New prime minister vows to take UK out of EU

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — U.K. Prime Minis- ter Boris Johnson promised to take the U.K. out of the European Union by Oct. 31 as his new government at- tempts to address the deep-seated cri- sis of British capitalism. After taking office he set off on a U.K. tour, prom- ising Brexit and pledging billions of pounds in government spending, hop- ing to regenerate regions where work- ing people have been hard hit by the economic and social crisis.

Johnson was welcomed by U.S. President Donald Trump, who claimed he would be known as “Brit- ain Trump.” The U.S. ambassador to London, Woody Johnson, told Fox TV News July 30 that the adminis- tration saw Boris Johnson as an im- portant ally. “The British have been very supportive” he said of Wash- ington’s proposed naval escort for ships going through the Arab-Persian Gulf, known as the “important part of the coalition to defend the ships going through the strait,” of Hormuz.

Continued on page 4

Oppose US economic sanctions on Venezuela!

BY SETH GALINSKY

In an escalation of its economic sanc- tions against Venezuela, President Don- ald Trump issued an executive order Aug. 5 that prohibits almost all remain- ing U.S. trade with the government of Venezuela and aims to get foreign com- panies to comply as well.

In a letter to Congress, Trump said the order is aimed at removing Venezue- lan President Nicolás Maduro from power and replacing him with Juan Guaidó, a pro-imperialist opposition leader who proclaimed himself presi- dent in January.

“This is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Venezuelans people,” said Amy Hask, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Ken- tucky. “The U.S. government wants to decide who should be the president of Venezuela. The U.S. rulers claim they are concerned about the people of Venezuela, but all they care about is getting a government that is favorable to U.S. imperialism. Working people need to say, ‘U.S. hands off!’”

The new U.S. sanctions are especially
tent ent. “We had to step up. We were robbed. They didn’t use a gun, but they robbed us anyway,” Chris Lewis, one of the original six miners, told the Militant at the encampment Aug. 7.

Kentucky miners block coal trains to demand back pay

Fight shows need to organize unions, use union power

BY JAY POST

Coal miners and supporters block rail tracks at mine near Cumberland, Kentucky, to pre- vent Blackjewel Coal from shipping coal until company pays miners wages they are owed.

Dozens of miners and their fami- lies have set up camp on rail tracks near Cumberland, Kentucky, to block trains hauling coal from the Cloverlick #3 Mine. They’re protesting the refusal of Blackjewel Coal Co., which declared bankruptcy July 1, to pay miners the wages they are owed.

“When there’ll be no trains coming in, there’ll be no trains going out,” coal miner Shane Smith told WYMT-TV in Harlan County July 30.

When word spread in the area that CSX was loading a coal train at the mine July 26, six miners organized to block the train. Their numbers grew to 100 people. “No pay, we stay,” they wrote on signs by their

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New US tariffs aimed at slowing rising power of rival Beijing

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump threatened to impose 10% tariffs on $300 billion of imports from China next month after trade talks in Shanghai failed to reach any agreement between the U.S. and Chinese governments. The deepening trade dispute triggered a sell-off of stocks on global markets and added to investors’ fears over the worldwide slowdown in the growth of the capitalist economy.

Trump claimed his protectionist measures were a response to Beijing’s failure to follow through on pledges

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Workers need to build their own party — independent of the bosses’

Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in Canada, speaks at rally in Ottawa Aug. 3 against continuous military rule in Algeria and for release of those arrested during protests there.

BY JANET POST

The 20-plus candidates vying for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination want to compete with President Donald Trump over who should be the chief executive officer for the capitalist class and command its armed forces in the wars the U.S. rulers wage around the world.

In the course of the Democratic Party debates each candidate offers ways to patch up the system of exploi- tation and oppression, the opposite of the course presented by candidates of the Socialist Workers Party to unify and mobilize working people to over- throw that system.

Continued on page 3

Press group says end ban on ‘Militant’ in Florida prisons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida Press Association has joined the fight to halt the censorship of the Militant by Florida prison offi- cials, who have impounded 10 issues of the paper since April. The asso- ciation represents most newspapers in the state.

