

Canadian flight attendants vote No! on contract by over 99%!

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — More than 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 4092, voted 99.1% to reject a wage offer in a tentative contract, the union announced Sept. 6. The workers went on strike for three days last month, defying a government back-to-work order.

“We forced the company back to the table. It was so good that we had the support of the public. We have more unity than ever,” Kiyomi Takashi told the *Militant* as she marched in the flight attendants’ contingent at the Toronto Labour Day Parade Sept. 1.

The key issue in the strike was the bosses’ refusal to pay attendants for the work they perform before and after their flights depart and arrive.

The strike began Aug. 16. By 2 p.m. the federal government had invoked Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code ordering flight attendants back to work and imposing binding arbitration.

But determined to fight and embold-

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Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign

‘Workers must fight to take political power’

Break with ‘lesser evil’ capitalist politics



Paul Mailhot, right, SWP candidate for New York mayor, at march for Puerto Rico’s independence Aug. 31. “A free Puerto Rico will strengthen the hand of workers in U.S.,” he said.

BY SANDRA LATHAM

NEW YORK — “Increasing numbers of working people in the U.S. and worldwide can see that the imperialist ruling classes of the world are steadily marching humanity toward World War III, with everything that means

in the age of nuclear weapons,” Paul Mailhot, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, said at a Sept. 7 program.

“But another global conflagration is not inevitable,” he said. “The working class is an actor in the world, including in the U.S. It will have its chance

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Defend Israel’s fight to destroy Hamas, stop a new Holocaust

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Israeli government is implementing its battle plans to defeat and disarm Hamas in Gaza. Decisively defeating Hamas is necessary to prevent the Nazi-like group from launching more pogroms. It will also remove Hamas’ boot from the neck of the Palestinian people.

Israeli troops now control 75% of Gaza and as much as 40% of Gaza City, Hamas’ last major stronghold. Unlike Hamas, whose goal is to kill as many Jews as possible, the Israel Defense Forces tries to get civilians out of harms way before going after Hamas death squads.

Over the last several weeks the Israel Defense Forces ordered civilians to evacuate several high rise buildings Hamas was using as command posts. Once the civilians left, the buildings were leveled.

On Sept. 9 the IDF dropped thousands of leaflets over Gaza City telling civilians to completely abandon the city in advance of Israel’s offensive. The next day it followed up with texts and recorded messages to residents’ cellphones.

The roads heading toward Israeli-des-

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Washington and Beijing step up war preparations, threat of World War III



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Trevor Hale
 Live fire exercises by USS Higgins in Philippine Sea Sept. 1, part of “Exercise Pacific Vanguard 2025,” involving warships of Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and United States.

BY TERRY EVANS

Chinese President Xi Jinping presided over a massive parade of weaponry Sept. 3, alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and representatives of 23 other governments.

The display was aimed at projecting Beijing’s rising reach, its expanding firepower and sharpening challenge to the decadeslong domination of U.S. imperialism. And it comes amid today’s

increasingly violent capitalist competition for markets, resources and profits worldwide.

The U.S. imperialist rulers are enlarging their own military forces and seeking to reshape alliances while they’re still top dog. But they’re less and less capable of stabilizing the capitalist world order they put together after their victory at the end of the second imperialist world slaughter in 1945.

Washington sees the Chinese rulers’

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US hands off Venezuela! Get US warships, bombers out of Caribbean

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. military cold-bloodedly killed 11 people on a speedboat in international waters off the coast of Venezuela Sept. 2, violating the sovereignty of Venezuela, other Caribbean nations and beyond. President Donald Trump claimed, without providing any evidence, the boat carried

drugs destined for the United States, organized by “Tren de Aragua Narcoterrorists ... operating under the control of [Venezuelan President] Nicolas Maduro.”

The attack was carried out without a warning shot and no effort to apprehend the crew. The administration says it’s planning to carry out further attacks.

The sinking of the boat took place just days after the Pentagon deployed eight warships, several navy surveil-

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Moscow attacks retirees, workers across Ukraine

BY TERRY EVANS

From the start of Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has insisted his goal is to conquer the country’s people and incorporate it into Russia. Three and a half years on, his regime’s airstrikes are targeting civilians, but failing to break the resolve of working people to defend Ukraine’s sovereignty, the backbone of the country’s resistance.

Moscow’s bombing isn’t centered on combating Ukrainian troops along

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Moscow attacks retirees, workers across Ukraine

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the front line, but bombarding densely populated areas to maximize civilian deaths, hoping to spread fear and demoralization and force a Ukrainian surrender.

In the largest aerial attack since the war began, Moscow fired 805 drones, nine cruise missiles and four ballistic missiles Sept. 7, in an attempt to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses. The assaults hit the capital, Kyiv, as well as Kryvyi Rih, Dnipro, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia and Kremenchuk. Ukrainian forces downed most of the bombs, but four people were killed. The building housing the country’s Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv was one of the targets.

Two days later a bomb hit the center of Yarova, a village in eastern Ukraine, targeting pensioners queuing at the post office to pick up their benefits. At least 23 people were killed.

Moscow’s airstrikes have escalated since June. Each barrage forces the Ukrainian government to use its limited stock of interceptors at a faster pace than they are being supplied by Washington and governments in Europe.

“We will have to resolve all our tasks militarily,” Putin said Sept. 3, during a visit to Beijing. Since 2022 he’s repeatedly claimed that Ukraine is an artificial state and its people are really all Russians.

But Ukraine does exist as a sovereign nation. Its working people have joined the fight with courage and in large numbers. Despite having the upper hand in manpower and military resources, Moscow has been unable to break them.

Their resilience is exemplified by Halyna Dovhopola, who ran a newspaper kiosk in Sevastapol, Crimea.

Moscow seized the peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. It had 25,000 troops stationed there as part of an agreement with previous Ukrainian governments. Dovhopola was arrested in 2019 by the police-state regime Putin installed there. She was charged with spying and imprisoned after she expressed opposition to Moscow’s occupation.

Now 70 years old, Dovhopola was visited by human rights activists in August at the prison colony in Russia where she’s held. “She has an incredible vitality which has helped her to not only not give up, but to support others around her,” her visitors told the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.

In an earlier letter, Dovhopola

wrote, “Each of us is fighting for our life, so as to not ‘die in Russia’ behind barbed wire. We ask you all not to forget about us! Glory to Ukraine!”

In the Kherson region of Ukraine, Moscow recently began using drones to burn crops and destroy farm equipment. Grain farmer Oleksandr Hordienko equipped himself with tracking devices and a rifle. “We will fight for this land. For us, this land is everything,” he told the *Wall Street Journal*. Hordienko shot down 80 drones before Moscow’s forces killed him Sept. 5.

Undeterred, other farmers and farmworkers in the area are acquiring military equipment and working with army veterans to defend themselves and ensure the harvest is brought home.



Halyna Dovhopola, imprisoned in Crimea for opposing occupation by Russian troops.

99% of Canadian flight attendants vote No! on contract

Continued from front page
ened by widespread labor support, the flight attendants refused, keeping picket lines up across the country. This was the fourth time in a year the federal government used anti-labor laws to rule a strike illegal, having earlier sent tens of thousands of striking postal workers, port workers and rail workers back to work.

The refusal of the flight attendants to bend to the back-to-work order had an impact on workers across Canada.

“It was great to see workers sticking together like that,” Christian Berger, a longshore worker, told the *Militant* at the Port of Montreal Sept. 5.

“I’m glad the flight attendants rejected the offer after defying the government,” said Kim Scharley, a member of Canadian Union of Postal Workers Local 350 in Montreal, one of the unions

ordered back to work earlier this year. “The federal government sets the standards for others to follow,” he said. “The bar for workers’ rights is being lowered like never before. All workers are threatened. That’s why solidarity from the labor movement is crucial.”

Alexandre Jacob, a train conductor at Canadian National Railway and member of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Division 89, saluted the flight attendants for “defying an unjust ruling to return to work.” Teamsters rail workers were also recently ordered back to work by Ottawa.

