Rulers political crisis grows as UK workers say, ‘Get out of EU!’

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Faced with fallout from repeated failed efforts to reach some agreement among the capitalist rulers’ fragmented political parties over what to do about Brexit, Prime Minister Theresa May resigned as Conservative Party leader May 24. The resignation takes effect June 7, with May continuing as caretaker prime minister until a new leader is chosen.

May and most other leading figures in both the Conservative and Labour parties were shocked at the results of the Brexit referendum vote three years ago and are searching for some way to remain in the EU. Millions of workers voted “get out,” protesting successive governments’ grinding assault on living standards, working conditions, job security and rights; their war moves alongside Washington; and the broader social crisis unfolding here. Their anger continues to grow in response to the carnage pressed on them by the crisis of capitalism.

May becomes the third Conserva-
Continued on page 4

Thousands rally, demand women’s right to abortion!

‘Keep on marching, make our voices heard’

BY JANET POST

“We hoped for 20 and 200 people showed up,” Heather Bradford told David Rosenfield, Socialist Workers Party candidate for St. Paul City Council, as they both joined a May 25 protest in Duluth, Minnesota, in support of women’s right to choose to have an abortion. Bradford is part of the Feminist Justice League that organized the action.

Rallies in several cities and towns were called that day, and hundreds were held across the country May 21. They came after a number of state legislatures passed severe restrict-
Continued on page 2

US hands off Venezuela! US hands off of Cuba!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington and the U.S.-backed opposition in Venezuela continue to press their campaign to oust the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, despite the failure of their April 30 coup attempt. Washington is stepping up its economic war on Venezuela — and against Cuba, who it charges keeps Maduro in power — and keeps making threats of possible military intervention.

According to Reuters, State Department officials called Swiss- and British-based jet fuel suppliers in May to press them to cut off sales to Venezuela. This comes on top of U.S. sanctions aimed at preventing Venezuela’s state-owned oil company PDVSA from exporting any crude oil, the country’s key export.

After freezing the assets of two maritime companies that ship Venezuelan oil to Cuba, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declared, “The U.S. will take further action if Cuba continues to receive Venezuelan oil in exchange for military support,” repeating U.S. slanders that the Venezuelan military is run by Cuba.

Continued on page 9

Over the top! ‘Militant’ goes over goals in paper, book, fund drives

BY TERRY EVANS

Welcome to those of you who sub-
scribed to the Militant during the just-concluded drive to expand the readership of the paper, bought books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other working-class fighters, and helped raise $115,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. Congratulations to ev-
everyone who knocked on doors or took the paper to strike picket lines and working-class protests. We went over all the goals set for the drive!

The Militant offers a special wel-
come to the 33 workers behind bars who got or renewed their subscrip-
tions. The Militant will continue to fight the repeated attempts of Florida prison officials to bar readers from receiving it.

In total we sold 1,156 subscriptions,
Continued on page 3

2019 version of Roosevelt New Deal no road forward for working people

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The “Green New Deal,” the project of Democratic Socialists of America member and liberal media darling House member Alexandria Ocasio-
Continued on page 9

Join fight against new censorship of ‘Militant’ in Florida prisons!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Officials at the Florida State Prison and the New River Correctional In-
stitution, both in Raiford, informed the Militant May 28 that they had im-
pounded two more issues of the work-
ing-class weekly. That brings to five the number of issues impounded in Florida since mid-April, violating the constitutional rights of both the paper and its subscribers behind bars.

The prison system’s Literature Re-
view Committee overturned two of the first impoundments — of issues
Continued on page 6

Inside
Every ‘Militant’ issue
from 1928 is online!
‘Nationalize PG&E and put it under workers control’
Australia election ‘shocker’ reflects working-class anger
US capitalist rulers ban Huawei
Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program
Demand right to abortion!

Continued from front page

abortion was based on medical criteria and decisions by doctors, rather than guaranteeing women “equal protection of the law,” as put forth by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The debate over a woman’s right to control her own body, and for equal protection under the law, needs to be fought out and won through political and public debate and independent mobilizations that push back against attacks on women’s right to decide whether to have an abortion.

