Join the Socialist Workers Party 2020 US presidential campaign!
Alyson Kennedy for president ☿ Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

The SWP candidates...
Alyson Kennedy

Alyson Kennedy grew up in Indianapolis, where she was attracted to the massive battles she followed on TV against racist cops and KKK thugs across the South that tore down Jim Crow segregation, strengthening the whole working class. After she moved to Louisville, Kentucky, she joined the fight to desegregate public schools there in 1975.

Fight for what you’re for, not what you’re against!

BY TERRY EVANS

“The Socialist Workers Party campaign presents a road forward for working-class struggle to advance the self-confidence, fighting capacities and class consciousness of working people,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president in 2020, told the Militant.

“What our campaign explains is that working people have the capacities to fight for better wages, working conditions and defend our rights, and will transform ourselves in the course of our struggles in the years ahead, becoming capable of running society ourselves,” Kennedy added. She and Jarrett spoke to the Militant by phone.

By joining workers’ battles and speaking out in defense of all the oppressed and exploited, workers can unite and strengthen ourselves for bigger battles to come, she said. Struggles in which the only class capable of bringing an end to the class dictatorship of the capitalist rulers—the working class—will have an opportunity to do so.

“Establishing our own party, a labor party, and fighting for a workers and farmers government,” Jarrett pointed out, “creates the best conditions possible for working people to struggle to advance the working-class struggle to advance the proletarian revolution.”

The Militant, united as a party, will have an opportunity to do so.

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Join the May Day Brigade to Cuba, see the difference revolution makes

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Supporters of the Cuban Revolution are getting out the word about the 15th May Day Brigade to Cuba, April 27 to May 10, and they’re finding interest.

“Most of what I had heard about Cuba was negative,” Brandon Freer, a 21-year-old restaurant worker from Cohoes, New York, told Socialist.

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Back protests against gov’t repression in Iran and Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

Many liberal editorial writers claimed that the Jan. 2 U.S. military operation that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani would cause people to unite behind the regimes in Iran and Iraq in outrage. Soleimani commanded the Iranian rulers’ Quds Force, the wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps at the forefront of Tehran’s reactionary interventions from Syria to Iraq, from Lebanon to Yemen.

But working people in both Iran and Iraq continued to protest against Tehran’s wars abroad and the effects of the economic and social crisis they face.

Armed attacks by cops and Tehran-organized militiamen in Iraq have left more than 500 dead and thousands injured since protests there erupted Oct. 1, but have only strengthened the resolve of demonstrators calling for an end to Iranian as well as U.S. interference there.

The protests follow years of Tehran’s interference in Iraq and government disdain for the lack of jobs and basic necessities of workers, which has only strengthened the resolve of demonstrators calling for an end to Iranian as well as U.S. interference there.

The protests follow years of Iranian authorities’ interference in Iraq and government disdain for the lack of jobs and basic necessities like water and electricity.

On Jan. 25 Iraqi police and militia forces attacked anti-government encampments across southern Iraq, burning down tents and firing live ammunition.

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Solidarity bolsters copper miners’ fight against Asarco union busting

BY BERNIE SENTER

HAYDEN, Ariz. — Workers on strike against copper giant Asarco are winning solidarity in their hard-fought four-month-long battle against the company’s drive to impose steep concessions and bust their unions.

“We’re doing this for the next generation, for those who are getting out of high school,” Gary Jones told the Militant Jan. 21 at the picket line in front of the smelter here, where he’s worked for 25 years. “Even retired people are coming by to talk and bring firewood.”

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Victory! Indiana prison officials overturn ban on the ‘Militant’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A victory has been won in the fight to reverse impoundments of the Militant from subscriber Kevin “Rashid” Johnson, who is incarcerated at the Pendleton Correctional Facility in Indiana.

“I am writing on behalf of the Indiana Department of Correction with regards to your January 15, 2020 letter,” said an email sent to Militant attorney David Goldstein Jan. 29 by prison officials.

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Fearing 2020 election defeat, liberals say: Convict Trump!

