Support the Asarco miners strike against union busting

BY ELLIE GARCIA

“People need to know what we are fighting for,” Alex Terrazas, a worker at the Mission Mine and president of United Steelworkers Local 937 told this Militant worker-correspondent Jan. 7. “Asarco is a multibillion dollar corporation. They’re taking from our families; we’re fighting for our families.”

Some 1,700 workers at the Mission Mine and three other Asarco complexes in Arizona, and at its refinery in Amarillo, Texas, have been on strike since Oct. 13.

In what workers call an “insult,” Asarco’s “last, best and final offer” — which the company said it put into effect Dec. 2 after the strike had been going for almost two months — included a wage freeze for three-quarters of the workers, a freeze in pensions, doubling or tripling health insurance costs and the gutting of union protections, which are essential for fighting for safety on the job.

Most workers haven’t had a wage increase in over 70 cities across the country and were organized by a number of anti-war organizations.

Speaking out against Washington’s foreign policy, which defends the class

Continued on page 3

Why fight against Jew-hatred is a key question for working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Some 25,000 people marched here against anti-Semitism Jan. 5. The large turnout reflected the growing interest in finding ways to stand up to anti-Semitism.

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party joined the march, called in response to the Dec. 10 attack on the Jersey City Kosher Supermarket that killed Leah Mindel Ferencz, Moshe Deutsch and Douglas Miguel Rodrigues, the Dec. 29 massacre attack on a Hanukkah celebration in Monsey, New York, and a spate of other assaults on Jews in Brooklyn. There were a wide variety of opinions from marchers. Where does Jew-hatred come from? What purpose does it serve? Continued on page 6

The following statement was issued Jan. 3 by Naomi Crane, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois.

SWP STATEMENT

The Socialist Workers Party condemns Washington’s assassination of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani; Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, demanding the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all U.S. troops and weaponry from the Middle East.

Protests hit cold-blooded murderer of Iranian general

BY TERRY EVANS

Tens of thousands have joined demonstrations across the U.S. and around the world against Washington’s cold-blooded Jan. 2 killing of Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops and weaponry from the Middle East. More are planned.

Over the last week, the U.S. government has escalated its forces in the Middle East.

Continued on page 7

Impeachment drive targets workers who just ‘don’t vote the right way’

BY TERRY EVANS

Claiming high crimes and misdemeanors were committed, the Democratic Party leadership in the House shepherded their caucus to adopt articles of impeachment in a completely partisan vote Dec. 18, seeking to oust sitting President Donald Trump less than a year before the 2020 presidential election. But since then, they’ve decided to sit on the indictment for over three weeks rather than — as the Constitution requires — submit it to the Senate for trial.

Continued on page 4

US hands off Iran, Iraq! Get out of the Mideast!

BY JANET POST

The Socialist Workers Party calls for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the Middle East,” Ned Mease, a member of the party in Louisville, Kentucky, told a rally of 50 people there Jan. 4. “The U.S. government has tens of thousands of troops in the Middle East and is sending more. We should say, ‘Out now!’”

“We have to speak out against this act of aggression,” said Steven Gardiner, representing Veterans for Peace, which organized the action to protest Washington’s Jan. 2 airstrike in Iraq, killing Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani and Tehran-backed Iraqi military leaders.

SWP candidates and campaign supporters joined and built protests

Continued on page 9

SWP advances working-class fight to bring troops home

BY TERRY EVANS

Thousands march from Manhattan to Brooklyn Jan. 5 to protest series of attacks on Jews.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Officials here at the Pendleton Correctional Facility have banned the last 4 issues of your paper, issues nos. 43, 44, 45 and 46,” inmate subscriber Kevin “Rashid” Johnson wrote the Militant Dec. 27. The Indiana Department of Correction, in violation of its 1939 resolution:

‘Capitalism uses Jew-hatred’

BY CLAUDETTE BUNDE

With 61 years of celebrating the Black liberation struggle, NY meeting celebrates the Militant, other political papers

Fidel Castro on Grenada:

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Bishop was a true revolutionary”

BY CLAUDETTE BUNDE

ON PAGE 8
NY Red Squad videos point to ongoing gov’t spy operations

BY JOHN STUDER AND SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — On Dec. 3 the Gothenburg, an internet news site run by New York Public Radio, published an article with the headline, “These Videos Shouldn’t Exist: Hours of Old NYPD Surveillance Films of Protests Have Been Digitized.”