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New labor law in Mexico aims to tie unions to gov’t

Do El Paso killings show a rise of white supremacists?

‘Workers should organize a guard whenever it is necessary’

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Striking Indiana Machinists rally for health care, higher pay

Sky Chefs workers picket Dallas-Fort Worth airport

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 100 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · UK £1.00 · U.S. $1.00
New labor law in Mexico aims to tie unions to gov’t
BY RÓGER CALEBO

Mexico’s president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who took office Dec. 1, has promised a “profound and radical transformation” of the country. His government is hoping its labor legislation and other welfare programs can be used to contain struggles by working people. He has raised the minimum wage for most of the country by 16% to $5.10 a day and doubled it in the northern border zone to $8.80 a day. He has made a big show of reducing government expenses, cutting his own salary by 60% to $5,600 a month and eliminating thousands of federal jobs. And he has cut money for public hospitals, resulting in the layoff of workers, cutbacks on tests for sick patients, and cancellations of surgeries.

Nonetheless, López Obrador remains popular among working people.

Many workers hope the labor law reform passed April 29 will allow them to have a say in their unions. The law promises a secret ballot for voting on what, if any, union will represent workers’ pay. It mandates automatically deducting union dues from workers’ pay. It replaces the old government-appointed labor boards, which favored the bosses and the political party in office, with labor courts. These courts in Mexico as well as in the U.S. are not neutral, however. They defend the “sanctity” of capitalist law regardless of which party appoints them.

Unions subordinate to the state

The new law ties workers up in red tape, in an attempt to strengthen control of the unions by the capitalist state. It aims to replace the old union bureaucracy with one more favorable to López Obrador and his Morena party, in hopes of shoring up the rule of the capitalist class, which faces a slowdown in economic growth and sharpening competition from rivals worldwide.

The new labor law states that the purpose of a strike is to “harmonize labor rights with those of capital.” But every class-conscious worker knows that a strike is a weapon used to wrest concessions from the bosses or prevent them from pushing down wages and working conditions.

Under the new law unions must be registered with a labor court. They are required to give six days notice before going on strike, which is permitted only to win a contract or to ensure enforcement of a contract. The labor court can order the union to delay a strike for a wide variety of reasons. And it can order “essential personnel” to keep working during a strike.

Such measures have nothing to do with strengthening union democracy. They are an attempt to maintain house- broken unions.

That political course is nothing new.

During the Mexican Revolution of 1910-20, and under subsequent regimes that culminated with the bourgeois nationalist government of Lázaro Cárdenas (1934–40), the trade unions were co-opted by the state to serve in a “common project” — strengthening of capitalism in Mexico. Concessions were granted to put a break on the toilers’ mobilization and subordinate the labor and peasant movement to the Mexican ruling class.

The union bureaucracy was an integral part of what became the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which ruled Mexico uninterrupted for 71 years, until its electoral defeat in 2000. Union officials mobilized members to turn out the vote for the party and served in government posts. Until 2015 union officials were given positions on the board of directors of the state-owned Pemex oil company.

“In Mexico the trade unions have been transformed by law into semi-state institutions. The statization of the trade unions was, according to the conception of the legislators, introduced in the interests of the workers, in order to assure them an influence upon governmental and economic life,” wrote Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky in a 1940 article “Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay.” The article is included in the new Pathfinder Press book Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions.

This class-collaborationist setup served the ruling class in Mexico and imperialists’ interests well, ensuring relative “labor stability” and low wages. The same course is pursued by union officials in the United States, who urge workers to rely on getting “labor friend- ly” Democrats elected into office to pass laws that regulate what bosses can do.

‘America first’ poison

Democratic Party leaders in the U.S. Congress conditioned ratification of the latest U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement to the passing of new labor laws in Mexico. Claiming concern for “how workers are treated in Mexico,” and not making it “sacrosanct” for Ameri- can companies to move abroad, and to protect “American jobs,” they aim to convince working people that we have common interests with the employers. By doing so they undercut international solidarity with working people in Mexi- co and other countries.