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As the Democrats and their cheerleaders in the liberal media drive to convict and throw President Donald Trump out of the White House, saying it’s the most important political question ever, the fact is most of the seats open to the public at the Senate’s trial on impeachment charges have been empty. Their hysteria and hyperbole is driven by their belief they don’t have a candidate who can beat him in November. At the same time, they confront the reality that it’s virtually impossible for them to cobble together the two-thirds Senate majority needed to oust Trump.

Many workers wonder how the damning “evidence” against Trump — that the president attempted to pressure Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate corruption, including the $50,000-a-month Ukrainian natural gas company sycophant held by former Vice President Joe Biden’s son — is in any way different from how all U.S. administrations have bullied smaller nations to do as they wish. Biden himself was famous for this as the point man for foreign policy operations in the Barack Obama administration.

Nevertheless, the liberal press continues to hallyhoo new “bombshells,” like those from the draft of a book by former Trump lawyer and convicted felon Michael Cohen. “You cannot leave a man like that in office.”

The Democrats’ answer is to find a way to restrict workers’ right to vote and to restrict other constitutional guarantees workers need to defend themselves like due process, the right to confront your accuser and the presumption of innocence. These are the stakes for working people, who face similar attacks daily under the capitalists’ criminal “justice” system.

Workers need their own voice

Neither Democrats nor Republicans, nor Trump or Biden or any of the capitalist candidates of any stripe, offer a road forward for working people. That’s why the Socialist Workers Party has its own ticket — Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — like it has in previous elections for decades. Working people need our own voice, our own program and fighting to replace capitalism rule with a government of workers and farmers. The Democrats and Republicans are two rival parties that speak for the capitalist class, hoping workers will feel compelled each election to hold their nose and cast a vote for the “lesser evil.” Workers need their own party and a revolutionary independent working-class program to fight effectively against the attacks we face and to take political power ourselves.

Bill of Rights out the window

The frenzied Democrats are happy to toss constitutional protections — as well as civility and fair play — out the window in their drive to oust Trump. They’ve relied as their chief alibi on proven opponents of workers’ rights — like former FBI chiefs James Comey and William Mueller whose direction of the capitalist rulers’ political police in their spying and disruption operations against labor and political fighters is their calling card. Now they’re looking to John Bolton, a long-standing political operative on the Republican right, who they used to denounce as a demon.

While it’s no wonder workers have turned off their TVs, there are important questions of our rights at stake in this affair. If a wealthy real estate mogul who is president of the United States can be denied the constitutional right to due process, to be innocent until proven guilty, to be able to confront his accusers, what does that mean for working people, our unions or working-class political parties?
Putin moves to extend his rule, tamp down workers’ resistance

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Russian President Vladimir Putin Jan. 15 announced “a major renewal,” which looks a lot like a plan to keep him in office indefinitely. He proposed changes to the constitution to be rolled out with great fanfare. This takes place as his popularity is faltering and his 20-year rule is being eroded by repeated personal crimes as workers confront falling living standards and social crisis.

Putin aims to shore up Russian capitalism in an era of world capitalist crisis, and his economic policy is heavily dependent on oil and gas exports that is weak compared to Washington and its other competitors. At the same time the Kremlin is seeking to shore up its international standing and defend its allies — as it did intervening in Syria to rescue the tottering dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad.

The government reorganization includes the resignation of Dmitry Medvedev as prime minister and replacement of much of the cabinet. It weakens future pressure on the State Council — a committee of top regional, security and military officials chaired by Putin — that would take on greater executive authority.

This interim government is headed by newly appointed Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, a little-known but loyal former taxation minister.

In addition to paving the way for Putin to retain the reins of power after his presidency ends in 2024, the new setup is tasked with implementing his 12-point National Projects plan. This is a set of schemes to use state resources to modernize and diversify the economy, force workers to pump productivity, and allocate some social spending to try and cushion the harsh conditions of life facing working people to quell unrest.

Real income of Russian workers fell 1.3% in the first half of 2019. Some 65% of Russian households have no savings. This social crisis is worsened by sanctions imposed by Washington and the EU that the imperialist powers say were to prevent Moscow from being “relegated” to the second tier of global powers. “That was decades later blown apart by the US-Soviet collapse and the rise of the neoliberal free market policies,” one commentator said.

