

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Expand the reach of the 'Militant'!
Defend Ukraine sovereignty!
— PAGE 3

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 10 MARCH 14, 2022

Locked-out Ohio aerospace strikers win broad solidarity

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

TROY, Ohio — “UAW Locked out!” declared signs carried by dozens of workers, members of the United Auto Workers Local 128, at two plant gates outside Collins Aerospace here Feb. 26. Passing drivers honked in support.

Ellen Brickley, Jacquie Henderson and Maggie Trowe, members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union and United Food and Commercial Workers union drove up from Cincinnati to join the pickets in solidarity. We brought buckets of hot chicken and greetings from our co-workers.

When we met striker Deon Harris, a wheel and brake inspector, we told him we were also bringing support from the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, Samir Hazboun. “He learned that you’re locked out and urged us to take his message of support to your picket line,” Trowe explained. Harris told her that he appreciated the support.

Harris said he and others on the picket line were angry that the company re-

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Defend Ukraine’s independence! For defeat of Moscow’s invasion! US troops, nuclear arms out of Europe, all of Europe!

The following statement was issued March 3 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the SWP National Committee.

The Vladimir Putin regime in Russia has unleashed a murderous war, including massive bombardment of civilian-occupied urban centers in Ukraine. In face of this intentional carnage, and despite Putin’s dangerous and provocative ac-

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

tion placing Moscow’s nuclear forces on high alert, Ukrainians are fighting courageously, often arms in hand, to defend Ukraine’s national sovereignty and independence. The Socialist Workers Party hails their resistance and calls for the defeat of Putin’s invading forces.

As the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union collapsed in face of massive popular mobilizations at the beginnings of the 1990s, Ukraine was



AP/Dmitri Lovetsky

“No to war!” protesters chant in St. Petersburg Feb. 25. More than 7,000 have been arrested as tens of thousands joined actions in 54 Russian cities against Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

one of 14 former republics to declare national independence. Now Putin’s regime is ruthlessly seeking to claw back, under Moscow’s hegemony, those nations incarcerated in the czarist prison house of nations, regenerating the Russian empire today with Putin as its czar.

Putin’s aim is “to erase our history, erase our country,” as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky concisely put it March 1.

Putin insists Ukraine is not a nation and has no right to exist as one. “Modern Ukraine was entirely and fully created by Russia,” he claims. It is “an inalienable part of our own [Russian] history, culture and spiritual space.” He proclaims that his hoped-for resurrection of the empire is a step toward rejuvenating Christendom, with its “Holy See” in the Russian Orthodox patriarchate of Moscow.

Prosecutors quit as frame-up of former President Trump unravels

BY TERRY EVANS

After three years probing former President Donald Trump’s alleged financial skullduggery, two leading Manhattan prosecutors, Carey Dunne and Mark Pomerantz, quit Feb. 23, convinced there would be no prosecution of Trump. The grand jury they were running, empaneled as part of the Democrats’ ongoing efforts to stigmatize and indict Trump and drive him out of politics, had stalled.

Despite getting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling making Trump’s tax returns

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Russia’s armed forces are facing tenacious resistance and taking thousands of deaths and injuries in the first week of the assault. In face of these setbacks, Moscow’s armed forces have now stepped up heavy bombardment of residential and commercial areas in hopes of sowing terror and cowing the Ukrainian people

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Ukraine toilers put up fierce resistance to Putin’s invasion

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Unleashing a deadly bombardment on Ukrainian urban centers, the regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin is slaughtering thousands. Overwhelmingly outgunned and outmanned, Ukrainian troops and civilians are mounting courageous and tenacious resistance

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Canadian truckers continue to face gov’t attack, keep pressing for rights



Militant/Kaitlin Estill

Truck driver Wesley Green, right, at Lebanon, Ohio, truck stop Feb. 22 told Socialist Workers Party member Ned Measel he supports Canadian truckers and “protests outside White House.”

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Attacks continue against truckers and other participants in the recent Freedom Convoy organized in Ottawa demanding an end to government vaccine mandates, despite the protest ending and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lifting the Emergencies Act Feb. 23. The government had carried out one of the biggest-ever police operations against

working people.

Police arrested nearly 200 people, laying almost 400 charges. They seized and impounded 115 vehicles, denying truckers their means to earn a living. Cops in Ottawa instructed truckers who had vehicles impounded to pay “recovery costs” of up to 1,191 Canadian dollars (\$939) by March 4 and retrieve them, or their vehicles

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Protests hit UPS bosses’ cuts on part-time workers’ wages

New Zealand CHEP pallet workers fight for higher pay

Bakery workers in California make gains in 113-day strike

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — “Management and the corporate office believed we would break once we didn’t have a paycheck or health insurance. We didn’t,” strike leader Miguel Perez told the *Militant* at the victorious conclusion of 113-day walkout at the Rich’s Jon Donaire Desserts plant in nearby Santa Fe Springs. The workers, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 37, returned to work Feb. 28 after ratifying a new contract five days earlier.

The workers struck Nov. 3, refusing to buckle to the company’s hard-ball offer of a yearly raise of only 50 cents an hour, coupled with a large increase in out-of-pocket health care costs. The mostly female workforce was also protesting abusive treatment by the bosses.

“Every three years when the contract was up, the bosses would try to find ways to turn us against the union,” Perez said. “It took all the creativity and support from everyone to survive. Solidarity isn’t just a word, it’s a call to action.”

Workers said they settled for a raise of 85 cents an hour in the first year and 75 cents each of the following three years of the new contract, and with no hikes in out-of-pocket health care costs.

“One day longer, one day stronger,” was the chant by workers and their supporters on the picket line and rallies that marked this hard-fought struggle. The union members staffed

the picket lines 24 hours a day and organized several broader actions that drew in substantial labor movement support. BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton, and Liz Shuler, national president of the AFL-CIO, were among those who joined in union-organized actions.

“These workers were amazing,” BCTGM International Vice President Shad Clark told the *Militant*. “They won substantial pay raises and were able to freeze the medical costs at their current rate for four years. The credit goes to these workers, but the support they got from the Los Angeles Labor Federation, local politicians and the community was decisive in helping them stay out that long.”

Some three dozen of the 175 workers at the plant continued to work. A handful of others also crossed the line over the course of the long strike. “If everybody would have gone on strike it would have made us stronger and we would have had a shorter strike,” Angelica Gutierrez said. “But we are stronger now, and in our next negotiation it is not going to be easy for the bosses to intimidate us. We know how to fight now.”

Fredy Huinil contributed to this article.

Protest in Wales hits arrest of women’s rights fighter



Militant/Catharina Tirsén

NEWPORT, Wales — Some 100 women and men gathered outside the police station here Feb. 24 to protest the arrest in January of women’s rights fighter Jennifer Swayne under “hate crime” laws. The action was sponsored by the Wales Women’s Rights Network.

Swayne was held in custody for 10 hours by Gwent police after she put up posters in Newport’s streets. Her bail has been extended until March 12. Cops searched her home, seizing the book *Transgender Children and Young People: Born in Your Own Body*, which includes essays against allowing children to undergo sex-change operations.

“We need books to fight anti-scientific attacks on women’s rights,” Sarah Phillimore from the group Fair Cop, told the rally. Fair Cop defends people who have been investigated by the police for their opinions.

“If a girl plays with tools and a boy plays with dolls they ‘assess’ these children,” Swayne told protesters. “Girls and young women risk mutilation if they are encouraged to go through with surgery.”

Pamela Holmes, Communist League candidate for mayor of Tower Hamlets in London, joined the action and expressed her solidarity. Working people “need freedom of speech,” she told the rally, “and to take this discussion into our unions to win support for women’s rights.”