Defending this right “is fundamental to a woman’s control of her own life and to winning full social, economic and political equality,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for mayor of Dallas, said in a campaign statement released May 20. “This is essential to strengthening the unity of the working class to fight against the unremitting assaults of the employers and their government.”

Alyson Kennedy from Dallas, Sam Manuel from Atlanta and Deborah Lias from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Continued on page 3

THE MILITANT

Wabtec workers fight boss takeback demands

UE union members in Pennsylvania are locked in a contract fight against Wabtec’s two-tier demand for new hires. The ‘Militant’ supports and builds solidarity with workers fighting attacks from the bosses, seeking to strengthen working-class unity and power.

Every ‘Militant’ issue from 1928 to today is online!

BY CURT JOHNSON

Every issue of the Militant — from its founding in 1928 to today — is now available online, nearly 4,400 issues of the paper. Workers anywhere in the world can access and study the Militant’s views.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views.

“Militant” publishing break

We are taking a break. The next issue will be mailed June 27.

The Militant

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Submissions to the Militant may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.
A big thank you to the hundreds of working people who contributed over $123,000 to the Militant Fighting Fund—a tremendous response that sends the fund more than $8,000 over its goal. This annual fund is crucial for rebuilding our unions as instruments of revolutionary politics, including defending our unions and rebuilding our unions as instruments of solidarity and struggle.

Over the seven-week campaign people have subscribed to the paper, union actions, at protests demanding driver’s licenses for immigrants on May Day, at demonstrations demanding “U.S. hands off Venezuela, U.S. hands off Cuba!” and at the largest protests in a decade defending a woman’s right to choose abortion. Members of the Communist League in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom joined in the circulation and fund drive.

David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for city council in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Susan Sarabia, a nursery worker from Hibbing, when they both joined a protest to demand abortion rights in Duluth on May 25.

“We are nonunion, but we need to come together,” said, “But also to take on the bosses, their parties and the government, and invite those they meet in the workplace to come to the protest with four friends. “Sanders advocates ‘fixing’ the system we live in, to shore up the capitalist ‘free-for-all,’” the SWP candidate said. “Capitalism has to be overthrown.”

All ‘Militant’ issues are now online

Over the last eight years more than 100 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party have worked to make the Militant and other publications of the party available online. They used document scanners, archives from the past, and up-to-date processing software to transform every issue into readable searchable files that would be small enough for readers anywhere in the world to download, whatever their internet connectivity.

Readers also maintain the Militant’s searchable index. This searchable index currently goes back to 1955, but eventually will go all the way back to the first issue in 1928.

“The working class has the power to do that, but we have to first discover what we are capable of doing.”

Rosenfeld said. “We can do that in the course of fighting to defend ourselves and speaking out against every abuse and outrage created by this system. This is a lesson from the big battles that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, and from the example of the Cuban Revolution.”

Johnson wanted to learn more and bought a subscription to the Militant and the book Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, also by Jack Barnes. The book describes how Malcolm X emerged as an outstanding working-class revolutionary leader. Barnes writes that “only the conquest, and exercise, of state power by the working class and expropriation of finance capital can lay the foundations for a world based not on exploitation, violence, racial discrimination, class-based pecking orders, and dog-eat-dog competition, but on solidarity among working people that encourages the creativity and recognition of the worth of every individual.”

Johnson invited Rosenfeld to visit the Iron Range to talk more about the SWP.
UK rulers crisis grows, workers say, ‘Get out of EU’

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — “The Socialist Workers Party unconditionally opposes U.S. threats and economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” SWP National Committee member Steve Clark told those at the Militant Labor Forum here May 25. “We do not predict a war between the United States and Iran. But whenever the U.S. government makes statements threatening military actions, and at the moment our imperialist ruling class is misleading the people with its counter-revolutionary stranglehold, it’s the obligation of working people and especially of communist workers to respond with public actions.”

