

Socialist Workers Party campaigns to tell truth about Cuba’s revolution

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

“We want to build protests against the U.S. blockade and threats against Cuba with whoever wants to join us,” Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for California governor, told participants at a campaign meeting in Los Angeles Feb. 22.

“It’s important to stand up to Washington in the streets,” she said, pointing to actions that have taken place and are being called in cities around the country and worldwide.

“People ask us why is the U.S. attacking Cuba?” Trowe said. “Fidel Castro has answered this. ‘Our crime is we made a socialist revolution right

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AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

Be ready to respond in action to any U.S. provocation!

FEB. 25 — The Cuban government announced this afternoon that a speedboat registered in Florida approached their coast near Corralillo, in Villa Clara province. When a Cu-

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Protests worldwide say ‘US hands off Cuba!’

Join ‘Week of action in defense of Cuba’ March 8-15



Militant/Roy Landersen

Paul Mailhot, SWP candidate for governor of New York, and Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, carrying banner, helped initiate Feb. 22 protest in New York.

Protesters mount pickets in New York, Canada, Oakland

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEW YORK — Despite the beginning of a massive snowstorm here, opponents of Washington’s stepped-up attack on Cuba turned out for a spirited picket line in front of the main Post Of-

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Barbados envoy to Caricom: ‘It’s our duty to help Cuba’

BY RÓGER CALERO

“The current situation in our sister Caribbean nation of Cuba,” David Commissiong, ambassador from Barbados to the Caribbean Community (Caricom), said in a Feb. 17 public letter, “demands a significant and meaningful response from all people and governments of conscience.” Caricom is a cooperating

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Protesters tell Iran regime, ‘We will stay in the streets’

BY SETH GALINSKY

Far from quelling resistance by working people and students, the massacre of more than 7,000 protesters in Iran last month and the arrest of more than 50,000 has only deepened opposition to the bourgeois clerical regime.

Meanwhile, Washington has put in place its largest military buildup of ships and warplanes in the Middle East since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, to press Tehran to give in to U.S. demands. (See article on page 9.) U.S. military strikes would be a blow to Iranian working people organizing to defend their rights against the regime.

Ceremonies traditionally held 40 days after the death of a loved one were transformed into large demonstrations of pride in those fighting the regime Feb. 17 and 18. Participants denounced the government’s slanders that protesters were Israeli- or U.S.-paid agents.

Dancing and women singing in public is forbidden in Iran. But at many of the ceremonies, instead of the traditional reading from the Quran, participants danced and sang, celebrating the lives of the fallen protesters.

“You killed my son. You cannot kill

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Letter Carriers union organizes 126 protests in hard-fought contract battle



Militant/Mary Martin

Letter carriers from four NALC union locals rally for just contract in Minneapolis Feb. 22, as national protests by the union demand higher pay, especially for new hires, and more workers.

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — Chanting “I believe that we can win,” over 100 members of the National Association of Letter Carriers held a rally in front of City Hall here Feb. 22 demanding an improved contract. This was one of at least 126 rallies the union held that day, as negotiations with U.S. Postal Service bosses are set to begin Feb. 25. Participants here came from sev-

eral dozen branches of the union.

The union reports they deliver 376 million pieces of mail and packages to some 169 million locations every day.

“We are demanding better pay to be able to retain new employees. There is a high turnover rate so we need higher starting pay,” Keisha Lewis, president of NALC Branch 1100, told the *Militant* at the rally. The union says

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UK Communist League campaign winds up, gains workers’ support

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — “The Communist League presents a way forward for working people, to use our class power to replace capitalist rule,” Hugo Wils, the CL’s candidate in the Gorton and Denton parliamentary by-election here, told a campaign meeting at a pub in Gorton Feb. 22. “And we do that before and after the election.

“Whoever is elected, capitalism’s

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Join ‘Militant’ in effort to overturn bans on the paper in Florida prison

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* is winning support for reversing the impoundment of three issues of the paper by prison authorities at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida. They impound-

ed issues nos. 4, 5 and 6, dated Feb. 2, 9 and 16. The reason the authorities give in each case is their objection to front-page articles on the need for a labor-led fight for amnesty for immigrant workers in the U.S.

The ban is a blatant violation of the constitutional rights of prisoners to receive and read a newspaper of their choice and form their own opinions, and of the right of the *Militant* to reach its subscribers.

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Maryland court tells gov't: 'No more detaining Ábrego García'

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

In a victory in his fight against the government's drive to deport Kilmar Ábrego García, U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland ruled Feb. 17 that he cannot be taken back into custody by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. This means he will remain a free man for now.

Ábrego García, a 30-year-old construction apprentice and member of SMART Local 100, was arrested on March 12 while driving home from work. He was illegally deported to El Salvador where he was imprisoned in the notorious high-security CECOT prison and tortured. After the U.S. government was forced to return him to the U.S., he was incarcerated on trumped-up charges of human trafficking. He was jailed for 275 days and freed Dec. 11.

Even after his release, he continued to face the criminal vindictiveness of the Department of Justice, which sought to deport him to Africa



Militant/Samir Hazboun
Kilmar Ábrego García at 2025 Baltimore rally.

— Uganda, Eswatini, Ghana or Liberia — all countries where he has no family, friends or other connections. These efforts played out in court for months until Xinis said, “The government made one empty threat after another,” and ordered his release.

Ábrego García's lawyer, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, said the government tried “one trick after another to try to get him re-detained.” The government's goal has always been to make an example of him and punish him for refusing to take a plea deal and setting an example by his fight for justice. He and his lawyer say that if he can't win the right to stay in the U.S., he is willing to go to Costa Rica, whose government has agreed to accept him. So far the U.S. government refuses to agree.

SWP launches Pennsylvania state campaign



Militant/Osborne Hart

PHILADELPHIA — Socialist Workers Party members in Pennsylvania, from branches in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, held a special state meeting Feb. 22 to discuss the substantial opportunities in running candidates and campaigning all across the state and beyond.

In photo above at Feb. 22 Militant Labor Forum are, from left, Sergio Zambrano, Abby Tilsner, John Studer and Ved Dookhun. Tony Lane was also on the speakers' panel.

They had an in-depth discussion of opportunities to run a vibrant campaign to build protests against the U.S. oil blockade and deeper threats against Cuba, to campaign for amnesty for undocumented workers in the U.S., to explain and help lead the fight against Jew-hatred and defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, and to support union and political battles.

The party meets more workers today who see new wars coming, and who are looking for a party that can explain what is going on and fight effectively to prevent a third world war.

In his report to the meeting, Tony Lane from Pittsburgh said that we're going to emulate the four presidential campaigns run by Farrell Dobbs, a former leader of the Teamsters union in the Midwest and SWP national secretary.

“These weren't campaigns of arm-chair commentary, but interventionist campaigns, going to key spots in the class struggle, telling their stories in the *Militant*, winning solidarity and pointing to the only road to solve the crisis we face is to organize the working class to take political power into our own hands,” Lane said.

Copies of the *Militant* covering Dobbs' 1956 campaign were distributed for members to look through.

After voting to field a statewide SWP slate, and as snow began to fall, party members spent a few hours campaigning on workers' doorsteps and then held a Militant Labor Forum to announce the candidates.

John Studer, the SWP's national campaign director and editor of the *Militant*, chaired the late afternoon program and introduced the candidates: Ved Dookhun for governor, Tony Lane for lieutenant governor and two candidates for Congress, Abby Tilsner in District 3 in Philadelphia and Sergio Zambrano in District 12 in Pittsburgh.

Dookhun and Lane are UNITE HERE airport workers; Tilsner is a UNITE HERE hotel worker; and Zambrano is a SMART-TD union railroad conductor.

— OSBORNE HART

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Action Conference for
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For more information:

www.nnoc.org

www.us-cubanormalization.org

THE MILITANT

Oregon students march for immigrant rights

On Feb. 13 some 1,000 high school students from schools in Bend walked out to protest ICE brutality and attacks on immigrants, marching from their schools to a joint rally.

