

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Lenin's Final Fight' presented
by panel at Havana book fair
—PAGES 8–10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 74/NO. 8 MARCH 1, 2010

Washington leads major offensive in Afghan war

BY DOUG NELSON

February 16—The U.S.-led assault in Marjah, Afghanistan, is advancing, albeit slowly, as it enters its fourth day. Washington's biggest problem so far appears to be the fallout from civilian casualties at the hands of U.S.-led forces—something Washington seeks to minimize as part of its strategy to weaken Taliban influence in the region.

A combined force of 15,000 troops are involved in Operation Moshtarak (Together), among the largest offensives since the imperialist invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Approximately five Afghan brigades make up more than half the force. The U.S. military has five battalions and one reconnaissance regiment; the British military has comparable forces. In addition, there are a smaller number of NATO soldiers from Denmark, Estonia, and Canada.

While the Taliban claim some 2,000 fighters in Marjah, most estimates place their number at several hundred. As many as 100 Taliban, includ-

Continued on page 12

Black farmers protest gov't discrimination

Rallies demand compensation



Black farmers and supporters rally in Columbus, Georgia, February 11 to press ongoing fight for government redress and protest "years of empty promises."

BY JOHN BENSON

COLUMBUS, Georgia—Hundreds of Black farmers rallied across the South February 6–15 to demand government action to compensate them for discrimination at the hands of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over decades. The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA)

called the actions.

In 1999 Black farmers won a settlement in the historic *Pigford v. Glickman* class-action lawsuit. The suit challenged the USDA's denial of equal access to funding and other services to Black farmers. The discrimination forced thousands of them off their land.

The court ordered the government agency to give claimants a \$50,000 tax-exempt payment, debt forgiveness, and preferential treatment on

Continued on page 7

EU presses for deeper austerity in Greece

BY SETH GALINSKY

The German government is leading a demand for faster, and deeper, cuts in wages and social programs in Greece, which will have a disastrous effect on working people, before it will agree to aid for the Greek government. A near loan default in mid-January by the Greek government punched another hole in the myth of a united Europe.

In the next several months, Athens needs to raise \$75 billion to cover its budget deficit and pay off other loans, many of which come due in April and May.

When the European Union was created in 1993, it was touted as a way to bring together the nations of Europe to compete economically and politically against Washington. By 2002, 12 EU members, including France, Germany, and Italy, replaced their national currencies with a single currency called the euro to challenge the supremacy of the U.S. dollar.

But neither the EU or the now 16-member eurozone could overcome divisions among European imperialists. In fact, by promoting a freer flow of goods, labor, and capital they exacerbated the existing contradictions and tensions between rival capitalist

Continued on page 7

Goal surpassed: Nearly 400 readers renew subscriptions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

With dozens of subscriptions coming in over the final days of the drive, the *Militant* campaign to win 375 long-term readers has gone over the top. The four-week drive ended February 17 with 398 renewals in hand, 23 over the goal!

Reflecting the interest in revolutionary politics, many have also taken advantage of the special offer to purchase *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* for just \$10 with their subscription.

A dozen members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 who work at Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota, renewed their subscriptions during this drive, reports Tony Lane. A high point of the drive in several cities has been increasing long-term readership among industrial workers.

Militant supporters in Atlanta received a good response when they visited a mobile home park

in Mableton, Georgia, February 14. Many subscriptions were sold there during the fall subscription campaign. "We knocked on the doors of subscribers asking them to renew," writes David Ferguson. "Out of the eight trailers we visited, five people were home and four renewed. One man said he especially liked the *Militant's* coverage on Cuba and prepaid

Continued on page 4



Farmer purchases *Militant* subscription at February 15 rally in Washington, D.C., against racist discrimination by Department of Agriculture.

Washington pushes for more int'l sanctions against Iran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

As celebrations were taking place in Iran February 11, the anniversary of the 1979 revolution that overthrew the pro-U.S. monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Washington announced more sanctions against Tehran because of its nuclear program. Imperialist powers have opposed Iran's enrichment of uranium as part of developing nuclear power, which Washington says will be used to eventually build a nuclear bomb.

The day of the official anniversary rally in Tehran, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions against four Iranian firms said to be owned by the Pasdaran, the country's dominant military force. The Treasury's move freezes assets that the four companies have in the United States and bans U.S. firms from doing business with them.

Senators John McCain and Joseph Lieberman introduced a bill in Congress to condemn "human rights abusers" in Iran. Senators Sam Brownback and John Cornyn introduced

the Iran Democratic Transition Act, which would provide nonmilitary aid to groups in Iran opposed to the government.

Security forces block protesters

Hundreds of thousands turned out in Iranian cities for the official February 11 celebrations. Security forces succeeded in barring most marchers

Continued on page 12

Also Inside:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Cuban band's concert shows changes in Miami | 2 |
| Socialists pledge support for Korean reunification | 3 |
| Australia forum backs abortion rights fight | 5 |
| Malcolm X, King had clashing class outlooks | 6 |

Cuban band’s concert shows changes in Miami

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

MIAMI—Four thousand enthusiastic, mostly Cuban American, concertgoers went to a January 31 performance here featuring the popular Cuba-based dance band Los Van Van.

“Viva Van Van,” said Magda Miranda as she passed a right-wing protest outside the downtown concert and raised her fists in the air. The 350 to 400 protesters, according to a *Miami Herald* estimate, waved Cuban flags and placards while screaming “Go to Cuba and keep giving money to the communists,” “traitors,” “whores,” and other insults at the concertgoers. Some of the concertgoers smiled, shouted back at the rightists, and blasted Van Van music out of their open car windows.

The success of this concert is another reflection of the change that has taken place in South Florida in the Cuban American community. There is growing support for cultural and other exchanges with the island, more opposition to the U.S. embargo of Cuba, and greater openness to discussing the gains of the Cuban Revolution.

Los Van Van, who reside in Cuba, also played in Key West and will be back for a U.S. spring tour. When the members of the group disembarked from their plane in Miami, “enthusiastic airport workers” took their pictures, noted the *Miami Herald*.

A decade ago, when they played in Miami, 3,000 protesters yelled insults, threw eggs, batteries, and other

objects at the 3,000 people who went to the event.

Mike Barry, a Cuban American who had also attended the 1999 concert, told the *Miami Herald*, “It’s not like last time, I think the community has changed a lot.”

None of the Miami city officials who had actively opposed the Van Van concert in 1999 helped lead any campaign against it this time, including Thomas Regalado, Miami’s mayor, who as a city commissioner in 1999 participated in the protest in front of that concert.

This time the Los Van Van band, founded in 1969 by Juan Formell, was joined on the stage by two well-known Cuban singers who now live in the United States—Issac Delgado and Manolin. They were also joined by Formell’s daughter Vanessa, a singer living in Miami.

Unemployment rates climb for immigrant workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Jobs are harder to come by if you are an immigrant worker. So says the U.S. Labor Department’s most recent report. The official unemployment rate for foreign-born workers was 11.8 percent in January, compared to 10.3 percent for U.S.-born workers.

The figures include both legal and undocumented immigrants. But workers without papers are even less fully counted in government surveys, and their unemployment rate is certainly much higher. Sharp cuts in construction jobs—nearly 2 million over the past two

Washington State: Thousands protest cutbacks



Militant/Cecelia Moriarity

OLYMPIA, Washington—More than 3,000 people, including unionists, members of education and health-care organizations, and students, demonstrated on the steps of the state capitol here February 15 to protest state budget cuts. Students from the University of Washington carried a banner announcing a strike against tuition hikes on March 4. Delegations in the crowd included government and state-paid workers, as well as teachers and students from schools facing closure.

—CECELIA MORIARITY

years—have hit Mexican and Central America immigrants hard. About a third of male Mexican and Central American immigrants work in the construction industry.

The number of undocumented workers living in the United States declined by nearly 1 million last year, according to a recent Department of Homeland Security report, a reflection of the impact of the economic crisis. This is the second consecutive yearly decline. In January 2009 there were 10.8 million undocumented workers, the report said, down from 11.6 million in 2008.

This drop is bolstered by beefed-up border patrol forces and a record number of deportations—387,000—carried out by the Barack Obama administration last year.

The U.S. rulers, however, have no intention of stemming the inflow of immigrant labor, which continues to be an integral part of agriculture and manufacturing. The bosses seek instead to heighten insecurity and fear among immigrants, hoping to make them more vulnerable as a superexploitable labor pool and discourage their involvement in unionization efforts, as well as struggles

for legalization and other political rights.

While some workers are returning to their country of birth, most are not, and new immigrants continue to arrive. “I haven’t had steady work for a year,” Juan Ralda, 23, a masonry worker originally from Guatemala now living in Santa Monica, California, told the *Wall Street Journal*. But he said he has no plans to leave as “there’s not much opportunity in my country, either.”

Another impact of the crisis is the sharp decrease in remittances immigrant workers send to their families abroad. These funds “are the second most important source of foreign currency in Mexico, after oil revenues,” stated Juan Luis Ordaz Díaz, an economist for BBVA Bancomer in Mexico City. For the first 11 months of last year remittances totaled \$19.6 billion, a 16 percent drop from the same period in 2008.

Applications for temporary work visas in the United States also fell sharply last year. As of September, 46,700 people had filed for them, less than the 65,000 quota for this fiscal year. According to the World Bank, “The previous two years quotas were filled within days of the application opening.”

THE MILITANT

Oppose U.S. threats against Iran

U.S. rulers are stepping up their threats against Iran with a drive to impose harsher sanctions. The ‘Militant’ covers the response to these developments as well as protests inside the country for democratic rights. Don’t miss an issue!