Opposition to tentative deal

Under the tentative agreement, flight attendants were only allowed to vote on the section of the contract on wages. They were denied the right to vote on pay for all hours worked — not just when cabin doors are closed.

Starting immediately, crew members would be paid 50% of their hourly rate for 60 minutes of preflight duties on narrow-body aircraft and 70 minutes on wide-body aircraft — rising to 70% by 2028.

The deal stipulated that flight attendants will not face any disciplinary action for taking part in the strike, despite it being ruled illegal.

After workers rejected the wage offer, Canadian Union of Public Employees

Local 4092 issued a press release saying that even with the proposed increase, Air Canada flight attendants would still earn less than the federal minimum wage, which is 17.75 Canadian dollars an hour (\$12.78) or CA\$2,840 per month on a 40-hour workweek.

A full-time Air Canada Rouge flight attendant would earn just CA\$2,219 per month, and a full-time mainline flight attendant only CA\$2,522 per month.

Further talks between the union and the company on wages will now be held.

The flight attendants were determined to make substantial wage gains after having lived with a 10-year contract from 2015 to 2025 that offered wage increases of 2% per year for the life of the contract, well below the rate of inflation.

“We’ve been waiting 10 years to negotiate this,” Isabelle, a flight attendant who wanted to only give her first name, told the *Militant* at an Aug. 17 Montreal union rally during the strike. “In 2003 the company said they might go bankrupt, so we all gave them \$10,000 and 10 paid holidays. They told us they would give it back when things got better. We still haven’t got it back.”

Struggles by flight attendants are being fought across North America. U.S. crews at United Airlines recently rejected a tentative agreement, citing the same frustration over unpaid ground work.

THE MILITANT

Amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S.!

The fight to win freedom for Kilmar Abrego García and for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. are steps to unify the working class and strengthen its fighting capacity. The ‘Militant’ says back fight for asylum for Abrego García! No to deportation!



Militant/Samir Hazboun
Kilmar Abrego García speaking at Baltimore rally before reporting to ICE office Aug. 25.

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BCTGM workers at Teasdale make gains, end 3-month strike

BY BETSY FARLEY

HOOPESTON, Ill. — “We stuck together and stood strong and now we’re more united than we were before,” Beatrice Marmolejo told the *Militant*. She’s a forklift driver at Teasdale Latin Foods here, where 65 members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 1 struck the company for three months. They won a new union contract Aug. 29.

Workers at the Hoopeston plant can, pack, and distribute a variety of beans that are sold under the Teasdale brand, as well as under store brands at Walmart, Giant, Aldi, Jewel and other chains.

The union won an immediate 5% wage increase and a 17% overall increase over the four-year contract. They also won 40 additional hours of paid time off a year. “We also stopped the company from using ‘management rights’ to hire nonunion contractors in the plant,” Marmolejo said.

The bosses hoped to demoralize the strikers by using scabs to keep production going, but the union kept the picket lines up around the clock seven days a week. “At one point the wind even blew away our tent,” she said, “but that didn’t stop us.”

Solidarity came in from all across the country, Donna Strawser, a worker with nine years in the plant, said. “We had people from the BCTGM in Kentucky, Iowa, California, Michigan, Ohio and more come to back us up.”

Juan “Chico” Lugo, a picket captain with 26 years in the plant, said, “Whenever we started to feel a bit down, another local would show up and give us a pep talk. That really helped.”

“The Teamsters were awesome in supporting us,” said Strawser. The Teamsters organize the company’s distribution workers, who work in a building next to the cannery. “As long as we had our pickets at the warehouse they would sign in with their union rep and refuse to cross the line, and they got strike benefits from their union.”

The Teamsters union also covered the cost of BCTGM strikers’ health insur-

ance. “We couldn’t have won a contract without their solidarity,” Strawser said.

In the last few weeks, the union launched a campaign called “Who’s Cooking the Beans?” leafleting at Walmart and other stores to let workers and customers know about the strike and the company’s use of scabs.

The union also succeeded in beating back the company’s demand to institute a two-tier wage scale, Lugo said. “But the new contract does change the work schedules from four 10- to 12-hour days to five eight-hour days with three shifts, something the union opposed,” he said. Workers are concerned the company will find ways to use the new schedule to impose forced overtime.

“We got most of what we wanted, not everything,” Strawser said. “But we’re going back stronger and united.”

“These hard-working members put it



BCTGM members celebrate winning new union contract in three-month strike at Teasdale Latin Foods in Hoopeston, Illinois. They got broad labor solidarity that helped win the fight.

all on the line in their fight for a fair contract,” BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton said in the BCTGM blog post issued on Labor Day. “This settlement is the result of their dedica-

tion and the solidarity of the labor movement and the community.”

Dean Hazlewood contributed to this article.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Laborers union strikes Pace Industries over wage, health care

DERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Honks and waves from drivers passing by show the widespread solidarity with striking workers picketing at the Pace Industries manufacturing plant here. Over 200 workers at the plant, members of Laborers’ International Union of North America Local 1357, walked out Aug. 7. Largely machine operators, they make die-cast aluminum parts for the automotive, defense and other industries.

The key issues in the strike are higher wages, affordable health insurance and other attacks by the company. “Our current contract expired in May 2024 and was extended several times to July 2025,” Ken Huffman, Local 1357 auditor and a machine operator at the plant, told the *Militant*. “All the company was doing was shuffling numbers between bonuses, health insurance and wages,” but adding nothing to the value of the contract. “We voted down their last offer 160-3 and went on strike.”

Local 1357 President Duke Reed told

the media health plan premiums were “due to rise between 11% and 17%, but the company would cover only about 3% of that hike.” The jacked-up health plan costs and small wage increase would put workers at a “net loss of income,” he said.

The bosses “offered us a bonus, but what’s that? We need raises, not a one-time payment,” striker Patty Ray said. “Before we could strike, we had to do a five-day ‘cooling-off’ period. During those days we took longer breaks and slowed our work down.”

“There used to be 340 of us in the plant, but the company has been laying off workers. They laid off 40 last summer,” Huffman said. “They had us working seven days a week.” Then the company called laid-off workers asking them to come back and cross the picket line, but it didn’t work.

“Union bricklayers from Dayton, Ohio, were doing work in the building, but they left as soon as the strike began,” he said. Members of the United Electrical Workers and United Steelworkers

have brought donations.

Pickets are up 24/7, and are extra lively at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., when management and replacement workers go in and out. Show your support! Join the picket line at 1004 Industrial Blvd.

— Victor Aurier

UAW strikes at GE Aerospace over health care costs, schedules

EVENDALE, Ohio — “We are more unified now than ever. We’re getting union and community support. Last week Sean O’Brien, international president of the Teamsters union, joined our picket line,” Don Luknis, second shift safety committee person of United Auto Workers Local 647, told the *Militant* at the union hall Sept. 6. More than 600 members of the local went on strike against General Electric Aerospace here and in Erlanger, Kentucky, Aug. 28.

The major issue is the cost of health insurance, which has increased 36% since 2021. Other key issues include job security and paid time off. Negotiations are scheduled to resume Sept. 9.

“We shocked the hell out of GE by going out. We had prepared to strike for months,” Luknis said. “We wore red shirts in the plant on Wednesdays to honor Gerry Horgan, the chief steward of Communications Workers of America Local 1103. He was killed by a scab driving through their picket line in the 1989 strike against NYNEX in New York.” That strike was also over workers’ health care.

GE is “proposing a wage increase that is less than its health care proposal. On our schedules, I have a co-worker forced to work during chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer because he ran out of days off,” he said.

Members of International Association of Machinists Local 912 work on maintenance in the Evendale plant and just won their own contract fight. They’ve been refusing to work in solidarity since the UAW strike began. But Sept. 5 they announced the company told them they had to come back to work or face termination. They’ve vowed they will do no UAW production work and will continue to actively support the strike.

