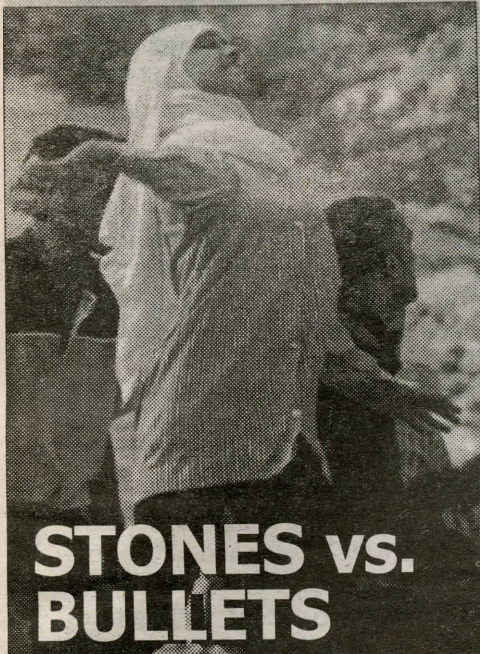




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WORKERS WORLD



MUNDO OBRERO

IRAK

A pesar del Pentágono,
las sanciones comienzan
desvanecerse 16

50¢

Anti-capitalist youths challenge IMF in Montreal

Students, cops clash at bankers' summit

By Josina Dunkel
Montreal

First in Seattle, then Washington, then Prague, now Montreal. Once again the youths of a major city clashed with the International Monetary Fund and the so-called free-trade forces.

In a militant but mostly peaceful demonstration Oct. 23, hundreds of protesters expressed their anger at the Group of 20 conference scheduled to begin the following day in Montreal.

The crowd—mostly students—chanted in French and English and danced to drums in front of the Sheraton Centre, site of the conference.

A few students threw paint and eggs at the hotel, and a plate glass window was broken.

According to the G-20 Web site, "In Sept. 1999 in Washington, D.C., the finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations announced the creation of the Group of Twenty (G-20). This new international forum of finance ministers and central bank governors represents 19 countries, the European Union and the Bretton Woods Institutions (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank)."

The G-20 include both major imperialist powers and oppressed countries. They are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

One protester told the Canadian Broadcasting Co. evening news, "The G-20, the IMF and their policymakers require violence. The very policies they implement are violent by nature. The fact that 19,000 children die each day in the Third World because of IMF restructuring policies—I think that is violent."

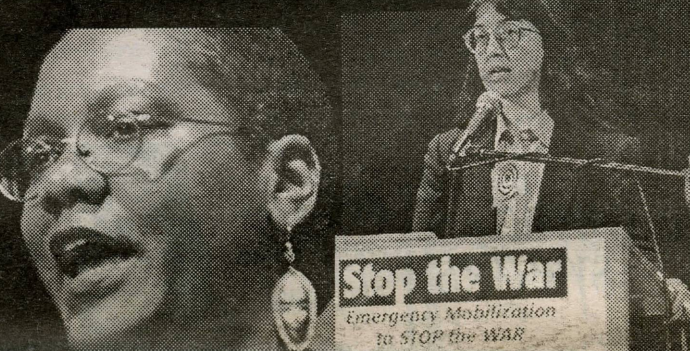
Police provoked the protesters to lash out. They pushed the crowd back and chanted, "Move, move, move," to the menacing beat of their billy clubs smacking their shields.

The cops were clearly prepared for the situation they created, having worn riot gear all afternoon. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at the cops, who responded with a gas that choked the young crowd.

But the standoff wasn't over yet. Riot police, backed up by the cavalry, repeatedly charged into the crowd to move the protesters off the major street they were occupying.

While the protesters would fall back, moments later they would

WWP campaign spreads
socialist message from
Florida to Wisconsin *see page 8*



**MONICA MOOREHEAD
FOR PRESIDENT
GLORIA LA RIVA
FOR VICE PRESIDENT**

surge forward to continue their action. Some pelted the cops with rocks and pieces of a fence they were dismantling. One cop was injured and seen limping away with the support of two other riot police. Two other cops were also reported injured.

Several protesters were aided by medics, mostly for the effects of the gas. Thirty-nine were arrested. The demonstrators marched away, vowing to return the following day. Bigger, louder protests were expected at the conference opening.

While the protest here was much smaller than those recently held in Seattle, Washington and Prague, there was a high degree of militancy. People expressed fierce opposition to the cruelties of the so-called free trade system being forced on the poor of the world by the United States, Canada and the other imperialist powers.

Not surprisingly, Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin, the conference chairperson, refused to come out of the hotel to meet with the protesters.



WW PHOTOS: JOSINA DUNKEL

Hundreds of youths demonstrated outside Montreal's Sheraton Centre beginning Oct. 23 to protest the G-20 economic summit. They charged that imperialist governments, big banks and the International Monetary Fund kill 19,000 children a day

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MUMIA FROM DEATH ROW

The highest-priced phone calls in the U.S.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The phone rings.

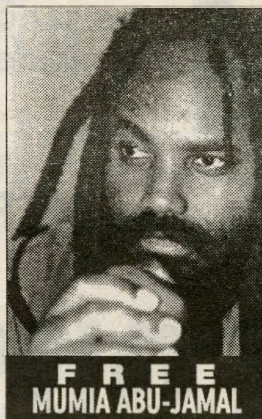
It's been a month since you've heard the voice of your child, your mate or your parent.

A half-minute recording begins blathering... and soon the voice of your loved one comes on the line. For 10 short and precious minutes you share sweet nothings, hopes and family news before the line goes dead.

Depending on where you are calling from your 10-minute phone call costs \$6, \$10 or \$17.50. And that cost is borne by over 2 million families in America, the families of prisoners who pay more per minute, per call, than any other population in America.

Welcome to the nationwide scam where state and private prison administrators shake down the poor with absurdly high phone rates, which, because of lucrative kickbacks, constitutes a hidden tax upon those least able to afford it.

At a time when satellite and computer technology has driven telephone costs down to a nickel or a dime a minute (witness the flood of AT&T and Sprint commercials on TV), state and privately-run prisons charge upwards to a dollar or even two dollars a minute for collect calls.



It's been a month since you've heard the voice of your child, mate or parent. Depending on where you call from, your 10-minute call costs \$6, \$10 or \$17.50

If we accept that most of those imprisoned in the U.S. are from poor and working-class families, then we must acknowledge that it is they, the poorest of the poor, who are saddled with the highest costs for phone service.

Nor are those prices simply the costs of doing business, as shown by the windfall gained by state and private prison companies.

New York state nets some \$21 million per year; California, some \$23 million; both Ohio and Missouri net about \$14 million in kickbacks from the phone companies; Pennsylvania, some \$4 million.

Some relatives of prisoners are suing both the state

and private prison companies for such excessive rates. In *Valdez v. Wackenhut Corrections Corp.*, a state action filed in New Mexico in December 1999, relatives of prisoners held in private institutions challenge the exclusive contracts entered into by the prison companies. They argue that these exclusive contracts and subsequent kickbacks violate the state's Unfair Practices Act, which outlaws unfair and unconscionable trade practices. The suit is still pending.

The phone is dialed. You wait anxiously for the voice of your loved one, your child, your mate or your parent to come on the line. Instead, the annoying voice is heard, a recording once again. It plays thus: "The number you have reached will not accept collect calls." Once again the state, private prisons and phone companies have bled the meager resources of the poor.

There may be a lot of rhetoric about "cutting taxes" in the nation's and states' capitals, but for the poor, for the families of those engaged in American gulags, the tax on accepting calls from one's loved ones continues to rise at a remarkable rate.

WW CALENDAR

BUFFALO, N.Y.

Wed., Nov. 1

First in a new series: Classes in Marxism. What is a Leninist party? What is democratic centralism? Is there freedom in anarchism? How can we make revolution? 7:30 p.m. At 349 Niagara St. (near Virginia). For info (716) 855-3055 or wwpbuff@hotmail.com.

CHICAGO

Fri., Oct. 27

The elections: a discussion for activists. Featuring Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva, WWP candidates. 7 p.m. At New World Resource Center, 2600 W. Fullerton. For info (773) 381-5839 or wwpchi@enteract.com.

DETROIT

Sat., Nov. 4

Workers World Party Public Forum. Monica Moorehead speaking on "Fighting Racism and Repression." Donation \$5, unemployed \$1. 5 p.m. Potluck dinner at 6. At Boughton Place meeting hall, just south of Rt. 299 between Rt. 9W and New Paltz thruway exit 18. For info (914) 691-8289.

HIGHLAND, N.Y.

Sun., Nov. 5

Activist and WW journalist Andy McInerney will speak on the situation in Colombia and Washington's intervention. Sponsored by CLASP. 7 p.m. Potluck dinner at 6. At Boughton Place meeting hall, just south of Rt. 299 between Rt. 9W and New Paltz thruway exit 18. For info (914) 691-8289.

NEW PALTZ, N.Y.

Mon., Nov. 13

America's Criminal Injustice System. Meeting sponsored by the Mid-Hudson

NPC and the IAC. Speakers include Monica Moorehead, Nancy Hammond, Safiya Bukhari, and Michael Chameldes. 7 p.m. At SUNY New Paltz, Lecture Center 102. For info jackson@earthlink.net.

NEW YORK

Fri., Oct. 27

The people of the world stand with the Palestinian people. March for truth. Stop the media lies. Stop the Israeli attacks. Support the just Palestinian resistance. End U.S. aid to Israel. Rally 5 to 7 p.m. in front of the New York Times, 43 St. between 7 & 8 Aves. For info (718) 491-2883 or (212) 633-6646.

Sat., Oct. 28

A Halloween party. Music & dancing. Prizes for costumes. Food and fun. Cash bar. Fundraiser for medicine for Cuba to be delivered in November. \$5 with a costume/\$7 without (sliding scale for low-income). At IAC, 39 W. 14th St., 2nd floor. For info (212) 633-6646.

Thu., Nov. 9

From Philly to Haiti: The struggle for sovereignty. Sponsored by the Haiti Support Network. Hear Maude Leblanc, Pam Africa, Ray Laforest and Nina Raoul. Plus a video. Donation. At IAC, 39 W. 14 St., Rm. 206, Manhattan. For info (718) 434-8100, (212) 219-0022 ext. 113 or (212) 633-6646.

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.

STATE COLLEGE, PA.

Every Thursday

Students and Youths Against Racism and the Committee to Free Mumia meeting. 7 p.m. At Paul Robeson Center. For info phone John (814) 237-8695.

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.

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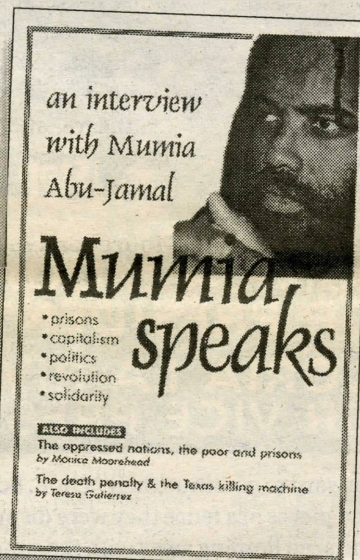
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Mumia speaks

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CORRECTION

A better formulation

I am a member of the Chicago branch of Workers World Party and the Chicago chapter of ADAPT, a disability rights group. It was recently brought to my attention by a fellow member of ADAPT that Workers World newspaper published an article that contained language that was offensive to people with disabilities.

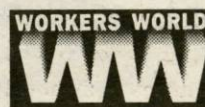
The article was about home-care workers in Los Angeles and it appeared on page four of the Sept. 28 issue. The offensive language came in a reference to "Audrey Harthorn, who has been wheelchair bound all her life." To people with disabilities wheelchairs are not instruments of confinement but tools of liberation, since they enable their users to achieve a mobility which they would lack without them.

A better formulation would be: "who has been a wheelchair user all her life."

Sincerely yours,
Edward Hoffmans

The editorial staff of Workers World newspaper thanks readers Edward Hoffmans and Ruthanne Shpiner for bringing this error to our attention. We are very sorry that the phrase was not caught in the editing process. We thank both readers for helping to make Workers World newspaper and Workers World Party stronger and more sensitive in our support of disabled liberation.

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Workers World

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Contradictions of the Nader program PART 4

Is Nader a 'spoiler'?

By Fred Goldstein

When Ralph Nader launched his campaign against the abuses of big business, the capitalist media barely covered it, and if they did, referred to it as an oddity. When Nader was shut out of the presidential debates despite significant support in the polls and ballot status in close to 40 states, there was little mention of this scandalous power move by the Republicans and Democrats. When Nader was physically escorted away from the first presidential debate at the University of Massachusetts with his ticket in hand, the bourgeois commentators yawned.

Now Nader is getting more and more media attention—but its purpose is negative. It is all about labeling him a so-called "spoiler." The coverage is calculated to drive his followers to vote for Gore and undermine the Nader campaign.

Panic in the Gore forces

Despite the media silence, despite his exclusion from the debates, and despite his lack of corporate millions, Nader's attacks on the Democrats and Republicans—as anti-people and bought and paid for by big business—have struck a chord of rebellious defiance in hundreds of thousands across the country. He has particularly evoked enthusiasm among the new activist generation. The persistent progress of the Nader campaign has generated deep concern in sections of the capitalist establishment and outright panic among the Gore forces, as the race with Bush tightens.

The opening shot in the campaign to stop Nader was fired by the Washington Post of Oct. 23. It was circulated by MSNBC News in an article entitled "Nader Is Poised to Play Spoiler." The Post, which has endorsed Gore, declared that Nader "could tip as many as six states from Vice President Gore to George W. Bush, making a potentially crucial difference in the Electoral College."

The Post cited Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Maine, with 61 Electoral College votes, as states where the Nader vote could tip the election in favor of Bush. All six states voted Democratic in the last two presidential elections. "Alarmed by the numbers," said the Post, "Gore's campaign plans an intensified effort in the campaign's final days to portray Nader as a spoiler."

Nader has been denounced by Gore campaign manager William Daley. The liberal wing of the Democratic Party, including Edward Kennedy, Paul Wellstone, and Russell Feingold, have "volunteered to campaign for Gore and press the case that a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush," according to the Post. Kennedy is said to have directly appealed to Nader to reconsider his campaign.

The New York Times, which endorsed Gore on Oct. 21, followed the Washington Post with a full-scale front-page attack on Nader in its Oct. 25 edition.

Media in lockstep

In lockstep, CBS news of Oct. 23 ran a commentary entitled "Gore's Worst Nightmare," reiterating the "threat" and trying to demean Nader as an "also ran" whose "few points" in the polls could make the difference.

On the same day USA Today ran a story entitled "Nader Could Tip 8 States to Bush," having added New Mexico and

Nevada to the list. The paper also quoted Andy Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union, saying that "the only person Ralph Nader is going to elect president is George Bush." Ironically, in another part of the lengthy article, it was pointed out that Nader is the only one of the three who is on record to oppose the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law.

The Democratic machine even organized a group of 12 former "Nader's Raiders" to urge Nader on Oct. 20 to drop out of the race in closely contested states. Nader answered at a press conference the next day, just before speaking at a mass rally in Oakland of 6,500 people, that these were "well-intentioned but frightened liberals who sided with the lesser of two evils."

The issue of Time magazine dated Oct. 24 joined the chorus with an article entitled "To Gore, He's Darth Nader." It says that "Nader doesn't give a crap if he spoils the election for one of the main combatants." The article goes on to ridicule the Nader campaign as the revenge of "a marginalized liberal" who appeals to "angry idealists" and is too pro-union, among other evils.

CNN's Crossfire program on Oct. 24 entitled "The Nader Threat" belittled Nader's abilities as a presidential candidate. On the same evening, The Lehrer Report gave Paul Wellstone a forum to attack any vote for Nader as a vote for Bush.

On the morning of Oct. 23 National Public Radio chimed in with a morning segment on the threat of the Nader campaign to Gore in various states. And, completing the picture, the bourgeois liberal Nation magazine, in its Nov. 6 issue, after diplomatically praising Nader for his accomplishments, declared its editorial support for Gore in familiar language: "The real argument for Gore is Bush."

Don't go back to Democrats!

Nader anticipated these attacks on Oct. 21 with the remark that "the only difference between Al Gore and George W. Bush is the velocity with which their knees hit the floor when the corporations knock." (Washington Post, Oct. 23)

Hopefully, all those who have rallied to his cause out of revulsion to the two big-business parties will remain steadfast in that same spirit and not go back to the imperialist Democratic Party, the treacherous betrayer of the masses.