— CATHARINA TIRSÉN

Protests demand: End U.S. economic war against Cuba!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Caravans and rallies demanding an end to the U.S. economic war against Cuba took place Feb. 27 in

cities across the U.S., in Canada and worldwide.

In Miami some 40 cars with 60 people rolled through the streets bearing Cuban flags and posters calling for the end of U.S. sanctions against Cuba. Among those joining the action was Carlos Lazo, a Seattle teacher and leader of Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love), who helped initiate these monthly caravans in 2020.

The actions, organized by local Cuba solidarity coalitions and the National Network on Cuba, protest Washington’s more than 60-year-long drive to overturn Cuba’s social-

ist revolution.

In New York the caravan of about half a dozen vehicles wound through the streets of the Bronx. The action was organized as part of a Cuba-Puerto Rico solidarity rally.

Other U.S. cities where protests against the embargo took place that day include Seattle; Chicago; and Bloomington, Indiana.

In Canada, actions took place in front of U.S. consulates in Montreal and Toronto, as well as in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Other protests took place in Tunisia, Angola, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Nicaragua and the United Kingdom.

THE MILITANT

‘Militant’ urges solidarity with workers’ struggles

From truckers in Canada to coal miners in Alabama, the ‘Militant’ gives voice to workers standing up against attacks by the bosses and their government. Workers are demanding wage increases and safe working conditions and political rights, while strengthening their unions.



Militant/Laura Garza
California bakery workers’ union on strike at Rich’s Jon Donaire Desserts rally Feb. 12.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Join ‘Militant’ drive! Fight Moscow’s war on Ukraine!

In response to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, the *Militant* has launched a timely and needed international drive to expand the reach of the paper, win 1,600 new subscribers, sell 1,600 books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary leaders presenting a communist program and marking the lessons from past working-class struggles, and to raise \$165,000 for a Militant Fighting Fund for the paper. The campaign is already off and running and goes through May 17. We’re asking our readers to join in!

In response to the first major war on the European continent in decades, with consequences for the toilers worldwide, the Socialist Workers Party campaigning with the *Militant* demands: Defend the independence of Ukraine! Moscow out now! Washington out of Europe!

The drive includes higher goals than the one organized last fall — in response to the war, the number of working-class battles worldwide and new opportunities to reach working people with the activities and program of the SWP presenting the road forward for working people.

There’s an increased receptivity to communist politics by growing numbers of workers around the world. This is seen among those involved in strike battles of coal miners, bakery workers and others for better pay and working conditions; protests by truckers to defend their living standard and rights; and the struggle for women’s emancipation and fight for jobs and social conditions that make it possible for working people to raise a family.

Distribution of the *Militant* and books by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary leaders is an indispensable part of the SWP’s mass work — organizing, explaining and educating as part of taking part in the class struggles and social protests taking place across the globe, broadening solidarity and explaining the need for the working class to chart a course to take political power into its own hands.

A key part of this is telling the truth about the socialist revolution made by Cuba’s workers and farmers and the Marxist leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement that were essential. The SWP is organizing to take part in the upcoming Havana International Book Fair — presenting panels on Pathfinder’s new titles, *Labor, Na-*

ture, and the Evolution of Humanity and *The Jewish Question*. This will be followed by joining in the powerful May Day workers’ march and related conferences and other gatherings in solidarity with Cuba’s revolution.

As part of these efforts, the drive features a 20% discount on the hundreds of titles published by Pathfinder and a special offer on nine books sold along with subscriptions. (See ad on page 6.)

The SWP and Communist League 2022 candidates and campaigns now underway will help advance this international drive, explaining what the party is doing and presenting the party’s program.

A key part of the spring drives is raising \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. Workers’ contributions are the foundation of the finances of the paper, and they have been growing.

A note recently received from SWP member Dan Fein in Chicago about response to the *Militant* shows the openings. “We sold out our bundle plus a couple of subscriptions at the Feb. 27 Ukraine demonstration in Chicago!” he

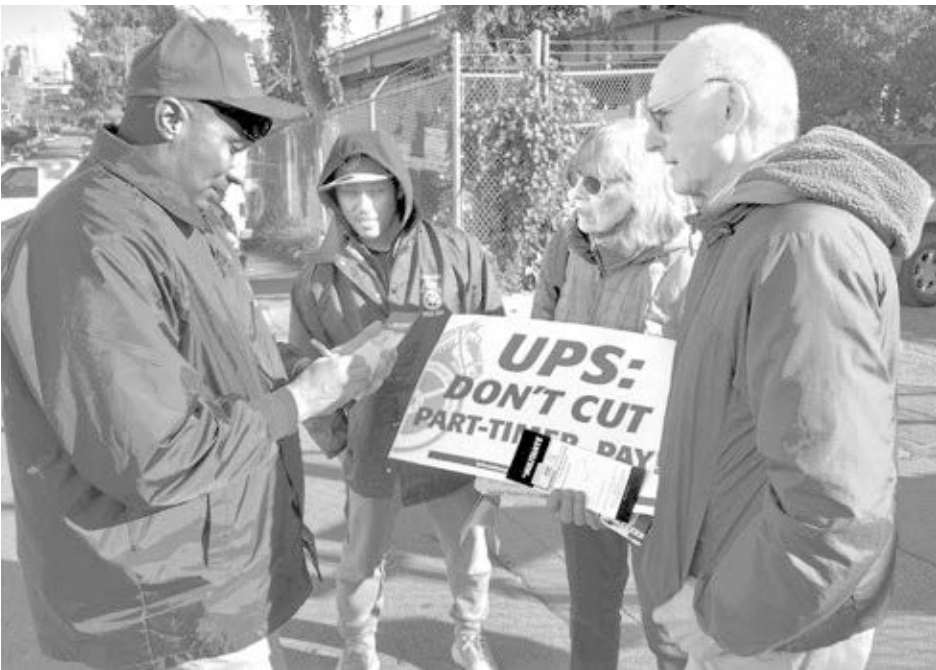
Prosecutors quit as frame-up of Trump falls apart

Continued from front page
available, and a gang of 25 lawyers and their aides pouring over millions of other records, the only indictment they had come up with is a charge of tax fraud against Allen Weisselberg, chief executive of the Trump Organization.

The U.S. capitalist rulers face a serious political crisis, finding no way to seat a government that can provide stable rule for their dog-eat-dog system. Their two ruling parties are fixated more on assaulting each other than on any serious effort to find bipartisan steps to ease the crisis of capitalist production and trade and the eroding position of U.S. imperialism worldwide. And this crisis is fracturing the Democratic and Republican parties at the same time.

Other criminal and civil probes against Trump continue apace in New York, Georgia and Washington, D.C.

Evidence is mounting that the 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton was responsible for the fake charge that Trump was a tool of Moscow. Democrats drove relentlessly to use those charges against him. The U.S. government’s special counsel, John Durham, issued an indictment of Rodney Joffe



Militant/Raul Gonzalez

UPS worker Mark Rodriguez, left, renews *Militant* subscription at Teamster protest against pay cut for part-time workers Feb.23, San Francisco. At right, Joel Britton, SWP candidate for California governor. SWP has launched *Militant* drive to advance fight against Moscow’s war.

wrote. “Please send us more papers to get us through the week, which includes a visit to the striking Machinists’ picket line in Davenport, Iowa.”

The *Militant* will feature weekly coverage of the drive, including charts reporting on progress. Please send reports and photos to the *Militant*.