Local 647 issued a statement thanking the IAM members for honoring their picket line as long as they could.

— Valerie Wagner

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 18, 2000

WASHINGTON — They came from cities and towns around the country. Thousands of people converged on the nation’s capital August 26 to demand an end to cop brutality and harassment.

The march, which drew between 10,000 and 15,000 people, was the first nationwide protest against police brutality. A number of those marching, relatives of young people killed by cops, have been fighting for justice for years. Speakers included Abner Louima, who was sodomized and tortured by New York cops in 1997, and the parents of Amadou Diallo, gunned down last year in a barrage of 41 bullets by police in the Bronx.

“The unions should take more responsibility for actions like this. They have the numbers to really speak for the masses of people,” said Maureen Lewis, a lab technician who came on a bus organized by her union, Service Employees International Union Local 1199.



September 19, 1975

An estimated 5,000 persons, including 200 military police and troops from various army, navy, and air force units, marched in front of the presidential palace in Lisbon Sept. 1 to protest against sending more Portuguese troops to the African colony of Angola.

The protesting troops chanted with the other demonstrators, “No more troops to Angola!” “Bring our soldiers home!” and “No to a new colonial war!” A meeting of 500 soldiers of the Lisbon military police unit passed a resolution calling for a collective refusal to serve in Angola.

The government has also met with continued resistance from the Angolan nationalist organizations. The Movimento Popular de Libertacao de Angola (People’s Movement for the Liberation of Angola) warned that the MPLA “will definitively assume total governmental responsibility on Nov. 11, 1975.”



September 18, 1950

No one with even a slight knowledge of military science would have considered it remarkable if American forces had quickly halted the North Korean army. What is considered “miraculous” by most military analysts is that the Koreans have been able to continue the offensive and reduce the U.S. beachhead by a third.

The question that has the specialists in the Pentagon burning the midnight oil, is: What is the mysterious source of power for this Korean army, composed largely of backward peasants, which by ordinary military standards should have been shattered weeks ago?

The answer is simple: The power is the Korean people. Nothing throws more light on the real nature of U.S. intervention than the fact that the people America is supposedly “defending from invasion” are supporting the “invaders” and look on their “defenders” as foreign destroyers.

Widespread protests continue as Indonesia gov't cracks down

BY JANET POST

Since Aug. 25 at least 10 protesters have been killed, dozens are missing and more than 3,000 arrested by government troops and police in Indonesia. In the midst of a deepening economic crisis, demonstrations erupted against President Prabowo Subianto after he granted federal legislators a pay raise, a special monthly housing allowance of 50 million rupiah (\$3,000), and paid for their overseas trips and other perks.

As workers in Indonesia struggle with inflation and unemployment, the housing allowance alone is equivalent to 10 times the minimum monthly wage in the country.

The protests began on university campuses, but quickly spread to more than 110 cities, drawing in 64 trade unions and the Alliance of Indonesian Women. The government responded with a brutal crackdown as the military used rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannons and snipers against protesters.

Youth unemployment in Indonesia is 16%. "I don't think there's a fear to speak up, but there's a fear that if you go to the street to do a demonstration there might be undercover police or military personnel to arrest people," Cho Yong Gi, a 22-year-old university student told CNN.

On Aug. 28 an armored vehicle from the National Police's Mobile Brigade in Jakarta ran over and killed 21-year-old rideshare and food delivery motorbike driver Affan Kurniawan, and drove off without stopping. There are an estimated 1.5 million delivery drivers in Indonesia. When a news video of the killing was posted, street protests intensified.

The protests, which Subianto called "treason and terrorism," have won widespread support throughout the region. After the killing of Kurniawan, workers in neighboring Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand organized to order food on Indonesia delivery apps, telling the riders they could keep the food or distribute it to others.

Tara, a 34-year-old in the Philippines, told the BBC she was one of those who sent food orders. She said she's encouraging others to do likewise. "Seeing you [Indonesian protesters] stand together against corrupt politicians is inspiring," she said. "Our government is just as bad and corrupt."

As protests have grown, they have forced Subianto to announce a reduction in the perks bestowed on legislators.

Since he took office in October 2024 there have been three major protests against his cuts in social services. He responded by expanding the military.

Subianto rose to prominence in the Indonesian army's Special Forces under the brutal dictatorship of Suharto, who had led the slaughter of tens of thousands of supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party in 1965. Subianto led the ruthless suppression of fighters for the independence of East Timor in the 1980s.

He was driven from the country by mass protests in 1998 that led to the downfall of Suharto. Sabianto returned to Indonesia in 2001, joining his brother in building a powerful corporate empire.



Reuters/Willie Kurniawan

Delivery workers in Indonesia join anti-government protest Sept. 2. When a delivery worker was killed by police, workers in nearby countries responded by donating food orders to drivers.

Rulers use 'sex crimes' to attack constitutional rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The Special Treatment Unit at Avenel, New Jersey, sounds like a medical center. In fact it's a prison facility where people are held indefinitely and without trial, after having already completed their full prison sentences on charges of rape and sexual assault. No other convictions, no matter how grave, such as cold-blooded murder, can legally be treated this way.

This attack by the bosses' government is a serious blow to constitutional freedoms that the working class needs.

New Jersey is one of 20 states with similar "civil commitment" laws and facilities that disregard the right to a trial and protection from cruel and unusual punishment by the government.

Many of these programs were established after state governments adopted "sexual predator" laws during the late 1990s, which require those convicted under them to "own" their crimes to be considered for release. This means they have to abandon any effort to maintain their innocence or fight to get their convictions reversed.

These blows to constitutional protections were carried out by the capitalist rulers using arguments that these laws were essential to defend women's rights.

In 2023 some 6,000 people were incarcerated in these prisons nationwide.

New Jersey offers no way to challenge court-ordered civil commitment requested by a state attorney general with the agreement of a judge. Once

inside, men are forced to undergo intensive "therapy" programs until authorities deem they are "cured" and can safely be released. For many it's a life sentence.

Since the Avenel unit was opened in 1999, 750 people have been imprisoned there, but only 57 actually set free. A further 253 have been "conditionally" discharged, with restrictive conditions imposed. They can be reimprisoned at any time. One man was sent back to Avenel in 2020 after being caught smoking marijuana. Another was ordered back in 2009 after running a stop sign while driving without a license.

Nine people have been held there since the unit was opened 26 years ago.

Russell Tinsley, who had been convicted of rape in another state, served his time and was released. But he was then placed in the special treatment unit in 2010 after serving a two-year prison term for a conviction for car theft in New Jersey. Two doctors, who didn't bother to interview him, urged his confinement saying he lacked the skills to safely function outside.

"I think they want to keep me here until I die," Tinsley told the *New York Times* last month. He just turned 70.

Rodney Roberts was committed to the unit in 2004 after serving a seven-year sentence for a rape he has always maintained he didn't commit. In prison he was repeatedly denied parole because he refuses to "acknowledge his guilt." When he finally won his release, he was immediately recommended for placement in the unit for refusing "to accept responsibility for his crime," the *Times* reports.

After a decade in the unit, Roberts' appeal of his original conviction led to a DNA test that showed he hadn't committed the rape. He was released and in 2015 sued the state for wrongful conviction, a case that is still in the courts.

Rape charges used in cop frame-ups

The dangers of the unconstitutional use of "civil commitment" therapy based on previous sexual assault convictions is underscored by authorities' attempts to pin frame-ups on militant unionists and working-class fighters using similar charges.

During the labor upsurge in the 1930s, meat packer and union organizer Frank Ellis led a powerful sit-down strike at the Hormel plant in

Austin, Minnesota, in 1933. Strikers fought a widely supported battle, winning recognition for the Independent Union of All Workers, which years later became Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Ellis, who collaborated with the Socialist Workers Party-led Teamsters in Minneapolis, was framed up and convicted on charges of abduction of a minor for immoral purposes. He was driving from Austin to Minneapolis on March 22, 1934, and gave a lift to two young women, Frances Exelby and Teresa Hall, who asked him for a ride. Ellis was going to Minneapolis to meet with SWP and Teamster leader Ray Dunne.