There are many currents in the Nader movement. One of the main ones consists of those social democratic and liberal forces that have long been camp followers of the Democratic Party but who have been left out in the cold since the Clinton-Gore turn to the right. This cur-

rent has been so humiliated and politically marginalized by the Democratic Leadership Council running the party that they have veered towards Nader.

These timid ones are preaching that it's okay to vote for Nader in "safe" states like New York and California, where they think Gore is sure to win. They have not really broken with the Democratic Party over its subservience to monopoly capital and imperialism. They are looking for a temporary home until such time as the charlatan leadership of the Democratic Party is forced to shift back to the left by the masses. Then they can resume their places.

But there is another current, a youthful current, that is flocking to the movement out of disgust and hatred for the capitalist establishment and its political parties. It will undoubtedly hold out firmly, particularly in those states where a strong progressive base is challenging the Gore campaign. That will be the true test of a break with the capitalist political establishment.

All they have to do is remind themselves of what Clinton and Gore have done.

Remember what Clinton-Gore did

These great Democrats are champions of the death penalty. They destroyed welfare, impoverishing millions of women and children, disproportionately Black. They were for the "anti-terrorist" law that took all civil rights away from undocumented workers and immigrants. They made a craven capitulation to the Pentagon on the rights of lesbians and gays and the feeding of the military-industrial complex with extra billions of dollars. They organized, justified and carried out a genocidal war of sanctions against the Iraqi people and the bombardment of the cities of Yugoslavia.

To keep from being swept up by the Democratic Party's frenzy, they should remember NAFTA and Clinton's refusal to fight for an anti-scab law. They should recall the steady erosion of workers' wages that continued under Clinton, the handing over of the healthcare of the masses to the insurance companies and the HMOs, the steady erosion of birth control and abortion services.

In short, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are reactionary parties of imperialism, who differ only a little on tactics in the struggle against the workers and the oppressed, even if their rhetoric against each other is heavy at times.

To be sure, Ralph Nader does not have this analysis of these parties. And Nader has many deficiencies, such as grossly insufficient attention to racism and national oppression. He waited until his Oakland speech to come out against the Israeli assaults on the Palestinians—although, to his

WWP candidate

Moorehead:

'We sympathize with those partisans of Nader who refuse to bow to the enormous pressure to abandon his campaign and vote for Gore. We urge them to say no.'

credit, he has finally done it. He has been silent at his mass rallies about the sanctions against the Iraqi people. And he has failed to speak out on the question of U.S.-NATO intervention in Yugoslavia.

In general Nader neglects the mass struggle and has illusions about elections and the possibility of fundamentally reforming monopoly capitalism.

The current attacks on the Nader campaign are from the right. They represent panic in the Gore camp and the general antipathy the ruling class establishment has for any challenge to its precious two-party system in which they want to keep the masses entrapped politically. Nader has done it by attracting a new, idealistic young movement that wants to oppose big business, wants to end the death penalty and racism, wants workers to have decent wages and the people to have healthcare, and is willing to break with the establishment over these and other questions.

Moorehead message to Nader partisans

The true nature of the attack on the Nader campaign was exposed in a release by the presidential and vice presidential campaign of Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva, socialist candidates of Workers World Party. On Oct. 24 they said:

"We are running an independent campaign on a socialist platform to promote the struggle against capitalism, which is the source of all the evils that the Nader campaign has pointed out, and many more that it has omitted. Taking the wealth of society back into the hands of the workers is the only road to genuine liberation from big business and all its evils."

"We urge everyone to vote for WWP's socialist candidates."

"But we sympathize with all those partisans of Ralph Nader who refuse to bow to the enormous pressure to abandon his campaign and vote for Gore. We urge them to say no. To vote for Gore would be a capitulation to the establishment and a vote for a party that is run by and for the oppressors and exploiters of the people, at home and abroad."

"This widely orchestrated campaign against Nader, while primarily instigated by the Democratic Party, goes beyond the Gore forces. Sections of the ruling class are worried. They do not want this movement to gain confidence and momentum. The ruling class thinkers know from experience that although this movement is now well within relatively harmless, reformist bounds, sections of it can easily develop in a leftward and even revolutionary direction, given all the instability of the capitalist economy and the unending oppression and exploitation of the system."

"We denounce the vile campaign of the ruling class to try to squelch this show of independence from the two capitalist parties by a new generation. Their fear of this new movement is a sign of hope for the future."

MARKET ELECTIONS

HOW DEMOCRACY SERVES THE RICH

By Vince Copeland

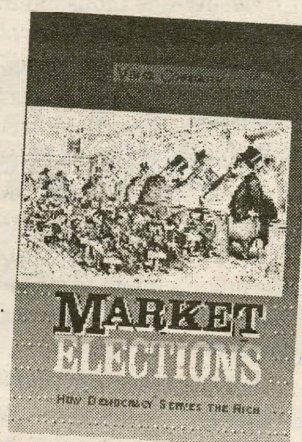
Every four years, big money chooses the presidential candidates. Their war chests filled to the brim, they are then packaged by the media as 'the people's choice.'

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LOS ANGELES

Transit union gains through walkout

By Preston Wood
Los Angeles

After more than month of fighting for a just contract, striking members of the Los Angeles United Transportation Union voted on Oct. 17 to ratify a new three-year contract with the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Ninety-two percent of the members voted to approve the contract.

In spite of an all-out MTA effort to defeat the strike—including a million-dollar public relations campaign aimed at sowing division between the union members, who are mainly Black, and the mostly immigrant Latino workers who ride the buses—the new contract guarantees job security and full pay for overtime.

The new contract also raises wages by 8.3 percent over three years, maintains

health coverage, and eliminates the proposed split-shift, four-day workweek.

Management's proposal to create independent spin-off transit zones, which would not have been covered under union contracts, was also soundly defeated. Under the new contract, any new transit zone involving MTA bus routes must honor union contracts.

MTA's outrageous lies

The strike lasted over 30 days due to MTA management's intransigence. The transit bosses sought to starve the workers out while attacking the union in the mass media.

Outrageous lies—like the claim that bus drivers make \$75,000 per year—filled the airwaves and newspapers.

In reality, most bus drivers make be-

tween \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year, and these wages, modest as they are, reflect the strength of the union over the years.

Pressure from Los Angeles County Federation of Labor leader Miguel Contreras and the Rev. Jesse Jackson—both of whom participated in direct negotiations—helped force the MTA to bargain and make concessions to the union's just demands.

While the new contract falls short of the union's original wage demands, and the MTA can now hire a limited number of lower-paid part-time workers, the union won its central demands of job security, benefits and overtime pay.

The key to victory was the power of the union. Union members stood strong and united throughout the fight. Attempts by management to undermine the leadership by appealing directly to the rank and file

failed miserably.

Also key was support by other unions, who stood firmly behind the UTU.

Perhaps most significant was the MTA's failure to pit the transit-riding public—

mostly low-paid and non-union Latino and immigrant workers—against the mainly Black workers in the union. Despite every attempt to sow division, the bus and train riders consistently supported the strikers.

The strike reaffirmed the growing strength of the labor movement in Los Angeles and reflected the growing unity among the oppressed nationalities, which make up the backbone of the Los Angeles labor force.



Mushroom workers defend right to organize

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

On Oct. 16, union mushroom pickers and supporters gathered outside Philadelphia City Hall to protest an attempt by Vlasic Farms to rob them of the right to organize. Vlasic is owned by Money Mushrooms of Canada.

Inside, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court heard Vlasic/Money Mushrooms' case to strip the workers of legal protection under the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act.

Nationally, agricultural workers are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act. This means they have no legal protection against firing when they organize for better working conditions.

The Pennsylvania law also excludes agricultural workers. But it has protected mushroom workers for almost 50 years because their work is classified as "horticultural" rather than "agricultural." Money Mushrooms wants the state to reclassify mushroom workers.

The Supreme Court gave no indication of when it would make a final ruling in the case.

The rally was jointly organized by the

Committee in Support of Farm Workers—known by its Spanish acronym, CATA—and the Kaolin Mushroom Workers Union. CATA represents the workers at Vlasic.

The attack by Vlasic/Money Mushrooms is the latest effort to break mushroom workers' unions in this area. President Luis Tlaseca of the Kaolin Mushroom Workers Union stated that the largely immigrant workforce in the mushroom industry was there out of necessity and deserved the same rights as any workers.

"We're working for justice with the sweat of our labor," Tlaseca told the crowd. "We're here to tell the Supreme Court that we are not just passive in this situation."

Kaolin management recently agreed to recognize the union after years of struggle.

'We demand justice'

Antonio Gutierrez, president of the CATA local at Vlasic, explained that Money Mushrooms had just announced plans to close the Pennsylvania plant at the end of this year. While the company claims that the plant is closing for financial reasons, Gutierrez labeled it an attempt to break the union. He noted that they are closing the mushroom-



Union mushroom workers picket Oct. 16 Pennsylvania Supreme Court hearing.

WW PHOTO: BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

picking part of the plant, which is unionized, but not the packing section, which is non-union.

Gutierrez said workers who came to the United States from Mexico and other parts of Central America were surprised by the abuses that take place at the plant.

"They don't treat us like workers," Gutierrez said, "they treat us like slaves."

"But slavery ended a long time ago, and we demand justice."

Many unions and community groups joined the rally to support the mushroom workers. They included Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees District Council 47, the Food and Com-

mercial Workers, Operating Engineers Local 542, Steel Workers Local 1165, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union, Paper and Chemical Employees and the Faculty Federation of Community College.

Also the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, PHILAPOSH, National People's Campaign, Philadelphia International Action Center, Philadelphia Unemployment Project, Wages for Housework, Jewish Labor Committee, Jobs with Justice, the Service Employees union and Temple University Graduate Students Association.

Philly teachers set strike date

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Twenty-one thousand members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers will strike at the end of the school day on Oct. 27 unless a contract settlement is negotiated.

PFT President Ted Kirsch first made his announcement at the Board of Education meeting Oct. 23 at Central High School, where a union representative handed each School Board member an official notice of the union's intent to strike. State law stipulates that at least 48 hours notice must be given.

Kirsch then addressed 5,000 red-shirted PFT members and supporters outside. Speaking from a flatbed truck, he lambasted the Sept. 29 imposed contract, forced on the teachers after nine months of talks in which the School Board refused to bargain in good faith.

"They did not impose smaller class sizes, or enough books, or safer classes or enough materials so that you teachers wouldn't have to pay for them yourselves," he said. "Instead, they cut your health benefits."

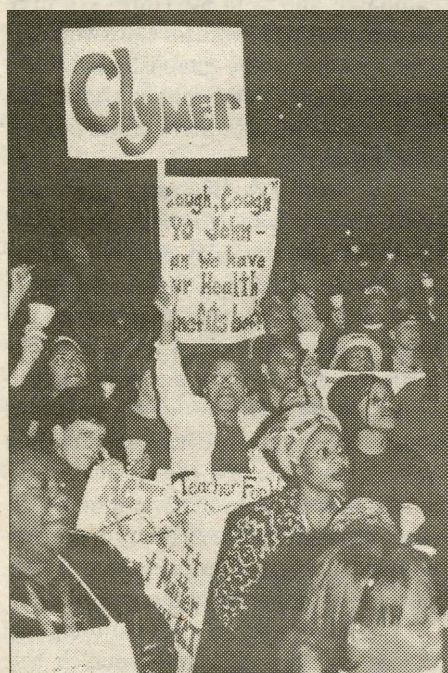
Teachers continued to work past Sept. 1, when their contract expired, and past Sept. 29, when Mayor John Street imposed the new work rules. On Nov. 1, teachers would start to be adversely affected by several terms of the new imposed contract, such as large increases in health insurance co-payments, reductions in prescription and dental benefits, denial of worker's compensation for injuries suffered during after-school activities and elimination of most past labor practices.

A major point that remains unresolved is the length of the workday. The board wants teachers to work one hour longer each day without a proportionate increase

in pay. Pay based on performance of students rather than on teacher seniority, and the removal of teacher seniority in how work assignments and transfers are made, are also major stumbling blocks.

The PFT ended the rally by asking its members to put up informational picket lines outside each school one hour before opening tomorrow, to explain to the students, their parents and surrounding communities why teachers are planning to strike.

School Board officials met in Harrisburg Oct. 23 with state officials on how to react to a strike. Gov. Tom Ridge has promised more money for the underfunded Philadelphia school district if union rules and benefits are cut back. State Act 46, passed in 1998, gives the state a variety of anti-union weapons, from decertifying teachers up to a state takeover of the school district in the event of a strike.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Teachers rally in Philadelphia, Oct. 23.

BALTIMORE

Big bankers impose big cutbacks

By Sharon Black Ceci
Baltimore

City workers and community activists are deeply alarmed by a recent plan formulated by the Greater Baltimore Committee. This committee is Baltimore's shadow government. Composed of big business and bankers, it makes the proposals that city government implements.

While the vast majority of the city is poor and working people—mostly African American and with a growing number of Latin and Asian people—this body hardly represents its interests. The committee is made up of representatives from BankAmerica, Crestar Bank, Advance Bank, Provident Bancshares, Warren & Company and the Abell Foundation.

It is this committee that the mayor looks to for policy. The recent proposals—modeled on the attacks unleashed on New York's workers and poor people—were announced by Mayor Martin O'Malley and the Sun newspapers.

The plans are Draconian and have long range consequences to both the community and the workers who will be impacted.

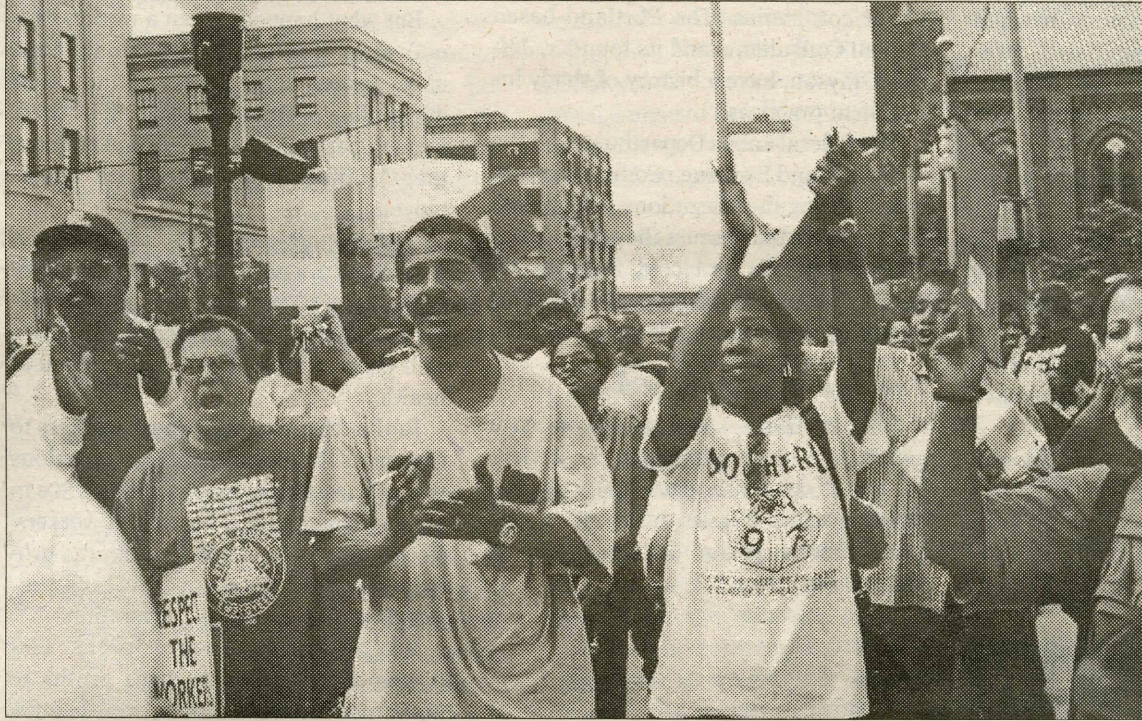
Cuts and privatization

Fire departments are to be shut down under the plan. Fees for emergency services such as ambulance rides are to be doubled. All ambulance service will be privatized.

The committee recommended cuts in vacation and benefits to Emergency Medical Service workers who are already badly overworked. The committee stated, "The union contract provides for too much vacation and too many holidays." Their proposal is to eliminate night-shift differentials and reduce sick leave.

The committee has proposed sweeping changes in the Health Department, calling for full-scale privatization and contracting out of all services. They want to combine the Mental Health and Substance Abuse systems. They want to increase the work done by food and air quality inspectors who cannot keep up now with the rate of inspections.