To join us in the effort, to invite a party representative to come meet with

you, your friends, co-workers and others, to make a contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund, contact the party or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

John Studer

John Studer
Militant editor

the United States Capitol will recommend the Justice Department charge Trump. Despite prosecuting 725 individuals for their alleged part in the break-in, the Justice Department has been unable to uncover any plot for “insurrection” or a coup. Neither has the House Committee, which has subpoenaed 50 individuals as well as myriads of phone and bank records, and interviewed 475 witnesses.

All kinds of norms that have governed capitalist politics for decades are being jettisoned in these sharpening disputes. On Feb. 18 a federal judge stripped Trump of immunity from prosecution in civil lawsuits — a protection granted to presidents since at least 1867. Democrats’ attempts to remove Trump from office through impeachment were twice overturned by the Senate.

The political crisis facing the boss class and its parties today stems from the unraveling of the world order put together by Washington when it emerged at the top of the imperialist world order at the end of the slaughter in World War II. Moreover, the illusion the U.S. rulers won the Cold War when the Soviet Union imploded in 1991 is coming apart, as is their belief they would have decades of unrivaled domination.

Their crisis is rooted in their fear that workers increasingly see through the fraud that the Democrats or Republicans have anything to offer, and are looking for ways to defend ourselves from years of declining living and working conditions, endless wars, attacks on our political rights, and other abuses spawned by capitalist exploitation and oppression.

Exemplifying the rulers’ fear of working people, the Pentagon authorized the mobilization of the National Guard at the Capitol during President Joseph Biden’s State of the Union address March 1 to guard it from a convoy of truckers heading toward the Capitol to protest government vaccination mandates and other measures that have made their livelihoods increasingly precarious. The *New York Times* Feb. 26 alleged these truckers have “connections to the Jan. 6 Capitol attack.”

For years the ruling class has used the FBI to spy on militant workers, Black rights fighters and working-class parties. These operations were exposed in the Socialist Workers Party’s successful political fight and lawsuit against the FBI filed in 1973 and won in 1986. Washington’s domestic political police agency was forced to admit its operation against the SWP included hundreds of “black bag” burglaries and wiretaps of party offices, the sending of 1,000 informers into the party between 1945 and 1966, and a series of attempts to disrupt the party’s political work.

Never-ending Jan. 6 probe

In their drive to prevent the former president from running in 2024, Democrats hope the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on

Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates

California

Eleanor Garcia, US Senate
Joel Britton, Governor

Florida

Rachele Fruit, Governor

Georgia

Lisa Potash, US Senate
Sam Manuel, Governor

Illinois

John Hawkins, US Senate
Naomi Craine, Governor

Minnesota

Gabrielle Prosser, Governor
Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor
David Rosenfeld, US Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, US Congress
Lea Sherman, US Congress

New York

Sara Lobman, US Senate
Ved Dookhun, Governor

Ohio

Samir Hazboun, US Senate

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Governor
Gerardo Sánchez, US Congress

Washington, DC

James Harris, Mayor
Arlene Rubinstein, Delegate to House

Worldwide protests denounce Russia's invasion of Ukraine

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Tens of thousands of people worldwide have taken to the streets demanding Moscow get its troops out of Ukraine. This includes protests in Russia and countries like Belarus, where the government provided a platform for the Russian rulers' assault on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. Inspired by the Ukrainian people's determined defense of their country, protests in some countries have continued day after day.

"No to war!" chanted a crowd of several hundred in St. Petersburg, one of at least 54 Russian cities where demonstrations were held. In Moscow more than 1,000 marched behind a banner, "Ukraine-Peace, Russia-Freedom."

Close to 200 municipal deputies from Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities signed an open letter to the citizens of Russia, urging them not to stay silent. "This is an unparalleled atrocity," the letter said, "for which there is no and cannot be justification." A letter by 250 journalists and another signed by some 250 scientists denounced the Russian government attack.

As of Feb. 25 some 1,745 people have been arrested there. But thousands continue to protest. "It is a crime both against Ukraine and Russia," Olga Mikheeva said at a rally in the Siberian city of Irkutsk.

Anti-war rallies occurred in least 12 Belarusian cities Feb. 27. The government responded with a crackdown, arresting over 400 protesters.

Some 30,000 people turned out to protest in Tbilisi, Georgia. Russian troops invaded Georgia in 2008, to reassert Moscow's dominance. Russian forces still occupy the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

On Feb. 27, a crowd of 70,000 gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square, the site of 1968 protests against the invasion by Soviet-led troops into what was then Czechoslovakia. Thousands more demonstrated in Budapest Feb. 24, chanting "Russians go home!" a cry heard during the anti-Stalinist 1956 Hungarian Revolution that was crushed in blood by Soviet troops.

Protests in Western Europe

Large demonstrations occurred in cities across Western Europe. A massive crowd of more than 100,000 marched in Berlin Feb. 27.

Some 20,000 demonstrated in Bern, Switzerland, thousands in London, and another 1,000 in Manchester, England, Feb. 26. In Athens, Greece, some 3,000 people joined a protest called by Ukrainian organizations.

In the Middle East, a crowd of Iranians, chanting "death to Putin," defied their government, an ally of Moscow, by protesting outside the Ukrainian Em-

bassy in Tehran. Thousands rallied in Tel Aviv's HaBima Square Feb. 26. The Israeli government has offered refuge to all Ukrainian Jews fleeing the fighting.

In China, despite a government-orchestrated chorus of support for Moscow, individuals in several cities stood with signs saying, "Chinese stand with Ukraine."

Protests across the U.S.

Dozens of protests spanned the United States. Demands for Moscow to get out of Ukraine were often coupled with support for U.S. sanctions and NATO military intervention. Socialist Workers Party members joined as many of these actions as possible, using the *Militant* to point a class-struggle road forward in fighting Moscow's invasion.

At a rally of 500 in Atlanta, one participant told Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for governor of Georgia, that she wanted NATO to provide air cover to help defend Ukraine.

"The SWP opposes U.S. forces in Europe. This government doesn't do anything that's not in the interests of the wealthy in the United States," Manuel said. "Workers need to organize and rely on ourselves to make any lasting gains. The same is true for the Ukrainian workers and farmers. The SWP opposes sanctions which always fall hardest on working people."

Protests hit cop killing of Amir Locke, debate road forward

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

MINNEAPOLIS — Since the police killing of Amir Locke Feb. 2, several protests, ranging in size from dozens to hundreds, have taken place around the Twin Cities.

Locke, a 22-year-old DoorDash driver, was killed in the early morning hours by a member of a Minneapolis police SWAT team that burst into the apartment where he was sleeping on a couch in a "no-knock" raid. He had a gun in his hand, a legal gun he bought to defend himself amid a raft of robberies of delivery people. Locke was not pointing it at anybody when a cop shot him to death nine seconds after entering the apartment. The case is under investigation. No charges have been filed.

Speakers and organizers of the actions against the killing have also spoken out on the sentencing of former police officer Kimberly Potter, who accidentally killed Daunte Wright during a traffic stop, and the trial of three former cops charged with violating the civil rights of George Floyd, who died under the knee of cop Derek Chauvin. The perspectives raised by speakers at the protests are often marked by calls for tossing aside due process rights of the accused officers to help get convictions, backing double-jeopardy state and federal trials on the same charges, as well as for long and vindictive sentences. All of these are dangers to rights working people need.