Youth demonstrate in Tehran, Iran, for more freedom prior to June 2009 presidential election.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Socialists pledge support for Korea reunification

The following is an excerpt from the message sent February 16 to Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, by Steve Clark, on behalf of the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, and Ben Joyce, on behalf of the Young Socialists.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the occasion of your February 16 national holiday. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Korean people's intransigent fight to safeguard national sovereignty and achieve reunification. We salute the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's demand that the U.S. government begin immediate talks leading to a peace treaty to end the Korean War—a step that U.S. administrations of both imperialist parties have refused to take since the defeat in 1953 of Washington's murderous war to politically and militarily dominate the entire peninsula.

Just a few days ago, the U.S. Department of Defense released its 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, reaffirming that the DPRK and Korean people remain in Washington's gun sight. U.S. military commanders announced this month that their troops in Afghanistan—on course to reach some 100,000 by this summer—are on the verge of launching the largest-ever offensive in that more-than-eight-year-long war. And while as recently as mid-2009 Washington rammed resolutions through the United Nations Security Council tightening sanctions against the DPRK for carrying out defensive ballistic missile tests, U.S. military officials—with typical imperial hypocrisy—announced in late January that the U.S. rulers are stepping up sales of anti-ballistic missiles to the royal houses in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman, while increasing the Pentagon's own deployment of Aegis-missile-equipped warships in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, despite crowing by im-

perialist politicians and the press about a “recovery” from capitalism's deep global economic and financial crisis, unemployment continues to climb, new and bigger debt crises stalk the capitalist world, and the expansion of productive plant and equipment remains stagnant. To counter declining profit rates, the capitalists are wielding protectionist measures against each other and against the semicolonial world, escalating nationalist measures and demagoguery targeting immigrants, and increasing assaults on the living standards, social wage, unions, and political rights of working people at home and abroad.

As these attacks intensify and spread, they will meet resistance and organization by workers and farmers in the United States and worldwide. The receptivity today among vanguard layers



U.S. Navy/Walter M. Wayman

U.S. Navy warships and Japanese destroyer, left, after conducting warfare exercise, February 2009. U.S. military conducts regular joint exercises with Japanese and South Korean armed forces as part of maintaining the 50-year-old partition of Korea.

of working people and youth to communist literature indicates that growing numbers can and will recognize the pressing need to build proletarian parties and a revolutionary social movement capable of taking state power—

the power to govern, the power to make war—out of the hands of the capitalist ruling families. It is among workers and youth such as these that the Korean people will find allies in the struggle against imperialist oppression.

Moisés Sío Wong: 50-year Cuban revolutionary

**BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND OMARI MUSA**

HAVANA, February 13—Moisés Sío Wong, a brigadier general in the Cuban army, was interred at the pantheon of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) at Colón Cemetery here February 12 with full military honors.

“If we want to describe General Sío Wong in a few words,” said Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas at the ceremony, what distinguished him was “his spirit of self-sacrifice, unpretentiousness, modesty, professionalism, and depth of military analysis. Despite his illness, he never gave up his boundless love for the revolution and its Revolutionary Armed Forces.”

Villegas, executive vice president of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, fought side by side with Sío Wong in the revolutionary war that brought down the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas. The Cuban Revolution reestablished—after a quarter century—the proletarian internationalism in action of a workers and peasants government that had been practiced by Lenin following the October 1917 Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia and then reversed under the Stalin regime.

Sío Wong, who died February 11 after a long illness, was born in Matanzas in 1938, the son of Chinese immigrants. While still in high school in Havana, he became a militant of the urban underground movement against the Batista tyranny and joined the July 26 Movement.

In November 1957, while being hunted down by Batista's police, Sío Wong joined the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra mountains, taking part in several battles. He was one of the combatants of Column 8 who undertook the westward march across Cuba, led by Ernesto Che Guevara, that unified the revolutionary forces in the Escambray mountains of central Cuba and culminated in the capture of Santa Clara, the battle that sealed the fall of the dictatorship.

After the January 1959 revolutionary victory, he shouldered important

Continued on page 12



Granma/Alberto Borrego Avila

Three-volley salute for Brig. Gen. Moisés Sío Wong during February 12 military honors ceremony at Colón Cemetery in Havana, Cuba.

South Africa set to host int'l anti-imperialist youth festival

BY BEN JOYCE

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Some 70 delegates from 36 youth organizations around the world gathered here February 5 for an international consultative meeting to prepare the next World Festival of Youth and Students. It was followed by a two-day meeting of the general council of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), which decided on South Africa as the host country for the festival set to take place in December this year.

The World Festival of Youth and Students has been an international gathering of young people from around the world held under the banner of fighting imperialism. Recent festivals have included workshops, panels, rallies, and conferences, providing a forum for discussion to advance the fight against imperialist domination and war, in solidarity with national liberation struggles, and on other social and political struggles.

The festivals began in 1947 and were then dominated by Stalinist youth organizations that looked to the bureaucratic regime in Moscow for political direction. For nearly a decade no festival was organized following

the collapse of the Stalinist apparatuses in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In 1997 at the initiative of the revolutionary government in Cuba, a festival was organized in Havana that attracted thousands of youth from many different political backgrounds from around the world.

Other successful and broadly attended festivals were held in Algiers, Algeria, in 2001; and Caracas, Venezuela, in 2005. Some 17,000 young people from 144 countries attended the most recent festival in Caracas at a time when working people there had defeated repeated attempts by sections of the capitalist class, with Washington's backing, to oust the government headed by President Hugo Chavez.

The selection of South Africa means this year's festival will be the first to take place in sub-Saharan Africa and only the second ever on the continent.

The first International Preparatory Meeting to discuss the program of the festival will be held in Caracas April 16–19.

Alex Xezonakis in London contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Capitalist Economic Crisis Deepens: The Case of Greece. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 26. 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

The Real Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement: How Blacks Defended Themselves. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, member UFCW Local 789, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 27. Dinner, 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

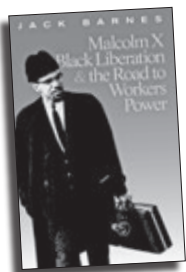
Manhattan

Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class. A program on Pathfinder's new book. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Fri., Feb. 26. 8 p.m. 307 W 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

TEXAS

Houston

Black Farmers Lead Fight for Land. Speaker: Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 26. 7:30 p.m. 4800 W 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.



Sell the book on ‘workers power’

LOS ANGELES

“This is a time when workers need more knowledge, more insight, so we can fully understand what we need to do,” said R. Henderson, a worker at American Apparel. “That’s why I got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* when I renewed my subscription to the *Militant*.”

Five workers at the nonunion garment factory have picked up the book—four with renewals and one with an introductory subscription. The new subscriber commented that as an African American he likes Malcolm X and supports Black liberation, but was particularly interested in workers power.

Militant supporters have been calling former subscribers about renewing their subscriptions and purchasing the new book by Jack Barnes. This led to a house visit with one of the workers fired from American Apparel following the government’s audit of workers’ documentation last summer. She renewed her subscription and is interested in getting the Spanish edition of the book once it’s available in March.

A UNITE organizer also renewed his subscription and picked up a copy of the book at the immigrant rights march in Phoenix in mid-January.

—Arlene Rubinstein

MIAMI

This week we sold five renewals, all of them with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. One was to a longshoreman, another to a professor who is an activist in the Haitian community.

Two Haitians from Fort Lauderdale bought the book in English, but also plan to buy the French edition when it comes out in April. They just didn’t want to wait that long before they could start reading it, even though they are more comfortable reading French.

Commenting on the *Militant*, Silas Jean Baptiste said, “It defends me as a member of the working class. It does a good job in raising the consciousness of working people and shows what can be done to make a change.”

Marcel Jean Louis said, “It not only informs me about national and international news, the newspaper educates those who want a change. It does good work helping us achieve the change we are aiming at.”

—Rollande Girard

ATLANTA

So far, I’ve sold five copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Three were sold to coworkers with *Militant* subscriptions at a ceramics manufacturing company here. All three had

cluding one renewal,” writes Susan LaMont from Washington, D.C. “Six copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* were also sold. There is a lot of interest in the new book among farmers.”

House meetings have been an effective way to secure renewals. In Seattle, “we did a follow up visit with a woman who had twice rescheduled a visit with us,” writes Mary Martin. “She welcomed the discussion about the *Militant* and the new Pathfinder book and said, ‘I really support this paper. Thank you for working with my schedule so I could get the paper going again.’”

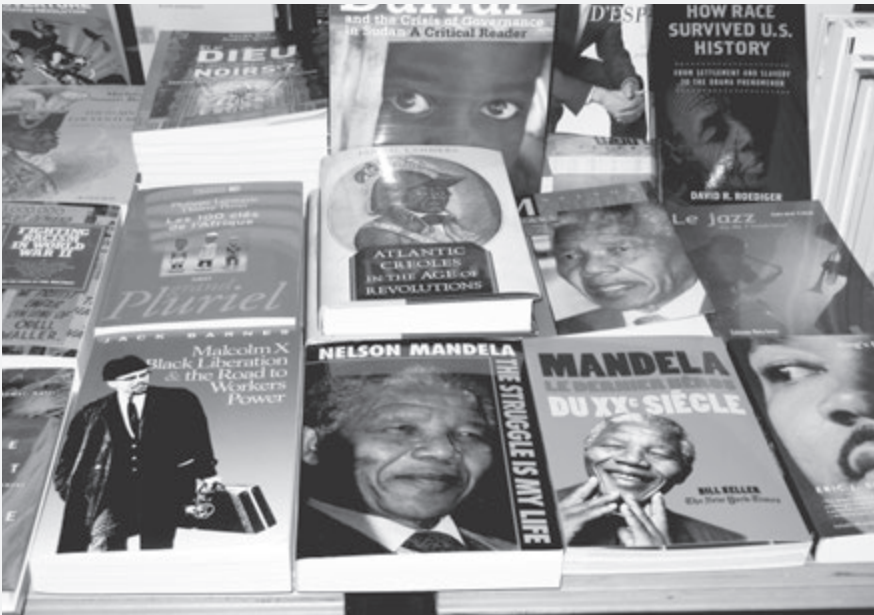
San Francisco tops the chart with 30 renewals. Supporters there won eight new renewals in the last four days of the drive, reports Carole Lesnick. “Two were to leaders of an immigrant rights group in San Jose, and four introductory subscriptions were sold at the group’s recent meeting.”

