

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Secret RCMP operation against political rights in Canada exposed
 — PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 90/NO. 15 APRIL 20, 2026

Meatpackers struggle at JBS continues while back on the job

BY MARY MARTIN

GREELEY, Colo. — “JBS makes billions off our broken bodies. To them we are not worth as much as the beef going down the line,” John Trimble told the *Militant*. The 69-year-old Trimble says he has worked at the plant for decades. He explained why 3,800 meat processing workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, went on strike March 16 — to defend their lives and livelihoods against the abuses and exploitation of the packinghouse bosses at JBS here.

Despite strong wind gusts and deep cold, members of Local 7 showed their willingness to continue the fight into a fourth week at an April 3 open air union information meeting in a field across from the plant.

Workers cheered when Local President Kim Cordova announced the company had asked to return to negotiations April 9-10. And they cheered again when she announced that the company had agreed to reimburse workers for wrongful payments they were forced to make to get mandatory protective equipment, including mesh metal aprons and

Continued on page 9

Get all US troops, bombers, warships out of the Mideast!

Washington seeks to dominate, plunder the region



Bridge under construction to link Tehran and Karaj, Iran, was heavily damaged in U.S. airstrike April 2. Washington threatened to destroy Iranian infrastructure, electric grid and bridges.

Shaky ceasefire agreed on, but fighting still continues

BY SETH GALINSKY

Tehran and Washington agreed to a two-week ceasefire April 7 just an hour before the deadline set by President Donald Trump. He threatened the U.S. military would bomb Iran’s electric power stations, bridges and factories if Tehran did not agree to reopen the Strait

Continued on page 8

Stakes for working people in fight to end Mideast war

The shaky two-week ceasefire reached by Washington and Tehran April 7 is a further step along the course pursued by the U.S. rulers to impose a “Pax Americana” across the

EDITORIAL

Middle East. The same thing was true of the shaky ceasefire Washington imposed on Gaza in October 2025.

The goal is to advance their domination
 Continued on page 11

US hands off Cuba! End US economic war!

BY JOHN STUDER

The U.S. rulers are stepping up their six-decades-long assault on Cuba, in retaliation for working people, led by Fidel Castro, making a socialist revolution there and setting an example for toilers everywhere.

Washington is enforcing an oil blockade, threatening to slap damaging tariffs on any government that sells or donates oil to Cuba. These moves have drawn protests worldwide against the U.S. rulers’ brutal attack on Cuban sovereignty.

On March 31 a Russian tanker, with acquiescence from Washington, landed in Cuba and delivered 730,000 barrels of oil. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has said she intends to ship oil to Cuba as well, for humanitarian reasons.

Washington is exerting maximum pressure on governments worldwide to expel volunteer Cuban doctors who have been providing medical care in these countries.

Cuba initiated its medical missions to aid toilers abroad in 1963, when 58 personnel went to Algeria to help rebuild a health care system after the victory of the independence movement over French colonial rule. “There are 4 million more Algerians than Cubans, and colonialism has left them with many diseases, but they have only a third — and even less — of the doctors we have,” Fidel Castro
 Continued on page 7

SWP uses ‘Militant’ to spread truth, build support for union battle at JBS



Joe Young, Communist League candidate for Quebec National Assembly, brings solidarity to JBS striker Aveline Joseph in Greeley, Colorado, April 2, introduces the *Militant*, books.

BY MARY MARTIN

GREELEY, Colo. — Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist League in Canada have spent a few weeks here in late March and early April to support and learn from the strike by 3,800 workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7, at the giant JBS beef processing factory. Many of us brought statements

of support from our unions.

We discussed how more and more bosses are attacking their workers today, driven by the deepening crisis of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system. In the long run, SWP and CL members said, the only way to change this is to build a revolutionary working-class party, a class alternative to the bosses’ parties,
 Continued on page 5

Support grows for ‘Militant’ fight to overturn prison bans in Florida

BY JANET POST

In a victory for readers of the *Militant* behind bars and all defenders of free speech and prisoners’ rights, the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee informed the pa-

per April 1 that it had overturned the impoundment by prison authorities of three issues. At the same time, four issues of the *Militant* are still banned.

Thanks in part to public support and letters written to the Literature Review Committee from readers, union leaders and constitutional rights organiza-

Continued on page 11

Workers at BP, NIPSCO both fight lockouts

BY AMY HUSK AND ILONA GERSH

HAMMOND, Ind. — Hundreds of members of the United Steelworkers union, including oil refinery workers locked out by British Petroleum, and members of other unions in this area rallied outside of the main office of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company April 7. Bosses at the utility had locked out more than 1,600 mem-
 Continued on page 4

Inside

40 years on, Moscow’s war risks new Chernobyl nuclear disaster 4

Gangs rampage in Haiti, as US-backed intervention nears 6

US war on Iran sharpens imperialist rivalries worldwide 8

— On the picket line, p. 3 —

Quebec Metro warehouse workers strike over jobs, wages, safety

Quebec USW unionists strike for better conditions and respect

Secret RCMP operation against political rights in Canada exposed

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Newly declassified Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Service files have confirmed that in the 1960s and '70s the Canadian rulers' top spy outfit systematically infiltrated and sought to disrupt Indigenous and other political groups.

The RCMP program “was very invasive, and no one should have to live with that,” said Georges Erasmus, formerly the Dene Nation president and national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

“It’s really shocking and it’s unacceptable that Canada would target, harass and spy on our people,” the current Assembly of First Nations national chief, Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, said. She called for an investigation into the covert RCMP operation and a public apology from both Canada’s public safety minister and Prime Minister Mark Carney.

In 1984 Ottawa replaced the discredited RCMP Security Service with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. The move came after exposure of the former spy force’s illegal activities, including break-ins, theft, arson and frame-ups aimed at disrupting labor unions and Indigenous, black and Quebec independence organizations, as well as other opponents of the government. The RCMP still exists, acting as the Canadian political police.

After the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation ran a special series on the newly released RCMP Security Service files and the outrage that followed by Indigenous organizations and other targets, a CBC-TV reporter interviewed the deputy director of CSIS, Nicole Giles, March 24, asking

her whether it pays informers to spy on and disrupt organizations like the Assembly of First Nations.

She avoided answering directly, effectively confirming the CSIS does use paid informants and other covert tactics against government opponents, just as the RCMP Security Service had done.

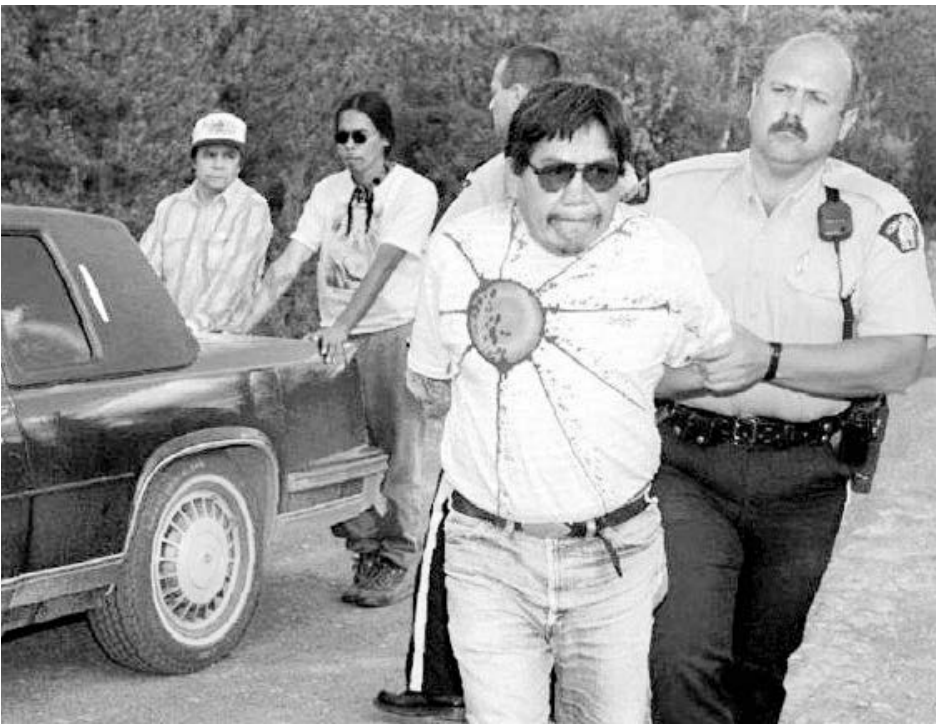
The documents, and interviews with former RCMP Security Service members since they were revealed, show that Canada’s capitalist rulers were concerned about the influence of “radicals and communists” on the Indigenous rights movement in Canada, including from the American Indian Movement in the U.S. Others targeted included a group that became today’s Communist League, as well as the Communist Party of Canada and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

The CBC obtained the nearly 6,000 pages of RCMP spy files despite efforts by the Liberal government of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to use the courts to block their disclosure, which delayed their release for years.

The RCMP disruption program was called the “Native extremism program,” intruding on a wide range of groups using wiretaps, paid informants and covert surveillance of homes, offices and elsewhere.

In the mid-1970s the Liberal government approved RCMP wiretaps to monitor the telephones of the National Indian Brotherhood, today known as the Assembly of First Nations. The program evolved into a massive countrywide surveillance operation.