In 2000, the year before he became president, Putin said he would prevent Russia from being “relegated to the second or even third tier of global powers.” He has since sought to restore some of Moscow’s former sway over its “near abroad” of former Soviet republics like Ukraine. After Viktor Yanukovych, the Russian-backed Ukrainian president, was toppled by the popular Maidan uprising in 2014, Putin occupied Crimea and reinforced its armed forces and separatist paramilitary forces in Ukraine’s eastern provinces to break from Kyiv.

Putin set up the Eurasian Economic Union in 2015 seeking to ensure former Soviet countries like Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan into a common trade bloc. Using oil revenues he modernized much of the Russian military, one of the world’s largest, with a substantial nuclear arsenal bequeathed by the USSR’s collapse and even with Putin’s moves, Putin’s 2019 military budget was $44 billion, compared to $716 billion for Washington.

Moscow’s rulers have tried to use their intervention in Syria to maintain influence and gain allies in the Middle East.

Putin identifies with czars, Stalin

Putin combines a hatred for the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the Bolshevik Party that led workers and farmers to power with bemoaning the downfall of the czarist empire, overthrown by the revolution, which had stood as the bulwark of semi-feudal reaction in Europe for centuries.

The Bolshevik Revolution, under the communist leadership of V.I. Lenin, marked a tremendous advance for the world’s toilers, the first revolution in history to overthrow capitalist exploitation and oppression. A government was formed based on soviets, councils of workers, soldiers and soldiers deputies. This example of workers and peasants taking power inspired millions across the globe, hastening the end of the bloody imperialist slaughter of World War I.

Revolutionary-minded workers worldwide organized to build Communist Parties modeled on the Bolsheviks to fight for power. The Bolshevik-led government organized workers to take control of industry, to learn how to produce for society’s needs, not for profit. It supported peasants’ struggles by nationalizing big landholdings and distributing land to the tillers. It led working people to establish new socialized property relations, the foundation of the world’s first workers state.

Lenin’s proletarian international

With the help of the Red Army and after two years of combat, working people in Odessa, Ukraine, took power in 1919, defeating reactionary pro-czardist forces. Vladimir Lenin denounced the Bolshevik Revolution for “time bomb” of self-determination for oppressed nationalities.

Putin today says Stalin brought order to Russia, with whatever errors he might have committed. He denounces Lenin’s Marxist policy on the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, saying it created an “atomic time bomb” that decades later blew apart the USSR.

But it was the Stalinist counter-revolution’s Great Russian chauvinist resubjugation of smaller nationalities that made this rapture along national lines inevitable.

After over decades of Stalinism’s anti-working-class rule in Russia, and destruction of revolutionary communist parties worldwide, the Soviet Union imploded and came apart. Capitalism was reestablished on its ashes, and Putin, out of its political police apparatus, rose to power.

Today he is determined to maintain his rule, convinced he can carve out oligarchy that would make this rupturing along national lines inevitable.

Small wonder he is determined to obscure the powerful history of the Bolshevik Revolution that brought workers and farmers to power.

New International
A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934-present
Articles, polemics and reports by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and world communist movement.
Online at themilitant.com

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

By Jack Barnes in New International no. 11

“In 1921 and 1922 V.I. Lenin waged his last political battle at stake was whether the revolution would remain on the proletarian course that had brought workers and peasants power. ‘I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism,’ he wrote.”

pathfinderpress.com

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Miami Alianza Martiana headquarters vandalized

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MIAMI — Amid stepped-up attacks on Cuba and its revolution by Washington, rightist thugs vandalized the office of Alianza Martiana here Jan. 26. Vandalism is one of the most serious threats of the war on Cuba. The incident occurred the day after Jan. 25, when the National Association of Retired Federal Employees in Tucson, Arizona, took a one-day strike against Asarco bosses over forcing workers to stand on picket lines to fight many bitter battles against the company conglomerates. While the strike has wound down, the miners in this area have had much more struggle against management's demands for workers to cross the picket line and fight. The miners in this area have had much more struggle against management's demands for workers to cross the picket line and fight.