The title of the forum was “The Middle East and the Jewish Question: Acting on the Communist Program Today. U.S. Hands Off Iran! End the Sanctions!” Clark encouraged the more than 40 participants to join protests denouncing “U.S. Hands Off Venezuela! U.S. Hands Off Cuba!” as well as “U.S. Hands Off Iran!”

The bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran uses groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and militias it organizes in Iraq and Syria to defend its imperialist policies in the region, Clark said. “This reactionary course hands Washington its pretexts for intervention on a silver platter.”

But the U.S. rulers’ military and economic moves are based on defending the profits and stabilities of monopoly capitalism, Clark said. These moves are deadly dangerous to the interests of working people in Iran, where in the region, the United States and around the world.

Communists have an obligation to present the facts about the U.S. rulers’ policies and express a hand of class solidarity to working people in the Middle East.

“We are not a communist party during peace time and a ‘peace’ party during times of war,” he said. “When faced with stepped-up war threats by the U.S. rulers, we do more of what we are already doing.”

“This includes going more deeply among our class, campaigning door to door among working people of all nationalities, in factories and rural areas. It means continuing to join strikes, organizing drives, and social and political protests in the interests of the working class.”

Unprecedented meeting

Clark described how he and other leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and its sister Communist Leagues in Britain and Canada were invited to speak on our movement’s program and activities at a public meeting of 100 organized by the Kurdistan Communist Party in April in Ainkawa, just outside Erbil in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This meeting, which included leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party and others, was “unprecedented in the history of our movement,” Clark said.

At the heart of this exchange of views was how to organize to lead workers to break from the capitalist rulers’ state and political parties and fight for their own class interests, the question of independent working-class political action, Clark said.

Several participants commented later that they appreciated the Socialist Workers Party’s unconditional support for independence for Kurdistan, noting that not a single Communist Party around the world outside of Kurdistan and Iraq supports their fight for self-determination. (For a fuller report on the meeting see the Militant’s May 6 issue.)

Recognition of Israel and Palestine

Clark encouraged New York forum participants to “read and reread” the party’s December 2017 statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

The statement calls for negotiations to reach an agreement recognizing “the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jewish-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the disposessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — occupied Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory —" Clark underlined the reasons why such an agreement must include the right of Jews the world over to return to Israel. “Between 1933 and today,” he said, “the population of the world has increased 500%, but the Jewish population is still lower than it was in 1933. Some two-thirds of the Jewish population was exterminated at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Those who survived had no place to go, as the rulers in Washington and other imperialist countries refused them entry.”

“On the one hand, anti-Semitism among working people today is less than ever,” Clark said. “But on the other hand, amid a deepening world capitalist crisis there is an increase in hate and violent anti-Semitic acts.”

He pointed to a recent anti-Semitic cartoon published in the New York Times that portrayed a blind President Donald Trump wearing a yarmulke being led by a guide dog wearing a Star of David and having Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s face. The Times later “apologized.”

Much of the anti-Semitism today comes from the middle-class left, Clark said, who back groups like Hamas that Continued on page 5
**ON THE PICKET LINE**

**Union City, South Hayward teachers strike for higher pay**

UNION CITY, Calif. — Teachers, counselors and students picketed outside Logan High School May 20, in the first strike ever at New Haven Unified District schools here and in South Hayward.

“They’s the cost of living we’re up against,” social studies teacher Carlos Sutton told the Militant. “We need a pay increase. Now they are offering almost nothing!”

After months of negotiations, dis- trict administrators have offered a one-time 3% bonus for the current school year, and a 1% salary raise for the com- ing year. They say they’ll add a 0.5% raise in the coming year for every ad- ditional $1 million the district receives from the state.

A number of teachers on the line car- ried homemade signs saying: “Zero Per- cent = Zero Respect.”

The union is also opposing increases in class size and seeking to reduce the number of salary steps needed for teach- ers to get higher pay.

“A lot of teachers have two jobs to make ends meet,” said special education teacher Brenda Moreno.

