

THE MILITANT

EDITORIAL

**Fight against Jew-hatred
falls to the working class**
— PAGE 11

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 23

JULY 6, 2026

SWP speaks for Puerto Rican independence at UN hearing

Statement by Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, to the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization annual hearing on the status of Puerto Rico June 22. Mailhot was one of nearly 60 people who spoke, the vast majority supporting independence for Puerto Rico. The next issue of the Militant will report on the hearing.

Distinguished chairperson and committee members:

My name is Paul Mailhot, speaking on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party. I am the party's candidate for governor of New York.

The Socialist Workers Party, since its founding in 1938, has championed the fight for Puerto Rico's independence from U.S. colonial rule.

Today, the U.S. rulers are once again using Puerto Rico as a base for military aggression in Latin America. We saw this vividly with the January 3 U.S. attack on Venezuela, and the subsequent stationing of an armada of warships off Puerto Rico to threaten Cuba. And U.S. imperialism will keep pressing for the

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Join protests, demand: 'US hands off Cuba!' US rulers seek to strangle Cuba's people



Militant/Mary Martin

"Hands Off Cuba!" picket at Federal Building in downtown Minneapolis June 3, called by area Cuba Committee. It was one of dozens across the country, worldwide. See more on page 4.

In midst of US blockade, Cuba marks gains of agrarian reform

BY RÓGER CALERO

On May 17, National Farmers' Day in Cuba, working people across the island marked the anniversary of the First Agrarian Reform. It was carried through 67 years ago by the workers and farmers government that had tak-

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Actions in Miami, across US, back Cuba's nat'l sovereignty

BY RACHELE FRUIT

MIAMI — The U.S. rulers' escalating economic and political war against Cuba and its national sovereignty are worsening the humanitarian crisis facing the Cuban people. Groups from the National Network on Cuba to the Socialist Workers Party have called for protests to demand, "U.S. hands off Cuba!"

Thirty-five people attended a meeting at Florida International University here June 18 to a speak out against the U.S.

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US, Tehran deal means no peace in the Mideast

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Washington and Tehran signed a 14-point "Memorandum of Understanding" June 17. But this is not a "peace" agreement, it's a move by Washington to work with Iran's capitalist rulers to achieve the stability the U.S. rulers want to advance their imperialist grip on the Middle East.

President Donald Trump and other U.S. government representatives have raised differing objectives since they launched the U.S. war against Iran Feb. 28. They claimed they wanted to help the Iranian people win "freedom," to end Tehran's moves toward producing nuclear weapons, eliminate Tehran's ballistic missiles, and end its aid to its "proxies" in Lebanon and Gaza who threaten Israel. The bourgeois press consistently described this as a joint U.S.-Israeli war.

In fact, it was two different wars with two sharply contrasting goals. It's an imperialist war by the U.S. rulers to increase their plunder of the oil, gas and labor resources of the region. For Israel it's a defensive war to prevent the regime in Tehran from carrying out its longtime goal of a Holocaust against Jews there.

Underscoring their competing interests, the Trump administration kept the Israeli government out of its negotiations with Iran.

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Auto parts workers in Michigan make gains in two-week strike



United Auto Workers

Nearly 1,000 United Auto Workers, members of Local 2093, reversed wage concessions made at American Axle years ago, boosting pay and improving their working conditions.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

THREE RIVERS, Mich. — Nearly 1,000 striking members of United Auto Workers Local 2093 returned to work June 15 after winning substantial gains. They had walked off the job at the large American Axle plant here, now called Dauch, two weeks earlier demanding higher wages and improved working conditions.

The factory was originally owned by General Motors. Like many other drivetrain and auto parts plants, it was sold in 1994 to an investment group led by former auto boss Richard E. Dauch. Like the rest of the auto industry, the company was battered by the 2008 capitalist financial crisis. The bosses took advantage of this to impose massive pay cuts

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'Militant' victory! Special hearing overturns all Florida prison bans

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a significant victory for the constitutional right of workers behind bars to read material of their choosing and of the *Militant* to reach its inmate subscribers, Florida prison authorities

after months of dispute overturned bans on three issues of the socialist newsweekly June 9.

The *Militant* had earlier won the lifting of the bans on seven other issues. This means that the bans on all 10 issues of the paper imposed since January have now been overturned.

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Workers squeezed by growing crisis of capitalist rule

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"The Great American Job-Creation Machine Comes Back to Life," headlined an enthusiastic June 6 *Wall Street Journal* article, hailing the Labor Department's claim 172,000 jobs were "created" in May.