Driven by harsh economic conditions and greater expectations, workers in Mexico are beginning to see their po- tential power. Earlier this year 35,000 workers at mostly foreign-owned parts factories close to the U.S. border went on strike, winning a 20% wage increase.

It is through building fighting unions and waging struggles independent of the ruling class and its parties that working people in Mexico and the United States can begin to chart a road forward, not repeating the capitalist state, its laws and representatives.

Workers on strike at Tamaulipas, Mexico, in January. Some 35,000 workers at over 40 mostly foreign-owned parts plants near the U.S. border won 20% wage increase.
Malcolm Jarrett, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, filed to get on ballot July 30, with supporters. "We need to build a movement independent of the two capitalist parties, that fights to advance the working class to take power," Jarrett says.

Filion has joined weekly rallies held in solidarity with protests in Algeria, demanding an end to military rule there. In April President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced to resign. The army post¬poned a presidential election due on July 4, refusing to set a new date. Tens of thousands took to the streets demanding the removal of interim president Abdelkader Bensalah July 19.

Filion addressed an Aug. 3 rally in Ottawa, where protesters demanded the Algerian authorities release those arrested during the anti-government demonstrations. He explained that the imperialist rulers in Canada exploit working people worldwide. "What they do in Algeria and other coun¬tries is an extension of what they do to working people here," he said.

Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program

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 union power to defend ourselves and all working people. One union for all! Drive rampant, racist, capital and car service drivers! Support farm¬workers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

ANONYMITY 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 divide us down for wages. For actual drivers, for all! Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon of the state. Abolish the Death Penalty Agency. Abolish the worldwide death cult of the capitalists and their lackeys. Abolish the death penalty! Abolish institutions of slavery and oppression.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospi¬tals, child care centers, mass transit and quality affordable housing. Workers need the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico. CUBA — AN EXAMPLE End the embargo against Cuba; US out of Guan¬tanamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to the banks and landlords.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly, and to bear arms, under attack from Demo¬crats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI surveillance and other government spying, harass¬ment and disruption.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End censorship of the SWP, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers. Abolish the entire capitalist injus¬tice system with its frame¬ups, "plea bargains," onerous bail, and outra¬geous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex¬prisoners and all workers behind bars. End mass incarceration and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame¬ups, "plea bargains," onerous bail, and outra¬geous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex¬prisoners and all workers behind bars. Abolish the death penalty! Abolish institutions of slavery and oppression.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capi¬talists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Repub¬licans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the explo¬itative capitalist class with a work¬ers and farmers government. Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!
Continued from front page

Leaders of the main EU member states and Brussels bureaucracy were less welcoming, having sought to punish the U.K. government for taking steps towards quitting the EU. Michel Barnier, the EU’s Brexit negotiator, said Johnson’s terms for the U.K.’s departure from the protectionist trading bloc were “unacceptable.”

The left of capitalist politics and media in the U.K. have described the new government as the “most right-wing in decades, even ‘fascist.’” It’s anything but that. Johnson is a “one-man,” Conservative, calling for an end to cross-class unity in the so-called national interest. Much of the political ground he occupies—increased funding for education and health and recruiting thousands more cops—is similar that of the Labour Party.

In addition, he has pledged an announced $25 billion in migration and continued residency in the U.K. after Brexit for EU nationals. Johnson’s victory appeared to give the Conservative a boost in the by-election vote, coming in fourth. But the “Boris bounce” touted by the press was not in evidence when Communist League members campaigned in Harlow, Essex, just north of London, Aug. 3. “They declared the same,” shop worker Jackie Gunner said. “They promise everything and give us nothing. They look after their own interests.”

Johnson faces the same political realities that beset previous administrations: the U.K.’s disproportionate decline in relation to its capitalist rivals; the capitalist world disorder, in which the European Union itself is being torn apart; and the rulers’ concern the European Union is being clogged up with plants, trees and weeds,” Duncan Fife, who lives by the reservoir, told BBC News. “Why don’t they maintain it?”

No one has been arrested for the attempted shooting of Yosef Lipschutz.” The group offered its prayers to “Lipschutz and all our Jewish brothers and sisters.”