The city administration has already implemented plans to turn off water to those who cannot afford their bills. This is after raising the cost of water. The shadow government has proposed cutting trash collection to one day a week.



Over 500 Baltimore city workers rallied against planned cutbacks and privatization in September.

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK CECI

Nothing remains untouched in this report. From housing to recreation centers, everything is on the chopping block.

City workers have already mobilized, understanding that the program will have dire consequences for them. At the City Council's second hearing on the plan in September, over 500 workers rallied in opposition. The protest was organized by Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 67. The All-Peoples Congress, a city-wide community group that has been rallying against police killings, has also protested.

Lessons to be learned

The recent announcements of cuts shows how deeply the struggle against racism and workers' rights are linked.

A cursory look at Baltimore's recent history illustrates this correlation.

The mayoral election is one example. O'Malley, who is white, was the candidate of big business and the product of racism. His election was an overturn of the right of the African American community to representation. While none of the candidates had a real peoples' program, the election must be viewed in the context of a growing, backward movement to disenfranchise the Black community.

During the recent mayoral election, the Sun newspapers—which are the voice of big business—conducted a sophisticated campaign that was racist at its core. The

newspapers printed exposé after exposé of the African American candidates for mayor, but left O'Malley untouched. He was essentially portrayed as the "knight in white armor."

What should be remembered by all workers is that O'Malley also rode into office on an "anti-crime" platform. While he had to moderate his rhetoric, he appealed to people's fears and to the legitimate pain of many who have seen the city decay and the condition of their lives deteriorate. Never mind that the very corporate interests that he represents are the ones that are responsible for that decay.

O'Malley's first act was to oust African American Police Commissioner Ron Daniels and replace him with Ed Norris, a white police official from New York. This was done right after the Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo police brutality cases in that city.

And it was done after the business community hired a high-priced consulting group, Maple and Linder, who were the architects of New York's "zero tolerance" plan. While children go without school books, each consultant was paid \$4,000 a day for 56 days.

Community groups like the All-Peoples Congress and Unity for Action waged consistent and vocal opposition against the plan.

But a massive propaganda campaign was launched that included city hear-

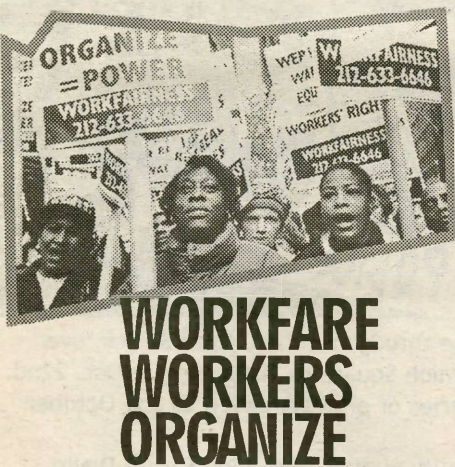
ings stacked with police, meetings with neighborhood groups and mailings of massive amounts of brochures touting Ed Norris and his new aggressive police style. The promise: End killings in the community and clean up all the open-air illegal drug markets.

Increased police abuse

Almost a year has gone by and the scourge of drugs remains. Community residents in the poorest neighborhoods have told Workers World that the only thing police have succeeded in doing is moving the drugs from one corner to another. The murder rate in Baltimore City has remained the same. What has increased is police abuses, violations of civil rights and killings, like that of Joseph Wilbon.

The so-called fight against crime is nothing but a smoke screen. The recent cuts prove that the bosses, bankers and billionaires care nothing about workers and their communities. What is motivating them is greed and the desire to raid public services for private companies.

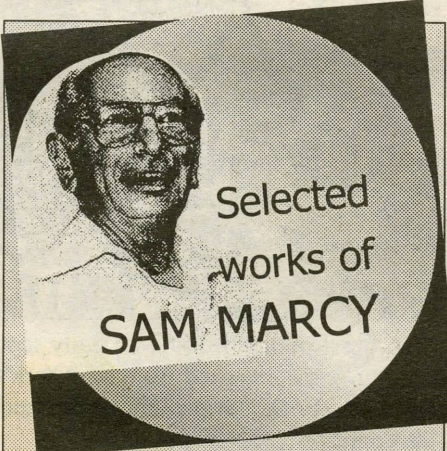
The antidote for this vile poison is a united fight-back by the community and the unions. The Greater Baltimore Committee has not yet heard from the vast majority of Baltimore. In the final analysis the committee represents a small, privileged clique that will ultimately be swept away when the mass of the people are energized and on the move.



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What future for pensions?

By Andy McInerney

More and more U.S. workers who have pension benefits are faced with the prospect of seeing their funds invested in the stock market. For some it is a choice whether to have their pensions invested in so-called 401(k) plans as opposed to traditional, federally-guaranteed pension plans. For others the 401(k) plans are the only option that their bosses offer.

With the stock market booming, 401(k) plans seem to be an attractive option. Workers see some chance of benefiting from the astronomical profits that in the past were the domain only of the corporate and financial barons.

But in the decade since these plans became a common benefit, danger signs have emerged.

Take for example the case of Laborers Local 296 in Portland, Ore. Two members of the construction workers' union have filed civil lawsuits on behalf of the 15,000-member local to recover \$225 million in

lost pension funds.

According to the workers' complaint, the investment firm handling the union's pension benefits lost vast amounts of their money, then tried to cover up the losses with a string of investments in worthless paper companies. The Portland-based Capital Consultants and its founder, Jeffrey Grayson, have a history of shady investment practices.

The federal Labor Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating the allegations, which date back to 1998. But because the 401(k) funds are not federally protected, there are no guarantees that the workers and pensioners will ever see the original sums restored.

Fraud: the tip of the iceberg

The Portland Laborers union case points to a severe danger in the system of investing retirement funds in the stock market. Fraud—inherent in the profit-driven system—is only the tip of the iceberg.

The modern working class is defined by those who can only live by selling their ability to labor. This class counts on wages—the price of labor power—to meet the basic needs of food, housing and other requirements to live and support a family.

But what happens when a worker cannot work? It is a daily problem that has many forms. Some people cannot work due to illness. Others are laid off or fired. Even in periods of so-called “full employment” millions of workers are unemployed.

And of course workers cannot be expected to work until the day they die. After some 30 or 40 years of labor, most workers look forward to retirement, either as a well-deserved rest or as a requirement of health.

Rather than abandon these workers to the care of their families or charity, unions waged hard-fought battles in the 1930s to win pension benefits for retired workers. Bosses put aside funds in accounts protected by the federal government's Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation.

Not all workers have pensions. Few bosses voluntarily turn over profits to guarantee workers' future well-being—even though the profits are a product of the workers' labor. Those without pensions often rely on Social Security for some minimal income after retirement.

Beginning in the 1980s, bosses began to find a way around contributing to pension funds. Workers were encouraged to invest their own income into Individual Retirement Accounts and 401(k) plans with the incentive of tax breaks. Sometimes bosses would also contribute to the plans.

The net result of these plans was a vast expansion in the amount of workers' incomes tied directly to the stock market. Banks and investment houses gained access to billions of dollars to fuel their own profit-driven adventures. This is undoubtedly one of the engines that have driven the stock market boom of the past 10 years.

But by tying vast amounts of funds to the stock market, workers' retirement funds are also tied to the boom-and-

Unions and other workers' organizations need to prepare now to defend the resources turned over to the banks for their profit

bust cycles that have characterized the capitalist economy since its birth.

Role of the stock market

Stock markets function to harness funds for capital expansion. Corporations offer shares of their future profits in exchange for money to fund their investments and day-to-day costs. While the shares are then converted into commodities to be bought and sold, they ultimately reflect the value of the products and capital of the corporations that issue them.

Because stock trading depends on speculation on whether corporations' profits—ultimately, their production—continues to increase, the stock markets become the first indicators of the boom-and-bust cycle of capitalist production. This was vividly described and analyzed by Karl Marx in the 19th century.

Individual cases of fraud—like that encountered by the Local 296 members in Portland—are endemic to the stock market. But the biggest fraud committed by bosses, bankers and their mouthpieces in the media and academia is the lie that the working class can ultimately gain by turning over their resources to the bosses for their speculation.

The next Wall Street crash will effect the funds of millions of workers. The impact will be all the more severe with the eroding social supports and legislation that have been the legacy of the Clinton administration.

Unions and other workers' organizations need to prepare now to defend the resources that have been turned over to the banks for their profit. It's our livelihood.

WASHINGTON

Mumia's voice heard at Million Family March

On Oct. 16, hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the Mall in Washington for the Million Family March. The event was organized by the Nation of Islam, the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and many other groups.

The All-Peoples Congress and the International Action Center distributed over 15,000 bulletins about the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal at the march. They also handed out flyers in solidarity with the Palestinian uprising and others calling for an upcoming pro-Abu-Jamal, anti-repression demonstration at the presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, 2001.

Activists reported very positive response from the crowd. Many signed up to go back and organize for Abu-Jamal in their own communities. “We see the march as a positive sign that the fight against racism and economic injustice is growing,” said an organizer from the Baltimore APC.

The marchers also heard Abu-Jamal's voice. An audio taped message from the former Black Panther was played from the stage.

Abu-Jamal said, “Although we all come from various and differing perspectives, faiths and beliefs, our problems seem to be far more similar than different. When

a Black man gets pulled over for the unwritten offense of DWB, or Driving While Black, it doesn't matter if that driver is a cop or a cosmetologist, a Muslim or a Methodist, a Republican or a Rastafarian.

“The late great Malcolm X explained that our repression didn't stem from our various religious, political or fraternal associations, but from our being Black in a white supremacist and racist nation. That truth has not changed.

“Do you really think that voting for one or the other politician that's running for president will really mean anything close to liberation for our people? The party which once carried Lincoln's flag is now the party of the right wing. The party which now claims most Black voters once openly called itself the white man's party. They've changed masks, but their objective remains the same—white supremacy.

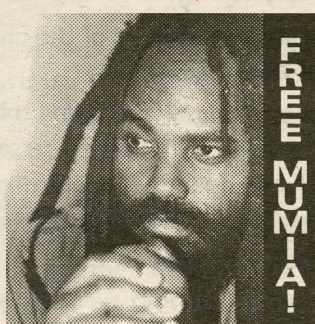
“The politics of the prison industrial complex, the politics of the death penalty, the politics of repression—do you think that will change because you pull a little tiny lever in November? Change will come when we fight for our families. For as Frederick Douglass taught us, power concedes nothing without demand. He also taught us that without struggle there is no progress.”

—Sharon Black Ceci

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2,000 march against police terror



To protest police brutality, a daily scourge throughout the United States, over 2,000 people marched from New York's Union Square to Times Square Oct. 22nd. It was part of a nationally coordinated series of protests called by the October 22 Coalition.

Friends and family of slain police brutality victims, including Saikou Diallo, marched first. Diallo's son, Amadou Diallo, died in a hail of 41 police bullets in the lobby of his Bronx apartment building last year. Then came a large contingent of high-school youths, followed by City University of New York students, Mumia Abu-Jamal's supporters, Palestinians, a solidarity contingent of UNITE union members and others.

One woman carried a sign that read “Jews against police brutality” on one side and “Support Palestinian right of return” on the other.

—Story and photo by G. Dunkel

Campaign against bioterrorism: DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

By Hillel Cohen

Second in a series.

The campaign and initiatives currently underway against "bioterrorism" may be more dangerous to the health of the people of this country than the very unlikely threat of a bioterrorist incident.

The bioterrorism program puts the Pentagon, the FBI and other police agencies in a leadership role in the making of major public health policy decisions. These agencies have a long and bloody record of working against the interests of the people. Putting them in charge of health planning will be a disaster for public health.

Some in the public health field are of course hoping that the bioterrorism campaigns will provide some trickle-down money for desperately needed public health infrastructure. But instead the distorted priorities may wipe out any gains in that regard. Every dollar spent on bioterrorism preparedness is a potential health dollar wasted.

Health providers also risk losing all credibility in the oppressed and working class communities that need health services the most.

There are other, very real dangers from bioterrorism "defense" initiatives.

Unsafe vaccines

Right now, U.S. GIs are being forced to take anthrax vaccines. Anthrax has been considered a potential biological warfare agent for almost a hundred years. A U.S. biological warfare program in the 1940s developed and manufactured tons of anthrax spores. Other countries followed suit. Yet, despite all the talk about anthrax, it has never been used—either by terrorists or in warfare.

A vaccine for anthrax has been used by veterinarians and animal hide workers for years to protect against contracting the disease through the skin. However, the weaponized form of anthrax is transmitted as spores through the air. No vaccine has ever been shown to be effective in humans for this variety.

Also, the side-effects of the vaccine are not known. Some soldiers have reported getting ill soon after getting the vaccination, and other soldiers have risked court-martial for refusing to take it.

Anthrax vaccine was given to Gulf War troops along with pyridostigmine bromide, an experimental antidote for a nerve gas that has never been used in war. It is possible that these agents, along with depleted uranium, may be among several possible contributors to Gulf War Syndrome, the general name for serious illnesses that have affected tens of thousands of veterans.

Although the anthrax vaccination program may be stopped soon due to protests, the Pentagon has announced it is beginning a similar program with smallpox vaccine.

Accidents at research and storage sites

Research and development of biological and chemical weapons agents leave plenty of room for accidents at research and storage centers. Anthrax was accidentally released at a Russian facility during the Cold War, and nerve gas was accidentally released at a U.S. facility.

Toxic residues from old facilities in the U.S. have been found seeping from the land and into water supplies. Just recently a Canadian facility announced that untreated waste had been accidentally released. A technician at Fort Detrick, Md., a U.S. Army biological and chemical warfare center, came down with a case of glanders—a disease common in horses, not people, that is considered a potential biological warfare agent.

Accidents at nuclear plants like Three Mile Island and Chernobyl and just recently in Japan also show that supposedly "fail-safe" precautions can fail big-time.

A new arms race

Research on biological and chemical agents in the name of defense against bioterrorism also sets the stage for a new arms race in these agents. Like National Missile Defense—formerly known as the Strategic Defense Initiative or Star Wars—a defense program can be part of an offensive strategy. Other countries may not accept the Pentagon assurances that such programs are for defense only, and may start work on their own programs as a deterrent.

The history of the nuclear arms race has shown that the development of newer and bigger nuclear weapons didn't make the world safer—it just made more possible the

world-wide destruction of a nuclear winter. A complete ban on storage, production and research would make everyone safer.

One thing that makes the threat of bioterrorism seem so real is the actual danger of natural outbreaks of infection as well as accidental food and environmental poisoning. Tens of thousands of cases of serious food poisoning happen every year.

Outbreaks like the West Nile virus in New York can happen suddenly. There has been speculation, but no evidence, that the virus may have escaped from the nearby Plum Island Level 3 biological agent defense research center.

Toxic waste, corporate pollution and unsafe additives to food and commercial products happen every day. The need for more effective public health prevention, protection and response capability is desperately needed. But instead, the money is being wasted on chasing bioterrorism phantoms.

Hoaxes and false alarms

Before the bioterrorism scare campaign, there was no such thing as an anthrax hoax. Since the bioterrorism campaign, there have been hundreds of anthrax hoaxes, costing many millions of dollars and creating lots of fear.

Right-wing, so-called "right-to-life" elements have used anthrax hoaxes to disrupt family planning and abortion clinics. A false fire-alarm or phony bomb threat might disrupt a center for less than an hour. A phony anthrax threat can cause a disruption for days, since the non-anthrax is harder to detect than the non-bomb. The hype about bioterrorism has made such hoaxes credible.

Excuse for witch hunts and political repression

Fanatical anti-terrorism can create a climate of witch-hunting against immigrants and political dissidents. The anti-communism frenzy of the 1950s led to the McCarthy witch-hunt which did terrible damage to civil liberties, union organizing and political expression.

Already, in the name of anti-terrorism, immigrants have been locked away in jail for years without charges or evidence. The case of Wen Ho Lee, like the

The case of Wen Ho Lee, like the case of Ethel & Julius Rosenberg 50 years ago, shows how the government can manipulate the public's poor understanding of scientific issues

case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg 50 years ago, shows how easily the government can manipulate the public's poor understanding of scientific issues.

The Wen Ho Lee case fell apart only when an FBI agent admitted lying on the stand. It's not hard to imagine the FBI using a two-week-old, moldy turkey salad sandwich in the back of someone's refrigerator as "evidence" to frame up a political opponent as an alleged bioterrorist.

While medical treatment—drugs, operations and medical services—are a huge part of the economy, very little money is spent on preventive medicine and public health.

Some public health departments don't even have ordinary desktop computers for their surveillance and monitoring systems. The government employs far too few food and water safety inspectors relative to the need.