The files include hundreds of surveillance reports in folders marked “racial



Intercultural Leadership Institute

Some 400 Royal Canadian Mounted Police, army, other cops launched monthlong assault on Indigenous activists carrying out land occupation at Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia, in 1995.

intelligence,” confirming use of illegal clandestine methods. Black rights organizations and activists were also targets.

Armed attacks

This operation escalated into armed attacks on Indigenous organizations and activists. In the summer of 1990, Ottawa sent 900 soldiers in full battle gear against Mohawk communities in Kahnawake and Kanesatake, near the Town of Oka outside Montreal, equipped with heavy weapons that included machine guns, armored personnel carriers and helicopters. The Mohawks’ crime? They had erected a barricade to protest the expansion of a golf club onto their Native land.

In 1995 some 400 RCMP cops, collaborating closely with CSIS and the Canadian army, attacked 30 Indigenous activists who were carrying out a land occupation in Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia.

Less than a week later, heavily armed Ontario Provincial Police attacked unarmed Indigenous protesters who were occupying land in Ipperwash that had been taken from them by the federal government during World War II. One Native activist, Dudley George, was killed by an Ontario police sniper.

Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in October’s Quebec elections, is campaigning on the impor-

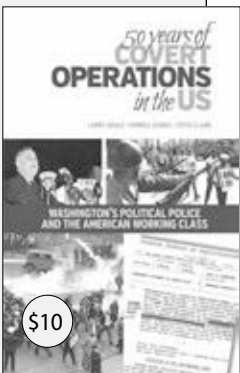
tance of these revelations, which show that Ottawa’s political police are a threat to political rights. “The latest exposure of the covert operations of both the RCMP and CSIS underlines the necessity of the unions and other defenders of political freedoms to fight against every attack on the rights working people need to defend our class interests,” he said, “as the capitalist rulers prepare for new and deadlier wars abroad and step up their attacks on working people at home.”

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

Washington’s Political Police and the American Working Class

Decades of spying by FBI targeting working-class organizations and opponents of government policies. How expansion of “national security” state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing.

www.pathfinderpress.com



THE MILITANT

Cuba receives first oil since US imposed blockade

The oil blockade is “a sign of the brutal siege Cubans endure with heroism and stoicism,” remarked Carlos Fernández de Cossío, Cuba’s deputy foreign minister. “It’s a demonstration of the criminal cruelty of imperialism against a nation that refuses to be dominated.”



Cuban TV

Cuban engineer explains oil from Russian tanker will go to hospitals and schools.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 15

Closing news date: April 8, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Vivian Sahner, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, three weeks in June, and one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers' struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

Quebec Metro warehouse workers strike over jobs, wages, safety

MONTREAL — “We’re determined to fight to win a living wage, safe working conditions and livable work schedules,” Mathieu Gagnon, secretary of the United Grocers Workers Union and picket captain since the workers went on strike March 30, told the *Militant*. The union is part of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

The union represents 550 workers at the Laval fruit and vegetable warehouse at the company’s main office in Montreal, and drivers at the warehouse in Rivieres-des-Prairies.

Under their last six-year contract, which expired in September, workers only received an 11% wage increase — less than 2% a year, well below the rate of inflation.

Workers are now demanding a wage increase of 20% in the first year of a three-year contract, to make up for lost ground, and 5% in each of the last two years. The company has refused, offering the highest-paid workers 11% over six years and the lowest paid workers a measly 1% a year. That’s not an increase; it’s a wage cut!

Over the same six years, Metro’s profits “increased by 39%,” said Serge Monette, president of the CSN’s commerce division. “Dividends to shareholders rose by 56%, while the group’s president and CEO, Eric La Fleche, got a 37% pay raise.”

Metro Inc. is one of the two largest supermarket chains in Quebec, with 670 stores, and one of three largest chains across Canada.

At a mass meeting April 2, workers voted unanimously to reject the bosses’ proposal. They had voted to go on strike by 97% earlier.

Metro obtained a court injunction barring workers from picketing within 5 meters (15 feet) of facility entrances. That means they can’t stop production — the goal of the strike.

Striking workers told the *Militant* that safety in the warehouse is a key issue. The job involves regularly lifting boxes weighing 30 kilograms (66 pounds) or more over their heads. The result is a lot of lower back and shoulder injuries.

In January 1993, Metro announced that it was shutting down its food distribution service, outsourcing 135 drivers’ jobs to three outside companies and laying off 15 workers in its printing plant. The workers there waged a six-year battle, eventually winning back their jobs along with a 33 million Canadian dollar court settlement (\$23.6 million).

It turned out Metro had secretly set up a separate nonunion company, “M. R. Merchants’ Association,” to take the truckers’ jobs, saving CA\$3.5 million a year.

Even though the union won the fight, the company continues to contract out union drivers’ jobs, going from 150 in 2010 to 40 or so today. And the drivers are forced to work mainly at night and on the weekend, rarely on weekdays.

Addressing this inhumane work schedule is one of the issues in the strike. “We’re fighting for workers to be able to have a better family life,” Gagnon said. “We can’t accept these attacks. We have to fight back.”

Solidarity is crucial. The workers are picketing at the warehouses in Laval and Riviere-des-Prairies 24-7, and at the head office in Montreal during business hours. Join them!

— Steve Penner

Quebec USW unionists strike for better conditions and respect

PLESSISVILLE, Quebec — “The biggest issue in our strike is to be treated with respect. They don’t treat us like human beings,” Alain Martineau, one of 100 United Steelworkers walking the picket line at Cooperative Citadelle’s maple syrup factory, told the *Militant*.



Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN)

Members of United Grocers Workers Union at April 2 mass meeting in Montreal reject Metro supermarket bosses’ wage proposal of just 11% over six years. Sign reads, “We deserve more!”

They’ve been on strike since March 18, without a contract for 15 months.

“The workers are demanding improvements in conditions that include working in 13 C temperatures [55 F], being monitored by cameras that record their every move,” the union said in an open letter. Andree Archambault, a machine operator responsible for the union health and safety committee, added, “The floors are very slippery, and the factory is too crowded without enough space for forklifts to pass safely.”

“One fellow worker described how the employer sent him to buy a heater for the glass bottles because the low temperature in the plant in the winter was making them explode,” Dominic Lapierre, a train conductor and member of division 89 of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference on the Canadian National Railway, told the *Militant* as he and other rail workers, including this correspondent, walked the picket line in solidarity March 24. “Workers’ comfort is less important than the material for the company. It seems like the workers are an expense to cut.”

“We know the importance of solidarity because we needed it ourselves in our fight against CN and the government,” Felix Vincent Ardea, president of division 89, added. “Having the labor movement by our side is what gives us strength!”

The workers rejected the company’s

last contract offer by 72.3%. “I voted against the strike, thinking it was premature,” Thibaut Mdappe, who had only been at the plant for a few months, said on the picket line. “But being out here, I’ve been caught up by a wind of solidarity. The union has become like a second family.” There has been a 70% turnover in the workforce over the last two years because of low wages and difficult working conditions.

The USW went on strike as maple syrup season began, maximizing pressure on the cooperative. “The bosses pushed us into a corner,” Dany Maltais said. “The strike became inevitable. We don’t want to penalize anyone, but this is our leverage.”

Cooperative Citadelle, a producers’ cooperative, started in 1925 and now counts 1,500 members.

The USW needs financial help from union locals to support their strike fund. The first donation of \$13,000 came from the Congress of Democratic Trade Unions. Several USW locals have pledged weekly or monthly contributions, including workers at ArcelorMittal in Contrecoeur and at Microbird in Drummondville. Checks can be mailed to Fonds de greve de la section Locale 7885-15 at 175, rue Saint-Marcel, Drummondville (QC), J2B 2E1.

Join the line at 2100 St-Laurent Street in Plessisville!

— Philippe Tessier

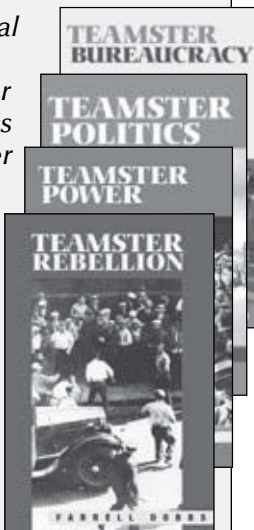
25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

Special Offer Teamster Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s

by Farrell Dobbs

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



\$16 each or all 4 for \$50
pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

April 16, 2001

HARTFORD, Conn. — “The Cuban people are carrying out many projects to advance our cultural level and develop higher human values,” Cuban youth leader Yanelis Martínez told a meeting at the University of Hartford here. Martínez and Javier Dueñas began the New England leg of their tour April 1.

“The beginning of the discussion tonight has to be 1959, which is the year the revolution took political power in Cuba,” said Dueñas in his opening remarks.

Cuban youth have made important contributions to the revolution, Dueñas said, such as being the backbone of many internationalist missions throughout the world, from the defense of Angola from invasion by apartheid South Africa’s military to the more than 3,000 Cuban doctors currently in some of the poorest areas in Latin America, Africa and Central America providing medical services.

THE MILITANT

April 16, 1976

In Louisville, Kentucky, a six-foot tall cross was burned on Nancy Galt-Clayton’s front lawn. In Rosedale, New York, a fire bomb was hurled at the newly purchased home of a Black man. In Boston a gang of antibusing demonstrators tried to run a flagpole through the Black director of the Boston Contractors Association.

Not one presidential candidate of the capitalist parties has spoken up to condemn the racist violence. Democratic contender Jimmy Carter chose to come out in defense of segregated housing. Carter talked about “black intrusion into white neighborhoods.”

