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As torture scandal reaches White House

**Resistance shuts down
Iraqi oil exports**

By Fred Goldstein

June 16—Despite the attempts by the Bush administration to defuse Washington's crisis in Iraq, the resistance, the scandals and the splits in the U.S. ruling class are still steadily growing.

According to the Wall Street Journal of June 14, in the month of June there have been "about 15 car bombs already and attacks on coalition forces numbering about 35 to 40 a day."

In Baghdad, the deputy foreign minister of the new puppet interim government and an official of the Education Ministry were assassinated in the last week. In addition, the security chief of the state-run Northern Oil Co. was killed in an ambush on his way to work in the city of Kirkuk.

The resistance blasted oil pipelines near the southern town of Faw two days in a row, shutting down much of the oil supply for export and electric power. Oil exports in the north had to be halted last month when the northern pipeline from Kirkuk to Ceyhan, Turkey, was bombed on May 25. This region holds one of the world's largest oil supplies.

Despite the staged "handover of sovereignty," which is supposed to be completed by June 30, hatred for the occupation is running high. There was a major car bomb attack on a three-van convoy of "private contractors," including General Electric functionaries, in downtown Baghdad in the midst of rush hour on June 14. At least 13 people, five of them contractors, were killed. This coincided with two other bombing attacks, one south of Baghdad and one north of the city.

After the Baghdad attack "a crowd of young men flooded into the streets and rushed toward the wreckage of the convoy," wrote the New York Times of June 15. "As more than 50 Iraqi policemen stood by," continued the Times, the youth "stomped on the hoods of the crushed vehicles, doused them with kerosene and set them alight ... Even as angry men ran past them, slipping through police lines to hurl bricks at a squad of American soldiers, few of the Iraqi policemen intervened."

"What are we to do?" one of the police asked. "If we try to stop them, they will think we are helping the Americans. Then they will turn on us."

This active hatred was also reflected in the results of a poll commissioned by the occupation authorities in May but not released until this month. Among other findings, reported an AP dispatch of June 16, the poll showed that "the coalition forces had just 10 percent support. Ninety two percent of the Iraqis said they considered the coalition forces occupiers, while just 2 percent called them liberators." The poll also said that 81 percent of the people had an improved opinion of Moktada al-Sadr, who was leading a full-scale insurrection at the time.

Memo gives Bush authority to order torture

As the resistance rises, so does the torture scandal. The capitalist press is airing documents revealing that the Pentagon and the Justice Department at the highest levels are the originators of the policy of torture. Both the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post are carrying copies of these documents on their web sites.

According to the Wall Street Journal of June 7, a report prepared by a Defense Department "working group" for

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BOSTON DYKE PRIDE MARCH

Thousands cheer call to build revolutionary movement

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WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

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First Congress for Sexual Reform
Berlin, 1921

PRIDE & STRUGGLE A CENTURY AGO

**'The war to end
all wars'**

Page 4

Lesbian ♦ gay ♦ bi
and trans
PRIDE

SERIES
PART
4

Coalition seeks to reopen case of civil-rights workers

By Heather Cottin

A multinational coalition wants the state of Mississippi to prosecute those responsible for the deaths of civil-rights workers James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, who were killed 40 years ago in Philadelphia, Miss.

The three were part of the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign to desegregate Mississippi and organize Black voter registration. The campaign was organized by the NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

That summer, homes of 37 African American families and 37 churches with Black congregations were fire-bombed. These acts of racist terror were actively encouraged by the state apparatus which was entwined with the extra-legal violence of the Klan.

On June 21, 1964, James Chaney, an African American civil-rights activist, and Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, both white activists, traveled to Longdale, Miss., to investigate a church bombing. The Ku Klux Klan was reportedly strong there. As the three later drove back through Neshoba County to Meridian, Philadelphia



Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner.

police stopped and detained them.

The three civil-rights workers were never seen alive again. On Aug. 4 their bodies were found, buried in a dam.

The movie "Mississippi Burning" is based on these deaths, which stunned the country and the world. Although the murders took place before the summer project had begun, more than 70,000 students from all over the United States came to Mississippi for Freedom Summer.

Reopen the case!

Seven members of the Ku Klux Klan were convicted of federal civil-rights violations and sentenced to terms ranging from three to 10 years. The state never brought mur-

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Participants at June 12 Marxism forum.

WW PHOTO: J. LA RIVA

MARXISM: A guide to study & action

By Adrian Garcia
San Diego

San Diego's Workers World Party branch played host to a highly educational and spirited forum on June 12. The focus of the day's discussion was a struggle perspective of Marxism.

Bob McCubbin commenced the forum by reminding participants that the study of Marxism and its application to today's class struggle requires a "lifetime pursuit of study" and that it will ultimately serve all revolutionaries as "a guide to action."

A strong contingent of Los Angeles party members participated in the day's important forum. Maggie Vascassenno spoke about Workers World and its stance on Marxism in relation to the 1992 Los Angeles Rebellion. John Parker, Workers World candidate for

president of the United States, discussed the importance and vitality of the national question with an analysis of Lenin's writings on supporting the right to self-determination.

Parker proclaimed that the crux of the national question lies with "pushing for unity of the working class by understanding the oppression of others."

The class also included a brief synopsis by Ruth Vela of the most-read book in history, "The Communist Manifesto," an overview by Pete Reilly and Erik Campos of dialectical materialism, and an insightful study by Zola Muhammad of historical materialism. Muhammad described the deterioration of Native American communal life under the vestiges of capitalism.

The militant forum served to foster participants' dedication to the study of Marxism—and to using it as a tool for prosecuting the class struggle. □

WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Fri., June 18
IAC Forum: "Anybody But Bush" fever—will it help or hurt the anti-war movement? Hear LeiLani Dowell, Peace & Freedom Party congressional candidate, and Dustin Langley, Navy vet and co-founder of SNAFU (Support Network for an Armed Forces Union). 7:30 p.m. At 422 S. Western Ave., Rm 114. For info (213) 487-2368.

Thur., June 24
WWP Forum: Equal marriage rights & LGBT liberation. Hear Bob McCubbin, teacher, activist, and author of "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression—A Marxist View." 7 p.m. For info (213) 487-2195.

NEW YORK

Fri., June 18
Workers World Party meeting. Recent developments in the Korean struggle against U.S. occupation. Yoomi Jeong from the Korea Truth Commission and WW editor Deirdre Griswold will report on their recent trip to South Korea. 7 pm. Dinner at 6:30. At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl. For info (212) 627-2994.

Fri., June 25
Celebrate LGBT Pride Month at a special WWP meeting featuring three lesbian leaders of Workers World Party: WWP Vice Presidential candidate Teresa Gutierrez, LeiLani Dowell, candidate for U.S. Congress in San Francisco, and WW Managing Editor Leslie Feinberg. 7 pm. Dinner at 6:30. At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl. For info (212) 627-2994.

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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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Anti-war coalition plans protest against Democrats

By Peter Cook
Boston

The eyes of the country and the world will be focused on Boston this summer when the Democratic Party holds its national convention here July 26-29.

The Democratic Party as well as the city of Boston have been planning the convention for over a year, spending tens of millions of dollars to orchestrate the nomination of John Kerry. Despite this outpouring of obscene amounts of money and the tightest security ever, the Democrats will receive anything but a warm welcome when they arrive in Boston.

The ANSWER coalition also has plans for the DNC. Unlike the Democrats, who have to hide behind a phalanx of security, and unlike those who hide behind the “anyone but Bush” mantra, ANSWER has called for a national demonstration in the streets of Boston on July 25 to protest this party of capitalism, racism, bigotry, imperialism and war.

The protesters will hold a kickoff rally at the Boston Common starting at 12 noon. Then they will march through the streets of Boston.

People from throughout the country are coming to Boston to participate not just in this protest but also in the many other protests scheduled during the convention week.

Unions representing Boston city workers also have plans for the convention. For

the past several months 32 unions, including the Boston school bus drivers of Steel Workers Local 8751 and Electrical Workers Local 2222, have been meeting and holding protests to demand that their contract demands be met. Otherwise, they say, they will protest at the DNC.

These protests have been extremely successful in building the community/labor solidarity necessary to win a good contract. They are a precursor of what can be expected at the convention.

The July 25 demonstration will focus on the role of Sen. John Kerry and the Democratic Party in supporting the Bush administration’s war and occupation of Iraq. The demonstration will also oppose the government’s post-Sept. 11 attacks on civil rights and civil liberties. It will demand funding for jobs, housing, education and health care, not the Pentagon’s war machine.

The Democratic Party leadership has been complicit in President George W. Bush’s war against social, legal and civil liberties at home.

According to a statement released by the ANSWER coalition: “The people are mobilizing in opposition to the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, which could not have happened without the complicity of the Democratic Party and its members in Congress. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed and many more wounded. More than 800 U.S. troops have been killed and thousands wounded

and maimed.

“John Kerry has made it clear that he not only supports the occupation of Iraq but that he would send more troops if elected president. Kerry has accused the Bush administration of not doing enough to overthrow the elected government of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and Kerry has repeatedly outlined his support for Israel while it wages war on the Palestinian people.

“Both parties are opposed to providing benefits and legal safeguards to undocumented workers and their families. Both parties have engaged in scapegoating and targeting of immigrant communities and their legal and social rights.

“Both Bush and Kerry have expressed their opposition to equal marriage rights for the LGBT community and they have both stood in opposition to affirmative action.

“Both the Republican and Democratic parties have been responsible for a massive transfer of wealth from badly needed social programs to the Pentagon’s war budget. Devastating cuts in housing, education, job training, veteran’s benefits, and health care are imposing a new level of human suffering, especially in working class and poor communities. Hardest hit are African-American and Latino communities. The Democrats and the Republicans are attempting to abrogate civil rights and liberties while simultaneously falsely positioning Arab-

Americans and Muslims as ‘enemies within’ as exemplified by the passage of the ‘Patriot Act.’

“Both the Republicans and Democrats represent and are subservient to an economic and social order which puts the global pursuit of profits first and the rights of poor, working and oppressed people last. It is time to build an independent movement that will put an end to wars of conquest, racism and all forms of bigotry. The resources being used to fund the Pentagon belong to our communities and are needed for jobs, housing, health care and education.”

This protest comes at a critical time. U.S. imperialism is on the defensive. The much-vaunted economic recovery hasn’t materialized. The adage that “the rich get richer while the poor get poorer” has never been truer. And there is increasing awareness that the Democratic Party fails to offer a real alternative.

The ANSWER coalition is encouraging everyone to come to Boston on July 25 and participate in this demonstration and, if possible, stay for the whole week. Organizers say it is time for an independent movement of poor, working and oppressed people.

Fliers are available for download at www.answerboston.org. If you would like more information or would like to get involved in helping to build this protest please contact ANSWER Boston at 617-522-6626 or info@answerboston.org. □

Despite repressive measures

Activists defy intimidating tactics at G-8

By Dianne Mathiowetz & Dustin Langley
Savannah, Ga.