The West Nile virus frenzy in New York is not an example, as one senator claimed, of lack of preparedness for bioterrorism. Rather it demonstrated the low level of preparedness for ordinary natural disease outbreaks and for emergencies that might be caused by corporate negligence in the pursuit of profit.

In a children's fable, Chicken Little got hit on the head with an acorn and thought "the sky is falling." In a panic, she gathered her feathered friends to get help. Foxy Loxy kindly invited the frightened fowl into his den for protection, and they were never seen again.

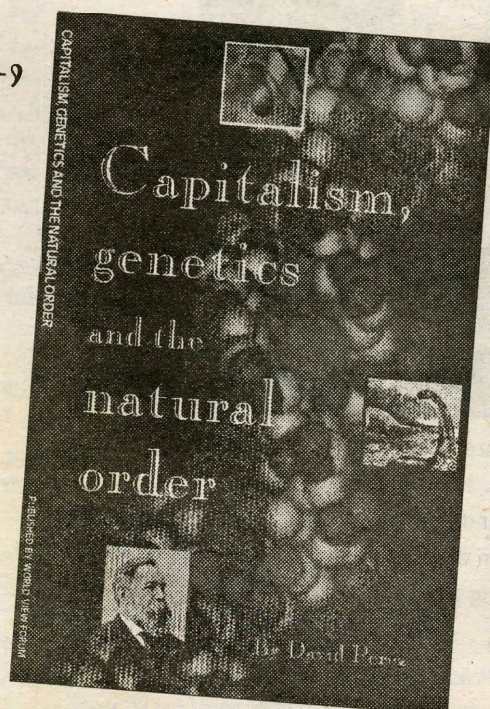
When the Foxy Loxy's at the Pentagon tell us of the terrible dangers of bioterrorism, seeking their kind protection may be very dangerous indeed.

Capitalism, genetics and the natural order

by David Perez

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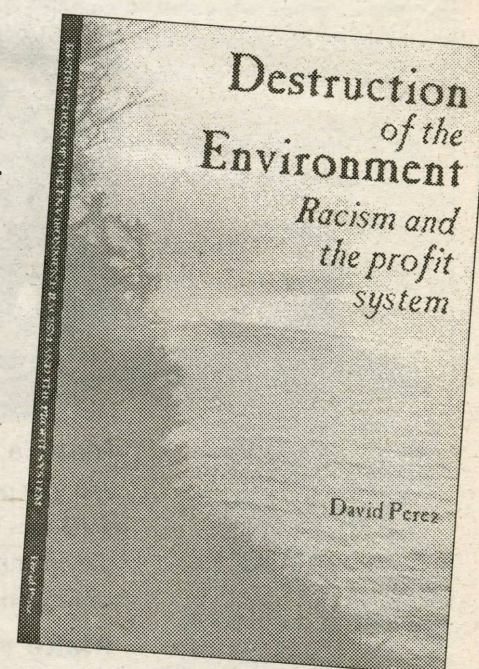


Destruction of the Environment Racism and the profit system

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Spreading fight-back message

Revolutionaries use campaign to battle for ideas

By John Catalinotto
New York

On Oct. 20, Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead and vice-presidential candidate Gloria La Riva showed party members and friends at a campaign forum at the WWP office here how their campaign is reaching out to the working class in the United States this fall.

Moorehead has made clear in her many appearances that the goal of the candidates is to use the capitalist elections to place themselves in the struggle to fight back against racism, against imperialist war and for the rights of the working class. "We are in ideological battle with capitalism and with the corporate media," she said, "a battle of ideas that the campaign gives us a chance to take part in."

Intense party participation in the street struggles in Philadelphia and Los Angeles last summer, as well as the ongoing defense of Black political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, took priority over getting the candidates on as many state ballots as possible.

Still, WWP is on the ballot in Rhode Island, Florida, Wisconsin and Washington state. The candidates have

also brought their struggle-oriented campaign to the site of the presidential debates in Boston and Winston-Salem, N.C. And their program, promising immediate social benefits and raising the ultimate goal of socialism, is available nationwide on their campaign Web site, www.vote4workers.org.

Moorehead spoke on the relationship between the capitalist system, racism and the prison-industrial complex, topics she is an expert on. La Riva, who had spoken to a million people on May Day in Havana about the Elián González case and the fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, analyzed the new law regarding Cuba that the U.S. Congress just passed.

As this audience listened to the presentations, many also imagined how the talks and the candidates would go over before a lecture hall of students at a working-class campus or a meeting of community organizers in Miami or West Palm Beach. Or at an assembly of anti-globalization activists in North Carolina.

Bringing the program to the country

"It's important," Moorehead said, "to get out to the rest of the country with the party's socialist program." At least in

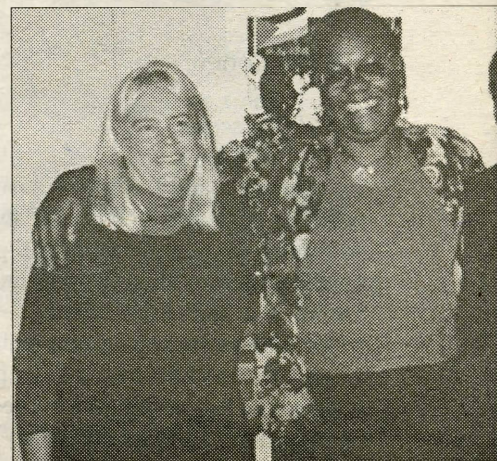
some representative regions of the country, that's just what the candidates have been doing.

In Florida WWP has no party branch. But it's the fourth most populous state, a place where 50,000 African Americans recently demonstrated against Gov. Jeb Bush's moves to eliminate affirmative action. It's the site of many struggles against police brutality but a center too of counter-revolutionary Cuban activity.

During the struggle to free Elián to let him go back to Cuba, party activists helped organize demonstrations in Florida on this issue. Friends made at that time helped the party get on the ballot and invited the candidates to address local meetings on their campaign trip through Florida.

Moorehead was a featured speaker at a "Town Hall Forum" on criminal justice and the death penalty in West Palm Beach Oct. 17, along with local leaders on these topics. Cubans who oppose the counter-revolutionary groups based in Miami and Haitian groups like Lavalas that oppose U.S. policy in Haiti also hosted the candidates.

The candidates were also invited to speak on some of the campuses. They talked at the forum here especially of



Workers World Party leaders at New York City Workers World editor Deirdre Griswold, press secretariat member Larry Holmes, vice-president and campaign manager Marsha Goldberg.

Florida International University. FIU is part of the state university system, with two major campuses in the Miami area. With 31,000 mostly working-class students, it is the largest institute of higher education in southern Florida.

One professor invited La Riva, who produced an award-winning video on the sanctions against Iraq, to show her video in class and discuss it. She was only too glad to. The 60 students, of whom about three-quarters were African American, had hardly heard of the impact of sanctions on the Iraqi people. They were outraged, and many signed on to continue work against the sanctions.

Moorehead found that the capitalist educational system had poorly prepared students to know their own history. "In a class of 50 students," she said, "only five raised their hands when I asked if they knew what the period of Reconstruction was." She referred to the period after the Civil War when from 1865-1876 the Union Army occupied the South and former enslaved African Americans were elected to state legislatures and played a role in running the government.

Once they learned a little of the real history of the country, the students were anxious to learn more. They were open to hearing a Marxist view of the racism of the prison system and of everyday life. And of the role of the working class.

And to discuss the biggest question: "Can capitalism solve all the social injustices and inequality that riddle U.S. society?"

All this is something the campaign has been able to do where the candidates have received forums to speak.

Raising the key issues

WWP campaign manager Marsha Goldberg called the two women candidates of color "warriors in the battle to reach our class, the working class." She described how Moorehead was invited to speak in Winston-Salem to an audience of people who were opponents of globalization and were sympathetic to the Ralph Nader candidacy.

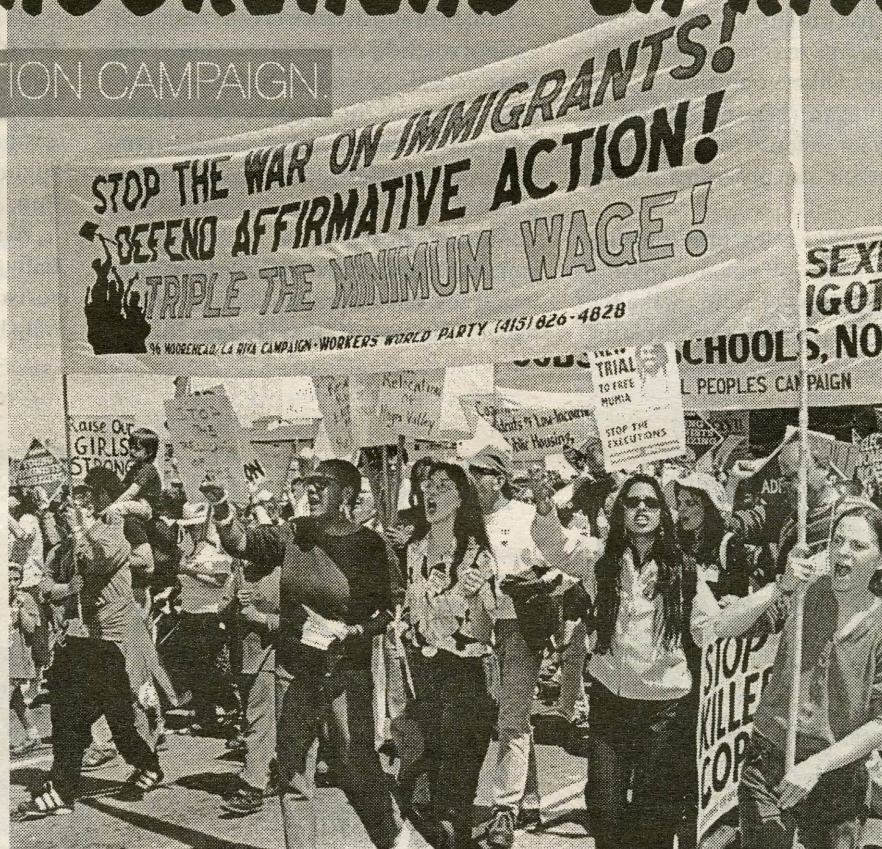
"It was right after the U.S. had intervened in the elections in Yugoslavia," said Goldberg. "It was when the Palestinians were beginning to rise up and were being mercilessly repressed by the Israeli army. Yet our candidate was the only one to raise an independent position of defense of Yugoslavia from outside intervention—for which she got loud cheers. Monica was the only one to call for solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. Both

SOCIALISM

the only answer to capitalism

MOOREHEAD-LA RIVA

2000 ELECTION CAMPAIGN



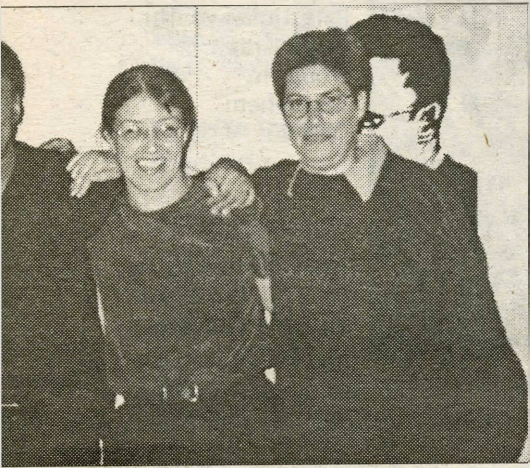
Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva are running for president and vice president on the Workers World party ticket. It is only the generous donations of their supporters that allow Moorehead and La Riva to criss cross the country with the message of struggle for socialism as the alternative to capitalism. They are the real opposition to the two big parties of big business.

Make your donation NOW!

Make contributions payable to: Workers World Party Presidential Campaign Committee, 55 West 17th St., 5th Fl., NY, NY 10011 Phone 212-255-0352

For lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights

Socialists denounce right-wing ballot measures



WW PHOTO: ELIJAH CRANE

on campaign rally on Oct. 20. From left, presidential candidate Monica Moorehead, vice-presidential candidate Gloria La Riva

comments led to much discussion, argument and development."

The campaign was set to go to Maryland for a meeting and then to tour Wisconsin.

Along with asking for their vote, Moorehead and La Riva will be asking people to participate in the struggle for justice and equality. As Moorehead said, "We invite you all not to rest after the election but to come to the Workers World Party national conference on Dec. 2-3 in New York. There we will discuss how to continue to build an independent mass movement. If you want to join a revolutionary party, you've come to the right place."

Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva issued the following statement in response to the large number of right-wing ballot initiatives of national significance that are aimed against lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

Right-wing groups such as the Christian Coalition and the Coalition for the Protection of Marriage are waging a state-by-state war against lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

Forty-four states are either considering or have signed into law legislation that denies same-sex couples the right to marriage and all of its economic and social benefits.

The lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities and their supporters are fighting Initiative 416 in Nebraska, the broadest ballot measure ever introduced against same-sex marriages. It aims not only to enact a total ban on same-sex marriage but also to nullify any civil unions or domestic partnerships. This would include same-sex contracts between family members like mother-daughter businesses or powers of attorney.

In addition to these bigoted measures, the right wing is behind many other initiatives to disallow other rights

for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

In Oregon, activists are battling Ballot Measure 9, which would prohibit any positive or even neutral mention of homosexuality in the public schools, including community colleges. The impact of Ballot Measure 9, if passed, would compound the oppression and violence already faced by lesbian, gay and bisexual youths. And trans youths of all sexualities would also become targets in many schools and communities.

Research shows that the effects of these initiatives reach far beyond just changing the law. In communities where these measures are launched—whether successful or not—anti-gay and anti-trans bashings double, as do racist, sexist and other bigoted attacks.

As Workers World Party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates, we offer our unconditional solidarity to those in the lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities—from Dade County, Fla. to Las Vegas, Nev.—who have been fighting these long battles. We can see the results that their hard work has yielded. In Vermont, civil unions between same-sex couples are now permitted. And in states like Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, initiatives that support same-sex marriage are pending.

As women and socialists we under-

stand that in a capitalist system such as the U.S. the state exists to protect private property. The subjugation of women is an integral part of capitalism. Those who do not conform to traditionally restrictive, patriarchal nuclear families—strong, independent women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people—are a direct threat to the balance of power. And the prejudice, violence and laws that promote these "family values" are instruments of class rule.

As women of color we share a common enemy with lesbian, gay, bi and trans people—many of whom also experience sexism and racism. The same forces behind this bigoted legislation are also pushing back affirmative action in a similar state-by-state assault.

Our response to vicious attacks against oppressed communities is to build a united, multinational people's movement. The gay liberation movement took to the streets during the historic Stonewall Rebellion in 1969. And since then the lesbian, gay, bi and trans movement has continued to demonstrate what we also know: Our ability to fight the right wing lies in our collective power.

That's why we are running an activist campaign. It's not about getting the most votes; it's about building the struggle for liberation.

Milwaukee student paper asks: Is voting the answer?

The following editorial appeared in the Oct. 19 edition of the UWM Post, the independent student newspaper on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. Reprinted with permission.

Is voting the answer?

This question often goes unanswered in the middle of any given election cycle. It is especially relevant when a presidential campaign is underway.

As we write, voting campaigns are underway across campuses nationwide, including UWM.

Does voting make a difference?

Here, instead of giving another "go vote" pitch, we would like to pose some questions like those above to see if voting is in fact in the best interests of students. We will focus on the presidential campaign currently underway, but we feel the issues here can be extrapolated to any given U.S. election in any form.

Students and young voters in general have always been hot around election time. Those of the working class and oppressed communities are often in vogue during this time too. Politicians like Gore and Bush will say anything to get elected and when they do they will sell out those who voted for them, except for those who really control the political, economic and social climate, of course.

Numerous articles and books, including the landmark book, "Market Elections: How Democracy Serves the Rich" by Vince Copeland, document and prove this. This is more than evident in regard to African

Americans in the United States. From slavery to Reconstruction to labor struggles, African Americans have been sold out time and again by politicians claiming they stood for them.

But once in a while we get some refreshing and candid honesty.

In the article "It takes more than a president to affect the economy," published in the Oct. 10 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Bloomberg News Service reporter Chet Currier shines a spotlight on the central issue.

"Political leaders of all ideologies know where the power lies. Witness how deferentially they treat Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve he chairs. Rock that boat, and you're likely to drown," writes Currier.

He continues: "If anybody tries a policy move that threatens serious mischief for the economy, count on the markets to react swiftly and emphatically."