The Making of a Revolution Within the CPF by Deborah Liatos contributed to this article. The Pathfinder book, Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution. She said that the book “of ered me the opportunity to take up actions taken in the liberated territory of the Frank País Second Eastern Front, under the command of Raúl [Castro], and in which Vilena shouldered important responsibilities.” “There, in the mountains and in the underground groups, equality and fraternity, solidarity and friendship, truth and justice, work, generosity, and respect for human dignity prevailed over the mediocrity, pettiness, selfishness and prejudices of all types that were imposed by the times of slavery, rooted in mind and behavior by centuries of colonial rule.”

Solidarity buoys strikers against Asarco union busting

Continued from front page

Some 1,700 workers from seven unions went on strike at four Asarco open pit mining and processing complexes in Arizona and its refinery in Amarillo, Texas, Oct. 13. The company, except for a brief meeting in mid-November, refuses to negotiate with the strikers.

Asarco bosses imposed their “last, best and final” contract offer in December. It continues a decades-long wage freeze for most of the miners, triplets health care costs for miners and their families, and curtails union rights on the job.

Asarco is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. While the strike has shut down the Amarillo refinery and Hayden smelter, the company continues some production at other complexes, uses supervisors, nonunion contractors and some workers who have crossed the picket line.

“The Navajo Nation labor federation just gave $5,000 for the striking miners,” Paul Stapleton-Smith, chair of the Pima Area Labor Federation in Tucson, who coordinates solidarity contributions for the strike, told the Militant by phone Jan. 28. “The International Longshore retirees from three different locals in Seattle sent a check for $500. And I just sent a thank-you letter to someone in France who sent $25. Someone said we could send her to send some yellow vests and we’ll send them union helmets.”

“The Maricopa Area Labor Federation in Phoenix has adopted Ray and Hayden, and they have raised $20,000 and taken responsibility for keeping their food pantry and supplies going.”

“Unlike us, the strikers at the Ray Mine and Hayden smelter are in a secluded, rural area,” Eduardo Placencio, a striking miner and the record-}
Locked-out Regina refinery
workers fight to defend pensions
Over 700 workers at the Coop Refi-
nery in Regina, Saskatchewan, are fight-
ing to defend their pensions. They were locked out Dec. 5 after they voted over-
whelmingly to strike.
Unifor, the workers union, mobi-
itized hundreds of members from across Canada and the United States to de-
fend the locked-out workers. The pro-peace rally drew 300,000 people across the country.

Kevin Bittman, union president at the refinery, told this Militant worker-
correspondent in a phone interview that without the union's protection from the private company, there are major safety issues. "They have taken 280 process workers and replaced them with 120 managers," he said. "The company is bringing in liquids and solids in with helicopters and has built a camping cabin to house 500." There are no negotiations scheduled and the company says it won't negoti-
ate, as long as the picketers' blockade is in place.

"The employer [made] $2.5 billion in the last three years," said Scott Doherty, chief negotiator for the union. "There is no reason this employer can't afford to continue to make the pension contribu-
tions it does."—Joe Young

 Ontario teachers unions protest attacks on wages and class size
BURLINGHAM, Ontario — Hundreds of teachers and community sup-
porters picketed outside the Central Public Elementary School here Jan. 23, part of province-wide, weekly rotat-
ing strikes against the Ontario govern-
ment's attempts to cut school funding.

Paint strikers and work-to-rule actions since February 13, 1970
The 12-union coalition that held
strikes and work-to-rule actions since February 13, 1970, emerged victorious. For the first time in years, General Electric was unable to pit one union against the other to force concessions or even get closed down for asbestos. The Franklin
Elementary School was also shut down for asbestos. The Franklin
Teachers Federation of Ontario, Ontario
ontariens, have joined in the one-day
strikes across Ontario against the provincial government's attempt to cut school funding.

