

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Telling truth about Holocaust aids fight against Jew-hatred'
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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JULY 29, 2024

NATO meets in Washington as drive to more wars deepens

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The July 9-11 summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization held in Washington, D.C., highlighted the dangers of wider wars worldwide driven by deepening conflicts unfolding today between the world's capitalist rulers.

NATO was one of the institutions Washington put together after World War II to facilitate its domination of the imperialist world order. At the summit it sought to shore up its position in the face of growing frictions within the alliance and clashes with Moscow, Tehran and Beijing.

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, the largest conflict between two state powers in Europe since World War II, has sharpened tensions across the continent and beyond. Washington and its NATO allies showed their determination to respond by boosting military spending and preparing their rival armed forces for more wars to come.

"If Ukraine loses, my country's next." Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis told heads of state at the summit.

The governments of the U.S. and Germany used the summit to announce the

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Shots at Trump are product of liberal frenzy, capitalist crisis

BY TERRY EVANS

Thomas Matthew Crooks came within a hair's breadth of assassinating Donald Trump when he opened fire with an semi-automatic AR-15 rifle at the Republican presidential candidate, who was speaking at a campaign rally of thousands in Butler, Pennsylvania, July 13. Firing multiple rounds, Crooks wounded Trump, killed one person who was trying to protect his family and wounded two others before he was shot dead by a Secret Service sniper.

Crooks launched his assault from a rooftop about 400 feet from where Trump was speaking, hitting him in his right ear. Former Buffalo Township volunteer fire chief Corey Comperatore was killed and David Dutch of New Kensington, and James Copenhagen of Moon Township, are in stable condition.

As Secret Service agents moved to get Trump away from further attack, with blood dripping from his ear, he insisted they give him a moment, and he punched his fist in the air to a roar of approval from the crowd.

The FBI and the media say Crooks'

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Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for president:

'Workers need to form our own party, a party of labor'



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for president, campaigning at International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 hiring hall in Seattle. She discussed fight against Jew-hatred with crane operator Adeo Tolman, center, and Mark Downs, Fruit supporter and retired longshoreman.

BY JACOB PERASSO

SEATTLE — Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States, spoke out on the importance of the fight against Jew-hatred at a rally of some 100 people in defense of the existence of Israel July 14 on Mercer Island.

Randy Kessler, regional director of StandWithUs, introduced Fruit at the rally. "We've seen the fighting spirit come out the last nine months," said Kessler, from Jews and others who "support the right of Israel to exist in safety and security. One of the strongest supporters of this is the Socialist

Workers Party."

Fruit said supporters of Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews couldn't rely on the backing of Washington.

"The truth is that the Biden administration and other capitalist governments — and their U.N. — want an end to Israel's war to eliminate Hamas," Fruit told the rally. "They want good relations with the Arab governments, more stability in their relations with Iran, trade without their ships getting fired at on the Red Sea.

"Fighting Jew-hatred is not their concern and never has been," she said.

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Independent truckers in US, Mexico join to protest wages, work conditions



Eli Hartman/The Texas Tribune

Members of Truckers Movement for Justice talk to truck drivers at Capital Sand mine July 1, in Monahans, Texas. They call for higher wages, pay for all hours on the job, better conditions.

BY RÓGER CALERO

Both in Mexico, where production is rapidly expanding for export to the U.S., and in western Texas, one of the centers of oil fracking in the country, independent truckers are coming together to demand better pay, improved working conditions and protection from theft,

kidnapping and murder in Mexico.

Truckers have blocked highways in several Mexican states to demand protection from criminal gangs hijacking trucks to steal their loads, and for an end to extortion by the police and National Guard.

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Hearing on Florida prison ban on 'Militant' is set for July 18

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee informed *Militant* attorney David Goldstein it has scheduled an "initial review" July 18 on the paper's appeal of the banning of *Militant* issue no. 17 by the Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone, Florida.

It has been receiving letters for weeks from organizations and individuals urging the committee to overturn the impoundment. The prison's ruling is a violation of inmates' constitutional rights and the freedom of the press, and of the *Militant's* right to reach its subscribers.

"I write on behalf of the Southern Center for Human Rights to encourage you to reverse the impoundment," Terrica Redfield Ganzy, the group's executive director, wrote to the Literature Review Committee July 16. By impounding this issue, "Jackson Correctional Institution is denying incar-

cerated individuals their constitutional right to access information and engage with diverse viewpoints."

"Access to diverse ideas," she adds, "is a crucial aspect of maintaining human dignity within the prison system, as incarcerated individuals have limited opportunities to connect with the outside world."

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Communist League campaign wins support in UK elections

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — “Our campaign starts from how to mobilize millions to defend the interests of working people,” Peter Clifford, the Communist League candidate for the Manchester Rusholme constituency told a candidates’ debate July 2, during the recent parliamentary elections. “The CL explains that workers need our own party, a party of labor.”

“Yes, we do!” has been the enthusiastic response of many workers that CL campaigners have met, Clifford, a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said. He was one of the CL’s two candidates in the July 4 general elections, along with Pamela Holmes, standing in the Tottenham constituency in London.

“In the last two years, over 2 million workers have joined strikes and other union actions. Worker resistance needs a political instrument. Many workers know that nothing basic will change for our class — whatever the election outcome,” Clifford said. Two days later the opposition Labour Party ended up ousting the Conservatives.

“We’re facing unending attacks on living standards. The opening guns of World War III are sounding louder. The debate between Labour, Conservative and other capitalist parties is about how best to push *their* crisis onto *our* backs,” he said.

Days after the election the new prime minister, Keir Starmer, attended NATO’s Washington summit. He praised the role of the 1945 Labour government in NATO’s founding and reiterated his government’s “unwavering

commitment” to the imperialist-led military bloc.

“The new government will act for big business — just as the Conservatives did,” student William Taylor told the *Militant*. Taylor joined Clifford to campaign at the postelection Durham Miners’ Gala on July 13, where union leaders lined up to tout the end of 14 years of Conservative administrations.

In the final week of the campaign, Holmes soapboxed along the busy Tottenham High Road, engaging in discussion nonstop with passersby.

Attracted by what he heard, rail worker Theodore Onye came out of work during a break June 30. “I campaigned for Labour’s Tony Blair in 1997,” he told Holmes, but discovered “Labour governments don’t serve workers. We need our own party.”

Onye took campaign literature to share with co-workers and got a *Militant* subscription and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary in the U.S. The CL was the only party campaigning in defense of Cuba’s socialist revolution and pointing to what it shows about the capacities of workers and farmers to take political power, including in Britain.

Another worker who got a subscription was teacher George Whittle. “I’m 27 years old and I’ve never had a regular employment contract — all agency work,” he said. Over 4 million workers are trapped in such setups, most with no sick or holiday pay, insufficient hours and no union. It’s the sharp end of assaults on working-class living



Militant photos: Jonathan Silberman; inset, Hugo Wils
Pamela Holmes, Communist League parliamentary candidate in Tottenham, London, with Pat Gough, Unite union convener, on Case Holland picket line June 4. Inset, Peter Clifford, front right, CL candidate for Manchester Rusholme seat with fellow rail workers on strike June 8.

standards that have seen real wages decline since 2008.