There in all its glory (on the business pages of course) is the nugget: the market rules. If a politician tries to enact any reforms, much less revolution, that politician will be crushed by those who dictate and control the market economy.

For students this should be an alarming admission. For all the dedicated hard work that students do to get politicians elected, Currier tells us that it doesn't matter. Those who own and control know this and laugh all the way to the bank and elsewhere when the energy of the people is diverted into election campaigns. It's time that students get wise to this ruse and start organizing themselves into a mass movement that is

based on struggle.

We congratulate students on the great work they are doing, and of course legislation needs to get passed that lifts the most oppressive burdens off the heads of the working class and oppressed.

But until students start organizing on a massive scale that is focused on the economic system as the central problem we will be voting until the cows come home and then some while those who own and control laugh and profit some more.

If Currier isn't enough to convince, some things to ponder are: Why are student voting campaigns being sanctioned by MTV, universities and other institutions of the capitalist system? Why is Ralph Nader being bandied about in the mainstream press instead of being simply ignored?

Students on this campus will have a unique opportunity to hear from a presidential candidate that is running largely to point out much of the fallacies laid out above.

Monica Moorehead, the 2000 Workers World Party presidential candidate, will be on campus with her running mate Gloria La Riva Oct. 25 to offer students an alternative. They are not running to win the election, but to show that the system is the fundamental problem.

We suggest students seriously consider third-party candidates like Moorehead/La Riva who are pointing out the real reason for the majority of the world's misery: capitalism.

See the Web site www.uwmpost.com for more on the WWP candidates' visit.

Fidel Castro on U.S. election

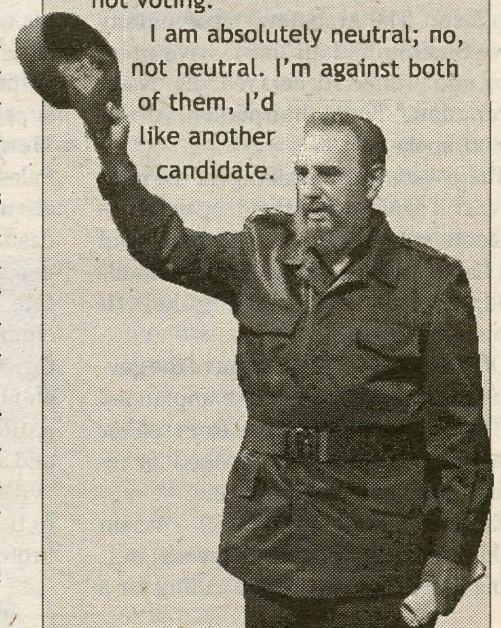
Excerpted from an Oct. 11 interview by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Reporter: But we have a little question: We want to know: the elections in the U.S. are in a month's time.

Who is the best president for the Cuban people, Bush or Gore?

Fidel Castro: I suspected you were going to ask me something like that. And I'm going to try and answer you as elegantly as possible. I don't like either of them, and I'm thinking of doing the same as the majority of Americans do on election day: going to the beach and not voting.

I am absolutely neutral; no, not neutral. I'm against both of them, I'd like another candidate.



Class, national tensions rise in Middle East

By Joyce Chediak

Israeli troops have begun using heavy tanks and helicopter gunships against Palestinian residential areas in the occupied West Bank. This is a war crime according to the Geneva Conventions. Tel Aviv unilaterally suspended the seven-year-old peace talks Oct. 23, and is threatening to isolate Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and freeze them into apartheid-style Bantustans.

The heroic Palestinian people, however, still continue their Al-Aqsa Intifada, or uprising. Tensions remain high at the Lebanese border, as some Palestinians from refugee camps seek to cross into Israel and join the fight. And an Israeli peace group called attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians "pogroms."

The conclusions of a summit meeting of Arab leaders held in Cairo Oct. 21-22 fell short of what many Palestinians had hoped for. At the same time Arab moderate leaders hope they did enough to hold back their own angry people, some of whom call for opening the borders so they can fight beside the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 24, the U.S. military forces in the Persian/Arabian Gulf went on the highest state of alert, posing a threat to the entire region.

Homes shelled

On Oct. 22 the Israeli military, using tank fire, helicopter-fired missiles and heavy machine-gun fire, shelled the residential areas of Beit Eil (Ramallah), Beit

Jala, the Aida refugee camp, Beit Sahour and El Kahder. This was reported by LAW, the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, which monitors the daily assaults.

In Beit Sahur, a predominantly Christian village near Bethlehem, Israeli rockets destroyed a tile and marble factory, hobbling the village's economy. A tank round demolished a bedroom minutes after a father had moved his children out.

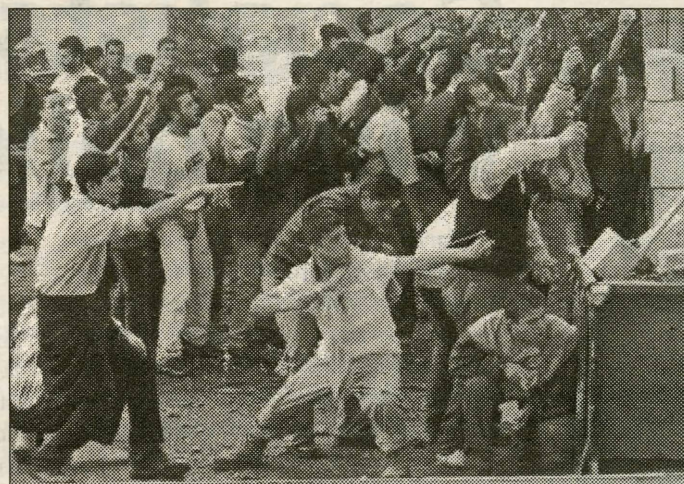
Meanwhile, according to LAW, the same day "settlers continue their attacks in the Palestinian areas of Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Beit Furik, Huwara, Salem, Jalout, Jenin Tulkarem, Rafa, Khan Younis, and Beit Hanun."

The U.S. media here often portray Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza as "children on a hike" or "religious figures." However, Israelis who choose to settle deep in Palestinian areas are extreme right-wing racists, usually U.S. émigrés, on a mission to dislodge the Palestinian people from their homes. The Israeli military issues these settlers weapons, including machine guns.

Even in quieter times, these settlers regularly intimidate, beat and sometimes kill Palestinians. Their presence then becomes an excuse to bring more Israeli soldiers to Palestinian lands.

Settler-police 'pogroms'

Gush Shalom, the Israeli Peace Bloc, recently issued a news release condemning a settler attack within Israel on the



Palestinian youths resist Israeli troops in Bethlehem, Oct. 23

legal violence by Israeli settlers. The United States, Israel and four other coun-

tries opposed the resolution, which U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke called "biased."

On Oct. 24, U.S. forces in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar went on the highest state of military alert. President Bill Clinton and Defense Secretary William Cohen had threatened a retaliatory military strike on those responsible for the attack on the Navy destroyer USS Cole. (Yemen Times, Oct. 23-29). Such a rationale could be used as an excuse to attack anyone, anywhere.

Arab summit

An Oct. 21-22 emergency summit of the Arab League stopped short of ordering any immediate, across-the-board economic or diplomatic actions against Israel. Instead, Arab heads of state recommended that any new steps toward normalizing relations with Israel be postponed, and that participation in regional economic or other conferences involving Israel be suspended.

The summit created a \$1 billion fund to aid Palestinians. The UN was urged to investigate Israeli "war crimes" and send UN peacekeepers to Israel.

"Although severing relations with Israel was widely supported, host Egypt finally triumphed, with President Hosni Mubarak repeatedly reminding participants that they were there to try to salvage the peace process, not pour oil on the fire," said the Beirut Daily Star on Oct. 23. Meanwhile, Israel unilaterally suspended talks.

"Libya walked out in protest, but the rest of the 21 members all signed the final communiqué, albeit some of them reluctantly. Iraq recorded reservations, insisting that the Arabs should have mobilized all their resources for a jihad, or Holy War, against Israel."

The Daily Star noted that the \$1 billion fund was "initiated by Saudi Arabia which, significantly, had sided with the hard-line calls for ostracizing Israel." Many feel that this is an indication of the Saudi royal family's fear of their own people.

Lebanon's President Emile Lahoud warned that Arab leaders "risked their own people abandoning them if they failed to meet their expectations."

While reaction to the summit is still unfolding in the Arab world, according to press accounts, many Palestinians expressed deep disappointment for the "diluted" support of their struggle. (New York Times, Oct. 23) The Yemeni Times called the summit "sheer disappointment," and the Beirut Daily Star called the meeting a "slap on the wrist" for Israel because the "final statement stops short of all-out diplomatic freeze."

In Egypt, thousands of students responded to the summit by taking to the streets, giving voice to their frustration that the Arab League did not cut ties with Israel. "Where is the Arab army?" they chanted, calling on the Egyptian army to fight for Palestine.

Letter from Tel Aviv

Arab and Jewish protesters condemn Barak

The corporate media have not reported on anti-war demonstrations within Israel. The following letter describes one participant's impressions of a demonstration held in the Israeli capital, Tel Aviv.

From 500 to 700 people participated in an anti-war demonstration in Tel Aviv on Oct. 15. Everyone was alert, expecting attacks by right-wingers. There was no attack. Some participants had been demonstrating all week. There were some young people, but not nearly as many as came to a recent anti-globalization demo. The Arab-Jewish community Neve Shalom had an impressive presence, and printed stickers reading "No to occupation." Their chairperson, Anwar Daoud, spoke.

There were slogans calling for the right of return, against apartheid, against settlements, stop the war, against Barak and the Labor government, end the bloodshed, yes to peace, peace or hell (it rhymes in Hebrew).

Of the speakers, Yael Dayan of the governing Labor party was both applauded and booed. A letter was read from soldier Noam Khuzar, who is imprisoned for refusing to serve in the territories.

Knesset Member (MK) Issam Makhoul made a powerful speech, outlining Israeli apartheid and calling for a

Jewish-Arab struggle based on full equality and respect. He placed the blame for the killings squarely with the Barak government and was loudly applauded. A letter was read from MK Azmi Bishara, who won applause as soon as his name was mentioned, as a show of solidarity after his home was targeted in the Yom Kippur pogrom by right-wing Israelis in Nazareth.

The best speaker was from Hakeshet Hamizrachit from the Oriental Rainbow, the organization of Jews from Arab countries. He blasted the government, the political parties and the media, and was applauded after almost every sentence.

As he spelled out the following five points, the crowd applauded and shouted support: 1) There is no such thing as a "Jewish and democratic state." 2) The Palestinian citizens in Israel are a national—not only ethnic—minority. 3) Oslo is dead. Real peace means peace with an independent Palestinian state, not by dictate and under pressure. 4) Peace includes withdrawal from all occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and dismantling all settlements, or a binational state. 5) There is either peace and a process towards just peace, or war.

About half of the demo later walked to the Defense Ministry to continue the protest there.

— Rayna Moss

Palestinian town of Nazareth. "A mob numbering at 1,000 left the Jewish town of Upper Nazareth and descended upon the neighboring Arab town of Nazareth, some holding clubs and others having firearms. They broke into the Eastern Neighborhood of Nazareth and started hitting and shooting indiscriminately at its inhabitants.

"The police stood aside and did not interfere, but when inhabitants of Nazareth rallied to defend themselves, the police attacked them—first with tear gas and later with live ammunition.

"What is happening in Nazareth ... is a pogrom, bearing all the hallmarks which were well known to Jews in Czarist Russia—primarily the collusion between the racist attackers and the police.

"Nazareth seems not an isolated case," said the Gush Shalom statement. "Reports of the same kind are coming from different places, both from the occupied territories where armed settlers are reported to be simultaneously attacking many Palestinian villages and towns as well as the Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. The simultaneity and the exact similarity in tactics suggest pre-planning and coordination."

Israeli snipers use hollow bullets

The Oct. 17 Times of London reported that in Ramallah, "as retaliation against the killing of two Israeli soldiers ... Israeli snipers using specialized rifles fitted with silencers" were firing "hollow-nosed bullets ... in an apparent bid to 'take out' ringleaders of the 19-day uprising. ...

"Hollow-nosed bullets opened like an umbrella on impact, spun about, chewing up internal organs, and seldom left an exit wound. 'These are intended to cause the maximum amount of damage to a person,' said Dr. Atari, who treated the wounded."

On Oct. 19, the Israeli government floated a plan to possibly "lock the Palestinians into a small, disconnected state. ... Movement in the territory would be restricted and the economy suffocated." (Financial Times, Oct. 19)

"Palestinian areas would be sealed off, checkpoints reinforced, and the movement of goods and labor severely restricted." (New York Times, Oct. 22.)

Palestinian Authority Information Minister Abed Rabbo called this "a declaration of war...an apartheid plan" meant to "strangle the Palestinians economically, isolate them geographically and impose by fiat what was not achieved through negotiations."

Israel refused to cooperate with a United Nations Human Rights Commission investigation in Geneva. The commission then passed a resolution on Oct. 19 accusing Israel of "widespread, systematic and gross violation of human rights," and described some Israeli military actions as "war crimes."

The same day, the UN General Assembly condemned Israel for "excessive force" against Palestinian civilians and il-

NEW YORK

Jewish unionist urges solidarity with Palestine

By Brian Becker
New York

The following are excerpts from a speech delivered by Hillel Cohen at an Oct. 13 mass rally in support of the Palestinian people in New York. The demonstration was over 10,000 strong and mainly organized by the Arab-American community. Mosques from the New York/New Jersey area mobilized to attend. Cohen's speech was met with a tremendous ovation.

Right-wing and racist propaganda portrays the Israeli-Palestinian struggle as a "religious war." The same propaganda demonizes those who are fighting against U.S.-backed Israeli aggression as "anti-Semitic." Cohen, who is a member of Workers World Party, puts the Palestinian struggle in a more accurate context as a struggle against imperialism, racism and colonialism:

Brothers and sisters, I speak to you today as a member of health-care workers' union 1199/Service Employees, an organizer for the International Action

Center and a Jewish-American in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination.

Working people join unions in order to fight for a better life for their families. This includes the right to a decent place to live, to health care, to education and to be treated with dignity and justice. Isn't this what the Palestinian people are in the streets fighting for? It is the same struggle, which is why every union and every union member should be here, standing side by side our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

The union movement is all about solidarity and right now the Palestinian people need and deserve the solidarity of working people here and the union movement in particular. I also urge all of you who are in unions to appeal to your union for solidarity. And, if you are not in a union, to join one and teach the union movement about the Palestinian struggle.

The International Action Center is trying to reach out to the people of this country to explain that Ariel Sharon is a

killer. Barak is a killer. But people have to know that Sharon and Barak are not acting by themselves. They are hired killers. They are bought and paid for by the banks, the oil companies and the big businesses in the United States that stand to profit from the blood of the Palestinian people.

The guns have been paid for by the Pentagon. The bullets are paid for by the Pentagon. The tear gas, the helicopters and the rockets, all paid for by the Pentagon. The same bankers and big-business interests that pay to kill Palestinian youths are the ones who pay the cops here to attack workers fighting for justice and to terrorize people of color.

The millions and billions of dollars being used to pay for these crimes should be used instead for jobs, housing, education and health care. Stop all U.S. arms to Israel!

Whose right to return?

There are many parallels between the struggle in Palestine and the struggle here. New York cops killed Amadou Dial-

lo in front of his home. They shot Patrick Dorismond for refusing drugs. They tortured Abner Louima for daring to speak out against an unjust police attack. The police were carrying out acts of racist violence. This is the way the Zionist police and military treat Palestinian youths. We have to fight to stop the police murders here and in Palestine.

I was born in New York City. My parents were born here and my grandparents came here from Eastern Europe. Because I am Jewish, I can go and buy an airline ticket to Jerusalem and claim first-class citizenship rights. But my Palestinian friends who were born in Jerusalem, or whose parents and grandparents were born in Jerusalem, don't have that right!

The Zionists say that I as a Jewish-American have the right to return. I don't want that right! That right belongs to the Palestinian people. Long live the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their homeland. Long live Palestine!