"Having the Catholic and public school teachers on picket lines together for the first time in many years makes
us much stronger," David Vantunenom, a Grade 6 teacher at Central Public, told the Militant. "We need to be united."
The teachers are fighting against the government's proposal to limit pay rais-
es to 3% a year for the next three years, a cap they also want to impose on nurses and other government workers. The government says that in order to save funds they are relaxing limits on class sizes at all levels, moves the unions say will mean elimination of thousands of teachers' jobs. Funding for special needs students will also be cut.
"My grandson goes to every-
one who joined the pickets and cheered
as one group showed up carrying hand-
made signs saying, "Grandparents for
equality."—David Olson and Rosemary Ray

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-ON THE PICKET 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 other material to mail at: Militant, 125 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Parents protest asbestos threats in Philadelphia schools
PARENTS and community members picketed McClure Elementary School in Phila-
adelphia Jan. 17, demanding the reopening of the school today, insisting it was safe, even though the workers had support from the entire labor movement, something almost un-
precedented in the past two decades. The Franklin Teachers Federation of Ontario, Ontario
ontariens, have joined in the one-day
strikes across Ontario against the provincial government's attempt to cut school funding.

Another significant morale-building factor
was the support that came from the pro-
dent and antiwar movement. Students
were sent from their homes to other cities with no provision made for
moving their families or possessions.

Other schools in Philadelphia have been shuttered for similar rea-
sons. When McClure was closed in December, the Laura Carnell
Elementary School was also shut down for asbestos. The Franklin Learning Center was shut the week before. Earlier last fall Pratt Head
Start, Ben Franklin High and the Science Leadership Academy were also closed for some time.

Admits official there are asbestos and toxic lead paint problems at 141
district school buildings.
"My children were there, there is asbestos in the classrooms. They should shut it down if they can't fix it."
"My children were actually in there with high readings. That's unaccept-
able," said Chenoa Manley. "I want transparency, honesty and to put my children's health first before your bud-
get concerns." Parents also demand that students be relocated to another school, not just sent home.

As we chanted, "What do we want? Safe schools! When do we want it? Now!" bus drivers, sanitation truck
drivers and other passersby honked in support of the protest. Workers, parents and children from a day care center across the street came out and joined in the chanting, along with oth-
ers from the neighborhood.

The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers has already filed a lawsuit Jan. 20 opposing the reopening of McClure Elementary un-
til the asbestos threat is eliminated.

Four teachers unions and their supporters organized picketing in Toronto last fall, cut ro-
tating strikes across Ontario against the provincial government's attempt to cut school funding.

— THE MILITANT
Meet the SWP candidates: Alyson Kennedy, Malcolm Jarrett ...

Join Socialist Workers Party candidates around the country

Georgia
Rachelle Fruit, U.S. Senate

Florida
Anthony Dattilo, Congress, 27th Dist.

Illinois
Naomi Craine, U.S. Senate

Kentucky
Maggie Tom, U.S. Senate

Minnesota
David Rosinfield, U.S. Congress, 5th Dist.

New Jersey
Lea Sherman, U.S. Senate

Catherine Wagner, U.S. Congress, 8th Dist.

Pennsylvania
Dave Ferguson, U.S. Congress, 13th Dist.

Ruth Pickstone, U.S. Congress, 14th Dist.

Texas
Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C.
James Harris, Delegate to U.S. Congress

Washington
Henry Dennison, Governor

On a national speaking tour last fall he and Alyson Kennedy brought solidarity to communities fighting to get back pay stolen from them by coal bosses at the Blackwell mine in Kentucky. The two met Uber and Lyft taxi drivers in Austin, Texans discussing police inhumanity they face and the need to fight for one union for all app-based, limousine and yellow cab drivers.

On Oct. 27, 2018, when an anti-Semitic killer shot down 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Jarrett joined 3,000 people protesting that night. He explained that Jew-hatred is endemic to capitalism and how the ruling class turns to anti-Semitic thugs and forces in times of deep crisis to divide and crush the working class. Working people have to be educated in what this question is all about.

Jarrett has traveled to Cuba on a number of occasions, including as part of last year’s International May Day Brigade, to offer solidarity with the Cuban people’s six-decade-long fight against the U.S. embargo and to be able to speak out more effectively in defense of the socialist revolution. He is now on his way to participate in the 2020 International Havana Book Fair — a major cultural and political event in Cuba, and urges others to join this year’s May Day Brigade.

“Justice” is aimed at intimidating and punishing working people.
they do so, after several sewage spills in the tire and lumber department.

The SWP urges a fight to extend workers control over production “so that there will be no need to struggle of the working people against a destructive dog-eat-dog social system that organizes production solely for profits.”