Others that CL campaigners spoke with pointed to the strains that low pay and anti-social work shifts put on family life, to hospital waiting lists of 8 million, to the lack of housing and rising personal debt.

Over three weeks CL campaigners sold 30 subscriptions to the *Militant* and over 50 books by communist leaders. “We printed an election flyer which was distributed to each household in the two constituencies where we stood,” Holmes said.

Fight against Jew-hatred

Hamas supporters from the middle-class left, the Muslim Association of Britain and an organization called The Muslim Vote backed dozens of “independent” candidates. Each demanded the U.K.’s imperialist government boycott Israel as part of their pro-capitalist program.

Five of these “independents” were elected to Parliament. Labour MP Jonathan Ashworth in Leicester South lost his seat to “independent” Shockat Adam. Ashworth says he had to seek refuge in a vicarage after being chased by Adam’s pro-Hamas supporters.

“Workers we met during the cam-

paign strongly rejected these actions, including many Muslims,” Holmes said. “A bicycle delivery worker was enraged by a local ‘independent’ and requested CL flyers to distribute.

“We received an email from a retired office worker, Angela Smith, asking about our views on antisemitism. She sent it to each of the 10 Tottenham candidates but received just two replies — ours and one from Labour’s David Lammy, saying he’d get back to her.”

After talking with CL campaigners about the party’s opposition to all expressions of Jew-hatred, Smith bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, one of 26 people to do so during the campaign. “Now I have someone I can vote for,” she told Holmes.

Rulers’ political crisis

Labour’s election victory will not usher in a period of stability for the U.K.’s capitalist rulers. Starmer is the fifth U.K. prime minister in as many years. Behind the rulers’ political crisis lies the impact of the world capitalist disorder and its wars, combined with the crisis — and decline over decades — of British imperialism.

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THE MILITANT

Elections in Europe reflect crisis facing workers

In the recent elections in France, the U.K. and European parliament, capitalist politicians tried to steer workers and farmers away from seeing politics in class terms. Politics isn’t “left” or “right,” working people need to organize independently, fight for political power themselves.



Alain Pitton/Nurphoto via AP
Yellow Vest rally 2022, Toulouse, France, protests government raising retirement age.

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

Shooting product of liberal frenzy

Continued from front page

“motivations remain unknown.” But what is indisputable is that he was trying to kill the former president. In addition to his rifle, his car was loaded with explosives.

This isn't the first time the liberals' fury has given birth to an attempted assassination. In 2017, James Hodgkinson, a campaign volunteer for Bernie Sanders, used a semi-automatic weapon to open fire on Republican congressmen as they played a baseball game in Washington. He severely wounded Rep. Steve Scalise and injured four others before the Capitol Police shot him.

The attempt on Trump came after over eight years of concerted efforts by Democrats, liberal press outlets, the middle-class left, late-night talk show hosts and more to portray Trump as a fascist and deadly danger to capitalist “democracy.” As the November election has come nearer, and as the Democratic incumbent Joseph Biden's campaign has stumbled, this shrill tirade has grown more and more hysterical and violent.

In 2022 Biden declared that what he termed “MAGA-Republicans,” who number in the tens of millions, are “semi-fascists” who “threaten the very foundations of our republic.” Just a few days before the shooting, Biden said the Democrats' campaign needs to “put Trump in a bullseye.” The shooting is a reflection of the deepening political crisis racking the U.S. capitalist rulers and their two-party setup. The Democrats in particular are beset by deep differences reflected in the recent debate over Biden's candidacy.

What really drives their hysteria is growing concern over the wide working-class support for Trump. Despite what they claim, this doesn't represent a turn to the “far right,” any more than does the vote for the European parliament and other recent elections. It reflects the fact workers are increasingly looking for a way to fight against the effects of the crises of capitalism that the employers and their government push on their backs. The rulers fear growing class struggle to come.

Ever since Trump ran for president in 2016, Democrats and the liberal media have engaged in a frenzy of anti-Trump hysteria. They set the FBI on him, organized two impeachment attempts, held star-chamber congressional hearings to smear him, and since

2020 they have gotten prosecutors to file a series of criminal and civil cases against him aimed at driving Trump out of the 2024 elections.

This is one of the reasons the Socialist Workers Party explains, “Defending and extending the freedoms protected by the U.S. Constitution is at the center of the class struggle today.” These are freedoms won in blood that are crucial for struggles today and to come. The SWP's 2024 campaign of Rachele Fruit for president and Dennis Richter for vice president is finding greater interest as workers increasingly see none of the bosses' candidates has anything to offer them.

This gives the SWP's call for a break with the bosses' parties and forging a party of labor to fight for political power real traction.

The Republicans, the other major bosses' party, have no better moral standing or concern for the working class than the Democrats, but have benefited from the viciousness of the Democrats' yearslong attacks on Trump. Their national nominating convention began two days after the former president was shot.

‘Stop the dictator at all costs’

Days before the assassination attempt, Vice President Kamala Harris claimed Trump “will be a dictator.” He will “round up peaceful protesters and throw them out of our country.” She said Trump “should never again have the chance to stand behind a microphone.”

In March Democratic Rep. Vincente Gonzalez decried growing support for Trump among Blacks, Latinos and other workers. “When you see ‘Latinos for Trump,’ to me it is like seeing ‘Jews for Hitler,’” he said.

The day after the shooting, the *New York Times* condemned the assassination attempt. At the same time, the front page of its Sunday Opinion section ran a page-long headline that said, “He FAILED the tests of leadership and BETRAYED America. Voters must REJECT him in November. Donald Trump is Unfit to Lead.” Inside, the



AP/Terry Renna

Secret Service agents guard Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, during armed FBI raid, Aug. 8, 2022. Raid trampled on constitutional protections against unreasonable search and seizure. Assassination attempt comes after over eight years of efforts by Democrats, liberal media, middle-class left to portray Trump as a fascist threat to “democracy.”

editors rant on the dangers of a second Trump term over *four* pages.

Reuters ran a July 14 article headlined “After Trump shooting the presidential race will change dramatically. And possibly violently.” It berates Trump, blaming him and his campaign for being violent, and for “fortifying the sense of grievance and estrangement his supporters already feel toward the nation's political class.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was enraged when Axios reported a senior House Democrat complaining, “We've all resigned ourselves to a second Trump presidency,” Ocasio-Cortez urged the representative to “retire and make space for true leadership that refuses to resign themselves to fascism.”

Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders and others on the left of the Democratic Party, have denounced fellow party members who called on Biden to drop out of the race after his disastrous showing in the debate with Trump.

Sanders went so far as to write in an op-ed in the *Times* that Biden “has been the most effective president in the modern history of our country.” Then he went on to tell Biden the only way he can win is to adopt the left's program hook, line and sinker.

Democrats' attempts to trample on constitutional freedoms and use the

courts to drive Trump out of the 2024 race are being dealt blows. A victory was scored when the U.S. Supreme Court held the presidency has immunity from prosecution for acts in the office's official capacity.

Another step forward was the July 15 ruling by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon dismissing the indictment of Trump by the Justice Department's special counsel Jack Smith. Using the anti-working-class witch hunt Espionage Act, Smith had charged Trump with illegally holding onto some allegedly classified documents when he left office.