But a closer look at the facts shows this claim is a far cry from the reality the working class faces today. We continue to be battered by chronically high

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San Francisco airport workers fight against schedule changes

Víctor Dreke book on Cuba, Africa presented at Paris LASA conference

BY PAMELA HOLMES

PARIS — “The fight for freedom is not local, it’s worldwide,” María Isabel Bardina of Cuba’s Camagüey University told 30 people at a meeting here to present *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke. The May 28 event was part of the 2026 Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, the second congress of the U.S.-based LASA to be held in Europe.

Bardina paid tribute to Dreke, the Cuban leader who headed that country’s internationalist mission in the independence struggle in Guinea-Bissau. Over seven decades Dreke, 89, has shouldered many leadership responsibilities in the Cuban government, armed forces and Communist Party, with the rank of “commandante.” Today, he is president of the Cuba-Africa Friendship Association.

He joined the revolutionary struggle at 15 and served in combat missions in the Congo as well as in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. The people of these two West African countries put an end to 500 years of Portuguese colonial exploitation, Bardina said, triggering the collapse of Portugal’s empire in Africa and the downfall of the decayed fascist dictatorship in Portugal itself.

“Cuba’s participation changed everything,” added Wilson da Graça Robalo, president of the Federation of Cape Verdean Associations of France. Da Graça reported that as a student he had learned about the Cubans’ collaboration with Amílcar Cabral, who led the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). His

association had written and performed a play about the independence struggle there to help others in France, especially those in the African diaspora, learn about it. He toured Cuba, speaking with students from Africa and others. There are dozens of Cape Verde associations around France. “We have to get this book circulated broadly,” he said.

Marie-Christine Delacroix, a leader of Cuba Coopération, a Paris-based solidarity organization, and former president of France-Cuba, paid tribute to Cuba’s solidarity, “which began immediately after the Cuban Revolution’s triumph in 1959.” Delacroix said the book, now available in French, as well as English and Spanish, would be featured in Cuba Coopération’s online newsletter.

‘A book for working people’

“This book is published for working people resisting the rulers’ drive to make us pay for the crisis of their system, which is marching us to another world war,” said Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books in London and a leader of the Communist League in the U.K.

“The victories in Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau and Cuba’s collaboration show working people can win against powerful enemies, shake off the self-image the rulers teach us, and take power and reorganize society,” Silberman said. “And the book highlights the character of leadership that’s necessary.”

Silberman pointed to Cabral’s political course and capacities, which are described in Dreke’s book. How he led in overcoming national and tribal enmities, drawing women into the struggle, and



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

Presentation of Víctor Dreke’s *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. From left, María Isabel Bardina of Cuba’s Camagüey University; chair Matilde Zimmermann; Wilson da Graça Robalo, of Federation of Cape Verdean Associations of France.

participating in combat as well as the political leadership. “Cabral explained that working people in Portugal were the allies, not the enemy, of the African toilers, Silberman said.

“A person’s name or the color of their skin isn’t what matters. What matters is what that person has in his head and in his heart,” Silberman quoted Cabral. “Between one man carrying a gun and another carrying a tool, the more important of the two is the man with the tool.” We are fighting, Cabral said, “so that our peoples may never more be exploited.”

Cabral and Fidel Castro were drawn together by their common revolutionary class-struggle outlook, Silberman said. This included the principle that the methods employed in the struggle for a new society must be consistent with the character of the new society we’re struggling for. “Those not willing to fight for the freedom of others will never be able to fight for their own,” Castro said.

In making a socialist revolution and defending it for nearly seven decades, Cuba’s working people have not only changed the world, Silberman said, “they have transformed themselves.” This is captured in Dreke’s book by Alfonso Pérez, a Cuban combatant best known as “Pina,” his nom de guerre. “It was a matter of pride to be asked to go on an international mission,” he said.

“It’s because of their socialist revolution that Cuba’s working people have taken to the streets in their millions to

face intensified imperialist aggression and military threats against the country’s sovereignty,” said chairperson Matilde Zimmermann, formerly a professor at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She introduced Nathalie Gomis, of the Guinea-Bissau community and president of the Miranari Association.

She also introduced Leyanis Perojo, cultural attache at the Cuban Embassy in Paris. “This is why we need a massive movement of solidarity,” Perojo said, adding that events such as this and the publication of Dreke’s book are a real contribution to helping build such solidarity. The meeting ended on this note.