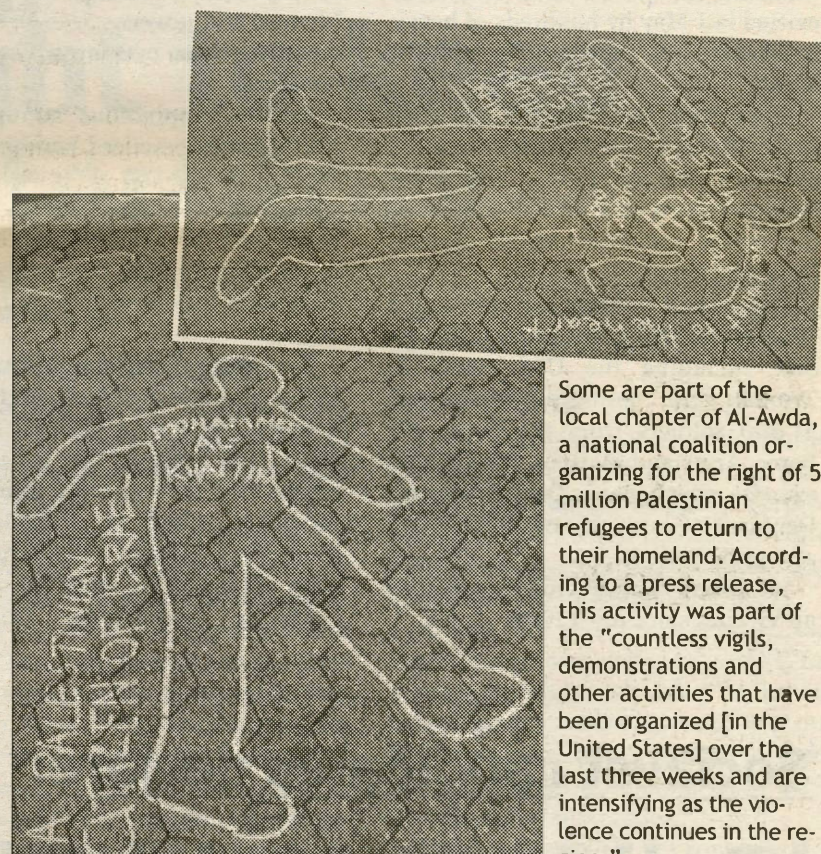
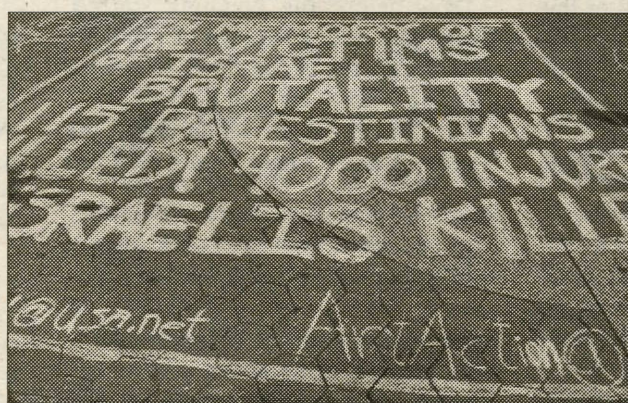
Artists use chalk to remember martyrs

By Sarah Sloan
New York

On Oct. 21, activists supporting the Palestinian struggle covered part of New York's Union Square Park with chalkings commemorating victims of Israeli terror. The activists—including Palestinians, Israelis and people from the United States—used chalk to draw life-size figures for the over 110 Palestinians who have been killed in the last three weeks. For each person, they included the name, age and the area of their body that was shot. They also placed marks for each of the almost 4,000 people who have been wounded.

The activists were also protesting U.S. financial and military aid to Israel and Washington's complicity in the repression. They spent the day leafleting to passers-by with fact sheets and information about upcoming activities.

Oz Shelach, one of the planners of the event, said: "Do we even know the name of the ambulance driver who died while doing his job? Does the world know the names of the 110 Palestinians who have been killed in the last three weeks? We hope that Saturday's street art will raise the awareness that the media has failed to raise." The organizers call themselves Art Action.



PHOTOS: ART ACTION

Some are part of the local chapter of Al-Awda, a national coalition organizing for the right of 5 million Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. According to a press release, this activity was part of the "countless vigils, demonstrations and other activities that have been organized [in the United States] over the last three weeks and are intensifying as the violence continues in the region."

Prisoners in Turkey begin 'death fast'

By John Catalinotto

Starting Oct. 20 a large group of political prisoners in Turkey have begun an unlimited hunger strike—which may be expanded into a fast unto death—to protest the Turkish regime's plans to introduce new torture techniques in the prisons.

Turkish prisons have always been places where political prisoners faced the

threat of beatings. The police and army have even carried out massacres. On Sept. 26, 1999, for example, at least 10 prisoners were killed as soldiers assaulted Ulucanlar prison.

But the many political prisoners—10,000 of Turkey's 70,000 prisoners are behind bars because of their membership in revolutionary organizations—have always been able to have contact with each

other in the dormitory-style settings.

Now the Turkish regime plans to isolate the political prisoners in "F-style" prisons in individual cells in an attempt to break them psychologically. These techniques, which use sensory deprivation to weaken the prisoners, have already been applied in prisons in Western Europe and the United States.

In August, relatives and other support-

ers of the prisoners marched to Ankara and rallied in Istanbul to protest the new plans. Now the prisoners themselves have decided to take action with the only weapons they have available—their own lives.

Imprisoned members of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C), the Communist Party of Turkey—Marxist-Leninist (TKP-ML) and the Communist Workers Party of Turkey (TKIP) have called for the death fast.

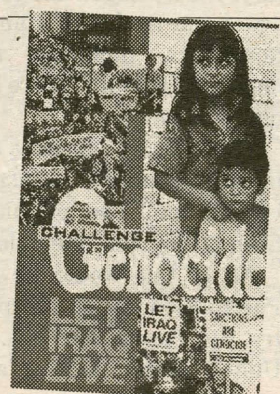
In a statement released to the public, the prisoners declared: "We are determined.

"We will not hesitate to pay whatever price is necessary, but we will not enter the isolation cells. They can massacre all of us, we may fall martyr in death fasts, there may be only one of us left in the prisons, but even then they will not be able to put that single captive into the cells alive."

Challenge to Genocide: LET IRAQ LIVE

Essays and reports on the devastating effect of economic sanctions on Iraq since the Gulf War. Features a chapter by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and others who defied sanctions and U.S. law by taking medicines to Baghdad in May 1998.

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Vieques resistance continues

U.S., NATO stage massive assault on island

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

In the early morning hours of Oct. 17, some 2,000 U.S. troops invaded the eastern part of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to practice amphibious landing maneuvers. This was part of the latest round of Pentagon war practices that continue against the wishes of the island's residents.

Two-thirds of Vieques is used by the U.S. Navy for ammunition storage and bombing practices. It's been that way since Washington forcibly removed the population from those areas before World War II.

In April 1999 an F-18 fighter jet dropped two 500-pound bombs during a practice run. A civilian guard was killed and four others were injured. The outrage felt by the people in Vieques and on the Big Island of Puerto Rico led to a people's occupation of the restricted bombing territory.

Encampments set up by activists effectively stopped the Pentagon's practices for a year, until they were evicted last May by hundreds of heavily-armed U.S. marshals and FBI agents.

Since then, the Pentagon has tried several times to re-establish its military exercises. But each time, they have been disrupted or forced to stop short due to the ingenious actions of anti-Navy protesters.

The current military exercise, called "Unified Spirit," encompasses 50 vessels, including the USS Harry S. Truman and the USS Nassau, and 31,000 soldiers from the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marines. It's a NATO exercise, which means Canada, France, Denmark, Germany and Britain are also participating.

It's also the largest military presence on Vieques since April 1999.

U.S. imperialism takes these exercises seriously. It needs NATO trained and ready to undertake missions like the brutal 78-day bombing war that slaughtered women, men and children in Yugoslavia last year.

Training for counter-revolution

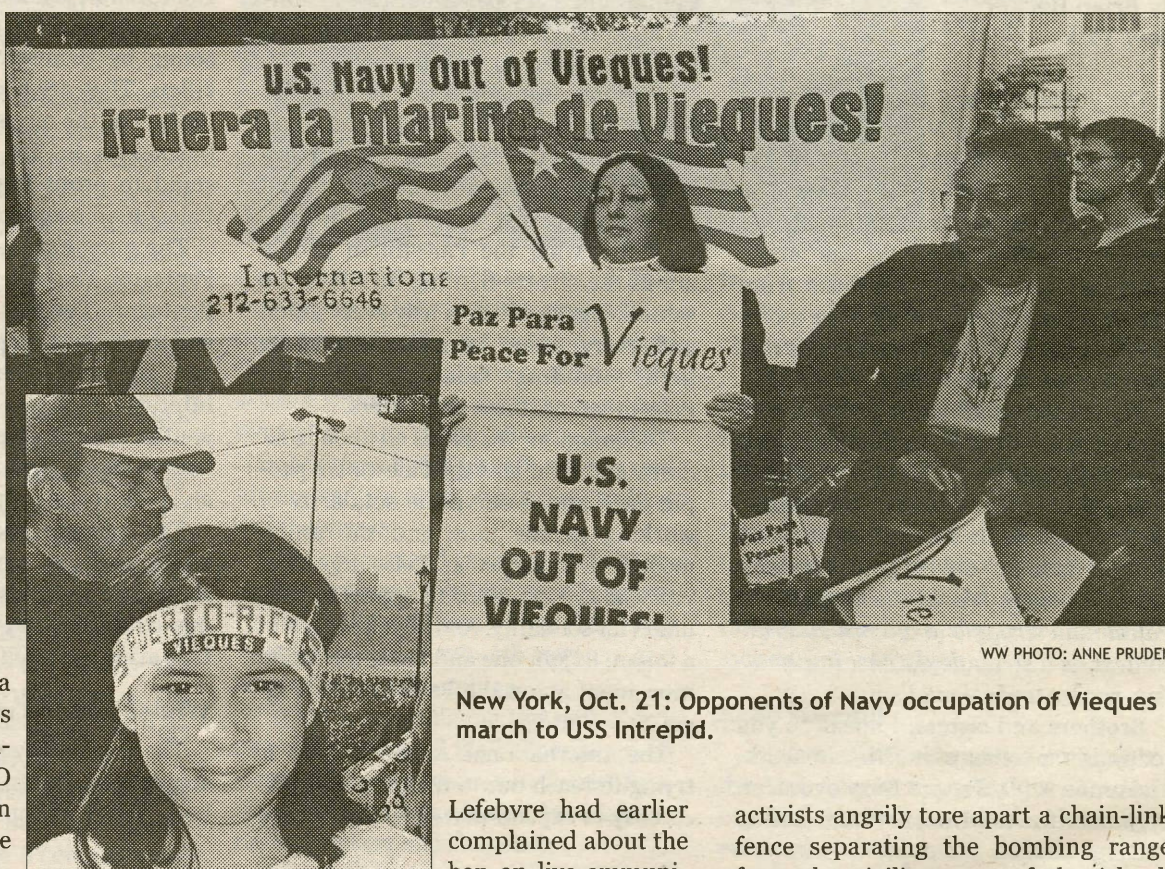
The code name for Vieques during these exercises is "Springer Island." According to the Pentagon, the maneuvers mimic a "United Nations peacekeeping operation" where NATO countries intervene in a republic whose "democratic government" has been overthrown by revolutionaries.

Besides amphibious landings, the NATO forces practiced bombing by air and sea.

On Oct. 17, nine Vieques activists penetrated the restricted military area in an effort to stop the bombing. The Navy knew they were there, but bombed anyway.

Two of the activists were veterans of U.S. wars—one a 70-year-old Korean War vet, the other a Vietnam War survivor. They reported that not all of the bombs used in the practice were inert. A directive issued by President Bill Clinton last January had instructed the Navy not to use live ammunition.

Marine Commander Col. Paul



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

New York, Oct. 21: Opponents of Navy occupation of Vieques march to USS Intrepid.

Lefebvre had earlier complained about the ban on live ammunition in Vieques. "The goal is to fire as much as we can to gain as much proficiency as we can," he said. "That's the stress, that's the reality of real combat."

Residents blockade base

Ismael Guadalupe, leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CPRDV), told Workers World that the incursion into the bombing range was one of several actions taken by his organization during what he called "the week of denunciation."

Days before the bombing started, Guadalupe said, a caravan of residents surrounded the Naval base, effectively shutting it down for over an hour.

On Oct. 22, in an action called the "Second Human Chain," more than 100

activists angrily tore apart a chain-link fence separating the bombing range from the civilian area of the island. They ripped away hundreds of feet of the fence in defiance of the now-routine heavy police presence in the area.

Anger is growing in Vieques and the U.S. military knows it. The Pentagon's response has been to try to bribe the impoverished residents. But to no avail.

An appeal for funds has been issued by the CPRDV. Due to the many arrests and the need to organize events, the group's coffers are depleted. Funds are urgently needed to continue the struggle.

Readers who want to make a donation can make checks or money orders payable to CPRDV and send them to Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques, Apartado 1424, Vieques, PR 00765.

Socialist candidates declare:

'Solidarity with the people of Vieques!'

Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead and Gloria La Riva issued the following statement Oct. 21.

While Democrats and Republicans attempt the difficult task of differentiating themselves in order to get elected this November, they consistently join together in reinforcing the arrogance and racism of U.S. imperialism. Nowhere is this clearer than in the case of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Both George W. Bush and Al Gore pay lip service to the people of Vieques, but refuse to call for any concrete solutions, such as getting the U.S. Navy out. The U.S. Congress has approved an even more treacherous directive than the one signed by President Bill Clinton. The original directive and the congressionally-approved version both attempt to permanently impose U.S. military training practices on that

island against the will of the majority of Puerto Ricans.

These directives came about as a result of the massive opposition by the Puerto Rican people against the U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques.

Since 1941, the U.S. military has used Vieques as a bombing range for practices by all of its military branches and its NATO allies. Three-fourths of the island is occupied by the U.S. military. The Pentagon has polluted the air, water and land with innumerable contaminants, including napalm and depleted uranium. There is a high incidence of cancer.

The military practices have resulted in the economic devastation of the island, too. The population suffers from 50-percent unemployment.

All of this would be impossible if Puerto Rico was an independent country. But Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States, lacking any authority

over its own land. The Pentagon now houses its military arm for Latin America—the U.S. Southern Army—in Puerto Rico, having been ousted from Panama.

The people of Vieques have always opposed the use of their land for military maneuvers. But after two 500-pound bombs dropped by a fighter plane killed civilian guard David Sanes in April 1999, a massive movement developed to oust the Navy from Vieques. People from Vieques and Puerto Rico poured into the restricted military areas. They set up encampments that effectively stopped the Pentagon's exercises for a whole year.

Last May, federal marshals, FBI agents and U.S. military personnel forcibly evicted the demonstrators and arrested them. Helicopters and battle-ships surrounded the island and reinforced their operation.

Since then, the struggle has contin-

ued with massive demonstrations, incursions into the restricted areas and international solidarity. The people of Vieques are committed to ousting the U.S. Navy once and for all. They know that this is the only way to bring peace and stability to their land.

U.S. Navy out of Vieques! U.S. imperialism out of Puerto Rico!

Monica Moorehead traveled to Vieques in August 1999. She took part in solidarity rallies there, where she pledged her support for the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico in their struggle to beat the most powerful armada in the world. Moorehead and her running mate, Gloria La Riva, have helped to organize demonstrations in support of the Vieques movement. Workers World Party offers unconditional support to this magnificent struggle and vows to do everything it can to assist the people's movement.

A million march in Cuba

Mass action counters U.S. theft

By Gloria La Riva

In response to the latest U.S. actions against their socialist island, over 1 million Cubans marched on Oct. 18 to demand an end to the U.S. blockade. The march was called on 24 hours' notice and ended in front of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. The size and spirit of the rally reflected the anger Cubans feel towards the U.S. policy of blockade and sabotage that seems to have no end.

The tumultuous rally was held to denounce the granting by a U.S. judge of \$58 million in Cuban assets to the survivors of Cuban-American right-wing pilots shot down by Cuban air defense in February 1996. The Miami-based pilots had deliberately invaded Cuban air space, despite repeated warnings.

Cuban authorities had warned the U.S. government that it would not tolerate the illegal incursions by "Brothers to the Rescue," a Miami-based terrorist group that has engaged in confrontational actions against Cuba for years. Communiqués from the Cuban government to the U.S. were ignored, and in February 1996 the Cuban air force shot down the invading planes. Four of the pilots were killed.

This incident provided the Clinton administration with a ploy for tightening blockade regulations on Cuba and signing into law the Helms-Burton legislation. Among other provisions, Helms-Burton threatens sanctions on any country that trades with or invests in Cuba.

The \$58 million was confiscated from \$162 million in Cuban resources that the U.S. government has illegally frozen in banks here since 1966. This money is due Cuba for its share of telephone calls made between the two countries.