“Jew-hatred and its murderous consequences are a product of the crisis of the capitalist system. The scapegoating of Jews is a deadly threat to all working people,” Dutrow wrote. “I am using my campaign to urge working people and the entire labor movement to speak out against this attack,” he added.

The receptionist at the synagogue told The Jewish News that “people are scared: ‘Can I come to shul with my child?’” Amy Salzman, who runs the synagogue’s youth program, told The Jewish News. “Young Israel is located in a neighborhood with a high concentration of Orthodox Jews. The murderous assault quickly became international news, prompting others to speak out.”

The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Florida said in a statement, posed to the war moves against Iran. “On all matters — foreign policy and domestic — what’s needed is an independent working-class course from getting out of the EU now, leaving Ireland to the Irish, to building and strengthening the trade unions,” Crawford added.

Condemn anti-Semitic shooting in Miami, says Socialist Workers Party

A Marxist Interpretation

The Jewish Question

Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

Conflicts between rival national capitalist classes and governments are blowing apart the myth of a “united Europe.” The gap has widened between rates of capital accumulation and economic development in Britain and other powerful capitalist countries in Europe.

The Jewish Question

by Abram Leon

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ON THE PICTURE LINE

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought soli-
darity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to themilitant@militant.com or through our website, or mail to them 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Striking Indiana Machinists rally for health care, higher pay
VALPARAISO, Ind. — Chanting “2-4-6-8 what you won’t negotiate!” some 150 members of International Association of Machinists Local 2018 and their supporters rallied outside the Regal Be-
lot factory here Aug. 2.

The unionists on strike June 30, are picketing daily demanding for a contract that sharply increased workers’ health insurance costs. The unions also want wage increases and clear break times, and said that before they’d decli-
trarily decided by the bosses each day.

Workers at the plant manufacture high tolerance bearings for helicopters and airplanes.

“They have been bragging that they have had the best sales ever in the his-
tory of the company and then they come to us with this regressive contract,” said Ken Yatsko, a 38-year member of the union, who has been there 43 years, told the Militant. “A lot of older workers re-
tired over the last few years. We have more younger workers and they have inspired us to strike.”

The event included supporters from another Indiana union, Electricians and Milk and Dairy Workers Local 6687. “I am missing four hours of work to be here but it is worth it.” Retired Steelworker Rebeca Christie, a member of United Steelworkers Local 2018 and their hard work, said she had been a “competent and safe abortion. But their success has been limited. And that’s where the ultralight comes in, pushing further.

BY JANET POST

NEW YORK — A New York Po-
lice Department administrative judge Aug. 3 recommended that cop Daniel Pantaleo, who killed Eric Garner in a chokehold on Staten Island five years ago, should be fired. Police Commiss-
ioner James O’Neill will rule on the recommendation.

“Finally, somebody has said there’s some information that this cop has done something wrong,” responded

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IAM Local 2018 members on strike for higher pay and against bosses attacks on health care at Regal Beloit, rally with supporters outside factory in Valparaiso, Indiana, Aug. 2.

The Militant/Salm Kolis

The Militant/Salm Kolis
Cuba's new president, Miguel Díaz-Canel, answered Mike Pompeo's slanders — and similar ones made by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — that the Cuban medical personnel serving abroad are “slaves,” are an attempt to hide the compacts made by workers and farmers in Cuba over the last five decades.

The building of a society based on the concrete solidarity of Cuba’s working people is what defines the character of the primary care and medical education that 30,000 doctors, nurses and other health care professionals provided by the Cuban Revolution are bringing to 67 countries around the world. Washington’s lies are used to justify the economic war it has waged for more than 60 years, aimed at overturning the Cuban Revolution.

“In the introduction to the Pathfinder book, Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa, Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for president, said, ‘Their economic, social and political accomplishments since then — from health care and education, to aid given free- don’t fighters the world over — have been possible only because they took the power to rule out of the hands of the landlords and capitalists.’