After the meeting, Ellis heard the young women had nowhere to stay and arranged a separate room for them at the hotel where he was staying before they drove back to Austin. Eighteen months later he was arrested and charged. Despite a union-led defense campaign, he was convicted.

After eight months in prison, the *Northwest Organizer*, the Teamsters' paper, announced his sentence had been commuted by the state parole board.

"It is the opinion of the labor movement in the state that Frank Ellis was framed up by reactionary employers in the Southern part of the state for his activities in behalf of the union movement," the *Organizer* wrote.

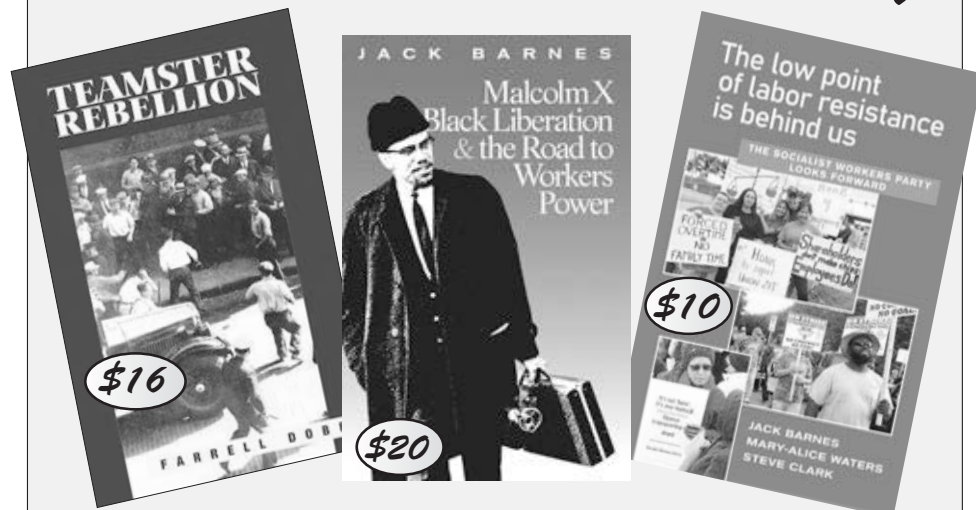
Cops launched a similar frame-up case decades later against SWP member and unionist Mark Curtis, who was part of a fight against attacks on immigrant co-workers at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines, Iowa. In the midst of the fight, he was beaten, arrested and framed up by cops there on charges of attempted rape and burglary.

Local unionists and others set up the Mark Curtis Defense Campaign and won support worldwide for his freedom. But prison authorities demanded Curtis complete a Sex Offenders Treatment Program. Getting parole, they strongly suggested, required Curtis drop his fight to get his conviction overturned and admit he was guilty.

Curtis refused to buckle to the pressure. His defense campaign took on and exposed authorities use of these so-called treatment programs to deal blows to workers' rights.

The international defense campaign won Curtis' freedom in 1996.

Books workers need to read today



from pathfinderpress.com

‘Fight to take political power’

Continued from front page

through the class struggle to prove that the capitalist class is incapable of ruling without wars, hunger, racism. It has the capacity to take power out of their hands. To do this, workers need to build revolutionary parties in every country.”

Wherever Washington intervenes to broker or impose a so-called peace, whether between Iran and Israel, India and Pakistan, or elsewhere, it acts solely to “protect U.S. imperialist interests and Washington’s influence around the world,” Mailhot said. It is never to advance the interests of the toilers at home or abroad. “Renaming the Department of Defense the Department of War is an indication of what the U.S. rulers want to prepare working people for.”

This is especially true in the two major wars shaking world politics today — Israel’s war of self-defense to defeat Hamas to prevent another Holocaust and the fight of the Ukrainian people to beat back Moscow’s invasion and defend the country’s sovereignty, Mailhot said.

U.S. rulers won’t stop drug trade

Washington now has at least eight warships deployed off the coast of Venezuela, supposedly to stop drug smuggling. U.S. forces blew up a small boat there, killing 11 people. Such attacks are aimed at protecting oil deposits in the region that the U.S. wants to exploit and to send a message to the Venezuelan and other governments, especially Cuba, that dare to stand up against U.S. interests, Mailhot said.

“Drugs are a scourge on the working class. It’s hard to find a working-class family that hasn’t been affected by the legal and illegal marketing of drugs and the psychoses, dependencies and deaths that result,” Mailhot said. “The idea of ‘taking drugs off the streets’ and ‘stopping the drug traffickers’ gets a hearing. But no capitalist ruling class is trying to end the drug trade.” It’s a profitable business under capitalism and the damage to human beings is coldly calculated as a cost of doing business.

Military moves by U.S. imperialism are reflected within the U.S. as well, Mailhot said. He pointed to the deployment of National Guard and federal troops in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., as well as masked Homeland Security agents in flack jackets knocking down the doors of a factory in upstate New York. Workers there reported to the press that federal agents “detained anyone who was Hispanic.”

“These raids are conducted in such a way as to sow fear in the entire working class — immigrant and

native born,” Mailhot said. “They aim to normalize arrests and denial of rights,” like due process, which is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

They’re aimed against workers trying to organize unions. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at the Hyundai plant near Savannah, Georgia, comes as the United Auto Workers is making inroads with organizing drives in the South, he pointed out.

Working class ready to resist

“Capitalism thrives on divisions among workers that hinder our ability to stand together and fight for higher wages and safer working conditions,” Mailhot said. “That’s why the Socialist Workers Party calls for amnesty for all immigrants living and working in the United States. That’s the only way to unite the working class to better be able to fight.”

“As the crisis of capitalism bears down harder on millions today, the working class shows it is ready to resist,” Mailhot said. He pointed to the Air Canada flight attendants, who defied a government order to return to work. Their powerful strike action convinced the union leadership to not give in, saying they’d go to jail if they had to. Now workers have a better understanding of their power, Mailhot said.

The contract the union leadership agreed to is far short of what workers were fighting for and felt their struggle was capable of achieving, Mailhot said. That was made clear by workers’ 99% rejection of the wage raise, the only part of the contract the workers got to vote on. Many Air Canada flight attendants say they have a new found appreciation of themselves and their ability to fight, and millions of other workers took notice. “That is



Laura Anderson, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, files to be on the ballot at Miami City Hall Sept. 8, joined by campaign supporters Rachele Fruit and Steve Warshell. SWP candidates nationwide are getting a serious hearing from working people.

the victory of this important struggle,” Mailhot said.

Mailhot pointed to many Labor Day activities this year that reflected the importance of the fight to unify the working class through support for the rights of immigrant workers. The SWP participated in these events across the country, raising a working-class road forward. The party explains why workers need to break from the parties of the bosses — Democrats, Republicans and any others — and fight for the working class to take political power.

Many workers welcomed this discussion, as they talked about their own battles over wages and working conditions at the companies where they work.

One participant asked what the SWP hopes to accomplish through its election campaigns.

“The Socialist Workers Party uses the increased interest of work-

ers in politics during the elections to point to the examples already set by the working class throughout its history,” Mailhot explained. “We especially point to the two great revolutions of our epoch, in Russia in 1917 and in Cuba in 1959, when the working class took power, and used the power of the state not to defend an exploiting class, but to defend the toilers who have absolutely no material interest in exploiting and oppressing others.

We ask workers to join the SWP, he said, and to help fight for workers power, unleashing the tremendous capacities of working people to solve every question, to put an end to discrimination and national oppression, to eliminate the source of war, and eliminate the massive buildup of the means of destruction underway today.

The SWP is the party of today’s working-class struggles and the future of humanity.