The success of the effort to build the long-term readership of the *Militant* helps build momentum for the spring circulation campaign, which will be kicking off a few weeks from now.

Check us out online!

TheMilitant.com

Montreal store features ‘Workers Power’ book



Militant/Katy Le Rougetel

MONTREAL—Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power is featured alongside other Pathfinder titles such as Fighting Racism in World War II and Thomas Sankara Parle (the French edition of Thomas Sankara Speaks) in Librairie Olivier’s Black History Month display. This bookstore, near the Université de Montréal, is hosting a series of events in February with a special emphasis on Haitian literature and fund-raising for Haiti.

Also now on the bookstore’s shelves is Le Manifeste Communiste (The Communist Manifesto), a new Pathfinder French-language title. Pathfinder sales representatives in Montreal garnered orders from four bookstores and libraries in January, with more on the way, as part of the North America-wide campaign to obtain 85 new orders by May 1.

—KATY LE ROUGETEL

previously purchased the *Militant* supplement featuring the introduction to the new book.

My barber, who is 27 years old, also got a copy of the supplement. He then got a sub and the book. The barber in the chair next to him read the supplement and said he wanted the book. He got it and an introductory subscription.

—Maceo Dixon

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Two copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* were sold at a festival at Waitangi February 6. The Northland town is the scene of an annual commemoration of the 1840 signing of a treaty between representatives of the British Crown and Maori tribal chiefs. Over the years, the official festivities have

also been the scene of protests by fighters for Maori rights.

Thousands of Maori working people from the region came to the festival. Our display of the new book caught the eye of many walking by.

Both who bought the “workers power” book took advantage of the special discounts available. One subscribed to the *Militant*. The other chuckled, “I buy too many books. My wife wants me to go on a book diet,” as he bought other books including *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism*, also by Jack Barnes, and a copy of *The Working Class and the Fight for Maori Rights: Resolutions of the Communist League*. We also sold 25 copies of the *Militant*.

—Baskaran Appu

Boston meeting discusses ICE roundup of immigrant workers

BY LAURA GARZA

BOSTON—A meeting sponsored by the Boston May Day Committee February 4 heard Martín Jiménez López, 33, speak about being rounded up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents while he was on his way to work. Several dozen people attended the event.

López said he was one of 62 workers picked up by ICE agents at a roadblock near Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts, January 6. The workers were en route to shovel snow at the football stadium when they were detained, fingerprinted, and most were told to return for subsequent immigration hearings. Nine were kept under arrest.

López has joined dozens of the workers at meetings at the Guatemalan consulate in Providence, Rhode Island, to plan their defense. “Some workers were too scared to come to the meetings, but I want to fight for an immigration reform,” he said.

Other speakers at the forum were Dorotea Manuela, of the Boston May Day Committee; Camilo Viveiros, of Jobs With Justice; and Steve Early, a labor activist and author.



Militant/Laura Garza

Martín Jiménez López speaking at Boston meeting February 4 about being detained by immigration cops.

Subscription Renewal Drive

Jan. 16 – Feb. 17, 2010
Final results

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
San Francisco	20	30	150%
Chicago	20	25	125%
Miami	20	24	120%
Seattle	16	19	119%
Twin Cities	25	29	116%
New York	45	51	113%
Los Angeles	25	28	112%
Boston	10	11	110%
Houston	12	13	108%
Washington, D.C.	25	26	104%
Atlanta	18	18	100%
Des Moines, IA	20	20	100%
Philadelphia	25	19	76%
Other U.S.		2	
U.S. Total	281	315	112%
CANADA	20	21	105%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	12	17	142%
Edinburgh	8	8	100%
UK Total	20	25	125%
AUSTRALIA	15	13	87%
NEW ZEALAND	10	14	140%
SWEDEN	8	10	125%
Total	354	398	106%
Should be	375	375	100%

ON THE PICKET LINE

Fleet service workers join union at Continental Airlines

Nearly 8,000 ramp, operations, and cargo workers at the fourth-largest airline in the United States are now union.

The results of an election by workers at Continental Airlines were announced February 12. About 4,100 of some 7,600 eligible voters voted to join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union.

The fleet service workers join 3,600 Continental mechanics who have been Teamsters for 12 years. Flight attendants and pilots at the company are also unionized.

Workers had unsuccessfully attempted to organize a union five times since 1998. Their efforts have been made harder by the 1926 Railway Act, which applies to them and other transportation workers. Under the antiworker law, a union must obtain a majority of eligible voters. Those who don't vote are counted as voting against the union.

In 2008 workers fell 314 short of the needed majority.

"We're finally going to get the respect, dignity, and the power that we deserve out there on the ramp," Reginald Robinson, a ramp worker, told the *Houston Chronicle*.

—Doug Nelson

Canada nickel miners strike in its 7th month

MONTREAL—Striking nickel miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500, mobilized amid subzero temperatures in the early morning of February 10 to block access to the Copper Cliff Smelter Complex and a number of mines owned by Vale Inco in the Sudbury, Ontario, region.

The strike by more than 3,000 workers began July 13 and is now into its seventh month. Vale Inco bosses have been trying to restart production using management, nonunion staff, unionized office and technical employees, and replacement workers. Vale Inco sent its first shipment of nickel matte to its refinery in Wales at the beginning of February.

Steelworkers members are also on strike at Vale Inco's Port Colbourne, Ontario, refinery. Another 120 strikers at the company's Voisey Bay facility in Newfoundland who have been on strike for six months voted unanimously February 11 to again reject the company's concessions demands and maintain their strike.

Vale Inco's final offer demands takeaways from the workers' pensions,

cost-of-living allowance, and the production bonus system. It also undermines job security through contracting-out provisions.

The strike is having an impact on Vale Inco's bottom line. The company's financial records show that hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost in revenue and hundreds of millions more incurred in extra costs because of the strike.

—Annette Kouri and John Steele

Strikers win wage increase in Myanmar industrial zone

Three strikes in Myanmar (Burma) captured the attention of the government and the media there. They involve 3,600 workers and took place in the country's largest industrial area where some 50,000–70,000 workers are employed at more than 400 factories.

About 1,400 workers at the Opal 2/Mya Fashion factory walked off the job at lunchtime February 8 demanding wage increases of 10,000 kyat (\$10) per month, a reduction in the 16-hour work day, and cleaner working and eating facilities.

The following day, the strike spread to two other nearby factories. Some 1,700 workers at the Tai Yee Footwear factory staged a sit-in demanding increases in wages and overtime pay and time off for government holidays.

Australia forum backs abortion rights fight

BY JOANNE KUNIAISKY AND LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—Fifty people, including a number of young women, attended a public meeting here February 6 demanding charges be dropped against a young Queensland couple accused of violating antiabortion laws.

Kathy Newnam, from the Queensland ProChoice Action Collective, told the meeting that these charges are an attempt to roll back women's rights. "We must act nationally—if we don't fight this attack we will be set back," she said.

In December 2008 Tegan Leach used the abortion drugs RU486 and misoprostol at home. Leach obtained the drugs from her partner Sergie Brennan's relatives in Ukraine.

In April 2009 police charged the



Top left, Continental workers in Humble, Texas, February 12 celebrate union organizing victory. Top right, Nickel miners picket Vale Inco in Sudbury, Ontario, February 10. Bottom, Factory workers on strike in Hlaing Tharyar, an industrial zone in Myanmar, in February.

Several hundred workers at Kya Lay garment factory struck over similar demands.

The three factories are located in Hlaing Tharyar, an industrial area seven miles from the country's largest city and former capital, Yangon. Most of the strikers, and the country's factory workers in general, are young women.

The military government responded by deploying fire engines, prison vans, and dozens of trucks full of riot cops armed with assault rifles to surround the area February 9. Organizations of workers and farmers not under direct control of the government have been

banned in Myanmar since 1962.

Out of fear the strike would continue to spread, other nearby factories closed for Union Day February 10, a patriotic holiday unrelated to labor.

That day workers at Opal 2/Mya Fashion ended their strike after the bosses agreed to a 5,000 kyat per month raise, reported *Irrawaddy*, a news magazine published by Burmese exiles in Thailand.

Tai Yee workers followed up a day later with another sit-in strike and a list of demands that include a 200 percent wage increase.

—Doug Nelson

couple under sections of the Queensland criminal code dating from 1899.

A Cairns, Queensland, court magistrate ruled Sept. 11, 2009, that there was sufficient evidence to place the couple on trial for "illegally" terminating a pregnancy. If convicted, Leach faces a maximum seven years in jail and Brennan up to three years. A trial date has not yet been set.

The ProChoice Action Collective has organized rallies, petition campaigns, campus information stalls, and pickets outside venues where Queensland premier Anna Bligh has spoken. Newnam called for a rally outside the court if and when the trial opens in Cairns.