The building of a society based on the concrete solidarity of Cuba’s working people is what defines the character of the primary care and medical education that 30,000 doctors, nurses and other health care professionals provided by the Cuban Revolution are bringing to 67 countries around the world. Washington’s lies are used to justify the economic war it has waged for more than 60 years, aimed at overturning the Cuban Revolution. The miners want their pay and health care benefits. Most of the miners are owed pay for months in Mozambique earlier this year, performed as many as 11 surgeries a day.

Forty volunteer health care workers from Cuba’s Henry Reeve brigade, who spent two months in Mozambique earlier this year, performed as many as 11 surgeries a day.
BY SETH GALINSKY

Is the massacre of Latinos at a Walmart in El Paso by a rightist killer a sign that “there are more and more angry white people out there, willing to commit mayhem”? as columnist Paul Krugman asserted in an Aug. 5 New York Times article. Are “white supremacists,” racism and anti-immigrant hatred rising as many liberal commentators allege?

Patrick Crusius, 21, murdered at least 22 people and injured more than 25 others when he opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, Aug. 3. There were as many as 3,000 people shopping and 100 employees inside the store at the time. According to one witness he shot people “aside by aisle, with rage.”

Kianna Long, who survived the massacre, told CBS that workers at the store stopped to hold doors open, helping people inside get out and escape the slaying.

The store is close to the international bridge that connects the two countries, and is popular with large numbers of Mexican-American families as well as families coming from Mexico. Working people in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez cross over to Ciudad Juarez for cheaper medical care. And many residents of Ciudad Juarez go to school or work in El Paso.

At least seven of those killed or injured were Mexican nationals. Many of the rest are from families that have lived in Texas for generations. Some, like Arturo Rodriguez, 67, a bus driver, were U.S. army veterans.

Anti-immigrant manifesto

Police say that just minutes before he started shooting, Crusius posted an anti-immigrant statement online saying, “I support the Christchurch shooter and his manifesto. This attack is a response to the失败 of my civilization.” He also cross posted to Ciudad Juarez for cheaper medical care. And many residents of Ciudad Juarez go to school or work in El Paso.

As struggles by working people pick up across the country, the bosses’ attempts to divide U.S.-born and foreign-born workers live and work alongside each other, anti-immigrant prejudices begin to break down.

“Recent public statements from Oberlin College make it clear that the college is not going to accept the jury’s decision,” Gibson explained.

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Q: Will you tell the court and jury the position of the Socialist Workers Party on workers defense guards? A: Well the party is in favor of the workers organizing defense guards wherever their organizations or their meetings are threatened by hoodlum violence. The workers should not permit their meetings to be broken up or their halls to be wrecked, or their work to be interfered with, by Ku Klux Klanners or Silver Shirts or fascists of any type, or hooligans, or reactionary thugs, but should organize a guard and protect themselves where it is necessary.

Q: How long ago was the idea of a workers defense guard first put forth by the group of which you are a member? A: I may say that I have known about the idea of a workers defense guard for more than a year and a half, all my thirty years in the labor movement. I have known about the idea of workers defense guards and seen them organized and helped to organize them for more than once long before I ever heard of the Russian Revolution.

Q: And did the Trotskyist group ever organize defense guards outside the Socialist Workers Party? A: Yes, in the first year of our existence, in 1929. The Communist Party, the Stalinists, tried to break up our meetings by hoodlum violence. They did break up a number of meetings and we reacted to that by organizing a workers defense guard to protect our meetings, and invited to participate in this guard not only Trotskyists, but other workers organizations which were also being attacked by the Stalinist hooligans.

Q: Let me explain this. The Stalinists had a system in those days of trying to break up meetings of the Socialist Workers Party of the IWW, of a group called the Police, of anybody at all. They didn’t agree with the Stalinists. They tried the Stalin game of breaking them up, so in self-defense, without any threats from anybody, we reacted by organizing workers defense guards to protect our meetings, and I may add, parenthetically, we protected them so well that so little was going up to that monopoly business at the cost of a few cracked heads, which I personally greatly appreciated in those days.