It’s easy to see why President George W. Bush picked the coast of Georgia for his G-8 Summit on June 8-10 on Sea Island, 80 miles south of Savannah, Ga.

Sea Island is an enclave of multi-million-dollar “cottages” owned by some of the wealthiest people in the United States who come to spend some down time enjoying the sunshine and ocean breezes. Here the president met with the leaders of Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada and Russia.

Likewise, the city of Savannah, where the G-8 summit staff and world media were housed, is a perfect symbol of Bush’s new American empire. The center of the city is beautifully kept, filled with lush green parks and huge ivy-covered mansions. The streets are lined with cafes and shops for the well-heeled tourists who flock here every year.

Just a few blocks away from the manicured city center, however, there is an entirely different city. This one doesn’t get advertised on the tourism brochures.

Savannah, with 131,000 people, has a poverty rate of almost 22 percent, according to the 2000 census. Almost 30 percent of children here live in poverty.

The coastal port of Brunswick, entryway to Sea Island, is a town of about 15,000. The African American majority suffers high unemployment, low wages and an epidemic of diseases caused by the toxic wastes produced by chemical plants and paper mills. Within Brunswick there are four Superfund toxic dump sites. There are an additional 22 waste dumps in the county.

On May 21, more than two weeks before the summit, Georgia Gov. Sonny Purdue declared a state of emergency. More than 20,000 police, federal agents and soldiers were assigned to security. That was 66 per protester.

According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, more than \$37 million was spent on security—more than \$100,000 per protester.

The streets of Brunswick and Savannah were filled with armed troops, mounted police, Armored Personnel Carriers, and Humvees with mounted 50-caliber machine guns. F-15 jets and helicopter gunships flew overhead. Coast Guard and police gunboats patrolled the river and sea coast, their machine guns trained on protesters who lined the shore.

Tall metal barricades were placed around government buildings in Savannah. Police wearing full riot gear were dispatched to guard Starbucks, the Gap, and Banana Republic whenever protesters neared.

Mohammed Alami, the Washington correspondent for Al-Jazeera, said, “It looks like another Arab capital on a state of alert.”

Local residents complained of people being harassed and intimidated by security forces.

William Pleasant of Savannah said there was a concerted effort to squash dissent in the city. “My brother, my next-door neighbor—they’ve all been harassed by the police. They’ve had their stuff searched, they’ve been shaken down. They’ve been thrown against the wall—the whole nine yards.

“And there was no justification for it, other than they looked young, or they

looked unusual. There is a sort of profiling going on.”

Carol Bass, an activist from Atlanta and organizer of the Fair World Fair in Brunswick, said: “We’re seeing soldiers on patrol in residential neighborhoods all over the place. That is a very dangerous slope when you talk about civil liberties and civil rights. To call a state of emergency when there is no emergency is a very casual use of extreme authority.”

She watched the National Guard question residents about Zach Lyde, a Brunswick minister who was a major organizer of the protests there. “Soldiers came to the neighborhood and were going door to door, talking to people about Zach and the people in his church,” Bass told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. “And then this other big military vehicle came around the corner and pointed a big old machine gun at us while we were standing in front of his church. That’s political intimidation.”

National Lawyers Guild President Michael Avery said, “The government is using an exaggerated threat of disruption in order to demonize and discourage legitimate political protest.”

‘George Bush, you can’t hide!’

Despite the Bush administration’s clear attempt to intimidate protesters, activists came from all over the country—as far away as Arizona and Maine—and from all over the world.

In Brunswick, more than 200 demonstrators rallied each day against the war in Iraq, environmental injustice and in support of the Palestinian struggle.

Educational programs on corporate globalization were held each day featuring speakers, films and cultural perform-

ances.

On June 10, a group of protesters walked more than eight miles on the single causeway leading to Sea Island, where the summit was being held. They were met by 150 police in riot gear. Fourteen activists were arrested for challenging the police blockade.

In Savannah, a three-day International Festival for Peace and Civil Liberties featured several rallies, marches and musical performances each day of the G-8 Summit. Several loud, spirited non-permitted marches proceeded through the city streets.

One group headed to the riverfront,
Continued on page 5

Repression at work— U.S. STYLE

Below is a list of Department of Homeland Security agencies that worked hand in hand to repress counter-demonstrators at the recent G-8 summit held in Sea Island, Ga., June 8-10:

- ▷ United States Secret Service
- ▷ Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- ▷ Federal Emergency Management Agency
- ▷ Coast Guard
- ▷ Customs and Border Protection
- ▷ Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- ▷ Transportation Security Administration
- ▷ Information Analysis and Protection Directorate □

Pride & struggle a century ago

'The war to end all wars'

By Leslie Feinberg

The outbreak of World War I derailed the thrust of the movements for sexual and gender emancipation and for women's rights in Germany—and created a profound political split in the international working-class struggle.

It was no accident that the war began precisely at a time of a worldwide upsurge of the working class in Europe and in the United States, as well as stirrings in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The workers' movements were gaining strength and momentum. They were increasingly taking a stand against imperialist war.

There were no socialist countries or liberation movements to blame for World War I. It was a plain, unvarnished racist war for colonial empire. The principal capitalist countries, each hungry to gobble up a bigger share of the markets and profits, tried to redivide the colonial world.

In each of the capitalist countries the bosses appealed to the workers to unite behind them in battle. The German ruling class was able to rally its working class for the war on a patriotic basis. Even the majority in the socialist movement of that day, and the Homosexual Emancipation Movement, got swept up into the chauvinist appeal.

Going along with this right-wing, murderous patriotism put the brake on every social movement—gay, trans and lesbian, women's rights, workers' and socialist struggles—because it gave the ruling class the upper hand, strengthened the right wing and set back the progressive movement.

Those in Germany who didn't fight against the war, instead supporting their own ruling class with patriotic fervor, were pulled in a rightward direction.

But not everyone gave in to frenzied national chauvinism. In the German socialist movement, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Leibknecht took a principled stand against the German ruling class. They were arrested and later assassinated as a result of their opposition to the war.

World War I took the lives of 20 million workers.

A new revolutionary front

The inter-imperialist war interrupted the progress of the working class movement in Europe and Russia. But as the war

BOSTON

No pride in occupation!

More than 100,000 people marched in the Boston Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Pride parade this year. The focus was a celebration of equal marriage rights in Massachusetts.

The "Come Out Against War and Racism" contingent organized by the Stonewall Warriors of the International Action Center also included Network/La Red and the Tiffany Club. The spirited contingent got a warm response from the thousands and thousands lining the route of march.

Activists in the contingent distributed several thousand fliers calling for an LGBT contingent at the July 25 protest against the Democratic National Convention at the Commons. Another flier announced that Teresa Gutierrez, a Latina lesbian who is Workers World Party's candidate for vice president, will be speaking in Boston June 23. That leaflet was also well received.

—WW Boston bureau

dragged on for years, the intolerable conditions of life, carnage and suffering sparked revolutionary workers' uprisings.

The very same processes that had been either submerged or driven underground by the outbreak of the war began to resurface and speed up. Imperialist war accelerates all the social, political and economic processes that exist during peacetime. War is the most violent expression of the constant clash of capitalist competition for profits.

World War I generated a huge area of struggle in Asia. It laid the ground-work for the development of national liberation movements around the world. And the war sparked a revolutionary situation in almost every leading capitalist country in the world.

World War I contributed to making the monumental Russian Revolution a necessity. It was not military defeat on the battlefield, but revolutions in Russia and Germany, that brought World War I to an end.

Just eight weeks after the October 1917 Russian Revolution, which brought the workers', peasants' and soldiers' Soviets to power, the new government led by Lenin abolished the czarist anti-gay laws, which were similar to the German Paragraph 175. This action went hand in hand with guaranteeing the rights of workers, land for the peasants and equal rights for women.

Abolishing the anti-gay laws in Russia was a historic step forward from the Napoleonic Code, established in 1804, that had given legal expression to the French bourgeoisie's revolutionary victory over feudalism in 1789.

The left wing of the Russian revolutionary movement did more than just strip the anti-gay laws from the Russian penal code.

Boston Dyke March:

'Abolish war, racism & capitalism!'

By WW Boston bureau

Thousands of lesbians and their supporters marched through the streets of Boston June 11 in the 10th annual "Dyke March."

The mood of the victory around same-sex marriage rights in the state was apparent. Those who lined the sidewalks applauded and cheered the marchers.

The Lesbian Avengers, who founded and led the Dyke March, focused this year on the theme "the war abroad and the war at home." At the request of the march organizers, a banner reading "Come out against war & racism—No Pride in occu-



Boston, June 11.

Lesbian ♦ gay ♦ bi
and trans
PRIDE

SERIES
PART
4

A selection
of periodicals
published or
inspired by the
German Homosexual
Emancipation Movement
of the 1920s.

PHOTO: LEO SCHIDROWITZ



The Bolsheviks argued that the walls that separated same-sex love from the rest of human sexuality should be torn down.

The new Soviet legislation stressed that all forms of sexual gratification should be treated the same way—as "natural"—and that sex was a private matter. Only the use of force or duress, injury or encroachment on the rights of another person, was a matter for criminal prosecution.

The fresh winds of the Russian Revolution also filled the sails of struggle in other parts of the world, including Germany.

'Socialism means solidarity'

In 1918, mutiny broke out in the German Navy. Workers throughout the country went on strike in support of the rebellion.

On Nov. 7, a council of workers, soldiers and peasants established the Republic of Bavaria. The revolutionary wave spread to Berlin where a socialist republic was proclaimed on Nov. 9. The kaiser abdicated the next day.

In this revolutionary wave, the lesbian and gay movement, largely middle-class in its leadership, took its stand with the working class.

The revolution gave the Homosexual

Emancipation Movement new energy. This insurrection lent inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement's hope that their liberation was on the horizon.

The Scientific Humanitarian Committee had, like the Social Democrats, taken a social-patriotic position during the war. Yet it had published articles by and maintained solidarity with gays from all the countries involved in the war. Many of the early fighters for gay liberation had died on the imperialist battlefields.

With the overthrow of the monarchy and militarism, the committee expressed "firm hope that our movement, too, will once again be able to move into the forefront and lead the struggle for homosexual liberation to its long-desired end."

Magnus Hirschfeld, a leader of the Homosexual Emancipation Movement, and members of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee supported the new republic. "We took the most active part in all the revolutionary events," reported the committee.

Hirschfeld spoke at a mass rally in Berlin on Nov. 10. Held at the height of the revolution, it was in front of the Reichstag building. Between 3,000 to 4,000 people gathered near to where the revolutionary

Continued on page 8

take part in the anti-war and anti-occupation contingents in this year's Boston Pride March. She drew applause when she argued that every domestic economic and social demand—money for AIDS and other health-care needs, racist profiling, youth rights, rape and battering of women, environmental struggles, and jobs, education and housing—are all tied to fighting the war drive.