Abortion used to be illegal in every state. It remains in the criminal code in Queensland, South Australia, New South

Wales, and Tasmania. Abortion has been decriminalized in the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, and Victoria. But in the latter two states new laws restricting abortions were adopted in the process. While there is no federal law guaranteeing women the right to abortion, it is subsidized by Medicare.

Common law decisions in New South Wales in 1971 and in Queensland in 1986 broadly defined "lawful abortions."

Also speaking at the public meeting were Kate Gleeson, a lecturer at Macquarie University in Sydney and Honora Ryan from Women's Abortion Action Campaign. The meeting was part of a two-day interstate conference, which decided to place the Cairns case at the center of a stepped-up campaign to defend abortion rights.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 1, 1985

The South African government has launched yet another brutal wave of repression against that country's Blacks and other opponents of apartheid rule. On February 19, South African cops arrested six leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and carried out predawn raids in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. In addition to raiding UDF offices, they ransacked offices of trade unions, and church and community groups.

The apartheid regime is trying to crush all opposition to its rule. For many months there have been growing anti-apartheid mobilizations within South Africa, including a massive general strike last November organized by member organizations of the UDF.



February 29, 1960

Sit-down demonstrations by Southern Negro students against lily-white lunch counters are continuing despite increased racist violence and the "get tough" policy of state officials.

The courageous young fighters against Jim Crow are devising effective countermeasures to meet the officially recommended tactic of arresting demonstrators for "trespassing" in the stores. Moreover, the students are taking the initial steps to coordinate the demonstrations which in a month have spread into five southeastern states.

Through the pattern of increasing violence by white teenagers run indications of adult incitement along with a secret (and sometimes not so secret) toleration or encouragement by police and other officials.



March 2, 1935

It is easier to understand the Roosevelt legislative program of 1935 than it was to understand the programs of 1933 and 1934. The New Deal is intellectually bankrupt.

The proposed Work Relief bill represents the scrapping of the high wage, mass purchasing power pretense of the NRA [National Recovery Administration]. The government, under the guise of carrying forward public works, intends to drive building trades wages down to the level of \$50 a month. It does so in the conviction that what holds back revival in the capital goods industries is high labor costs. The answer: deflate wages upon the pretense of giving work (which is a moral "tonic") rather than the dole (which is a moral "dope") to the unemployed.

Abortion Is a Woman's Right!

By Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed



Explains why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement.

\$6

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Malcolm X, King had clashing class outlooks

The following is the sixth in a series of excerpts the Militant is running from Pathfinder Press's latest book, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. We encourage our readers to study and discuss the book. This excerpt is from the chapter "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class." Subheadings are by the Militant.

As I noted at the opening of this talk, it is simply untrue to talk about a political convergence between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. King was a courageous individual who helped lead powerful mobilizations for Black rights, from the time of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 right up until his assassination in 1968. . . .

Martin Luther King's individual courage is not the question. We're talking about two clashing class outlooks, two irreconcilable political courses.

One of the pieces of "evidence" displayed time and again to support the "Malcolm-Martin" myth is a photograph of the two of them together, smiling, after running into each other by happenstance at the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., in March 1964—just two weeks after Malcolm announced his break with the Nation of Islam. But there was no political content whatsoever to that chance meeting. As King himself later said in an interview with Alex Haley, "I met Malcolm X once in Washington, but circumstances didn't enable me to talk with him for more than a minute." And King went on in that same January 1965 interview to condemn what he called Malcolm's "fiery, demagogic oratory," charging

that "in his litany of articulating the despair of the Negro without offering any positive, creative alternative, I feel that Malcolm has done himself and our people a great disservice."

That was Martin Luther King's political assessment of the person who was arguably America's greatest single mass revolutionary leader of the middle of the twentieth century.

The actual political relations between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King were demonstrated a few months after their unplanned encounter, when King traveled to St. Augustine, Florida, in June 1964. King went there to support activists who had been repeatedly beaten by the Ku Klux Klan and arrested by cops for organizing lunch counter sit-ins and other civil rights protests. The Democratic administration of Lyndon Johnson had contemptuously spurned King's call for federal troops to protect the demonstrators and enforce their rights.

On behalf of the newly launched Organization of Afro-American Unity, Malcolm sent a telegram to King at the time saying, "If the federal Government will not send troops to your aid, just say the word and we will immediately dispatch some of our brothers there to organize self-defense units among our people and the Ku Klux Klan will then receive a taste of its own medicine. The day of turning the other cheek to those brute beasts is over."

King flatly rejected Malcolm's offer, calling it a "grave error" and "an immoral approach."

Nor did that political chasm narrow over subsequent months. In early February 1965, Malcolm spoke to a group of three hundred young people at a local church in Selma, Alabama. Since the beginning of 1965, King's organization, the Southern Christian Lead-



Tuskegeana Yearbook

Malcolm X, second from left, being interviewed by the Tuskegee Institute *Campus Digest* in Alabama, Feb. 3, 1965. Malcolm addressed several thousand students at the school that day and they invited him to go with them to Selma the following day.

ership Conference (SCLC), had been leading voting rights demonstrations in and around Selma, in the course of which protesters had been subjected to cop brutality and some 3,400 had been arrested. After Malcolm had addressed a meeting of several thousand on February 3 at nearby Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, students there insisted that he go with them to Selma the next day, and Malcolm agreed. King was being held in jail in Selma at the time.

Youth invite Malcolm to Selma

When he spoke to the young people in Selma, Malcolm again condemned the Johnson administration for its refusal to deploy federal troops to protect Blacks fighting for their rights. Malcolm said he was "100 percent for the effort being put forth by the Black folks here" and believed "they have an absolute right to use whatever means are necessary to gain the vote." But he added that he didn't believe in practicing nonviolence in face of violence by organized racist forces. He concluded: "I pray that you will grow intellectually, so that you can understand the problems of the world and where you fit into, in that world picture"—once again the internationalist starting point, "broadening your scope," that Malcolm was always working to promote. And then he continued:

"And I pray that all the fear that has ever been in your heart will be taken out, and when you look at that man, if you know he's nothing but a coward, you won't fear him. If he wasn't a coward, he wouldn't gang up on you. . . . They put on a sheet so you won't know who they are—that's a coward. No! The time will come when that sheet will be ripped off. If the federal government doesn't take it off, we'll take it off!" . . .

The young people in Selma met Malcolm's talk with uproarious applause. But that wasn't the response of SCLC leaders. Malcolm described *their* reaction in a speech to a February 15 meeting of the OAAU at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, less than a week before he was gunned down in that same hall.

"King's man didn't want me to talk to [the youth]," Malcolm said. Malcolm was referring in particular to the current Democratic Party mayor of this very city [Atlanta], Andrew Young—a former U.S. congressman from here, and also U.S. ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter administration. In Selma that day, Young had schemed unsuccessfully with Coretta Scott King to stop Malcolm from being given a microphone.

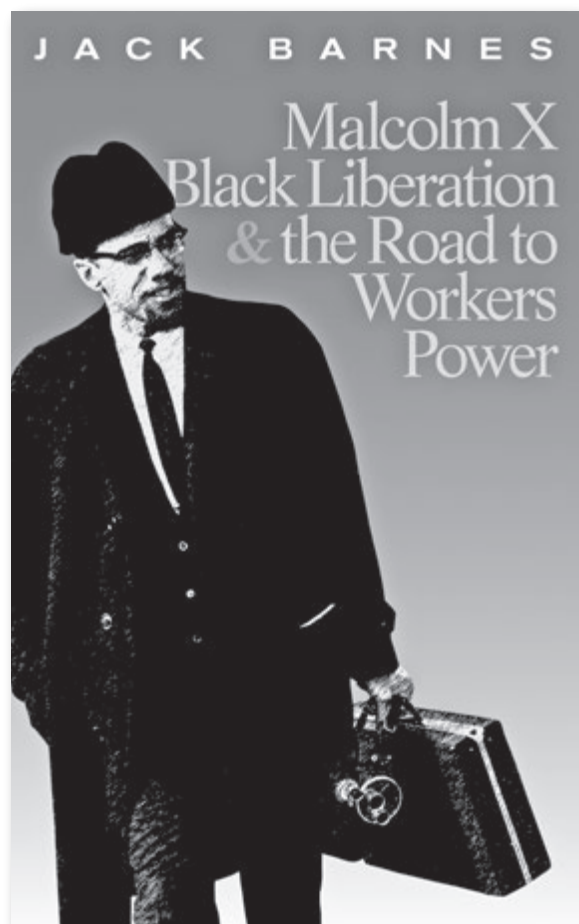
"They told me they didn't mind me coming in and all of that," Malcolm told the OAAU meeting—but they didn't want him to talk, because "they knew what I was going to say." The young people, both from Selma and from Tuskegee, however, "insisted that I be heard. . . . This is the only way I got a chance to talk to them."

You don't have to take Malcolm's word for it. King, who was in jail when Malcolm was in Selma, said, shortly after the assassination: "I couldn't block his coming, but my philosophy was so antithetical to the philosophy of Malcolm X—so diametrically opposed, that I would never have invited Malcolm X to come to Selma when we were in the midst of a nonviolent demonstration, and this says nothing about the personal respect I had for him. I disagreed with his philosophy and his methods." . . .

So, no, there was not a "Malcolm-Martin" convergence during that last year. To the contrary, the divergence widened, as there was a clarification of Martin Luther King's conviction that capitalism and its injustices could be reformed. Meanwhile, Malcolm never stopped advancing in his commitment to the need for the oppressed and working people of all skin colors, continents, and countries to join together in revolutionary struggle against the capitalist world order responsible for racism, rightist violence, the oppression of women, economic exploitation, and war.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

New from Pathfinder Press



"This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States, and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution. . . ."