None of these politicians can be relied upon. Antiracist forces have a historic opportunity to deliver a message to the racists — and the politicians who refuse to stand up to them — by showing up in massive numbers for the national probusing march on Boston April 24.

THE MILITANT

April 16, 1951

The nationwide controversy precipitated by President Harry Truman’s kicking out Gen. Douglas MacArthur opens a new phase in the crisis of Washington’s imperialist foreign policy. The rift among the capitalist ruling circles is growing more embittered.

If MacArthur is to be condemned, as he surely deserves, then no less reprehensible is Truman, officially MacArthur’s “superior officer.” He is trying to hide that his own course is likewise exclusively designed to promote war. In claiming success in Korea, there is little to choose between MacArthur’s arrogant boasts and Truman’s: “We have taught the enemy a lesson.”

One immediate safeguard against this terrible war danger is to refer the issue of War and Peace directly to the American people, let the issue be decided in a NATIONAL REFERENDUM! Bring the U.S. troops back home! Stop the Korean war now!

40 years on, Moscow’s war risks a new Chernobyl nuclear disaster

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The 40th anniversary of the world’s worst nuclear disaster, the 1986 explosion and fire destroying reactor No. 4 of the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine, is April 26. But Moscow’s over-four-year-long war attempting to seize that sovereign country risks a new catastrophe there.

In 2019 a protective dome was erected by an international capitalist consortium, supposedly to safely confine Chernobyl’s dangerously radioactive ruins for a century. But a Russian drone strike in February last year punched a large hole in the dome.

The giant steel shell was built to contain the crumbling concrete tomb, the so-called sarcophagus that was hastily erected in 1986 around the radioactive ruins of the meltdown. Moscow’s missile strike last year caused a fire that spread inside the radioactive interior. It took Ukrainian firefighters over two weeks to extinguish the blaze. They had to drill 300 additional holes to put it out.

Ukrainian emergency workers have covered the main hole with a protective metal sheet, little more than a glorified tarpaulin. The challenge of reestablishing a stable containment structure, decommissioning the three remaining reactors, and removing radioactive waste in the ruins of reactor No. 4 has been compromised by the damaging attack.

Radioactive danger remains

“If the [concrete] shelter collapses, a radioactive cloud will rise,” Serhii Tarakanov, the Chernobyl plant’s general director, told the March 26 *Financial Times*. “As 1986 taught us, radiation does not recognize borders. The wind will carry these [radioactive] transuranic elements across Europe” again.

“This isn’t a ‘Ukrainian problem,’” he added, “it is a continental threat that is being ignored.”

The catastrophic 1986 nuclear meltdown and resulting radioactive fire in the Chernobyl reactor was exacerbated by the Stalinist rulers in Moscow and their criminal failure to enclose it with a containment vessel, which could have trapped most radiation. Soviet authorities attempted to cover up the unfolding disaster until radioactive clouds were detected spreading over parts of Europe.

The Chernobyl catastrophe also re-

vealed the Stalinist bureaucracy’s contempt for working people. The Soviet government was callously indifferent as thousands of the plant’s workers and firefighters, with little or no protection, selflessly fought to contain the fire.

The fire department at Chernobyl perished from exposure to radioactivity after fighting the fire. Tens of thousands of other Ukrainian workers, mostly volunteers known as “liquidators,” came to try to bury the radioactive remnants. Thousands have died and many more suffered from radiation poisoning.

Millions of residents of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia received severe doses of radiation and many sickened or died.

The catastrophe accelerated the coming apart of the Soviet Union, which disintegrated in 1991 as Ukraine and other Soviet republics declared independence.

Cuba’s internationalist response

In stark contrast to the way the Stalinist bureaucracy acted, Cuba’s revolutionary government responded to the disaster by sending doctors to set up clinics in affected areas of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Then Cuba offered to establish a special facility at Tarara near Havana to provide intense medical and other care to the sickest, youngest victims of Chernobyl, mainly from Ukraine. More than 25,000 were treated there at no charge.

This was a powerful display of proletarian internationalism by Cuba’s

Workers at BP, NIPSCO both fight boss lockouts

Continued from front page

bers of USW Local 12775, which represents NIPSCO field workers, and Local 13796, representing clerical workers, April 2. They work from the Indiana border with Illinois to Ohio.

The bosses said the lockout will last “until the union accepts our final offer.”

This is the second sizable group of USW-organized workers locked out by the bosses in this heavily industrialized area of northern Indiana. BP bosses locked out members of USW Local 7-1 at its Whiting refinery March 19, and are refusing to negotiate. Pickets are organized at several plant gates there 24/7.

The two NIPSCO Steelworkers locals voted 98% to authorize a strike over the company’s so-called last, best,



Militant/John Studer

Monument at site of 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in memory of Ukrainian firefighters who died fighting radioactive blaze there. Plaque says: “To those who saved the world.”

socialist revolution. The program only ended in 2011 when the then Moscow-backed Ukrainian government stopped flying patients to Cuba.

In 2014 a *Militant* reporting team led by current editor John Studer visited the Chernobyl exclusion zone at the invitation of the workers’ union there. They described the heroic efforts by Ukrainian workers to prevent an even greater disaster, as well as the devastating, long-term social, medical and environmental consequences. They explained the support for Ukrainian independence held by the hundreds of Chernobyl workers they met, who manage the site today.

As part of their invasion in February 2022, Moscow’s forces briefly occupied

the nuclear plant, holding its staff hostage. Russian troops dug trenches and camped out in the highly contaminated “Red Forest” surrounding the facility, with deadly consequences for many.

That year invading Russian forces also took control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe’s largest, in southeastern Ukraine. Studer and the *Militant*’s reporting team had also visited that site in 2014, meeting with leaders of the union. Today, the Russian occupiers use the inoperative plant as a military base, keeping a skeleton crew of Ukrainian workers to prevent the reactors from overheating and exploding. They have been subject to physical abuse and worse.

and final offer. It included small wage increases and a ratification bonus of \$5,000. But the bonus drops to \$2,500 if the company ultimatum isn’t accepted by April 11, and down to nothing if the lockout lasts through April 18.

Currently workers can be made to work 32 straight hours. The new contract maintains that provision, with a gradual reduction to 24 straight hours in 2027, and then to 16 by the end of the three-year contract.

The union issued a statement explaining that safety concerns and job security are the main issues. “The company’s actions come amid ongoing disputes over the increased use of outside contractors, a mandatory overtime acceptance rate, and potential limitations on work continuity during outages — all of which present serious safety concerns,” it says.

“This lockout is a reckless decision that puts profits ahead of the welfare of our communities,” Roxanne Brown, USW international president, said.

Ryan Baker, president of Local 12775, told the *Militant*, “A big issue is the forced overtime. We understand that sometimes we have to work overtime to handle emergencies. But we are also people with families and lives. This is only a small part of our life.”

Locked-out workers said they don’t want to be in a situation where they can be required to accept overtime that could result in working 16 hours a day. “You’re out there in the bucket trucks, in the wind, rain, snow, sun, it doesn’t matter,” Baker said. “We’re out there doing our jobs, doing it for the community.”

The union wants to bring NIPSCO back to the bargaining table, Baker told workers and their supporters at the rally. “This is a damn lockout.

It’s not a strike,” he said. “We don’t want to be here. The company put us here. They told us we’re better served standing on the side of the road than out there doing our goddamned jobs.” He thanked everyone for coming, saying, “Let’s hold the line!”

NIPSCO claims it will keep working with “trained non-represented employees, qualified contractors, and support from our family of companies to maintain operations.”

But WNDU, a local radio station, is reporting, “The impacts of the lockout are hitting communities already. On Thursday night during a severe thunderstorm warning in Marshall County, fire crews responded to a report of a pole fire near Plymouth. The Marshall County Fire Department said it took about two hours for NIPSCO to arrive.”

To join a picket line and support the USW NIPSCO locals, visit Local 12775’s union hall at 216 Lincoln Street in Porter, or call (219) 929-1068. They will tell you where picket lines are set up and how to make a donation to the union defense fund.

Steven Minchuk, president of the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation, told the *Militant*, “We’re doing everything we can to support the locked-out workers here and at BP. We’re bringing people and supplies to the picket lines, putting pressure on the companies to negotiate.”

“If you want to join the BP picket lines, come to the union hall first,” at 2045 Schrage Avenue in Whiting, USW Local 7-1 President Eric Schultz said. They send vans out every 15 minutes, dropping off and picking up union members and supporters. They have tents and burn barrels to warm them, as well as donated food and beverages.

SWP candidate Margaret Trowe in California Voter Guide

Margaret Trowe, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, is on the ballot. Both her photo and campaign statement, below, are included in the state Voter Guide sent out to all of the 23 million registered voters in the state.



Margaret Trowe, five-decade member of Socialist Workers Party, is a hotel housekeeper, member of UNITE-HERE union. Organized solidarity, joined strikes of hotel, school, hospital workers. Calls for union-backed fight for amnesty for undocumented workers to build working-class unity. Longtime fighter against racism, for women’s rights and against Washington’s wars, from Vietnam to Venezuela. Defends Israel’s right to exist and defend itself. Stands against rising Jew-hatred. A supporter of the Cuban Revolution that brought working people to power. Says “U.S. Hands of Cuba! End U.S. Economic Blockade of Cuba!” Defends free speech, due process, other Constitutional protections. Campaigns for need for workers to take political power — the only solution to world capitalist economic, political, and moral crisis and the only way to stop the capitalist rulers’ march to World War III.