The Pathfinder booth was a hub of discussion at the conference, which attracted thousands of participants around the theme of the colonial revolution. Forty-two copies of Dreke’s book were bought in English, French and Spanish. Overall 164 books, including 16 on the Cuban Revolution and 24 collections of speeches by Thomas Sankara, leader of the popular 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, were sold. This included 11 of *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*.

Participants also bought 24 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class; Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky; and *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon; as well as five subscriptions to the *Militant*.

THE MILITANT

US rulers file frame-up case against Raúl Castro

Washington’s April 23 trumped-up charge of conspiracy against Cuban revolutionary leader Raúl Castro over 1996 downing of two planes invading Cuban airspace is a replay of frame-up of the “Cuban Five” revolutionaries who were jailed for up to 16 years in the U.S.



AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa
Cuban Five in Havana, Dec. 20, 2014, celebrate their release from U.S. prisons.

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The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 23
Closing news date: June 24, 2026
Editor: John Studer
Managing Editor: Terry Evans
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Leslie Dork, 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.
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Auto parts strikers make gains

Continued from front page

and other concessions on the workers.

“We were on strike for 87 days in 2008, in the freezing cold,” Shawn Schnepf, a forklift driver who has worked at the plant for 32 years, told the *Militant* when this correspondent visited the union hall and picket line June 10. That strike involved over 3,000 workers at the five plants in Michigan and New York that Dauch had purchased. It ended with wages slashed from \$29 an hour to \$14.50. In the 18 years since, workers’ raises have been minimal. As of June 1, starting pay was still just \$18, with line workers topping out at \$22 after five years on the job.

In the meantime, Dauch and the bosses reaped big profits. After a \$1.44 billion takeover of another auto supply company earlier this year, the company changed its name to Dauch Corporation, which is now run by David C. Dauch, the son of the former owner. It is currently valued at \$12 billion.

Among its investors are Blackrock, Vanguard Capital Management, Goldman Sachs and the Bank of America.

“In 2008 management said they would make it right once the company got back on its feet,” Schnepf said. “But they never did.” In this strike the union demanded \$30 an hour by 2030.

On June 14, the strikers voted 80% in favor of a new four-year contract. “We got what we were asking for, and didn’t make any concessions,” UAW Local 2093 bargaining chair Josh Jager told the *Militant*. UAW members who started before 2008 get an immediate \$8 an hour raise, “and everyone hits \$30 by 2029. Starting pay goes up to \$22, and new hires will reach \$30 in four years.”

Schnepf and every other striker I spoke to complained about massive forced overtime. “I used to be involved in my church, now I can’t do it,” because of seven-day workweeks, he said. “Pastors have complained to the company, but they don’t care.”

“Everyone was on board for the strike,” said Chuck Taylor, a young worker with four years in the plant, while picketing at one of the main gates. “Management has disrespected us for a long time. They can make plans. But they can tell us Thursday

we have to work the weekend.”

For line worker Greg Thompson, “the central question is respect — for them to treat us like human beings, not robots. People have families and lives outside of here. There are single mothers working here. We have to work 19 days in a row to get a weekend off. I’ve been here over 10 years and it hasn’t gotten better yet.”

The new contract includes three more paid holidays, nine more vacation days and a guaranteed profit share payout of at least \$1,000, Jager said. There will still be mandatory overtime, “but we got slightly better provisions that should make it more manageable.”

The strike was popular among other workers in the region and beyond. Strikers said they’d gotten a lot of solidarity from other unions, including visits from local Steelworkers and UAW members at the GM truck plants in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Flint, Michigan.

“The support we got from the community and across the state was overwhelming,” Jager said. “Even the California Coalition of Nurses called to ask how they could help.”

Philadelphia UNITE HERE workers strike Sheraton Hotel



Militant/Abby Tilsner

PHILADELPHIA — Some 160 workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 274, struck the Sheraton Hotel, the largest in Philadelphia, June 21. A four-day walkout last October ended without a new contract. The workers are seeking wages of \$30 per hour, better healthcare and pensions and lower housekeeping room quotas. They were joined on the picket line by members of the Association of Flight Attendants, who often stay at the hotel, including their union’s vice president, Keturah Johnson. “We don’t cross picket lines,” she said, “We join them.”

— OSBORNE HART

Locked-out refinery workers at BP win new support

BY ILONA GERSH

WHITING, Ind. — Ever since they were locked out by BP over three months ago, the 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 here have been on the picket line 24/7 and won a lot of support. Visitors to the picket line and the Local 7-1 union hall are greeted by locked-out workers saying, “One day longer!” They are determined to stay strong until they push back the bosses’ union-busting demands they voted down by more than 98%.