Cannon threw the case out because Attorney General Merrick Garland's appointment of Smith was unconstitutional. It breaches “the role of Congress in the appointment of constitutional officers,” she wrote. Smith said he will appeal Cannon's ruling.

The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the Militant earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at: www.themilitant.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 2, 1999

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization held hearings here July 6 on Puerto Rico's colonial status and approved a resolution supporting that Latin American nation's right to self-determination, including independence.

The committee heard testimony from almost two dozen representatives of organizations. The big majority were pro-independence groups. Their testimony hammered away at two issues in particular. One was the campaign to free 17 Puerto Rican political prisoners who are locked up in U.S. prisons because of their pro-independence activities. The other was the renewed fight to get the U.S. Navy out of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

The final resolution adopted by the committee, which as in most previous years was sponsored by the revolutionary government of Cuba, explicitly supports these two campaigns.



August 2, 1974

HARLAN, Ky. — One day after 6,000 miners and supporters rallied here in solidarity with the United Mine Workers, Kentucky governor Wendell Ford announced he would withdraw the state troopers from the Highsplint mine. Ford's move represents a partial victory for the UMW, which called the July 21 rally to protest police and company violence against pickets.

The UMW has been on strike at Harlan County's Brookside mine for an entire year. Several weeks ago, the strikers began picketing at the Highsplint mine. Ford sent in state troopers, who cordoned off the mine entrance and conveyed 40 carloads of scabs into the mine each day. One UMW retiree was shot by a scab, and two other pickets were beaten, prompting the protest.

Because the bosses oppose the miners' wage and safety demands, a major strike over the contract is predicted for the fall.



August 1, 1949

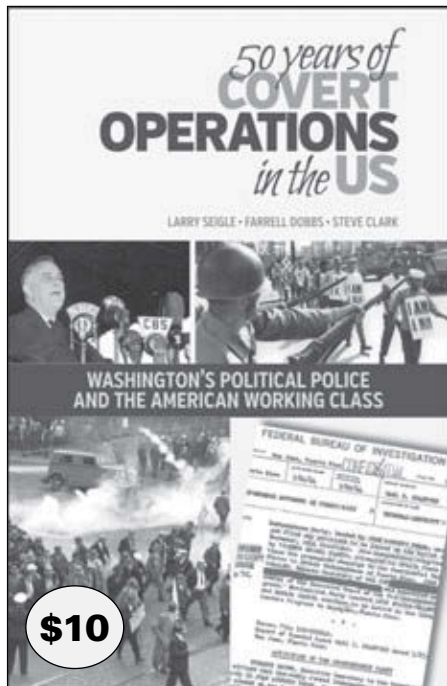
The Civil Rights Defense Committee reports an encouraging response to its appeal for funds to help stop the deportation of Carl Skoglund. Solely because of his loyalty to labor and his political opinions, this 65-year-old Minnesota union leader is threatened with expulsion from this country where he has lived for 38 years.

A 90-year-old rebel from Leonardsville, Kansas, W.H. Sikes, comes to the defense of the 65-year-old youngster, comparing his case “to the many persecutions of labor leaders in this country, including Tom Mooney.”

A “token contribution” to Skoglund's defense fund has been sent to the committee from a friend who has been on a picket line in Hollywood for nearly three years — “the longest lockout in history, I believe.”

It is very likely that Skoglund's case will have to be carried into the federal courts.

Essential reading



from pathfinderpress.com

Pathfinder books sell well at librarians' national meeting

BY SCOTT BREEN
AND JIM ROGERS

SAN DIEGO — Some 13,500 librarians, authors, illustrators and exhibitors attended the American Library Association annual conference here June 27-July 2, including 340 librarians from 51 other countries. More than 500 exhibitors displayed their wares, including Pathfinder Press.

Volunteers at Pathfinder Press' attractive booth found a good reception, with over 100 librarians and other participants signing up to receive more information on Pathfinder's catalogue for future orders. A total of 86 books, including 49 different titles in English, Spanish, French and Farsi, were sold. Topping the list were 11 copies of Pathfinder's newest title, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, and eight copies of *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History*, edited by Mary-Alice Waters, a longtime Socialist Workers Party leader and president of Pathfinder Press. Several people were attracted to *New International* magazine no. 7, featuring "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," three of which were sold. Many took promotional material and snapped photos of books that piqued their interest, as well as titles in Spanish to consider for their libraries.

One attendee asked if *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* "is for or against the Jews?" After hearing an explanation of its stand against Jew-hatred and Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel, he bought it and three other books.

A Teamster union member who works at the Convention Center where the conference was held bought Farrell Dobbs' four-volume set on the lessons of building a class-struggle Teamsters union in Minneapolis in the 1930s, along with a subscription to the *Militant*. Twelve people subscribed to the paper at the conference.

A display of Ukrainian children's art — "Children Draw War not Flowers" — organized by the San Jose State University School of Information attracted attention. The ALA

sponsored a program "Supporting Libraries in Ukraine: Challenges and Opportunities," featuring five Ukrainian librarians who gave video presentations on challenges facing them as Ukraine fights Moscow's drive to wipe out the country's people and culture. Ukrainian librarians have sheltered over 42,000 children displaced by the war. They are rebuilding libraries and cultural centers deliberately bombed by the Vladimir Putin regime.

There were also programs on expanding library services to non-English speakers in the U.S., especially immigrants and their children whose first language is Spanish; as well as to prisoners and people with visual impairments.

Unlike last year's conference, which featured several programs on the Holocaust and the ALA-sponsored traveling Holocaust exhibit, there was only one program on the Holocaust. No program addressed the May 27 *New York Times* op-ed by James Kirchick, "A Chill Has Fallen Over Jews in Publishing," which reported a spreading blacklist against authors who support Israel.

There were several workshops and programs on various fights against book bans. In the opening program, American Library Association President Emily Drabinski said they would "fight for the rights of people to read" and combat "the culture of censorship" that is growing.

These programs and a "Rally for the right to read," which attracted 300 conference goers, focused almost entirely on attacks by conservative forces, usually omitting the more far-reaching bans imposed by liberals, part of the "cancel culture" in vogue on the left.

ALA leaders announced its 2025 conference will be in Philadelphia.

Socialist Workers Party files for ballot in Vermont



Militant/Bill Estrada

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Dennis Richter, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, center rear, joined several campaign supporters at the Capitol here July 16 to file 1,138 certified signatures to place Rachele Fruit, the party's presidential candidate, and himself on the 2024 ballot.

Richter and campaign supporters had fanned out across the state, from Newport to Bennington, talking to working people at grocery stores, farmers markets and on their doorsteps. Richter met with the party's three presidential electors, one in a small town near the Canadian border, another on a farm in central Vermont, and the third, a retired unionist, in a southernmost corner of the state. Campaigners collected signatures from voters in almost every one of some 250 cities and towns in Vermont.

"We got a good response to our working-class program," Richter said. "None of the capitalist candidates — Biden, Trump, Kennedy or any other — are capable of dealing with the social and economic crisis facing workers, not to mention the growing danger of more wars. We talked to workers across Vermont about the need for working people to make a complete break, a class break, from the bosses' parties. We need to build a party of labor to lead working people in their tens of millions to fight all year round defending our class interests.