"The racist dehumanization of Iraqi and Afghan prisoners in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib also demonstrates how violently anti-trans, anti-gay and anti-woman the Pentagon culture of conquest is. And

Continued on following page

Demise of Bush doctrine and the Reagan myth

By Fred Goldstein

The extraordinary campaign to lionize former President Ronald Reagan has been an insult to the workers and the oppressed of the world. Reagan was their arch-enemy. The bourgeois media have been basking in the reputation they themselves created for him as a leader. While differing in their views of Reagan's politics, the entire establishment has united in trying to make him a hero.

They tout the lie that "he made us feel good." In fact, he brought misery and suffering to tens of millions the world over. Those who not only "felt good" but made out like bandits under Reagan were the rich, predatory ruling class—the beneficiaries of his huge tax cuts, income transfers from social services to corporations, \$2 trillion in military spending, union busting and overseas plunder.

Right now the ruling class desperately needs a hero. George W. Bush's image is tarnished since he dragged U.S. imperialism into the quagmire of Iraq—a quagmire that deepens every day.

Reagan was a right-wing ideologue. Bush is a mediocre, provincial, backslapping bourgeois politician—the son of a political/corporate dynasty, who has been the willing captive of a group of right-wing ideologues now called "neoconservatives."

While moderate and right-wing commentators bicker over Reagan's role, Bush has been trying to latch onto the right-

Activists at G-8

Continued from page 3

where they could see the International Media Center where Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair were meeting with the corporate media. They chanted: "George Bush, you can't hide! We charge you with homicide!"

Despite the intense efforts by local authorities, state officials and federal agencies to stifle any form of protest to G-8 policies, organizers declared that their message of "people before profit" had been delivered.

Said one G-8 opponent, "Our numbers may have been less than at other summits, but our call for world justice rang just as clear, just as loud." □

some of those same torturers are police and prison guards right here, like those whose brutal repression sparked the Stonewall Rebellion. But from Stonewall to Baghdad, Palestine to Haiti, repression generates resistance."

Rally-goers applauded the call to swell the ranks of the July 25 protest at the Democratic National Convention in Boston this summer in order to build a fight-back movement independent of both parties of big business.

But the biggest cheers followed Feinberg's call for a revolutionary movement "to overturn the economic system that breeds war and racism and poverty."

Pointing to the skyscrapers that surround the Commons, Feinberg said: "We built all of this collectively. It is irrational that a wealthy few should claim to own it all. We need to abolish this economic system and reorganize production to provide jobs and housing, health care and education, recreation and vacation for all who do the work of the world."

The crowd roared its assent. □

wing legacy of militarism and political reaction that was the hallmark of the Reagan administration.

The Bush doctrine of absolute world domination through preemptive warfare and nuclear terror—as enunciated in the 2001 National Security Strategy document, the Nuclear Posture Review, and important policy speeches—is in many ways the ultimate continuation of Reaganism. In fact, the Bush policy of aggression abroad and reaction at home is the post-Soviet version of Reaganism.

The Bush doctrine of unimpeded world conquest has been dashed to bits in the cities and on the highways of Iraq. This early and abject failure has come about despite the collapse of the USSR, which ended the restraint that was formerly imposed upon U.S. imperialism by the military, political and economic competition of the socialist bloc. It demonstrates the limits of such a rabidly aggressive, world-conquering strategy when it has to go beyond threats and saber rattling and face organized, mass resistance on the ground.

The failure of the Bush doctrine shows a fundamental misconception of the neo-conservatives, who regard themselves as heirs of Reagan concerning the role of imperialist military force in bringing about the demise of the USSR and presumably setting the stage for Washington's world domination. Right-wing ideologues habitually attribute the collapse of the USSR to the militaristic policies of Reagan. From this they conclude that overwhelming military superiority will guarantee the expansion of Washington's world empire and absolute dominance in the 21st century.

Reagan relied on threat of force

The relative role of Reagan's military build-up and his "full-court press" in bringing about the collapse of the USSR is open to discussion and requires analysis. But one thing about the collapse of the USSR and the Reagan policy is indisputable: the Pentagon never had to fire a shot or put soldiers on the ground. This infamous imperialist "triumph" was disastrous for the world working class, the nationally independent countries that had

freed themselves from colonialism, and the national liberation movements around the world. But to the extent that Reagan's militarism contributed to it, it was done not by the use of direct force against the socialist camp but rather through the threat of force, through military, political and economic pressure and the use of indirect force—such as the funding of the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan, military encirclement and so on.

This threat of force certainly promoted the development of reactionary bourgeois social layers in the upper echelons of Soviet society, which were either conciliatory to U.S. imperialism or downright partial to capitalist restoration. They all ultimately coalesced behind Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who paved the way for the capitalist restoration carried out under Boris Yeltsin.

Reviewing the Reagan administration's actual record in direct military conflict, it consists largely of three episodes: the 1983 invasion of the tiny island nation of Grenada; the 1986 bombing of Libya, including the home of Mohammar Qaddafi, killing his baby daughter; and the sending of U.S. Marines to Lebanon in 1982, which ended up in a disaster for the U.S. military.

Even the invasion of Grenada was done in a cowardly, opportunistic way. It was carried out in the wake of the assassination of Maurice Bishop, the popular leader of the radical nationalist revolution, during internal factional strife. The leadership was disunited and the masses were completely disoriented. If the leadership had been together and the masses organized for resistance, even the invasion of this tiny island might have turned out very differently for the invasion forces.

Of course, Reagan funded the death-squad governments in El Salvador and Guatemala, sent aid to the contras in Nicaragua, and promoted counter-revolution around the world. But the actual use of direct U.S. military force under Reagan, the type of direct military force that the Bush administration attempted to use to re-colonize Iraq, was actually minimal and therefore totally untested.

It was the \$2-trillion arms buildup, pushing advanced missiles into forward



Paris, June 5.

positions directed at the USSR, and the aggressive funding of and support for proxy counter-revolutionary forces that characterized the Reagan policy.

Bush deliberately sought to appeal to the right wing by casting his political image in the Reagan mold. Bush has carried out his wars and domestic reaction with an "anti-terrorism" crusade and infamous threats against the so-called "Axis of Evil"—his code words for governments that have stood up for independence, self-determination and self-defense against U.S. imperialism. This is a conscious imitation of Reagan, who carried out his foreign policy under the banner of an anti-communist crusade against "the Evil Empire"—by which he meant societies that stand for the abolition of capitalist exploitation and private property.

The Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz-Perle grouping around Bush has sought to continue the militaristic momentum of U.S. imperialism built up under Reagan. But their thesis that the collapse of the USSR opened an unobstructed road to empire through military intimidation and conquest, based upon the achievements of the Reagan administration, omitted the fundamental fact that under Reagan there never was a major conflict between U.S. imperialist forces on the ground and the organized working class and oppressed masses determined to struggle.

Reagan was the beneficiary of a historical conjuncture in which the U.S. military buildup and the huge advances in the scientific-technological revolution in the West coincided with the maturation and the political emergence of a reactionary generation of Soviet leaders. This conjuncture worked to undermine, intimidate and ultimately overcome the conservatized Soviet leadership, leaving the Soviet masses completely unprepared and unorganized to stop the counter-revolution.

But, as the Bush administration and the U.S. ruling class are finding out in the relatively small country of Iraq, it is a wholly different matter to overcome an armed, organized mass resistance fighting against colonialism and for national liberation. □

Reagan gets a different send-off

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

As Ronald Reagan's funeral was under way in Washington, D.C., activists gathered in San Francisco June 11 to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans killed by death squads that were funded and trained by the Reagan administration.

"This man is a murderer, a criminal who doesn't deserve any respect," said Zenaida Velásquez Rodríguez, whose brother was abducted by Honduran security forces in 1981 and never seen again. "I don't forgive Reagan and I hope he's going to hell."

Protesters led a funeral procession down Mission Street, the Latino district, in honor of the more than 200,000 people killed in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras during Reagan's reign from 1981 to 1990.



Zenaida Velásquez Rodríguez speaking at anti-Reagan rally in San Francisco.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG

democratic, which grew exponentially through his silence along with refusal to provide federal funding to battle the disease. He supported the apartheid government in South Africa. And he propped up brutal military regimes in Latin America.

In the early 1980s, Reagan provided military aid and training for the Nicaraguan contras trying to overthrow the Sandinista government. In what became known as the Iran-Contra scandal, Reagan's administration secretly sold arms to Iran to fund the terrorist right-wing contras.

Rodríguez said the families whose loved ones were disappeared and killed live with eternal pain.

"It's like having a wound that is open and bleeding all the time," she said. □

Several protesters carried a coffin while others held crosses inscribed with the names of those murdered. Throughout the march one protester read aloud the names of individuals who had been killed. The demonstration was sponsored by Global Exchange.

In the week after Reagan's death the news media offered glowing reports about his life. But Reagan's true legacy was brutal.

He slashed the safety net of domestic social programs. He ignored the AIDS epi-

Home health care workers

'The new face of labor'

Following are excerpts from a talk given by health-care worker Toni Arenstein at a June 11 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

This past week has been one of tremendous labor struggles of our class in New York City. The main issue has been the need for a living wage. They have involved the home health aides. These workers are some of the most oppressed, low-paid workers in the city and they are mostly women of color and many immigrants.

These workers are making \$6 to \$7 an hour, often after working 10-12 years. Medicaid and Medicare pay \$18 per hour for home health aide services, and the big executives in the agencies earn triple-digit salaries.

I heard one of the home health aides interviewed. She said she has multiple sclerosis herself and yet she takes care of other people. She has been working 10 years and makes \$7 an hour—and has no health benefits or sick time. And she makes too much money to be eligible for Medicaid.

So here these workers are caring for the

sick and elderly and they have no medical benefits. What an outrage.

I was a visiting nurse in New York City for 10 years and I can say without a doubt that it is the home health aides who keep the patients alive. They cook, feed, bathe, clothe, do the shopping, purchase the prescriptions, remind to take medications, change diapers, use complicated equipment, help people to be able to walk again, or push the wheelchairs so they can get out of the house.

This is truly life-sustaining. Without the work they do, people would be placed in nursing homes or die.

Many of the home health aides are not able to afford housing because it is impossible to find an apartment when earning \$12,000-\$14,000 per year. Some are forced to live in shelters. They also travel long distances and often have to go from home to home to provide care for different patients.

The strike ended June 9 with 1199 Service Employees reaching settlements with five home-care agencies employing 12,000 home health aides. Union leaders

said little progress had been made in negotiations with seven other agencies employing about 10,000 workers.

What is really significant about the home health aides is that this struggle is really the result of new organizing in the last 10 years. When I was a visiting nurse in the 1980s and early 1990s, 1199 was attempting to organize home health aides but it was very difficult. Very few were organized at that time. Part of the problem was that home health aides didn't work in one place, so it was very difficult to get to them to sign cards or to invite them to meetings.

When the 74,000 home health aides were finally organized by the Service Employees in Los Angeles in 1999, it was reported that the union organizers had to overcome many practical and political obstacles to achieve this victory. They had to stand at many bus stops all over Los Angeles so they could reach the workers.