The article refers to more than 2,000 videos filmed by the New York City Police Department’s Red Squad between 1960 and 1990 as part of its spy operations against political and union groups and social struggles. Over the past year the city government has posted the newly digitized videos — some 140 hours worth — to its Municipal Archives website for anyone to access, with no agreement from those who were spied on.

By posting the videos — the city calls them “fascinating glimpses of the recent past” — the archives is glossing over the real story, the Red Squad’s targeting of hundreds of groups and individuals on the pretext that they were “potential security threats.” And the city’s political police’s primary goal was not to “monitor” but to disrupt.

The Gothenburg notes that the massive surveillance took place before newer spying devices like police “body cams, or LinkNYC kiosks or fake cellphone towers” existed. Today’s city political police have available feeds from at least 9,000 surveillance cameras in the city. Among the Red Squad’s targets during those two decades: the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Malcolm X, Black rights groups, women’s rights groups, supporters of independence for Puerto Rico, prisoners’ rights groups, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. Other targets included the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union, the Seafarers International Union, opponents of the U.S. war in Vietnam and Irish Republican supporters.

In 1973 the SWP filed a federal lawsuit against the FBI and other government agencies for decades of spying, burglaries, wiretaps, use of undercover informers and disruption, including a counterintelligence program that specifically targeted the SWP, under Democratic and Republican administrations alike. The party helped organize the Political Rights Defense Fund, which carried out a broad political campaign to back the suit and expose and push back the government’s anti-working-class domestic political police operations.

In the course of the nearly 15-year fight, the party brought to light that the FBI had gathered more than 30,000 days of wiretaps or “bugs” between 1943 and 1963, carried out at least 208 burglaries of SWP offices and members’ homes, and stole or photographed nearly 10,000 documents. And from 1960 to 1976 alone, the government used 1,300 informants inside and outside the party.

Cops disrupt workers’ movement

This was not simply an information “gathering” operation. The FBI used the information to get SWP members evicted from their apartments and fired from jobs. It wrote “poison pen” letters full of vitriol and lies aimed at creating divisions within the party and with and against the party the worked with in the Black movement and other struggles. And it did the same to numerous other groups.

While the political police tactics succeeded in disrupting and breaking many organizations, it failed miserably on the Socialist Workers Party. That’s because of the party’s program and integrity. Party members openly and proudly defend their communist program. They say the same thing in private that they say in public. The party is part of the working-class vanguard, not a sect trying to impose a program on workers and farmers.

That’s why despite years of spying the FBI could not find one illegal act committed by the party, while the FBI itself had committed thousands of illegal acts in efforts to smear and disrupt the SWP. In 1986 Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in favor of the party. He found that the its constitutional rights had been violated. He awarded the party over $50,000 in damages and attorneys fees. And the party fought for and won an injunction that not only said the FBI’s files could no longer be accessed by the government but also protected the privacy rights of those names in them.

The party’s lawsuit and political fight was at the cutting edge of battles in a number of cities, including New York, to curtail cop red squad spy and disruption operations.

More than a million spy files

In 1971 in New York victims of city police spying, harassment and disruption activities brought a class-action political lawsuit against the Red Squad, known as the Handschu case, named after one of the plaintiffs. The Red Squad had maintained files on more than 1 million individuals and organizations! A similar lawsuit was filed in Chicago in 1975. But agreements reached in those lawsuits undercut the fight against the political police instead of advancing it.

In New York, despite a challenge from the Socialist Workers Party and other victims of the political police, the court imposed a settlement — backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union and some other liberal groups — pretending to reel in the Red Squad.

But in reality the settlement gives the cops the right to investigate any group it says is “engaged in, about to engage in or has threatened to engage in conduct which constitutes a crime.” And to hang on to the spy files they gathered. The newly digitized videos are just one part of those files. All supposedly monitored by an “independent” three-person board — composed of one “civilian” and two police commissioners! Business as usual with a little extra red tape.