Read the 'Militant' for coverage on the importance for all workers of the fight for amnesty for immigrants.



Militant/Louise Goodman
1,000 students walk out in Bend, Oregon, Feb. 13 to protest attacks on immigrants.

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

Letter Carriers rally for contract

Continued from front page

55% of new hires have left the job each year. The work is getting more physical, NALC members explained, because the number of packages they're expected to deliver has grown substantially. "Supervisors pressure us to go faster. That's when accidents happen."

"We want to be treated with dignity and respect," Lewis said.

Gigi Estrada, a 27-year letter carrier and vice president of Branch 1100, added, "We want the cost-of-living increases to be equal for all employees. We want 100% cost-of-living increases for all career employees at all levels. And it is not right now."

Other workers explained they're fighting for workers to get full benefits from the first day they're hired.



BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — In frigid temperatures, some 100 NALC members from four regional locals and their supporters rallied at the main post office here Feb. 22, part of a national day of actions.

Patrick Johnson, Region 7 national business agent for the Letter Carriers union in Minnesota, welcomed members of Branch 9 in Minneapolis, Branch 28 in Saint Paul, Branch 2942 in Hopkins and Branch 440 in Rochester.

He explained the union's central demands include all workers be post office employees and union members, instead of being contract workers; for an improved starting wage and a faster progression to top pay; an im-

mediate wage raise; and a full uniform allowance with better coverage for winter gear.

Other speakers included representatives of the Communications Workers of America and the Minnesota Federation of Educators.



BY BARRY FATLAND

SEATTLE — Some 50 members of the National Association of Letter Carriers and supporters held a protest in the rain here as negotiations start for the next national contract. Sponsored by NALC Branch 79, the "Fight Like Hell!" rally drew union members from throughout the greater Puget Sound region.

Speakers demanded higher pay, as package loads increase, and more hiring to alleviate the long overtime many are required to work because of short-staffing.

Washington State Labor Council President April Sims spoke in support, as did leaders of NALC and of the American Postal Workers Union.

Demands NALC is raising in-



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Members of National Association of Letter Carriers rally by City Hall in Los Angeles Feb. 22, part of national day of action in fight for contract with better pay, working conditions, respect.

cluded: Higher pay, including higher starting wages; shorter time to reach the top of the pay scale; full benefits for every letter carrier as soon as they complete probation; and an increased uniform allowance.

The union handed out buttons for everyone to wear, saying, "NALC

Branch 79 is fighting for respect, fair pay, the 8 hour day."

The letter carriers deserve the support of all workers. In their last contract negotiations three years ago they overwhelmingly voted the bosses' offer down, but they were forced into arbitration and got less than they deserved.

ON THE PICKET LINE

New York-Presbyterian nurses end strike, make contract gains

NEW YORK — Nurses at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, members of the New York State Nurses Association, approved a new, improved contract Feb. 21 after 41 days on strike. The vote was 93% in favor and 7% opposed.

"It was definitely worth the strike," pediatric emergency nurse Maria Tsoi told the *Militant* on the picket line before the results of the vote were announced. "We won a lot the hospital was trying to take from us. There are no cuts to the medical and pension plans," she said, "and we finally won language that allows the union to enforce agreed-upon staffing ratios, although at lower levels than we need."

"I've always been a strong union supporter," Tsoi said. But after be-

ing on strike together, "many more of my co-workers are pro-union. And the newer nurses have a much better sense of why unions are important."

The 4,200 nurses at New York-Presbyterian, along with more than 10,000 at the Mount Sinai and Montefiore hospital systems, had gone on strike Jan. 12. Nurses at Mount Sinai and Montefiore had approved contracts the previous week after beating back boss efforts to cut medical and pension benefits and to gut the staffing enforcement language they won in a strike in 2023. The nurses at New York-Presbyterian weren't part of that strike and hadn't won that language. When the hospital refused to put it in this time, they voted down a proposed contract overwhelmingly and remained on strike for another week, making important gains.

— Sara Lobman

Teamsters at California campuses demand bosses honor contract

HAYWARD, Calif. — Eleven hundred electricians, plumbers, mechanics, painters and other workers in the trades at California State University campuses carried out a four-day strike Feb. 17-20 demanding the university live up to what was agreed to in the union contract ratified in 2024.

"It's about getting the pay raises we're owed," Von Savo told the *Militant* as he and other members of Teamsters Local 2010 were picketing at the entrance to the Cal State, East Bay campus here Feb. 20.

The raises the workers are demanding were won as a result of a long fight. Now crying poverty, university administrators refuse to pay. "They're spending it on AI and everything else but us," said shop steward Valentin Avila Jr. "No way can AI paint walls, do the plumbing and other needed things."

The Teamsters are coordinating closely with other unions facing similar moves to deny their members raises won on the 22 California State University campuses. "Going into the strike we called together all the campus unions and all agreed to support us," Avila said. "Teachers and others came out and picketed on their breaks. Some cancelled classes. The students have been helping us big time."

Flyers distributed by the pickets contrasted the treatment of the workers with the bloated salaries going to school administrators, including a total compensation package of approximately \$1 million for Chancellor Mildred Garcia.

The four-day strike was authorized by a 95% vote by Teamsters members after negotiations stalled. As long as the university tops refuse to budge, the workers say they will keep fighting. Steven Phillips, a Teamster at Cal State, Chico who is on the statewide bargaining committee, told KRCR News that if the university continues to refuse to pay, they'll look at other options, including possibly another strike.

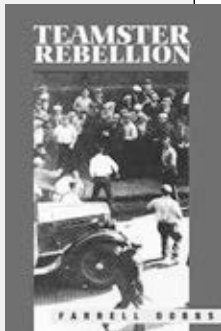
— Betsey Stone

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.—\$16

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE **MILITANT**
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

March 5, 2001

In his first major military action as president, George Bush ordered a bombing attack on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq's capital city. Bush described the raid as "routine." The president stated, "Our intention is to make sure that the world is as peaceful as possible." Over the past two years bombing attacks have killed an average of one Iraqi civilian about every other day.

Cuba's revolutionary government, the only voice on the UN Security Council during the 1990-91 imperialist assault to expose Washington's aims and answer its rationalizations for its aggression, again sharply condemned the bombing attack.

A statement by the foreign ministry labeled the raid "the most recent in a long series of criminal and hostile actions that various U.S. administrations have been carrying out against Iraqi territory for the past 10 years."

THE **MILITANT**
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 5, 1976

On Feb. 18, President Ford issued an executive order that gives an official green light for a whole range of unsavory CIA activity. Ford also sent to Congress a proposed secrets bill establishing criminal penalties for federal government employees who reveal information officials want kept from the public.

Ford's secrets act would provide unprecedented legal cover for police-state methods. The bill threatens former and current government employees with up to \$5,000 in fines and five years in prison for disclosing "classified" information. No proof need be shown that the revelation did the "national security" any harm.

Government employees would be denied their constitutional right to a jury trial. The defense that a "secret" was illegally classified could only be presented before a judge in a closed hearing.

THE **MILITANT**
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 5, 1951

Army Jim Crow is victimizing Negro GIs in Korea and Japan, it was revealed Feb. 21 in a report of NAACP special counsel Thurgood Marshall upon his return from the Korean front. He described trials of four men sentenced to life in prison. These trials lasted just 42 to 44 to 50 minutes.

Negro GIs have experienced in Korea the very same segregation and brutal discrimination that they were subjected to at home. At home the Negro is the last to be hired and the first to be fired. In Korea, the Negro GI is the first to advance and last to retreat.

As a reward he is framed up by white-supremacist officers, and handed drastic prison terms by lily-white courts martial. These 45-minute trials are replicas of the kangaroo courts of all-white lynch-juries at home which condemn Negroes to prison and death because of their race.

Iran protesters say, ‘We will stay in the streets’

Continued from front page

his goals,” the mother of slain 17-year-old Mehrad Sadeghi said to applause at a ceremony in Isfahan. She wore his clothes to the event. “You may have taken his body. But now I wear his clothes and you cannot do anything to stop this from continuing.”