Hotel workers strike at Hilton Americas in Houston

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

HOUSTON — Members of UNITE HERE Local 23 began a historic strike at the Hilton Americas-Houston in downtown on Labor Day. “This is the first hotel strike in Texas,” striker Maria Vasquez told the *Militant*. She has worked at the Hilton for 17 years as a housekeeper and makes just \$16.50 an hour. “We must have better wages and benefits, I have children and our pay isn’t enough to pay rent. My electricity bill is \$500 a month.” The strike is set to continue through Sept. 20.

The union contract with the Hilton expired June 30. When no progress was made toward a settlement, workers voted to authorize a strike by 99.3% Aug. 13. Then Local 23 organized a press conference and several picket lines to build support for their fight.

Workers are demanding a \$23 an hour minimum. “We have to take it up several notches here to turn up the pressure on this company,” said Franchesca Caraballo, president of Local 23’s Texas chapter. Strikers plan to march to City Hall Sept. 9 and speak out on their fight at the next City Council meeting.

The Hilton Americas-Houston, one of the city’s largest hotels, is owned by the Houston First Corporation. Hotel bosses say they broke records for both the number of visitors and hotel profits in 2024, raking in \$3 billion.

Strikers are also demanding better schedules and lighter workloads, more control over safety and for respect. “I am not getting 40 hours a week. Making \$16.50 an hour, I took in just \$630 in two weeks,” housekeeper Isel Cortez said. “We are fighting for better schedules and more hours. When there is not enough work, the Hilton says ‘take some money from your vacation and sick days.’ So you end up with no vacation or sick days.”

Nakki Watts Sr. has been at the Hilton for nine years. He also makes \$16.50 an hour working in extreme heat in the laundry room. “Three of my co-workers passed out and one of them cut her head when she fell,” he said. “They gave us a fan, but it just blows hot air around.”

“I moved here from Seattle and I am making \$2,500 less,” said Kenyatta Oatis. “I work in pastry and they change your schedule every week. We can’t plan our lives. I have a degree in culinary and pastry. We are fighting for more money and better hours. In August I only worked five days and we don’t even get eight hours a day.”

Unite Here Local 23 represents over 400 of the hourly and tipped workers at Hilton Americas-Houston, as well as workers at the Marriott Marquis, the George Bush Intercontinental Airport and the George R. Brown Convention Center, where contracts will expire

this fall. The local represents 28,000 hospitality and airport workers across 12 states and Washington, D.C.

Jordan Urdoneta, a houseman at the nearby Marriott Marquis, said he regularly joins the picket line here. “Our contract expires Oct. 1,” he said. “The housemen bring supplies to the housekeepers and clean carpets and floors on 11 to 12 floors a day. We have to work very fast and if they find something wrong we get disciplined.”

The strike needs solidarity! Get out the word! The strikers picket from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

Send messages and donations to UNITE HERE Local 23, 2506 Sutherland St., Houston TX 77023, or go to “Support Hilton Americas Workers’ Fight for a Fair Contract!” a GoFundMe page put up by the president of the Texas chapter.

Advance notice...

The Socialist Workers Party is preparing for a fall campaign to expand the readership of the *Militant* and books by party leaders and other revolutionaries, as well as raise \$140,000 for the party’s work. The dates for the eight-week drive are set for Sept. 20-Nov. 18. Next week’s *Militant* will carry feature coverage of this effort.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

U.S. Hands Off Venezuela! Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 21. Refreshments, 4:30 p.m.; Program, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

US hands off Venezuela!

Continued from front page

lance planes and a nuclear submarine to the Caribbean — with some 4,500 troops, including 2,200 Marines — on top of other ships already operating there, aimed at threatening Venezuela.

Marine and navy troops on Puerto Rico's southern coast began practicing amphibious landings. The Pentagon is sending 10 stealth F-35 fighter jets to the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba on the U.S. colony — now a civilian airport — putting them within striking distance of Venezuela. That base has been “closed” since 2004 after years of protests against the U.S. military presence on the island.

War Secretary Peter Hegseth, accompanied by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Dan Caine, visited Puerto Rico Sept. 8. The Pentagon is weighing the possibility of using the island as a base for ongoing operations as Washington reasserts its power in the Caribbean and Latin America.

This was the first time the U.S. rulers have openly acted on their asser-

tion they can kill anyone they accuse of being part of a criminal gang, denying those accused of due process and the opportunity to defend themselves at a trial. It's also the U.S. military's first publicly acknowledged airstrike in Latin America or the Caribbean since the invasion of Panama in 1989.

“Interdiction doesn't work,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed at a press conference in Mexico City Sept. 3, because the drug cartels “know they're going to lose 2% of their cargo.”

‘We'll keep blowing boats up’

“What will stop them is when you blow them up,” he said. “The point is the president of the United States is going to wage war on narco-terrorist organizations.” He pledged that blowing up boats would “happen again.” Trump said, “There's more where that came from.”

But the prime target of the display of U.S. military might was not drug cartels, but Venezuela. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Washington has sought to



AP Photo/Alejandro Granadillo

Sept. 7 protest in Puerto Rico against Washington's plan to use the island as a military base for attacks on Venezuela and elsewhere in the Caribbean. The U.S. rulers have a long history of military operations in Puerto Rico and attacks on the struggle for independence there.

force out President Nicolás Maduro and replace his regime with one that will better carry out the demands of the U.S. imperialist rulers.

In an Aug. 29 editorial the *Wall Street Journal* noted that the “serious firepower” the Pentagon has deployed to the Caribbean is meant “to pressure

Mr. Maduro to abdicate, or perhaps oust him.” But the paper warned, “A halfhearted operation to remove Mr. Maduro that is unprepared for armed resistance is asking for trouble.”

On Sept. 3 the editors of the *Journal* applauded the sinking of the boat and death of those on board, saying, “It was a good move.”

In response to Washington's military operations, the Maduro government called on the Venezuelan people to sign up to prepare to defend the country. The U.S. Defense Department says that Venezuelan F-16 fighter jets have flown over the guided missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham twice since the boat was destroyed. Trump has threatened to shoot them down next time.

Even before the boat was sunk, the Cuban government issued a statement Aug. 28, denouncing the stepped-up U.S. military operation in the Caribbean, calling it “a serious threat and an aggressive show of force against the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.”

No one can honestly believe that “the quantity of the troops, the combat matériel, naval forces, including nuclear submarines, and the firepower that the United States has sought to deploy in this peaceful area of the world is the appropriate manner to fight organized crime, illicit drug trafficking or irregular migration flows, nor that such deployment is truly pursuing its stated goals,” the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Washington and Beijing step up war preparations

Continued from front page

growing influence as its number one threat. This was captured when President Donald Trump posted a message to Xi on Truth Social, saying, “Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America.”

The White House has been involved in a monthslong series of tariff skirmishes with Beijing over control of natural resources, technologies and access to markets. It seeks to expand its manufacturing base, a key necessity in preparing to turn rapidly to a war economy in the future.

Neither Beijing nor any other power comes close to matching Washington's military might. But over the past decade China's state capitalist rulers have doubled their military budget and the number of nuclear weapons they hold. Beijing is currently expanding air force and naval bases along its coastline, just miles from Taiwan, which it claims as its own. In recent years Beijing has expanded naval patrols and claimed islands and waters in the South China Sea.

Beijing's military expansion has gone hand in hand with a massive increase in Chinese manufacturing over recent decades as it moved to secure markets for these products abroad.

The Sept. 3 parade marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. In his address, Xi praised the Chinese people's victory ousting occupying Japanese forces, a struggle that ended decades of colonial rule and oppression. Xi then appealed for support for his regime's expansionist course today, including the need for

Beijing to “speed up the building of a world-class military.”

Flanked by Putin and Kim, Xi told participants China “is a great nation that is never intimidated by any bullies.” It was clear to all his target was Trump and the U.S. rulers.

On show were the latest weapons for modern war — Chinese hypersonic missiles, long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles and new underwater drones that function as unmanned submarines. The procession included laser weapons intended to counter enemy drone attacks. China's most up-to-date jet fighters and bombers flew overhead.