"It can chart a course for the working class — the vast majority — to take political power into our own hands and join with fellow workers worldwide to build a new world."

The state of Vermont requires 1,000 valid signatures on nominating petitions to be placed on the ballot. Prior to submitting the signatures to the state, town clerks certify signatures from their towns. Once more than enough signatures out of the 1,917 total gathered were validated, Richter and campaign organizers filed with the state.

— DAVID ROSENFELD

SWP candidate brings solidarity to Chabad after attack

BY CAROLE LESNICK

OAKLAND, Calif. — On July 13 Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in California's District 12, delivered a letter of solidarity to Chabad of Oakland and joined worshipers in a meal there after their Shabbat service. Vandals targeted the center on June 21 and July 6.

Chunks of concrete were thrown at the center's windows, damaging them. Vandals also destroyed the Chabad's large public menorah near Lake Merritt and tossed pieces into the lake last December. Scrawled near the site were "Free Palestine" and the threat, "We're gonna find you." No arrests have been made in connection with any of these incidents.

Simpson explained that SWP campaign supporters joined the protest against the Jew-hating attack at Lake Merritt and stand with the Chabad center today. His campaign sent out a press release condemning the attacks and calling on working people and unions to speak out against them.

Rabbi Dovid Labkowski said he is not too pleased with the response of the Oakland Police. Twice in two weeks, someone hurled a chunk of concrete at the storefront-style Chabad center, the second time seriously damaging the bullet-resistant glass.

When Labkowski called the police after the second assault, "They said these things happen all the time. Just go on the website and fill out a form. They weren't going to come take fingerprints or even send units," he said. "So I went to the press to get the word out. Then the police said they

would take action. Actions speak louder than words."

Rabbi Labkowski thanked Simpson and his supporters for their solidarity. Simpson gave him a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Communist League campaign in UK

Continued from page 2

Despite winning a big parliamentary majority, Labour's vote in England was the same as in 2019 and lower than 2017. "Working people rejected the Conservative government," Clifford said. "And they rejected the Scottish National Party, reduced to just nine MPs from 47." Most of all they rejected the crisis capitalist rule puts on them.

The Conservative vote dropped 20% from 2019. Founded in 2021 out of the Brexit Party, Nigel Farage's Reform U.K. took 14.3% of the vote. The Liberal Democrats and Greens also increased their vote.

At the NATO summit Starmer proclaimed, "Britain belongs on the world stage." Such declarations are met with skepticism by many in the ruling class, including the military top brass. The rulers' armed forces are half their 1990 size, with out-

dated weapons and depleted ammunition. Starmer says he will boost military spending.

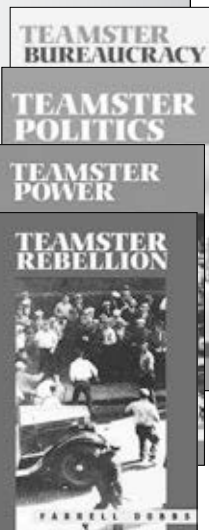
The growth per capita of the U.K.'s capitalist economy has flatlined over the past 20 years. Investment has stalled and productivity declined against the rulers' rivals. Government debt stands at a huge 100% of Britain's gross domestic product. There's nothing the government will do that won't have negative consequences for the working class, something many workers sense.

"Starmer can only carry out his pledges through more attacks on workers' living standards at a time of a world crisis and when the retreat of the labor movement is over," Clifford said. "This will create greater interest in the need for independent working-class political action and opportunities for building the Communist League."

Lessons of Teamster battles from 1930s

4 books by Farrell Dobbs

"The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome."



\$16 each or all four volumes for \$50
pathfinderpress.com

'Workers need a party of labor'

Continued from front page

"That's why Israel had to be and has to be today. There is no other place where Jews can go unconditionally."

Fruit also addressed the shots fired at former President Donald Trump the day before.

"We must speak out against the attempted assassination of Donald Trump yesterday," she said. "As the Jewish community knows well, violent rhetoric leads to violent action. The capitalist parties have nothing to offer the working class or the fight against Jew-hatred, but the Democrats' vitriolic attacks on Trump and constitutional freedoms that led to that shooting are a deadly danger for working people," she said.

The previous day, hours after the shooting, Fruit told an audience of 45 at a campaign meeting here that the factionalism in bourgeois politics is leading to an increase in political violence. "For their own partisan interests, both parties are engaged in dangerous attacks on rights that working people need today," she said. "The various frame-ups against Trump, cooked up by the White House and Democratic prosecutors, are meant to prevent him from running for president and prevent millions from being able to vote for him," she said. Two Safeway workers who have recently taken an interest in the SWP ticket came, and someone involved in defending Israel's right to exist.

"Despite rhetoric about 'hard-working families,' neither party is interested in defending the lives and livelihoods of working people," she said. "They are in business to ensure that the wealth of the capitalist ruling families is protected, and that the U.S. military is strong enough to defend their imperialist interests in the world."

Fruit pointed to the crisis confronting working people. Millions face high prices and challenges getting decent, well-paid full-time jobs to cover increased living expenses. "Neither 'Bidenomics' nor Make-America-Great rhetoric can change this reality," said Fruit. "That's why more workers today are joining and organizing unions to fight for higher pay and cost-of-living protection against the ravages of inflation.

"What is needed is for working people to break with the Democrats,

Republicans and all capitalist politicians, to build our own political party to mobilize and unite working people, a party of labor," she said. "This kind of party, based on the unions, can organize the whole working class to fight together, a powerful social movement in a struggle to replace capitalist political power with a workers government. It could expose and fight against every outrage, every crime the rulers commit against us."

Fruit said she had recently been in California, where the legislature passed a minimum wage bill for \$20 an hour for fast food workers. In response, restaurant owners raised prices and laid off workers, forcing speedup on those remaining. "A labor party would demand reduced hours of work with no cut in pay to address the problem of layoffs," she said.

"A labor party would unite and represent the interests of all workers regardless of language or nationality. It would lead a fight for amnesty, with equal rights for all, and encourage all workers to organize unions and fight for better wages and working conditions, here and worldwide," said Fruit. "And a labor party will have to stand up to all acts of Jew-hatred. It would back unions setting up workers defense guards that will be needed to take on bosses' thugs attacking our picket lines, as well as rightist and fascist forces as they emerge."

Fruit noted that as communists campaign among our co-workers and in working-class communities, "we explain that Jew-hatred, a reflection of the crisis of capitalism, is a life-and-death question for the working class. We have to act against every move to slander, scapegoat and attack Jews. The physical extermination of the Jews is the banner of reaction against proletarian revolution in the imperialist epoch."

She asked everyone at the meeting to become an endorser of the SWP campaign and help get out the word about the working-class alternative.

Reaching out across Washington

Supporters of the SWP campaign have been taking its program across the region in recent weeks, winning support for the ticket of Fruit and vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter. Supporters engaged in debate and discussion on doorsteps, in



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Rachele Fruit, left, SWP candidate for president, at July 15 "support Israel" rally in Mercer Island, Washington. She speaks with Reena Solita, whose Filipino family lived in Israel. Now living in Vancouver, British Columbia, Solita came to rally as "it is important to speak up."

parking lots, farmers markets and outside the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 hiring hall here.