To know this history and to see them out so strong and defiant was really an inspiration and so encouraging about the struggles to come.



Toni Arenstein

The party is very excited about these developments because these are the workers of the struggles to come. They are like the grocery workers in the California strike. They will usher in a whole new era of struggle.

It's interesting that the strikes by the home health aides and the day-care workers came at the same time. It's inescapable: They are the new face of the working class in New York City.

They are largely women, oppressed, many are immigrants. There is a rising level of anger among low-paid workers.

They are saying, "We won't take it anymore." It signifies that this growing sector of the working class is saying, "We are angry and if you don't deal with us we are not going to go away."

In his landmark 1986 book "High Tech, Low Pay," Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy wrote that as capitalism ravages the living standards of an increasingly multinational working class, "it lays the objective basis for the politicization of the workers, for moving in a more leftward direction and for organization on a broad scale."

Pointing to a recent New York hospital workers' strike, he wrote, "That the hospital strikers are more politically conscious and a more militant element of the working class can easily be verified by even a chance acquaintance with them."

These are very important struggles of our class and we look forward to more of these struggles and the possibility for the party to intervene. We must make every attempt possible to demonstrate solidarity and support and to make sure that every worker who wants one goes home with a Workers World newspaper.

Onward to Workers World Party's continued participation and intervention in the workers' struggle. □

AFL-CIO survey shows:

Women workers want health care & jobs

By Mary Owen

Affordable health care and finding and keeping a good job with basic benefits are the leading concerns of working women, according to the AFL-CIO's 2004 "Ask a Working Woman Survey Report," released June 2.

These are also the burning issues propelling women workers, particularly immigrants and women of color, into the streets in record numbers—from the California grocery workers' strike for affordable health care to recent New York City strikes for better pay and benefits by home health aides and day-care workers.

"The need for good jobs reverberates through the responses of working women," according to the union federation's report. Yet the vast majority of women workers—90 percent—say it's difficult to find a good job with benefits. More than half of African American women say it's "very difficult."

The capitalist media claim there is an economic recovery, but the survey found: "Nearly half (48 percent) of working women have been out of work in the past year or have a family member or close friend who has been out of work."

The rate is even greater for African American women—61 percent, Latinas—56 percent, Asian Pacific American women—52 percent, low-wage women—57 percent, and young women under 30—52 percent.

"Many women work irregular hours, and most contribute half or more of their families' income, increasing the pressure they feel concerning good jobs," said the report. "Four in 10 working women work evenings, nights or weekends on a regular basis, while one-third work shifts different than their spouses or partners."

Women of color are even more likely to work irregular hours and different shifts.

Health care, benefits & equal pay

"Rising health-care costs are the biggest worry for working women," according to the report.

Almost all of the women polled—95 percent—said affordable health care is an

important benefit. Even more women—97 percent—want laws to make health care more affordable. That figure reflects the strongest jump in concern on any issue in the last four years.

For women with jobs, one-quarter to one-third lack basic benefits. "Nearly one-third of women say they do not have affordable health insurance or paid sick leave ... and more than one-third lack retirement benefits," the survey found.

The situation is worse for low-wage women. Up to half of them have no basic benefits. Latinas are more likely—39 percent—to lack secure, affordable health insurance than any other group.

"Most working women (93 percent) say equal pay is in an important benefit," the report stated. "However, 25 percent of working women report not having equal pay." Their view is supported by another recent study. □

Socialist candidates:

MONEY FOR JOBS,

Isn't it time workers spoke for themselves?

We think so. We are workers, people of color, longtime supporters of the labor movement and socialists—and we are challenging Corporate "America's" hold on the presidential elections with an independent, working-class election campaign.

The John Parker-Teresa Gutierrez campaign of Workers World Party stands for union jobs for all at a living wage, free universal health care, an end to racism and national oppression, same-sex marriage rights, immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Haiti and Afghanistan, and much more.

United, workers and oppressed people have the power to sweep away Bush & Co. But we don't mean by voting for Bush Lite: John Kerry.

This is the time to talk about building a militant labor-community mobilization, like the one forged during the California grocery workers' strike/lockout earlier

Support the Workers World Party

Isn't it time workers spoke for themselves?

Every four years it's the same story. Millionaire/billionaire politicians funded by Big Business pose as friends of workers. But after the elections, no matter who wins, the results are the same: more war, more union busting, more racism and bigotry, more hardship for poor and working people.

The choice between Republican and Democrat this year is a choice between the greater evil and the lesser evil. Certainly when it comes to the interests of the workers and oppressed worldwide, the answer to the bosses' evil is not to vote for Bush, author of the bloody war and occupation of Iraq—nor vote for Kerry, who wants to increase the number of troops in Iraq and declares, "failure is not an option."

Workers World Party runs in the elections, too. But we're not in it to play the warmongers' game. We're here to crash the elections. And

we have great candidates—John Parker for president and Teresa Gutierrez for vice president. People of color. Workers. Anti-war activists. Longtime working-class fighters.

Our goal is to reach tens of thousands, if not millions, of people with a message they won't hear anywhere else: Bring the troops home now. Real social change happens through class struggles, not elections. Workers need their own party to represent their interests. United in solidarity, we can organize an independent movement to fight for a society that puts people's needs before profit and global conquest.

We know many workers are eager to hear this refreshing message. The candidates are ready to crisscross the country joining picket lines and demonstrations, visiting community centers, union halls and schools. But they need your help.



Teresa Gutierrez for Vice President

Day care workers strikers:

'We need our blooming money'

By Sue Davis
New York

"We're here to fight for what we deserve," said Dora Yuen, a teacher at the Chung Park Day Care Center in Chinatown for the past 10 years. "Early childhood is as important as public school. We don't want to strike because we don't want to stop serving our kids, but Mayor Bloomberg has pushed us to it."

And strike they did on June 9. Marchers filled the huge expanse of the Brooklyn Bridge as far as the eye could see. After crossing the bridge from Brooklyn, the 7,000 day-care workers—at least 90 percent women of color—and their supporters rallied on the mayor's doorstep at City Hall.

The workers chanted: "What do we want? Contract! Respect! When do we want it? Now!"

Many carried homemade signs with slogans like "Bloomberg: Balancing the budget on children's backs" and "Children are the future, invest in education."

The day-care workers are members of Local 205 of District Council 1707, which is part of the State, County and Municipal Employees union. They have been without a contract since April 2000, and haven't had a raise in three years.

They are responsible for more than 30,000 children of working and poor families. Many women who are on welfare or trying to leave welfare rely on these workers to care for their children while they work.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who recently seized control of New York's Board of Education, may have other plans.

Audrey Bowman, a teacher for 17 years at the E.P. Rivers Learning Center in the Bronx, told Workers World that she's worried because the mayor has announced



plans to move all school-age programs to the Department of Youth and Development by the end of the year. He may dismantle the city's 350 day centers in the process.

"I don't know if we'll have jobs by December," Bowman said. "Bloomberg considers us babysitters, but we have the same degrees as public-school teachers. We're fighting for the kids today, not just for our jobs."

Ken Watba, an assistant teacher at the Rena Day Care Center in Harlem for 15 years, also predicted a dire scenario: "Bloomberg wants to disband organized day care and replace us with a voucher system where kids would be cared for by untrained people in private homes."

All eight day-care workers who spoke to Workers World stressed that professional child care plays a vital role in child development. "The kids who go to day care are more advanced than kids who don't," said Cheryl Wider, a bookkeeper for 13 years at the Hammel Child Care Center in Far Rockaway. "That's where they learn the basics of math and reading. My son is an honor student in high school today and he got his start in day care."

"When you build a house, you need a strong foundation. The same with chil-

dren," said Miriam Cruz, a child-care provider with a masters degree in early childhood and the director of the Nuestros Ninos Child Development School in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. "It's wonderful knowing you've helped young people succeed in life."

Cruz belongs to the Federation of School Administrators, Local 1, and the 460-member Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, which went on strike alongside Local 205. She added: "We're the only city workers who haven't had raises. But, you know, we're not in day care for the money. It's because we love young children."

Radie Cotman, a teacher at the ABSW Day Care Center in Harlem, pointed out that teachers in the federal Head Start program make \$45,000, while she only makes \$34,000 after teaching 20 years. "We need raises so our salaries are equal to public school teachers," she said. Also noting that day-care workers "love young kids—we don't do it for the money," Cotman observed, "A society should provide the best for its children."

District Council 1707 President Brenda Stokely rallied the strikers at City Hall. "You're showing your pride by marching

today," she said. "You're letting Mayor Bloomberg know you don't like his rich and rude attitude."

Other speakers included Larry Holmes, co-director of the International Action Center. "Those of us who have been fighting against the war and occupation of Iraq understand that there are other wars going on," he said. "One of them is Mayor Bloomberg's war against low-wage workers. The anti-war movement stands with the workers in that war as well."

The strike had an immediate effect. Though no effort had been made to negotiate with the two unions in over a year, the city's office of labor relations called the unions right after the rally and made the following offer: a cash bonus of \$1,000, a 3-percent raise this year and a 2-percent raise next year.

But the unions turned the offer down and continued to strike on June 10 and 11. They are demanding a 9-percent retroactive pay raise as well as a contract that matches terms given to other city unions. As Raglan George, an officer of Local 205, said, "We can always go out at another time if the city does not deal with us in a fair and swift manner." □

Solidarity is labor's strength

HEALTH CARE, SCHOOLS—NOT WAR

this year, but on a national and international scale.

The proposed Million Worker March on Washington Oct. 16, initiated by the International Longshore & Warehouse Union, is a step in this direction. As the march's mission statement declares, "Only our own independent mobilization

of working people across America can open the way to addressing our needs and our agenda."

The grocery workers—low-paid, 60 percent women, mostly people of color, and many immigrants—fought heroically against three powerful grocery chains. They reached out to the community and

won its support. Despite enormous obstacles, the workers managed to push back the bosses' attack so the companies did not achieve their main goal of shifting the whole burden of health benefits onto the workers' backs.

As for-profit health-insurance premiums rise, employers want to do just that—

make workers pay. Over 43 million people are without health insurance. We support the important work the labor movement is doing on this issue, including the June 19 "Health Care For All" rallies in 100 cities initiated by the Service Employees.

Workers paying for unjust war

There's a gorilla in labor's living room: the bloody war of conquest and occupation in Iraq.

As of June 1, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the Iraq war has cost \$119.4 billion. The tab grows \$5 billion per month.

Military costs for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, including "supplementals" for war in Iraq, totaled \$882 billion, or \$3,041 for every person in the United States.

Workers—not the rich and the corporations, whose taxes have been slashed—are paying for this war. The corporate bosses profit from fat military contracts. President George W. Bush has proposed a record \$402 billion Pentagon budget for 2005—not including added costs for the occupation and development of new weapons systems.