At a Feb. 20 protest calling for justice for Amir Locke, the main speakers focused on the sentencing of Kimberly Potter, which had just taken place. The protest of around 100 people was called by Black Lives Matter Minnesota and 11 other organizations. The central organizer, who did not give his name, called Potter's sentence of two years a slap in the face. Sentencing guidelines



OC Media/ Mariam Nikuradze

Tens of thousands protested in Georgian capital, Tbilisi, Feb. 24, and other cities in the days after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "We feel for Ukrainians," 32-year-old taxi driver Niko Tvaureli told media Feb. 27, "because we've seen Russian's barbaric aggression on our soil."

She wasn't convinced, but thanked Manuel and the SWP for joining the fight for Ukrainian independence.

In Montreal, where hundreds rallied Feb. 27, members of the Communist League carried signs reading, "Russia out of Ukraine: NATO out of Eastern Europe," generating discussion and debate among participants.

Most of the middle-class left shunned the protests. Even those that, under the pressure of the massive war moves, opposed Moscow's invasion, argued that it was the U.S., not Russia's capitalist rulers, that was responsible for the car-

nage. "Stop the media warmongering and NATO aggression" was the demand of the Workers World Party.

The Party for Socialism and Liberation went so far as to ignore the entire history of Stalinism, saying, "From 1922 until the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the peoples of Ukraine and Russia lived in peace." In fact, Stalin and his followers carried out a counterrevolution against Lenin's policy of self-determination. Countries like Ukraine were oppressed by the czarist rulers. Millions of Ukrainians starved to death in the 1930s under Stalin's policies.

call for a sentence of around seven years. "We want Keith Ellison," the Democratic-party attorney general of Minnesota, "to file a petition for the resentencing of Kim Potter," he said. Later he added, "I know that she knows the difference between a Taser and a gun. This is a cover-up."

But for any objective observer of the body camera footage of the shooting of Wright and the immediate aftermath, it seems clear that as soon as Potter pulls the trigger firing one round into Wright's chest, she realizes she mistakenly drew her handgun instead of her Taser. She says as much on the spot and immediately drops to the ground sobbing and is inconsolable.

Speakers at many protests have accused her of faking her emotion and remorse to cover up a heartless act of murder. One protester on TV dismissed Potter's tearful apology to the Wright family, calling it "White tears!"

"We must continue to demand that cops who brutalize are charged and brought to trial, with punishment for those found guilty," Gabrielle Prosser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, told the *Militant*. "But we insist that all rights written into the Constitution concerning trials — due process and against cruel and unusual punishment — be applied. It is working people who are the main targets of cops and prosecutors and we need those rights."

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey is coming under increased scrutiny. On Feb. 20 the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* ran a front-page article entitled, "Minneapolis Mayor Frey's credibility on police battered by false claims about reform." Frey, reelected mayor in November 2021, ran against two challengers who were advocates of defunding the police.

He tried to position himself as both a defender of the police and an advocate of police reform. He announced he was banning "no-knock" warrants in the city. The Locke killing definitively put the lie to Frey's assertion.

Former cops Tou Thao, Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane were found guilty in federal court for violating the civil rights of George Floyd. These are the three cops who, along with Chauvin, participated in subduing and arresting Floyd. They are also scheduled to face state charges for the same events. This example of double jeopardy, widely applauded by Black Lives Matter leaders and other organizers of protests, is another erosion of rights that workers need.

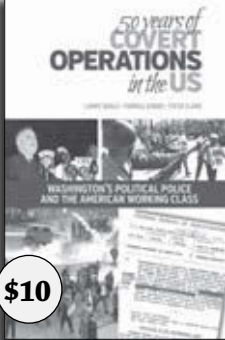
The capitalist rulers' criminal "justice" system is organized to protect the power and prerogatives of the bosses and their government, especially against those organizing to chart a working-class road forward.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Protests hit UPS bosses' cuts on part-time workers' wages

SAN FRANCISCO — Hundreds of UPS workers converged on the company's headquarters here Feb. 23 to protest pay cuts bosses imposed on part-time workers' wages. They came from San Jose, Richmond, Sunnyvale, and beyond. Similar protests took place in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

"I was making \$21 and now it's \$16. It's a question of whether I'll be able to pay the rent," Richmond part-timer Stefanie Delgado told the *Militant*. "They gave us no warning," added Jose Hernandez, also from Richmond.

Trying to soften the blow, UPS is giving bonuses to workers who have perfect attendance. "This won't make up for what we lost," Hernandez said. "And they've taken away sick and other days off. Now, in order to get the bonus, workers are going to come in sick."

The action was sponsored by Nor Cal Teamster UPS Committee and Teamsters Joint Council 7. "The \$6 an hour pay cut comes to about \$5,500 a year," Peter Nuñez, committee chair, told protesters. "It probably doesn't sound like much to the UPS CEO Carol Tomé, who makes millions, but it's pulling the rug out from under thousands of families."

A group of full-time drivers from Sunnyvale were there to support the part-timers. "Most of us can't afford to live there," driver Gabe Ghazanfari said. "Workers drive an hour or two hours to the job. With gas prices going up, and the cut in pay, it becomes impossible."

—Betsey Stone

New Zealand CHEP pallet workers fight for higher pay

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Workers at the CHEP pallet company's Service Center here have their picket line up 24 hours daily, with trucks and cars honking in support on this busy industrial road. The workers, members of FIRST Union, walked off the job Feb. 17, after an earlier one-day strike failed to get the wage raise they're demanding.

The plant employs around 40 workers, repairing pallets and washing crates and bins used for produce. It is barely operating with a tiny handful

of agency and nonunion workers.

The workers' starting rate is 20 New Zealand dollars (\$13.48) per hour, the legal minimum wage in New Zealand. The union is asking for NZ\$22.75.

"We have to win a pay increase," striker Sio La'auli Ailepata told the *Militant* on the picket line Feb. 18. "This strike shouldn't be for nothing." He pointed to the rising prices at the gas pump and supermarket. If you add in the cost of housing, he said, there's virtually nothing left over without working overtime.

"I worked seven days a week last year when it was busy," said Maggie, who asked that her last name not be used. "Then when it got quiet, they sent us home and tried to force us to use up our sick leave and annual holidays." The union is also asking for an increase in premium rates for overtime from time and a half to double time on Sundays. The consumer price index rose 5.9% last year, ahead of workers' pay raises.

Truck drivers have mostly refused to cross the picket line, workers say. On one occasion, police stationed



Militant/Terry Coggan

Members of FIRST Union on strike against CHEP pallet company in Auckland, New Zealand, picket in front of plant Feb. 18. The workers, facing rising prices, are demanding wage raise.

themselves across the entrance, hands on Tasers, and "persuaded" a couple of trucks to enter the site.

In a press release Feb. 18, FIRST Union noted, "This week, members of Unite Union in the UK are holding a rally at CHEP UK's Trafford Park

site after a 3-month dispute in which strike action has been consistent."

To contact the workers, email Mark Muller, FIRST Union Secretary for Transport, Logistics and Manufacturing, at mark.muller@firstunion.org.nz.

—Felicity Coggan

After 10-month lockout, Texas oil workers vote up contract

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

BEAUMONT, Texas — After a punishing 10-month lockout by ExxonMobil bosses at their refinery and processing plant here, members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243 approved the latest company contract offer 214 to 133. Over 600 workers were locked out May 1, 2021, after refusing to accept a union-gutting contract.

"Big Oil doesn't let up. They took from us in 2015 and now again in 2022," Terrence Walls, who voted to reject the contract, told the *Militant*. Walls has worked in the blending and packaging plant for seven years. "I saw this lockout coming and I prepared. It is basically the same contract from the start. I can see why many voted to accept it, because they have to feed their families. I'm not upset with the way people voted."

Small changes were made to the bosses' original proposal, including acceptance of the union's demands to add Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid

holiday and to separate some job classifications for different jobs.