The New York Red Squad has been around since 1934, when it was called the Italian and then the Anarchist Squad. It has gone through many name changes since then. Today the NYPD has at least two Red Squads — the Intelligence Bureau and the Counterterrorism Bureau. As the class struggle in the U.S. heats up, working-class fighters should be aware that the political police have not gone away.
Fight to bring US troops home

Continued from front page

interests of the U.S. rulers abroad, it is a crucial part of the working-class course advancing by the SWP candidates.

In addition to participating in actions demanding U.S. withdrawal from the Middle East, SWP members also raised this demand in their doorsteps as well as among co-workers on the job. They introduced the Militant, books on revolutionary politics and the party’s statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

Supporters of Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, campaigned in Stephenville where they worked with John Carpenter, who works at McDonald’s. The SWP “is for building a labor party.” SWP member Hilda Cuozco explained, and for getting all U.S. troops out of the Middle East. Carpenter replied, “The Democratic Party is the reason why there is no labor party. Are you an independent party?”

SWP member George Chalmers explained that working people did need to organize independently of the Demo-
crats and Republicans. “The way we’re going to change the country is through build-

ing a powerful working-class movement that fights to take power.” Carpenter got a copy of the Militant and asked the SWP to send more books.

Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, reports that she and campaign supporters knocked on doors in Stone Park, near Chicago. “We met one guy who said he, his wife and daughter had been debating the U.S. military action. He got a copy of the Militant and the supplementary pamphlet, Counterrevolution and War in Iran” by SWP leader Steve Clark. The supplement explains that rising unrest among working people in Iran led to the opposition to the bitter toll of the Iranian rulers’ military intervention across the Middle East.

Craine’s statement for the party, “U.S. hands off Iran and Iraq” — printed in this issue — is being used by party members and supporters across the country.

“The SWP says, ‘U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, Korea and the Middle East. End U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico,’” party member John Benson told some 200 people at a protest in Atlanta. “The road to end imperialist war as well as the war against working people here is to break with the capitalist two-party system, both the Democrats and the Republicans, from Trump to Sanders.”

Some 500 joined a New York demon-

stration Jan. 4. “One student at the action told me that he was shocked to see another participant carrying a sign that portrayed Soleimani as a hero,” said SWP member Seth Galinsky.

“He told me, ‘I’m totally opposed to the U.S. assassinating him. But he was not a good guy.’” Galinsky agreed. “We don’t need to pretend the Iranian government is a friend of working people to oppose U.S. intervention and assassinations.”

SWP members built and joined a march and rally of 2,000 people in San Francisco and actions of hundreds in Chicago, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Seattle. Socialist campaigner reported widespread interest among many at-
tending the action in the party’s cam-
paigns, including issues of the Militant and books on revolutionary politics.

Some 100 people joined a protest in Albany, New York, Jan. 5, reports Jacob Perasso. “I came to the protest because I had to tell my son that this was an imperialist action,” restaurant worker Lee Ferrini told Perasso. “It’s the people of Iran who are going to feel the brunt of this.” Ferrini picked up a couple of books by SWP leaders.

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

As the Socialist Workers Party prepares to launch in 2020 campaign for president and vice president, the party has put together a series of candidates for federal and state offices across the country (see page 3).

This is the SWP’s fighting campaign platform to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Support workers’ struggles to organize and defend themselves. Use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own party, a labor party. One union for all workers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the U.S., a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

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 workers need. Set 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 U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE End the U.S. rulers’ economic war against Cuba. US out of Guantánamo. 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.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income. End>HEDIMMIGRANTS>IMMIGRANTS_<

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, Jewish-hatred and murderous violence.

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION & SAFETY Capitalism’s profit drive is the despiser of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases to prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination 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. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

POLITICAL RIGHTS Defend demo-

catic rights — the right to vote, free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Repub-

licans alike. Stop FBI and other gov-

ernment spying, harassment and disrup-
tion.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary con-

finement. End suppression of the Militant, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm fore-
closures, banktrips and skycracking rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, includ-

ing their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. For a labor party and a movement of mil-
lions to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploit-

ative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

Explains the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary” in the imperialist epoch.