Xi touts ‘peaceful coexistence’

As rivalry between Washington and Beijing sharpens, both are looking for capitalist governments to try to draw into their orbit.

Prior to the military parade, Xi hosted the largest-ever meeting of the Beijing-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tianjin. It has grown from six governments at its 2001 founding to 27 today. Like the BRICS bloc, set up by the government's of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the Chinese rulers hope to use the SCO to expand their influence.

Xi told the meeting that his regime is leading opposition to Washington's imposition of tariffs on some 90 countries. These protectionist measures are aimed at bolstering the U.S. rulers' expansion of production, trade and weaponry.

Attendees at the Tianjin summit included Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and officials from Pakistan, Egypt, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Xi began his address extolling the Chinese Communist Party's “original commitment to peaceful coexistence.” The Stalinist-molded regime in Beijing has used that term for decades to signal its support for maintaining capitalist exploitation and oppression, while quelling revolts by working people anywhere that threaten Beijing's inter-

ests and its expansion.

Without directly calling out Washington, Xi said Beijing would “unequivocally oppose hegemonism.” He reiterated calls for a “multipolar world,” as opposed to the U.S.-led world order, and touted China's efforts to “narrow the North-South gap.”

Few concrete initiatives came out of the gathering. Many governments represented there are also seeking trade deals with Washington, and aren't ready to throw themselves all the way into Beijing's arms. Modi's attendance was his first visit to China since a deadly border clash between India and China in 2020.

India was hit with an extra 25% tariff by the Trump administration in August to punish its government for buying oil from Moscow. While Modi tries to play both sides, he has shown no sign he intends to stop the oil purchases.

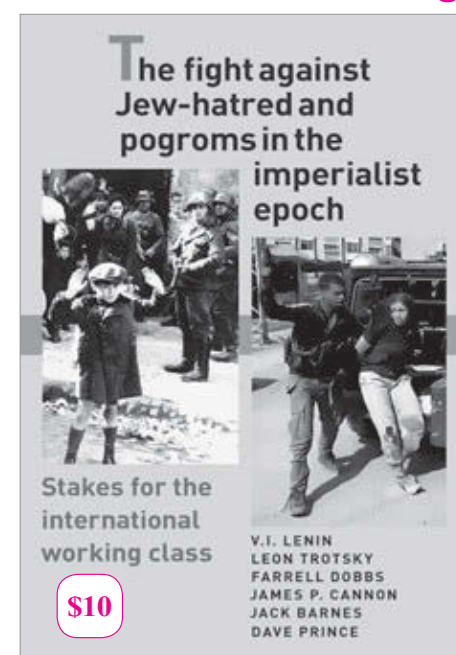
Just before attending the meeting, Modi displayed his government's ongoing military cooperation with Washington by making an official visit to Japan. The Indian government is part of the Quad military alliance with the imperialist rulers of Australia, Japan and the U.S. It's aimed at countering Beijing's influence in the Indo-Pacific. Modi also left after the conference, skipping Beijing's military parade.

As conflicts between Washington and Beijing sharpen, with both advancing preparations for new wars, Trump changed the name of the U.S. Defense Department to the War Department Sept. 5. “We won World War I, and we won World War II, not with the Department of Defense,” War Secretary Peter Hegseth said, “but with a War Department.”

Washington, its imperialist rivals in Europe and Asia, as well as Beijing and Moscow are all on a course to march humanity toward a third world war. That horrific prospect can only be prevented by workers taking political power into our own hands here in the U.S. and worldwide.

New International
A magazine of Marxist politics and theory, 1934 to present
Intercontinental Press
International news magazine 1963-86
Online at themilitant.com
pathfinderpress.com

Recommended reading



pathfinderpress.com

Defend fight to destroy Hamas

Continued from front page
ignated safe zones along the coast were packed with Gazan families who fled the city ignoring Hamas' demands they stay and become "martyrs."

The IDF flyer gave Gazans a phone number to call to let Israeli forces know if Hamas sets up roadblocks or attacks them to prevent them from leaving.

One of the lies promoted by many "democratic" imperialist governments, as well as Stalinist groups and Hamas apologists, is that Hamas has some connection to the defense of the national aspirations of Palestinians in Gaza.

Gazans demand Hamas end the war

In fact, thousands of people in Gaza have joined protests over the last several months demanding "Hamas out, out!" Hamas has since stepped up its brutal attacks on those who speak out against its dictatorial rule. Videos over the last few weeks show Hamas thugs brutally beating or shooting people in Khan Younis and other neighborhoods.

A Sept. 3 statement by the Forum of Families of Khan Younis Governorate condemned Hamas for the recent beatings and murders. It demanded Hamas "take every measure to stop the war immediately." It accused Hamas of turning "our pain and suffering into

bargaining chips or delays."

Amid Israel's advances, liberal bourgeois news media, United Nations agencies, and imperialist governments from the United States to the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Australia and beyond are stepping up pressure on Israel to end its defensive war, even if that means the Nazi-like group survives intact.

Hamas' true colors

But amid the slander campaign claiming the government of Benjamin Netanyahu is the obstacle to peace, Hamas once again showed its true colors, murdering six civilians and wounding 12 others in Jerusalem Sept. 8.

Two Hamas thugs opened fire indiscriminately at a bus stop at Ramot Junction, near an orthodox Jewish neighborhood. Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades issued a statement celebrating "with pride and honor" that "our fighters were able to kill six Zionists," just another way of saying they killed Jews. And they have no intention of stopping.

The victims were school prayer instructor Yosef David, students Yaakov Pinto and Israel Mentzer, Rabbi Levi Yitzhak Pash, administrator Sarah Mendelson and 79-year-old bakery owner Rabbi Mordechai Steinsteg.

Hamas — financed, armed and

Aluminum workers in Iran fight for union, job safety



Free Union of Iranian Workers

Sept. 9 rally at Arak Aluminum Company in Iran's Markazi province, on 42nd day of hunger strikes and other protests by 4,000 workers. They are demanding higher wages, job safety and end to harassment by bosses, who are trying to intimidate workers to end protest by levying security-related charges. Tehran regime often accuses its opponents of supporting Israel, a charge with serious penalties. But growing numbers of workers there oppose the regime's war on Israel, showing workers in Iran are Israeli toilers' strongest allies.

— S.G.

backed by the reactionary regime in Tehran — is not interested in peace. Nothing has changed from the goal outlined in its 1988 charter, which explicitly calls for killing Jews and annihilating Israel. Hamas views all Jews in Israel as "settlers" who must

be eliminated, one way or another.

Partially in response to Hamas' bloody assault in Jerusalem, the Israeli air force bombed a meeting of Hamas' central leaders in Doha, Qatar, Sept. 9. This is Hamas' main headquarters from where it orders massacres of Jews.

While the White House claimed it supported Israel's goal of killing Hamas leaders responsible for the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that killed over 1,200 people, President Donald Trump said he assured the Qatari government that "such a thing will not happen again on their soil."

"Unilaterally bombing inside Qatar, a sovereign nation and close ally of the United States," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement Sept. 9, "does not advance Israel or America's goals."

What concerns Washington is not the life of Jews — or Palestinians — or combating Jew-hatred. The U.S. rulers see the continuation of the war in Gaza as an obstacle to the stability they need to increase their plunder of the labor and resources of the Middle East. And an obstacle to pulling together an alliance in the region, including with the government of Iran and the new regime in Syria, against Beijing, Washington's main rival.

Netanyahu appeals to Gazans

At the end of his remarks at an event at the U.S. Embassy Sept. 9, Netanyahu made an appeal to the Palestinian people in Gaza. Hamas doesn't "care a hoot about you," Netanyahu said. "They go to the underground tunnels and they keep you above ground so you serve as human shields."

"Stand up for your rights and for your future. Make peace with us," the prime minister said. "We can promise you a different future but you've got to take these people out of the way. If you do, there is no limit to our common future."