ExxonMobil bosses will now get the power to make all job assignments. Previously 25% of the jobs were bid jobs, determined by seniority. Union members who work in the blending and packaging plant will no longer be able to bid on jobs in the refinery. The contract also eliminates lead or A-operators, jobs that advanced workers' ability to affect safety conditions.

One key problem the workers here faced was that in the 2015 contract the Beaumont plant was removed from national oil pattern bargaining. "Once they start culling you from the herd, they take you down one by one. If we had not been taken off pattern, we would not be here today," said Sue Little, a retired member of USW 13-243 and member of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council.

The union is an amalgamated local and includes the American Valve and Hydrant plant, which is where Little

worked for many years. Little attended many of the ExxonMobil rallies and worked to build support during the lockout.

Solidarity like this from around the country enabled the local to set up a well-stocked food pantry at the union hall that helped sustain the fight. The workers kept up 24/7 picket lines and organized several broader rallies.

"I have three children and a beautiful wife at home, and I'm trying to feed and take care of them," worker Andrew Golden told the press. "It's kind of hard to do when you get used to basing your life on a certain wage and then you get pushed off it. So, for me I feel the right thing to do is to come through and go ahead and vote 'yes' on the contract."

"After 10 months, people's opinions start changing on what's important and what's not," United Steelworkers representative Bryan Gross said. "The union's been in that facility for almost 80 years, the contract has been in place and we're going to continue being there and we're going to continue to fight the good fight."

Ja'ray Malone, who works in the blending and packaging plant, told the *Militant*, "Whatever you love about your job, the union got it. The union fought for these things. It is all about profit and control for Exxon."

During the lockout, some pro-company workers filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board seeking to decertify the union and a vote was held. But in December the union filed a challenge to the petition, saying ExxonMobil violated NLRB rules by promising workers they would end the lockout if they voted to decertify the union. It also said the oil bosses weren't providing the union with necessary information. The NLRB has refused to count the votes until these outstanding charges are resolved.

At the same time, negotiations are still continuing between the USW and Marathon Petroleum over a pattern contract covering some 30,000 oil workers across the country. Besides Marathon, the largest oil refiner in the U.S., the pattern agreement covers ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, Phillips 66, Shell and Valero.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 17, 1997

DES MOINES, Iowa — On February 7 agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested 22 Latino workers at the Swift pork packinghouse in Marshalltown, alleging they were working without visas. The agents were accompanied by Swift management.

This raid followed a larger one in Marshalltown last August, when the INS arrested 147 workers, and a raid of a Sioux City, Iowa, packing plant in January.

The raid evoked anger among many workers. Juan Sebastián Villago, a Swift worker since 1993, said that when the latest raid took place, around 150 workers hurriedly left work to avoid harassment, thereby losing their jobs. "Some of them jumped over the fence, leaving their equipment and uniforms behind them," Villago said. "So many people left that the company needed the first shift to stay over and work overtime."



March 17, 1972

The ruling of the California Supreme Court that the death penalty is unconstitutional followed on the heels of a New Jersey Supreme Court decision which voided that state's death penalty. Capital punishment is the most extreme form of repression used against poor, Black, and Chicano working people under the capitalist system of "justice," which amounts to "justice" for the rich.

Of the persons on death row as of Jan. 18, more than 50 percent are Black. The discriminatory use is even more obvious in the South. Of the 61 people who have been executed in Georgia, 58 were Black. Of the 455 people executed for "rape" in the South as a whole since statistics have been kept, 405 were Black. These figures do not include lynchings.

The decision in California should be extended so as to end the death penalty throughout the country.



March 15, 1947

While the future of Europe is being debated by the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers in Moscow, the entire continent of Asia and her adjoining islands have entered a stage of crisis which may in the end yield even greater headaches for world imperialism than the European question.

Britain's steadily weakening position in Asia is testimony to its decline from the status of a first-class world power. It is at the same time a guarantee that British imperialism will never again regain its old status.

World War II and its aftermath had a revolutionary effect on the masses of Asia, who comprise half of mankind. The struggle of the masses for independence from imperialism, while it has nowhere reached a successful conclusion yet has completely overturned the old relationship of forces, and everywhere to the disadvantage of the imperialists.

NY meeting: Defend Ukraine, Cuba's socialist revolution!

BY SETH GALINSKY
NEW YORK — “Tens of thousands of workers and others in Ukraine are throwing themselves into defending the sovereignty of their country. They are putting up a fierce resistance, against a murderous invasion by Vladimir Putin’s regime in Russia aimed at conquering and obliterating their nation,” *Militant* editor John Studer told a special meeting of over 100 people in New York City Feb. 27. “We want to join their defense, using the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party campaigns to tell the truth about what is unfolding there and the need for Putin’s forces to be defeated.”

Studer participated in three reporting trips to Ukraine in 2014 and 2015 following the Maidan popular uprising there that overthrew the dictatorial pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovich. The aim of those trips was to find the truth in order to use the *Militant* to get out that truth about the battle by Ukrainian working people to defend their independence as they fight to protect their class interests.

At the center of the Feb. 27 meeting was arming and mobilizing members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party to throw themselves into campaigning in defense of the sovereignty of Ukraine, opposing Moscow’s invasion, and calling for U.S. troops out of Europe. “Despite their show of crocodile tears for the people of Ukraine, the rulers in Washington, Paris, Berlin and elsewhere care nothing about them. They are each focused on how they can advance their own imperialist interests, including in Ukraine,” he said.

Studer said the *Militant* has launched an international drive to expand the reach of the paper, explaining the importance of working people acting in support of the Ukrainian people’s fight to defend their sovereignty.

The meeting — sponsored by the SWP in New York and New Jersey — also included a talk by Mary-Alice Waters, director of the party’s work in defense of Cuba’s socialist revolution: “Havana International Book Fair and May 1, International Day of the Worker; Rich exchanges on working-class poli-

tics in the U.S. and world and solidarity with Cuba’s socialist revolution.”

“Lenin built the Bolshevik Party on the fight for the right to self-determination of oppressed nations that were under the thumb of the czarist empire, including in Ukraine,” Studer said. “This is the continuity the SWP draws on today.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB thug, is determined to extinguish all vestiges of Ukraine as an independent nation. “He aims to rebuild a Great Russian empire like the czarist prison house of nations before him,” Studer said. “But you can see the problem he faces with the fearless struggle of millions in Ukraine and the solidarity they’ve won around the world, including from working people in Russia.”

On the three *Militant* reporting trips to Ukraine, Studer and SWP leader Frank Forrestal spoke with coal miners, nuclear workers in Chernobyl and Enerhodar, rail and other workers and defenders of Ukraine sovereignty in Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih and in Dnipro. They met with Mustafa Dzhemilev, the central leader of the Crimean Tatar people, who was expelled from Crimea after Moscow occupied it in 2014.

They paid special attention to the history of Nazi occupation as well as virulent Jew-hatred under the Stalinist regime. They interviewed leaders of Jewish organizations in Ukraine on the Holocaust and the Nazi slaughter of 30,000 Jews in Babyn Yar. When they visited Sokal, the hometown of the team’s volunteer translator, Oksana Demyanovych, she took them on a tour, pointing to a mural of Che Guevara, and then to “the burned-out synagogue.” The two SWP leaders asked, “When was that?”

Demyanovych said she didn’t know. It turns out Sokal was conquered and occupied by German troops in the second imperialist war. Fascist troops orga-



Top, SWP leaders John Studer, editor of the *Militant*, and Mary-Alice Waters, SWP National Committee and director of party’s work in solidarity with Cuban Revolution, speak at New York meeting, above, Feb. 27. *Militant* photos top, Arthur Hughes; below, Mike Shur

nized to slaughter all the Jews there or ship them to concentration camps. Only 30 Jews in the town survived the war.