The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch — the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organ-

ize and act against the capitalist class in all its economic, political and social forms.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world.

— Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

pathfinderpress.com

Campaign with the Socialist Workers Party candidates!

Georgia

Rhonda Fruit, U.S. Senate

Illinois

Naomi Craine, U.S. Senate

Kentucky

Maggie Towner, U.S. Senate

Minnesota

David Rosenfeld, U.S. Congress, 14th Dist.

New Jersey

Lisa Sherman, U.S. Senate

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.
New York meeting celebrates 61 years of Cuban Revolution

BY WILLIE COTTON
NEW YORK — A festive reception with food and music brought together some 80 people here Jan. 5 to celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban people overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in January 1959, opening the road for workers and farmers to begin building a new society in Cuba.

“The foundation of all the revolution’s gains is the transformation of the men and women of Cuba who made the revolution,” said Steve Clark, who spoke for the Socialist Workers Party. “Advances that only a consciously organized and led socialist revolution can achieve.

He pointed to what the Cuban Revolution demonstrated in “life and in struggle” to revolutionary-minded workers and youth in the U.S. and worldwide — that U.S. imperialism is not invincible.

“We are guided by the conviction that, as Fidel Castro said in 1961, a victorious revolution will be seen in the United States, before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba,” said Clark.

He urged everyone to help make the May Day brigade to Cuba — which offers the opportunity to learn about the revolution firsthand — a success.

The celebration was sponsored by the SWP in New York and Northern New Jersey. Present were representatives of the Cuban Mission to the U.N. and their families; activists with the New York/New Jersey Cuban Solidarity Committee; party members and supporters; and others. Many participants had marched in two actions over the weekend, one calling for Washington to get out of the Middle East and the other in response to anti-Semitic attacks across the U.S.

Ambassador Humberto Rivero thanked those present for their continued support to that the revolution that the U.S. To the against Cuba. We are determined to continue resisting, he said, in the struggle of the people — the U.S. economic war against Cuba.

New York meeting celebrates 61 years of Cuban Revolution

Continued from front page

Whatever they say, they know the Senate would vote to clear him of any wrongdoing.

Since then, Donald Trump was elected, the liberals have teamed up with former FBI political police bosses, like James Comey and Robert Mueller, to set up “independent” investigations in an effort to get something on him. Each charge raised with fanfare — like collusion with Moscow — has come apart and has disappeared, just to latch on to a new one, just as frantically.

They fear this moment, because almost all of the Democrats and their cheerleaders in the liberal press are convinced Trump would likely win in November if they can’t bring him down before then.

Steven (Steve) Kettle, the House, which they control, should just keep their impeach- ment so-called inquiry open. “Never send over the articles,” Jennifer Rubin recommends in the Dec 16 Washington Post. Just let them sit in the House as a “permanent stain on Trump’s presidency,” she writes.

Others argue for keeping the inquiry open like a permanent grand jury-type investigation, constantly digging around for new evidence or new charges. After all, they might finally hit on something they could use to prevent the president from running again this November.

All of this is a mockery of the Constitution as well as guarantees in the Bill of Rights crucial for working people — the presumption of innoc- ence and the right to confront your accusers in a court of law, to name a few. Instead, the kinds of frame- up methods commonly used against workers in the capitalist “justice” system are being used by the Democrats against a rival capitalist politician, who was elected to the presidency.

Now Republcan Sen. Josh Hawley is pressing the Senate to dismiss the allegations on Jan. 17, 25 days af- ter they were adopted, “for failure to prosecute.” Others push for the Senate to just set up its own trial on the charges and reject them.

Target is the working class

Democrats are trying to find ways to prevent those voted for Trump in 2016 or who didn’t vote for anyone at all — sick of the lack of anything positive for working people from the rulers’ two-party system — from ever being able to do something like that again.

Manu Ganesh in the Financial Times complains it is “impossible for Mr. Trump to disappoint those who voted for him because they never had hopes to dash.” The 2016 election he says was merely a “hail against perceived na- tional decline,” by people “resigned to the unimprovability of things.”