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Black farmers protests

Continued from front page

future loan applications. However, 86 percent of the 94,000 Black farmers who filed claims were turned down.

Some 600 farmers and their supporters attended the rally called by the NBFA here February 11. Homer Hodge and two other farmers from Crawford, Alabama, explained why they had come. “In 1997 and 1998 arbitrators denied claims of my two brothers, then they claimed I was too late,” said Hodge. “We could not get money to buy tractors and seed.”

“At the time we farmed cotton and several vegetables, now all we farm and sell is corn. I made no money last year because of the drought,” he said, and has not gotten any drought relief.

NBFA president John Boyd said the fight is not just about claims. “We want to be able to participate in all the farm programs, the subsidy programs. The average subsidy for Black farmers is \$200 per farmer, while the average subsidy for the top 10 percent of white farmers is \$1 million,” he said.

Government stalls on payment

In 2008 up to \$100 million was included as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to compensate those farmers who missed the deadline. Although the money has been included in two federal budgets it has yet to be approved in a spending authorization bill.

President Barack Obama has filed a request for \$1.15 billion in the federal budget to compensate Black farmers, but no serious effort has been made by the administration to gain Congress’s approval of the funds.

In Montgomery, Alabama, 500 rallied February 10 at the state capitol. Several hundred Black farmers turned out for the protest in Columbia, South Carolina, February 12. “If you’re out here toiling in the soil and trying to make a living from the earth,” Clarendon County, South Carolina, farmer Henry King, Jr., said, “it gets rough when at the same time, you have to deal with discrimination.” King was one of the farmers who succeeded in getting his payment, but said he came out to encourage others to fight for theirs.

‘We have earned this’

Hundreds rallied in Jackson, Mississippi, February 9, waving signs that said, “Years of Empty Promises.” Farmer Carroll Otis told WTOK-TV, “We’re not asking more of anything. We have earned this.”

In Memphis, Tennessee, 150 farm-

ers gathered on February 8, the *Tri-State Defender* reported. Farmer L.C. Smith explained, “They put me out of business. . . . I couldn’t pay my lease on my land.” White farmers at the same time were getting loans, he said.

Grand Junction farmer Willie Woody, 67, told the *Defender* that in the 1960s he tried to get a government loan and was turned down. “But then the white folks were going in the back door and still getting applications in to get money.”

Two hundred farmers rallied in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 6 and in Richmond, Virginia, February 13. In Richmond Boyd told the farmers, “The Congress looks down on Black farmers. They think we’re uneducated. They look at our raggedy equipment; they see how we have to borrow money from our families to keep farming.”

“Every year you have to renew your contract,” said Elvis Witcher, 52, a Virginia farmer who grows tobacco on his 200-acre farm. “But the tobacco companies don’t tell you how to get the contracts, and if you lose your contract, you can lose your farm.” Witcher and another tobacco farmer at the Richmond meeting began discussing how to start a committee to help tobacco farmers work together on this issue.

Several dozen farmers and support-



National Black Farmers Association

Some 500 farmers rally February 10 at state capitol in Montgomery, Alabama. National Black Farmers Association president John Boyd is speaking in foreground.

ers turned out for a rally and news conference outside the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., February 15. “We used to plant corn, soybeans, peanuts, and tobacco on a farm that’s been in our family for generations,” said John Yates, 53, from Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Yates and four cousins—Fletcher, Charlie, Jimmy, and Robert—joined the action.

Yates and his cousins would like to return to farming. “We filed for a loan in the 1970s, but were denied,” he said, and eventually they had to give up active farming. He now works in an aluminum plant.

“If farmers plant late, they can’t compete. There are long delays in

processing Black farmers’ requests for loans. Black farmers are kept off the county committees that decide on loans,” Boyd said at the event. “Black farmers are only ‘advisors’ to the committees, we don’t get to vote on who will get loans in our area.”

Lawrence Lucas, president of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, also addressed the rally. “The new administration promised change,” Lucas said. “But that day has not arrived. Not one Black farmers’ claim has been processed since Obama took office.”

Susan LaMont and Cindy Jaquith contributed to this article.

EU presses for deeper austerity in Greece

Continued from front page

classes in Europe.

In spite of worries that the Greek crisis could spread, leaders of 27 EU governments issued only a vague statement February 11 promising “coordinated action if needed to safeguard stability,” but took no specific measures. German chancellor Angela Merkel opposed any immediate financial assistance or loan guarantees.

The Panhellenic Socialist Movement government of Greek prime minister George Papandreou promised to do “whatever is necessary”—meaning taking the crisis out on workers and farmers—to not go over “the edge of the cliff.”

The Greek government announced \$2.75 billion in public spending cuts, and a plan to raise \$6.87 billion from new taxes and measures to fight “tax evasion.” Taxes will be increased on alcohol and gasoline, which currently costs \$6.74 a gallon. The government has also pledged to increase the average retirement age by two years to 63 and cut wages of government workers, one-third of the country’s workforce.

The Greek government’s total debt to bondholders and banks is expected to be 120 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) this year. Its yearly deficit is nearly 13 percent of GDP, way above the supposed EU ceiling of 3 percent.

On February 10 government workers in Greece staged a 24-hour strike to protest the proposed austerity measures. The strike grounded planes at the airport and slowed rail travel. Many hospitals were also affected. According to press reports only a couple protest marches were organized by the unions and turnout was low.

“It wasn’t the workers who took all the money, it was the plutocracy,” Al-

exandros Potamitis, a retired merchant seaman, told AP. “It’s them who should give it back.”

Greece is not the only EU member in danger of financial collapse with huge deficits and outstanding loans. Spokespeople for the French and German rulers show their disdain for their weaker capitalist EU sisters by referring to them as PIGS, an acronym for Portugal, Ireland (and sometimes Italy), Greece, and Spain.

Savage austerity in Ireland

Last year the Irish government implemented what London’s *Guardian* newspaper called a “savage” austerity program after it feared it could be the next Iceland. In October 2008 the Icelandic government and economy imploded after banks there collapsed in the face of debts equal to 10 times Iceland’s GDP.

With official unemployment at about 13 percent, the Irish government cut the wages of government employees by 5 percent to 15 percent and slashed welfare programs by \$1 billion.

A meltdown in Greece or Ireland would put capitalist profits across Europe at risk. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, French banks have \$75.5 billion in loans to Greece; Swiss banks have \$64 billion, and German banks \$43 billion. British banks have loans worth \$193 billion in Ireland. Germans banks have at least that, while French banks have \$78 billion there.

Spain could be an even bigger problem for the EU. With a population of 45 million, compared to 11 million people in Greece, it is the fifth largest economy in Europe. Spain has an annual budget deficit of 11.4 percent and the highest unemployment rate in the EU, officially reaching 18.8 percent in

January. German banks and financial institutions have \$240 billion in loans outstanding there.

While the German and French economies have more wiggle room than their weaker competitors, like the rest of the capitalist world they are not in good shape. In 2009 the Germany economy shrank by 5 percent, the largest contraction there since World War II.

Euro in crisis

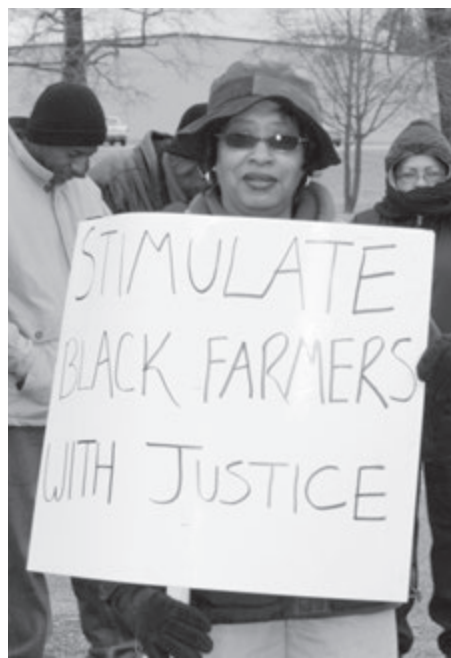
Just a year ago *Time* magazine waxed eloquent about the “remarkable achievement” for the euro, claiming it had remained unflustered in spite of the global financial crisis, prevented a currency crisis, and protected small nations.

Since January, however, the euro has dropped 4.4 percent against the U.S. dollar. *USA Today* captures the currency’s weakness in a February 10 headline: “EU Tries to Figure Out How to Help Greece, Save the Euro.”

The euro has never been able to seriously challenge the U.S. dollar. A January report from the U.S. Federal Reserve notes that most European exports to the United States, including from France and Germany, are invoiced in dollars, not euros.

As the worldwide economic crisis continues to unfold, with all its ups and downs, Washington’s competitors in Europe are also worried about the U.S. economy. A column by Niall Ferguson in the February 10 *Financial Times* titled “A Greek Crisis is Coming to America” warns that the looming financial disasters are not caused by “idiosyncrasies of the eurozone.”

“The key question,” he argues “is when that crisis will reach the last bastion of western power, on the other side of the Atlantic.”



National Black Farmers Association

Jackson, Mississippi, protest February 9.

‘Lenin’s Final Fight’ needed for struggle

Havana panel discusses lessons for battles today to end capitalism’s destruction

Following are remarks by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, opening a meeting February 12 to present the recently published Pathfinder book *La última lucha de Lenin*. The event took place as part of this year’s annual Havana International Book Fair in Cuba. Waters chaired the meeting and introduced the panelists. The article on the event itself begins on page 9. Copyright © Pathfinder Press 2010. Reprinted by permission.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to all.