Today Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine, who Putin calls a Nazi, is in fact Jewish. Putin’s slander of him is nothing but a lie.

Though the 2014 Maidan revolution succeeded in removing Yanukovich and Moscow’s control, Ukrainian working people didn’t have a party and a leadership that could lead them to overthrow capitalist rule.

Ukrainian workers with whom the SWP is in continuing touch send reports to the *Militant* on fights over unpaid wages, government efforts to shut down state-owned coal mines, and other social struggles against the ravages of capital. “The government of Ukraine rules for the capitalist class there,” Studer said.

He appealed to all those at the meeting to join the SWP in using the *Militant* to get out the truth and advance today’s fight to defeat Moscow’s invasion and defend Ukraine independence.

Havana book fair: ‘To read is to grow’

A program combining discussion of Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine with a book fair and May Day activities in Cuba may seem “incongruous,” Mary-Alice Waters told the meeting. “But it’s not.” We are looking at the two opposing faces of the imperialist epoch in which working people are fighting to open the way forward for humanity.

“Solidarity with the people of Cuba and their 60-plus years of unyielding battle in defense of their socialist revolution in face of the mightiest imperialist power in the world is not a question of solidarity alone,” Waters said. Like the right of self-determination for Ukraine, “this is a life and death question for the working class. Without this there will never be a socialist revolution in the U.S.”

The Havana International Book Fair, set for April 20-30, is the most important cultural event that takes

place in Cuba each year, Waters noted. Tens of thousands of Cubans come to it, thirsting for discussion on culture and politics, science, literature of the world, children’s books and more. It takes place under the banner: “To read is to grow.”

Our participation in the annual Havana book fair for more than 35 years “has been central to our work producing books published by Pathfinder Press and articles for the *Militant* that make the reality of Cuba’s socialist revolution known in the U.S. and around the world.” At the same time, Waters emphasized, “We’ve brought an understanding of the class struggle in the U.S. and other imperialist countries to working people in Cuba.”

This year’s fair — the first in two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic — takes place in the midst of “a profound economic crisis in Cuba. It’s part of the broader imperialist crisis, which has hit working people everywhere, including here in the U.S., but

Continued on page 9

Working people in Ukraine put up fierce resistance to Putin’s invasion

Continued from front page
that has so far prevented Moscow’s forces from seizing any Ukrainian cities except Kherson.

Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mariupol, Zhytomyr and many other cities have been hit with artillery shells aimed at apartment buildings and other residential areas. Far from treating the Ukrainian population as a “fellow people,” as Putin claims they are, he has put them in the crosshairs of Moscow’s firepower.

By March 3 over 2,000 civilians had been killed in the invasion. Families sheltered in basements and metro stations. Over a million refugees have fled, most into neighboring Eastern Europe.

After days of heavy fighting, the Russian army took the southern city of Kherson March 2. The occupiers imposed a curfew but still face resistance.

Crowds of Ukrainian civilians blocked the advance of Russian forces March 2 in Enerhodar in the southeast. Moscow is trying to seize the nuclear power plant there. Hundreds of working people stood amid a massive barricade of trucks, tires and sandbags.

SWP: Defend the independence of Ukraine!

Continued from front page
into submission. Russian planes and cruise missiles have struck apartment buildings, homes, schools, hospitals and railway stations in Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv and numerous smaller cities. Ukraine’s State Emergency Service reported March 1 that 2,000 civilians had been killed during the first week, as well as many Ukrainian soldiers.

Under Putin’s direction, his high command is intensifying siege warfare against the entire population of Ukraine, cutting off electricity, water and sanitation, and cellphone, television, and radio communications.

In face of the rise of Jew-hating demagoguery and violence in today’s world, there is mounting disgust among Jews in Ukraine and beyond at the outrageous claims by Putin — himself a product of Russia’s notoriously Jew-hating secret police, formerly called the KGB — that the aggression aims to “denazify” Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Zelensky is Jewish, with a grandfather who fought in the Soviet army to turn back the German imperialist invaders, and other family members who were killed in the Holocaust. On March 2 “denazifying” Russian missiles struck a TV tower in Babyn Yar — the site of the slaughter of more than 30,000 Jews by Nazi forces during World War II — desecrating a Jewish cemetery. No wonder Jews around the world are seeing more of the truth and encouraging Jews in Ukraine to join with others there to stand and fight.

More Russian soldiers and sailors are becoming demoralized and disillusioned. They’ve been lied to by Putin’s regime about what to expect, being told they’d be welcomed as “liberators,” and would quickly roll over Ukraine’s military forces. Now they’re not only taking substantial casualties but facing shortages of food and fuel. Some are disobeying orders to shell civilian targets; retreating from battle or surrendering without a

fight; even sabotaging or abandoning Russian military equipment.

Inside Russia, tens of thousands have poured into the streets of cities and towns all across that vast country to demand a halt to the war. They are doing so in face of police repression, with more than 7,000 arrests the first week, as well as government threats of being charged with “treason.” Street demonstrations are spreading across Europe, the Americas, and worldwide, as well.

The Socialist Workers Party opposes the broadly aimed economic and financial embargo imposed on Russia by the U.S., European, and other imperialist ruling classes, as well as military maneuvers by these governments. Those sanctions ultimately fall most harshly on working people in Russia.

Washington and its capitalist allies in London, Paris, Berlin and elsewhere shed crocodile tears over Ukraine’s national sovereignty and the plight of its people. High-flown phrases aside, however, their only real concern is to protect their own profits and strategic political interests in the region. The Socialist Workers Party demands the complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops and both conventional and nuclear arms and nuclear missile systems from Europe!

Since the 1990s, both Democratic and Republican administrations and Congresses have acted to reinforce U.S. imperialism’s post-World War II position as the dominant “European” military power. In collaboration with other imperialist governments in Europe, as well as the other bourgeois regimes involved, Washington has extended the reach of its armed might close to Russia’s borders. This includes deployment of ballistic missiles in Poland and Romania.

Putin’s efforts to excuse his bloodthirsty invasion of Ukraine on grounds of moves by Washington and other NATO governments are as cynical as they are false. A sovereign and independent Ukraine poses no military threat to Russia of any kind.

At the same time, the Socialist



Apartments destroyed by Russian shelling in Irpin, near the Ukraine capital. Meeting widespread struggle against their invasion, Russia’s rulers are targeting urban areas, killing civilians. Reuters/Serhiy Nuzhenko

Workers Party lends no political confidence to the capitalist government in Kyiv, which stands behind Ukraine’s wealthy rulers in their pressure on the living and job conditions and political rights of coal miners, rail workers, farmers and others among the oppressed and exploited.

The Socialist Workers Party stands and acts on our communist continuity with V.I. Lenin, under whose leadership the Bolshevik Party in October 1917 led the working class to state power in Russia. It was that revolutionary workers and peasants republic that ensured the right to self-determination to oppressed nations formerly trapped within the czarist empire.

In 1922, after consolidating victory over the counterrevolutionary armies of the capitalists, landlords and 16 invading foreign powers, the Bolshevik-led government established a *voluntary federation* of the Russian, Ukrainian, and four other republics: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Communists in Russia, Lenin insisted, must “declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism.” It was

only after the counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin against Lenin’s proletarian internationalist course that Ukraine and other oppressed peoples were again denied their language, cultural, and other national rights.

