As Trump touts jobs and peace, Democrats face mounting crisis

BY TERRY EVANS

President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address to Congress Feb. 4 as a reelection rally, boasting “jobs are booming, incomes are soaring, poverty is plummeting, crime is falling, confidence is surging, and our country is thriving and highly respected again.” And he claimed he was “working to end America’s wars in the Middle East.”

The next day he got a boost when the Democrats’ impeachment drive to oust him before the 2020 elections went down to defeat. This deepened the crisis wracking the Democrats, who along with the Republicans have been the main parties of the capitalist rulers. The president’s poll numbers are now at the highest level since he was elected.

In 2016 Trump won the votes of millions of working people fed up with the disdain of successive administrations towards their deteriorating conditions of life. His Democratic opponents — from Hillary Clinton in 2016 to the dozens of rival candidates they’ve fielded this year — are desperately look for a way to prevent those “deplorables” from picking Trump again.

Continued on page 2

See Cuba’s revolution for yourself, sign up for 2020 May Day Brigade

Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president ‘Fight to win workers control of production’

BY SETH GALINSKY

“I’ve watched a lot of State of the Union speeches by both Democratic and Republican presidents,” Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, told the Militant from Dallas Feb. 5. “No matter what party is in office, they try to convince working people we are all part of a big happy family with the capitalist’s, that we are all in this together.”

“But it’s not ‘our’ country, or ‘our’ government,” Kennedy said. “Working people and the owners of big business have sharply counterposed interests. They exploit our labor at home and turn us into cannon fodder in their wars to protect markets and exploitation abroad.

“They want to make as much profit as they can by keeping our wages as low and the pace of production as fast as they can get away with.”

“On-the-job injuries are climbing.

Continued on page 3

Support miners on strike against Asarco bosses’ union busting!

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

Copper miners on strike in Arizona and Texas continue to staff the picket lines 24/7 and reach out for support against the union-busting attack of Asarco’s bosses. “We are continuing Sunday dinners at the Mission picket line and Friday dinner and movie nights at the Silver Bell picket line,” Ruben Gonzalez, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 937, told the Militant by phone Feb. 4.

Some 1,700 workers from seven unions went on strike Oct. 13 at Mission and Silver Bell, near Tucson; two other mining complexes in Arizona; and Asarco’s refinery in Ama- rillo, Texas. The workers are fighting:

Continued on page 4

Open door for talks on Israel, Palestine state recognition

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Donald Trump administration’s long-anticipated plan to achieve a negotiated settlement in the Middle East calls on Palestinian groups to recognize Israel and for the Israeli government to recognize a Palestinian state.

President Trump announced the plan, which he says can be the basis for talks that can produce a different outcome from failed efforts by Democratic and Republican presidents alike since the 1990s, at a Jan. 28 White House press conference. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Ne- tanyahu joined him.

The ambassadors of the capitalist regimes in the United Arab Emir- ates, Bahrain and Oman attended the White House news conference. United Arab Emirates Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba called the plan “an important starting point for a return

Continued on page 9

Out of the EU, UK rulers seek trade bloc with Washington

BY TERRY EVANS

As promised, the Conservative U.K. government led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson walked out of the European Union Jan. 31, dealing a blow to the Ger- man and French rulers who dominate it.

Johnson’s government will now start talks, first and foremost with Wash- ington, to form a new trade bloc that will determine whether he can chart an ef- fective course for the U.K.’s capitalist rulers in the years ahead.

Continued on page 6

Inside

Relatives of slain protesters in Iran reject govt’t bribes 4
UK fight over firing for defense of women’s rights, science 6
SWP: Why workers should fight for control of production 9

– On the picket line, p. 5 –

Seattle hospital workers strike for patients before profits

Amazon, Walmart robots speed up work, increase injuries

2019 May Day march in Havana. International solidarity brigade with Cuba will join in this year’s March 21, visit factories and farms, and meet with wide range of Cuban workers and youth.

Aspiration/Gerardo Sánchez

2019 May Day march in Havana. International solidarity brigade with Cuba will join in this year's march, visit factories and farms, and meet with wide range of Cuban workers and youth.

Cuba Solidarity Campaign
The Militant, February 17, 2020

Trump crows, Democrats crisis

Continued from front page

rables” from electing him again.