Over 1,800 people have signed a petition to put the SWP ticket on the ballot in Washington state. Supporters plan to file these and more with the secretary of state elections office next week.

Dozens purchased copies of the *Militant*, got subscriptions, bought books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders, donated to the campaign and signed up for more information. Several endorsed the Fruit/Richter ticket.

Fruit spoke to workers about the Ukrainian people's fight to defeat Moscow's invasion and that of the Israeli people to defeat Hamas after the Islamic thugs' Oct. 7 pogrom. She explained there are big stakes in those battles for the working class worldwide. "We place no confidence in the capitalist governments in Ukraine and in Israel, nor in the 'democratic' imperialist rulers in Washington," she said.

"But if working people win the wars they are fighting for their countries' survival, they will open more space to organize, to unite and find allies among all working people. We need that space."

Adeo Tolman, a crane operator on the docks, stopped to meet Fruit as she campaigned among longshoremen. When Tolman said he had supported Bernie Sanders previously, Fruit said today Sanders "is part of the left wing of that party that is supporting Hamas. The working class needs to stand up to Jew-hatred."

"It makes you think, what did the

Jews do to make so many people hate them?" Tolman said. "When capitalism is in crisis, the rulers promote the false idea that there is a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world," Fruit said. "They want those in the middle class ruined by capital to blame the Jews, not the ruling class. They will turn to Nazi-like thugs to go after the working class and try to smash the labor movement."

Speak out against Jew-hatred!

Fruit met *Militant* subscriber Patrick Connell, a slinger on the docks. He said he was for the fight against Jew-hatred. "Any kind of system of any kind of racism — we got to get rid of it. It doesn't belong in the world today."

Fruit showed him the new book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. It explains the necessity of building revolutionary workers parties in the world today as a precondition to defeating Jew-hatred once and for all time.

Four copies of that book were sold at the Mercer Island rally. Reena Solita was one of those who picked it up. Her family is from the Philippines, but they spent years living in Israel. "People don't know about the relationship between the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, and Hitler," she said, pointing to the book's photos showing al-Husseini meeting with Hitler in 1941 and reviewing Waffen SS troops in Bosnia in 1943. "It's very important the book explains that."

She now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and attended the rally "because it is important to speak up." She said she thought Israel and the U.S. act as an "iron gate," standing up to extremists and ISIS.

"Neither the U.S. nor Israel is an iron gate or a safe haven," said Fruit. "The rulers of this country have their own interests — that's why they closed the borders of the U.S. to Jews seeking refuge from the Holocaust, before, during and after the Second World War. And they will again turn to Nazis, who scapegoat Jews to help break working people and defend capitalist rule."

For more information on the SWP campaign, email socialistworkers2024@gmail.com or call (347) 871-0282.



Militant/Scott Breen

"Jew-hatred is a life or death question for the working class," Fruit told campaign meeting in Seattle July 13.

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NATO meets in Washington

Continued from front page

deployment of longer-range U.S. weapons in Germany, including Tomahawk, multi-mission and hypersonic missiles. The governments of France, Germany, Italy and Poland say they will develop ground-launched cruise missiles that could match those being utilized by Moscow in Ukraine.

The U.S., Canadian and Finnish governments announced new production of ice-breaking vessels that are key for their naval forces to counter Moscow's reach in Arctic waters.

Governments in Europe's north and east came seeking closer military links with the U.S. rulers as all move to strengthen their own armed forces. Washington aims to extend its military and political reach and reinforce its central role in the alliance. It's no accident that the meeting was held in Washington, where it also provided a platform for President Joseph Biden — running for reelection — to boost his tottering image.

Some 100,000 U.S. troops are deployed in Europe, alongside a further 40,000 troops from other countries under NATO command.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's claim that moves by NATO powers forced his invasion almost two-and-a-half years ago are cynical and false. A sovereign and independent Ukraine poses no military threat to Russia of any kind. Moscow unleashed a deadly missile strike on the children's hospital in Kyiv July 8, part of its relentless and murderous strategy of bombardment of civilian centers.

By contrast, Ukrainian strikes, mainly against Russian-held Ukrainian territory such as the occupied Crimean Peninsula, only attack military targets.

Washington and its NATO allies announced increased military aid to Ukraine at the summit. They seek an outcome to the war that advances their own capitalist interests. None start from the unconditional defense of Ukraine's national sovereignty, which can only be secured by the withdrawal of all Moscow's forces from the territories it has seized in southeastern Ukraine, including Crimea.

A statement by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, issued a week after Putin's 2022 invasion began, explained that defending Ukraine's sovereignty is in the interests of working people worldwide. It called for the withdrawal of Moscow's forces and demanded the U.S. rulers get their troops and nuclear arms out of Europe.

The biggest ally the Ukrainian toil-

ers have in this fight is among the workers and farmers in Russia, who have no interest in conquering fellow working people across the border.

Washington seeks to bolster position

Washington sought to use the summit to bolster its position worldwide. For the third year running, the non-NATO allies Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand were invited to the conference. The U.S. rulers see collaboration with these governments as vital to countering the growing weight of Beijing in the Pacific.

Political and military tensions are on the rise between Beijing and Washington-backed governments from the Philippines to Taiwan. The U.S. rulers see the Pacific as their prize for coming out on top in the second imperialist world slaughter.

On July 10 NATO issued a statement accusing Beijing of being "a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine," demanding it cease supplying Moscow with weapons components. Previously, NATO gatherings have refrained from openly condemning Beijing. The Chinese government responded by accusing NATO of "stoking confrontation."

Coinciding with the NATO summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Putin in Moscow. This was much to the chagrin of U.S. officials who are trying to forge a closer alliance with the rising Asian power as a counterweight to Beijing.

The Indian rulers also face increased rivalry with Beijing, including over their contested common border.



Staff Sgt. Malcolm Cohens-Ashley/U.S. Army

U.S. troops at Mihail Kogalniceanu airport in Romania, July 30, 2022, after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Expanded NATO air base, near Black Sea west of Crimea, will be Europe's largest.

They want to pull Moscow more to their side even as they pursue closer economic and military ties with Washington. India is now the largest buyer of cheap Russian oil, which helps to fuel its expanding economy, and continues to get weapons from Moscow.

US imperialism lost the Cold War

The U.S. rulers pulled together NATO in 1949 amid the ashes of World War II to extend their domination against rival powers in Europe, to better crush rebellions by workers and farmers and to bolster its Cold War with Moscow.

For decades the counterrevolutionary Stalinist police-state regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union kept working people out of politics. When these regimes disintegrated at the end of the 1980s, Washington mistakenly proclaimed it meant that it had won the Cold War.

Blinded by that illusion, the U.S. rulers launched their 1991 war on Iraq. Rather than heralding a new advance for U.S. imperialism, it paved the way for greater instability and crises, announcing the opening guns of another world war. In 1994-95 and again in 1999 Washington and its NATO allies fueled war in the former Yugoslavia.

In 2021 Washington's unilateral retreat from its 20-year disastrous occupation of Afghanistan led its allies in NATO to scramble to pull out their own forces deployed there.