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are campaigning to get out the truth about the Russian’s government’s murderous assault on Ukraine’s sovereignty, on its right to exist as a nation. We and fellow communists in other countries will organize to get this statement, along with weekly *Militant* coverage of the struggle of the Ukrainian people, into the hands of working people far and wide, including strike picket lines, social protests, at workers’ doorsteps and everywhere else we go. And to take them with us in protests against Russia’s invasion that are occurring across the United States and the world over.

The Socialist Workers Party is mobilizing its candidates for the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and other public offices to use the 2022 election campaign period to maximize getting out the truth and presenting an independent working-class foreign policy. A foreign policy that starts from the interests of the toilers at home and internationally — not from hypocritical chants about “democracy” and “freedom” behind which the capitalist rulers seek to mask their exploitation and oppression of billions the world over.

The stakes are enormous. Working people must see the necessity of taking political power into our own hands — as toilers did in Cuba at the opening of the 1960s, following a popular, workers-and-farmers-based revolution — or we will face a future of social devastation, reaction, world war, and even nuclear catastrophe.

Join us in this effort to raise an independent working-class voice in the United States — to have an impact on public opinion here, elsewhere in the Americas, Europe, and the world. Join us in demanding:

For the defeat of Moscow’s murderous invasion and bombardment of Ukraine!

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'We've entered an era of instability, economic crises and wars'

To help explain what led to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, this special feature has excerpts from "Their Transformation and Ours," a Socialist Workers Party resolution adopted in 2005 and "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun." Both articles appear in *New International* no. 12.

Since 1991 when Stalinist governments disintegrated across the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the world imperialist disorder has grown. The U.S. rulers had relied on these police-state regimes to keep working people there out of politics.

SPECIAL FEATURE

For years Washington acted on the illusion that it won the Cold War and could use its military power without facing any serious challenge. The international communist movement led by the SWP was alone in explaining that U.S. imperialism had, in fact, lost the Cold War. Now the gravest war on the European continent in decades shows the destabilizing results of that reality. Copyright © 2005 by *New International*. Reprinted by permission.



"The underlying contradictions of world capitalism pushing toward depression and war did not begin on September 11, 2001. Some were accelerated by those events, but all have their roots in the downward turn in the curve of capitalist development a quarter century ago, followed by the interrelated weakening and then col-



AP/ Dieter Endlicher

Children sit on toppled statue of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in Moscow, Sept. 11, 1991, after Soviet Union shattered. U.S. capitalist rulers thought this meant they won the Cold War, and that would bring global stability under their dominion. That has been proven utterly false.

lapse of the Stalinist apparatuses in the Soviet Union and across Eastern and Central Europe at the opening of the 1990s. ... One of capitalism's infrequent long winters has begun. With the accompanying acceleration of imperialism's drive toward war, it's going to be a long, hot winter."

— **Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun**

Jack Barnes, July 2002

In face of the rulers' mounting financial and economic vulnerability, the political and military challenges they confront worldwide, and the inevitable sharpening of class conflict these conditions entail, America's propertied families and their political representatives in both the Democratic and Republican parties have become increasingly conscious of the need to use both the economic and the military power of U.S. imperialism. Gone is the illusion that the outcome of the Cold War in itself was a victory that would bring global stability under the domination of a Pax Americana, together with a cushion in state finances provided by a permanent "peace dividend." The rulers sense — even if they do not see clearly or understand — the uncontrollable forces carrying them toward a future of sharpening crises, with its intertwined faces of depression, war, and increasingly violent class battles with higher and higher stakes.

The frustration born of a vague but

growing awareness of this vulnerability, combined with the inability to find a self-confident course to decisively surmount it (there is none), is the single greatest source of the deepening factionalism, demagoguery, and degradation of political discourse — what can accurately be called its "pornographication" — that characterize all bourgeois politics in the United States, not only between but increasingly within the dominant ruling parties and their peripheries. ...

Neither NATO, an alliance born of the Cold War, nor the coalitions Washington patched together in the 1990s under UN or NATO fig leaves to fight wars in the Gulf and Yugoslavia, can serve the evolving purposes of U.S. imperialism. Nor can the coalition that was put together — or better, declared — to support the Anglo-American war against Saddam Hussein's Baathist apparatus.

As the U.S. government prepares to engage battles around the world that it won't be able to avoid (and in its majority no longer wants to avoid), in each and every case Washington's armed forces command will be the centerpiece. "The mission will define the coalition," not vice versa, in Rumsfeld's words. ...

Bush's offer to Russia's President Vladimir Putin is straightforward: "Don't take your eyes off China! Come in under the shield. Accept the loss of your former Soviet republics. And when you run into real trouble with your own workers, peasants,

and oppressed nationalities, the U.S. armed forces will be there to help." The faint undertone saying "until we can replace you," however, makes negotiations with Moscow rocky going.

U.S. imperialism's objective in the Cold War was to ensure that in bringing down the regime in the Soviet Union, they would defeat the working class and its toiling allies on the land. The imperialist powers assumed that in doing so they could move rapidly toward establishing the bourgeois class relations, legal structure, and other preconditions for a stable capitalist Russia.

The imperialist rulers lost, however. The heirs of Stalin were felled, but the war with the working class has yet to be joined. Washington's military transformation is aimed at preparing for that war. The "cooperative security locations" from one end of the Silk Road to the other, the bases that will eventually be negotiated in Belarus following those in Bulgaria and Romania, the lily pads in Ukraine, even refueling rights in Russia — all that is, or will be, on the table. As will the offer to Moscow that when civil strife threatens to spread "terrorism," "drug wars," or "nuclear proliferation," the U.S. military will be there to prop up Moscow's wretched declining armed forces against the workers and peasants — as well as, Putin hopes forlornly, against bourgeois-democratic oppositions both inside Russia and along its retrenched borders. However, neither experiences in the former Soviet republic of Georgia at the opening of 2004, nor in Ukraine a year later, bode well for these illusions.

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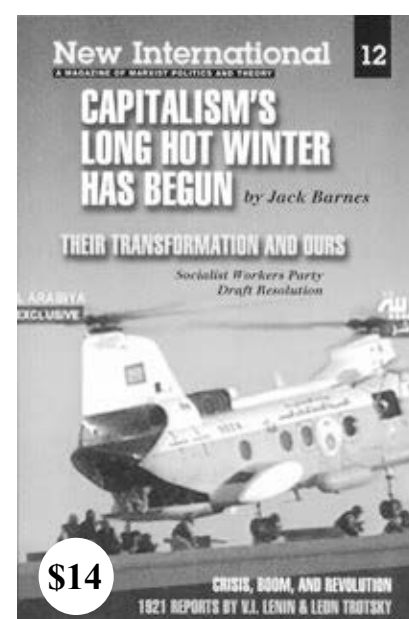
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Meeting: Defend Ukraine, Cuban Revolution

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even more so throughout the underdeveloped nations.” “On top of this the brutal tightening of sanctions imposed on Cuba by both Republican and Democratic administrations, including the current one, have taken a heavy toll on Cuba’s toilers,” Waters said. “The fact that even under these conditions they refuse to turn culture and learning into capitalist commodities says a great deal about the character of a genuine socialist revolution.”

Pathfinder Press will present two books at public meetings during the book fair this year: *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History* with articles by Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, George Novack and Waters.

“There couldn’t be two books that are more germane to the politics that will be at the front of this book fair and all of the discussions we have in Cuba,” Waters said.

Members and supporters of the SWP and the Communist Leagues in Canada, the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand will staff the Pathfinder Press booth there, introducing the publisher’s wide range of political literature and joining in discussions on the war in Ukraine, the fight against Jew-hatred, defense of the scientific and cultural advances throughout millennia of human civilization, the worldwide capitalist economic crisis, and examples of resistance by U.S. workers and farmers.