The president told Congress and the others invited to the State of the Union speech that his administration was “re-

lently pro-worker” and had engi-

neered a “blue-collar boom.” He pointed in particular to the drop in unem-

ployment, including for African Americans, women, youth and veterans.

It’s not Trump’s policies — which he says are geared at strengthening

the bosses and bankiers, then “trick-

killing” to you and me — that

caused the uptick in jobs. It’s a cycli-

cal economic upturn that takes place within a long-term crisis of capitalism

in which a broad carnage still bears

down on workers and farmers.

Trump claimed average household in-

come was the highest ever, but millions of

workers know from experience that prices of basic necessities are climbing too. Last year health care prices rose by 4.6% and housing by 3.2%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. And millions still struggle paycheck-to-pay-

check as household debt is rising.

The president said he was “curing the opioid epidemic,” pointing to the

first drop in 30 years in the numbers dying from overdoses in 2018. But that
drop — a mere 4% from the previous year — still saw 67,000 people die of
drug overdoses, part of the broad social

crisis bearing down on working people.

“America is the place where anyone

can rise,” Trump claimed, hoping to

appeal to workers

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The ‘Militant’ joins fights for

the right to vote for ex-prisoners, and

workers behind bars.

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These are expressed in editorials.

Behold the Dallas-Based Underdog Candidate of the 2020 Presidential Election

Alyson Kennedy remains ready to start the revolution.

Socialist Workers Party launching campaign of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett for president and vice president was featured in Feb. 5 “Frontburner” column in D Magazine.

The article quoted from press release announcing Feb. 8 meeting launching the campaign in Dallas, “My campaign presents a road forward for working-class struggle to advance the self-

confidence, fighting capacities and class consciousness of working people,” Kennedy said.

Join the Socialist Workers Party 2020 Presidential Campaign

Hear: Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for US President; Gerardo Sánchez, for US Senate

Saturday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

Donations: $5

1005 W. Jefferson Blvd. Suite 207
We need workers control over production,” Kennedy said. “That’s a key part of our platform. It’s how our workers can defend themselves on the job at the same time as we can begin to see that we are capable of replacing the bosses and their government and run society ourselves.”

“Working people cannot look to the White House, or Congress or any capitalist politician to change the conditions we face,” Kennedy said. “We have to build a movement to fight for higher wages, better conditions and workers control. To open the road to making working people take power and forming a workers and farmers government.

“That’s why our campaign says workers need to stand up for a labor party, and why we are proposing a fighting platform to go forward,” she said.

Kennedy, her running mate Malcolm Jarrett, and SWP candidates for U.S. Senate and other offices, are campaigning in cities and towns, large and small, talking to working people on their doorsteps.

On Feb. 2, Kennedy campaigned with Gerardo Sánchez, the party’s candidate for U.S. Senate, teamed up to campaign in Joshua, Texas. They ran into Carol Ortega as she was caring for her husband at her part-time job at a Valero gas station.

“Our party is a working-class party that believes the only way to change the deteriorating conditions that we live every day is to stand up and fight,” Kennedy told her. “Our campaign backs every fight by workers for better wages and working conditions, like the strike being waged today by copper miners against the Asarco bosses in Texas and Arizona.”

Ortega told them she was facing hard times. When the “Affordable Care Act” was first passed, she said, “I was able to get health insurance for $78 a month for me and my son, but now I pay $378 just for myself!” Kennedy showed her The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People, a book by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, which describes how the Clinton administration together with a Republican-controlled Congress worked together to end the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

“I didn’t know about that,” Ortega said. “I always thought Clinton was a good president.”

No matter which party is in the White House, Kennedy said, the president is just the chief executive officer of the capitalist class. Obama’s “affordable” health care is just another program that benefits big capitalist insurance companies. The Socialist Workers Party fights for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

Ortega got a copy of the Militant and asked Kennedy and Sánchez to come back after payday so she can get a subscription and some of the books by party leaders they should have her.

U.S. out of the Middle East!

“My campaign demands that Washington immediately withdraw every single troop and all of its military weapons from the Middle East,” Kennedy told Shakir Ali, a cashier who emigrated to the U.S. from Yemen.

“I think the U.S. should stay because the Iranian government is so bad,” Ali said, referring to Tehran’s treatment of women, lượt than, and arms dealing.