On behalf of Pathfinder I want to thank you for joining with us in launching this second edition of *La última lucha de Lenin* here in the command post at La Cabaña fortress used by Ernesto Che Guevara in the opening months of the Cuban Revolution. The hall could not be more appropriate to the occasion.

My name is Mary-Alice Waters. I am the president of Pathfinder Press and will be the moderator of today’s program.

I want to begin by introducing our distinguished panel.

Fernando Rojas, deputy minister of culture of the Republic of Cuba. I want to express our special appreciation to Fernando for making time in the midst of what is perhaps the most important cultural event of the year in Cuba to join us. When Pathfinder first began participating in the Havana International Book Fair more than 20 years ago, I remember

well that Fernando, who was at that time the president of the Hermanos Saíz Association of young Cuban artists, and the editor of the magazine *El Caimán Barbudo*, was among the first to welcome us and encourage our participation.

Gladys Gutiérrez, national president of the Federation of University Students of Cuba. It is a special pleasure to have Gladys with us. In recent years it has become almost a tradition, of which we are very proud, that the president of FEU joins us in a Pathfinder presentation here at La Cabaña, and then together we take the presentation to one or more of

“Lenin was presenting what became an integral program to defend the proletarian internationalist course of Bolshevism. . .”

the universities in the Havana region, which we will do again this year.

Diosmedes Otero, who some 15 years ago organized a team of volunteers among his compañeros then teaching at the University of Matanzas, all of whom had studied for many years in the Soviet Union. Together they checked the existing standard Spanish translations of the speeches and writings of Lenin published in *La última lucha de Lenin* against the originals available in the fifth Russian-language edition of Lenin’s *Collected Works*. The efforts of that

team made it possible for Pathfinder to publish a Spanish-language translation of *Lenin’s Final Fight* that is as accurate and as faithful to Lenin’s words as the English translation for which we had done the same work.

I want to take the opportunity to welcome another of the compañeras who was part of that team and is with us here today, Idalmis Izquierdo. A third compañera, Edith González, today dean of the school of social sciences and the humanities at the University of Matanzas, had organized to be with us also, but was unable to make it at the last minutes due to transportation problems of the kind all of you here are familiar with.

And **Fernando Martínez Heredia**, recipient of the 2006 National Social Sciences prize, and today the director of the Juan Marinello Center for Research and Development of Cuban Culture here in Havana.

Exactly forty years ago, in March 1970, as the director of the magazine *Pensamiento Crítico*, Fernando was responsible for the publication of issue no. 38 of that magazine, which made many of the speeches and writings that are today collected in *La última lucha de Lenin* available in Cuba, and throughout much of Latin America.

With a panel so well qualified to present this book, I need say little. On behalf of the publisher I want to make two observations.

Integral program of Bolshevism

First, Pathfinder Press published the first edition of *Lenin’s Final Fight* in English in 1995, and in Spanish in 1997. Before then these articles, letters, speeches, resolutions, and notes by Lenin had never before been collected and presented in a single book—anywhere, or in any language.

Everything Lenin is known to have written between the end of December 1922 and early March 1923, when he dictated what turned out to be his final letter, is contained in these pages, together with the most important speeches and writings that led up to the battle he waged in those months. Moreover, they are presented in chronological order, making it possible to follow not only the *interconnectedness* of the issues, but the *evolution* of this decisive political fight.

Lenin was not simply addressing a variety of specific questions he considered vital to the advance of the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia; he was presenting what became an *integral* program to defend, and where necessary reassert, the proletarian internationalist course of Bolshevism. It is not that he set out to write a program; as always, that was a product of a concrete struggle.

I mention the way the content of the book is organized because it is not a small detail. We all know how easy it is to gut the *class* trajectory and lessons to be drawn from even the clearest speeches and writings of great revolutionary leaders simply by chopping them up and scattering their parts. By eliminating the working-class line of march toward power, the fragments are easily reduced to general humanistic homilies that seldom rise to the level of Feuerbach.

Second, and even more important, *Lenin’s Final Fight* is a collection incomparably rich and indispensable for our understanding of the history of our epoch, the history of the modern working-class movement—from the Communist Manifesto to today. Pathfinder did not publish it, however, in order to have a book of record.

Needed to advance fight for power

Pathfinder published *Lenin’s Final Fight* because it is needed. *Now*. By those around the world who are determined to put an end to capitalism’s exploitative, oppressive, and more and more destructive social relations. By those who are determined to act, to transform the course of human history.

The back-cover quote from the introduction that Jack Barnes and Steve Clark prepared for this new edition puts it well:

“As capitalism in the 21st century enters its deepest economic and social crisis since the decades leading from the first to the second imperialist world war, programmatic and strategic matters in dispute in the communist workers movement in the early 1920s once again weigh heavily in prospects for the working class worldwide to advance along its historic line of march toward the conquest of power.”

Others on the panel here today will speak of Cuba, and Cuba in the world, in a way that I am not qualified to do. I will note, however, that since 1998 when *La última lucha de Lenin* first became available at the Havana International Book Fair, it has been one of the most sought-after titles at the Pathfinder stand, year after year, for more than a decade. And that is why we are pleased to be able to launch the second edition of the book here in Havana, at this event.

The issues on which Lenin waged a

Book festival opens in Havana



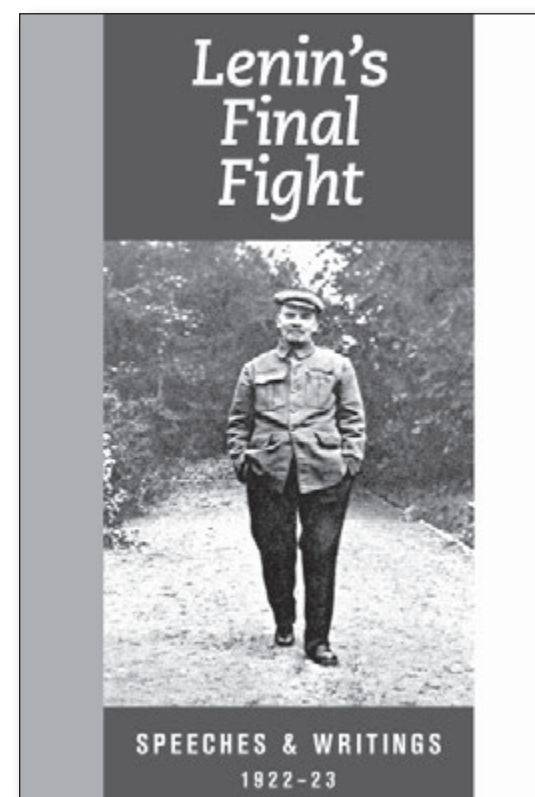
Militant/Jacob Perasso

HAVANA—Hundreds of thousands of Cubans are descending on La Cabaña, a former Spanish colonial fortress here, for the Havana International Book Fair. The fair, which opened February 11, runs in Havana for 10 days. Similar cultural events will take place in 15 other cities across the island over the following two weeks. In Havana the festival is featuring more than 350 book presentations and poetry readings, along with concerts, art exhibitions, and film showings.

Seven million books, including 1,000 newly published titles, are available for purchase across the island, reported Zuleica Romy, president of the Cuban Book Institute, at the fair’s inaugural ceremony. She noted that despite the effects on Cuba of the global economic crisis and U.S. embargo, the priority given to the fair shows that here “books are not viewed as commodities, nor are readers treated as consumers,” because expanding access to culture is “a fundamental pillar of the revolution.”

—JACOB PERASSO

Pathfinder Press Lenin



www.pathfinderpress.org

es . . . *now* ective social relations

life-or-death battle to lead the Bolshevik party and Communist International forward are recorded in these pages. They include the defense and strengthening of the worker-farmer alliance. “The real proletarian attitude to the national question,” to use Lenin’s words. The class composition, and proletarian program and comportment of the cadres of the parties we must build. And the necessity to raise the educational level and broaden the cultural horizons of the toilers.

Above all it was a political fight to maintain the working-class trajectory of the Soviet republic and Communist Party, a fight, as Lenin said, to uproot a “past, which, although it has been overthrown, has not been overcome.”

With that, I would like to give the floor to our first speaker, who it is a real honor to have with us today, deputy minister of culture, Fernando Rojas.



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Presentation of *La última lucha de Lenin* at Havana book fair. From left: Fernando Rojas, deputy minister of culture; Gladys Gutiérrez, national president of Federation of University Students; Mary-Alice Waters, Pathfinder president; Fernando Martínez Heredia, director of Juan Marinello Center for Research and Development of Cuban Culture; and Diosmedes Otero, who headed team that checked translation of book.

‘We sought out and studied the Bolsheviks’ ideas’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND EMMA PARKER

HAVANA—“This book by Lenin is one that needs to be read *today*—it’s essential,” said Fernando Rojas, a deputy minister of culture here.

Rojas was speaking to a standing-room-only audience at the launching of Pathfinder Press’s newly released edition of *La última lucha de Lenin*, published in English as *Lenin’s Final Fight*. It was one of the book presentations held here February 12 on the first full day of the annual Havana International Book Fair, Cuba’s largest cultural festival, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from this city as well as across the island.

The panel also included Fernando Martínez Heredia, recipient of Cuba’s 2006 National Social Sciences Award

and today the director of the Juan Marinello Center for Research on Cuban Culture; Gladys Gutiérrez, national president of the Cuban Federation of University Students (FEU); and Diosmedes Otero, who some 15 years ago organized a team of volunteers at the University of Matanzas to review and correct the existing Spanish translations of the writings and speeches of Vladimir Lenin collected in *La última lucha de Lenin*.