While this *Militant* worker-correspondent was on the picket line June 20, an area worker pulled over to ask how contract talks were going. A picket explained they are at a standstill. Negotiations continue, but aren’t going anywhere as BP bosses continue to refuse to budge from their “last, best and final” contract offer.

This would cut more than 100 union jobs, slash wages and demands

the union be required to file a 150-day notice before they can call a strike. The company’s proposal is for a six-year contract, which would take BP’s Whiting refinery out of the national pattern bargaining group of other refineries.

More than 100 small businesses have put up signs supporting the locked-out workers and are giving discounts to USW members and their families. Almost every day local restaurants deliver meals for pickets at

the union hall.

The union is involved in several events this summer to build support for the locked-out workers and raise funds for their Strike Fund. The workers don’t receive unemployment benefits. The union is organizing a solidarity rally — “Tell British Petroleum: End the Lockout” — June 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the company’s corporate headquarters, 30 S. Wacker Drive in Chicago’s Loop.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

San Francisco airport workers fight against schedule changes

SAN FRANCISCO — After six months of negotiations without reaching an acceptable contract, food and other concession workers at the San Francisco airport picketed outside

the international terminal here June 18. The workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, are fighting against a coalition of companies demanding they be required to bid on their work schedules as often as every week. This would mean their schedules could constantly change at the whim of the employers.

“I used to work at the airport as a cook. I had two jobs as well as children,” UNITE HERE staff member Priscilla Paris-Huerta told the *Militant*. “No way could I have been changing schedules all the time. We have to put a limit on it.”

The union is bargaining with a multi-employer workforce that includes cooks, baristas, cashiers, lounge assistants and dishwashers at different food and other concessions. Beathea Faye, who works at one of the newer concessions, said she is glad they have union recognition. “I’m against what they are demanding on schedules,” she said. “And I want to keep the medical care the union has won.”

The workers are demanding a wage increase to keep up with inflation. So far the employers have only raised their offer from 25 cents an hour for a year to a still insulting 50 cents.

In 2022, after three days on strike, airport concession workers won a \$5 raise over two years and were able to keep their family health plan with no premiums and less than \$30 co-pays for most doctor visits.

— Betsey Stone

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 9, 2001

The Cuban government condemned the convictions in a U.S. court of five Cuban citizens on espionage and murder charges. The five, the statement says, were part of an operation to “discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people” by counterrevolutionary opponents of the revolution.

Gerardo Hernández, Ramon Labañino and Antonio Guerrero could get life imprisonment. Fernando González and René González face possible 10-year sentences.

In an interview with CNN after the 1998 arrests, Cuban president Fidel Castro said, “Yes, we have sometimes sent Cuban citizens to infiltrate counterrevolutionary organizations, and I believe we have the right to do so as long as the U.S. government tolerates” efforts on its soil to launch terrorist attacks against Cuba. Castro said the five should be considered political prisoners.



July 9, 1976

The Justice Department has begun a large-scale investigation into illegal FBI break-ins done against political dissidents in the last five years. The FBI claimed evidence of the burglaries was discovered while searching their files in response to a court order in a lawsuit by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. The SWP and YSA have sued government police agencies for decades of spying and disruption.

The FBI’s problem is that it claimed it had called off black-bag jobs in 1966. But the new file search is turning up material, not only on the SWP and YSA, but on similar dirty work against other political activists since 1971.

No one is sure yet how far the investigation may reach. Lawyers defending FBI burglars from the socialists’ lawsuit have threatened to plead, that is, implicate higher bureau officials or the U.S. attorney general.



July 9, 1951

The war in Korea is heading towards a truce. The attempt to crush the Asian workers and peasants with fire and sword were unsuccessful. Truce does not mean peace, and it certainly doesn’t mean peace when it is a truce negotiated by the American money interests.

The Korean war can be ended temporarily because American imperialism finds this particular war to its disadvantage at the present time. The main arena for American imperialism in its struggle for world domination today is Europe. And the remilitarization of the European continent is far from completed.

The brass hats have bases all over the world. With the present explosive situation, how long will it be until there is another “incident”— another excuse? The grim fact is that imperialism means war, and that only the end of capitalism can bring an end to imperialism and the war danger.

Actions back Cuba's sovereignty

Continued from front page
government's blockade against Cuba.