Imagine what could be done with these billions of dollars if the unions had a say. The money could be used to create a national health system, build affordable housing, or create millions of living-wage

Continued on page 9

Election Campaign

Travel expenses, printing literature, getting on the ballot—it all costs a lot of money. The folks who attend \$10,000-a-plate soirees for Bush and Kerry aren't going to contribute to the Parker-Gutierrez campaign. So please give generously.

There's more you can do. Help WWP get on the ballot or achieve write-in status in your state. Organize a fundraising party or a house meeting for the candidates. Get flyers and posters. Send emails to your friends.

Jobs. Equality. Socialism. Not war. Spread the message. No matter who wins Nov. 3, you'll help advance the movement for a better world.

I want to help the Parker-Gutierrez election campaign!

Here's my contribution of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other _____

- I can help WWP get on the ballot or get write-in status
- I can organize a fundraiser
- I can organize a house party or meeting for the campaign
- Please send me campaign literature

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

John Parker for President

SEND TO: **WORKERS WORLD PARTY
Presidential Campaign Committee**
55 W. 17 St., 5th fl. New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 627-2994 vote4workers@workers.org



European elections

Few governments go unpunished

By John Catalinotto

Voters in the June 11-14 elections for the newly expanded European Parliament showed their general dissatisfaction with unemployment, social cuts and the Iraq war by punishing nearly every sitting government.

Though the Bush administration ran no candidates, you could argue that it still managed to lose these elections. Elements in the European ruling class who decided to follow Washington into its Iraq adventure were among the biggest losers.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labor Party had the worst finish of a ruling British party since 1918. Labor got only about 23 percent of the vote, finishing third behind the Conservatives and the Liberal Party. The Labor Party did equally poorly in local administrative elections. The only important Labor candidate bucking the trend was Ken Livingstone, an opponent of the Iraq war who was re-elected mayor of London.

Bush's second most important European ally regarding the Iraq occupation is Italy's media magnate Premier Silvio Berlusconi. His Forza Italia party fell nearly 5 percentage points short of their 2001 results, when they got 25.3 percent. Berlusconi's prediction they would improve on that total fell flat.

The other major U.S. ally, rightist Jose Maria Aznar in Spain, had already lost the March 14 national elections soundly. The Socialist Party leader Luis Zapatero, who succeeded Aznar, quickly pulled Spain's troops out of Iraq. His party now also beat Aznar's by 43 to 41 percent in the European elections.

The ruling parties in Portugal and the

Netherlands, two other major Bush allies, also got trounced in the EU elections.

Iraq not the only issue

While anyone too closely identified with the Iraq debacle lost badly, this wasn't the only issue of concern to the voters. First of all, many voters didn't take this election seriously. Only 150 million voted; this is out of the 350 million eligible. Participation from the new EU members in Eastern Europe was under 30 percent.

In Poland, the biggest of the new additions to the EU, only 21 percent of eligible voters went to the polls.

In Germany, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's ruling Social Democratic Party got only 20 percent of the votes cast, its lowest showing since 1953. In France, Jacques Chirac's party got only 17 percent compared to 30 percent for the Socialist Party. These two imperialist leaders had opposed U.S. tactics regarding Iraq, but high unemployment coupled with across-the-board cutbacks in social programs have combined to make them unpopular despite their "anti-war" stand last year.

Up until about 20 years ago, there were mass political parties whose program was openly for socialism. Now the political parties strong enough to form a majority government in parliament are all parties openly representing the ruling class. It is in Europe much as it is in the United States. The "center-right" government is one possible majority—Chirac in France or Berlusconi in Italy for example. A "center-left" government is an alternative majority—the Socialist Party supported by the French Communist Party in France; the Olive Tree coalition in Italy.

In France and Italy alike, the "center-

left" coalition and the "center-right" are both loyal servants of the ruling class. Both "center-left" groupings in France and Italy, for example, carried out the imperialist war against Yugoslavia in 1999. There was some vote in some countries for parties to the left of the "center-left," like the Communist Refoundation in Italy, which got 6.1 percent. But with few exceptions, European elections are much like Repub-

licans vs. Democrats in another form.

Because of this, the European elections are quite limited in how they express the workers' class consciousness. Instead, the elections indicate more subtle changes. The clearest lesson of the June 11-14 European elections was a rejection of U.S. foreign policy, especially the occupation of Iraq, and mass dissatisfaction over the economic stagnation in most of Europe. □

Pride & struggle a century ago

'The war to end all wars'

Continued from page 4

Red Guards were fighting pitched battles with reactionary officers who supported the kaiser.

Recalling Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, August Bebel, Wilhelm Liebknecht and other revolutionaries, Hirschfeld said that not only in Germany, "but elsewhere too, nationalism attempted to destroy internationalism, and militarism attempted to destroy socialism."

Hirschfeld stressed to the crowd why socialism was so important: "Socialism means: solidarity, community, mutuality, further development of society into a unified body of people. Each for all and all for each!"

In addition, he said, "We want: the community of peoples, struggle against racism and national chauvinism, removal of limitations on economic and personal communication between peoples, the right of peoples to self-determination regarding their relationship to a state and their form of government."

Historians John Lauritsen and David Thorstad explain that as soon as the revolution had broken out, "The Committee immediately sent a delegation to the new government to press for a total amnesty that would include the release from jail of all inmates convicted of homosexual acts. The removal of censorship and the greater freedom of the press and speech that ensued following the revolution were a boon to the gay rights struggle for a time. But perhaps the most tangible benefit to the gay movement was the acquisition of a building that was to become an international center for gay liberation and sex research.

"The institute was housed in a lovely building that had belonged to Prince Hatzfeld prior to the revolution. It was one of the finest palaces in Berlin."

The first of its kind, the institute compiled historical, biological, anthropological, statistical and ethnological data and documentation regarding human sexuality and gender. It also housed the Scientific Humanitarian Committee. So it was an international lesbian and gay community center.

At the opening of this Institute for Sexual Science, Hirschfeld spoke about this concrete gain: "In his speech to the scholars, doctors and politicians who attended the opening in July 1919, Hirschfeld called it 'a child of the revolution'—not only of the uprising that swept Berlin on November 9, 1918, but also of the 'great spiritual revolution' that had begun decades earlier with the first stirrings of the homosexual rights movement." ("The Early Homosexual Rights Movement (1864-1935)," Times Change Press)

Thousands came through its doors, including a number of socialist youth groups and parties that were struggling to

inform themselves on homosexuality and other sexual questions.

One such delegation consisted of Soviet doctors. The group was headed by the peoples' commissar of health, who proudly described how their revolutionary Soviet government had immediately removed the czarist anti-gay laws.

In January 1923, the Soviet minister of health traveled to Germany. "He is reported to have expressed to members of the Institute for Sexual Science how pleased he was that the former penalty against homosexuals had been abolished in the Soviet Union. He also said that 'no unhappy consequences of any kind whatsoever have resulted from the elimination of the offending paragraph, nor has the wish that the penalty in question be re-introduced been raised in any quarter.'"

Momentum accelerates

In Germany the Social Democratic Party, which had swung to the right to support the war, helped curb the revolutionary uprising. Those who were for a revolutionary alternative looked to the gains of the Russian Revolution for inspiration, and organized communist parties throughout the world.

Within a few short years after the defeat of the November uprising in Germany, the revolutionary movement there had grown from representing only a vanguard of the working class to obtaining the adherence of millions of workers.

In August 1920 the Scientific Humanitarian Committee held its first post-war general membership meeting. The next year a new minister of justice who was himself a signer of the petition was appointed.

The struggle opened up more social and political space for lesbians. In Berlin there were 60 spots where lesbians could meet, some geared for middle-class women, others for working-class lesbians.

There was even a lesbian newspaper called *The Girlfriend: Weekly for the Ideal Friendship*. It was sponsored by the Federation for Human Rights, a gay group whose membership had swelled to 48,000. This newspaper advertised lesbian night spots and ran personal columns to help women meet each other.

In 1921 Hirschfeld helped organize the first congress of the World League for Sexual Reform, in Berlin.

By 1922 the Committee had 25 branches throughout Germany and had spread to Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, England, Italy and Belgium.

At the same time, however, the German counter-revolution—headed by Hitler and bank-rolled and backed by a segment of the industrial and banking class—had obtained a base in the middle class. And the Homosexual Emancipation Movement would be one of its first targets.

Next: Counter-revolution

Resistance shuts down Iraqi oil exports

Continued from page 1

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on March 6, 2003, gives a legal justification for torture. The report, according to the Journal, concluded that the president, "despite domestic and international laws constraining the use of torture, has the authority as commander in chief to approve almost any physical or psychological actions during interrogation, up to and including torture."

The newspaper quotes directly from the report: "In order to respect the president's inherent constitutional authority to manage a military campaign ... (the prohibition of torture) must be construed as inapplicable to interrogations undertaken pursuant to his commander-in-chief authority." (Parenthetical comment in the original.)

Furthermore, the report said the Justice Department had concluded that it "could not bring a criminal prosecution against a defendant who had acted pursuant to an exercise of the president's constitutional power."

The report advances various legal defenses in justification of the right to torture, including the "necessity" defense, the "avoidance of a greater evil" defense, and "superior orders," or the Nuremberg defense. In other words, torture is legal according to the Pentagon and the Justice Department, and no one should expect to

be held accountable.

The deepening quagmire is causing growing splits in the ruling class, its government officials and the military. The latest manifestation of the divisions is a statement to be offered by 26 former officials who call themselves Diplomats and Military Commanders for Change.

The group is calling for voters to remove Bush from office. Conspicuous partisans of Kerry have been omitted from the group, but there is no other conclusion to draw from their demands. They are Democrats and Republicans who have served in several administrations, including those of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton.

They are trying to make the point that what animates them is not partisan capitalist politics but the desire to redirect U.S. imperialism away from the disastrous course that Bush has embarked upon. The list includes Adm. William Crowe, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Reagan; Adm. Stansfield Turner, CIA director under Carter; and Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, a former Air Force chief of staff who supports Kerry, plus a number of diplomats and functionaries.

Had the military campaign and the torture succeeded, and the Iraqi people been subjugated by the occupying forces, would any one of these ruling-class figures be speaking out today? □

As drought eases

Zimbabwe's land reform moves forward

By Deirdre Griswold

John Taviringana Chirimanyemba is probably the oldest person in Zimbabwe. He was born on Sept. 17, 1896, in Zvimba, and can actually remember when the British came and displaced his family from their land.

At that time the British South Africa Co. was laying claim to all of southern Africa. In the area it called Rhodesia—which today is Zimbabwe—British troops had tried, but failed, to conquer the Matabele people in 1893.

Their continued efforts to subjugate the Matabele and Mashona people led to an 1896-97 uprising that was put down after fierce fighting. The administrator of Rhodesia, the "Right Honorable" Earl Grey, wrote a report on these events in which he listed two principal causes of what he called "native unrest": "1) The incompleteness of the conquest of the Matabele Nation in 1893. 2) The incapacity of a warlike and aristocratic race to give up their old habits, and to accept their natural place in the peaceful and industrial organization of a settled civilized community."