SWP NJ ballot drive advances

BY ROY LANDERSEN
UNION CITY, N.J. — Socialist Workers Party members are winning support to put the party’s candidates, Joanne Kuniansky for U.S. Senate and Craig Honts for U.S. Congress, on the ballot in New Jersey. Many workers are pleased to sign up and interested in discussing why our class needs to break from the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties and build a party of our own to lead a fight to take political power into our own hands.

In the first 12 days of the ballot drive, 1,331 signed for Kuniansky and 181 for Honts. The goals are 3,200 signatures for Kuniansky, well over the requirement of 2,000, and 400 for Honts, more than the 250 needed.

As they’ve won support, SWP campaigners have sold 55 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 55 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders and 216 copies of the paper.

“Why is the U.S. fixated on the Mideast?” Tahjj Hemby, a patient care coordinator, asked Honts when he campaigned at a parking lot in Bloomfield April 5. “There’s enough oil on this planet, enough natural resources, to make sure everyone has enough to eat. They can’t tell me that it’s running out.”

“It’s a question of who controls those resources,” Honts said. “As their system spirals into deeper crisis, the capitalists are in ever-stiffening competition with each other to seize resources and shore up their profits.”

“They have no morality,” Hemby said. “Yes, that’s true,” Honts replied. “Cuba’s socialist revolution is a living, fighting example of a different, working-class morality that starts from the needs of the toilers of the world.” He showed Hemby the book, *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire*

in Africa by Victor Dreke, who led Cuban combatants during their internationalist mission there.

Hemby bought the book and signed the petition to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

“I’ve been reading about communism and Mao,” Duran Rogers, 37, an IBEW apprentice electrician, told Honts. “What do you think about taxing the rich?” he asked.

“Workers shouldn’t have to pay taxes,” Honts replied. “But we can’t tax our way to socialism.” He pointed to the need to organize the working class to fight for its own interests. “Our party aims to be part of leading working people to make socialist revolutions in every country. Revolutionary Cuba shows this is possible,” said Honts.

Rogers signed the petition, asking the candidate to “stay in touch.”

Outside a grocery store in Clifton, SWP campaigner Seth Galinsky spoke to a Black woman who said she didn’t know who Joanne Kuniansky was and wouldn’t sign until she knew more.

Galinsky said the Democrats and Republicans are parties of the capitalists and workers need our own party. “We make the buildings, we pick the crops, but we don’t make the decisions,” he said. The woman started



Militant/Lisa Rottach
Tahjj Hemby, right, talks with Craig Honts, SWP candidate for Congress in New Jersey. He signed the petition, bought *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*.

reading the SWP campaign brochure and asked, “Why is there so much on Israel and the Jews?”

“Because we’re in a period similar to the lead-up to World War II,” Galinsky replied. “The capitalist rulers will use Jew-hatred to try to take our eyes off the real enemy, the capitalist system of exploitation.

“We know where that ended up,” Galinsky added, “with 6 million Jews murdered in Hitler’s gas chambers, the

unions and working-class organizations smashed, and a world war that was a disaster for humanity.

“We need to build working-class parties that unite workers no matter what their religion or nationality is — Jewish, Muslim, Christian. That’s the only way to fight for our common interests.”

“I agree with that,” the woman said and signed the petition.

Lisa Rottach contributed to this article.

Use the ‘Militant’ to build support for union battle at JBS

Continued from front page
capable of taking political power.

Striking workers, other union members and strike supporters picked up over the past week 19 subscriptions to the *Militant* and bought 18 books by SWP and other revolutionary working-class leaders. They got books in English, French and Spanish, reflecting the international character of the working class in Greeley. Workers in the meatpacking plant here speak 57 languages.

The union membership includes over 1,000 workers from Haiti who face the government cancelling their Temporary Protected Status, which allows them to live and work in the U.S.

Margaret Trowe, a hotel worker from Oakland and member of the UNITE HERE union, who is also the SWP candidate for governor of California, told striking workers that her campaign demands a government amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S.

“There are millions of so-called illegal workers in this country because that’s the policy of the billionaire bosses and both of their parties, the Democrats and Republicans,” Trowe said. “This is how they try to pit workers against each other, to drive down our wages and get away with abusive treatment. They tell U.S.-born workers ‘foreigners’ cause crime, low wages and unemployment, and then turn around and tell immigrants that workers born here are racist and lazy.

“Neither is true. We are fellow workers and

have the same class interests,” she said. “That’s one reason why this strike is so important and why the Socialist Workers Party calls on all workers to demand the government end the illegal status of millions, with a mass amnesty.”

One worker thanked Trowe for taking this position in defense of immigrants. “It’s what we all need,” Trowe responded. “Workers born in this country have a compelling interest in fighting for amnesty. If we don’t unite the working class by fighting to end the pariah status of our immigrant brothers and sisters, we can never build a movement strong enough to take political power and end exploitation and war once and for all.”

‘Militant,’ books popular

Knocking on workers’ doors here, Joe Young, a member of the Communist League in Canada, and this reporter met Mary Dittiro, who works from home for an accounting firm. She said she supported the striking JBS workers and signed up for a *Militant* subscription. After Young showed her the book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*, she decided to buy it. She also got *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara, who led the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso; and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Olivier Malanau, whose job is to gut the calf carcasses on the line at JBS, met Young at the end of his shift on the picket line and explained he is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* and got nine books in French, including Sankara’s *We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions*. He said he wants to understand how working-class poli-

tics can be applied to eliminate the poverty and exploitation in his home country, as well as in the fight they’re waging for workers’ rights on the job.

While not everyone we spoke to going door to door, or in the shops and restaurants here supports the strike, we found many young people working in the restaurants were very supportive.

Layla Fischer, 21, is a server at a local restaurant who works six days a week to help support her family. She said she learned about the strike from social media. “I learned they have no breaks or short breaks and can’t easily get off the line to go to the bathroom,” she said.

Between serving customers Fischer looked at a few issues of the *Militant*. She said she agreed with the headlines on the need to fight Jew-hatred, “US hands off Cuba!” and “US out of the Middle East!” She bought an introductory subscription to the *Militant* and said she would like to visit the picket line with us.

We met a number of strikers originally from Cuba on the picket line and got into discussions about Cuba’s socialist revolution, as well as the need to protest today’s escalating U.S. attacks on Cuba. Strikers from Africa and Haiti we met described getting medical care from Cuban doctors.

“I was very impressed when a Cuban doctor who treated me in Port-au-Prince spoke to me in Creole. He had studied and learned it,” Aveline Joseph, from Haiti, told Young. Young said this is a reflection of the Cuban Revolution’s internationalism.

The eight-week effort by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant*, the same number of books and raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund opens opportunities to take these discussions across the country and internationally.

We come away with many workers here to keep in touch with and work with.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, Fighting Fund						
March 14 - May 12 (week three)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	40	22	40	21	\$9,500	\$3,088
Chicago	60	28	60	26	\$13,500	\$2,342
Cincinnati	30	14	30	19	\$5,000	0
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	35	70	35	\$5,000	\$1,335
Los Angeles	90	34	90	66	\$14,000	\$1,220
Miami	40	19	40	17	\$5,500	\$600
Minneapolis	65	21	65	29	\$6,700	\$1,650
N. New Jersey	70	23	70	41	\$7,500	\$1,370
New York	80	26	80	38	\$20,500	\$3,460
Oakland	80	30	80	43	\$15,000	\$9,875
Philadelphia	40	15	40	26	\$6,000	\$2,875
Pittsburgh	45	14	45	17	\$7,000	\$1,900
Seattle	60	27	60	24	\$15,000	\$3,462
Washington	55	20	55	40	\$4,500	\$258
Other		0				\$500
Total U.S.	825	328	825	442	\$134,700	\$33,935
Prisoners		73				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	20	45	22	\$3,000	\$185
Manchester*	40	21	30	7	\$1,300	\$400
Total U.K.	85	41	75	29	\$4,300	\$585
Canada	80	27	90	46	\$11,000	\$3,220
Australia	30	19	30	14	\$4,500	\$1,840
Total	1,020	488	1,020	531	\$154,500	\$39,580
SHOULD BE	1,300	488	1,300	488	\$165,000	\$61,875
*Raised goal						

6

‘Cuban Book Day’ celebrates 1961 battle for literacy, reading

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

In the midst of Washington’s stepped-up economic war aimed at strangling the Cuban people, “Cuban Book Day” was celebrated in Havana and several of the country’s provinces March 31. The events marked the founding of the country’s National Printing House on March 31, 1959.

The printing-program anniversary celebrates one of the landmark achievements of the Cuban Revolution, begun only a few months after workers and peasants took power under the leadership of Fidel Castro.

The first work produced after the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship was *Don Quixote* — a bold undertaking. A masterpiece of world literature, the Cuban edition of Miguel de Cervantes’ classic was a four-volume set illustrated by Pablo Picasso and the French artist Gustave Doré, with a print run of 100,000 copies, priced at 25 cent s each. The revolutionary government organized to make it available all over the island.

For many workers and peasants in Cuba that was the first opportunity to ever hold a book in their hands, let alone from a library. Its publication was followed by a series of other high-quality, inexpensive and accessible editions of the best of Cuban and world literature and poetry, known as the People’s Library.

The Cuban leadership aimed to give the country’s toilers the tools to run their country. But in order to take control of industry and agriculture, to transform production and the conditions of life and work, taking control of their own destiny, Cubans needed to be able to read and write.