‘We come to take back our country’

Schoolteacher Khadija Alipour’s handwritten will was found in her pocket after she was gunned down in Karaj Jan. 8. “We are not terrorists. We are not rioters. We are not pawns of foreign powers,” she wrote. “We are proud, honorable children of workers, protesting. We have come to take back our country from the privileged elites. We will stay in the streets.”

The father of Sadra Soltani told the crowd at his son’s graveside in Tehran that during the 12-day war between Israel and Tehran his son just missed being struck by an Israeli bomb.

“Israel did not kill my son,” he said. “The Islamic Republic did.”

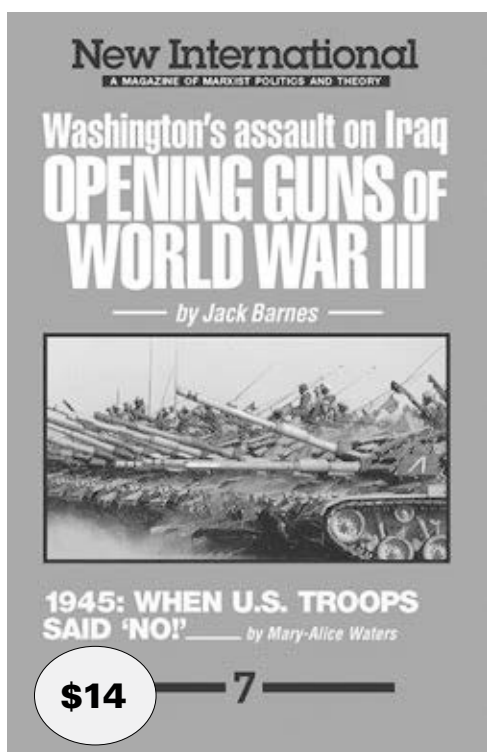
Students at over a dozen campuses in Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan and Shiraz have also been protesting every day since schools reopened Feb. 21, to honor fellow students who were killed and to call for the end of the regime.

The bourgeois press around the world and the Tehran regime falsely paint the student protesters as supporters of the son of the Shah of Iran, the U.S.-backed monarch overthrown in the mass popular revolution that swept Iran in 1979.

While small groups of students have chanted for the return of a shah, at a Feb. 24 student sit-in at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tehran, protesters chanted, “Neither the Shah, nor Supreme Leader nor the reactionary Rajavi!” “Supreme Leader” refers to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Maryam Rajavi is the leader of the Mujahedeen, a guerrilla group that seeks U.S.-imperialist backing.

Thugs from the Basij, a paramilitary force organized by the regime’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, attacked several student actions. To the thugs’ surprise the students successfully defended themselves.

Recommended reading



Includes: “Communism, the working class, and anti-imperialist struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War”

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When the Basij attacked a protest of hundreds at Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, students chanted “Death to the dictator!” and “Basij, you are the same as ISIS.”

The Islamic Association of Students of the University of Tehran condemned the Basij. It reported that on Feb. 22 the student-based Basij confronting protesters were outnumbered at first. But then Basij from off campus joined them, pushing, shoving and beating protesters. Clashes went on for hours before the action was finally dispersed.

Worker-student solidarity

The Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Workers Union declared its support to the “students’ struggle against repression and for freedom and equality.” The union stressed the importance of “worker-student solidarity” and “defense of the independence of student and labor organizations from the state, government institutions, and advocates of any form of despotism, authoritarianism, or totalitarianism.”

The breadth and determination of the protesters are widening divisions within Iran’s ruling class. The rulers try to use the U.S. government’s war threats to press for an end to the demonstrations.

Supporters of Mir Hussein Mousavi, a former prime minister who has been under house arrest for over a decade, announced they are forming a “Provisional Executive Committee for the Establishment of the Iran Salvation Front,” which they say would guarantee everyone’s rights in a “unified homeland.”

Under the Islamic Republic — like during the rule of the pro-U.S. shah — working people are denied political rights and face severe repression. Oppressed nationalities are discriminated against in jobs and housing, are often denied the right to use their native language and disproportionately face the death penalty.

While Mousavi and his so-called reformist wing of the regime claim they are against “despotism” they have never supported the rights of Iran’s oppressed nationalities — Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs and Azerbaijanis — to self-determination. Nor have they denounced the regime’s promotion of Jew-hatred and threats to destroy Israel.

“Any major social and political transformation in Iran,” the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Workers Union said Feb. 23, must include the rights of “all ethnicities and nationalities.” The union said it will soon publish a program to defend “working-class families and the oppressed people of the country” and to “protest against internal repression and killings, and against war and militarism.”



Father of 18-year-old Mani Safarpour holds up his son’s picture during 40-day commemoration in Tehran. Participants sang, danced and cheered. Safarpour was murdered Jan. 8 when he tried to rescue a young woman being fired on by regime’s thugs at a protest.

The U.S. rulers don’t want the “social and political transformation” the bus workers seek. They want a stable regime that cooperates with Washington. Some news reports say oil refineries and other factories are among the targets the Donald Trump administration is considering for attack. That is a threat to thousands of oil workers, truck drivers and others who are fighting for higher wages and better conditions.

Protests back Ukraine, mark 4 years of Russian invasion

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Ukrainian people are resolutely defending their county’s sovereignty as Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion entered its fifth year Feb. 24. Moscow’s airstrikes on the power grid, which controls heat, light and water in the harsh winter, are only stiffening the resolve of Ukrainian working people to resist. Thousands of people worldwide rallied in solidarity with them to mark the anniversary.

“The Russians left millions of Ukrainians without heating and electricity, but it’s still not enough,” Taras Ratushnyi, 52, an artillery captain who lost his two soldier sons in the war, told the Feb. 24 *New York Post*. “Did they get our missile or drone factories? No. We are still a force to be reckoned with.”

Putin declared Dec. 17 that “Russia will achieve the liberation of its historical lands by military means” unless Kyiv and its Western allies bow down and accept the Kremlin’s demands to surrender the entire Donbas, including many areas still in the hands of Ukrainian forces. In fact, Great Russian chauvinist that Putin is, he believes Russia should control all of Ukraine.

For the first time the Kremlin’s huge battlefield losses now outstrip the pace of new recruitment, challenging Putin’s bloody gamble that Russia’s much larger population will keep supplying enough cannon fodder for him to win, no matter how long it takes. The Kremlin keeps tightening its repression in Russia as sentiment against the war bubbles among both the troops and working people at home.

This conflict, the biggest between

two states in Europe in eight decades, is driving rival powers worldwide to expand their militaries and armaments in preparation for wider wars to come. Washington is leading the charge, seeking to prop up its weakening world dominance.

Moscow’s invasion bogged down

The Kremlin’s brutal war has now lasted longer than the Soviet Union’s defensive battle against German imperialism’s invasion in World War II. “In the Great Patriotic War, we knew what we were fighting for,” Irina, a ticket collector at the Yelets bus station 200 miles south of Moscow, told the BBC Feb. 23. “I’m not sure what we’re fighting for now.”

“Lots of people have been killed,” she added, listing relatives and friends who perished at the front.

Ukrainian defenders have held off Moscow’s numerically larger army along an 800-mile fortified front for three years. As Ukrainian drones increasingly demolished any frontal tank assaults, the Kremlin’s high command shifted to “meat grinder” infantry waves. Despite now losing over 1,000 troops a day, far higher than the defenders’ losses, Moscow has only gained an extra 1.5% of Ukrainian territory in the past two years.

Russian troops have suffered up to half a million killed since their invasion, over 20 times the number of Soviet fatalities in the invasion of Afghanistan during the 1980s. And that was a war waged by a much larger population.

The Russian army refuses to issue statistics on how many soldiers have been killed. But Moscow now pays more ru-

bles in survivor benefits to relatives of hundreds of thousands of dead soldiers than it pays on salaries of living troops or to recruit replacements.

Thousands of family members desperately appeal online for news about the large number of husbands, sons or brothers the brass has claimed were “missing in action.”