Colonial conquest then, as now, had to hide its racism behind the mask of bringing "civilization."

From that time on, the British waged total war on the African people. British soldiers were promised cattle and land if they drove the Africans off the fertile farmland where they had lived for generations. The soldiers went from village to village, burning the houses, killing or driving off the people and seizing their livestock.

Dr. Chika A. Onyeani, writing in *The Black Commentator* of Aug. 22, 2002, addressed the "crocodile tears" being shed in the West over white farmers in Zimbabwe being displaced by land reform: "It seems the height of hypocrisy that the world should be focused on the plight and non-payment of compensation to white farmers, without as much as a mention of the savagery with which the Black African owners were massacred and their lands seized without compensation. The word Bulawayo, the second-largest city in Zimbabwe, is an Ndebele word for 'slaughter,' and it refers to the savagery of the British settlers, including the infamous Cecil Rhodes who had crushed the attempt by the indigenes to fight back, leading King Lobengula to swallow poison rather than be captured. Or should we forget the savagery of the bestial Sir Frederick Carrington, who had publicly advocated that the entire Ndebele race should be forcefully removed or be exterminated."

In 1910 John Chirimanyemba's family lost the land they had farmed near the Manyame River. They had to flee from the British to less productive areas where the soil would not support many of the crops they were used to growing.

The family lived on the edge. Chirimanyemba eventually wound up walking to South Africa to look for work, but was then rounded up with others and sent back to Rhodesia.

Thomas Madondoro, the chief economic correspondent for ZANU-PF, the liberation movement that won Zimbabwe's independence, interviewed Chirimanyemba in November 2003, shortly after he turned 107. Madondoro

asked the centenarian what he thought about the land reform going on in Zimbabwe today, where the government has been taking over the land held by descendants of the British soldiers/settlers and distributing it to poor Black farmers.

"Now that land is being given back to its rightful owners, new farmers should work hard and produce enough food for the country. The government should address the unfair distribution of land and empower the landless peasant farmers," he said.

Chirimanyemba spends much of his time these days educating the youth on their ancestors' long struggle against colonialism.

Land reform began in 2000

The Zimbabwe government began the process of serious land reform in 2000. At that time, when whites in general made up only 2 percent of the population, 2,000 white farmers still owned 70 percent of the best farmland.

Most of what they produced was cash crops for export. They employed African workers to do all the hard work on the farms and paid them the barest minimum needed to survive. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of poor people, many of them veterans of the Chimurenga War—the war for liberation—were clamoring for land.

When President Robert Mugabe's government began to implement land reform, a furious round of attacks on him issued from the powerful U.S. and British media that virtually monopolize the dissemination of world news. They portrayed the white landowners as the bedrock of Zimbabwe's economy. Without them, the constant theme was, the country would fall apart.

Solidarity is labor's strength

Continued from page 7

jobs for the unemployed and young people.

That money belongs to the workers.

The occupation is also killing hundreds of working-class youths in the U.S. military, along with thousands of Iraqi sisters and brothers who only want to be left in peace to live free of foreign domination.

Unions from 1199 SEIU in New York to the West Coast Longshore workers have protested to bring the troops home. We salute them, as well as independent coalitions of unionists like U.S. Labor Against the War, for their fine work in bringing the labor and anti-war movements together.

Isn't it way past time that the AFL-CIO took a stand against the war?

Against the lesser evil

Many union members fear another Bush presidency. And with good reason. Bush is anti-labor, racist, anti-women and anti-gay. His administration preyed on workers' anxiety after Sept. 11 to carry out terrible reprisals against immigrants here and costly wars of aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But is the old strategy of voting for the "lesser evil" the best response to this threat? We don't think so. Union mem-

bers, whose dollars are supporting the Democratic candidate, have a right to ask whether millionaire Sen. John Kerry is a real alternative to Bush. Let's review his record.

Kerry voted for the repressive Patriot Act. He opposes same-sex marriage rights.

He skipped a crucial Senate vote to extend unemployment benefits. Though he knew it would be close, he stayed on the campaign trail.

And the measure failed by one vote.

What about Iraq? Kerry wants to send more troops to Iraq because "failure is not an option." Not an option for whom? Only Big Oil and Wall Street, both notoriously reactionary and anti-labor, stand to gain if they secure control of Iraq's oil. There's nothing in it for workers except more expense and misery.

But if labor's history teaches anything,

it's that the organized, militant struggle of workers and oppressed people for social, economic and political justice is the only real force for change.

After all, without our labor nothing could be produced, nothing would move, no services would be provided and no profits generated.

The California grocery workers, New York home health aides and day-care workers, Washington, D.C., laundry workers, and others have demonstrated that low-wage, multinational, women and immigrant workers are the motor of the labor movement today. These workers are the new face of the unions.

Imagine the impact if union dollars and member-hours were invested in building a nationwide community-labor campaign to organize the low-paid and unorganized rather than electioneering. That would have a powerful effect on the political climate no matter who was in the White House.

We'll see you on the picket lines, at protests outside the Republican and Democratic conventions, in the streets—wherever workers are fighting for their rights. Join us!

John Parker and Teresa Gutierrez
Workers World Party candidates for president and vice president



John Taviringana Chirimanyemba

In Zimbabwe, if small farmers decide to leave their land for whatever reason, it will revert to the government, not to richer farmers or agribusinesses. This policy leaves open the possibility of developing Zimbabwe's agriculture further through a movement to collectivize or to set up state farms on some of the most productive land.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe is well positioned in other ways to move forward. Even though it has a serious and debilitating AIDS crisis, its people are among the best educated in the developing world. According to UNESCO, at the end of the 1990s Zimbabwe spent a greater portion of its GNP on education than did the U.S.: 7.1 percent compared to 5.4 percent. It ranked 22nd in the whole world.

And its educational policy is progressive in other ways. The literacy rate among young women in 2000 was almost 96 percent, virtually the same as for young men.

Zimbabwe's leaders are still under sanctions by the U.S. and British imperialists, who cannot reconcile themselves to any independent Black state not subservient to their dictates. But with more and more popular movements and struggles around the world now challenging imperialist domination, it is to be hoped that this important African country will have more breathing space to develop its programs—like land reform and education—aimed at improving the lives of the vast majority of the people.

That is the dream of John Chirimanyemba and the millions who live for the fulfillment of their liberation. □

Whose streets? Our streets!

More and more these days, those running the capitalist state find themselves caught in the jaws of a contradiction.

Take the upcoming Democratic and Republican national conventions, to be held in Boston and New York, respectively. These quadrennial orgies of hoopla, flags, balloons and the straightest teeth money can buy are supposed to reinforce the notion that politics in the U.S. is of, by and for the people—even if some “people” do profit handsomely off their political connections, especially those with big money to prime the pump.

So how is it going to look when many tens of thousands of real people—maybe even hundreds of thousands in New York—turn out to protest? The politicians, being politicians, will find ways to say that it shows how democratic this country is, etc., etc. Yet it will be clear to most of the world that the people are protesting at these conventions precisely because their basic democratic rights are consistently violated. Their interests and views are not being honored or even expressed by those who claim to represent them. In New York City, the main “representative” of the people is Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who became a billionaire on Wall Street. And he’s going to tell day care workers and home health aides that the city has no money?

There will be hordes of people furious at both Bush and Kerry for refusing to say they’ll bring the troops home from Iraq and end this brutal and costly occupation. There will be low-paid service workers, mostly women of color, demanding to know who can raise a family on \$6.25 an hour. There will be young people angry at how the government is using an energy crisis of its own making to try to dismantle environmental protec-

tions. There will be immigrants who have to work too hard and are paid far too little by bosses who can get away with it because of the government’s punitive immigration policies.

The attitude of the police—from the local cops all the way up to the Secret Service, FBI and CIA—to these protests is another indication that the capitalist state really fears what the people are thinking. They are dragging their feet on giving permits to the many organizations that plan to be in the streets. They are trying to set things up so that the demonstrators will be herded into pens far from the convention sites and virtually immobilized.

And the final straw: while the police use force to rule the streets outside, the politicians inside will be mouthing the words freedom, democracy and liberty. These phony baloney conventions will dominate the airwaves of ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN from beginning to end.

So the struggle is on to make these demonstrations big, militant and reflective of the diverse demands of all the progressive movements of the workers and oppressed in this country. The first battle is over the right to march and protest itself. While the New York police appear to have given a little ground and agreed to extend the application period for permits until the end of July, they haven’t issued a single permit yet.

There will be many opportunities as the conventions draw near for the progressive community to weigh in and demand that the protesters’ right to expose and condemn the reactionary policies of both capitalist parties be honored by the police. Who do the streets belong to? To the billionaires and the cops? No, the streets belong to the people! □

Coalition seeks to reopen civil rights workers

Continued from page 2

der charges. All were paroled before serving their full sentences.

Now, in late May, 40 years later, the new coalition gathered at City Hall in Philadelphia, Miss., in infamous Neshoba County, to seek justice.

Their resolution states, “Local and state law enforcement officers were involved in the planning and execution of these murders.” The group criticized the “shameful involvement and interference of state government, including actions of the State Sovereignty Commission, in thwarting justice in this case.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, May 26)

The infamous “Sovereignty Commission” was formed in 1956 to represent the interests of the landowners and busi-

ness class. Its aim was to preserve Jim Crow segregation and to keep civil-rights activities at bay. The “commission” disseminated information about civil-rights activists to local law-enforcement agencies. One such piece of information was the license plate number of civil-rights workers’ car the night they disappeared. (History News Network, hnn.us)

Ben Chaney, who was 12 when his brother James Chaney was killed, is currently traveling on a 20-bus caravan to publicize the need to reopen the case, and to engage in voter registration in the South. The cortege embarked on a 20-stop tour beginning in New York City on June 9. It is scheduled to end in Philadelphia, Miss., for a memorial service for the three martyrs.

Former Sandinista leader:

‘Reagan was the butcher of my people’

Following are excerpts from a June 8 “Democracy Now!” radio interview with the Rev. Miguel D’Escoto, who was Nicaragua’s foreign minister under the Sandinista government in the 1980s. D’Escoto resides in Managua, Nicaragua’s capital.



Rev. Miguel D’Escoto

Democracy Now!: The eight years Reagan was in office represented one of

the most bloody eras in the history of the Western hemisphere, as Washington funneled money, weapons and other supplies to right-wing death squads. And the death toll was staggering—more than 70,000 political killings in El Salvador, more than 100,000 in Guatemala, 30,000 killed in the contra war in Nicaragua. In Washington, the forces carrying out the violence were called “freedom fighters.” This is how Ronald Reagan described the Contras in Nicaragua: “They are our brothers, these freedom fighters and we owe them our help. They are the moral equal of our founding fathers.” ...

D’Escoto: Reagan ... for having been the butcher of my people, for having been responsible for the deaths of some 50,000 Nicaraguans, we cannot, we should not ever forget the crimes he committed in the name of what he falsely labeled freedom and democracy.