The book documents the political battle led by Lenin within the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1922–23 to maintain the proletarian course that had brought workers and peasants to state power in Russia in October 1917.

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, chaired the panel discussion. She told the audience of almost 70 that before Pathfinder published the first edition of *Lenin’s Final Fight*—in English in 1995 and in Spanish in 1997—this material had never before been collected in a single book in any language.

Pathfinder has published this new edition, she said, not as a historical archive, but because “it is needed now by those around the world who are determined to put an end to capitalism’s exploitative, oppressive, and historically destructive social relations.” (See text of Waters’s remarks beginning on page 8.)

It was for this reason that Pathfinder asked Jack Barnes and Steve Clark to prepare a new political introduction to the 2010 edition of *Lenin’s Final Fight*.

Rojas, the first panelist to speak, began by expressing his appreciation for Pathfinder’s work in producing books such as *La última lucha de Lenin*. He focused his remarks on the class struggle that unfolded in Soviet Russia in the 1920s and the political questions that were at the center of the revolutionary course Lenin continued to fight for during the last months of his active life.

He noted that for decades many of the writings by Lenin contained in this book had been suppressed, in some cases even their existence had been denied by the Soviet government, and “much

of what was told about this period is not what really happened in the Soviet Union.”

In the years leading up to the 1917 revolution, Rojas said, Lenin led the Bolshevik party along the course that assumed that even in tsarist Russia, one of the most backward countries of Europe, “it was possible and necessary to take power, without”—as the majority of the leadership of the Socialist International insisted was necessary—“going through a long period of capitalist development.”

This course was tied to the perspective of socialist revolutions in *other* countries, Lenin explained. And it was proven correct by the inspiration to emulate the Bolsheviks that spread around the world as a result of that October 1917 revolutionary victory.

Political questions at stake

Rojas outlined several political questions around which Lenin waged the fight during the period covered in the book—a time when the workers and peasants of what was becoming the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had triumphed in the bloody, three-year-long Russian civil war, defeating the alliance of the counterrevolutionary armies of the toppled capitalist and landlord classes and invading imperialist forces, but when revolutionary struggles in Europe had not been victorious.

These questions, Rojas said, included Lenin’s efforts to advance “the democratization of the state—the fight against bureaucratization, as Leon Trotsky described it in 1924.” He cited Lenin’s proposal in early 1923 to reorganize the Workers and Peasants Inspection, a state body “created to combat bureaucratism and increase popular control, which, headed by Stalin [from its origins in 1920], had itself become bureaucratized.” He noted that Lenin called for drawing more rank-and-file workers and peasants into this body.

Other fronts in Lenin’s final battle, Rojas said, included his opposition to efforts by some Bolshevik leaders to weaken the Soviet government’s monopoly of foreign trade, and his insistence on establishing the Union of So-

viet Socialist Republics as a voluntary union. Regarding the latter, he noted, Lenin criticized Stalin’s initial proposal for “the so-called autonomization plan, in which the Russian republic would absorb other republics” that had been subjected to national oppression by the tsarist empire—a proposal marked by Great Russian chauvinism.

He added that “this chauvinism even led to the use of physical violence against communist militants,” referring to an incident in which a Bolshevik Central Committee member, Grigory Ordzhonikidze, had struck a Communist from Georgia during a dispute over national rights.

Rojas pointed out that an important

“This book by Lenin needs to be read *today*—it’s essential. . .”

aspect of Lenin’s struggle took place around the efforts to increase access by working people to culture and education. To continue to maintain state power, he noted, surrounded as the Soviet Union was by capitalist powers with a much higher level of productivity of labor, workers and farmers “needed a genuine cultural revolution.”

He said that as part of deepening the involvement of working people in running society, Lenin argued for encouraging the organization of peasants “through cooperation, through the persuasion of peasants” to join state-backed cooperatives as a step toward advancing a socialist course. This approach contrasted with “what we know happened afterward in the Soviet Union,” he said, referring to the forced collectivization of agriculture by the bureaucratized regime beginning on a massive scale in 1929.

Lenin as a real person

Gladys Gutiérrez remarked that Cubans of her generation—she was born in 1985—had never known a world in which the Soviet Union even existed. And for many, Lenin is “a cold, distant figure” reduced to “busts, slogans,

Continued on page 10

ss New edition n’s Final Fight In English and Spanish

“As capitalism in the twenty-first century enters its deepest economic and social crisis since the decades leading from the first to the second imperialist world war; programmatic and strategic matters in dispute in the communist workers movement in the early 1920s once again weigh heavily in prospects for the working class worldwide to advance along its historic line of march toward the conquest of power.”

This book brings together, for the first time, the reports, articles, and letters through which Lenin waged the political battle to keep the revolution on a proletarian course. Many were suppressed for decades, and some have never before appeared in English.

With introduction to 2010 edition by Jack Barnes and Steve Clark.

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Study of Bolshevik ideas

Continued from page 9

sometimes the name of a cooperative farm,” but not a political leader whose views are worth studying.

Reading *La última lucha de Lenin* allowed her to get to know Lenin as a real live person, she said, as a revolutionary “whose views were not schematic.”

Gutiérrez added that “my only reference point for a socialist revolution has been the Cuban Revolution,” and that in Cuban schools youth do not get an in-depth understanding of what happened in the early years of the Soviet Union. Studying this history, however, “elicits questions that lead us to understand better the Russian Revolution and our own revolution.”

The student leader remarked that the introduction to *La última lucha de Lenin* made her think about the November 2005 speech by Cuban leader Fidel Castro “on the fight against bureaucratism and schematicism,” and Castro’s assertion that one of the greatest mistakes made by Cuban revolutionaries “was believing that someone knew how to build socialism,” something that could only be learned by the Cuban people through their own revolutionary struggle.

She said the Cuban Revolution stands out for its internationalism, in contrast with “the Great Russian chauvinism” that Lenin fought against in the Soviet leadership in the period covered by the book. “Cuba’s support to national liberation struggles in other countries helps all of us.”

All these questions, she said, make this a book “that not only youth leaders but all young people must read and become knowledgeable about.”

Work to ensure accurate translation

Diosmedes Otero spoke on behalf of the four volunteers who in the mid-1990s, as young faculty members at the University of Matanzas, worked together to check the standard Spanish translations of the material being prepared for the first edition of *La última lucha de Lenin*. In the audience was another member of this team, Idalmis Izquierdo, who had also come from Matanzas, a city 60 miles east of Havana, to participate in the book presentation. The four, having studied for many years in the Soviet Union in the 1980s, had gladly volunteered to put their knowledge of Russian to use in producing this book.

Otero said it gave them tremendous

satisfaction to know they had “helped create a tool that is useful” to many people. He described how they went about carefully checking the translation. Each would review an article, make necessary changes, and then the four would collectively discuss the difficult translation problems, going through rounds of work until they were satisfied they had achieved the most accurate translation, “not just the words but the spirit” of what Lenin said.

While the translations in the fifth Spanish edition of Lenin’s *Collected Works* by Progress Publishers in Moscow were acceptable overall, Otero said, the group of volunteers made numerous corrections that clarified the meaning.

He gave several examples from one of the pieces he had worked on, Lenin’s December 1922 letter to the 12th party congress that was scheduled to take place in March 1923. In his evaluation of other central Bolshevik leaders, Lenin had said Joseph Stalin, recently elected general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik party, had concentrated “unlimited authority” in his hands. In the *Collected Works* that phrase had been translated less accurately as “immense authority.”

Lenin had entitled an important January 1923 article “On Coopera-

“Lenin continues to help us more and more in the vital task of defending and deepening socialism. . .”

tion,” Otero noted. But the standard *Collected Works* translation called it “On Cooperatives.” That was inaccurate, he said, “limiting the scope of the question Lenin was taking up.” The corrected translation made a big difference in readers’ understanding of the course Lenin was fighting for.

Lenin in ‘Pensamiento Crítico’

Fernando Martínez Heredia spoke about the thirst for Marxism in the early years of the Cuban Revolution, when he was in his 20s. Many revolutionaries like himself looked to the experiences of the Russian Revolution. “We sought out and studied the ideas and debates of the Bolsheviks. Lenin, the greatest of the communist revolutionaries, seemed very much ours,” he said. “We felt the need to



Granma

Participants crowd into San Carlos de la Cabaña fortress in Havana, Cuba, for the 19th annual Havana International Book Fair. The fair is a massive event organized by the government to expand access to literature and culture—pillars of the revolution.

take hold of Marx and Marxism, but we had to reject the Soviet ideology, misnamed Marxism-Leninism.” He pointed to the example set by Ernesto Che Guevara.

Martínez Heredia noted that in the late 1960s he was part of a group of young Cuban revolutionaries teaching in the philosophy department at the University of Havana who also launched the magazine *Pensamiento Crítico* (Critical Thought), published from 1967 to 1971. During this period Martínez was the head of the philosophy department and editor of the new magazine.

In the philosophy department, he said, “we studied and discussed Lenin, who had a leading place in our course on the history of Marxist thought that thousands of students studied in what were then Cuba’s three universities. We developed that course after criticizing and discarding the philosophy that came from the Soviet Union.”

The department, he said, organized “a rigorous seminar on Lenin’s ideas in relation to the 1905 and 1917 Russian revolutions. We also used the broadest and most varied bibliography possible, from the Bolsheviks and other revolutionaries of that time—such as Rosa Luxemburg and Trotsky—to serious writers who held very different positions.”

During this time *Pensamiento Crítico* published articles by and about Lenin in many issues. The November 1967 issue, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, contained a selection of writings by Lenin; a firsthand account of the October 1917 insurrection; an analysis of the Bolsheviks’ debate on the March 1918 Brest-Litovsk Treaty, which took Soviet Russia out of World War I; and a chronology of events in Russia from February to November 1917, as an aid to readers.