Stealing Cuba's assets

In the same judgment, U.S. Circuit Court Judge James Lawrence King also awarded the right wing another \$35 million in sanctions against Cuba and \$137.7 million in punitive damages, also to be taken from Cuban assets. The latter two sums have not been released yet but would exhaust all Cuban revenues held by the U.S.

To add fuel to the fire, a new reactionary bill in the U.S. Congress accompanied the \$58-million action against Cuba—the so-called "Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act." It will enable Washington to more easily seize assets of Cuba and any other country that the U.S. government deems a target.

After the court ruling, a Miami press conference was held by the same right-wing forces that had surrounded Elián González during his ordeal. They declared that a third of the \$58 million would be used to fund anti-Cuba activities, including a nefarious campaign to indict Cuban President Fidel Castro.

This unprecedented theft and the handing over of tens of millions of dollars to Cuban counter-revolutionaries was condemned by the Cuban government, which took immediate action to counter the stealing of the people's rightful resources.

Cuba to tax phone calls to recoup money

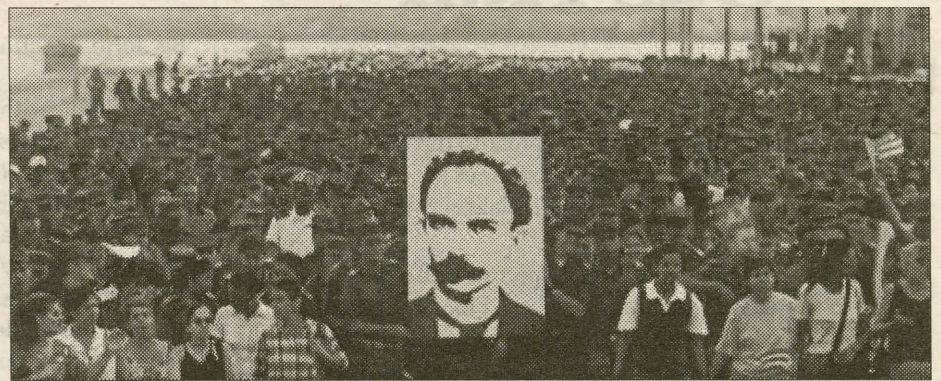
On Oct. 20, the Cuban Council of State passed a law to immediately tax all future U.S.-Cuba telephone calls by 10 percent, including calls made to or from the U.S. through third countries. The taxation will be in effect until the equivalent of

Cuba's confiscated money is raised.

The law reads in part, "Article 11: The funds collected by these means will be set aside for the purchase of medical equipment, medicine and raw materials for their production, separately from the annual expenditure in foreign currency that our nation devotes to the medical attention of our people."

"Article 12: In the face of any attempt on the part of American authorities to block, freeze or confiscate the revenue raised by this tax, the government of Cuba reserves the right to adopt whatever means it deems pertinent, including the total cutoff of telephone communications, direct and indirect, between Cuba and the United States."

Despite Washington's denial of Cuba's share of telephone revenue for decades, from 1966 to 1994, Cuba allowed communications between both countries to continue. In 1994, under a new arrangement finally allowed by the U.S. government, and based on pressure from U.S. telecommunications giants who sought profits from calls to Cuba, a limited amount of revenue was allowed to Cuba.



Havana, Oct. 18: Cuban marchers hoist portrait of independence hero of José Martí.

This income generated by present U.S.-Cuba calls—roughly 45 percent of about \$130 million raised yearly—is the revenue that Cuba proposes to tax. However, the State Department has announced it will prohibit U.S. companies from paying that tax.

This latest U.S. action must be seen in light of legislation passed by the U.S. Senate on Oct. 18 and soon to be signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The bill ostensibly allows the sale of food and medicine to Cuba. However, the provisions for these sales are so restrictive that Cuba in reality could not purchase the goods.

The bill denies Cuba any financial credits, which are a necessity in international trade. The Cuban government condemned the bill, saying that unless this restrictive legislation is removed it refuses to buy any items from the U.S.

Why does Washington have to disguise legislation that actually tightens the blockade as though it is instead easing the sanctions? Obviously, because the sentiment among a large segment of the people here and around the world is increasingly against sanctions, blockades and other acts of economic warfare on small countries.

What's at stake in Colombia?

Rebels fight to keep liberated territory

By Teresa Gutierrez

The U.S. and Colombian governments' war plans were dealt a serious blow in mid-October when rebel forces shot down a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter in Dabeiba, Colombia.

In all, over 50 Colombian soldiers and police have been killed since Oct. 18, when fighting escalated in several parts of the country.

"This is probably no different than Chicago was when people were fighting for control of liquor in the Prohibition days," said a senior U.S. diplomat, Phillip Chicola.

This deceitful statement underscores the warlike propaganda campaign that U.S. imperialism is carrying out to justify its bloody intervention in Colombia.

'War on drugs' is a lie

Hardly a single press account about the situation in Colombia is issued without couching the 40-year conflict in the guise of the so-called war on drugs. The billion-dollar project approved by Congress last summer—Plan Colombia—was passed precisely under the pretext of "fighting drugs" in that nation.

But what is occurring in Colombia today has nothing to do with fighting drugs, much less anything like the Prohibition era here.

For over 40 years, the Colombian people have been involved in an intense civil war. Since 1990 alone, over 35,000 people have been killed, the overwhelming majority at the hands of the Colombian military and death squads.

The war is not a struggle over coca fields. Rather it is a just struggle over poverty, unemployment, imperialist domination and extreme repression.

Yet the bourgeois media and the U.S. government would have people in this

country believe that the conflict in Colombia is all about drugs.

U.S. fears spread of struggle

U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen said on Oct. 17: "If you don't treat the illegal drug trafficking, it will spread like a cancer to other regions."

What Cohen fears is not the spread of drug trafficking, but rather the spread of the struggle against U.S.-sponsored repression.

Cohen and other U.S. representatives traveled throughout Latin America in October in an attempt to line up support for Plan Colombia. Their efforts were a bust, however, as leader after leader voiced opposition to the plan.

The possibility of outright U.S. military intervention therefore becomes more and more likely.

Chicola, who compared Colombia's situation to Prohibition, is the U.S. State Department's director of Andean affairs. While touring Latin America, Chicola made a statement attacking the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army (FARC-EP)—the largest guerrilla group in the country.

Chicola said: "It is clear that the FARC has totally failed to take any steps or make any gestures that indicate even a willingness to be forthcoming as part of the peace process." Chicola was referring to a supposed peace conference that was taking place in Costa Rica in mid-October.

Human rights groups, the Colombian government, the Nation Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas and others, including a U.S. government representative, attended that meeting. According to the Associated Press, the conference became "a forum for criticism of the U.S. aid package." Conference organizers asked that Plan Colombia be suspended. They also called for a 100-day cease-fire in Colombia.

The FARC-EP stated that it did not at-

tend the meeting for security and political reasons. It considered the conference a distraction that played into U.S. interests.

Demilitarized zones

Plan Colombia is designed to provide the Colombian government with enough military aid to escalate the war against the pro-socialist FARC-EP and ELN. One of the plan's main objectives is to take back areas controlled by the revolutionary groups.

In fact, the agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP granting the rebels control over the demilitarized zones expires in November. If the agreement was not renewed, and the rebels lost control of the zones, it would be a terrible setback for the struggle.

The demilitarized zones controlled by the guerrillas represent liberated territory. If they were lost, the liberation forces would have one less lever of power in their hands.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that the FARC-EP has escalated its successful military actions against the Colombian military? These actions tell the government in Bogota that it must negotiate seriously with the rebels.

It is becoming clearer every day that there are only two sides in the Colombian conflict. The Colombian government and U.S. imperialism, which has the blood of millions of Latinos and other oppressed people on its hands, are on one side. On the other side are the forces that want to see profound social change in Colombia to benefit the workers and peasants.

Years ago the Black liberation movement in the United States raised a slogan that was picked up by struggling peoples all over the world: "No justice, no peace." That is the message the anti-war movement in this country must send to U.S. imperialism today as it attempts to escalate its intervention in Colombia.

editorial

Gus Hall

The death on Oct. 13 of Gus Hall, leader of the Communist Party USA from 1959-1999, has been the occasion for the capitalist press to dip deeply into their wells of poison ink. Their obituaries are only an excuse to ridicule and revile the very idea that socialism is possible, that the working class can run society.

Of course, they pretend to pay respect to Hall's proletarian origins. His parents were impoverished Finnish immigrants in Minnesota. His father, a miner, early on joined the Wobblies—the International Workers of the World. In 1927, Hall's father recruited him into what was then called the American Communist Party. By then Gus Hall had worked sunup to sundown in the woods as a half-starved lumberjack, and knew what exploitation was first-hand.

He became a steelworkers' organizer during the Great Depression, and was a founder of the United Steel Workers of America. That was a period when plants had shut down in the capitalist countries and tens of millions of workers were unemployed, spurring the fight for industrial unions.

From the sarcastic tone of the bourgeois obituaries on Hall, one would think that exploitation is now a thing of the past in the United States, and that anyone who believes in the class struggle is under a delusion. But let the writers for the giant media corporations go out into the real world and they will find that, despite the fabulous growth in wealth for the top 1 percent of society, low wages, long hours, union-busting laws and rotten working conditions are still a grave concern for tens of millions of workers.

Hall studied in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s and came away dedicated to building a socialist society. Much amazement is expressed that this "quintessential American" should have remained devoted to the Soviet Union, even after its downfall. It is worth thinking about, surely.

The contrast between the USSR and the capitalist world was electrifying in the 1930s. Just when bosses all over Europe and the U.S. were tossing workers out by the tens of millions, the Soviet government was putting millions to work building new industries under its first five-year plan.

This young worker from the U.S. took away with him a basic devotion to the new system. What so irks the ruling class is that all the reverses of the USSR failed to shake his convictions. He was convinced that the problems came not from the Soviet leaders but from the enemies of the revolution—and in that he was mainly correct.

Workers World Party has had many, many differences with the Communist Party over the years. Some have to do with the degeneration of the great Bolshevik Party that began soon after Lenin's death.

But probably the most important difference is over the attitude communists should take toward the "liberal" bourgeoisie. In the struggle to revive a fighting movement against capitalism, Workers World has always called on the workers and oppressed to organize independently and not rely on any segments of the ruling class.

Our differences are clearly seen in relation to the Democratic Party, which is a trusted instrument of the imperialist bourgeoisie even as it creates an image appealing to the workers and oppressed. The CPUSA presents the Democratic Party as a lesser evil, predicting that a Republican electoral victory would be tantamount to a right-wing takeover with fascist overtones. This has been their position for many years, and in effect amounts to support for the Clinton-Gore Democrats who gutted welfare, deeply cut other social programs, gave the Pentagon the billions it wanted, and carried out imperialist wars in Africa, the Middle East and Yugoslavia.

It should be remembered that the harsh anti-communist campaign called the Cold War, which so tore up the Bill of Rights, began under the presidency of a Democrat, Harry S. Truman. Gus Hall himself was one of 12 CPUSA leaders indicted in 1948 under the Smith Act gag law, and he spent eight years in jail for his views. The Smith Act had earlier been used under Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt to imprison 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party because of their opposition to World War II.

Whether Democrats or Republicans are elected, it is militant struggle, not the ballot box, that forces concessions out of the ruling class and can change the course of history.

A new generation of communists is being born in reaction to the cruelties of capitalism. It is sensitive to the issues that face the working class today: economic exploitation, of course, but also racism, sexism, oppression of lesbians, gays, bi and trans people, imperialist wars, immigrant bashing, the destruction of the environment and all the other ruling-class crimes that have led to so many progressive grassroots movements.

It needn't be held back by the shortcomings of earlier movements, but it should pay due respects to all who have spent their lives in the struggle to overcome this vicious system of decaying finance capital.

Belarus: NATO's next target?

By John Catalinotto

Flushed with their success in removing Slobodan Milosevic from the presidency of Yugoslavia, the NATO powers moved on quickly to begin to undermine another country further to the east. Their media also began to compare Milosevic with that country's leader.

The target this time was Belarus and especially its president, Alexander Lukashenko. Belarus, a country of 10 million people that until 1991 was part of the USSR, had scheduled parliamentary elections for Oct. 15.

According to the official results, slightly over 60 percent of the people voted in this election. Fifty percent were needed to make it valid. Those elected were largely supporters of Lukashenko and his policies, which Washington calls "authoritarian."

There were 574 candidates competing for 110 seats.

Lukashenko's opposition, like the opposition in Yugoslavia, denounced the elections as rigged and claimed only 45 percent of the people voted. Washington and other Western governments refused to observe the elections but declared them fraudulent anyway.

Why does Washington want to get rid of Lukashenko? On a visit to Cuba in early September, Lukashenko praised Cuban President Fidel Castro, calling him "a legendary figure" and saying "his life is a political manual for any politician in the world." He added that he and the Cuban leader shared "exactly the same points of view" on world issues. This alone would anger U.S. leaders.

Belarus has always been grateful for Cuba's aid to those made ill by the nuclear catastrophe at Chernobyl.

Washington also wants to open up Belarus to the International Monetary Fund, NATO and the transnational monopolies. The Belarus opposition shares that goal.

Along with opposing the U.S. internationally, Lukashenko has pushed completely different internal policies from those in other East European countries.

Conditions differ from rest of East Europe

Wolfgang Richter, the head of the Society for the Protection of Civil and Human Rights in Germany, was in Belarus during the Oct. 15 election. Richter

was observing for his organization, not the German government.

In a report published in the German daily newspaper Junge Welt on Oct. 21, Richter gave a view of life in Belarus that contrasted sharply with that in many of the other former socialist countries.

Richter remembered his bitter experiences in Moscow, Sofia, Bulgaria, and Bucharest, Romania, and had to ask if there was hunger in Belarus too. People laughed out loud that he could even suggest it, he wrote. And there was almost no unemployment. Only 1.7 percent of the people were registered as jobless, while 2.6 percent of jobs were without workers.

Living standards were low, Richter recounted, and so was the amount paid retired people for pensions. But it seemed everyone got enough to live on and was dressed well. There were not the great differences between rich and poor seen in capitalist Russia, Bulgaria and Romania. And even if pensions and salaries were small, they were paid each month, not held back for months and years as in those countries.

Education through university was still free, and students received stipends to live. Cultural events were still low-priced, with "one-third of the seats at the concert filled with young people," wrote Richter.

\$15 billion left country

In the first few years after the counter-revolution in the USSR, up until 1994, capitalism had free reign in Belarus. More than \$15 billion left the country, which was on the verge of civil war.

Then Lukashenko was elected president, and parliament passed a whole new set of laws.

Richter mentions that the German corporate press—Der Spiegel, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and others—were already denouncing the Belarus elections just as they had the elections in Yugoslavia. Richter was an observer at both elections and found them both held by normal rules.

What's the population's view of Lukashenko? "For the people who we spoke to," wrote Richter, "his name stood for the effort to get social security for the population, for a stable economic and political development, against corruption, for strengthening the union with Russia and for the struggle against NATO's expansion to the East."

Perhaps that's why Washington and Berlin want to demonize Lukashenko and undermine Belarus.

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Prices up, layoffs ahead

IMF policies make inroads in Yugoslavia

By Pat Chin

It's been less than a month since the U.S.-funded counter-revolutionary coup by election in Yugoslavia installed Vojislav Kostunica as the new president of that Balkan country.

But the people of Yugoslavia are already beginning to feel the bite of the International Monetary Fund.

No formal agreement has yet been signed with that predatory financial institution. But Kostunica's Democratic Opposition of Serbia coalition has already started to implement its deadly provisions.

Shortly after Socialist Party of Serbia head Slobodan Milosevic conceded defeat in the Yugoslav presidential elections, the new regime lifted price controls on basic consumer goods, fuel and services. Since then, costs have risen sharply. In Belgrade, for example, the price of one liter of oil has reportedly jumped from 15 to 51 dinars, a kilo of bread from 6 to 14, a liter of sugar from 6 to 45, and three kilos of detergent from 180 to 220.

Mocked as "democratic prices" by consumers, the increases have caused deep dissatisfaction. The removal of price controls is being blamed on the Serbian Parliament, which is dominated by SPS loyalists. But it was initially praised by the Western news media and trumpeted by the DOS as a great achievement.

Most state institutions—including the Central Bank—were forcibly seized by small groups of CIA-trained counter-revolutionary gangs following the imperialist-backed coup disguised as a "popular uprising." Their leaders include the G-17 group of economists who wrote the IMF-approved program adopted by Kostunica's coalition.