Netanyahu's goal is to ensure Israel's survival and provide stability for the country's ruling capitalist class.

But the working class has its own class-struggle interests at stake. The end of Hamas' tyranny would remove a deadly obstacle to creating conditions to advance common struggles by workers of all nationalities, including for the Palestinian people's fight for their national aspirations.

Stalinists cover up role in Hiroshima atomic bomb slaughter

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. Communist Party, true to its Stalinist tradition, is attempting to rewrite history to cover up its role in championing the murderous atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. imperialist rulers 80 years ago.

Marking this anniversary of Washington dropping the bombs in 1945, the *People's World* last month presented what it claimed are selected excerpts from articles in the *Daily Worker*, the CP's paper at the time, that pitches the party as being opposed to the slaughter. The collection of articles is summarized with the headline, "*Daily Worker* 1945: Atomic terror unleashed on Hiroshima."

But a closer look at what this Stalinist paper was saying then puts the lie to this story.

The U.S. CP, like its sister parties around the world, dutifully followed all the political twists and turns of the counterrevolutionary bureaucratic regime in Moscow. And, like Moscow, the CP here hailed the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

For two days in a row, Aug. 10 and 11, the *Daily Worker* featured editorial cartoons celebrating the mass death and destruction rained down on working people there.

The CP hailed what they called "the old one-two," referring to the U.S. nuclear bombing and the Soviet Union's declaration of war against Japan that same month. The annihilation of more than 200,000 men, women and children in these two cities was described in a *Daily Worker* headline as, "The Super-Duper Week." Tens of thousands more died afterwards from radiation poisoning and cancer.

In sharp contrast, the Socialist Workers Party told the truth. "There Is No Peace!" was the banner headline in the Aug. 18, 1945, issue of the *Militant*, featuring a manifesto issued by

the National Committee of the SWP. It denounced Washington's ongoing imperialist war aims and its crime against humanity in unleashing the atomic bomb on working people in Japan.

"Capitalism in its death agony, writhing in the toils of mortal crisis, has perfected an instrument of all-embracing annihilation," the *Militant* said. "This deadly destructive force, held in the grip of the criminal capitalist rulers, will be used to decimate mankind unless it is snatched in time from their murderous grasp."



Newspaper of U.S. Communist Party hailed Washington's atomic bombing of Japan in 1945.

"Let the cataclysmic horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki serve as a clarion call to the working class! The workers must wrench the power from the hands of the blood-drenched capitalist criminals and take their destiny in their own hands," it said. "Today the fight for socialism is a fight to prevent the annihilation of the human race. Mankind must now exterminate the capitalist system — or be exterminated!"

Communist Party leader William Z. Foster, in a piece excerpted in the *Daily*

Worker feature, argued that future use of atomic bomb destruction would be better decided if "vested in the Security Council of the United Nations."

But the U.N. quickly showed its true colors by sponsoring the U.S. rulers' war on the people of Korea, where carpet bombing and napalm was used to level cities across the peninsula.

Washington's slaughter in Korea, and in Vietnam, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and anywhere else the U.S. rulers thought their ability to plunder and profit it was in danger, has marked our epoch.



Unlike the CP, which today says a Popular Front, running the spectrum from their party to the good capitalists, is necessary to defeat the fascist Donald Trump, the Socialist Workers Party advances a revolutionary working-class road forward. The SWP says the working class needs to break with the capitalist parties and their hangers-on and build a leadership capable of organizing us in our tens of millions to take political power into our own hands and join with fellow toilers worldwide.

‘Women wanted to participate in the revolutionary process’

One of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September is the Spanish edition of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. It is by three leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women, Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer. It tells the story of how Cuban women — workers, peasants, housewives and youth — demanded to be part of the unfolding socialist revolution and how doing so transformed their lives and Cuba’s history. This extract is from the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and president of Pathfinder Press, who edited the book. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution is not a book about women. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it does not start with women, nor could it. This is a book about the Cuban Revolution. It is about the millions of working people — men and women, of all ages — who have made that socialist revolution, and how their actions transformed them as they fought to transform their world.

We had “no preconceived structure or agenda,” Vilma Espín says here.



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba

Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro with members of the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon of the Rebel Army in 1958. He is between Teté Puebla, left, and commander Isabel Rielo. Socialist revolution drew women, workers, blacks and peasants to transform themselves and Cuba.

There was “just a desire by women ... to participate in a revolutionary process, whose aim was to transform the lives of those who had been exploited and discriminated against and create a better society for all.” And the leadership of the revolution responded.

Espín was a legendary combatant of the July 26 Movement in the Santiago de Cuba underground and the Rebel Army’s Second Front during the revolutionary war and mass popular struggle of the 1950s that brought down the bloody military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Following the January 1, 1959, victory, she became the central leader of the ongoing revolutionary activity that gave birth to the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), serving as its president until her death in 2007. ...

Addressing a leadership meeting of the Federation of Cuban Women in December 1966, Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro called attention to the antiwoman prejudices that prevailed in prerevolutionary Cuba, as throughout class societies the world over. “Prejudices that have existed, not just for decades or centuries,” Castro said, “but for millennia.” ...

Under capitalism, he went on, the big majority of women are “doubly exploited or doubly humiliated.” ...

There are two sectors in this country, two components of society that, aside

from economic reasons, have had other motives for sympathizing with and feeling enthusiasm for the revolution: the black population of Cuba and the country’s women.

The political clarity and decisive leadership given the fight for women’s equality by Fidel Castro, the central leader of the Cuban Revolution for more than half a century, is one of the truest measures of the working-class character of that revolution and the caliber of its leadership. It has been so from the earliest days of the fight against the Batista dictatorship. That same clarity and decisiveness has been a guarantee of the revolutionary alliance of workers and farmers in Cuba over those decades.

At every point in the struggle, women were part of the vanguard and its leadership. Women such as Haydée Santamaría and Melba Hernández, who joined the assault on the Moncada military garrison in Santiago de Cuba on July 26, 1953. Women like Celia Sánchez, the principal organizer of the July 26 Movement in Manzanillo, the first woman to join the Rebel Army as a combatant, and a member of its general staff. Women like Vilma Espín, whose story you will read in the pages to follow.

The Cuban Revolution is distinguished from all previous revolutions in

the history of the modern working-class movement, among other things, by the number of women who were central to its day-to-day leadership.

Moreover, the speed of women’s economic and social advances in the thirty years between 1960 and 1990 — advances measured by education, employment, infant and maternal mortality rates, and other gauges — allowed Cuban women to conquer a degree of equality that it took women in the United States and other industrialized capitalist countries more than a century and a half to achieve.

But none of this was inevitable.

“One of the ways our revolution will be judged in coming years,” Fidel Castro told the Second Congress of the FMC in 1974, “is how we have resolved the problems facing women in our society and our country.”

Without the clear course charted by Fidel as well as other central leaders — including Abel Santamaría, Frank País, and Raúl Castro, all of whom readers come to know better in the pages of this book — the record of Cuba’s revolutionary struggle would have been far less exemplary. ...

The political determination of Fidel Castro to challenge the antiwoman prejudices held by some who were among the best cadres of the movement was demonstrated by the fight he waged in 1958 to organize the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon of the Rebel Army — something Espín points to as “an extraordinary moment in the history of women’s participation in the revolution.”

“Some of our comrades were still very machista,” Fidel [said]. ...

Some of the men asked “How can you give those rifles to those women when we are unarmed?”

That reaction really made me mad. So I told one of them: “I’ll tell you why we’re going to give those rifles to those women: because they’re better soldiers than you.” I didn’t say another word. ...

“What was our objective?” Fidel asked.

First, we believed in women’s capacity, women’s courage, their capacity to fight; and second, we knew that such a precedent would have enormous importance in the future, when the moment came to raise the question of equality in our society.

September
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Why working people should join the fight against Jew-hatred, back Israel's battle to defeat Hamas

The statement below was sent by the SWP campaign in Minneapolis to the Minnesota Star Tribune and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas Sept. 1.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas, backed by the counterrevolutionary regime in Tehran, carried out the deadliest pogrom against Jews since the Holocaust in World War II.