What Ganesh disparagingly calls a “hail” was the vote of millions of working people and others who were looking for a way to halt the worsening condi- tions of life and work that they faced under Democratic and Republican administra- tions alike. Trump won the votes of many of those who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012, looking for a “change.”

Commentators on the left and right of capitalist politics agree that everything is going great for working people.

“This has been the best year ever,” proclaims Nicholas Kristof in the Dec. 28 New York Times. “For humanity all over, life just keeps getting better.” “The roaring ’20s have begun,” crowed the Financial Times.

And the White House demands credit for creating “prosperity for all.” In New Year’s Eve message says “wages are ris- ing fastest for low-income workers.”

There has been an uptick in wages on the heels of an expansion in hiring in the U.S. But this hasn’t made any substantial changes in the economic and social crisis of workers facing new problems on their own.

Coal miners, rail workers, Uber and taxi drivers, re- tail workers from Walmart to Amazon, workers trying to live on tips and oth- ers have faced declining real wages and deteriorating conditions for years. This is the result of the bosses’ profit-driven efforts to make us pay for the deepening crisis of their capitalist system.

In fact for the last three years, life ex- pectancy has fallen in the U.S. — the richest capitalist country in history. It is harder than ever for young workers to decide to marry or to start a family, with growing numbers living with their par- ents, unable to afford their own home.

Debt is soaring for workers of all ages — from college loans to credit cards, as well as mortgages and rents. Health care continues to deteriorate, with hospitals closing in rural areas across the country.

In stark contrast to the Democrats and Republicans of all persuasions, Socialist Workers Party candidates explain why workers — union and nonunion alike — need to fight back against this class exploitation, and out of these struggles build our own party, a labor party. We need to organize together to fight the bosses’ attacks on wages and the un- safe working conditions they impose on us. Through such experiences workers can transform ourselves, gain- ing the courage and self-confidence needed to build a movement that can put an end to capitalist rule.

In Defense of the US Working Class by Mary-Alice Waters

pathfinderpress.com

AGENCY

Georgia

Atlanta

Help Kick Off the 2020 Socialist Workers Party Campaign of Rachel Foat for U.S. Senate. Celebrate 61 Years of the Cuban Revolution, Fri., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 1101, Tel: (404) 528-7288.

Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh

What Can Workers Learn from Cuba’s Socialist Revolution? Speaker: Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m. Donation: $5. First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Ave. Tel: (412) 610-2402.
Uber, Lyft drivers fight bosses exploiting them as ‘contractors’

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — The day a new California labor law was to go into effect, a federal judge blocked it for more than 70,000 app-dependent workers. Assembly Bill 5 was designed by liberal politicians to “solve” the problem many workers face — from Uber and Lyft drivers to port truckers. Bosses designate them as independent contractors. This bill imposes new regulations to reclassify them as employees starting Jan. 1.

Uber and Lyft bosses employ hundreds of thousands of drivers they call independent contractors, making it easier to superserve them. Companies don’t have to pay overtime, unemployment benefits, workers compensation or minimum wage. Workers have to purchase or lease their own trucks or cars and pay for the cost of insurance, maintenance and taxes.

Like the trucking bosses, Uber, Lyft and food delivery companies like Postmates and DoorDash are also trying to pass Assembly Bill 5 court and have amassed a $100 million war chest — to place a referendum on the ballot to nullify the law. Claiming the law doesn’t place a referendum on the ballot to nullify the law. Claiming the law doesn’t. party — from Uber and Lyft drivers to rideshare drivers have protested against Uber’s decision to slash deteriorating wages and working conditions. Workers and zero-wage money, Uber and Lyft drivers fight bosses.

Support Asarco miners strike against union busting

Continued from front page

in nearly 10 years.

Asarco, which is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the biggest copper operations worldwide, has refused to negotiate with the Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other striking unions. The only other unionization effort in copper-rich Arizona is the Pinto Valley open-pit mine owned by Capstone, with 500 workers.

Phipps Dodge succeeded in bustling the striking union miners out of the complex in a bitter strike there from 1983 to 1986. Bosses closed down other union mines in Arizona, then sold them or reopened them later nonunion.