The Jewish Question takes up the roots of Jew-hatred in the evolution of class society and why it’s an intrinsic part of capitalist rule today. With the deepening crisis of capitalism, the rise of new fascist movements is inevitable. The bosses will foster Jew-hatred as a welcome diversion of the growing anger and desperation of a devastated middle-class and some workers who will be led to believe that Jews, not capitalism, are the source of their problems. Workers must explain and fight against Jew-hatred in whatever guise it raises its head, Waters said, including on the left.

The panel presenting *The Jewish Question* at the Havana book fair among others will include José Altshuler, a former vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences who as a member of the Popular Socialist Party was part of the underground during the fight against the Batista dictatorship. He’s famous in Cuba, Waters told the audience, for having constructed the radio transmitter that Che Guevara used in the Sierras during the revolutionary war that brought down the Batista dictatorship.

The second book that Pathfinder will feature is *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*, which presents “the scientific foundations of Marx-

ism and everything we do,” Waters said. “Dialectical materialism, including historical materialism, is under renewed assault today in the U.S. and around the world,” Waters said, “and this book will help arm us to answer those ‘woke’ elements who believe that the history of the western world has been driven by white supremacy and racism.” That’s simply not true, Waters said, “but we have to raise the debate to a higher level. The entire history of humanity has been driven by the increasing productivity of human labor acting on and transforming nature, including human nature. The systemic racism we are fighting today in the United States is the product of capitalism, not the other way around.”

The panel on *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* will include Fernando González, president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and one of the Cuban Five, who read some of these works while in prison in the U.S. for more than 14 years; Zuleica Romain, former president of the Cuban Book Institute and now head of the Afro-American Studies at Casa de las Américas; and Pedro Pablo Rodríguez, head of the José Martí Studies Center.

May Day in Havana

The end of the book fair this year overlaps the beginning of the celebration of May Day, International Workers Day, organized by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). The three days of activity will include events in workplaces and working-class neighborhoods, an international solidarity conference, and a march of tens of thousands through the streets of Havana on May Day itself.

“There’s nothing like experiencing the giant May Day march in Havana in person,” Waters said, “to see the strength of Cuba’s working people and depth of their support for their socialist revolution. And our entire delegation will be doing that together with the CTC” and hundreds of supporters of Cuba from around the world who will take part in the march and activities associated with it, she said.

After the meeting one of the participants, Rojon Spence, told the *Militant*, “What most struck me was what John Studer said about protests taking place inside Russia. It shows that when there’s a conflict not everyone in the aggressor nation supports what their government is doing.” Now he said he wants to join the protests taking place in New York.

After a serious and lively discussion period, participants responded to a fund pitch by Joanne Kuniansky, one of the party’s candidates for Congress in New Jersey, contributing over \$7,500 toward the work of the SWP.

The party’s spring campaigns are well underway.

Canada truckers fight

Continued from front page

would be “relocated.”

Using the emergency powers, the government ordered banks to freeze, without warrants, the personal and commercial accounts of convoy organizers, participants and supporters. Some CA\$7.8 million in more than 200 accounts was frozen before the government instructed banks to begin lifting the restriction. The cops say they are continuing to track down protesters.

Convoy spokespersons Tamara Lich and Pat King were thrown in jail and denied bail. Lich, who is a former leader of the western-separatist, pro-capitalist Maverick Party, faces several criminal charges.

“With hundreds facing charges and more to come, Canada’s capitalist rulers are continuing to punish participants,” Philippe Tessier, the Communist League candidate in the Marie-Victorin constituency in the coming Quebec by-election told the *Militant*. Tessier works for Canadian National Railway as a conductor and is a member of the Teamsters union.

“Trudeau’s criminalization of this protest is a threat to the rights of all working people,” Tessier said. “One of the charges against Lich is ‘interfering with the lawful use and operation of property’ — a charge that could be used against striking workers.” The CL leader urged unions to campaign for all the charges to be dropped, and all confiscated vehicles returned.

Unions should oppose gov’t attacks

At the En Route truck stop just west of the Quebec-Ontario border on Feb. 27, truckers were interested in discussing the many attacks they face from trucking bosses, brokers and the government.

“Companies pay less to immigrants because they know they have to work to get immigration papers,” Sarajeet Singh, from Ontario, told this worker-correspondent. Bosses try to instill fear of deportation among immigrant workers to drive down the wages and conditions of all working people.

Singh purchased a *Militant* subscription along with *Teamster Rebellion*, the first of four volumes by Farrell Dobbs that recounts the successful strikes and organizing drives that brought hundreds of thousands of over-the-road drivers into the union in the 1930s in the U.S. Midwest.

Singh eagerly took the Feb. 15 statement by the Communist League: “Oppose Ottawa’s Emergency Act! Defend the democratic and political rights of working people!” It says, “Unions should oppose Ottawa’s attacks on our rights” and “break from supporting one or another capitalist party, and build a party of working people.”

During the protest, a “Joint statement by Canada’s Unions on the Ottawa Occupation” was published by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. It condemned the convoy as “an angry mob” and called on the government to end the protest.

“That statement did not serve the interests of working people,” Tessier said. “It repeated almost word for word Trudeau’s smear campaign.”

“It was in the interest of Canada’s ruling billionaire families that the government used the Emergencies Act,” Tessier pointed out. It sets “a precedent for future use against working people and our unions defending our rights and improving our working conditions.”

Locked-out Ohio aerospace strikers win solidarity

Continued from front page

fused to continue talks after its “last, best and final offer” was voted down. “The company wanted to force our hand, to get us to take whatever they were giving,” he said.

Collins Aerospace is a subsidiary of Raytheon Technologies. It builds aviation and aerospace products for commercial and military sectors.

Vivian Curry, a former worker in the plant, has been joining the picketing since the workers were locked out. “These guys need all the support they can get,” she said. “I think it’s great that you came from Cincinnati! A lot of us from here have been joining them. I’ll be here until they get the contract they need.”

After we had joined the picket line in front of the plant for a while, Harris took us to the union hall to meet the local president and other workers.

Joe Konicki, Local 128’s president, said union members had “discussed their offer to cut pensions for new hires, change our health insurance plan and push back on other benefits. And then 84% of the membership voted it down.” Expecting talks to continue, the workers returned to work to find they had been locked out.

Konicki said the workers were getting a lot of support, joking that they’re “overfed on the picket line.”

“They escorted us out,” said Ryan Shook. “We were

told that we would be ‘trespassed’ off the property if we tried to go into work. Since then we have been picketing at the gates day and night.

“As a farmer at the same time as I work as a machinist, I can’t afford to give into the company take-backs,” he said. “I love farming, but you don’t make a living that way these days.”

On the picket line some workers also expressed concern about the war in the Ukraine. “I think it’s terrible that those people are getting killed,” Curry said.

Henderson said this is a discussion workers need to have. “The Socialist Workers Party demands that Moscow pull its troops out of Ukraine immediately.

“We also demand that Washington keep its military might out of the region. The U.S. capitalist rulers have the same lack of concern for Ukrainian people’s independence that the Collins bosses are showing for workers’ interests here.”

UAW Regional Director Wayne Blanchard called on Collins’ bosses to let the workers return to work and to continue negotiations.

Support the locked-out members of UAW Local 128! Join their picket lines. Send messages of support to: <https://region2b.UAW.org/UAW-local-128>, or to UAW Local 128, 1230 S. Market St., P.O. Box 266, Troy, OH 45373.

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