Castro and the July 26 Movement acted on this course even before they took power. In 1958 the Rebel Army reopened 400 primary schools that had been shut down by the dictatorship in the Oriente province territory known as the Second Front.

Combatants who couldn’t read or write were taught alongside school-age children. As the teachers had a “dual function — fighting both ignorance and the existing social order — these educators were called *rebel teachers*,” said Asela de los Santos,

the head of the Rebel Army’s Department of Education in the Second Front. “That experience became the forerunner. It showed what was needed once victory had been won.”

National Literacy Campaign

In September 1960 Fidel Castro told the United Nations, “In the coming year, our country intends to wage its great battle against illiteracy, with the ambitious goal of teaching every single illiterate person in the country to read and write.”

The year 1961 in Cuba was indeed “The Year of Education,” with more than 100,000 volunteers, most of them teenagers, spreading out across the country. They utilized 1.5 million copies of la cartilla, a booklet developed to teach people to read and write that was produced by the National Printing House. Before the year’s end the campaign had succeeded.

In April 1961 Fidel Castro gave a televised speech summing up the revolution’s orientation, “We don’t tell the people: ‘Believe!’ We tell them: ‘Read!’” The National Printing House made it possible for millions of Cubans to access literature.

And eliminating illiteracy laid the basis for other cultural and scientific accomplishments achieved by the Cuban Revolution, unheard of for an underdeveloped country.

The commitment of the revolution



Granma

On the heels of the 1959 revolution, Cuba began mass production of books to advance culture, starting with *Don Quixote*. The 1961 literacy campaign ensured all Cubans could read.

to draw the entire people into reading and culture led to the establishment of the Havana International Book Fair, which was launched in 1982. It took place every other year until 2000, when it became an annual occurrence, considered the most important cultural event on the island. Each year hundreds of thousands of Cubans attend the festival, held under the motto “To read is to grow.”

Over time, after the fair in Havana ended, smaller fairs were organized in cities across the country, reaching thousands more.

As Washington has intensified its economic war against Cuba, book production has virtually come to a halt due to the lack of paper and equipment.

A week before the scheduled opening of this year’s book fair, the Donald Trump administration imposed an oil blockade on the island. Cuban authorities were forced to postpone the fair indefinitely and redirect resources to other needs.

Yet Cubans’ love of books hasn’t been diminished. At the Guantánamo celebration of Cuban Book Day, poet Mireya Piñeiro Ortigosa recalled how in Cervantes’ book, *Don Quixote* attacks a row of windmills, imagining them as gigantic opponents.

“We don’t see windmills,” she said, “we have *real* monster-like giants closing in on us more and more, but with that same fighting spirit of *Don Quixote*, we press on, without stopping.”

US hands off Cuba! End Washington’s oil blockade!

Continued from front page

said. He explained this was why Cuba was recruiting 50 volunteer doctors to go to Algeria.

In 2004, Cuba launched Operation Milagro, providing free eye care and surgeries to prevent blindness. This program has restored vision to over 4 million people around the world.

In 2005 Cuba established the Henry Reeve International Contingent, which provides emergency care to respond to natural disasters and epidemics, like the Ebola crisis in West Africa, a cholera outbreak in Haiti and COVID-19 in Italy and Latin America.

On March 2, the U.S. Congress passed a bill imposing sanctions on any country where Cuban health workers are dispensing much-needed care. Last August, Washington began revoking visas to travel to the U.S. for elected officials abroad who have rejected expelling Cuban doctors.

One of those standing firm is Trinidad Prime Minister Keith Rowley. “I just came back from California, and if I never go back there again in my life, I will ensure that the sovereignty of Trinidad and Tobago is known to its people and respected by all,” he said. Trinidad has relied heavily on doctors “mainly from Cuba over the decades,” he added.

Cuban medical personnel have served millions of people, often in remote areas around the world where there is little health care. In 2023 there were nearly 24,000 Cuban medical personnel working in 56 countries.

In the face of this record, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has been the point person for Washington’s slanders about the Cuban Revolu-

tion’s medical missions. “Cuba’s labor export programs, which include the medical missions, enrich the Cuban regime,” Rubio claimed in February, “and in the case of Cuba’s overseas medical missions, deprive ordinary Cubans of the medical care they desperately need in their home country.”

Of course, he doesn’t mention the main cause of deprivation in Cuba, medical and otherwise. That’s the punishing economic war the U.S. rulers have conducted against Cuba for decades.

The latest government in Latin America to announce it was ending Cuba’s medical program is Guatemala. Begun in 1998, there are 412 Cuban medical personnel there today, including 333 doctors. The first contingent of health workers left for home April 2.

In a farewell meeting the day before, Cuba’s ambassador to Guatemala, Nazario Fernández, described the work the doctors have carried out. He repudiated those like Rubio who “try to denigrate that work, since the humanism demonstrated every day over nearly 28 years remains alive in the people of this sister nation.”

Thanks from Guatemala

Also speaking was Sheila Pamela Leyla, who helps coordinate the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance. She gave the lie to Washington’s slanders.

“You arrived not with weapons or preconditions, but with stethoscopes and an iron will,” she told the Cubans. “Since then you have been the face of hope for millions of Guatemalans who, before seeing a Cuban

doctor, had never had access to decent medical care.”

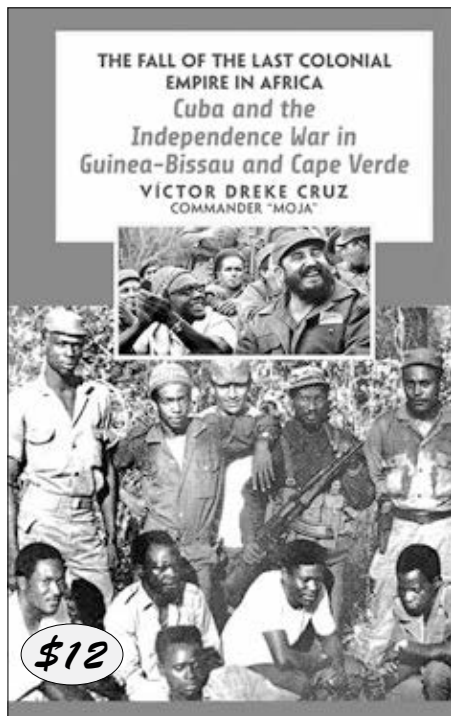
The Cuban medical brigade made the mountains, jungles and poorest neighborhoods of this land their own home, she said.

“It fills us with profound pride to contemplate the magnitude of the work they have built, a task that transcends the professional to become a monument to fraternity,” she added. “They leave with their heads held high, with the heroic satisfaction of a duty fulfilled and with the certainty that their time in our country has left a mark of health and dignity that time can never erase.

“To be an internationalist is to repay our debt to humanity,” she said, quoting Fidel Castro from a 1988 speech titled, “As long as the empire exists, we will never lower our guard.”

They taught us that medicine is not a commodity, but a calling, Leyla said. “We have gathered here to say thank you.”

Essential reading



\$12

pathfinderpress.com

— CALENDAR —

NORWAY

Oslo

The Cape Verde Organization in Oslo and the Norwegian Council on Africa are proud to present: *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Victor Dreke. Speakers: Hugo Ramos Milanés, Cuban ambassador to Norway; Antonia Barbosa Da Silva, retired professor; Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books, London; others. Wed., April 22. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Hellerud High School at Tveita, Wilhelm Stenersens vei 6, 0671. Tel: +47 92434547.

Shaky ceasefire, fighting goes on

Continued from front page
of Hormuz.
Tehran and Washington both claimed victory and have given conflicting accounts of what was agreed. Secretary of War Peter Hegseth said the Strait of Hormuz is now open. Iranian officials said the opening was “limited, under Iran’s control.”

But just hours later, Tehran said it was keeping the strait closed, and fighting continued.

And even if the strait is reopened, it’s not clear this will include ships carrying cargo linked to Israel. Tehran says it will board every vessel, supposedly to look for weapons.

At Trump’s request, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif brokered the deal. Sharif said all parties had “agreed to an immediate ceasefire everywhere, including Lebanon.” But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it “does not include Lebanon” and Trump agreed. Hours later, Israel struck 100 Hezbollah targets there, the largest operation since the war began Feb. 28. Hezbollah refuses to disarm and has rebuilt its forces to attack Israel.

The bourgeois press calls the conflict a “joint U.S.-Israeli war.” In reality Washington and Israel were fighting two different wars with different goals. The U.S. rulers are seeking to advance their domination over the plunder of the resources and labor of the Middle East.

Israel is defending its existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms in the face of a multifront war led by the reactionary regime in Iran and its proxy forces like Hezbollah and Hamas.

This ceasefire, like the “deal” imposed by Washington in Gaza, postpones the decisive battles. Israeli officials were not happy about the ceasefire deal, the *Wall Street Journal* reports. They were not consulted about the talks and got word about the deal “at a late stage.”

According to the Iranian Human Rights Activists Agency, more than 1,600 civilians were killed in Iran since Feb. 28. The U.S. attacks and violation of Iran’s sovereignty — like its threats to destroy basic infrastructure where workers live — have nothing to do with aiding the fight of the peoples of Iran for democratic rights.

Trump repeatedly made it clear that the U.S. capitalist ruling class is not looking for “regime change” in Iran; its goal is a government that will collaborate with Washington.