“But the U.S. intervention there aims to defend the capitalists’ investments and markets, not the interests of working people,” Kennedy said. “In fact, their wars are an obstacle to us organizing and fighting there for more control and better conditions.”

“The platform of the SWP is not designed to patch up the crisis-ridden capitalist system, but to point a road forward for working people to fight to protect their interests against the brutal aggression of the bosses, their political parties and their government.”

“Working people in Yemen and Iran, just like in the U.S., need to gain self-confidence and class consciousness in struggle to replace the capitalist regimes there,” Kennedy said.

Workers control of production

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 to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of all workers, and to develop their own party, a labor party and a movement of millions to fight for these demands along a socialist and revolutionary line.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death demand for legal status and citizenship.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed jobs program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation systems and affordable housing. Jobs for all!

OPPOSE THE WAR On Iraq and Afghanistan — end all U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. End US colonial rule in the Middle East.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE

End the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba. US out of Guantanamo. 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 for all.

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.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND end US colonial rule in the Middle East — fighting people taking power and forming a workers and farmers government.

“Working people in Yemen and Iran, just like in the U.S., need to gain self-confidence and class consciousness in struggle to replace the capitalist regimes there,” Kennedy said.
Relatives of slain protesters in Iran reject gov't bribes

BY TERRY EVANS

Relatives of protesters who were murdered by Tehran’s security forces last November have spoken out against the Iranian rulers since the mass protests began in late 2017. Each time the government threatened with retaliation if they refuse, public sector jobs if they comply, and lump payments, monthly pensions, slots for their children at universities, and concessions, including extending a worker to take out ore.”

Asarco is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the world’s largest mining conglomerates. Copper company executives say, “It’s the best way to use electricity will produce.”

Back Asarco miners strike against union busting

Continued from front page
curse the capitalist rulers’ economic crisis at home. The
ting the unions’ right to protect
f imperial Community Services via
h the mine workforce and the population
Nevada. A significant part of the
Brenda Bolton, TX 79108.
numbers for friends from
ternationalism laid the political foundation
the one that was decisive in defeating

In Pinar del Rio province in western Cuba, and in Artemisa province they will be able to attend panel presentations on the Cuban economy and the legacy of Che Guevara, as well as visit health care centers, factories, universities, farm cooperatives, museums and cultural venues to learn more about the revolution. “The participation in the brigade of a growing number of friends from all over the world shows not only motivation to know Cuba,” ICAP’s North America Director Sandra Yisel Ramirez said announcing the brigade, “but also how solidarity with the island spreads, encouraged by the commitment the Cuban Revolution brings in the struggle against the U.S. blockade and our right to exist as an independent and sovereign nation.”

This is especially important, as the U.S. rulers have stepped up their 60-year campaign to use economic sanc-
tions to try and undermine the revolu-
tion. Washington has also accelerated its smear campaign slandering Cuba’s internationalist military missions, like the one that was decisive in defeating the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

To prepare for the brigade, partici-
pants can read the new Pathfinder book
Red Zone, by Enrique Uberta Gómez. It tells how Cuba’s revolutionary interna-
tionalism laid the political foundation for the 2014 battle against Ebola.

Meeting volunteers who participated in these internationalist efforts, seeing firsthand the gains of the revolution and learning concretely the challenges faced by the Cuban people under blows of the U.S. rulers’ economic war will make brigadistas better armed to answer Washington’s slanders and win broader support for Cuba’s revolution.

Travel arrangements are being orga-
nized in accordance with U.S. guide-
lines by Marazul Tours. Total cost, not including airfare to Cuba, is $725. You can call us at 305-695-2828. For more information visit: www.nnoc.info or email kandGToCuba@nnoc.info

Three books to be read as one...

...about building the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary” in the imperialist epoch. See distributors page 8 or visit pathfinderpress.com
Amazon, Walmart robots speed up work, increase injuries

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In their dog-eat-dog competitive war against one another, Amazon and its chief retail rival Walmart are stepping up the use of robots to speed up and intensify the exploitation of their workers. This stifling competition has pushed them into onerous retail outfits into crisis — from Kohl’s to J.C. Penney to bankrupt Sears — all of which face declining sales and store closings.