As Washington and its NATO allies rearm today, these moves intensify the instability shaking the world. Above all, the preparations for more wars highlight the stakes for workers in organizing as a class to advance an independent working-class foreign policy against the capitalist rulers and governments that serve them.

Independent truckers in US, Mexico join to protest

Continued from front page

Nearly 6 million trucks transported some \$300 billion worth of merchandise — from auto parts to avocados — over the U.S.-Mexico border in Laredo, Texas, in 2023. They are hired by U.S. and Mexican brokers and transportation companies who take advantage of the truckers' independent contractor status to pass insurance, fuel, maintenance and other overhead costs onto their backs.

Independent owner-operators and company drivers on the U.S. side of the border face similar exploitation as well. On July 1, truck drivers organized by the U.S.-based Truckers Movement for Justice and the United Mexican Carriers (Tamexun) held protests in Texas' western Permian Basin to call attention to their demands for pay for

all hours worked, fuel surcharge payments to help cover the cost of diesel and better conditions.

Together with the Eagle Ford Shale area on the other side of Texas, the Permian Basin is the largest crude oil producing region in the U.S. The drivers transport the quartz sand that is used in fracking. It's injected into wells to blast and hold open cracks to get oil and natural gas out of the ground.

"We are demanding payment for all our work and what we call quality of life issues," Billy Randel, a leader of the coalition, told the *Militant*. "We want toilets, a place where we can park safely. You know how dehumanizing that is for either a man or a woman to have to use a bucket?"

Drivers often wait for long hours sitting idle while their trucks are loaded and unloaded, for which they get no pay. They can't leave their place in line no matter how long the wait is. If they do, they can be fined, suspended or fired.

They are paid by the ton or the load. While the shippers — mine owners or oil service companies — claim they do pay for fuel charges or waiting time to carriers, "to a person, no man or woman driver, has ever seen that in their settlement statement," Randel said.

"It's not right that we're out waiting in 90 degree

heat or minus zero in the winter for companies that are making billions of dollars a day, and we don't have bathrooms or a place with running water, or heat when it is cold and air when it's hot," said Oscar Lovo. He has been a driver for 18 years, since he got out of high school.

Owner-operators pay a monthly fee or a percentage per load to use shippers' trailers. If they miss work, they're penalized for not using the trailer that day. "Say my truck goes down, or I have an emergency with my kids, I have to pay a penalty for not using it," Lovo said. "You have to pay them for not going to work! Who in the world does that?"

Some of the drivers participating in the protests are B-1 visa drivers from Mexico hauling goods into the U.S. The U.S. government permits them to transport cargo across the border. Then they are supposed to either deadhead back or find a load in the U.S. bound for Mexico. However, many take jobs carting loads to other destinations in the U.S. For these trips they are paid much lower than the going rate.

"Trucking companies are using our brothers and sisters in Mexico against our brothers and sisters in the United States," said Randel. "This is why we stand in solidarity and have built an alliance. We've got to fight."

The truckers' fight deserves the support of union-organized truckers and owner-operators across the U.S.

Special: books half price with Militant subscription



See page 8 for distributor near you

‘Telling truth about Holocaust aids fight against Jew-hatred’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NORDEN, Germany — A trip I made to Germany in early July brought home how alive the legacy of the Nazi Holocaust remains here, and its relevance given the rise of Jew-hatred worldwide, especially after Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom, which killed 1,200 Jews in Israel.

I had the opportunity to meet several people, both in this northeastern town of Norden and in Hamburg, who have devoted themselves to teaching new generations about the history of the Jewish people in Germany, and the lessons of the Nazi slaughter for the fight against Jew-hatred today.

Almut Holler is a retired Lutheran pastor in Norden and longtime leader of the Ecumenical Working Group for Synagogue Lane, which has worked tirelessly to rescue the legacy of the town’s Jewish population. Holler and schoolteacher Petra Druke, co-director of the Working Group, gave a group of visitors a tour of Norden’s Synagogue Lane, where the town’s synagogue and other Jewish community buildings had been located.

On Nov. 9, 1938, Nazi paramilitary thugs burned down the synagogue in Norden, along with 1,400 other Jewish temples across Germany. The violent rampage is known as Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass.

“In German public schools today, including the classes I teach, we call it Pogromnacht, Pogrom Night,” Druke told us.

Jewish shops and homes were ransacked, Holler said. Jewish men were locked up in the local slaughterhouse and tortured with electric cattle prods, forced to reveal all their assets, which were confiscated. Some were taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and brutalized there for weeks. Older Jewish men and women were forced to clear the still-smoking ruins of the synagogue. Nationwide, Jews were required to pay for all damages to their residences and businesses.

From the time Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany in January 1933, the Nazi regime dismissed accounts of escalating terror as “Jewish atrocity propaganda.” Today apologists for Hamas’ pogrom do the same, asserting that reports about Oct. 7 are “Zionist atrocity propaganda.”

Pogromnacht was an acceleration of the Nazi regime’s efforts to make Germany, and all the territory it conquered, Judenrein, cleansed of Jews. This led to the network of concentration camps and the systematic murder of 6 million Jews in Europe — 40% of the world’s Jewish population.

Scapegoating of Jews, then and now

In the years leading up to Pogromnacht, a Nazi-led boycott of Jewish shops drove many out of business. Jews were barred from civil service jobs and other professions. Jewish children were excluded from public schools. Jews were forced to wear a yellow star labeled “Jew.” In Nazi-occupied Netherlands, young Anne Frank wrote in her diary in 1942 that Jews were subjected to daily curfews, weren’t allowed to ride streetcars or own bicycles, or to go to parks, cinemas, libraries and sporting events.

In the educational center of the Ecu-

menical Working Group, housed in the former Jewish school, Holler and Druke showed us books and photo displays they use to educate on the history of Norden’s Jewish community. One was a 1935 photo of Julius Wolff, who was Jewish, and his non-Jewish fiancée Christine Neemann being paraded through the town’s main street by Nazi



thugs. Wolff was forced to carry a sign saying, “I am a race defiler.”

When I visited Hamburg, a volunteer historian took me to the notorious Holstenglacis jail, where my great-grandfather, Siegmund Meyer, was locked up in 1940. A 75-year-old widower, he was arbitrarily sentenced to five years in prison on charges of “race defilement” and died behind bars.

Holler and Druke explained that the Nazis didn’t ask Jews whether they were religious before rounding them up — they were targeted as a people, an “inferior race.” In 1935 the Nazi government imposed the Nuremberg Race Laws, which stripped Jews of their German citizenship.

Today Hamas and its “Marxist” ally, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, deny Jews are a people. “They’re only a religion,” they say, asserting Israel has no right to exist as a nation and all the Jews should be driven out or killed.

Imperialist powers shut their doors

Norden, where part of my family was from, had a Jewish community for nearly 400 years. By 1940 it had been completely wiped out. Some emigrated before then, but half the



Almut Holler, left, and Petra Druke, second from right, leaders of Ecumenical Working Group, show visitors educational center housed in former Jewish school in Norden, Germany, July 1.