In 1983, the start the company has used supervisors, nonunion contractors and a few hundred workers who crossed the picket line to maintain some production.

The company is advertising for workers on its website and strikers say they are also using temporary workers.

“Support Asarco miners strike against union busting By W. A. Richter

The Militant January 20, 2020

The Militant

January 20, 1945

The current drive for a national service law to conscript labor for work in private industry aims to utilize the repressive machinery of government to chain workers to their jobs at frozen wages. Under a forced labor law, the unions would be paralyzed, strikers would be jailed or herded into concentration camps, workers would be placed at the mercy of their exploiters.

Since the beginning of the war, anti-labor legislation has wiped away many of the social gains of the past decades. Anti-labor executive decrees have supplemented this legislative assault.

The workers do the fighting, dying and paying for the war, while the capitalists coin fabulous profits out of the agony of humanity. It is this sys- tem and organization of institutions and the working class.
Continued from front page

Protests hit US killing

Militant’s Labor Force Tours: US Hands Off Iran, US Troops out of Middle East

Mass actions in India protest anti-Muslim law

War on Iran: Trump seeks out military rivals

The case for striking down US military bases in Iran and US military troops out of the Middle East

Revolution, Counterrevolution and Workers’ War in Iran: 130,000,000 people took to the streets to protest US military adventures

Capitalism uses Jew-hatred, prejudice to fan divisions

Below is an excerpt from “Theses on the Jewish Question,” adapted by Pathfinder Press from a floor speech by Karl Marx in the 1843 German parliamentary elections.

Below is an excerpt from “Theses on the Jewish Question,” adapted by Pathfinder Press from a floor speech by Karl Marx in the 1843 German parliamentary elections.

The Militant January 20, 2020

The Militant January 20, 2020
Maurice Bishop, left, and Fidel Castro, 1980 May Day rally, Cuba. Castro said 1979 revolutions in Grenada and Nicaragua joined Cuba in “three giants rising up on threshold of imperialism.”

Below is an excerpt from a speech by Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban Revolution, given in 1983 soon after an internal conflict led by Bernard Coard overthrow the 1979-83 revolution in Grenada, opening the door for the U.S. rulers to invade the Caribbean island. It is in the month of the 100th anniversary of the Granma, Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-1983, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for January. Inspired by the Cuban Revolution, Bishop mobilized workers, farmers and working people in their majority Black and English-speaking, to take political power into their own hands and carry out a popular revolution. On Oct. 19, 1983, he and other leaders were assassinated as the workers and farmers government he led was overthrown. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

In our view, nothing could be more absurd than to attribute such tendencies to Bishop. It was impossible to imagine anyone more noble, modest, and unselfish. He could never have been guilty of being authoritarian. If he had any defect, it was his excessive tolerance and trust.

Were those who conspired against him within the Grenadian party, army, and security forces then, in an attempt to enhance a group of extremists drunk on political theory? Were they simply a group of ambitious, opportunist individuals, or were they enemy agents who wanted to destroy the Grenadian revolution? History alone will have the last word, but it would not be the first time that such things occurred in a revolutionary process.

In our view, Coard’s group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions, the brutal assassination of Bishop and his most loyal, chosen comrades is a fact that can never be justified in that or any other revolution. As the October 20 statement by the Cuban party and government put it, “no crime must be committed in the name of the revolution and freedom.”

It is to our revolution’s credit that, in spite of our profound indignation over Bishop’s removal from office and arrest, we fully refrained from interfering in Grenada’s internal affairs. We refrained, even though we were construction workers and all our other cooperation personnel in Grenada who did not hesitate to confront the Yankee soldiers with the weapons Bishop himself had given them for their defense in case of an attack from abroad — could have been a decisive factor in those internal events. Those weapons were never meant to be used in an internal conflict in Grenada and we would never have allowed them to be so used. We would never have been willing to use them to shed a single drop of Grenadian blood.

On October 12, Bishop was removed from office by the Central Committee, on which the conspirators had attained a majority. On the thirteenth, he was placed under house arrest. On the nineteenth, he was arrested and freed Bishop. On the same day, Coard’s group ordered the army to fire on the people and Bishop, Whitman, Jaques- lier, and other leaders of the revolutionary leaders were murdered.