Hamas death squads indiscriminately killed, and took hostage, men, women, children and infants, also workers from Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania for being “Zionist collaborators.” “From the river to the sea ...” means: Kill and drive out the Jews and destroy Israel. That remains their aim.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates Kevin Dwire for Minneapolis mayor and Edwin Fruit for City Council Ward 1 defend Israel's fight against another Holocaust, its right to exist as a refuge for Jews and oppose Jew-hatred and violence against Jews. We are for the defeat of Hamas as key to preventing another Holocaust. This fight, along with the fight to defend Ukraine's sovereignty, is a front line in the working-class struggle against increasing attacks on the toilers by the U.S. and other capitalist ruling classes.

The international rivalries of the U.S. and other capitalist powers deepen as they compete for markets and resources and build up their armaments to defend that. Trade wars lead to shooting wars as the violent conflicts of this imperialist epoch grow. The rulers are marching humanity toward fascism, a third world war, the threat of use of nuclear weapons — barbarism.

Capitalism is the source of the economic, social and moral crises faced by working people worldwide, including in Minneapolis. In times of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred is used by ruling classes to scapegoat Jews as cover for the real cause of the calamities facing working people — the decaying system of capitalist production and exploitation.

While defending Israel as a refuge for Jews, we explain there can never be a permanent refuge for Jews under imperialism, or in a capitalist Israel and that neither the U.S. nor any other capitalist government will defend Jews from another Holocaust or end Jew-hatred.

Jew-hatred is not eternal. The SWP candidates say

only a united working class — the only social class that has no interest in exploitation — can stop imperialism's march toward war and end Jew-hatred and all forms of national oppression. We are for building revolutionary proletarian parties in every country that can lead working people to take state power out of the hands of the capitalist class and begin to build a society based on solidarity, not exploitation.

The defeat of Hamas and its poisonous Jew-hatred can be taken by workers who are Arab, Jewish, Druze, Persian, Kurdish and all others in the region to fight together for their common class interests. Calls for a “two-state solution” in fact guarantee Hamas' regroupment and ability to carry out more October 7ths as they have promised to do, and Hamas' continued repression of the Palestinians.

In his August 21 commentary, Steve Hunegs of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, referred to a 1939 incident when anti-Semitic leaflets were distributed in Minneapolis.

A year earlier, in 1938, the bosses in Minneapolis, unable to turn back the tide of union organizing led by Teamsters General Drivers Local 544, brought in a fascist outfit called the Silver Shirts to attack unionists, Jews and others. Rabbi Albert Gordon sounded the alarm that the head of the local capitalists' organization, Associated Industries, had attended the first Silver Shirts meeting. Leaders of Local 544, many of whom were members of the SWP, acted fast and initiated the formation of a union defense guard to defend union halls and picket lines. In no time, the bosses' scheme fell apart and the Silver Shirts left town, without a fight.

Hunegs explains that members of [mayoral candidate] Omar Fateh's campaign staff had expressed support for the October 7 pogrom. He wrote, “Supporting terrorism is not progressive.” But to be clear — these staff members expressed support for Jew-hatred and pogroms, not just “terrorism.” Refusal to condemn Jew-hatred and pogroms is the framework of the DSA's pledge to boycott Jewish organizations and to support “boycott, divest, and sanction” initiatives.

Working people cannot put any confidence in either capitalist party — Democrat or Republican or any wing of them. Vote for the Socialist Workers Party and join us.

Kevin Dwire, SWP candidate for mayor

Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for City Council

Large rally in the UK opposes antisemitism



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Communist League table at Sept. 7 antisemitism march.

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Communist League campaigners joined tens of thousands at a national march called by the Campaign Against Antisemitism here Sept. 7 to protest the sharp rise in Jew-hating attacks since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom.

“I agree with that,” cab driver Malcolm Silverman told this CL member, pointing to the signs on the party's table, “Defend Israel's battle against another Holocaust! US/UK military forces out of the Middle East!”

“Israel will win the war against Hamas,” he said, “for Jews everywhere.”

“London and Washington are pressuring Israel to end the war before Hamas is defeated,” I replied. “They want a stable Middle East to serve the interests of the ruling rich: keep oil, investments, trade — and profits — flowing.”

I said the rise in Jew-hatred comes from the middle class, in contrast to the positive response the CL gets from working people for its call to back Israel's defensive war, including on a recent visit to bring solidarity to striking refuse workers in Birmingham.

Silverman knew about the strike. “They're union members fighting against wage cuts,” he said.

He bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, subscribed to the *Militant* and expressed interest in continuing the discussion.

“Jew-hatred is a class question,” Communist League campaigner Joyce Fairchild told Mateusz Rysera. “It's a weapon to blind workers from seeing the source of our problems — capitalism. Only the working class can put an end to pogroms by taking power and putting an end to the system that breeds them.”

“My home city of Lodz was 30% Jewish before the Holocaust,” Polish-born Rysera said. He described the antisemitism of the Stalinist regime that ruled Poland until 1989. “They expelled thousands of Jews following the 1967 Six-Day War in Israel, forcing them to renounce their Polish citizenship.” Rysera bought a copy of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* and a copy of the *Militant*.

Setting UK government's record straight

“Stand up for our values,” was the patriotic message on the organizers' placards. Gideon Falter, Campaign Against Antisemitism executive director, told the rally Britain “is still Churchill's island nation.”

Several marchers didn't agree, expressing support for signs carried by CL members that read, “British governments — no ally in the fight against Jew-hatred.” Several got copies of the *Militant* article “UK policy in Mideast: Defend British interests, not the Jews.” It explains the Jew-hating record of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other U.K. governments.

Falter and Richard Tice, deputy leader of Reform UK, called for banning pro-Hamas marches and organizations, and for the arrest of so-called hate speakers.

In contrast, university lecturer Michale Gabby told the *Militant* he thought “democratic freedoms are key to winning the battle against the Jew-haters.” He was one of 16 people at the action who picked up copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. Six *Militant* subscriptions were sold.

‘We’re prepared for drawn-out battle with Republic’

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Hundreds of Teamsters members on strike against Republic Services, one of the largest trash-hauling companies in the U.S., are determined to continue to fight to win better wages and health insurance.

More than 400 workers in the Boston area, along with over 30 in Cumming, Georgia, have been on strike since early July. More than 1,500 other Teamsters at Republic have struck for several weeks in cities around the country, either over contracts or in solidarity. Members of Local 179 in Ottawa, Illinois, reached a tentative contract Aug. 11 and returned to work.

The company's last offer to Local 728 in Cumming was “an insult and a slap in the face,” striker Phillip Jackson told the *Militant*. “The company is spending a lot of money on people from out of state doing our jobs but don't want to pay us what we deserve.” He said that UPS workers support them and

will not deliver packages to the facility. The sheriff's department intervened to stop strikers trying to stop trucks from coming into the facility.

While inflation has gouged the wages of the workers, Republic Services has spent billions on repurchasing shares and boosting dividends to enrich shareholders. The company, which made \$2 billion in profits last year, paid its CEO nearly \$13 million in 2024.

In Boston, after failing in three attempts to get court injunctions against Local 25, the company walked out of negotiations Aug. 28 within minutes of receiving a new offer by the union.

“The only conclusion is that Republic doesn't want a deal,” the union said the next day.

“We are fully prepared for a drawn-out battle with Republic to make certain their employees get the same wages and benefits” as other Boston-area companies, Tom Mari, president of Local 25, said. “Whether it takes two more weeks or two more months, we're not going away.”

Spread the word about these strikes and build solidarity! Contact Teamsters Local 25 at 544 Main St., Boston, MA 02129; fax (617) 242-4284. Teamsters Local 728 at 2540 Lakewood Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30315; fax (404) 627-2045.

Marklyn Wilson in Atlanta contributed to this article.

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