**BETSEY STONE**

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**SWP: Oppose US threats on Iran, protest Jew-hatred**

In celebration of the Centennial of Freedom Fighter Lolita Lebrón Independence for Puerto Rico 4th Annual Day of Solidarity Sat. June 22 - 6 p.m.
at the Peoples’ Forum 320 W. 36th St. New York City Sponsor: Call to Action on Puerto Rico For more information email: pcalloaction@gmail.com

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**SWP: Oppose US threats on Iran, protest Jew-hatred**

**Continued from page 4**

call for destroying the state of Israel. It’s worth going back to the interview that Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro gave to The Atlantic journalist Jeffrey Goldberg in 2010, Clark said. Castro told Goldberg that “there is nothing that compares to the Holocaust” and that the United States had “enough of all forms of racism or xenophobia,” Clark said. And she pointed to reaction- ary laws in Israel, such as ob- stacles to divorce. The view of almost the en- tire middle-class left is that there is no class struggle in

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**June 13, 1994**

Some 1,800 members of the Interna- tional Ladies’ Garment Workers Union in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, and Ohio, struck Leslie Fay Inc. — one of the nation’s largest manufac- turers of women’s clothing on June 1.

This is the first strike against the com- pany in its 50-year history.

One hundred fifty of the 200 ILGWU Local 145 members maintained a spir- ited picket line at the SASSCO ware- house, a division of Leslie Fay, in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Ousted Lizano, a SASSCO striker, said: “We were told to strike — the company forced us to.” Leslie Fay was trying to get a separate, one year con- tract in Secaucus, he said. The company is offering a 1 cent raise “We can’t make separate deals with the company and sell out the workers in Georgia or Pennsylvania,” Lizano stated.

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**Bianca Alvardo, right, talks with Jeff Powers in Chico, California, in February after wildfire destroyed nearby Paradise, killing scores. Fire was caused by PG&E bosses’ disdain for safety.**

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**June 10, 1944**

American labor was dramatically aroused last week by the militant sit-in demonstration of the Brewster Aeronauti- cal Corporation workers, who refused for two days to vacate the company’s plants at Long Island City, N.Y., and Johnsville, Pa., when the Navy Depart- ment abruptly terminated its contract and forced the mass lay-off on three days’ notice of the bulk of 13,500 Brew- ster employees.

This action of CIO United Automo- bile Workers Local 365, whose mem- bers, in accordance with the militant tradi- tions of the local, would not take their dismisal lying down, focused a glaring spotlight on the lengths Wall Street and the government are prepared to go in or- der to smash militant unionism and gave a sharp warning to the American work- ers of the fate in store for them under the “post-war-plan” of Big Business.

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**‘Nationalize PG&E, put it under workers control’**

**BY JEFF POWERS**

OAKLAND, California — The Cali- fornia Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the state regulatory agency that oversees both forest fires, reported May 15 that last fall’s Camp Fire that killed at least 85 people and destroyed nearly 19,000 homes and other buildings was caused by “electrical transmission lines owned and operated” by utility monopoly Pacific Gas & Electric.

PG&E bosses failed to replace a 99-year-old tower after it was detec- tively removed. They didn’t adequately maintain their power lines and the un- derbrush beneath them, and didn’t shut off electricity when weather conditions warranted on the day of the fire — even though their own protocols required them to do so.

PG&E management filed for bank- ruptcy earlier this year, saying it faced $30 billion in wildfire liabilities, including $10.5 billion from the Camp Fire. Their track record throwing safety and protection to customers aside in search of profits has been consistent.

“PG&E should be nationalized and run under workers control. All of their trans- actions must be made transparent,” said Joel Brtiton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, said. “That is the only way to enforce safety on the job and prevent PG&E from causing more disasters.”

“Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state legislature’s proposal to replace and break up PG&E won’t solve anything,” Britton said. “The problem is the profit- driven system of capitalist exploitation that puts making money over the safety of PG&E’s own workers and the lives and property of the people who live in their service area.”