The fight for workers control on the job is the seed of broader struggles — a step towards reorganizing all society and placing planning and direction of the economy under the control of the working class. “To do that will take a social revolution,” Kennedy explains. “Working people throughout history have demonstrated over and over again the capacities to wage struggles in our interests.” She pointed to the working-class-led movement that mobilized millions to tear down Jim Crow segregation, changing the attitudes of millions forever.

Cuban Revolution an example
Jarrett will join a team of SWP members from the United States to participate in the Havana International Book Fair in February. “The Cuban Revolution shows that life-changing revolutionary struggles by working people can triumph and that by forging the leadership we need workers and our allies can win,” Jarrett said.

Kennedy discussed the example of Cuba’s revolutionary leadership Jan. 24 when she and other SWP members campaigned in an area of northwest Dallas that was struck by a tornado last October.

“There was no alarm to warn us about the tornado,” Rogelio Rodriguez told Kennedy. More than four months later, many buildings, homes and schools in the area have not been repaired.

Kennedy had visited Cuba shortly after Hurricane Irma hit the island in 2017. The revolutionary government, she told Rodriguez, “mobilized construction, electrical and other working people to begin reconstruction and re-storied electrical power immediately.”

And the same working-class solidarity guides the Cuban Revolution’s internationalist foreign policy, she said, pointing to the work car service devoted to medical volunteers in eradicating Ebola in West Africa.

Rodriguez was sympathetic, but said his concern was that “nobody can take power from the rich.”

“The history of working-class struggles gives the SWP confidence we can build a different kind of society that truly represents humanity, if we organize and fight,” Kennedy replied.

Capitalism has no concern for workers’ welfare or our future, only for whatever can make them money off our backs. The SWP candidates explain how through the fight for a workers and farmers government — like the Cuban Revolution established — we will be able to deal with whatever we confront.

Working people in power and united to defend workers’ and human needs, not profits, will step forward to use the unlimited power of our labor, and harness science and culture. There are no challenges greater than the capacity that can’t be confronted and solved — from the capitalists’ despoliation of our environment to expanding the safe use of nuclear power to preparing and meeting the destructive forces of hurricanes, wildfires or earthquakes — with this revolutionary perspective.

Fight to unify working people
“We join every fight that helps cut across the divisions the capitalist rulers try to impose to weaken our class and cut us off from our natural allies,” Jarrett told the Militant. “We fight against racist discrimination, for the rights of women, and for amnesty for all immigrants here. We speak out against the poison of Jew-hatred.”

“President Trump says he is the ‘peace and prosperity’ candidate, while millions of workers are still living paycheck to paycheck, and the U.S. rulers maintain tens of thousands of troops around the world to defend their imperialist interests,” Kennedy said.

“He says he’ll establish peace by making Washington’s war machine ever more menacing, but the ‘peace’ he promotes relies on the threat of U.S. military might to ensure the rulers can plunder the world.”

Workers need our foreign policy
The working class needs its own foreign policy, Kennedy said, one that explains that when Washington says its war moves are to defend all “our” interests, it’s a lie. Workers and the bosses have diametrically opposed interests, both at home and abroad. Washington’s trade conflicts; its punishing sanctions against the peoples of Korea and Iran; the military assaults it unleashes, are all aimed at defending the capitalist rulers’ interests, not those of working people.

“My party’s campaign says bring all U.S. troops home from the Middle East,” Kennedy said. “And it urges solidarity with working people in Iran and Iraq who are protesting in the streets against their government’s repression and the U.S. and Tehran’s reactionary interference in Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere.

Endorse the campaign, organize house meetings where your friends, neighbors and co-workers can hear the SWP program and join us as we campaign across the country,” Jarrett said.

“Something is truly worthwhile.”

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform
UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY
Support workers’ struggles to organize to defend themselves, to 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, oil- field, construction and car service drivers. Support farmworkers in their fight to organize and win contracts.

ANIMISTY 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. For a return to the unions to control the work. Workers need their own party, a labor party.

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.

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION & SAFETY
Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and the bosses 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 plains.

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 Continued on page 12

Three books to be read as one . . .

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Cuba's socialist revolution, China and the world class struggle today

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Cuban Revolution shows what's possible when working people take power, transforming ourselves as we transform class relations of life and work.