At the same time, there is mounting resistance to front-line deployment and deepening demoralization among Russian troops. Some 18,000 Russian workers in uniform are estimated to have deserted since the war began.

Among Russian units on the southern Kherson front, desertions are increasing. Commanding officers are confiscating soldiers’ bank cards to try to prevent them escaping. ATESH, the partisan movement in occupied Ukraine, reported late last year that 36 soldiers from Russia’s 217th Parachute Brigade alone abandoned their positions and took off.

Four Russian soldiers, now in exile, told the BBC Feb. 24 they witnessed fellow troops being executed on the spot by their commanders for refusing orders to join suicide attacks. One saw 20 bodies of soldiers in a pit after being “zeroed” by officers, Russian military slang for executing your own.

Ilya, the sole survivor from his squad of 79 troops, says he loves his country, “but not what Putin has done to it.” Dima, a former medic, says, “In the Russian army there are too many guys who don’t need this war, who hate commanders, who hate Putin, who hate our system, and they need to break us.”

This is why Russian workers, in and out of uniform, are the best potential allies of Ukrainian working people.

UK campaign gains workers' support

Continued from front page

mounting worldwide instability will continue and uncertainty will mark the lives of working people,” he said. Participants included a workmate from the aerospace factory where Wils works and Rose Whelan, who had nominated Wils. She left the meeting with campaign leaflets for her friends and neighbors. She’s one of 20 new subscribers to the *Militant* since the campaign began.

CL members used the final days of the campaign to get a broad hearing. In contrast to the main capitalist parties — Conservatives, Greens, Labour, Reform UK and the Social Democrats — the Communist League’s politics start with the world and present a working-class point of view on every question. This is appreciated by many of the workers CL members have discussions with.

Mirza Arfan said he was concerned about the mounting war

threats, especially from Washington, when Wils knocked on his door in the Burnage suburb.

“We need a stronger Europe in the face of what Trump is doing,” Arfan said.

Wils said the threat of more wars was built into the rivalry between capitalist ruling classes. “The European Union is marked by conflicts among its main powers,” he said. Each is preparing for more wars to defend the interests of the capitalist rulers. “Unity across borders can only be forged by the working class taking political power, country by country.”

Wils pointed out that “workers in the U.S. are the allies of workers here.” Arfan subscribed to the *Militant* to learn more.

Care worker Dorothy Ziarada asked CL member Caroline Bellamy what could be done about the conditions in Uganda where she comes from when the two discussed the CL’s campaign outside Tesco’s supermarket in Gorton. “We have faced the Museveni dictatorship for decades,” Ziarada said.

Bellamy pointed to the example of Cuba’s socialist revolution. “They forged a leadership that was confident that working people could take political power, and they acted on that,” Bellamy said.

She pointed to the development of revolutionary leaders in the course of struggles against imperialism in Africa, “like Amílcar Cabral in Guinea-Bissau and Thomas Sankara, who led the popular revolution in Burkina Faso. What they fought for is key for us here too.” Ziarada bought a *Militant* subscription and the book *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions* by Sankara.

Wils highlighted the need to defend Cuba’s socialist revolution when he was allowed a one-minute slot by the BBC toward the end of a 50-minute candidates’ debate Feb. 17 that featured the Conservative, Reform, Green, Labour and the Liberal Democrats candidates.

“Right now U.S. imperialism is trying to suffocate Cuba,” he said. “London is complicit in this. We say U.S./U.K. hands off Cuba!”

Days later the CL’s Feb. 22 campaign meeting heard a report from Havana by Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman, via WhatsApp. Silberman responded to U.K. media reports about the lack of electrical power and food shortages in Cuba. “It’s true that life is very tough,” he said. “But you also have to see the resilience of working people in Cuba to withstand this intense pressure. That’s a legacy of the revolution.”

Throughout the campaign, immigration has been a frequent topic of discussion.

“This country is a total mess,” Lauren O’Leary told this CL member when I knocked on her door in Burnage Feb. 21. “I’ve got a 2-year-old baby and I’m still living with my mother because I can’t get my own house.” She said it was about illegal immigration and would vote for Reform.

Wils addressed this at the CL campaign meeting when one participant in the event said many of her workmates are immigrants with work visas and some won’t join the union.

“All of the measures aimed at immigrant workers are intended to make them more vulnerable, to work harder and to fear deportation,” Wils replied. “That’s why the unions need to fight for an amnesty for immigrants.”

“I’ll be voting to keep Reform out,” Andy Hurrell told Wils as he campaigned in the Ryder Brow neighborhood of Gor-



Militant/Pete Rosner

Hugo Wils, right, Communist League candidate for Parliament, discussed mounting war threats in the world with Mirza Arfan in Manchester Feb. 21. Arfan subscribed to the *Militant*.

Be ready to respond in action to any U.S. provocation!

Continued from front page

ban border guard boat approached to ask for identification, those on the U.S. boat opened fire, wounding the commander of the Cubans’ vessel. The Cuban forces returned fire.

“As a result of the confrontation, at the time of this report, four foreign attackers were killed and six were wounded,” Cuba’s Ministry of the Interior said. “In the face of current challenges, Cuba reaffirms its determination to protect its territorial waters, based on the principle that national defense is a fundamental pillar of the Cuban State in safeguarding its sovereignty and stability in the region.”

The *New York Times*’ slanted coverage points out that this attack comes one day after the 30th anniversary of Cuba’s shooting down two planes flown toward Havana by members of Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue, invading Cuban airspace. Members of this Cuban counterrevolutionary outfit had long histories of armed actions against Cuba, dating back to the failed April 1961 CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion. The *Times* called this terrorist outfit “a South Florida humanitarian organization that was distributing fliers in Cuba.”

“As we gather more information, we’ll be prepared to respond,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters. He said that Washington is “investigating” today’s events.

A number of Florida politicians, longstanding opponents of Cuba’s socialist revolution, tried to shift blame for the attack onto the Cuban government. James Uthmeier, Florida’s attorney general, ordered the state’s Office of Statewide Prosecution to start a criminal investigation. “The Cuban government cannot be trusted, and we will do everything in our power to hold these communists accountable.”

In face of such provocations, “all those who defend Cuban sovereignty and its socialist revolution must be ready to mount immediate public protests if the U.S. rulers take steps to attack Cuba or further tighten its blockade on oil and other shipments,” Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in New York, told the *Militant*. “U.S. hands off Cuba!”

SWP campaigns to tell truth about Cuba’s revolution

Continued from front page

under the nose of imperialism.”

There are more opportunities today to explain the stakes for working people in opposing the U.S. rulers’ war moves, Trowe explained. “And why the bosses’ attacks on workers at home — including raids targeting immigrant workers — are part of the rulers’ march toward a third world war.”

Trowe, a hotel worker and member of the UNITE HERE union in the Bay Area, was in Los Angeles for three days of campaigning, including to collect signatures to get on the ballot.

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, told the meeting she had joined a rally of the National Association of Letter Carriers earlier that day. She offered solidarity with their fight for a new contract and introduced the SWP campaign. Five unionists bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and four books were sold, including *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Workers in power in Cuba

In Seattle SWP members Rebecca Williamson and Michele Smith campaigned at the entrance to Boeing’s Renton plant Feb. 12. The plant

employs hundreds of workers. Party members campaign outside with the *Militant* regularly.

“Cuba is the only country in the world where workers have power,” Smith told one worker after he stopped to talk. “The SWP is reaching out to groups in the Seattle area to call for public actions defending Cuba.” He contributed \$20 for a copy of the *Militant*, and asked if she knew a relative of his. “I work with her in the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee to organize events,” Smith replied.

She showed him *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, a book that highlights opportunities ahead for class conscious workers as the decadeslong retreat by the labor movement has ended. He bought the book and took a copy of the SWP’s call to action to oppose Washington’s assaults on Cuba.

Another worker was running to work, but stopped “for a short discussion about the capitalist crises that are leading us toward a third world war and how workers in the U.S. will be used as cannon fodder by the ruling rich,” Smith said. “Pointing to his chest and shaking his head, he indicated that is not what he wants to do with his life.” He got a copy of the *Militant*.

ton. “Reform is a racist party.”

