien él a dado los beneficios de sus talentos y pen-samientos.

El centro del caso está el conflicto de clases entre el imperialismo Estados Unidos y la socialista República Popular de China. De igual manera al centro está la lucha entre los círculos de la clase gobernante de los Estados Unidos sobre cómo conducir esta guerra de clases.

Una sección de esta clase ha estado contenta con la continuación de la expansión de los lazos económicos entre el imperialismo y China y la incremento continua de la presión para abrir la economía china a la penetración capitalista e imperialista. A corto plazo, esto da ganancias a los capitalistas estadounidenses. A largo plazo, pretende una "suave" contrarrevolución y la disolución del unificado estado chino—parecido a lo que pasó con la Unión Soviética.

Las ideas de otra sección de la clase dominante se pueden ver en los escritos y discursos de aquellos como el asesor de George W. Bush, Paul Wolfowitz y del ex embajador estadounidense en China bajo la administración del ex Presidente George Bush,

James Lilley. Lilley fue nombrado por primera vez como Oficial Nacional de Inteligencia para China en 1975—o lo que es, el principal espía de Estados Unidos contra China. En un artículo de opinión editorial en el periódico The New York Times del 12 de septiembre, Lilley escribió que "nosotros no debemos dañar nuestra seguridad nacional con pintar una cara generosa de las técnicas de espionaje de China."

Pero estas fuerzas no limitan sus papeles al hablar y escribir. Ellos también llevan a cabo sus políticas contra China con los bombardeos de la Embajada China en Belgrado, cabildando para construir e instalar capas protectoras con cohetes anti-balísticos que dan al Pentágono el potencial del primer golpe contra China, y poniendo a víctimas como Wen Ho Lee a juicio.

El cambio súbito, es entonces, una expresión del conflicto interno de esta clase gobernante sobre la estrategia. Sin duda alguna continuará en cuanto al caso de Lee y en otros frentes.

Fuerzas pro socialistas dentro de los Estados Unidos tienen la obligación dentro de sus posibilidades de defender los logros de la Revolución China y de defender a China contra los asaltos de este vicioso brazo de la clase gobernante estadounidense. Esto quiere decir la batalla contra las tramas de "Stars Wars", exponiendo las mentiras y calumnias contra China, y exponiendo también la hipocresía e injusticia de casos como el de Lee.