Amazon now has over 200,000 robots roaming around its warehouses, double the number it had last year and up from a mere 15,000 in 2014. And injury rates in these mammoth Rubik’s cube-like distribution centers are rising.

A recent study of 28 Amazon warehouses in 16 states by the Center for Investigative Reporting showed that the overall rate of serious injuries was 96 per 100 full-time workers in 2018. That’s more than double the warehouses industry average. And, from 2015 to 2017 fatalities in those warehouses jumped from 11 to 22 annually.

To push workers harder, Atlantic magazine reported in December that Amazon bosses combine “cutting-edge technology, unrelenting surveillance, and constant disciplinary write-ups.” One unnamed top-level operations manager told the magazine that the company “incentivizes you to be a heartless son of a bitch.”

To compete, Walmart and its brick-and-mortar competitors have ramped up the pace as well, leading to 3.5 out of every 100 workers being injured or sickened in 2018 — edging out the rate in basic manufacturing. The most dangerous operations, Finance & Commerce reported, were stores selling home furnishings, building materials and tires, and anything calling itself a supercenter.

At an Amazon warehouse in Connecticut, Amanda Taillon’s job is to enter a cage to pick up toys dropped by 6-foot-tall roving robots. “When you’re out there, and you can hear them moving around, but you can’t see them,” she told The Associated Press, “it’s like, ‘Where are they going to come supercenter?’ It’s a little nerve-racking at first.”

Amazon has a big edge on e-commerce sales, but Walmart has a big edge over everyone in real-live stores, and has been seeing ways to catch up online. In 2018, while Walmart’s online sales grew, it lost about $2 billion. But remaining e-commerce losses in 2018 — Walmart’s traditional revenue is more than twice Amazon’s.

Walmart bosses are also trying to squeeze greater use out of their giant superstores. This includes expanding online grocery pickup and home delivery service, which currently involves more than 1,000 stores.

In January Walmart announced it is testing a giant grocery-picking robot operation called Alphabot. Its 20,000 square-foot facility uses 30 cubic robots inside a giant shelving system to pick and pack grocery orders. The bosses claim this automated system will pick 800 products an hour, 10 times faster than a store worker. But of course these humans working in the Alphabet system will have to work faster and faster, at the expense of their safety and health. And, like in Amazon’s warehouses, the bosses use the robots “to visually track the pace” of your work.

Not to be undone, Amazon bosses are creating checkout terminals at their actual stores that link your debt or credit card information to your phone. A similar payment system is being tested at Amazon’s Whole Foods chain, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Through so-called smart voice-recognition programs like Amazon’s Alexa, orders can be placed for just about everything. There are now more than 100 million Alexa-enabled devices around the world, and the number is growing fast, with tens of millions of orders being placed every month.

Place your orders with Alexa …

Just about anyone can place an order. “Move Over, Santa! Kids Are Asking Alexa to Bring Them Presents,” headlined an article in the Dec. 21 Journal. It described numerous examples where young children ordered hundreds of dollars of toys and other goods through Alexa with their parents not knowing until they showed up at the door.

While Amazon and a variety of competitors are gearing up to begin driving deliveries directly to customers’ doorsteps, FedEx has been testing its own same-day delivery robots in several cities. As mentioned, FedEx has its robots move about the streets of Manhattan at the end of November, weaving around cars and pedestrians. City officials, claiming these were unregistered vehicles, ordered them off the streets — for now.

Meanwhile, store vacancies in U.S. shopping malls are at the highest level in decades. Macy’s announced Jan. 8 plans to shut 29 stores and Kiehl’s Beyond said its sales dropped 9% last quarter, among many of the retail losers who fear the handwriting on the wall.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement

February 20, 1970

The longest strike in General Motors history ended Jan. 22 in what appears to be a victory for the striking 2,700 UAW members at the GM Fisher Body plant in Flint, Mich.

The agreement which ended the strike provides for 43.5 hours per week instead of the 55 units the company originally demanded.

The settlement came immediately after the UAW head office called for a regional conference to consider ways of giving further support to the strike since the union had former national implications for the upcoming negotiations with the entire auto industry.