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The Militant  June 10, 2019            5
Miners and other workers concerned about jobs protest in Clermont April 28 against Greens’ convoy opposing coal mining jobs. Sign reads, “Go home, turn off your power and walk.”

Join fight against new Florida prison ‘Militant’ bans
Continued from front page
no. 12 and 17 — but upheld the ban on issue no. 15, as usual with no explanation. The state’s most recent appeal was on issues no. 18 and 19 and calls for reversal of the censorship of no. 15. In Florida, if any warden impedes an issue, the court, after hearing from the warden and other workers from the area. The project promises thousands of construction and mining jobs. There are real environmental issues posed from despoliation of the countryside by open pit mining, as the profit-driven Adani bosses propose. Farmers are concerned over ground-water pollution. Working people in the region, hard hit by drought, floods and unemployment, largely support the mine and the jobs it would bring. Labor was trowelled at the polls there.

After the embarrassing electoral defeat, Anthony Albanese replaced Shorten as the Labor opposition leader, saying he would drop the anti-business rhetoric. “Unions and employers have a common interest,” he claimed.

Independent working-class road
In the lead up to the elections, members of the Communist League knocked on doors in working-class areas to pose the need to break with all the pro-capsitalist parties. Voting in Australia is compulsory. “I just voted so I don’t have to pay the fine,” Franco Iazic, a construction worker, told CL members. “It doesn’t make a difference who I vote for.” Many made comments like this, reflecting the distrust and aversion that growing numbers of working people have for all the capitalist political parties in Canberra.

In regional Australia and Queensland many workers voted for minor parties as a protest. These votes mainly went to parties on the right — like Pauline Hanson’s One Nation and the United Australia Party — both of which backed building the Adani mine. Greens leader Adam Bandt blamed working people for the election outcome, saying their “greed” was evident.

“What working people need today is organize the unorganized, to rebuild our unions and transform them into fighting instruments,” Communist League campaign spokesperson Manuela La- salo told the Militant May 21. “We need to build a labor movement and our own party independent from the bosses, their state and their political parties.”
BY ROY LANDERSEN
On May 15 Washington escalated its attack on Chinese telecom giant Hua-
wei, taking steps to cut off suppliers and ban it from doing business in the U.S.

President Donald Trump that day signed an executive order declaring the
government to bar telecommunications gear and service from “foreign adver-
saries.” It argued that the company — the largest supplier of such equipment
worldwide — is really a creature of the Chinese government and could be used
for surveillance and other mayhem.

The rapidly growing company is the second largest worldwide in smartphone
sales, after Apple and just behind a shipping Samsung.

This government move by Washing-
town to press the Chinese rulers to agree to a new trade deal more responsive
to the U.S. capitalist rulers’ interests. Trump called Huawei “very danger-
ous,” but then turned around and said,
“it’s possible that Huawei would be in-
cluded in a trade deal.”

Washington’s moves against Iran hit workers hardest

BY TERRY EVANS
Washington continues to levy sanc-
tions, issue threats against Iran, and
move military forces into the Mideast as it advances the predatory interests of the
U.S. imperialist rulers in the region. Washington aims to force the Iranian
government into talks to end its nucle-
ar weapons program and pull back the
armed presence of Tehran’s forces and its proxies in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere that
threaten the super-power’s imperialist
reach of the Iranian capitalist class.

If the Iranian rulers “do something, it
will be met with great force,” said Presi-
dent Donald Trump May 23 and warned tepid deliveries at the G-20 in Shanghai.

Economic sanctions that have been imposed across the Mideast — 50,000 troops with their
personnel and equipment to the Middle
East this month.

The government announced it was
sending a further 1,500 troops, a fighter
aircraft squadron and a missile defense
system to the region May 24. This comes on top of the vast firepower U.S.

The U.S. bosses have used these same meth-
ods against their rivals — and much
worse, including bloody wars — to be-
come the top imperialist exploiter.