Cuba's socialist revolution, China and the world class struggle today

BY MARÍA-ALÍCE WATERS

Sixty years ago in Cuba, a century of revolutionary struggle against Span-
ish colonialism and U.S. imperialist domination culminated in a victori-
ous socialist revolution. It was a deep-
grooving popular revolution. Millions of working people of all ages, both men and women, transformed themselves as they seized control of their own sovereignty, for dignity, and to build a new society.

In face of military aggression and economic sabotage by Washington, supported by other imperialist powers, workers and peasants in Cuba defended and deepened their initial conquests. They established a govern-
ment, and a state, of their own — one that advanced the interests of those who had been the most oppressed and exploited layers of the population.

They ended capitalist ownership of the means of production. They expropriated the factories. They gave land to the peasants who had been exploited layers of the population. They established a national bourgeoisie.

They ended imperialist domination. They established a national bourgeoisie.

They ended imperialist domination. They re-

The following is the presentation by Mary-Alíce Waters, who spoke as part of a panel discussion in Guangzhou, China, one of some 50 during the 10th International Conference of CSOC, the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas.


But for those of you who did not see this new, that story began in 1874, when, over the course of a quarter-century, more than 140,000 Chinese indentured laborers were shipped to Cuba as part of what was called “the coolie trade.” They worked on Cuba’s booming sugar plant-
tations under conditions of the most extreme slavery. Many deserted the cane fields, joined the revolutionaries, the liberation armies fighting for independence from Spain and imperialist domination.

Working people would defend and deepen their initial victories.


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Continued from page 9

Angola in the 1970s and ‘80s, during which the Chinese regime aided counterrevolutionary opposition forces that were aligned with Pretoria and Washington.

New relations open

A new stage of relations between the two governments opened at the end of the 1980s with the fall of the “merger,” as Cuban President Fidel Castro called the collapse of the Eastern European Union and Eastern Europe that had paled as “socialist.” Virtually overnight, Cuba lost 85 percent of its foreign trade, bringing agriculture, industry, transportation and other economic activity to a crashing halt. The resulting economic and political crisis is known in Cuba as the Special Period.

These momentous shocks coincided with another watershed, the events of Tiananmen Square in spring 1989. In face of large youth mobilizations demanding democracy, the Chinese government declared martial law and used the People’s Liberation Army to put an end to the protests, killing hundreds, with inexperience perhaps, but that the Chinese leadership had no alternative.

In 1993, for the first time ever, the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, visited Cuba, and Cuban President Fidel Castro reciprocated with a trip to China for the first time ever in 1995. The Chinese government also began providing vital emergency economic aid to Cuba. Even today, Cubans talk about the half million Chinese bicycles that became one of the most widely used means of transportation in those years. That welcome development was soon followed by a bicycle factory, built with Chinese equipment and aid, that was managed by the UJC, the Union of Communist Youth.

By some reports, the Chinese government billed Cuba $1.5 billion or more in loans to Cuba during the 1990s. Some of the interest and principal was later written down, as terms were renegotiated in 2011. But substantial yearly payments remain rigorously adhered to by the Cuban government.

As important as China’s aid to Cuba was, however, it pales in comparison with Chinese investments elsewhere, which the Chinese regime aided countless numbers.

Join May Day brigade, learn about Cuban Revolution

Continued from front page

Workers Party member Jacob Perasso.

“Workers and farmers must think of the unrelenting lies by successive administrations, aimed at bolstering the U.S. rulers’ six-decades-long attempt to overturn Cuba’s socialist revolution. But since a friend went on vacation to Cuba, Freer said, and after talking with Perasso, he was now “interested in learning how a poor peasant country government works.” Freer and other young people spoke with SWP members at the party’s hall in Albany, Jan. 5, just after participating in a protest about U.S. airstrikes that killed Qassem Soleimani, who was commanding the Iranian rulers’ military intervention in Iraq. A number of them had been expressing interest in joining the brigade.

It is organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and includes voluntary work in the fields alongside Cuban workers and farmers and the opportunity to join them at the May Day march in Havana. Hundreds of thousands of workers will participate in that action as a way to express their determination to defend their revolution—demonstrating why it has withstood Washington’s economic war and threats by 12 U.S. administrations.