Q: Did you ever hold a meeting where you spoke where workers defense guards had been put in place? A: Yes. Here is the Militant (indicating) under date of January 15, 1929, which reports a meeting addressed by me in Cleveland, Ohio, on the same subject about which I was speaking then, “The Truth About Trotsky’s and the Russian Opposition,” and the account in the paper tells about a gang of Stalinists who came there and tried to disrupt the meeting, and heckled the speaker, and they began to try violence —

Q: You were the speaker, were you? A: I was the speaker, and I recall very well that I was protected by a guard which we had organized, and the report says that the workers guard finally formed a flying wedge and put the disrupters out of the meeting, and the speaker was allowed to continue to the end.

Q: In the meanwhile you want to build, do you not, a workers militia? A: A workers defense guard, yes. I mean, not alone for the purpose of protecting the union caretaker, but for other purposes, isn’t that right? Don’t you want to build, while you are advancing toward power, a workers militia? To help you when you get into power?

A: We use the expression “workers defense guards” because that is most American and most easily and precisely defines what we want. The workers defense guards will grow in size and strength insofar as the guards have a task to perform, not because we want them to grow.

Q: If the fascists grow and fight the unions, the unions must inevitably counter that movement by organizing their own defense guards, and if the defense guards are overpowered by fascist gangsters and hoodlums and thugs, then the workers must be able to be strengthened the guards, and in the course of that struggle between the fascists and the workers defense guards, we hope the workers defense guards will grow strong and eventually become a very effective power. [We say] the overwhelming weight of possibility, based upon historical experience, that the working class in this country will attempt to resolve the conflict with the workers by fascist violence before we gain a majority in Congress. Or if it should come to the point where we gain a majority in a democratic election, the ruling class would stage a slaveholders’ rebellion. And we will undertake to put down that rebellion as decisively as possible.

Q: And to that end you want to start in advance to build up a workers army to fight against such a thing. The force of the workers will grow up out of their unions, out of their workers defense guards, out of the rank and file of the soldiers and the farmers who are in the armed forces, who will not support the slaveholders’ rebellion. We will not be without resources if we have a majority of the people. …

[You cannot organize workers defense guards if you want them — only when there is a pressing need for them that is obvious to the workers, regardless of their agreement with the party.]

Q: It would be a pleasing thing, would it not, to the Socialist Workers Party to be able to establish workers defense guards at once for the ultimate purpose of the party? A: I would go further than that and say that the establishment of workers defense guards is an almost automatic process as the unions encounter the violence of fascist hoodlums. Our task will be to accelerate it, to say it is a good process, and make it stronger.

Q: By the way, the Trotskyist leaders of that time said that there was no need for defense guards because the unions were not, in 1929, powerful enough to have defense guards. A: Yes. Here is the Militant (indicating) under date of January 15, 1929, which reports a meeting addressed by me in Cleveland, Ohio, on the same subject about which I was speaking then, “The Truth About Trotsky’s and the Russian Opposition,” and the account in the paper tells about a gang of Stalinists who came there and tried to disrupt the meeting, and heckled the speaker, and they began to try violence —

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A: We use the expression “workers defense guards” because that is most American and most easily and precisely defines what we want. The workers defense guards will grow in size and strength insofar as the guards have a task to perform, not because we want them to grow.

Q: If the fascists grow and fight the unions, the unions must inevitably counter that movement by organizing their own defense guards, and if the defense guards are overpowered by fascist gangsters and hoodlums and thugs, then the workers must be able to be strengthened the guards, and in the course of that struggle between the fascists and the workers defense guards, we hope the workers defense guards will grow strong and eventually become a very effective power. [We say] the overwhelming weight of possibility, based upon historical experience, that the working class in this country will attempt to resolve the conflict with the workers by fascist violence before we gain a majority in Congress. Or if it should come to the point where we gain a majority in a democratic election, the ruling class would stage a slaveholders’ rebellion. And we will undertake to put down that rebellion as decisively as possible.