"Immediately after taking office," reads G-17's "Program of Radical Economic Reform," "the new government shall abolish all types of subsidies. This measure must be implemented without regrets or hesitation, since it will be difficult if not impossible to apply later, in view of the fact that in the meantime strong lobbies may appear and do their best to block

such measures....

"This initial step in economic liberalization," warns the document, "must be undertaken as a 'shock therapy' as its radical nature does not leave space for gradualism of any kind."

When G-17 seized control of the Central Bank in the name of "democracy," it stopped the outflow of cash used by the government for price controls on basic consumer goods. This effectively blocked the financing of state subsidies, and was done under the guise of "preventing the Socialists from transferring money abroad."

New managers seek higher profits

In addition, reported the Oct. 15 Los Angeles Times, "When Kostunica supporters forced out most managers in state-owned shops and factories and put their own people in charge the system of controls collapsed and prices immediately shot up." Moreover, the new factory directors "are moving quickly to make their plants more profitable."

Faced with simmering resentment over spiraling prices—and with elections for the new Serbian Parliament set for Dec. 23—G-17 director Mladjan Dinkic has tried to blame the SPS-dominated governing body. He says he now favors a "return to regulations of prices for certain basics as well as imports of cheaper equivalents from abroad to tackle unjustified price hikes." (French Press Agency, Oct. 16)

Dinkic is using a potentially explosive situation to feign concern for the "suffering of the people." But it was this demagogue who agreed to the IMF demand for an end to price controls and government subsidies. Dinkic's collaboration with NATO and IMF officials took place secretly in Bulgaria just before the Sept. 24 elections. The IMF plan stipulates "price liberalization" as a precondition for loan negotiations.

The consummate opportunist, Dinkic would use the crisis, if allowed, to open Yugoslavia to a flood of cheap imports, which would destroy local businesses and farms.

Who's behind G-17?

G-17 is funded by the Washington-based Center for International Private Enterprise, which is linked to the

National Endowment for Democracy. The NED was created in 1983 as an "acceptable" front for subversive counter-revolutionary plots hatched by the CIA.

Three of G-17's leading members, Dusan Vujovic, Zeliko Bogetic and Branko Milanovic, are Washington-based staff members of the IMF and World Bank. Others also have strong ties to these imperialist financial institutions. ("Lethal Medicine" by Michel Chussodovsky and Jared Israel)

G-17 coordinator Prof. Veselin Vukotic is also linked to the World Bank. He was the minister of privatization in 1989 under Yugoslav Premier Ante Markovic. It was just before—and part and parcel of—the cataclysmic breakup of the Socialist Federation of Yugoslavia instigated by the United States and Germany. Vukotic helped implement the World Bank Financial Operations Act, which forced many companies into bankruptcy. From 1989 to 1990 he directed the liquidation of more than 1,100 Yugoslav industrial firms, according to the World Bank.

"Over 614,000 industrial workers were laid off out of 2.7 million. The areas hardest hit were Serbia, including Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia. Real wages did a nosedive. Social programs collapsed. Unemployment shot up." (Chussodovsky & Israel)

Devastation of the economy was calculated to create severe hardship and inflame ethnic rivalry. This set the stage for the breakup of the Yugoslav Socialist Federation and expansion of the capitalist empire in the post-Soviet era.

Bringing in the Deutschmark

After NATO marched in and occupied Kosovo-Metohija last June, Vukotic declared that the southern Serbian province "should also have its own currency." (AP, June 26, 1999) Since then, the German Deutschmark has become legal tender, and Germany's Commerzbank now controls almost the entire banking system there.

This "elder statesman" of G-17 is also reportedly "one of the economic brains behind Montenegrin secessionism." Vukotic has in fact been put in charge of auctioning off state property by the puppet Djukanovic regime in Montenegro.

World Bank Senior Economist Dr.

Dusan Vojovic is Washington's link to G-17. In August he was put in charge of negotiating "one of the world's most deadly economic packages" for the Ukraine, already blistered by IMF-World Bank reforms. (Chussodovsky & Israel)

Then there's Dr. Zeliko Bogetic. This IMF adviser—also to Djukanovic—holds a senior position at the financial institution. In 1994-96, he forced the IMF's structural adjustment program on Bulgaria. All social defenses were stripped in the onslaught. Price controls, subsidized food, housing and medical care, among other things, were devastated.

"This is not simply a group of economists," explain the authors of "Lethal Medicine." "It is a network. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are using this network to impose their policies on Yugoslavia. Meanwhile they tell everyone the fiction that G-17 is a homegrown alternative."

This is the reactionary cabal aligned with Kostunica's coalition that claims it will lead Yugoslavia to prosperity.

Symbol of resistance

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been under brutal U.S.-instigated sanctions for 10 years for its resistance to NATO expansion and IMF plunder. This led to a steep decline in the standard of living. But the country was kept from total collapse—unlike Bulgaria—because of price controls and state subsidies.

Milosevic and his Socialist Party coalition had become a symbol of resistance. That's why Washington wants his administration crushed.

In an arrogant and open display of interference in the affairs of a sovereign nation—something the U.S. government would never tolerate here—Washington shamelessly earmarked close to \$200 million of the wealth created by the working class to oust Milosevic. That's money that could have been spent on education, childcare and health care, housing for the homeless and the poor, food for the hungry.

"In Yugoslavia," writes Belgian journalist Michel Collon from Belgrade, "the game is far from being over. A lot will depend on the capacity of workers to resist. Some leftist alternative is indispensable, and resistance is being prepared."

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the Socialist answer to Capitalism

BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN THE U.S.

Since mass protests against the World Trade Organization swept Seattle last year, a new radical movement has been growing against capitalism. As it fights against globalization, racism and the death penalty, the movement must also show the socialist alternative to corporate exploitation and oppression.

On the weekend of Dec. 2-3, a conference in New York will bring together activists from all over the United States to discuss the past year's events, present political analysis and plan future actions to further the struggle. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about Marxism and the socialist alternative to capitalism.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A CONFERENCE OF **Dec. 2 & 3**
Workers World Party New York City

¡La campaña presidencial de Workers World Party se solidariza con el pueblo de Vieques!

Mientras que los Demócratas y los Republicanos intentan la ardua tarea de deferenciarse el uno del otro para obtener votos este noviembre; ellos consistentemente se unen para reenfrenar la arrogancia y el racismo del imperialismo estadounidense. En ninguna parte es esto más clara que en el caso de Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Ambos candidatos presidenciales prometen de la boca afuera a la gente de Vieques, pero rehusan pedir soluciones concretas, como la de retirar a la Marina de los Estados Unidos de la isla. El Congreso de los Estados Unidos ha votado en pro de una directiva más alevosa sobre Vieques que la original firmada por el Presidente Bill Clinton.

Esta directiva presidencial fue concebida como respuesta a la oposición masiva montada por el pueblo puertorriqueño al bombardeo de Vieques por la Marina. La directiva original y su versión aprobada por el

congreso son intentos por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos para imponer permanentemente prácticas militares en esa isla contra la voluntad de la mayoría del pueblo puertorriqueño.

Desde 1941, el ejército de Estados Unidos ha estado usando a Vieques como campo de práctica para todas las ramas militares y sus aliados de la OTAN. Tres cuarto de la isla es ocupada por este ejército. Este mismo ha contaminado el aire, las aguas y la tierra con incontables contaminantes, incluyendo napalm y uranio reducido. Las prácticas han dado como resultado la devastación económica de la isla, con la población sufriendo de un 50% de desempleo.

Todo esto no sería posible si Puerto Rico fuera un país independiente. Pero la verdad es que Puerto Rico es una colonia de los Estados Unidos, falto de cualquier

autoridad sobre su propia tierra. Los Estados Unidos ahora tiene su brazo militar para América Latina, el Comando Sur, en Puerto Rico, después de que se retirara de Panamá.

El pueblo de Vieques siempre se ha opuesto al uso de su tierra para maniobras militares. Dos bombas de 500 libras, disparadas por un avión de guerra, mataron al civil, David Sanes en abril de 1999. Esto dio paso al desarrollo de un movimiento masivo para sacar a la Marina de Vieques. La gente desde Vieques y Puerto Rico llegaron en grandes cantidades al área restringida para montar campamentos que efectivamente detuvieron los ejercicios del Pentágono por un año. En mayo de este año, jefes de policía, agentes del FBI y personal militar armados hasta los dientes forzaron a los manifestantes del área e incluso arrestaron a muchos. La op-

eración fue ayudada por helicópteros y barcos de guerras que la rodeaban.

Desde entonces, la lucha ha continuado con manifestaciones masivas, incursiones a las áreas restringidas y solidaridad internacional. El pueblo de Vieques está comprometido a sacar a la Marina de una vez por todas. Ellos saben que esta es la única manera de obtener paz y estabilidad en su tierra.

¡Marina de Estados Unidos afuera! ¡Imperialismo estadounidense fuera de Puerto Rico!

La candidata presidencial del partido Workers World Party, Monica Moorehead, viajó a Vieques en agosto de 1999. Moorehead y su compañera de campaña, Gloria La Riva, han ayudado organizar manifestaciones para la lucha de Vieques. Workers World Party ofrece su apoyo incondicionalmente a la magnífica lucha y jura hacer todo lo posible para asistirles.

Más naciones desafían las sanciones contra Irak

Por Brian Becker

Protestas anti imperialistas en todo el Medio Oriente no solo están apoyando a los Palestinos, ellos están socavando las sanciones impuestas por los Estados Unidos contra Irak.

Antes de que una bomba rompiera sus paredes, el barco de guerra USS Cole, estaba en el Mar Rojo como parte de un inmenso bloqueo naval del Pentágono contra Irak. Las sanciones no podrían continuar sin este bloqueo naval.

Más de 1.2 millones de iraquíes han muerto de hambre, enfermedades relacionadas a la mal nutrición, parásitos nacidos del agua y otros tipos de dolencia desde que las sanciones fueron impuestas en 1990. Unos 5000 niños mueren cada mes. Sin el empuje militar de los Estados Unidos las sanciones se disolverían.

Bajo la excusa de buscar un "cargamento proveeniente de Irak", las flotas navales de Estados Unidos y Bretaña han arrogantemente abordado más de 12.000 barcos y lanchas en el Golfo Pérsico/Arabe, el Mar Rojo y otras aguas internacionales durante la década pasada, logrando la ira de muchos.

El Pentágono y la Fuerza Aérea Real británica también bloquean el espacio aéreo iraquí al declarar unilateralmente una "zona de no vuelo" sobre más de dos tercios de Irak. Jets de guerra patrullan los cielos y evitan cualquier viaje aéreo. El Comité de Sanciones de las Naciones Unidas bajo el dominio de los Estados Unidos niega el permiso a otros países de viajar a Irak.

Sanciones se comienzan a deshacer

Un avión sirio con oficiales gubernamentales, doctores, enfermeras y 10 toneladas de ayuda humanitaria aterrizó en Bagdad el 9 de octubre, el primero de tales viajes en más de 18 años. El vuelo se dio a cabo dos semanas después de que Francia y Rusia desafiaran las sanciones contra Irak enviando aviones a Bagdad sin autorización del Comité de Sanciones de la ONU.

Adicionalmente, desde los comienzos de octubre, ha habido viajes a Irak desde Jordania, Moroco, Tunisia, Yemen, los Emiratos Unidos Arabes y Argelia. Dos aviones egipcios cargando artistas, intelectuales y

doctores abiertamente desafiaron el bloqueo, aterrizando en Bagdad para dar ayuda y expresar su solidaridad con el pueblo iraquí. Uno de los vuelos de Egipto se puso de nombre el viaje "Muhammad al-Durrah," nombrado con el nombre del niño palestino de 12 años de Gaza quien fue asesinado por soldados israelitas.

Las sanciones se han comenzado a erosionar antes del levantamiento palestino. El 12 de septiembre, la Secretaria de Estado, Madeleine Albright anunció que los Estados Unidos "no usaría la fuerza" si Irak se rehusaba a permitir un nuevo equipo de inspectores de la ONU a ir al país.

Las declaraciones de Albright fue un esfuerzo de última hora para tratar de mantener una coalición política pro sanciones dentro de la ONU. Clinton y Albright temieron que otro enfrentamiento militar dramático con Irak encendería un apoyo mundial para el cese de las sanciones genocidas. Pero tan pronto Albright hizo su anuncio, las fuerzas anti sanciones comenzaron a viajar directamente a Bagdad, cerrado desde 1991.

Activistas a romper el bloqueo

Activistas anti sanciones en los EE.UU. también planea desafiar la prohibición de

viaje aéreo. El cuarto Desafío a las Sanciones contra Irak, iniciado por el Centro de Acción Internacional, entregará grandes cantidades de medicina donada a Irak en enero del 2001. El ex Fiscal General de los Estados Unidos, Ramsey Clark encabezará la delegación, la cual incluirá a proveedores de cuidados de salud, expertos en sistemas de aguas, activistas religiosos y de los derechos civiles y estudiantes activistas.

Para apoyar al Desafío a las Sanciones contra Irak o para tomar parte en la delegación, llama al Centro de Acción Internacional al (212) 633-6646 o al email, iacenter@iacenter.org

Cuba demuestra calidad dorada en Juegos Olímpicos

Por Rosemary Neidenberg

Hace cuatro siglos y medio de dominación colonial y imperialista. Cuatro décadas de construir el socialismo—todas bajo asalto de bloqueos y guerra química librada contra siembras y gente. A pesar de todas las dificultades, una vez más, Cuba hizo una actuación casi increíble en los Juegos Olímpicos este año en Sydney, Australia. Las medallas ganadas por atletas cubanos son una prueba brillante de la flexibilidad, creatividad, y dedicación de un pueblo organizado en una sociedad colectivizada.

En los Juegos Olímpicos de Atlanta de 1996, Cuba ganó el lugar numero nueve desde el punto de vista de la cantidad de medallas en comparación con los demás países participantes. En los Juegos de Sydney, Cuba tomó el octavo lugar con una suma de 29 medallas. Fue superado solamente por el Goliat, Estados Unidos, con una población 27 más grande que la de Cuba, y un tesoro fuera de comparación y que ganó 97 medallas; por Rusia, que todavía tiene la devoción a los deportes de los tiempos Soviéticos que ganó 88; por China socialista con 59; y los países muy desarrollados como Australia, con 58; Alemania, con 57; Francia, con 38; e Italia, con 34. Todos tienen una población mucho más grande que Cuba.

Cuando los atletas rodearon la arena durante las ceremonias de apertura, un locutor de NBC-TV mencionó el número de atletas de cada delegación nacional así como la población de ese país. Cuba, con una población de 10 millones de personas envió una delegación de 243 mujeres y hombres a los juegos—alrededor de 24 participantes por cada millón de habitantes. Hasta este tipo bien indoctrinado tuvo que hacer un comentario.

Los Estados Unidos, con una población de 274 millones de habitantes, envió 602 atletas. Gran Bretaña, con 58 millones de habitantes envió 319. Japón, con una población de 126 millones, y la economía segunda más grande del mundo, envió un equipo de 268.

Hablando sobre los esfuerzos de los EE.UU. y otros potentes imperialistas de incendiar a los atletas cubanos a desertar, José Ramón Fernández, el presidente del Comité Olímpico Cubano dijo, "No es justo en absoluto que los países ricos, basado en su capacidad económica, ofrecen becas o regalos, o condiciones de vida, quitándoles los deportistas más talentosos de los países pobres como roban los cerebros científicos...

"El pueblo cubano genera los fondos y demás recursos para la preparación de nuestros atletas, proporcionando facili-

dades para entrenamiento, educación, servicios médicos, y comidas sin cobrar," explicó Fernández.

Una fórmula imperfecta

El periódico New York Times del 10 de septiembre publicó un artículo sobre una fórmula creada por dos profesores. La fórmula dice que dos factores explican un 95 por ciento de la cantidad de medallas que es posible predecir que una nación pueda ganar. Primero, la cifra de medallas ganadas en los Juegos Olímpicos pasados; y la segunda, el tamaño de su economía. Entonces, entre más grande la economía, mejor.

Esta fórmula predijo que iba a ganar a los EE.UU. 97 medallas. Sus atletas ganaron 97.

Predijo que Japón ganaría 19 medallas. Ganó 18. Bastante bueno, por lo pronto. Pero cuando tuvieron que considerar los factores sociales, los profesores se poncharon.

Rusia, todavía ganando con el momento de éxito de la era soviética ganó 88 medallas, mucho más allá que los 59 que se predijo. China ganó 59 y no las 49.

No había manera para hacer caber Cuba en la formula. Excepto, por supuesto si consideran los factores como la economía nacionalizada y una sociedad unida en sus objetivos comunistas.