Trump contrasted his decision to seek a deal with the Iranian regime with the course of President George W. Bush during the U.S. war that overthrew Saddam Hussein in Iraq in 2003. Bush, Trump

said, made the mistake of firing Iraqi generals, the police and other officials needed by the new regime that Washington imposed. Many of those ousted went on to help form Islamic State.

Prior to the ceasefire Trump said he would really like to take control of Iran’s oil — like he says Washington has done in Venezuela, lauding his good relations with its current government, after the U.S. forces’ bloody assault there earlier this year.

Trump: Whole world is watching

The Trump administration — using Iran as a proving ground for new weapons and military tactics — hopes to send a message not just to Iran’s rulers, but to U.S. imperialism’s rivals around the world as competition heats up amid the worldwide capitalist crisis.

“The whole world is watching,” Trump boasted in his April 1 speech on the war, “and they can’t believe the power, strength and brilliance” of the U.S. military.

But that “power, strength and brilliance” is not as convincing as the U.S. rulers may believe.

Since Feb. 28, Tehran launched over 400 ballistic missiles at Israel and more than 3,500 short-range missiles and drones at Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. While Washington and Israel have dealt devastating blows to Tehran’s military capabilities, it was still firing up to 15 ballistic missiles a day at Israel just prior to the ceasefire. Hezbollah in Lebanon — created, financed and trained by Tehran — often fired up to 100 smaller missiles at Israel a day.

Even while Trump was ramping up threats to bomb Iran back to the “stone age” — part of his negotiating tactics — he lauded Tehran’s draft 10-point plan for ending the war as “a workable basis on which to negotiate.”

Tehran’s proposals include it supervising shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and collecting fees in bitcoin; its “right to enrich uranium” perhaps with limits; the lifting of all sanctions; withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from the region; and a ceasefire in Lebanon, the *Journal* reports.

Israel’s defensive war

Ever since the counterrevolutionary regime was consolidated in Iran in the early 1980s — pushing back the gains made by working people during the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah — wiping out Israel has been Tehran’s overriding goal.

The daily missile and drone attacks from Tehran and Hezbollah on residen-



DPA/AP images/Oren Ziv
Search team at residential building in Haifa hit by Iranian missile April 6. Missiles launched by Tehran targeting civilians have killed or wounded both Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel.

tial neighborhoods and industries killed 18 civilians and wounded thousands in Israel since the start of the war, Jews and Arabs alike. While Tehran’s capacities have been significantly set back, it will now attempt to rebuild its ballistic missile capacity and seek ways to construct a nuclear weapon.

Israel’s defensive war targeted military sites, the regime’s repressive apparatus — especially the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Basij thugs — and industrial sites tied to Tehran’s ballistic missile and nuclear program.

Prior to a series of attacks April 7 to prevent the Guard Corps from moving weapons, Israel warned Iranians to “refrain from using and traveling by train.” Israel frequently warned civilians in Iran before attacking, hoping to minimize casualties.

Tehran threatens protesters

Despite the regime’s call for national unity “regardless of your po-

litical beliefs” during the war, Tehran continued to arrest union leaders, students and others who oppose its anti-working-class course. It has executed at least 10 political prisoners in the last few weeks and will try to use the ceasefire to consolidate its rule after months of protests.

At the start of the war the regime blocked almost all internet connections, especially with the outside world, in an attempt to prevent working people, oppressed nationalities and its other opponents from organizing.

Even some organizations affiliated to the regime are complaining about the government’s treatment of workers. The bombings of oil facilities in Mahshahr “reveals a bitter and deep class-based truth: in times of crisis and war, it is the blood of the worker that pays the price for the continued survival of a nation’s economy,” the Iranian Labour News Agency reported April 7.

Washington’s war on Iran sharpens imperialist rivalries around the world

BY TERRY EVANS

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, conflicts between the competing ruling classes in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere become ever sharper. Washington’s decision to go to war against Iran has exacerbated divisions between the U.S. rulers and the governments of France, Germany and the U.K.

Imperialist powers in Europe have all separated themselves from the U.S. war. President Donald Trump blasted the French and U.K. governments March 31 for their refusal to join Washington’s assault on Iran. “You’ll have to start learning now to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won’t be there to help you anymore, just like you weren’t there for us,” Trump wrote. “Go get your own oil!”

Trump also took aim at the NATO military alliance. The U.S.-dominated bloc was established after Washington’s victory at the end of World War II and now includes the rulers of 29 European countries, plus Canada and Turkey. “I was never swayed by NATO. I always knew they were a paper tiger, and Putin knows that too,” he told the U.K.’s *Daily Telegraph*.

French President Emmanuel Macron warned that Trump’s repeated denunciation of NATO will “hollow it out.”

But NATO has no army of its own. It’s dependent on forces fielded by the

competing capitalist ruling classes that make up the alliance, and from the beginning has relied overwhelmingly on the U.S. military. That reality was bluntly expressed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio last month. “Without the United States, there is no NATO,” he said.

Imperialist powers in Western Europe see the Trump administration’s moves to expand the U.S. military and are concerned their dependence on Washington makes them more vulnerable, especially in the wake of Moscow’s war to conquer Ukraine. Each is seeking to rebuild its own armed forces, as the largest ground war in Europe since World War II continues with no end in sight. Each fears that Washington will use its war against Iran to gain ground in the oil-rich Middle East at their expense and freeze them out of the plunder of the region’s resources.

At the start of the war, the Spanish government announced it will refuse to let U.S. forces use jointly operated air bases in Spain. “No one’s going to tell us not to use them,” Trump asserted, before threatening to halt U.S. trade with Spain. In response, the Spanish rulers blocked U.S. military aircraft from using their airspace.

The Italian government refused to let U.S. bombers on their way to the Middle East land at an air base in Sic-

Meatpackers’ struggle at JBS continues while back on the job

Continued from front page
gloves, that they’re required to wear in order to do their jobs. Her talk was translated from English into four other main languages spoken by workers in the plant — Spanish, Haitian Creole, Burmese and Somali.

Workers booed when Cordova announced that the company, in a move to disrupt the union’s picketing, had rented from the city beginning the following week the empty lot where the meeting was taking place and where regular strike update meetings are held, as well as renting the adjacent parking lot where thousands of union members park before picket duty in front of and on the side of the plant. Cordova said the union had so far found no alternate space for meeting and parking.

Taking the fight back into the plant

The union had organized to give out strike pay and take the picket lines down for the Easter holiday weekend. Then on Saturday, April 4, union officials notified workers that because they were restarting negotiations and with a few concessions made by the bosses, the union had agreed workers would return to work on April 7. In a union statement Cordova said, “Workers remain united and will continue to fight.”

The Local 7 picket lines involved hundreds to 1,000 workers per shift, twice a day. They marched from the parking lot to the picket line and lined up on the street for a mile across and alongside the plant. The striking workers came from every continent on earth and speak 57 languages. Workers took breaks on the ground near the line, sitting on blankets, preparing food, playing music from their home countries



Militant
UFCW Local 7 President Kim Cordova speaks to hundreds of JBS workers on status of fight with bosses April 3, translated into Spanish, Haitian Creole, Burmese, Somali. Workers cheered when she said company would pay workers back for mesh gloves and vests they were forced to buy.

and, above all, having nonstop discussions with any visitor to their strike about what they were up against.

Mariano Gallegos, 73, said he has 41 years in the plant and his job today is making boxes for packing the beef product. He said a major issue, one that reflects the bosses’ contempt for them, is that the company tries to bully and harass people who ask to go to the bathroom. “It happens sometimes that people soil themselves.”

Many workers spoke to the *Militant* on condition of anonymity, for fear of retaliation by the company for their fight for dignity and safety, and the unity they advanced in this fight.

Many discussed the abusive treatment handed out by supervisors in the plant. They pointed to incidents of physical abuse, including a boss striking a woman worker in the face; a boss wiping

the fork lift tire tracks off the boots of a worker whose foot the boss ran over and forging a worker’s signature on a disciplinary write-up she refused to sign.

Almost every worker talked about the ever-increasing line speed, which causes more injuries and accidents as workers struggle to keep up. The union Facebook page shows pictures of workers’ hands with missing and twisted fingers, gouges and scars.

“The line is so fast we can’t even pause to take a sip of water,” Olivier Mulanau, said. His job is gutting the cattle carcasses as they roll by him.

On top of all this was the insulting \$1.20 an hour wage “raise” offer over three years, something that won’t keep up with inflation.

Workers more confident and united

“This fight was a long time coming. It has been boiling for years and finally boiled over,” Ramón Zuñiga, secretary-treasurer of Local 7, told the *Militant*. “It is very inspiring to me and others to be in the middle of this fight with workers from all over the world asking for better wages and conditions.”

Ramiro Alvarez said he has worked at the plant for 35 years and done most every production job in there. His current job is sharpening knives. While he is proud of the fight they are waging, he lamented the fact that some workers were crossing the line and going to work because of the economic pressure they’re under. He said one of his good friends is working inside during the strike.

Alvarez added that he respects the Somali workers for standing up for themselves, sticking together and insisting on their right to have prayer breaks in the

plant as part of practicing their religion. This was a gain won in hard-fought battles at packing plants in Colorado.

This strike came as U.S. cattle production hit a 75-year low, The Associated Press reported. The decline was driven by drought and low prices packing bosses offered to ranchers. The market for cattle is monopoly-controlled by the big four beef packers — JBS, Tyson, Cargill and National Beef Packing Company. Together they control well over 70% of cattle slaughtered.