Left, Yad Veshem Archives; above, Günther Schwickert
Above, Julius Wolff, who was Jewish, and his non-Jewish fiancée, Christine Neumann, being paraded through Norden, Germany, by Nazi thugs in 1935. Wolff was forced to carry sign saying, “I am a race defiler.” Left, Nazi officers pour gasoline onto pews at German synagogue during the Nov. 9-10, 1938, pogrom known as Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass,” when 1,400 synagogues were vandalized or burned down, including the one in Norden.

tory of the former Jewish community and restore its historic sites is even more important today. In the window of the former Jewish school hangs a list of the names of Norden Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Above it is a sign in large letters that says “Nie wieder ist jetzt” — Never again is now.

They described the rise in anti-Jewish incidents in Germany today. We told them about growing attacks on Jews by supporters of Hamas in New York and elsewhere in the U.S.

When I visited Hamburg a couple of days later I met Andrea Althaus, who has been recording oral histories of German Jewish families. She told me of escalating threats against Jews by Hamas apologists in the city. Even academic seminars on the history of Jew-hatred now have to ask for police protection. “These antisemites are not interested in having a discussion,” she said. In response, there have been several actions in Hamburg protesting Jew-hatred.

“That’s why it’s important to tell the truth about the Holocaust and the fight against antisemitism,” Holler told us during our Norden visit. “The new generations need to know the real history and its relation to today.”

She pointed to the Nazi roots of Hamas. “Not many people know that the grand mufti of Jerusalem met with Hitler here in Germany in 1941” and they collaborated on joint efforts to exterminate Jews in Europe and the Middle East, Holler said. Amin al-Husseini, the mufti, organized pogroms against Jews in Palestine in the 1920s and ’30s, and after the war worked closely with the Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood, which gave birth to Hamas.

To help highlight the legacy of the Holocaust, the Ecumenical Working Group has supported an international project to place small brass memorial plaques in front of former homes of victims of the Nazi terror. Some 100 have been laid in Norden, 7,000 in Hamburg and 100,000 across Europe.

Last November Druke helped bring high school students to Norden’s former synagogue for an event “marking Pogromnacht and in solidarity with Israel.” The event, she said, condemned “Hamas’ brutal Oct. 7 attack, the biggest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust.”

Cuba's socialist revolution is example to workers worldwide

The French edition of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana: Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas* Adopted by the Cuban People is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July*. This coincides with the July 26 anniversary of the 1953 attack on the Moncada army barracks launching Cuba's revolutionary struggle that triumphed six years later. Between the 1960 and 1962 declarations, both adopted by assemblies of a million Cubans, the mass struggle deepened into a socialist revolution under the leadership of Fidel Castro. The excerpt below is from "The Second Declaration of Havana." Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Fidel Castro delivers Second Declaration of Havana to million-strong assembly of Cuban people Feb. 4, 1962, in the Plaza of the Revolution. It was then presented around the country.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Cuba affronts the imperialists in a special way. What is it that is hidden behind the Yankees' hatred of the Cuban Revolution? What is it that rationally explains the conspiracy — uniting for the same aggressive ends the richest and most powerful imperialist power in the contemporary world and the oligarchies of an entire continent, which together are supposed to represent a population of 350 million human beings — against a small country of only 7 million inhabitants, economically underdeveloped, without financial or military means that could threaten the security or economy of any other country?

What unifies them and incites them

is fear. What explains it is fear. Not fear of the Cuban Revolution, but fear of the Latin American revolution. Not fear of the workers, peasants, intellectuals, students, and progressive layers of the middle strata who by revolutionary means have taken power in Cuba, but fear that the workers, peasants, students, intellectuals, and progressive sectors of the middle strata will take power by revolutionary means in the oppressed and hungry countries exploited by the Yankee monopolies and reactionary oligarchies of the Americas; fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free peoples of the Americas.

By crushing the Cuban Revolution they hope to dispel the fear that torments them, the specter of revolution that threatens them. By eliminating the Cuban Revolution, they hope to eliminate the revolutionary spirit of the people. They imagine in their delirium that Cuba is an exporter of revolutions. In their sleepless merchants' and money lenders' minds lives the idea that revolutions can be bought, sold, rented, loaned, exported and imported like a piece of merchandise. Ignorant of the objective laws that govern the development of human societies, they believe that their monopolistic, capitalistic, and semifeudal regimes are eternal. Educated in their own reactionary ideology — a mixture of superstition, ignorance, subjectivism,

pragmatism, and other mental aberrations — they have an image of the world and of the march of history conforming to their interests as exploiting classes. ...

But the development of history, the ascending march of humanity, cannot, and will not, be halted. The forces that impel the people, who are the real makers of history, are determined by the material conditions of their existence and by the aspirations for higher goals of well-being and liberty that emerge when man's progress in the fields of science, technology, and culture make this possible. These forces are superior to the will and the terror unleashed by the ruling oligarchies.

The subjective conditions of each country, the conscious factor — organization and leadership — can, according to its greater or lesser degree of development, accelerate or retard the revolution. But sooner or later, in each historic epoch, when the objective conditions mature, consciousness grows, organization develops, leadership emerges, and revolutions take place.

Whether this takes place peacefully or in painful birth does not depend on the revolutionists; it depends on the reactionary forces of the old society, who resist the birth of the new society engendered by the contradictions carried in the womb of the old. Revolution historically is like the doctor who assists at the birth of a new life. It does not use the tools of force without reason, but

will use them without hesitation whenever necessary to help the birth, a birth that brings to the enslaved and exploited masses the hope of a better life.

In many countries of Latin America, revolution is today inevitable. That fact is not determined by anyone's will. It is determined by the horrifying conditions of exploitation in which Latin Americans live, the development of the revolutionary consciousness of the masses, the global crisis of imperialism, and the worldwide movement of struggle of the subjugated peoples.

The restlessness felt today is an unmistakable symptom of rebellion. The very depths of a continent are being shaken, a continent that has witnessed four centuries of slave, semislave, and feudal exploitation beginning with its original inhabitants and slaves brought from Africa, up to the nuclei of nationalities that emerged later: white, Black, mulatto, mestizo, and Indian, who are today made brothers by scorn, humiliation, and the Yankee yoke, and are brothers in their hope for a better tomorrow. ...

To the accusation that Cuba wants to export its revolution, we reply: Revolutions are not exported, they are made by the peoples.

What Cuba can give to the peoples, and has already given, is its example.

And what does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible, that the peoples can make it, that in the contemporary world there are no forces capable of halting the liberation movement of the people. ...

The duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution. It is true that the revolution will triumph in the Americas and throughout the world, but it is not for revolutionists to sit in the doorways of their houses waiting for the corpse of imperialism to pass by. The role of Job does not suit a revolutionist. Each year that the liberation of Latin America is speeded up will mean the lives of millions of children saved, millions of intellects saved for culture, an infinite quantity of pain spared the people. Even if the Yankee imperialists prepare a bloody drama for Latin America, they will not succeed in crushing the peoples' struggles; they will only arouse universal hatred against themselves. And such a drama will also mark the fall of their greedy and Stone Age system.

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Imperialism: Epoch of war and revolution

Today millions of working people face a harsh reality — the economic, financial and social crises and the devastating world wars of the 20th century haven't been consigned to history. While the ruling propertied families wield state power, the rapacious profit drive and bitter rivalries that mark their declining world system of exploitation and oppression are once again dragging humanity down the road toward fascism and world war.