We can only wait and see just how much the Flint workers actually have won. For sure, they taught GM management that arbitrary speedup brings countermeasures.
UK rulers seek US trade bloc

Continued from front page

He says he will also fulfill his pledge to the largely working-class voters who put him in power to make their condi-
tions of life better, a course that could result in a long-term shift in the political lineup in the U.K.

Millions of working people helped form a majority that voted for the U.K. to get out of the EU in 2016 referen-
dum, seeking to put an end to its intru-
sion into their lives and in opposition to the Conservatives, Labour and all the main capitalist parties that predicted a catastrophe if the U.K. quit.

In the three years since those same par-
ties along with the EU bureaucracy ob-
structed carrying out the 2016 vote, be-
lieving they should “correct” those who voted the “wrong” way. But Johnson de-
fated the “remain” wing of the Conserv-
atives, taking over the party leadership, and routed the Labour Party in Decem-
ber’s election. He won by taking seats in largely working-class areas — especial-
ly in the north of England — that had been held by Labour for decades. He says he will redeem those “borrowed” votes by making the country “level-
el” up the areas of the U.K. where work-
ing people face greatest hardship.

Speaking on Jan. 31, Johnson said the U.K. government’s “work in the EU” would usher in “a new era in which we no longer ac-
ccept that your life chances ... should de-
pend on which part of the country you grow up in.”

He pointed to his government’s ex-
panded funding for the National Health Service and promised the biggest round of infra-
structure construction since the “Victorians.” He presents a different “pathfinderpress.com

UK fight over firing for defense of women’s rights, science

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

MANCHESTER, England — Judge James Taylor of the Central London Employment Tribunal upheld the fir-
ing of Maya Forstater Dec. 19. Forstater had spoken out against undermining women's rights in the name of protect-
ing women's rights. Her firing had been justified under the U.K.'s Gender Recognition Act, which allows you to formally change your gender simply by filing a certificate.

Forstater challenged her firing, and protested the tribunal's decision to hold it. “There are two sexes, male and female,” she said. “It is impossible to change sex. These were un-
til very recently understood as basic fac-
ts of life by almost everyone.”

This judgment removes women’s rights and the right to freedom of belief and speech,” she added. “It gives judi-
cial license for women and men who speak up for objective truth and clear 
debate to be subject to aggression, bully-
ing, no-platforming and economic punish-
ment.”

Forstater’s firing was lawful since her 
insistence on her right to refer to people by their actual biological sex “even if it violates their dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humili-
ating or offensive environment.” Appar-
ently, there’s nothing “intimidating” or “hostile” about firing someone for ex-
pressing their opinions.

Making it crystal clear that bosses can legitimately place limits on work-
ers’ freedom of expression, Taylor said that Forstater could oppose reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, as well as call for the exclusion of trans women from women-only spaces, but could not say “that biological sex is immutable.”

Forstater’s most high-profile defense came from J.K. Rowling. “Dress how you please. Call yourself whatever you like. Sleep with any consenting adult who’ll have you,” the Harry Pot-
ter series author wrote in response to the ruling. “Live your best life in peace and security.”

But Forstater’s decision to continue to say them.”

Of particular concern to Forstater was to defend places historically reserved for women. “Women and girls lose out on privacy, safety and fairness if males are allowed into changing rooms, dormito-
ries, prisons, sports teams,” she said. Judge Taylor ruled in December that Forstater’s firing was lawful since her insistence on her right to refer to people by their actual biological sex “even if it violates their dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humili-
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ers’ freedom of expression, Taylor said that Forstater could oppose reforms to the Gender Recognition Act, as well as call for the exclusion of trans women from women-only spaces, but could not say “that biological sex is immutable.”

Forstater’s most high-profile defense came from J.K. Rowling. “Dress how you please. Call yourself whatever you like. Sleep with any consenting adult who’ll have you,” the Harry Pot-
ter series author wrote in response to the ruling. “Live your best life in peace and security.”

But Forstater’s decision to continue to say them.”