These charges were in a May 25 Wall Street Journal article, “Huawei’s Fears of Trade Wipe Out Its $25 Billion Market_capitalism’s world disorder

For communists, it will be a great pleasure to be part of the change
that has hundreds of millions of people on the march will bring to the world working class movement.”

— Jack Barnes

New International no. 7
Washington’s Assault on Iraq
Opening Gates of World War III

The U.S. capitalist class sought to use its recent conflict in the Middle East to blow up to its imperialist goals. The capitalist
rulers and imperialist order in the Gulf and the Mideast is still un-
stable today.

— Jack Barnes

pathfinderpress.com
The Militant June 10, 2019

Cuba’s revolution taught us we could do the same thing here

The French edition of Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Coalition of革命前工人党, is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for June. The excerpt is from the first chapter, “1961: Year of Education.” As we had been doing for months, we pointed to the immense popular mobilization, the workers and farmhands of Cuba that the challenge to the immense popular mobilization, the workers and farmhands of Cuba that the challenge — for us — was not in Cuba. Our fight to help us understand what we had to be...
The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS Support workers’ struggles to organize and strengthen unions to assert workers’ self-interests and to defendselves and all working people. One union for Yellow Cab workers, drivers at Uber, Lyft and other app-based companies, and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Venezuela, Cuba, and Iran. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East.

CUBA — AN EXAMPLE End the embargo against Cuba, US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed health care and retirement income.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred, and murderous violence.

LAND AND LABOR Capitalism’s profit drive is the deserter of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, offices, mills and mines, putting all workplaces to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to prevent pollution of the air, earth, and waters. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail, and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are black.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS Defend democratic rights, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop government spying and harassment. Defend the right to vote and free speech.

PRIVATIZATION End solitary confinement. End censorship in prison. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLY ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing mortgage rates, to nationalize the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to controlled by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the exploitative capitalist system with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Continued from front page

Washington seeks to justify its violation of Venezuelan sovereignty by the lie that the 22,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers there are mainly soldiers. “These are lies,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party statewide coordinator of Philadelphia, said May 25. “The overwhelming majority of Cubans in Venezuela are doctors and other medical personnel, as well as teachers, sports trainers and others who volunteer in many ways to help the working-class barrios. Venezuela offers Cuba oil at reduced rates.

“We oppose U.S. imperialism’s violation of Venezuelan sovereignty and its decades-long economic war against the Cuban Revolution,” Hart said. “We demand Washington end the sanctions now! U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!”

U.S. sanctions aimed at working people

The Wall Street Journal reported May 21 that Washington is preparing moves aimed at crippling the Venezuelan government’s CLAP program. CLAP provides subsidized food to millions of working people. It’s a working-class program, like theBonus Check in the US, which is also an imperialist squeeze, which comes on top of the serious economic and social crisis they face in Venezuela. Medical supplies and gasoline are scarce, in a country with one of the world’s highest infant mortality rates. Inflation rates are astronomical, expected to hit more than 1 million percent this year. Millions of people have fled the country.

In many parts of the country there are frequent electrical blackouts; the last almost 40 days.

While the Maduro government has arrested some opposition leaders for their role in the failed coup attempt, they haven’t gone after U.S. backed self-proclaimed “opposition leader” Juan Guaidó, who calls for Washington to invade.

Guaidó spoke with drivers in long lines waiting for gasoline in Lara in northwestern Venezuela May 24 and 25. He was stranded in the capital Caracas surrounded with passengers, giving short speeches. He claimed the gas shortage would end if he takes power.

In January the Trump administration handed over to Guaidó PDVSA-owned Citgo gasoline company and its bank accounts in the US. The ad-hoc board appointed by Guaidó to manage Citgo made a $71 million interest payment on its debt in May, hoping to keep the company from going into default.

Workers and working-class barrios are looking for ways to defend their own interests in the face of the U.S. sanctions and threats of military intervention, as well as the effects of the policies and corruption of the Maduro government. We must defend the unity and fighting capacity of working people.