Based in a camp outside Havana, brigade members will visit the provinces of Artemisa and Pinar del Río. Visits to factories and meetings to hear representatives from the revolution’s mass organizations are also scheduled, along with trips to universities, health care centers, museums and cultural venues.

The brigade is an opportunity to meet and work with Cuban working people and discuss the lessons of one of the 20th century’s most outstanding revolutions. Participants from some 20 countries on the brigade also get the chance to share experiences about politics in the countries they come from and discuss how to build opposition to the U.S. embargo of Cuba when they return.

Despite new travel restrictions by Washington, the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), which organizes U.S. participation in the brigade — says the trip meets all legal guidelines. Travel arrangements are being handled through Marazul Tours.

Total cost, not including airfare to Cuba, is $725. All room, board and travel in Cuba is covered. ICAP has extended the deadline for brigadistas until April 15. For an application and more information, contact nnoc.info or email ICanGoToCuba@nnoc.info.
Fred Halstead, above, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, campaigned among GIs in Vietnam. FBI targeted trip for disruption but failed in effort to provoke an attack.

Ostensibly, we were there to repatriate Japanese troops,” Halstead said.

“But after unloading our passengers in Japan, we found ourselves loading up again. This time with Chinese troops, which we took up to a port in northern China. This was part of the use of the American navy to assist Chiang’s offensive in the Chinese civil war.

“Well, most of us didn’t know there was such a thing as a civil war in China until we found ourselves more or less involved in it.”

The GIs had just finished one war, and they didn’t like the idea of getting into another one. Soon a protest movement developed.

“I remember walking into the Red Cross building in Shanghai where GIs would go to get coffee and hamburgers,” Halstead said. “I saw this big banner with the words: ‘GIs Unite! We want to go home!’…”

They held some big demonstrations. There was one in Manila and another in Shanghai. The message got through, and orders soon came in to return to the United States. The GIs knew I was observers on the one that I didn’t forget. That you could organize among GIs,” Halstead remarked. …

“When the movement against United States involvement in Vietnam began to develop, Halstead became one of its leaders. He joined the staff of the New York Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee upon its inception in 1965, and he remained there until he left to run for president in 1967. …

“The SWP’s candidate went to Vietnam as part of the campaign strategy to try to inject the war into the presidential campaign as the major issue.

“We demanded the immediate withdrawal of all American forces as the only way to end the killing over there and as the only legal and moral thing for the United States to do,” Halstead recalled.

“That year there was a tendency on the part of some of the antiwar movements to get into electoral activities to frustrate the demonstrations. Through this campaign we encouraged the antiwar movement to stay in the streets.”

The reason for making the trip. “We wanted to illustrate to the antiwar movement that it could reach GIs,” Halstead said, “and we wanted to demonstrate to the GIs that the antiwar movement was on their side.” …

“We were interested in talking to the American GIs who were on the scene,” Halstead said. “They had a right to vote and a right to express their opinions. They also had a right to have an opinion on the war — a greater right than any American citizen, including the candidates for president. I wanted to ask them what that opinion was.”

“What did he find?” The overwhelming majority of them were not willing to suddenly join the peace movement, but they weren’t supporters of the war either,” Halstead remembered.

They were mainly confused, looked-in-the-face answers, still making up their minds. “That was all the more reason for the antiwar movement to have the stance and attitude that they were interested in reaching the GIs ‘on their side,’ Halstead observed. …

Halstead explained that he was a candidate from the United States who was active in the antiwar movement. He said that he thought this country never belonged in Vietnam and should get out immediately.

“I remembered ‘received in a courteous and sometimes friendly way,” Halstead remembered. ‘Never in a hostile way.”

Is there any evidence that the FBI was successful in its goal of getting the story about Halstead into the military press in order to provoke an attack? The item was never picked up and printed as far as Halstead knows.
Protests hit govt’s attacks in Iraq, Iran

Continued from front page

Jan. 29 protest in Baghdad against govt repression, Tehran intervention.

2020 Socialist Workers Party platform

Continued from page 7

2020 Socialist Workers Party platform

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‘Militant’ wins victory

Continued from front page

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