Of particular concern to Forstater was to defend places historically reserved for women. “Women and girls lose out on privacy, safety and fairness if males are allowed into changing rooms, dormito-
ries, prisons, sports teams,” she said. Judge Taylor ruled in December that Forstater’s firing was lawful since her insistence on her right to refer to people by their actual biological sex “even if it violates their dignity and/or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humili-
ating or offensive environment.” Appar-
ently, there’s nothing “intimidating” or “hostile” about firing someone for ex-
pressing their opinions.
China rulers take steps to consolidate control in Asia

BY ROY LANDERSEN

While big-business press headlines have focused on the trade disputes and agreements between Washington and Beijing, the course of the rulers in China has become increasingly clear. Armed with a long view, they are focused on building their own empire in Asia linked by their Belt and Road Initiative without engaging in a fight with the U.S. rulers for world supremacy, for now.

This is most clearly seen in how the state bureaucracy in China is pushing its ambitious “Made in China 2025” policy. At the end of last year, Beijing announced it would remove all foreign technology from every state office and public institution by 2022. As part of the goal of developing “secure and controllable” technology, up to 30 million computers will be replaced.

In two years, Beijing insists, no workstations that are not made in China and based on Chinese programming will be permitted to operate in government offices or the vast network of state-linked enterprises.

The aim is to become completely self-reliant in making new-generation wireless and internet telecommunications gear; artificial intelligence, automation and robotics; synthetic materials; as well as aerospace, maritime, biopharmaceutical and other high-tech manufacturing, key to a modernized capitalist economy — and military — of the future.

Beijing is focusing on pouring billions into research and development on Chinese equipment and technology. It offers a wide range of enticements — both legal and otherwise — to overseas Chinese scientists and others to join its push to become self-sufficient in science and technology.

The goal of China’s bureaucratic rulers isn’t to use this shift to challenge Washington in Europe and the U.S. It’s to have the equipment, software and resources to draw neighboring regimes to Beijing’s orbit. It’s to have the equipment, soft power and resources to draw neighboring regimes to Beijing’s orbit.

In this framework, both Washington and Beijing have reached a new trade deal that lifted the recent series of tit-for-tat tariffs.

For decades the Chinese rulers sought to use high-tech dominance to help establish long-term bloc with reliant Asian regimes.

Harvard scientists charged in spying for China

BY ROY LANDERSEN

In a high-profile escalation of Washington’s campaign against intellectual property theft by the rulers in Beijing, FBI agents arrested professor Charles Lieber, chair of Harvard University’s department of chemistry and chemical biology, Jan. 28. He was charged with lying to federal investigators about receiving millions of dollars in funding from Chinese institutions and hiding his involvement in the Thousand Talents Plan, Beijing’s program to attract top foreign-educated scientists to China.

“Chemistry, nanotechnology, polymer studies, robotics, computer science, biomedical research” were listed by Andrew Lelling, the lead federal prosecutor in Boston, as the sciences involved in the cases before them. These are “not an accident or a coincidence” he said. “This is a small sample of China’s ongoing campaign to siphon off American technology and know-how.”

The bureaucratic rulers in Beijing are on a forced march to develop their own self-sufficient internet and cellphone networks, as well as more advanced scientific systems. These are intended for exclusive use in China and in drawing countries in the region into reliance on them.

Two other scientists, both Chinese nationals, were indicted the same day as Lieber. Zaosong Zheng, a Harvard-sponsored cancer researcher, was charged with trying to smuggle biological material out of the U.S. He allegedly had 21 vials of cells, stolen from a Boston laboratory, hidden in a sock as he tried to board a plane to Beijing last December.

Yanying Ye, a researcher at Boston University’s department of physics, chemistry and biomedical engineering until she left for China last April, was accused of hiding the fact she was previously a lieutenant in the People’s Liberation Army and that while in the U.S. she continued to receive assignments from Chinese military authorities.

She is alleged to have accessed U.S. military websites and researched U.S. scientists with expertise in robotics and computer science, sending the information to Beijing. She was charged in her absence with visa fraud, making false statements, acting as an agent of a foreign government and conspiracy.

The criminal charges against Lieber caused a shock in scientific circles, since he is a pioneer in nanotechnology, the science of manipulating individual molecules and atoms. His work was credited with helping to develop “bio-nano electronic sensors capable of detecting diseases down to the level of a single infectious virus particle.” Ironically, he was charged just as a global health emergency scare has erupted over the new coronavirus epidemic spreading from China.

The arrests and increased U.S. government attention to theft of scientific research and technological innovation for China are potentially very disruptive to “American science,” said Frank Wu, a law professor and former president of the Committee of 100, an organization of prominent Chinese Americans. “The number of people who have some connection to China is so vast.”