“All the capitalist parties are trying to show how tough they will be on immigration,” Wils said, “and they scapegoat immigrant workers, saying they depend on benefits. The Greens call ‘for a world without borders,’ a demand that is utopian under capitalism.” The CL’s call for a fight for an amnesty is both realistic and necessary. Hurrell got a *Militant* subscription.

At the campaign meeting Wils pointed to the “stop Reform” hysteria driven by the middle-class left. The Feb. 17 *Morning Star*, the paper of the Communist Party of Britain, says a vote for the Greens would “send the most powerful message to the Labour government that it must move to the left.”

“This shows how much the left has its eyes on trying to influence capitalist politics,” Wils said. “The CL starts from the capacities of the working class to fight in its own interests and to build a movement that can change which class rules.”

In Washington, D.C., Feb. 21 hundreds of supporters of Ukrainian sovereignty gathered at the Lincoln Memorial.

SWP members joined the action and set up a table. After seeing a sign at the SWP table on the need to fight against Jew-hatred, one man told SWP member Samir Hazboun, “You just became my favorite socialists.” A woman originally from Crimea bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. Three other books and three copies of the *Militant* were sold.

At a similar action of more than 250 in Chicago Feb. 21, SWP member Ilona Gersh reports interest in the SWP. Party campaigners sold 22 copies of the *Militant* and one subscription.

A high school student bought *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. She told Gersh she wanted to know the facts about the Holocaust in World War II when 6 million Jews were slaughtered. “We have to know the history before we can explain the lessons of it,” she said.

To join in campaigning for the SWP candidates, contact the area nearest you listed on page 8.

Havana photo contest shows bond between Cuba and Puerto Rico

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — Several young photographers won prizes at an event here Feb. 19 that highlighted both the fight against the U.S. economic blockade on Cuba and the ties of solidarity between the Cuban Revolution and the Puerto Rican independence struggle.

The contest was sponsored by Casa

Reporter's notebook from Cuba

Editora Abril, publishing house of Cuba's Union of Young Communists, the Puerto Rican Mission in Cuba and Cuba's neighborhood-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

Gerardo Hernández, national coordinator of the CDRs, noted that many of the photos captured, with an eye for detail, how the U.S. rulers' economic war affects every facet of daily life there. As an eloquent statement of protest, he said, they are even more important today in face of Washington's brutal oil blockade against the people of Cuba.

Hernández is one of the Cuban Five, who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons for helping defend their country against counterrevolutionary Cuban Ameri-

can groups planning violent attacks on Cuba. He was joined at the event by René González, another of the Five.

The meeting also marked the 60th anniversary of the Puerto Rican Mission in Cuba. Edwin González, a leader of the Hostosian National Independence Movement of Puerto Rico and representative of the mission, explained that this symbolic embassy of the Puerto Rican people — the only one in the world — is a testament to the Cuban Revolution's internationalist commitment to the Puerto Rican struggle to end U.S. colonial rule. Well-known Puerto Rican photographer Ramón Frontera was one of the main organizers of the contest.

The jury choosing the winners was four Puerto Ricans, including Juan Segarra Palmer, who spent 19 years in U.S. prisons for his pro-independence actions. The audience also enjoyed songs by popular "trova" singer Tony Ávila.

Hernández condemned Washington's military assault on Venezuela and kidnapping of its president, Nicolás Maduro, and Cilia Flores, his wife. At his request, the audience honored the 32 Cuban internationalists killed during that attack with a minute's standing ovation.



Top: Militant/Jonathan Silberman; bottom, Canal Caribe TV news screenshot
Feb. 19 Havana event awards winners of photo contest. From left, Edwin González, delegate to Puerto Rican Mission to Cuba; Yanet Cáceres of Casa Editora Abril; contestant César Gabriel García, with bicycle he was awarded; along with René González, one of Cuban Five; and Gerardo Hernández, another member of the Cuban Five and head of Cuba's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Below, part of audience enjoys the solidarity and fun.

Protests in New York, Canada, Oakland say, 'US hands off Cuba!'

Continued from front page

fice in Manhattan Feb. 22 to demand "U.S. hands off Cuba! End Washington's economic blockade!"

The action was called by the New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition in response to the U.S. rulers' threats that Cuba is "going to fall" and Washington's blockade against all oil shipments to the island. Seventy-five people took part, with banners, signs and loud chants drawing the attention of the foot traffic and cars going by outside Penn Station and the Moynihan Train Hall. "Viva Cuba!" yelled a food delivery worker on a bicycle as he passed by with a clenched fist in the air.

"If it wasn't for Cuba, there would be no independent Angola or Namibia," a Yellow Cab driver originally from Mali said, as he was waiting for a fare across the street at Madison Square Garden and watching the picket line. Some 425,000 Cubans volunteered between 1975 and 1991 to go to help defend Angola against multiple invasions by South Africa's apartheid regime, backed by Washington.

As the cab line moved, he bought a copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke. It tells the story of the decisive political and military aid Cuba's revolutionary leadership provided to the liberation fighters in those two countries.

Representatives of several groups active in campaigns in solidarity with Cuba's socialist revolution and against the U.S. economic war on Cuba spoke at an impromptu rally. Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, noted the importance of public actions in opposition to Washington's drive to destroy Cuba's socialist revolution by suffocating its economy and people.

"The action here today is one of sev-

eral taking place across the U.S., and won't be the last," said Ike Nahem, an organizer with the Cuba Sí Coalition. He urged participants to build and attend a March 14-15 Action Conference for US-Cuba Normalization in New York. It will feature representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women and other mass organizations.

"I was in Cuba before the COVID pandemic," Michael Georgeson told the *Militant* as he was passing by the picket. "If the American people had the opportunity to see Cuba, it would change their mind about what they've heard about Cuba's system. They'd see that there is a different way to organize things at a social level." Georgeson said he had visited Cuba to attend an academic conference and it had a big impact on him.

'Let Cuba Live' protests held in several cities across Canada

MONTREAL — The Canadian Network on Cuba called an emergency National Day of Action for "Let Cuba Live" protests that were held in a number of cities across Canada Feb. 21-22. They demanded the immediate end of Washington's oil blockade of Cuba, and for Ottawa to call for Washington to end its violation of Cuban sovereignty.

Over 200 rallied in Toronto; 120 in Montreal; 60 in Winnipeg, Manitoba; and 50 in Vancouver, British Columbia. A protest also took place in Edmonton, Alberta.

Stephen von Sychowski, president of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, was a featured speaker at the Vancouver rally. On Feb. 18 a membership meeting of Local 11, District 250 of the International Association of Machinists there adopted a resolution in solidarity with Cuba. It stated that Washington's moves to cut off oil shipments to Cuba "sharply increase the risk of war in the world today." The resolution demands that Ottawa

call on the U.S. to end its almost 70-year embargo of Cuba.

"Cuba will resist with the solidarity of the world," Julio Fonseca, co-chair of the Canadian Network on Cuba, told the Toronto rally in front of the U.S. Consulate there.

Union participation was an important part of these protests. The flags of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers were part of a display in Toronto with placards condemning Washington's attacks on Cuban sovereignty. A week before, CUPW issued a statement "condemning the U.S. government fuel blockade of Cuba," as did the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The Canadian Labour Congress, representing more than 3 million workers, issued a similar statement Feb. 20.

In Montreal protesters gathered in front of the U.S. Consulate chanting "Cuba yes! Blockade, no!" Signs included, "End Ottawa's complicity" and "Leave Cuba in peace."

An official of the Montreal Central Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions spoke along with representatives of Cuba solidarity groups.

Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in the Quebec provincial election, also spoke, telling the crowd that like Washington, Ottawa "is an enemy of the Cuban Revolution." He said that based on false claims that there is no aviation fuel available in Cuba, all Canadian airlines have stopped flights to Cuba, "a big blow to the Cuban tourist industry."

Even if Cuba ran low on fuel, airline officials acknowledge they could easily continue their flights, refueling at nearby airports.