Q: And to that end you want to start in advance to build up a workers army to fight against such a thing. The force of the workers will grow up out of their unions, out of their workers defense guards, out of the rank and file of the soldiers and the farmers who are in the armed forces, who will not support the slaveholders’ rebellion. We will not be without resources if we have a majority of the people. …

[You cannot organize workers defense guards if you want them — only when there is a pressing need for them that is obvious to the workers, regardless of their agreement with the party.]

Q: It would be a pleasing thing, would it not, to the Socialist Workers Party to be able to establish workers defense guards at once for the ultimate purpose of the party? A: I would go further than that and say that the establishment of workers defense guards is an almost automatic process as the unions encounter the violence of fascist hoodlums. Our task will be to accelerate it, to say it is a good process, and make it stronger.
Oppose US sanctions on Venezuela

Continued from front page

aimed at foreign companies and governments — including in China, Russia, Turkey and India — that have continued to trade with the Venezuelan government despite Washington’s increasingly hostile measures.

The U.S. government had previously sanctioned more than 100 Venezuelan officials, confiscated Venezuelan government-owned Citgo’s assets and bank accounts in the U.S. and turned them over to supporters of Guaidó, and cut off most economic deals with state-owned Venezuelan oil company PDVSA. It backed a failed coup attempt by Guaidó in April and has tried to prevent Venezuela from sending oil to Cuba.

Guaidó and the ambassadors of major European countries have joined with threats of imposing their own sanctions.

Washington’s escalating sanctions come amid negotiations taking place between representatives of the Venezuelan government and the opposition.

The embargo does not apply to the privately owned capitalist companies that account for most of Venezuela’s non-oil production. And Chevron — the last major U.S. oil company still operating in Venezuela — and Halliburton, are exempt from the new rules until Oct. 25.

“We are sending a signal to third parties that want to do business with the Maduro regime: Proceed with caution,” National Security Adviser John Bolton told reporters.

While the sharpening rivalry between Washington and Beijing is often portrayed as a matter of economic rivalry, the U.S. military’s aggressive expansion of their domestic market and the preponderance of the dollar in world trade as well as their unrivaled military might, hoping to hold off the rise of the Chinese rulers and offset their own decline.

Beijing seeks to assert its influence through huge loans to governments across Asia and the Pacific; infrastructure projects that facilitate the trade of Chinese goods; and an increasing presence of their navy and the establishment of military bases on islands across the South China Sea.

U.S. exports to China are only a fraction of those flowing the other way, so the U.S. can no longer afford to wash its tariffs if not. But it is taking other measures. The Chinese government allowed its currency to slide lower Aug. 5 to partially offset any price rises caused by the new tariffs. Trump immediately denounced Beijing’s “currency manipulation.”

Washington says it will freeze the bank accounts and assets of any company it deems has violated the order. With imperial arrogance, Bolton told the conference that an economic embargo “worked in Panama, it worked in Nicaragua once, and it will work there again; and it will work in Venezuela and Cuba.”

Bolton was referring to economic sanctions on Panama prior to the U.S. invasion in 1990 that overthrew Manuel Noriega; sanctions against Nicaragua after the 1979 revolution there, and Washington’s more than 60-year economic war against Cuba.

Maduro, like Hugo Chávez before him, has tried to administer and regulate the capitalist economy. But with a steep drop in oil prices and production it has become increasingly difficult to carry out the welfare programs established by the government.

The U.S. rulers hope that by increasing the suffering of Venezuela’s workers and farmers they can get rid of Maduro, and get a government more to their liking. A central objective of Washington’s strategy is to deal blows to Cuba’s socialist revolution and its solidarity with Venezuela and other countries in the region.

Washington’s sanctions have severely exacerbated the economic and social crisis working people face. Shortages of medicine, food and other basics necessitates that prices working people can afford are widespread. Some 4 million have fled for Colombia and other neighboring countries.

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Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez called Washington’s sanctions had severely exacerbated the economic and social crisis working people face. Shortages of medicine, food and other basics necessities that prices working people can afford are widespread. Some 4 million have fled for Colombia and other neighboring countries.

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Behind Trump’s tariff assault, the U.S. rulers have been trying to push back on Beijing’s various forms of binding protectionism – such as forcing foreign investors to transfer technology to their Chinese collaborators, as well as hefty subsidies to Chinese state-owned enterprises.