At the same time, beef product prices in the supermarkets have soared. The Greeley JBS plant produces 6% of all beef produced in the U.S.

Beef producers like JBS and Tyson are driving to increase profits and cut costs, regardless of the toll on the human beings who work there. The *Nebraska Examiner* reported on the unexpected closing of the Tyson plant in Lexington, Nebraska in January, which had employed some 3,200 people. It had a devastating impact on the workers and all those in the town of 11,500 people.

Tyson claimed it stood to lose some \$600 million in its beef business over the 2026 fiscal year, on top of a \$720 million loss over the last two years.

Like at JBS, many of the workers were immigrants. “I worked at the plant for 32 years,” Alfredo Flores, a former Tyson plant employee and long-time Lexington resident, told Nebraska TV. “Now it’s really tough out here.” He said Lexington is like a ghost town now, with people moving away to look for work.

At JBS, the fight continues with workers back inside the plant determined to stand up for themselves. Many told the *Militant* how much stronger they felt for coming together in the strike.

Cincinnati BCTGM offers solidarity to JBS strikers

CINCINNATI — Workers at the Mars Kellanova plant here, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 57, are organizing solidarity with UFCW Local 7 meatpackers locked in a contract fight with JBS in Greeley, Colorado.

Local 57 is currently in negotiations with Mars Inc., which recently bought the plant from Kellanova. The union bargaining committee took a break from negotiations April 3 to send a video message to the Colorado strikers.

“Hi union brothers and sisters. We are BCTGM Local 57 in Cincinnati Mars Kellanova site,” Local President Sonya Munday said. “We know you’re fighting. Stay union strong and we support you!”

To see the video message go to www.facebook.com/bctgmunion/ or www.facebook.com/UFCW7.

— BETSY FARLEY

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch

Stakes for the international working class

V.I. LENIN
LEON TROTSKY
FABRILLI DUBOIS
JAMES P. CANNON
JACK BARNES
DAVE PRINCE

\$10

New International Washington's assault on Iran

OPENING GUNS OF WORLD WAR III

by Jack Barnes

1945: WHEN U.S. TROOPS SAID 'NO!' by Mary Alice Waters

\$14

JACK BARNES

Malcolm X Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power

\$20

See ad on page 6 or distributors on page 10 for special offers

Radical Reconstruction extended revolutionary gains of Civil War

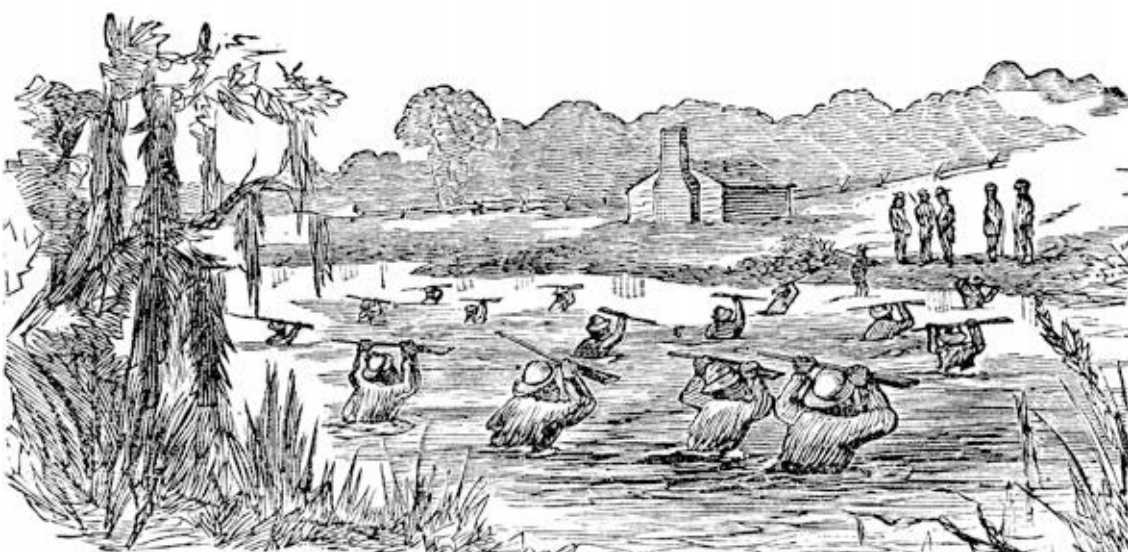
The French edition of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. The chapter, "Radical Reconstruction: Its conquests and the consequences of its defeat," shows how, for another decade, the Second American Revolution continued and why its bloody overturn was a defeat for the working class. It is excerpted below. Copyright © 2010 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

The Second American Revolution did not come to an end in 1865 with the Union triumph over the slaveholders. No, it continued for more than a decade, through the rise of Radical Reconstruction. By 1870 the fight to get the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the Constitution adopted had been won, and Blacks and other toilers had begun breathing life into these hard-won rights to emancipation, citizenship, and suffrage. ...

Between 1863 and 1870, when the Fifteenth Amendment was adopted, proposals to enfranchise Blacks were defeated in more than fifteen northern states and territories! Outside the South only Iowa and Minnesota had



Freed slaves, enfranchised in 1870, ford a creek in Georgia, rifles in hand, on way to the polls. To exercise the right to vote during Radical Reconstruction, African Americans needed disciplined organization and self-defense.

adopted universal male suffrage. In fact, when the Fifteenth Amendment was submitted to the states for ratification in early 1869, it was initially rejected by the legislatures in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, California, and Delaware, among others. ...

The most advanced of these Radical Reconstruction regimes, such as those in South Carolina and Mississippi, adopted immediate and democratic demands in the interests of working people. This progressive social legislation included the barring of racial discrimination; universal suffrage for males regardless of race; property taxes that fell heaviest on plantation owners and the moneyed classes; the first free public schools in the South (including desegregated and tuition-free university education in South Carolina); public hospitals and medical care for the poor; public-relief systems; the elimination of whipping and other cruel and inhuman punishments; and expanded grounds on which a woman could obtain a divorce.

Working farmers and artisans who were white faced the same exploiters as the freed slaves. Many of them had opposed secession from the Union, hated the privileged slavocracy that ruled the Confederacy, and supported emancipation. During the Civil War, Marx and Engels closely followed reports in the southern press of resistance by farmers and small-town and city working people against conscription and taxation. Substantial numbers of these toilers welcomed the measures carried out during Radical Reconstruction and joined in defending them.

None of the Reconstruction governments, however, had both the will and the power to enforce an expropriation of the big plantation owners that could have made possible a radical land reform, since the appointed Union Army commanders in each state held effective veto power over legislation and its enforcement. While some of these officers were more radical than others, none were willing to countenance a broadside attack on the landholdings of the southern property owners.

Even in South Carolina, where legislation to meet the land hunger of the freed slaves went the furthest, it never went beyond a homestead law allotting relatively meager funds to purchase land for distribution, together with property tax laws that did result in some big landholdings being forfeited to the state government by defaulting planters.

By and large, however, most freed slaves did not get any land, and were instead forced into sharecropping, tenant farming, and wage labor in the fields and towns. Often they worked under conditions of virtual debt peonage for large plantation owners. Of the white farmers and the few Black farmers who did have their own small acreage, many fell deeper and deeper into debt bondage. They often lost their land and ended up in the same situation as the majority of freed slaves and poorest whites.

The aspirations of the liberated and proletarianized Blacks, and their allies among southern white working people, were blocked by the growing power of the U.S. capitalist class, which during those same postwar years was landing

significant blows against the working class and young labor movement. The final defeat of Radical Reconstruction required a bloody counterrevolution. The deal between the Democratic and Republican parties to withdraw Union troops from the South in 1877 accelerated a reign of terror by the Ku Klux Klan, the Knights of the White Camelia, and other racist gangs beholden to the interests of the exploiters. ...

This defeat was suffered not only because the

freed slaves, who aspired to get land in order to become working farmers, were betrayed by the bourgeoisie and both capitalist political parties. It also occurred because the U.S. working class and its organizations were as yet still too weak and politically inexperienced to provide a labor leadership for the kind of class-struggle social movement that could have made possible a massive expropriation and redistribution of land to the freed slaves.

The defeat of Radical Reconstruction was devastating for prospects to build a fighting alliance of workers and farmers, Black and white, in this country. ...

Marx [wrote to Engels] that the decision of newly elected Republican president Rutherford Hayes to withdraw Union troops defending Reconstruction governments in the South "will turn the Negroes into allies of the workers, and the large expropriations of land (especially fertile land) in favour of railway, mining, etc., companies will convert the peasants of the West, who are already very disenchanted, into allies of the workers."

But this was not to be. The economic and political reserves of the rising U.S. industrial bourgeoisie were far from exhausted, and thus the class-collaborationist illusions among working people still had deep taproots. ...

Nonetheless, Marx could not have been more correct about the alliance of social forces that would have to be at the center of a successful revolution in the United States — the working class, toilers who are Black, and exploited farmers.

April
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder
Readers Club
Specials

30%
DISCOUNT



Malcolm X, la libération des Noirs et la voie vers le pouvoir ouvrier

(Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power)

JACK BARNES

Why the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class opens the door to the final battle for Black freedom and a socialist world.

