

International VIEWPOINT

EDWIN MADONAGU

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The East German crash



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ment hospitals in the city of Sidney are being closed, while funding for major public hospitals run by the Catholic religious orders is being increased.

Reaction to the bill has been swift and militant, with a march of 4,000 on August 14 and another of 500 during international abortion rights protests on August 28.

Public sector trades unionists, veteran feminists, and lesbian and gay groups were prominent in the marches, but the ranks were made up mainly of energetic and angry teenage women.

When the bill was introduced into parliament, 13 of the 15 women in the (42 member) upper house staged an unprecedented walkout, and the national assembly of the Uniting Church, the third largest religious current in Australia, has unanimously voted down a resolution supporting the bill.

On October 7, during an annual parade by Pentecostal supporters of the Niles, there were clashes between pro and anti-choice activists, with the latter violently attacking lesbian banners. Police intervened in the fighting, but only to arrest 10 pro-choice activists.

While the bill currently lacks anything near majority support, it is possible, given the instability of the minority government, that an amended bill may be passed as part of a deal between the Niles and the government. ★

FRANCE

Massacre of Algerians commemorated

SEVERAL thousand people marched through the streets of Paris on Thursday, October 17, 1991, in commemoration of the police massacre, exactly 30 years earlier, of at least two hundred Algerians who were participating in a pro-FLN (National Liberation Front — the liberation movement then fighting for Algeria's independence from France) demonstration.

The demonstration, called in defiance of a curfew that had been imposed on French Muslims, was peaceful; the FLN had ordered that none of the participants should carry so much as a penknife. They had, however, reckoned without the murderous climate of anti-Algerian hatred whipped up within the Parisian police force by its commanders over a period of several years.

The demonstration was brutally attacked; while many were killed on the streets, the survivors were taken to detention centres throughout Paris where they were savagely beaten and tortured, many more dying there. The bodies were thrown into the Seine.

The instigators of the massacre have never faced charges of any kind. Government, media and police have con-

Appeal against the blockade of Cuba

THE following appeal for the lifting of the United States' blockade of Cuba, launched at the initiative of a number of prominent French personalities, has already attracted significant international support:

IN CUBA, the conjunction of the American embargo which has lasted 30 years and the draconian reduction in trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has led today to a dramatic situation.

Difficulties in ensuring supplies are increasing. The unquestionable gains in matters of health and education may be put at risk.

Cuba has been criticized in the name of human rights for infringements of democracy. But criticism does not give others the right, even in the name of human rights, to economically suffocate the country.

We have different opinions about the Cuban regime. We are joining together to denounce this attempt to bring down a regime by starving a people.

Such unilateral aggression by the world's leading power can in no case lead to the liberty of this people.

We therefore demand the lifting of the blockade, which is an attack on the dignity and lives of the Cuban people.

SIGNATORIES so far include: Algeria: A. Ben Bella. Austria: E. Danneberg. Belgium: J. Braband; E. Mandel; Pos. H. Pastoors; E. Toussaint. Bolivia: A. Alemrojo. Brazil: L.I. Lula Da Silva. Canada: D. Heap. Colombia: M. Correa. Dominican Republic: R. Traveras. El Salvador: A. G. Martinez; J. Villalobos. France: E. Balibar; D. Berger; Costa Gavras; D. Daeninckx; R. Debray; J. Habel; A. Krivine; R. Lew; A. Lipietz; M. Lowy; F. Maspero; G. Perrault; M. Rasjufus; D. Singer. Germany: G. Gysl; J. Moneta; G. Wallraff. Haiti: E. Lescauffleire. Italy: A. Cossutta; L. Maitan; R. Serri. Mauritius: R. Seegobin. Morocco: A. Serfaty. Nicaragua: T. Borge; O. Cabezas; C.F. Chamorro. Peru: J. del Prado. Poland: J. Piniór. Portugal: C. Brito; F. Louca. Senegal: M. Dia. South Africa: N. Alexander Spain; J.M. Diaz-Alegria; M. Garcia Oliva; F. Umbral. Sri Lanka: C. Gunawardena; V. Nanayakkara; B. Tampoe. Switzerland: J. Ziegler. United Kingdom: T. All; T. Benn; J. Corbyn; S. Hall; P. Heathfield; E. J. Hobsbawm; K. Livingstone. United States: N. Chomsky; S. Landau; H. Magdoff; P.M. Sweezy.

Seventy-five members of the European Parliament have also signed the appeal.

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Financial support: Cheques should be made out to: R. March CCP 6 325 37 W Paris (mention "Cuba appeal"). ★

spired to throw a veil of silence over the events of that evening, and the official death toll remains only two.

The Parisian prefect of police who oversaw the massacre, Maurice Papon, had also been responsible for the rounding up and deportation of Jewish chil-

dren in 1942.

The demonstration took place as part of a week of events organized by racist groups in commemoration of the massacre, including the inauguration of a memorial on the banks of the Seine and a colloquium at Sorbonne. ★