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

in New International no. 11

U.S. imperialism has lost the Cold War. The enormity of imperialism’s historic loss is revealed by the speed with which some of the most fundamental trends of world politics in the post-WWII era have changed and are changing.

Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters in “Ours is the epoch of world revolution.”

Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes

in New International no. 12

pathfinderpress.com

Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa

“Just as the Cuban combatants in Angola set an example that can never be erased, the heroic actions of Cuba’s army of white coats will occupy a place of honor.”

—Fidel Castro, October 2014

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Fidel’s leadership was decisive in defending Angola independence

Below are excerpts from one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for February, Cuba & Angola: The War for Freedom by Harry Villegas. In 1988, he was on top of everything, day in and day out. He went to the command post daily. During the Cambango battle, Polo [Gen. Leopoldo Céspedes Fria] spoke to the Commander every day at 7:00 p.m. by radio. I’ve described the foresight that Fidel demonstrated in that battle and the confidence he inspired in the troops. He was always concerned about the well-being of the combatants.

Che said Fidel’s greatness lay in the details. During the struggle in Angola, he wanted to see everything, touch everything, verify everything.

“Don’t tell me what Polo or [Gen. Arnaldo] Ochoa told you, or what anyone else told you,” he would say to me. “Tell me what you saw and touched yourself. And if it’s feasible, bring me some evidence of what you saw and touched.”

As UNITA’s actions began escalating and further jeopardized Angola’s stability, Fidel followed events even more closely. We had to provide him with more information, and more frequently.

He’d ask your opinion: “Well, if it were like this, not like that, what would you do?”

Fidel always kept analyzing every- thing, the changing elements, and drew his conclusions. …

WATERS: The internationalist aid to Angola over a nearly sixteen-year period was an enormous effort for a relatively small and economically under-developed nation such as Cuba. Beginning in 1989, almost simultaneously with the decision in Angola to join the Popular Front, the disintegration of the Soviet bloc regimes led to the collapse of most of Cuba’s foreign trade agreements and many aid projects, sparking the severe economic crisis of the 1990s. Some Cubans express the view that the resources that went to help Angola should have been used at home. Whether or not the final objectives were achieved, these are glorious pages in the history of the peoples that have created the foundations for the future. The internationalist mission in Angola strengthened us in every re- spect. But above all, I would say, in consciousness. Angola exposed us to a reality very different from what we were familiar with in Cuba. We lived and struggled to defend the Angolan revolution. With our own eyes we have examined the legacy of the generation of Sandino, the Latin American guerrilla with his or her life, you admire and learn from. Those experiences included three of our Five Heroes [the Cuban Five] — Gerardo, Fernando, and René — who proved capable of self-sacrifice, of acting on behalf of other human beings, of defending sister peoples against the apartheid regime.

All that strengthened us politically.

The generation that went through those experiences included three of our Five Heroes [the Cuban Five] — Gerardo, Fernando, and René — who later carried out an internationalist mission in the United States in defense of the revolution.

It was not only a learning experience for those who took part in the internationalist mission. When you know that your father or mother or grandfather went to Angola as a vol- unteer, a poor, old, illiterate worker, without receiving a cent, and risked his or her life, you admire and learn from that example.

As Raúl [Castro] said, thanks to Angola, “all of us know much better what we are capable of achieving.” In the 1990s the experience of Angola helped us pass the hard years of the Special Period.

Today in Cuba we face big eco- nomic challenges. Without economic guarantees there can be no socialism. Our goal is to increase production of the means of subsistence, and to do it more efficiently. But above all else, we want to put people at the center of everything we do.

That’s what we did in Angola. We proved capable of giving all in ex- change for nothing. Nothing but the satisfaction of having fulfilled our commitment to humanity.

That’s very important for the education of the new generations.

When Raúl said when our combatants returned from Angola in 1991 re- mains true today: “When we face new and unexpected challenges we will prove we can pass all of Angola with gratitude, because with- out Angola we would not be as strong as we are today.”

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Socialist Workers Party Campaign Statement

Why workers should fight for control of production

As part of strengthening the self-confidence, fighting capacities and class consciousness of working people, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, explain why the fight for workers control of production is a key part of advancing our struggles against the bosses and their capitalist government.