As soon as the internal divisions, which came to light on October 12, began to emerge, we reaffirmed our friendship because of our well-known and unquestionable friendship with Bishop. …

The thing that placed Cuba in a morally complex, difficult situation was the fact that, little by little, the Cuban people had not hesitated to confront the Yankee imperialists and the Yanqui imperialists really intended to attack Grenada, it was our duty to stay there. To withdraw at that time would have been dishonorable and could even have triggered an aggression in that country then and in Cuba later on. In addition, events unfolded with such incredible speed that if the evacuation had been planned for, even the Yanqui forces would not have had time to carry it out.

In Grenada, however, the government was morally indefensible. And, since the party, the government, and the army had divorced themselves from the people, it was also impossible to defend the nation militarily, because a revolutionary war could not have been formidable and justifiable when one was not united with the people. We could only fight, therefore, if we were directly attacked. There was no alternative.

Fidel Castro on Grenada: ‘Bishop was a true revolutionary’
Continued from front page

A leader of the pro-Iran Kata'ib Hezbollah militia, and of the militia men near Baghdad on April 2. The U.S. imperialist rulers act as judge, jury and executioner, trampling on the sovereignty of other nations — just as their cops do here every day.

We call for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of U.S. troops, bases, weaponry and armaments from Iraq, Syria and the region. Resolving the crises that traverse the Middle East is the business of workers and farmers there. Join or call protests against Washington's escalation!

Soleimani was no friend of working people in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria or Iran. He was a central leader of the Iranian people's resistance to U.S. imperialism and to the reactionary Revolutionary Guards' policies of militarism, repression and religious repression. As the result of growing protests demanding an end to the war on Iraq and the region, there is a growing outcry of public protests, Florida authorities, who had impounded 14 out of 16 issues over a three-month period last year, overturned most of the bans and haven't impounded any issues since August.

Johnson had read about this fight in the Militant. Those who joined the fight to overturn the ban included Amnestied prisoners. Contact National Lawyers Guild and many others. The “Notice and Report of Action Taken” given to Johnson lists only “security risk” as the reason for denying him the paper. But it gives no indication what material in these issues of the Militant Pendleton officials claim poses such a risk, in violation of prison authorities’ rules and regulations. The Department of Correction. Manual of Policies and Procedures says publications should be admitted, unless they specifically describe “construction or use of weapons,” “encourage methods of escape from correctional facilities,” are pornographic, or encourage “acts of violence which may result in physical violence or group disruption.” Nothing in any of the banned Militant issues can possibly be considered in violation of these strictures.

The suppression of the paper “has nothing to do with security,” writes Johnson. “I have been confined here at Pendleton since November 2018, and had a subscription to your paper throughout most of that time. They never denied your paper until now.”

Johnson is a well-known political and prisoners’ rights advocate, and a leader of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party who has faced repeated harassment from prison authorities. He was originally incarcerated in Virginia in 1990, and became political in prison. Since then he has been forcibly transferred under the notorious Interstate Correcrions Compact to Oregon, Texas, Florida and back to Virginia in an unsuccessful effort to isolate and intimidate him. Most of this time he’s been thrown into solitary confinement. He was transferred to Indiana a little over a year ago.

Challenge the ban

“The Militant is preparing to challenge these bans,” Johnson said, joining appeals from unions and supporters of the rights of prisoners and of the press to urge the Indiana Department of Correction to overturn their suppression of the Militant.

“Johnson told us other publications he gets like the San Francisco Bay View and Socialist Viewpoint — are also being barred, and he plans to challenge all of these impoundments,” Studer said. “Workers behind bars are protected by the Bill of Rights, and the Militant by freedom of the press. Workers behind bars need to be able to read material of their choosing, to think for themselves, and to be part of the political ferment. He was originally incarcerated in Virginia in 1990, and became political in prison. Since then he has been forcibly transferred under the notorious Interstate Correcrions Compact to Oregon, Texas, Florida and back to Virginia in an unsuccessful effort to isolate and intimidate him. Most of this time he’s been thrown into solitary confinement. He was transferred to Indiana a little over a year ago.

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