More perhaps than any other U.S. president, Reagan convinced many around the world that the U.S. is a fraud, a big lie. Not only was it not democratic, but in fact the greatest enemy of the right of self-determination of peoples. Reagan ... was known as the great communicator, and I believe that that is true only if one believes that to be a great communicator means to be a good liar. That he was for sure. He could proclaim the biggest lies without even as much as blinking an eyelash. Hearing him talk about how we were supposedly persecuting Jews and burning down non-existent synagogues, I was led to believe really, that Reagan was possessed by demons. Frankly, I do believe Reagan at that time as much as Bush today was indeed possessed by the demons of manifest destiny. ...

I’m quite aware that to the people of say ... Project for a New American Century, that is counted as a big plus. Because of Reagan and his spiritual heir George W. Bush, the world today is far less safe and secure as it has ever been. Reagan in fact was an international outlaw. He came to the presidency of the United States shortly after Somoza, a dictator that the U.S. had imposed over Nicaragua for practically half a century, had been deposed by Nicaraguan nationalists under the leadership of the Sandinista Liberation Front.

To Reagan Nicaragua had to be re-con-

quered. He blamed Carter for having lost Nicaragua, as if Nicaragua ever belonged to anyone else other than the Nicaraguan people.

That was then the beginning of this war that Reagan invented, and mounted and financed and directed, the Contra war—about which he continually lied to the people, helping the United States people to be the most ignorant people around the world. I said ignorant, I don’t say not intelligent. But the most ignorant people around the world about what the United States does abroad. People don’t even begin to see—if they did, they would rebel. And so, he lied to the people, as Bush lies to the people today and as they push on, thinking that the United States is above every law, human or divine. And we took ... Reagan’s United States, his government to court, the World Court. I was foreign minister at that time here in Nicaragua. ... And the United States government received the harshest sentence, the harshest condemnation ever in the history of world justice.

In spite of the fact that the United States since the early 1920s has been proclaiming to the world that one of the proofs of its moral superiority as compared to other countries around the world is the fact that it abides by the international law and was obedient to the world court, when the United States was brought to the world court in Nicaragua and received the condemnation, the United States failed to heed the sentence and they still owe Nicaragua—by now must be between \$20,000 and \$30,000 million—at the time when we left government the damages caused by that Reagan war was over \$17 billion, and this, according to very moderate estimators of damage, people from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, people from Harvard University and from Oxford and from the University of Paris—basically this is the team that was pulled together to estimate the damage.

The United States was ordered to pay for the damage. Bush never even wanted to talk to me about it. I said, “Well, let’s have a meeting so that you comply with your sentence of the court.” He said to me in two different letters that there was nothing to talk about.

So, Reagan did damage to Nicaragua beyond the imaginations of the people who are hearing me now. The ripple effects of that criminal murderous intervention in my country will go on for what, 50 years or more. □

“The need for truth is there,” Ben Chaney said. “To continually push for the trial to take place in Mississippi is a way of confronting racism and the Klan.” (CourtTV.com)

Infamous history of racism

“Mississippi is infamous, with the worst reputation for civil injustices and racial violence against African Americans,” concludes Jackson State University’s Dr. Monique Guillory

Mamie Till-Mobley worked until her January 2003 death at age 81 to demand a new investigation into the 1955 murder of her son Emmett Till in Neshoba County. The Black teenager was lynched after being accused of whistling at a white woman. Now the long struggle has finally

forced the Justice Department to reopen the investigation.

The Rev. Walter Edward Fauntroy, former congressional delegate from Washington, D.C., noted after Ronald Reagan’s death that at Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott’s urging, “Ronald Reagan’s first speech in his presidential campaign was given in Philadelphia, Miss.—where they had beaten Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman to death ... and the purpose was to let [the Black community] know [the Klan was] going to turn the clock back.”

President George W. Bush recently appointed Mississippi Judge Charles W. Pickering Sr., who reportedly had ties to the “Sovereignty Commission,” to the U.S. Southern District’s Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. □

Message to U.S. trade unions:

Colombian workers need our solidarity

Following are excerpts from a June 9 open letter sent to U.S. trade unionists urging solidarity with Colombian workers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last May 18, I was very privileged to have been the recipient of an award from the Coalition of Labor Union Women in Philadelphia for the work in the fight for International Workers' Rights that I have done through the years with my organization, the International Action Center.

This award belongs to many workers, but particularly to the courageous Colombian men and women who have put themselves in the line of fire by defending their jobs, their livelihoods and their union.

In the process, they are also defending human rights and working to build another Colombia where social justice, peace and solidarity prevail.

Today I write to you on behalf of those workers.

As you may know, the people of Colombia are suffering tremendously from policies that are dictated by the United States government and carried out by the local Colombian government. The current administration of President Alvaro Uribe Velez is particularly dangerous.

Several new laws and programs that he has enacted, mostly after Sept. 11, 2001, are designed to criminalize the progressive movement. Thousands of religious and human-rights activists, afrodescendants, indigenous, and student and union

leaders have been detained and/or arrested. Death threats by paramilitaries are the order of the day. The Killer Coke campaign ...on behalf of the Coca-Cola workers organized by SINALTRAINAL union is just one example of the people's resistance to the inhumane policies of the multinationals and the government.

The violence in Colombia extends to any person or group that disagrees and interferes with the state's neoliberal policies, either by organizing or even by just residing in a part of the country that is sought by transnational corporations for their "megaprojects."

One example is the recent displacement of more than 400 Wayuu indigenous peoples from La Guajira, an oil- and coal-rich region in northern Colombia, on the border with Venezuela. The testimony of Alberto, a Wayuu, to the Venezuelan newspaper Ultimas Noticias on May 23rd, speaks of the horrendous methods used by the paramilitaries:

"Oh, brother, I feel as if my heart is coming out my mouth. You cannot imagine how it is to have to escape on the run so that they won't kill you, and then hear the cries of the kids, of my two little sons who they burned alive without me being able to do anything. They burned them alive inside my pick-up."

Thirty Wayuu indigenous people were massacred in an effort to terrorize the rest of the population and render them inactive. These communities had been resisting the state's and corporations' attempt to steal their land.

These atrocities are for the benefit of transnational corporations, particularly those from the United States as Coca-Cola's example well illustrates. It is also important to point out that the land where the Wayuu community lived, La Guajira, is one of the most important oil regions in the country and where U.S. [corporation] Texaco-Chevron and Exxon-Mobil have extensive interests. Last April 22 President Uribe had declared illegal a strike of ECOPEPETROL workers against his proposal to rewrite contracts with multinationals concerning oil reserves and production in order to would give these companies better provisions to the detriment of ECOPEPETROL, the national oil company.

We know that these atrocities also ultimately affect working people around the world, particularly here in the United States. If there are no unions in Colombia, their workers' wages will be slashed and their benefits disappear. Next step will be for U.S. companies to close more plants here and move them south, leaving thousands here unemployed while paying substandard wages to our Latin American sisters and brothers.

Globalization has made the world a huge factory with workers from different countries, ethnicities and languages working together for the same corporation. But not the same wages, benefits and protection.

We ask that you and/or your union join in the effort to improve human rights in Colombia. A desperate call for solidarity

has been issued by unions in Colombia who are organizing an "International Caravan to Save the Lives of Colombian Workers" that will travel through five different regions in that country from June 20 to the 26.

I urge you to do whatever is possible for you to stop these crimes against humanity that are also part of Plan Colombia:

- Would you or a representative from your union be part of the Caravan to Save the Lives of Colombian Workers? Attached is detailed information of the Caravan's purpose and itinerary.
- Could you introduce a resolution in your union on behalf of Colombian workers?
- Although each delegate will pay his/herself, funds are urgently needed to cover other costs of the trip and for buying computers for the union so they can communicate more effectively particularly during crisis. Could you contribute financially to make this effort possible? Checks can be made to Philadelphia International Action Center with "Colombia delegation" written in the memo and sent to: Philadelphia IAC, 813 South 48th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143
Tel. 215-724-1618
PhillyIAC@action-mail.org

Sincerely,
Berta Joubert-Ceci
Philadelphia International
Action Center

Three million Canadian workers defend Cuba

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Three million workers in Canada have come to Cuba's defense as the Bush administration intensifies hostile measures against that revolutionary country.

The Canadian Labor Congress represents those workers. In a June 2 letter to Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, its leadership, headed by Kenneth Georgetti, issued a vehement condemnation of U.S. attempts to destabilize Cuba.

The CLC is the national voice of the labor movement in Canada, the equivalent of the AFL-CIO in the United States. It includes 12 provincial and territorial federations, 137 district labor councils, and most national and international unions inside Canada. One of the CLC's main goals is "to increase solidarity between workers in Canada and other countries."

The CLC letter calls on the Canadian government to reject anti-Cuba measures put forth in a U.S. government report, "Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba." Within the 450 pages of recommendations sent from Colin Powell to George Bush is an open call for the overthrow of the Cuban government.

Counter-revolution

The report calls for overturning Cuba's system of socialized property and a return to the "freedom" of capitalist exploitation, in a so-called transition to democracy.

The Bush administration intends to funnel \$59 million in U.S. tax dollars toward subversive activity on the island in the next two years. Some \$18 million is earmarked for military over-flights to dis-

rupt Cuban television and radio broadcasts.

Plans for economic disruption include severely restricting both which Cubans now residing in the United States are allowed to visit the island, and how much money they can send to relatives there. These policies will be an extension of the U.S. economic blockade, set in place in 1961 to strangle Cuban development.

The CLC letter staunchly defends the gains Cuba has won under socialism: "The new measures recently announced seek to strengthen and deepen the failed policies of economic embargo of the past four decades. The Cuban people have withstood the ill effects of the U.S. blockade on their island and have built what many consider to be outstanding improvements in social indicators such as health, literacy, and education, and made social gains unrivalled in the developing world. These latest repugnant measures by the U.S. government will not succeed either, but they will bring more suffering and hardship to the people of Cuba."

The CLC letter points out that the proposed measures would be in direct contradiction to Canadian law: "[P]ersons of third countries may be subject to arbitrary charges and arrest in the U.S. for having invested in Cuba. In the case of Canadians this is a flagrant contravention of the Order of the Attorney-General of Canada, made under the Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act which prohibits Canadian



corporations from complying with the extraterritorial measures of the Helms-Burton Act."

Revolutionary solidarity

The CLC calls on the prime minister "to immediately reject in the strongest possible terms any perceived compliance or acquiescence by your government in any of these Draconian measures."

And it admonishes him "to uphold the principle of sovereignty of nations especially in the face of the hypocrisy of well-known recent violations of democratic principles committed by the United States government in Iraq, Haiti and in Venezuela."

The letter concludes, "We, as Canadians, must roundly condemn and reject this latest illegal and inhumane U.S. government interference in Cuban affairs, affirm the internationally recognized right to the self-determination of countries, and proudly proclaim our independence and sovereignty in pursuing a foreign policy that continues to maintain and develop our friendly relations with Cuba."