It is our labor that creates all the wealth that the bosses take from us every day. Throughout industry they raise line speeds and cut corners on safety, the bosses make no guarantees about their decisions or their outcomes. They have no concern about how their drive for profits endangers our lives and limbs, undermines our quality of life, nor how it destroys the environment and prevents us from conserving the earth’s patrimony for future generations.

From time to time workers are able to wrest some control over safety on the job from the bosses as we organize and build unions, the key defensive generation.

The capitalist profiteers cannot permit the workers in a factory or an industry to have an effective lasting veto power over the way the industry is run. The workers themselves, once they acquire a certain measure of control, either have to go forward to complete control or give up the measure of veto power they have acquired.

The Transitional Program for Socialist Revolution by Leon Trotsky

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Open the door for talks on recognition of Israel and of a Palestinian state

Continued from front page to negotiations.

The governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Qatar also welcomed the U.S. administration’s initiative. The Qatari government — which gives hundreds of millions of dollars to both Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank — released a statement saying it appreciates “all efforts aiming to achieve a lasting and just peace in the occupied Palestinian territories.”

This is a change from the not-so-distant past when most Arab governments gave aid and political support to the refusal and clandestine efforts of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.

The mostly Sunni-led regimes in the region have increasingly come to accept the primacy of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas in seeking to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.

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When Netanyahu attempted to use the proposed deal to push through legislation recognizing Israeli law over the settlements in the West Bank, Kushner warned him off.

Negotiations a ‘political necessity’

When the Trump administration, backed by Democratic Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in December 2017, the Socialist Workers Party said this showed the “political necessity for the Israeli and Arab governments and leaderships of Palestinian organizations to begin immediate talks to recognize both Israel and an independent Palestinian state.”

Trump’s new proposal calls for the same response.

The SWP statement notes that negotiations “must recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war.”

An agreement along these lines would advance the ability of working people “of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine,” it said, “to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation” in the region.

In the face of decades of defeats and setbacks for working people in the Middle East, caused by anti-working-class misleaderships, whether Stalinist, bourgeois nationalist or Islamist, the SWP says, the working-class misleaderships, whether Stalinist, bourgeois nationalist or Islamist, the SWP says, the

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

And the administration has pressed the Israeli government not to take any new steps in the occupied territories.

The fact is working people in the West Bank and Gaza have been losing confidence in the Palestinian Authority and Hamas leaderships, tired of their dead-end course. Hamas has repressed demonstrations and locked up opponents as discontent with its rule has grown, even as it has cut deals with the Israeli government to allow thousands of Gazans to work inside Israel.

Every time the Palestinian misleaders refuse to pursue “business as usual” to achieve a settlement, it means they start from a worse position. “The record of Arab-Israeli peace efforts can be summed up succinctly,” New York Times columnist and former Jeru- salem Post Editor-in-Chief Breet Stephens said in his Jan. 30 Times column. “Nearly every time the Arab side said no, it wound up with less.”

Well-known Saudi journalist Abduralrahman Al-Rashed wrote in Ashary Al-Awani, “The greatest danger to Palestinian interests now is to do nothing and continue waiting for a miracle.”

All of these factors mean the Trump administration plan has a better chance of making headway than any other proposal in decades.

The proposal’s ‘starting point’

Under the Trump administration proposal about 70% of the West Bank would be under Palestinian rule, and some 30%, centered around the Israeli settlements there, would be ceded to Israel.

An “undivided Jerusalem” under Israeli control would become the capital of Israel. The plan guarantees that Palestine’s capital would be in neighborhoods to the east of what is traditionally East Jerusalem, outside the current “security” wall.

The deal promises a four-year freeze on new Israeli settlements. In exchange for landlocked Gaza, the plan prevents Israel from extending the West Bank farther south and would give the Palestinian state two additional areas, near Gaza and the West Bank.

The Trump administration proposal also calls for disarm- ing Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for the first time through an underground high-speed rail line, and offers $50 billion in economic “assistance.”

The Trump administration is also pressing the Israeli government to hold off any new moves to allow the greatest chance for the opening of negotiations.

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Nations recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war.”

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For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

• For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act

• For workers’ solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement

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The Militant  February 17, 2020 9