Protesters marched to a downtown federal government building, demanding Ottawa take a stand against the U.S. oil blockade.

— John Steele

'The attack on Cuba is also an attack on the U.S. working class'

OAKLAND, Calif. — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, Margaret Trowe, helped initiate an informational picket calling for "Hands Off Cuba!" outside a BART train station Feb. 18.

Seventeen people joined the protest, including long-time fighter for Puerto Rican independence Willye Rivera. They held signs and passed out flyers in Spanish and English explaining how the U.S. government has placed a blockade on oil getting to the Cuban people, an act of war. "The attack on Cuba is also an attack on the U.S. working class as many workers look to end today's wars and prevent more deadly conflicts," an SWP campaign flyer said.

Speaking over a sound system, Trowe and other speakers drew attention to the importance of organizing opposition to Washington's military threats and economic blockade of Cuba. "Why does Washington hate Cuba so much?" Trowe said. "Why have all the administrations, Democrat and Republican alike, since the Cuban Revolution in 1959, tried to destroy the revolution? It's because the workers and farmers of Cuba, 90 miles from the U.S. shores, threw off the U.S.-backed dictator, made a socialist revolution, and set an example for working people everywhere, especially in the U.S.!"

Supporters of Trowe sold four copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* to people who wanted to learn more about Cuba's socialist revolution.

At a rally organized by the Letter Carriers union and at a Teamsters picket line at California State University, East Bay, over the following days, SWP members raised the need for workers and the unions to join actions to defend Cuba.

— Betsey Stone

Barbados envoy to Caricom: ‘It’s our duty to help Cuba’

Continued from front page
organization of 15 Caribbean and Latin American governments, with another five associate members.

The Barbadian official described the impact of the U.S. rulers’ decadeslong economic war on the Cuban people, intensified by President Donald Trump’s Jan. 29 executive order threatening punitive tariffs on any country that dares to supply Cuba with oil. Commissioning called it “terrorism through hunger,” a deliberate U.S. policy to deprive Cuba of food and energy supplies.

He said a “special relationship” has existed between Cuba and four Caribbean nations since October 1972, when the governments of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados “took the courageous step of defying the mighty USA and the Organization of American States and broke the almost ironclad policy of isolation that these two entities had imposed on revolutionary Cuba.” The four English-speaking island countries had won their independence from British rule years earlier.

In January 1962, at the instigation of the Democratic John F. Kennedy administration, Cuba was expelled from the OAS as part of Washington’s pressure on all Latin American governments to break diplomatic relations with Havana.

To the newly independent Caribbean countries, Cuba’s socialist revolution set an example that true economic and political independence was necessary and possible to exist and develop as sovereign nations, not as semicolonial appendages of U.S. imperialism.

In an example of internationalist solidarity, the Cuban government has contributed to the economic, social and cultural development of Caribbean nations without any conditions. Thousands of their professionals have been trained in Cuba, as well as hundreds of athletes who have benefited from Cuba’s sports programs.

Millions of working people in Latin America and the Caribbean have been treated by Cuban medical doctors and nurses, both in their own countries and in Cuba, including hundreds of thousands who had their eyesight restored by Cuba’s Operación Milagro (Operation Miracle) program.

“The time has come for us — the people and government of Caricom — to do our duty and help our Cuban sisters and brothers,” said Comissioning.

“What about the rest of the international community?” Comissioning asked



Prensa Latina

Doctor from Cuba’s internationalist medical mission treats patient in Haiti. Cuba contributes to economic, social and cultural development of many Caribbean nations, without conditions.

in his letter, noting that for over three decades the overwhelming majority of United Nations members —including members of its Security Council — have voted to adopt a yearly resolution calling on Washington to end its more than six-decade-long economic war against Cuba. “The time has therefore now come for these major countries to — as they say — ‘put their money where their mouths are!’”

U.S. violation of ‘international law’

Washington has carried out sanctions against Cuba and imposes countless obstacles on its trade with other countries. It has implemented an oil blockade, attacked alleged drug boats in the Pacific and Caribbean, and organized the murderous attack in Caracas that led to the seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and the murder of 100 Venezuelan and Cuban military and civilians.

These are only a few recent examples of how so-called international law only applies when it serves the interests of the imperialist powers.

Bodies like the U.N., International Criminal Court, OAS and other imperialist-dominated organizations were created following Washington’s victory in the second imperialist world war to perpetuate the existing inequality among nations, rather than to establish any genuine equality among them. That isn’t possible under the imperialist system.

Washington’s war drive is also blowing out of the water — literally — the much-vaunted illusion that there exists a “multipolar” world today. Supposedly the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) — or any other alliance of rivals of U.S. imperialism — would offer better conditions for the sovereignty of smaller underdeveloped nations and provide a counterbalance to

Washington. But those governments — like all capitalist governments — first and foremost look after the interests of their national ruling classes.

Working-class solidarity

Millions of working people around the world are outraged by what the U.S. rulers are doing, with the complicity of other imperialist powers, against Cuba. Public demonstrations against Washington’s policy toward Cuba are beginning to take place. Many more, and more powerful, are needed.

In the U.S. and Canada, several demonstrations took place over the Feb. 21-22 weekend. (See article on front page.)

Along with public protests, solidarity organizations in Mexico are organizing to collect material aid to send to Cuba. More than 200 tons of food and medicine had been collected by Feb. 23 at a tent set up for a couple of days in Mexico City’s historic Zocalo by the Association of Cubans Resident in Mexico and the Va por Cuba collective.

“There has always been a fraternal relationship” between the peoples of Cuba and Mexico, Alberto Romero told CNN as he dropped off a donation. “And I hope that we send them oil soon.”

Mexico and Venezuela supplied some 60% of the oil Cuba imported until the U.S. government kidnapped the latter’s president Jan. 3, and threatened Mexico with heavy tariffs if they didn’t cut off oil shipments to Havana. Washington’s stated aim is to crush Cuba’s socialist revolution.

The Mexican government suspended oil shipments to Cuba in early February, citing the need to avoid U.S. tariffs, and has sent “humanitarian aid” instead. The governments of Brazil and Colombia, two other oil producing countries in the region, have not signaled any intention to challenge the U.S. oil blockade.

Supreme Court hears Helms-Burton cases against Cuba

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

With supporting briefs filed by President Donald Trump’s Justice Department, the Exxon Mobil and Havana Docks bosses took cases before the U.S. Supreme Court Feb. 23, seeking millions of dollars for property nationalized by the Cuban government — with massive popular support — in 1960.

Exxon Mobil claims more than \$1 billion from the Cuban government. Exxon, then Standard Oil, refined oil and operated gas stations throughout Cuba before 1960. Havana Docks, which ran port facilities prior to the revolution, wants \$440 million from four cruise lines — Royal Caribbean Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, Carnival Corporation and MSC Cruises — for use of the docks between 2016 and 2019, even though the 100-year sweetheart deal they signed with the U.S.-controlled Cuban government had run out.

Decisions on both cases are expected by summer.

The Helms-Burton Act, signed in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, intensified the U.S. rulers’ brutal economic war against Cuba first put into place by the John F. Kennedy administration. The Supreme Court is being asked to uphold compensation under Title III of the act, which allows U.S.

citizens to sue not only Cuban individuals and companies, but any company said to profit from the use of nationalized property on the island.

The aim is to weaken Cuba with large financial losses. And to set a precedent to open the flood gates of additional moves to try to bankrupt Cuba.

The U.S. ruling class — under Democratic and Republican administrations alike — has never forgiven the working people of Cuba for overthrowing the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista regime in 1959. Nor for taking control of the means of production after 60 years of colonial domination.

Title III was suspended by the administrations in Washington until 2019 when the first Trump administration endorsed its use, opening the door to some 40 rapacious cases now moving through the court system.

A bipartisan group of six members of Congress filed a brief to press the Supreme Court to uphold the use of Title III. The cruise lines paid tens of millions of dollars to the Cuban regime, they argue, a course of action that “undermines our nation’s foreign policy on Cuba.”