The duty could add to the costs of consumer goods, from shoes to clothing, car parts to cell phones. This is on top of existing 25% punitive duties on $250 billion in Chinese imports.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other capitalist spokespersons, like Trump’s former economic adviser Gary Cohn, have raised concerns that the protracted tariff dispute is starting to damage the U.S. economy.

While the sharpening rivalry between Washington and Beijing is often portrayed as a matter of trade imbalances — with Trump claiming his tariffs will boost the U.S. economy and create more jobs — Washington’s primary concern is securing its military dominance. Maintaining its preeminent position in telecommunications, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding industries is key for this.

New US tariffs aim to counter rise of Beijing

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buy more U.S.-made food products. In turn, Beijing is securing its military dominance. Maintaining its preeminent position in telecommunications, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding industries is key for this.

The more I read the more I understand the capitalist system. Prison officials tried to keep the Militant from me and others, but I won the right to have the paper. I’ve been in prison for seven years later and the system is still trying to stop the Militant. I read about the Florida prison system, and their fight to keep the Militant from the hands of prisoners. All I can do is keep fighting the system, you do have the right to speak and read what you like. Don’t give up the right.

George Bell
Michigan City, Indiana

The letters column is an open forum on subjects of interest to working people. Where necessary letters will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Prison censorship

Continued from front page

The banned issues contain “worthy information and we do not believe we should be forced to print issues with respect to the prison system,” says the letter the association sent to the prison system’s Lit- erature Review Committee Aug. 1. “Prisoners should have access to the content in the outside world and to different points of view.”

Supporters of prisoners rights and of the rights of the Militant can use this new support — along with previous letters and an impassioned letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Civil Liberties Union - Florida, WeCount in Miami-Dade County, and the Riverside Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union — to build up the campaign to overturn the bans on the paper.

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The first ban upheld this year by the Literature Review Committee was of issue no. 15, impounded for an article of a speaker at the United States, the Militant. The Militant editor John Studer said: “They want to know what is happening in the world, to read a wide range of views, to debate and discuss, to form their own opinions.”

Millions of working people have friends or relatives behind bars or have spent time in prison themselves. They know the conditions that prisoners face and have experienced how the prison system, includ- ing plea bargaining undermines the right to a trial and a jury of your peers. “That’s why we can win even more support to overturn the bans,” Studer said.

Fight prison censorship!

Get out the word: Download, print and distribute Militant articles on this fight.

Get support statements from co-workers, unions, churches and others. Mail to: Literature Review Committee Att: Dean Peterson, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399. Email to: Allen.Peterson@fdc.mylongford.com

Send copies to themilitantmac.com

Send checks to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, for “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

Or contribute online at themilitant.com

— LETTERS —

Trial is ‘no consolation’

As a former telecom worker in the U.K., I recognized many of the abuses suffered by France Telecom workers described in the article “Telecom Bosses on Trial for Driving Workers to Suicide”.

In the U.K., thousands of workers were driven to early retirement as the workforce was exposed to sexual harassment, intolerable pressure.

The bosses were able to get away with these practices because union leaderships organized no resistance to these attacks and often colluded with the bosses.

Prosecution of individual bosses in France who sanctioned such practices is no consolation to the workers whose lives were destroyed. Often trials like this are endorsed by the union leaderships and act as a substitute for organizing a serious fight.

Bill Loxton
Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Don’t give up the right!

The prison system uses every excuse they can to keep the Militant from me and others. When I was a “guest” of the federal prison system where I first saw the Militant, 60 years ago, I couldn’t get the Militant. Now I am in the private prison system and the more I read the more I understand the capitalist system.

Prison officials tried to keep the Militant from me and others, but I won the right to have the paper. I’ve been in prison for seven years later and the system is still trying to stop the Militant. I read about the Florida prison system, and their fight to keep the Militant from the hands of prisoners. All I can do is keep fighting the system, you do have the right to speak and read what you like. Don’t give up the right.

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‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the Militant, earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 356 W. 37th St., 12th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com