

EDITORIAL

See You in January

As announced, the "old" Frontline ceases publication with this issue. Over the next several months, we'll be making preparations to reappear as a monthly, with a different mix of analysis and breaking news, beefed up coverage of domestic politics and social movements, a new format and a broader range of contributors. We'll be reporting to readers on our progress with special transition issues in January and February; March is the target date for the first pilot issue of the "new" Frontline. Regular publication will then resume, and subscribers will receive the balance of their current subscription.

It's certainly a difficult time to interrupt regular publication: there's so much to write about and analyze. The upheaval in the German Democratic Republic and opening in the Berlin Wall, for example, is a change of historic proportions, a decisive event in the revolutionary wave sweeping socialism and a pivotal moment in the demise of the Cold War world order. Half a world away the future of El Salvador hangs in the balance as the FMLN has gone on the offensive against the U.S.-backed death squad government. Indeed, from struggles employing the ballot in Namibia, Brazil and Nicaragua to the ongoing Palestinian intifada, there is no shortage of developments to assess in the multi-faceted and diverse fight for peace, justice and social progress.

Here at home, meanwhile, the people's movement is taking up its summation of the November 7 elections, as well as of two major national demonstrations—for housing and abortion rights. Debates on electoral strategy and the priorities for the next round of mass mobilizations, national and local, will be on the agenda, as will assessment of the policies and vulnerabilities of the Bush administration. And corresponding to the breathtaking changes taking place in the world, the U.S. left continues the process, already underway, of realignment and change.

NEED FOR CHANGE

While it's painful not to be planning an issue in two weeks that would address these issues, their very pace and scope only underscores the reasons Frontline has to go through some changes. This

paper is committed to getting beneath the surface of what's going on—to provide our readers with analysis in depth—and to accomplish this (especially in our domestic coverage) we need to make a more decisive leap in the direction we've been moving over the last year. We're eager to have time for some long overdue research and exploration of new ideas; and we're looking forward to the livelier and more provocative political journalism that only a more diverse range of writers can provide. The months of transition ahead are required to achieve those results.

And we can't do it without you, our readers.

First, we need your criticisms and suggestions. Among the primary lessons of the current changes in the socialist movement is the central importance of broad input and mass participation in every revolutionary endeavor—and that certainly applies to this newspaper. To make Frontline a better paper requires your ideas on what coverage has been useful and what hasn't so far, and what's needed for the future. We also hope that more than a few of you will be interested in expressing your views in Frontline's pages, through letters, opinion pieces and analyses of the political motion in your area of activism.

And second—we'll be blunt—we need your financial support. Along with the need for a bit of breathing room to improve our political analysis, ongoing financial problems were a factor in the decision to make Frontline a monthly. And though we hope one result of our current changes will be that Frontline is on a firmer financial foundation, in the immediate months ahead the strain will be greater, not less. We don't have a nest egg to tide us over, and we won't be getting any income from subscriptions or sales—but we still have expenses every month for overhead, changing our production systems, etc.

So we're asking again if our readers can help us out by putting this newspaper on your holiday gift list. Every dollar is an investment in a better Frontline for the 1990s. And if this last year is any indication, it's sure to be an exciting decade, with a vital role for an analytic left press. □