\$20. Special price \$14

The Great Labor Uprising of 1877

PHILIP S. FONER

\$17. Special price \$12

Speeches to the Party

JAMES P. CANNON

\$23. Special price \$16

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas

JOSÉ RAMÓN FERNÁNDEZ

\$17. Special price \$12

My Life

LEON TROTSKY

\$27. Special price \$19

Reform or Revolution

ROSA LUXEMBURG

\$10. Special price \$7

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year

ORDER ONLINE AT
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL May 10

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: oaklandswp@gmail.com. **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: **Miami:** 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33127. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** 4750 S. Pulaski Road. Zip: 60632. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: **Minneapolis:** 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6272.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

OHIO: **Cincinnati:** 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 245. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: **Dallas-Fort Worth:** 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 201C Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfwswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 508 Kennedy St., NW #314 Zip: 20011. Tel.: (202) 248-0306. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: **Seattle:** 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: clydsydney@outlook.com

CANADA

QUEBEC: **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: **London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: clondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: 07545 526351. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

10 The Militant April 20, 2026

Stakes for workers in fight to end Mideast war

Continued from front page

nation of the region, to open it to further plunder of its vast natural resources and their exploitation of the labor of working people. They seek collaboration with all capitalist regimes there, including Tehran, to strengthen U.S. control and weaken the sway of their rivals, especially Beijing.

This is what President Donald Trump meant when he announced the ceasefire, saying, “We have already met and exceeded all our Military objectives.”

He was speaking for the same “we” on whose behalf he had said, “We truly have the best, most professional, and lethal military in the history of the world,” April 6. Like all U.S. presidents, Democrat or Republican alike, when he says “we,” he means the U.S. ruling class.

The ceasefire changes nothing about the character of the U.S. rulers’ predatory drive for profits and power. Working people have every interest in continuing to demand Washington get its troops, bases and warships out of the Middle East. Bring the troops home!

The hysterical focus of the liberal press on Trump’s threats and bluster, including his threat to wipe out “a whole civilization” in Iran, obscures the fact the war wasn’t waged to serve the partisan aims of any of the U.S. rulers’ political parties. It was carried out to advance the cutthroat interests of the capitalist class as a whole.

Washington is accelerating its drive to restore its productive capacity — essential to expand its military supremacy —and shore up its declining place as the world’s dominant imperialist power on the backs of its

rivals and of working people.

The interests of workers are irreconcilable with those of the U.S. imperialist rulers. We share interests in common with fellow workers worldwide — in Iran, Israel, everywhere — and a desire to live in peace.

The pause in the bombing, if it holds, allows Washington to test the waters on getting a deal with Tehran that can aid its objectives. The U.S. rulers’ actions have nothing to do with supporting the courageous struggle of workers, farmers and oppressed nationalities in Iran to get the bloody regime there off their backs.

Neither does Washington’s intervention have anything to do with defending Israel and its fight to prevent Tehran, Hezbollah and Hamas from carrying out another Holocaust. Working people should back Israel’s defensive war to stop Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles that would threaten the lives of all those living there — including half of the Jews on planet Earth.

Amid the deepening crisis of capitalism, the U.S. rulers are preparing for more wars. The administration has proposed a massive \$1.5 trillion war budget, up 40% from last year.

The working class has the power to prevent Washington and its rivals from marching humanity toward another world war. We need a working-class party and a tested Marxist leadership to chart a course to take political power into our own hands.

Help distribute the *Militant* to be part of advancing this perspective. Join the Socialist Workers Party to fight for it.

Supreme Court hears case on birthright citizenship

BY LESLIE DORK

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments April 1 on the legality of President Donald Trump’s executive order issued the first day of his second term, effectively overturning the section of the 14th Amendment that grants birthright citizenship to virtually everyone born in the U.S. At stake is a constitutional right of serious consequence for working people.

Trump’s order is part of his administration’s broad attack on immigrant workers. It’s aimed at intensifying their exploitation of the working class and promoting divisions within it as the employers drive to boost their profits by going after the wages, conditions and benefits of the working class as a whole.

Trump attended part of the hearing — the first known sitting president to attend oral arguments before the Supreme Court — to hear U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer argue the government’s case.

All nine justices questioned Sauer. The majority, including both justices considered conservative and liberal, raised questions about the attempt to end citizenship for those born in the U.S.

Chief Justice John Roberts called Sauer’s presentation on the meaning of the 14th Amendment “very quirky,” and questioned how big a problem so-called birth tourism actually is. He suggested it clearly wasn’t a problem in the 19th century when the 14th Amendment was ratified.

Sauer responded, “No one knows for sure,” adding, “we’re in a new world now.”

“It’s the same Constitution,” Roberts fired back.

“We try to interpret the American precedent based on American history,” Justice Brett Kavanaugh said, pushing back against Sauer’s argument that other countries don’t have birthright citizenship. “Why should we be thinking about many other countries in the world that don’t have this?”

Cecillia Wang, national legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, represented the group of parents and children challenging Trump’s effort to overturn the 14th Amendment.

Both sides argued that the Supreme Court’s 1898 decision in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* backed their position. Wong Kim Ark was born in the U.S. to Chinese parents who ran a business in San Francisco. They were ineligible to become U.S. citizens because of the notorious 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. He was denied entry to the U.S. on

his return from a visit to China.

In 1898 the Supreme Court ruled that Wong Kim Ark was a U.S. citizen. Writing for the majority, Justice Horace Gray explained that while the “main purpose” of the 14th Amendment was to establish citizenship for former Black slaves born in the U.S., it applies more broadly, and is not restricted “by color or race.” It “affirms the ancient and fundamental rule of citizenship by birth within the territory, in the allegiance and under the protection of the country, including all children here born of resident aliens.”

Sauer agreed that Wong Kim Ark’s parents were lawful permanent residents and had a permanent home here even though not U.S. citizens. Trump’s executive order is different, he argued, because it applies to those who are not lawful permanent residents.

This would include children of undocumented immigrants or temporary visitors such as H-1B skilled workers, student visa holders, and tourists. It wouldn’t apply to children of U.S. citizens or green card holders.

Justice Elena Kagan disputed Sauer’s reliance on the case. “The position you’re taking now is a revisionist one with respect to a substantial part of our history,” Kagan said.

Second American Revolution expanded rights

Justice Neil Gorsuch reminded Sauer the U.S. didn’t have strict immigration laws when the 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868.

That Amendment was a conquest of the Second American Revolution that abolished slavery. Following the Civil War, governments of Radical Reconstruction were established across the South, backed by the Union Army. They pushed forward the fight — led by African Americans — for emancipation, citizenship and suffrage against the former slaveholders. Hard-fought gains in that struggle were registered with the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

The 14th Amendment overturned the Supreme Court’s 1857 *Dred Scott* decision, which had defended the underpinning of the slave system, holding that Blacks whose ancestors were brought to the U.S. and sold as slaves were not entitled to any protection from the federal courts because they were not citizens. Since its ratification the 14th Amendment has been understood to confer citizenship on all those born in the U.S.

A decision on the case against Trump’s order is expected by late June or early July.

Back prison ban fight

Continued from front page

tions, the committee informed the *Militant* that it had reversed the impoundments of issues nos. 7, 8 and 9.

Issue no. 7 had been impounded at the Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida, where officials had cited the front-page article “SWP call to action: US hands off Cuba! End Washington’s economic blockade!” as the cause of the censorship.

Issues nos. 8 and 9 had been impounded at the Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, for articles reporting on the breadth of letters urging them to overturn the bans still being enforced on issues nos. 4, 5 and 6. Prison officials had claimed front-page articles reporting on disciplined demonstrations defending immigrants and the need for a fight for amnesty for workers without papers “present a threat to the security” of the prison.

With no explanation, the Literature Review Committee informed *Militant* attorney David Goldstein that the paper’s appeal of the impoundments of issues nos. 4, 5 and 6 had been rejected.

In addition, officials at Taylor have also banned issue no. 10, dated March 16, for a front-page article “Fight to overturn Florida prison ban on coverage of rights of immigrants.”

“For the Committee to single out such publications with no analysis of the content and context of the articles at issue, no specification of the alleged safety concerns, nor a recognition of the *Militant*’s and the greater media’s consistent coverage of matters of public concern, is arbitrary, capricious, and lacking a sufficiently compelling governmental interest,” the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press wrote the Literature Review Committee April 3.

Based in Washington, D.C., the Reporters Committee steering committee includes well-known journalists for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CNN, NBC, NPR, Associated Press and other established media.

Ban ‘infringes upon First Amendment rights’

For all of the bans, prison officials have claimed that an article is “dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion.”

The Reporters Committee said, “The impounded Issues cannot reasonably be construed as a threat to the safety of those incarcerated at any Florida carceral facility.”

Saying, “the impoundment and confiscation of the *Militant* infringes upon the First Amendment rights of both the *Militant*’s publisher and its incarcerated subscribers,” the Reporters Committee urged the Literature Review Committee to “direct Taylor Correctional Institution, and any other facility that may be withholding this publication to cease confiscating the issues.”

A prisoner at Taylor who was having his subscription kept from him wrote to the paper March 30, “I know there is nothing illegal about the *Militant* except that it is for prisoners, to help and inform us.”

“Please do something about this because I can’t,” he wrote. “Every time we write grievances here, they are thrown in the trash or are not answered.”

The *Militant* is currently mailed to 347 subscribers in 168 federal, state and local prisons in 35 states, including 135 subscribers in 31 state facilities in Florida.

The fight against the unconstitutional bans on issues 4, 5, 6 and 10 continues! Help get letters from unions, political rights groups and prominent individuals. Send them to the Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, or email Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com and Saritza.Legault@myflorida.com, with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

‘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