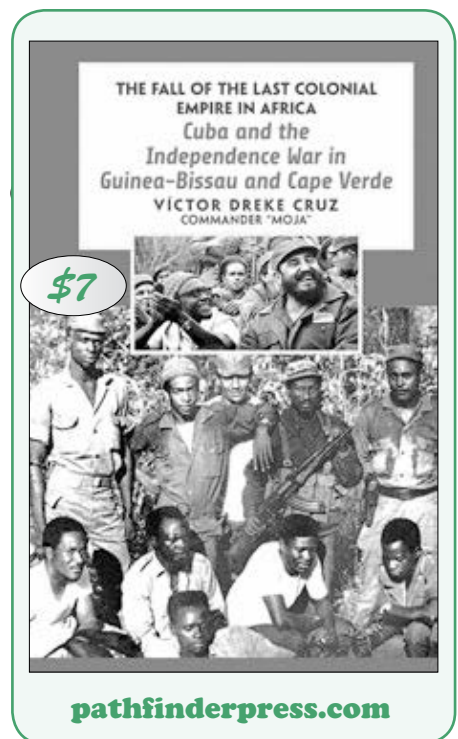
Aimee Brown, an assistant to the U.S. solicitor general, urged the justices to uphold the case “to impose harsh economic pressure on the Cuban government.”

The Cuban companies, represented by Michael R. Krinsky and Jules Lobel, said they were immune under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which bars lawsuits in U.S. courts against foreign governments. This presumption of immunity, Lobel told the court, was not rescinded by the Helms-Burton Act and should be upheld.

Before the Cuban Revolution, U.S. companies owned or controlled 90% of the island’s electric industry, its telephone system, much of its mining, sugarcane fields, its oil refineries and warehouses. Trade between Cuba and the U.S. between 1950 and 1960 put more than \$1 billion into the pockets of U.S. bosses while half of Cuban working people had no access to electricity and more than half lived in huts, shacks and in slums, without sanitary facilities.

But after the overthrow of Batista, U.S. economic aggression against Cuba mounted in 1960, and working people took to the streets. Cuba’s revolutionary government responded to their initiative, nationalizing major U.S. companies.

Fidel Castro told the U.N. General Assembly in September 1960 that after the nationalizations, Cuba offered compensation payable over 20 years, with interest. Washington refused.



Munich Security meeting shows deepening imperialist rivalries

BY TERRY EVANS

Growing conflicts between representatives of the United States and governments in Europe were on display at the Munich Security Conference Feb. 13-15. This exposed how sharply opposing national interests underlie all relations between the rival ruling classes of the imperialist powers. As the world capitalist crisis deepens these contending interests clash more often and more sharply, threatening to explode in new wars.

In his address to the gathering, Secretary of State Marco Rubio bragged about the success of Washington's bombing of Iran last year and its assault on Venezuela's sovereignty in January. He urged officials at this annual conference of former Cold War "allies" to fall into line as second fiddles, behind the U.S. imperialist rulers' drive to defend their place as top dog in today's "world order."

To underscore his point, Rubio said the United Nations "has no answers and played virtually no role" in recent conflicts. "It was powerless to constrain the nuclear program of radical Shia clerics in Tehran. That required 14 bombs" dropped by the U.S. rulers last year. He said the U.N. did nothing to defend what Rubio called "our security from a narco-terrorist dictator in Venezuela. Instead it took American Special Forces."

Rubio noted the view that the end of the Cold War would lead a "rules-based global order" to "replace national interest" was a "dangerous delusion." He praised Donald Trump and his admin-

istration for pushing to rebuild basic industry, crucial to the U.S. rulers' ability to amass the quantities of weaponry necessary for their wars that lie ahead.

In the name of his own ruling class and of other rulers in Europe, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz took on Rubio. "The United States claim to leadership has been challenged and possibly lost," he said. "The international order based on rights and rules is currently being destroyed." He pointed the finger of blame for this at Beijing and Washington, the world's two chief rivals.

"The time has come to bring Europe's mutual defense clause to life," European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen told the conference. Her speech reflected the anxiety in many European capitals over the Trump administration's recent collaboration with Moscow in insisting Ukraine has to be "realistic" and accede to Russian President Vladimir Putin's demand for more of its territory in order to end Moscow's war. The European Union has a "collective commitment to stand by each other in case of aggression," Von der Leyen said.

Another sore spot for Europe's rulers is Trump's threats to seize Greenland, a colony of the Danish rulers.

But the bloc of European powers that



AP Photo/Martin Meissner

German military uses Leopard II tank to recruit youth at Essen Auto Show. Amid growing capitalist clashes, Berlin aims to make Bundeswehr "strongest conventional army in Europe."

Von der Leyen claims to speak for is made up of ruling classes with competing interests, each with their own governments, foreign policies and armed forces. Under capitalism, there never can be a real European "union."

Merz made it clear the German rulers intend to dominate Europe both politically and militarily. "We will make the Bundeswehr the strongest conventional army in Europe," he boasted.

He followed this up after the conference, floating the idea of the German air force being equipped with nuclear missiles by the governments of France and

the U.K. German laws currently bar the government there from developing its own nuclear weapons.

The German rulers are not just rebuilding their military. A Feb. 14 *Wall Street Journal* article headlined, "A German general prepares his country for war," described how Gen. Carsten Breuer has waged "a multi-front campaign to rally German politicians, business people, soldiers and the general public behind efforts to speed the nation's rearmament and persuade them that they must be prepared to fight Russia."

Somali groups protest lack of gov't aid in Minneapolis

BY MARY MARTIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Neighbors United, a group of Somali small-business owners at the Somali-run Karmel Mall, held a press conference there Feb. 20 to oppose Immigration and Customs Enforcement's operations in Minnesota and bring attention to the ruin many of them face after months of ICE's repressive and brutal operations in the city.

ICE agents aggressively patrolled the area around the mall, seizing Somali and other shoppers right outside the doors as part of Operation Metro Surge. Customers increasingly stayed away. Somali people in Minnesota were a special target of ICE operations, regardless of the fact that the overwhelming majority here are long-time legal residents. Trump used a fraud scandal involving some area Somalis to smear

all Somalis as "garbage people."

Farhio Khalif, one of the founders of Neighbors United, told supporters and the press that the state of Minnesota has offered recovery loans to businesses that earn at least \$200,000 a year. But that still leaves Somali small-business people with kiosks in the mall without government help to survive. They are asking at least for loans so they can pay the rent on their shops.

Cesia Baires, who owns Abi's Café, a Salvadoran restaurant in the area, also spoke, explaining that small businesses in the Latino community, including in the nearby Mercado Central, also face devastation as their employees and customers stay home.

Neighbors United organizers invited the Socialist Workers Party to stand with them at the press conference. In

a statement for the press, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate Kevin Dwire said, "My party stands in solidarity with Neighbors United and all immigrants against the arrests, deportations and disruption of their livelihoods from the government's assault here.

"As Neighbors United shows, many immigrants refuse to be intimidated. To give another example, 3,800 union packinghouse workers in Greeley, Colorado, just took a strike vote against JBS. This is a majority immigrant workforce fed up with the line speed, low pay and dangerous working conditions in the plant," Dwire said. "The SWP calls for amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S. The unions need to lead a fight for amnesty to unify the working class This can strengthen our ability to fight in our class interests."

March

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The Militant March 9, 2026

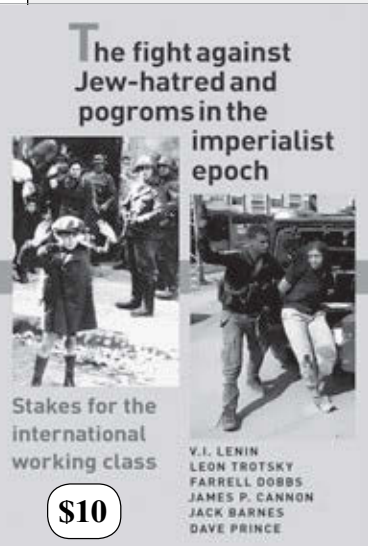
Fight against Jew-hatred crucial for workers

The U.S.-imposed ceasefire in Gaza and the Donald Trump administration's so-called Board of Peace do nothing to advance the defense of Israel as a refuge for Jews or reduce the danger of a new Holocaust. Washington's moves are aimed at advancing the interests of U.S. imperialism, which includes preventing Israel from dismantling Hamas. The Jew-hating outfit is rebuilding its tunnels, amassing weapons and boosting its dictatorial rule in Gaza.