Falling rates of profit and sharpening competition over markets, resources and spheres of influence are fueling new trade wars — and ultimately shooting wars — between imperialist rivals, as well as with other capitalist powers.

These uncontrollable and conflicting forces have been unfolding in the decades since the U.S. rulers mistakenly began to act on the conviction that the implosion of the Soviet Union meant they had won the Cold War and could freely ride roughshod worldwide. This has led to bloody wars and humiliating defeats, from Iraq to Afghanistan and more, each of which has tolled the opening guns of World War III more loudly.

This has accelerated since the watershed events of Moscow's 2022 war against Ukraine's peoples and the Tehran-backed Hamas pogrom against Jews in Israel Oct. 7.

Opposition to Washington's foreign and militarist policy is crucial for the working-class movement today. The U.S. rulers use the NATO alliance to open the door to interventions in Europe and around the

world, seeking always to advance their own national interests at the expense of workers and rivals everywhere. The capitalist rulers in the U.S. are in decline today, but still dominant in today's fragmenting imperialist world order.

As the 2022 political resolution of the Socialist Workers Party says, "No propertied ruling class is going to disarm and risk its own wealth and power, while its competitors and enemies remain nuclear-armed to the teeth."

"'Not one man and not one penny' for the imperialist government, its budget, and its war machine" is a "central aspect of our proletarian internationalist continuity from the Bolsheviks under Lenin to this today."

The imperialist epoch is above all a time of revolution. The 20th century witnessed not only depression and war, but also saw the working classes rise in two great successful proletarian revolutions — the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by V.I. Lenin and Cuba's socialist revolution led by Fidel Castro. The Socialist Workers Party is built on and guided by those lessons.

Whether or not the unthinkable horrors of a third world war are unleashed will be decided by mighty battles between the capitalist and working classes in coming decades. Join the SWP's 2024 presidential campaign to promote building a mass party of labor with a leadership capable of taking political power and joining with workers and farmers worldwide to end capitalist oppression and wars once and for all.

Hearing on Florida prison ban on 'Militant' July 18

Continued from front page

The paper received a notice May 17 from prison authorities in Malone saying they had impounded the *Militant* dated April 29 for running a photo they claim "shows dead person being paraded around on a motorcycle; magazine depict hatred toward a specific race." Goldstein filed an appeal May 23. It has been pending since.

In fact, this widely circulated Associated Press picture accompanied an article in the *Militant* opposing Jew-hatred. The photo shows the body of a Jewish man murdered by Hamas during its deadly Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel being driven around Gaza City to cheers by the Jew-hating group's supporters.

"For decades the *Militant* has spoken out against Jew-hatred and the dangers it poses for all working people. We call for uniting Jewish, Arab, immigrant and other workers to defend their common class interests," said *Militant* editor John Studer.

Prison authorities claim the photo is "dangerously inflammatory" and violates prison rules, including the encouragement of "riot, insurrection, rebellion" and "organized prison protest."

"The censorship of No. 17 based on the photo," wrote Goldstein in the *Militant's* appeal, "is unconstitutional, arbitrary and discriminatory." It is "in violation of the *Militant's* right to Due Process and Equal Protection under the Constitution's 14th Amendment."

Among those who have sent letters calling for the ban to be overturned are the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida and nationwide; Florida Press Association; PEN America; Amnesty International; Inna Stavitsky, former president of

the Holocaust Memorial Committee in Brooklyn, New York; 20 librarians who recently participated in the American Library Association conference in San Diego; Mark Lee, principal officer for Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 57 in Mount Gilead, Ohio; and the list goes on.

If you would like copies of any or all of these letters, contact the *Militant*.

Over the past decade Florida prison officials have tried to suppress issues of the *Militant* nearly 50 times. The paper challenged every ban and has won the vast majority.

What LA hotel workers strike accomplished

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — "We struck four times. Most important for me is that health care co-pays were held down," Rosa Merino, a housekeeper at the Indigo hotel downtown here, told the *Militant*. She was part of a meeting of 150 at the Westin Bonaventure downtown hotel here organized July 10 by UNITE HERE Local 11. Participants were celebrating and thanking community supporters after winning more than 60 contracts at area hotels since the union began a series of rolling three- and four-day strikes a year ago July 2.

"If the bosses try to give me more work, I'll tell them talk to my union. They respect us more now," said Merino. In addition to the actions at the Indigo, Merino said she joined picketing at four other area hotels, at a Sheraton hotel in Phoenix, and joined a union-organized protest in Washington, D.C.

The crowd included a number of union representatives, local politicians and religious figures associated with Clergy and Laity Organized for Economic Justice, which has supported the union in the hard-fought struggle. The program was chaired by two of the three Local 11 co-presidents, Ada Briceño and Kurt Petersen. Videos of photos taken during the strikes were shown on two large screens.

Petersen explained that because of the new contracts most hotel workers will receive a \$10 an hour pay raise, with \$5 beginning immediately. The contracts also require daily housekeeping at hotels unless a hotel guest opts out.

Paychecks will include a 20% gratuity charge for union servers and bartenders at nonluxury hotels.

Ontario Liquor Control Board workers strike for wages, full time work

BY STEVE PENNER

CORNWALL, Ontario — Over 9,000 workers at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario stores went on strike July 5, the first strike in their history. The members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union had voted 97% to strike. Rallies and picket lines have been held by strikers across the province, including a protest of at least 150 in downtown Toronto.

In response, the liquor board closed its stores across the province for at least two weeks. The Crown corporation had intended to continue to distribute alcohol to bars, restaurants and hotels from five distribution centers, but union pickets forced it to cancel this plan. Instead, the company is only able to fulfill small online orders.

Some 70% of these workers are casuals and earn 9 Canadian dollars (\$6.60) an hour less on average than permanent employees. "The cost of living is astronomical," Lorrie Scuffell, a member of the Local 4100 union executive here, told the *Militant*. "Workers can't survive on these wages." Especially, she said, since there's no guarantee of how many hours casuals will work in any given week. Some are forced to take two or three part-time jobs to get by.

Five thousand workers at the Quebec Liquor Corporation went on strike in April for two days against similar conditions. About 70% there work part time or are on call and have no access to group insurance. "From one two-week period to another, they don't know if there will be enough hours to pay for groceries," said Caroline Senneville, president of their union, the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

"I've been with the LCBO for eight years and I'm still a casual," Maddi Baldree, picket captain in Cornwall said. "It can take up to 15 years to become permanent." You don't get any benefits for at least the first five years. And even when you qualify they are inferior to those of permanent employees.

"This is an important fight," Elizabeth Bardawill said. "We're not just fighting for ourselves. We're fighting for everyone." Many drivers honked their horns in support as they drove past the picket line.

Messages of support can be sent to Ontario Public Service Employees Union, 100 Lesmill Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M3B 3P8.

Fight prison ban on the 'Militant'

Get letters of support from unions, defenders of workers, prisoners rights and free speech. Send to Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, or email to Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with copies to themilitant@mac.com

Send a check to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked "Prisoners Rights Fight."