A previous gesture of solidarity with Cuba from Canadian workers occurred during the 1995 IFCO/Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan. Some 200 U.S. citizens had crossed the border from Buffalo, N.Y., into Canada with 150 tons of humanitarian aid intended for Cuba. U.S. authorities and

anti-Cuba terrorist groups had violently harassed previous caravans. In solidarity, however, dock workers in Montreal loaded the tons of supplies onto Cuba-bound ships for free. (Nomads)

This summer, four groups will travel to Cuba in dramatic opposition to the proposed counter-revolutionary measures and to the continuing travel ban and economic blockade. In addition to IFCO/Pastors for Peace 15th Friendship Caravan, there will be additional travel challenges by the African Awareness Association, the Venceremos Brigade, and the New York Committee to Free the Five.

The five Cubans being held in U.S. prisons are Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino. In 2001 they were convicted of conspiracy in U.S. courts, after they had penetrated Miami-based anti-Cuba right-wing organizations in an effort to thwart these groups' violent plans against Cuba.

In Cuba, workers and their families are also rallying to defend their revolution. On May Day 2004, some 7 million Cubans marched against the new U.S. aggression.

The Cuban Workers Federation issued this statement: "In the name of all the Cuban workers, the CTC firmly rejects the cynical and intrusive measures announced by the U.S. government, designed to destroy the Cuban Revolution. ... We state our most firm willingness to resist and overcome each aggression. We will defend at any price necessary our extraordinary work of social justice, and our hopes and dreams for a better world for all the peoples of the planet." □

Convención nacional demócrata: una promesa de piquetes

Por Stevan Kirschbaum
Principal Representante sindical de Readville,
Local 8751 de USWA, Boston

Más de 350 conductores y monitores de autobuses de escuela de Boston y sus partidarios, llevaron su lucha por la justicia en el contrato a las escalinatas del Departamento Escolar el 7 de junio pasado. Los trabajadores viajaron desde cuatro patios de autobuses situados a través de la ciudad. Vinieron en coche, en transporte público y en autobuses sindicales que formaban la “caravana para la justicia”.

A la cabeza de la caravana estaba un carro de la unión con altoparlantes y una tarima portátil, adornado con coloridos carteles que leían “Contrato ahora! ¡Seguridad para los niños! ¡Justicia para los conductores y los monitores!, Diga no a las fuerzas racistas y rompe-uniones. Únase y luche para tener escuelas de calidad.”

Los conductores y monitores se han unido a una coalición de todas las uniones principales de la ciudad —incluyendo profesores, guardianes, trabajadores públicos, trabajadores administrativos y técnicos, del agua y el alcantarillado y a otros trabajadores—llamada “Sindicatos de Boston Unidos para Contratos Justos”. Mientras los medios, imitando la línea del gobierno de la ciudad, han intentado retratar esto falsamente como solo una lucha entre el alcalde Thomas Menino y su departamento de la policía, nada podía estar más lejos de la verdad.

El impacto de esta lucha sindical va más allá de Boston, porque levanta el espectro de los trabajadores piquetando los proyectos de construcción para la próxima convención nacional demócrata o durante la misma convención. En la edición del 9 de junio del Boston Globe se reportó que los principales organizadores representando al senador John Kerry a la convención estaban hablando con los líderes de la unión para que se terminara el conflicto. Funcionarios del Partido Demócrata dijeron al Globe, “hablaron sobre un esfuerzo para ejercer presión para que se llegue a un acuerdo sobre los contratos entre la ciudad y los bomberos y la Unión Internacional de los Empleados de Servicio”.

L@s miembr@s de la unión de conductores hicieron su propia intervención el 7 de junio. Impulsada por un sistema de mega-sonido, su caravana llenó el centro de la ciudad de canciones sindicales históricas cantadas por el grupo Almanac. En la alcaldía y en el Centro de Gobierno retumbaban las consignas. Al llegar cada autobús, una nueva inundación de trabajadores se unía a la muchedumbre. Su mensaje a la ciudad y al Primer Alumno, Inc., la compañía rompe-unión de la gerencia era claro—“¡no destrucción de sindicatos!”

Solidaridad de l@s trabajador@s es crucial para la victoria

Al final de la demostración, los trabajadores llenaron los autobuses y la caravana se dirigió hacia la Unión de Profesores de Boston (BTU) para una reunión programada con el Consejo Laboral de Boston (GBLC). El gobierno de la ciudad y los planificadores de la convención han estado intentando dividir el movimiento sindical. Esperaban que el GBLC firmara los “Acuerdos de Trabajo del Proyecto” que garantizan silencio sindical a cambio de trabajos en el Centro de Convenciones Fleet.

La caravana había traído a tod@s l@s manifestantes a las oficinas del BTU para ayudar en el esfuerzo de cuajar solidaridad y enviar el mensaje que las uniones permanecerán unidas hasta que todas tengan sus contratos. Muchos de los delegados aplaudieron de pie a la unión de los conductores. Después de 15 minutos los trabajadores salieron fuera de las oficinas, declarando a los



Boston, 7 de junio.

medios de comunicación que el voto, por mayoría abrumadora, había demostrado claramente que no se rompería la solidaridad sindical de Boston. El GBLC no firmará los Acuerdos de Trabajo del Proyecto.

Según Steve Gillis, presidente del local 8751 de USWA, unión de conductores de autobuses escolares de Boston, “este voto envía un mensaje a la ciudad y a las corporaciones, que los sindicatos de Boston están unidos. El golpe a un@ es un golpe a tod@s”.

Este local de la unión del acero representa más de 1.300 conductores y monitores de autobuses escolares, siendo la mayoría abrumadora haitiana, africana americana, del Cabo Verde y latina. Prestan un servicio vital de seguridad a la ciudad de Boston y están luchando por justicia económica de parte de Primer Alumno, Inc.

Después de haber logrado un contrato multimillonario para manejar el transporte por autobuses escolares de la ciudad, Primer Alumno ha venido a la mesa de negociación exigiendo concesiones y recortes de los trabajadores. Primer Grupo, la matriz británica de Primer Alumno, informa en su portal inversionista del Internet un aumento en sus ganancias de funcionamiento de \$382.5 millones en el 2003. Los estudios financieros por las uniones han divulgado que Boston tiene actualmente las reservas más grandes en su historia. Claramente, Primer Alumno y la alcaldía Boston pueden pagar por las demandas económicas de los trabajadores.

Concentración demuestra solidaridad entre trabajadores y la comunidad

En el mitin del 7 de junio en el Departamento Escolar, estuvieron hablando en solidaridad con los conductores y los monitores líderes de la AFL-CIO de Massachusetts, del Consejo Laboral de Boston, del Sindicato Internacional de Trabajadores del Acero, y del local 26 del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Hoteles y Restaurantes. Nancy Younassi, maestra por más de 30 años, declaró que los maestros de Boston están listos para marchar en las líneas de piquete con los conductores y con los monitores.

Myles Calvey, jefe del poderoso sindicato Local 2222 de IBEW (Hermandad Internacional de Electricistas) de Verizon y vicepresidente de la AFL-CIO de Massachusetts, prometió dar apoyo. Él contó cómo durante la huelga de l@s telefonistas del 1989, los primeros en ser arrestados en los piquetes fueron miembros del sindicato de conductores de autobuses.

Jerry Scoppettuolo, uno de los co-fundadores del capítulo de Massachusetts del grupo Orgullo Gay en el Trabajo del AFL-CIO y de Guerreros de Stonewall de la Coalición ANSWER, reconoció las contribuciones históricas a la

lucha para acabar con la discriminación en contra de la comunidades de lesbianas, homosexuales, bisexuales y gente trágnera.

La historia de los conductores de autobuses escolares de Boston durante los últimos 30 años es inseparable de la lucha en contra del racismo en la educación. Ellos han enfrentado racistas fanáticos lanzando piedras y ladrillos mientras llevaban a cabo su oficio de transportar estudiantes de Boston. Han marchado en infinitas manifestaciones desde Boston hasta Washington.

El sindicato ha estado lado a lado junto a la comunidad en su

lucha por una educación de calidad y equitativa. Recientemente las fuerzas racistas han surgido de nuevo, tras el falso lema de “vuelta a las escuelas comunitarias”. Este lema es un disfraz poco convincente de un programa diseñado para negar el derecho a una educación equitativa a las comunidades de color.

La local 8751 se ha unido a la coalición para combatir estos recientes ataques y ha ofrecido una forma de solidaridad muy concreta. Durante el invierno pasado, por ejemplo, el sindicato imprimió y repartió 25.000 volantes en los buses escolares para que los alumnos pudieran llevarlos a su casa. Esto resultó en la movilización de cientos de padres para una reunión histórica el 10 de febrero último en la iglesia bautista de la calle 12 de Roxbury, donde se decidió que el regreso a la segregación racial bajo el lema de “escuelas comunitarias” no se toleraría.

El concejal municipal Chuck Turner reconoció las contribuciones del sindicato y prometió que la comunidad estará con el sindicato. La lista de participantes en el mitin mostró la amplitud del apoyo que tiene el sindicato, incluyendo a representantes de la coalición ANSWER (actúe ahora para poner término a la guerra y acabar con el racismo, por las siglas en Inglés), la Red de Resistencia de Mujeres, ACORN (un grupo de activistas a favor de viviendas a bajo costo), el ministro Víctor Carpenter y otros.

Stephanie Nichols, una organizadora juvenil y miembro del Partido Mundo Obrero (Workers World Party), llevó un mensaje de solidaridad de parte de la campaña electoral de John Parker y Teresa Gutiérrez. Explicó que el programa del pre-candidato Demócrata John Kerry era antisindical y pro-guerra y en ninguna forma representaba una alternativa aceptable contra Bush para el pueblo trabajador.

Yves Alcindor de la recién formada Organización de Derechos Humanos en Haití de Nueva Inglaterra trajo noticias de la lucha del pueblo haitiano en contra de la ocupación de los Estados Unidos y prometió el total apoyo de su grupo. El sindicato de los conductores, en su reunión mensual del mes de mayo, había votado unánimemente para unirse y proporcionar apoyo financiero a esta organización.

Cuando los manifestantes se dieron cuenta que los encargados de negociar por parte de la ciudad y del grupo Primer Alumno estaban espiando desde una ventana en el quinto piso, la multitud declaró en una sola voz que su concentración era sólo la anticipación de lo que iba a ocurrir.

Mientras los vecindarios pobres y oprimidos permanecen en el descuido, con los recortes de servicios sociales, educación y cuidado de salud, el alcalde Menino y la ciudad están malgastando millones de dólares en regalos a corporaciones de bienes raíces mientras preparan fiestas de gastos exorbitantes para los ricos.

Mientras tanto, los trabajadores que hacen funcionar a la ciudad de Boston laboran sin contratos. Los sindicatos han declarado su intención de llevar su protesta a la Convención Nacional Demócrata. □

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