The fight against Jew-hatred is not a Middle East question. Jew-hatred and pogroms are a permanent feature of the social convulsions and wars of the imperialist epoch. Their roots, like the causes of the last two world wars, cannot be eliminated under capitalist rule.

The ruling capitalist families everywhere are competing for natural resources, trade and labor. The source of their profits is their exploitation of working people, those who sell our labor power to the highest bidder, along with debt slaves, like small farmers. With no new markets to conquer, the imperialist rulers and other capitalist powers are driven to fight each other to redivide the world.

The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch



Jew-hatred and the slaughter of Jews, like the pogrom Hamas carried out on Oct. 7, 2023, are not new. Fighting Jew-hatred is decisive for the working class and oppressed throughout the world.

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Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Washington's assault on Venezuela's sovereignty, and the race by capitalist governments to build ever-more terrifying weapons show that imperialism is dragging humanity toward a third world conflagration.

Thousands of Jews were slaughtered in pogroms in the czarist empire in Russia, before and during World War I. In 1929 forces allied to the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, carried out pogroms in Palestine. In World War II these same forces allied with the Nazis in Germany, celebrating the Holocaust that eliminated 40% of the Jews in the world.

Israel's existence became necessary in the wake of the Holocaust. The imperialist powers — from the U.S. to Europe, Australia and elsewhere — refused in the 1930s to let Jews in and closed their doors after the betrayal by Stalinist parties of revolutionary struggles in Germany, Spain and elsewhere in Europe. Jews had nowhere else to go.

Israel is a class-divided country. It is also the only country where Jews are offered an unconditional refuge and defends them arms in hand. But its existence does not prevent the rise of Jew-hating violence.

Jew-hatred is a product of capitalism in decline. Unable to achieve a comfortable and stable life in the dog-eat-dog capitalist world and fearful of being pushed down into the working class, middle-class layers turn to Jew-hatred, a vestige of precapitalist societies. They blame the Jews for the misery they face, instead of the real enemy — capitalism.

But the epoch of imperialist war is also the epoch of revolution. That is what the capitalist rulers fear more than anything else. If their rule is threatened, they will promote fascist bands of Jew-hating thugs, like they did in Germany in 1933, to crush the working class and prevent it from challenging their rule.

The only way to end Jew-hatred and pogroms is for the working class to overturn the rule of the capitalist class, in country after country, and begin to organize society — and the world — on the basis of solidarity.

To make socialist revolutions, workers need parties of our own that are forged in the course of working-class struggles and unite workers whatever their nationality or religion. That's the road forward in the U.S., the Middle East and worldwide.

To be part of building that kind of organization, join the Socialist Workers Party.

US Middle East buildup threatens war with Iran

BY TERRY EVANS

Washington's buildup of massive firepower in the Middle East and its threats to attack Iran within the week increase the likelihood of more devastating wars across the region. The U.S. rulers are pressing to deepen their domination there and elsewhere, against both rival capitalist regimes and the struggles of working people.

The largest U.S. strike force in two decades is being assembled. It already comprises two aircraft carriers, 13 accompanying destroyers and a growing number of fighter jets at U.S. airbases in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Refueling and surveillance aircraft and Patriot and THAAD air defense missiles are being deployed for any U.S. air assault, alongside military forces Washington permanently deploys across the region.

President Donald Trump's administration says the government in Iran must agree to end all nuclear enrichment to prevent Tehran from building nuclear weapons. It's demanding the Iranian rulers give up their ballistic missiles and abandon backing for proxy forces — Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, Shiite-based militias in Iraq and Hamas.

"Our missiles are not subject to negotiation, and they will not be," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Feb. 18. Tehran openly states its goal is to destroy Israel and kill the Jews there. It launched waves of missile strikes on Israel in 2024 and 2025.

Further talks between Washington and Tehran are set for Feb. 26.

"They must make a deal," Trump warned Feb. 19, or "bad things will happen." The next day he said he was considering limited airstrikes.

The U.S. rulers' threats have nothing to do with aiding the courageous struggles of working people in Iran against the deadly assaults of the bourgeois clerical regime there. Nor does the vast deployment of U.S. military power in the Middle East have anything to do with defending Israel and the Jews. Washington's only interest is to gain stability in the region to advance its plunder of oil, other resources and labor.

Washington's imperialist war aims

The U.S. war preparations are aimed at forcing Tehran to find a way to "fit" into the U.S. rulers' plans for domination and exploitation of the region. Washington seeks to compel governments across the Middle East to subordinate themselves more closely to its dictates and to deal blows to its rivals worldwide, especially Beijing.

U.S. targets could include Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "bases and production facilities, over a protracted period of time," retired Navy officer Bryan Clark told the *Atlantic* magazine. This "would allow the U.S. to achieve part of what they were seeking through the talks," he said. Striking "production facilities" would lead to both military and civilian deaths.

The Iranian rulers have an estimated 2,000 missiles capable of hitting Israel. During last year's 12-day war, Tehran indiscriminately bombed Israeli population centers, killing 28 people. Israel's Iron Dome defense system was able to intercept some, but not all, of the onslaught.

Fresh from their military intervention in Venezuela and the oil blockade they've imposed on Cuba, the U.S. rulers believe their military superiority means they can control any conflict they put into motion, set its parameters and prevent any unintended consequences.

But the real world experience of Washington's wars — including those in the Middle East — show this is an illusion, one with deadly consequences for working people in the region and for the workers in uniform the U.S. rulers send to war.

As Washington was building up its military forces, Iranian and Russian warships held joint military exercises in the Gulf of Oman Feb. 19.

'Militant' Prisoners Fund

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

Join fight against ban on 'Militant' in Florida prison

Continued from front page

Prison officials claim these articles are "dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules."

And that they present "a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

The *Militant* was informed Feb. 18 that the Florida state prison Literature Review Committee has upheld the first impoundment and will now review the other two. *Militant* attorney David Goldstein is preparing an appeal of all these bans.

Far from being inflammatory, let alone urging disruption, riots or insurrection, all three articles argue for mass, disciplined protests to defend the rights of immigrants.

The article in issue no. 4 by Mary Martin argues against the call by Democratic Socialist Minneapolis City Council member Robin Wonsley for confrontations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. "This is a course for disaster," Martin writes. "What's needed here and across the country is a union-led fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers, a movement that would unify the working class. One that immigrant workers and others can participate in and help lead."

In the article in issue no. 6, author Edwin Fruit describes "the powerful example set by immigrant workers and their supporters in 2006 and 2007, as

they led mass actions involving millions in cities, town and villages all across the U.S. Their banner was, 'We are workers, not criminals.'"

"I am writing on behalf of PEN America, the 103-year-old U.S. branch of the world's leading international literary and human rights organization, to call upon the Florida Department of Corrections to reverse its decision to impound issues No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6 of the *Militant*," Tim Richardson, the group's program director on journalism and disinformation, said in a letter sent to the Literature Review Committee Feb. 24.

"It is clear that none of this subject matter invokes violence or threats, but rather seeks to present important national and international events that are pertinent to the lives of their readership," he added. Authorities actions are "an unwarranted restriction of freedom of the press and prisoners' rights."

Others who have submitted letters demanding the ban be overturned include the Florida Press Association, which represents all the daily and most of the weekly newspapers there.

The *Militant* is urging defenders of free speech, freedom of the press and prisoners rights, as well as unions to send letters urging the reversal of the ban.

They should be sent to: Literature Review Committee, c/o Saritza Legault/Melvin Herring, Library Services Administrator Florida Department of Corrections, 501 S. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2500. Or emailed to Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to the *Militant*.