Hundreds of peasants, small farmers and cooperative members marched in the town of Libertador in the eastern state of Anzoátegui, waving to fight any U.S. military intervention. At the same time they demanded land for landless peasants and government aid, including financing, seed, fertilizers, and the use of tractors and machinery, as well as an end to attacks by the capitalist landowners’ thugs.

Cubans answer Washington’s slanders

The Cuban press, printed on less pages because of the “military rule,” has been running letters, letters, interviews and facts about Cuba’s internationalist missions to answer Washington’s slanders and lies.

Granma reported May 23 that in the capital of Caracas, disease control was spread to more than 12 million medical exams and tests since the Barrio Adentro program began in 2003.

“We are in our combat trench to offer free medical assistance to the Venezuelan people and to work mass- sively. That is our stance of loyalty to the principles of solidarity, internationalism and revolutionary values,” Maílén Elena Rodriguez, 27, one of the health care workers, told Granma.

Marineyeh Echemihera Concepción, a Cuban doctor in Venezuela, wrote a letter to CubaDebate saying, “We are only interested in improving the health of the population. We are not affiliated to political or religious beliefs.” She added, “We will continue carrying out our duty wherever it is needed, because a doctor is a slave only to their humanistic vocation.”

New, Green ‘New Deal’

Continued from front page

U.S. and that is what her Green New Deal does.

In her FAQs document, Ocasio-Cortez explained her scheme aimed at shoring up capitalist rule through a series of reforms, modeled on the 1930s New Deal of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the “war deal” in the second world imperialist war that got us into, and shored up U.S. capitalism.

The bill isn’t a set of measures to vote on, but a non-binding statement of intentions. It would increase the power of the central banks, give them the legal authority to regulate the lives of working people, imposing sacrifices on us that the liberals deem necessary in the name of saving the planet. It calls for mobilizing “the federal government’s immense financial resources and capacity to regulate the lives of working people, imposing sacrifices on us that the liberals deem necessary in the name of saving the planet.”

Nuclear power would be eliminated under this scheme, blocking off possibilities for billions living in the semicolonial world from gaining access to electricity and culture — all in the name of safeguarding better conditions for those in the developed countries.

Bourgeois panic-mongering

“It’s a big legislation because it’s a huge [expletive] problem! We’ve done the same thing,” said Sean McElwee, co-founder of the think tank Data for Progress.

But such ecological panic-mongering is only meant to convince us working people should sacrifice. There is why the bourgeoisie and Democratic socialists back hawk to Roosevelt and how a classless “America” came together in the 1940s. “When FDR called on America to build 85,000 planes to fight World War 2,” his FAQ document is said as a companion to the bill says, “by the end of the war, we produced 300,000 planes.”

But there is no “we” or “America.” There are two classes, the bosses and bankers who live by exploitation and oppression, and their upper-middle-class hangers-on, and the vast majority of people, most of whom live paycheck to paycheck.

The goal of the Green New Deal is to protect rulers in World War II was to make the world safe for their plunder and profit at the expense of the working class. There is nothing there for us to emulate today.

At the heart of the movement is the effort of Ocasio-Cortez and her cohorts in the same goal as Roosevelt had in both his New Deal and imperialist war drive — to rescue U.S. capitalist rule.

It’s in her FAQs document, Ocasio-Cortez explains how she intends to pay for her scheme: “The same way we paid for the New Deal, the 2008 bank bailout and extended quantitative easing programs. The same way we paid for World War II.”

The U.S. rulers did this by expanding the size and reach of their government and digging deeper into the pockets of the working classes. Now the socialist Democrats are planning a bizarre campaign about catastrophes facing the planet.

But the root of today’s crisis facing working people, including damage to the environment, is precisely “the capitalist mode of production, the working class order and the enormous wealth and power the rulers wring from nature and the exploited producers,” as the Socialist Workers Party resolution “The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class, In Defense of Nature” explained.

In her FAQs document, Ocasio-Cortez explains “It’s a big legislation because it’s a huge [expletive] problem!” said Sean McElwee, co-founder of the think tank Data for Progress.

Continued from front page

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