In order to mark the centennial of Lenin’s birth, Martínez said, in March 1970 *Pensamiento Crítico* published a special 300-page issue, containing many of the same speeches and writings that today appear in *La última lucha de Lenin*.

He told how that issue was completed in the midst of Cuba’s 1970 sugar harvest—a huge nationwide mobilization that ultimately failed to meet its goal of producing 10 million tons of sugar—when most editorial board

members were in eastern Cuba as part of volunteer cane-cutting brigades. Martínez said he asked the one *Pensamiento Crítico* board member they had left behind in Havana to finish the issue to read him the final draft of the editorial over the phone so he could approve it in time to meet a tight print deadline. “I approved it and told him, ‘Lenin must come out! Lenin must come out!’” Some 15,000 copies of the special issue were printed.

In subsequent years, the study in Cuba of Lenin’s revolutionary course suffered, Martínez said, noting that they had been obliged to cease publication of *Pensamiento Crítico* in 1971. “But the Cuban Revolution was able to confront its own problems, and in the process, Lenin returned.”

Today, he concluded, “Lenin continues to help us more and more in the vital task of defending and deepening socialism.”

Nearly 40 copies of *La última lucha de Lenin* were purchased at the end of the presentation, and dozens more have already been sold at the fair or donated to numerous Cuban institutions, making it one of Pathfinder’s most sought-after titles.

Speaking to the *Militant* after the presentation, Idalmis Izquierdo told of one way she has found her experience working on the translation of *La última lucha de Lenin* to be essential to her work today. As part of her responsibilities at a language school in Matanzas, she gives history classes to inmates of all ages at a minimum-security prison in the province who are completing their pre-university studies.

“In the contemporary history class, when we study the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc, it’s inevitable that we have to come back to Lenin,” Izquierdo said. “I use the material in *La última lucha de Lenin* to help the students understand what happened there.”

In the coming days, the new edition of *La última lucha de Lenin* will be presented together with representatives of the FEU at the University of Technical Science in Havana. It will also be presented together with the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution at the center organized by the Combatants in Matanzas as part of the national book fair that travels to every province.

Our History Is Still Being Written

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View the entire 18-part series on the Cuban Revolution online or at a local distributor listed on page 11!

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Compensate Black farmers

The recent rallies by hundreds of Black farmers throughout the South highlight their long struggle for justice after decades of race discrimination in lending by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). All working people should back the farmers’ fight for immediate compensation.

In 1999 Black farmers won a settlement in a class-action lawsuit that charged the USDA denied them loans and other services available to farmers who were white. The government agency was ordered to pay \$50,000 to each Black farmer affected and grant him or her debt forgiveness and preferential treatment on future loan applications. The government turned around and cheated 86 percent of the Black farmers out of the money, claiming they missed the filing deadline.

The farmers continue to press for what is owed them. In 2008 up to \$100 million was placed in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to compensate those farmers who missed the filing deadline. But even these funds, far short of the \$50,000 per farmer ordered by the court, have never been ap-

proved in a spending authorization bill. President Barack Obama filed a request for \$1.15 billion to pay the farmers but dropped the matter there.

The Obama administration’s priorities are clear. He is aggressively seeking \$159 billion for this year to wage war against the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, and \$33 billion in “supplemental” funds for Afghanistan alone. His new “jobs” program focuses on bailout funds for community banks and tax breaks for businesses. While working farmers are straining to get loans to keep on the land, the Obama administration allows banks to borrow money from the Federal Reserve at close to *zero percent interest*.

By standing up and fighting, Black farmers are setting an important example for other farmers who face USDA discrimination. Latino, Native American, and women farmers all have discrimination suits under way against the USDA for violations similar to what Black farmers have faced. A victory for the Black farmers will not only advance their fight, but that of all working farmers for the right to inexpensive credit and an end to foreclosures.

Sío Wong: 50-year Cuban revolutionary

Continued from page 3

responsibilities in the Revolutionary Armed Forces and beginning in 1965 served seven years as adjutant to FAR minister Raúl Castro.

Sío Wong was among the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who responded to newly independent Angola’s call for assistance in repelling a large-scale invasion by the apartheid South African regime in 1976. While serving in Angola he earned promotion to brigadier general.



Militant/Luis Madrid

Moisés Sío Wong in Havana in August 2005

From 1986 to 2008 he carried the central executive responsibilities as president of the National Institute of State Reserves. In the early 1990s, in order to confront the food crisis of the Special Period—caused by the abrupt cutoff, with the fall of the governments in the Soviet Union and across Eastern Europe, of some 80 percent of Cuba’s trade—he helped organize and lead the small-scale urban agriculture program in Cuba. This program has been developed as a foundation stone for the supply of foodstuffs to the population in Havana and other cities. Starting in 2003 he served as an advisor for a similar program in Venezuela. He also served for many years as president of the Cuba-China Friendship Association.

Together with generals Armando Choy and Gustavo Chui, Sío Wong was the subject of a book-length interview titled *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published in 2005 by Pathfinder Press. Over the past four years, all three have spoken at numerous presentations of this book to audiences across Cuba. On February 17 a new Cuban edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written*, published in Spanish by Editora Política, will be launched here at the International Book Fair.

U.S. gov’t pushes anti-Iran sanctions

Continued from front page

who, responding to a call by opposition politicians, planned to raise demands for more democratic rights at the celebrations.

At the main rally in Tehran, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gave the keynote speech, focusing on Iran’s right to nuclear power and freedom from imperialist domination. He said little about domestic opponents who are competing to run the capitalist government and who call for lifting restrictions on democratic rights.

Ahmadinejad declared Iran is now a “nuclear state,” saying that Iranian scientists in the last few days had achieved 20 percent enrichment of uranium and were able to enrich it up to 80 percent. A nuclear bomb requires 90 percent enriched uranium.

“When we say we do not manufacture the bomb, we mean it,” Ahmadinejad said at the rally. “The Iranian nation is brave enough that if one day we wanted to build nuclear bombs we would announce it publicly.”

The International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations told reporters that it is monitoring the 20 percent enrichment process, but its inspectors did not know if the enrichment had succeeded.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said, “We do not believe they have the capability” to enrich to 20 percent. French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner said his government did not think Iran

could reach 80 percent enrichment at this time. But both Washington and Paris pointed to Ahmadinejad’s speech as reason to speed adoption of more anti-Iran sanctions by the UN.

Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, who both ran unsuccessfully against Ahmadinejad in last June’s presidential elections, had called on their supporters to rally February 11 to demand freedom of political prisoners and press, the right to form political parties, and free elections.

The Iranian government called for “unity” on the day of the anniversary while threatening to crack down on anyone raising the issue of democratic rights during the events. A number of people were arrested in the days before the anniversary, some of them accused of conspiring to disrupt the anniversary of the revolution on behalf of the United States, a move designed to intimidate protesters.

Various Web sites of opposition groups reported pro-democracy forces turned out in the cities of Shiraz, Ahwaz, Isfahan, and Mashhad. In Tehran, security forces blocked most of those suspected of opposition sympathies from entering the official rally site and dispersed groups of protesters before they could grow very large. Groups of hundreds at best gathered and chanted slogans, according to media reports. This marks the first time since the opposition began using national holidays to stage rallies that the government has succeeded in outmobilizing them.

Afghanistan war

Continued from front page

ing many commanders, have fled the area, military officers told the *New York Times*. Sporadic resistance and a large number of roadside bombs, while not scoring many casualties, are frustrating the U.S.-led advance.

At least 27 Taliban combatants have been killed in the assault, Afghan officials told the press. On the other side, three deaths have been reported: one U.S., one British, and one Afghan.

Despite new, unusually strict rules of engagement designed to minimize civilian casualties, U.S.-led forces have killed at least 15 civilians in four separate incidents.

Marjah is a major farming town of roughly 80,000 people. While it is the last major population center held by the Taliban in Helmand Province, between three and four of the province’s 13 districts remain under Taliban control.

Marjah’s crop is opium poppy. As such, it has been an important base of operations and financial support for the Taliban, who have controlled the area for more than two years.

Preparation for the imperialist offensive was given an intelligence boost, reports the *Wall Street Journal*, with the capture of the Taliban’s “shadow governor” of the town in February.

A group of individuals—a “government in a box” as one NATO commander coined it—have been put together by Washington, its allies, and the Afghan government. They stand ready-in-waiting to replace the Taliban power structure when conditions permit.

Taking and holding the town is the first phase. Washington and its allies then intend to roll out the loyal administration. By maintaining a strong military and police presence and providing economic incentives, they aim to convince the local population that they are better off, in the short- and long-term, cooperating with the U.S.-backed Afghan government than with a weakened Taliban.

Washington recently scored a victory with the capture of a top leader of the Afghan Taliban. A joint operation by Pakistani and U.S. intelligence forces captured Mullah Abdulghani Baradar in Karachi, Pakistan, several days ago, the *New York Times* reported today.

Baradar is described as second only to Mullah Mohammed Omar, former head of the Taliban government. While the Taliban initially denied the claims, Taliban commander Akhtar Mohammad told Bloomberg News by phone that Baradar was captured by “foreign troops” during the Marjah operation, not in Pakistan.

If the *Times* report is accurate, it could represent a new level of cooperation between Islamabad and Washington against the Taliban forces led by Mullah Omar.



U.S. Marine Corps/Lance Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde

Marines patrol outskirts of Marjah, Afghanistan, February 14. Washington has selected new “government in a box” ready to take over administering town once Taliban are routed.