The event belied the picture presented in the media that Miami is a bulwark of support for Washington's drive to strangle the Cuban people and crush their socialist revolution. The event was sponsored by the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba and the Young Democratic Socialists of America.

Adrián Heredia, second secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., spoke to the meeting by Zoom. Washington's sanctions against Cuba are "totally unilateral and target the whole population," he said. "Cuba is no threat to the United States. We want to have peaceful relations."

Gerardo Delgado, who helped chair the meeting, pointed out that he is Cuban American. "My family didn't come here to see an increase in sanctions and to be the architect of aggression against people back home in Cuba," he said.

Uriel Ramirez, a founder of the Pan-American Medical Association and a graduate of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine, also spoke. The school was established by the Cuban government to provide medical training to thousands of students from around the world, including the U.S., at no cost for tuition, room and board.

The training he received in Cuba emphasized preventative care and accurate diagnosis, Ramirez said, and Cuban doctors treat patients as human beings. He appealed for funds to send medical supplies to the main trauma and pediatric hospitals in Havana.

One of the more devastating effects of the U.S. blockade is Cuba's inability to get sorely needed drugs and medical

equipment. What has been long recognized as one of the best medical systems in the Americas is now being strangled.

Kimberly Dawn Miller from the Black Alliance for Peace described the Caribbean American Day of Solidarity with Cuba held June 14. That day is the birthday of Che Guevara, a leader of Cuba's socialist revolution, and of Antonio Maceo, a leader of the Cuban war for independence from Spanish colonial rule. Miller showed a video clip of a March demonstration in Kingston, Jamaica, in solidarity with Cuba. Protesters had called on people across the Caribbean to show that Cuba is not alone in the face of Washington's attack.

Danny Valdes, a founder of Cuban Americans for Cuba, a group that has attracted a number of young Cuban Americans in Miami who are opposed to U.S. intervention in Cuba, and a member of the Democratic Socialists of America in New York, spoke to the meeting by Zoom. "Cuba is the only country they treat like this," Valdes said, calling for an end to Washington's sanctions.

During the discussion, Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, said, "The U.S. targets Cuba because of the example of human solidarity it sets for working people the world over. That is only possible when working people take political power and eliminate capitalist exploitation." Fruit urged groups every-



Militant/left, Amy Husk; above, Eric Simpson
SWP candidates are helping to lead "U.S. hands off Cuba!" protests around the country and around the world. Above right, Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for California governor, joined action in Oakland June 3. Left, SWP candidate Naomi Craine for U.S. Senate in Illinois spoke at Chicago protest of over 100 people June 3, including many onlookers stopping to listen.



where to organize more public protests and meetings to tell the truth about Cuba and press Washington to back off.

A number of participants knew little about Cuba's history or its revolution but had come to the meeting to learn more.

Solidarity activists in Miami are organizing to leaflet World Cup watch parties in the city in the coming days

to get out the truth about Washington's growing assaults on Cuba and protest against them.

The U.S. government announced additional sanctions June 11 on Cuba's national oil company Cupet, making it harder for foreign companies to make energy deals with Cuba without Washington's say so.



Militant/Judy Freiwirth

July 26th Coalition meeting held in Boston June 14 to defend the Cuban Revolution. It drew 50 people, including two back from International May Day Voluntary Work Brigade in Cuba.



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Above, June 20 speakout outside Seven Sisters tube station in London condemned U.S. rulers' assaults on Cuba with complicity of U.K. government. Passersby extended support. Keila Kebab, originally from Cape Verde, got copy of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde* by Víctor Dreke. Right, some 45 people demonstrated outside U.S. Consulate in Montreal May 31 demanding, "No to war against Cuba!" and "End the criminal U.S. blockade against Cuba!" Other actions took place in Washington, D.C., June 2, and elsewhere over the past month.



Militant/John Steele



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

Picket line at the Federal Building in Seattle June 8 called by the Socialist Workers Party demanded, "U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Let the oil in!"



Militant/Laura Anderson

Some 50 people joined in May 31 protest against Washington's war threats and blockade against Cuba held at Miami int'l airport.

— CALENDAR —

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

No War on Cuba! Speakers: Dr. Tanieris Diéguez, deputy ambassador of the Cuban Embassy, and Gabriela González, second secretary of the Cuban Embassy. Sat., July 11, 4 p.m. *La Peña Cultural Center*, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Email: bayareacubasolidarity@gmail.com.

No war on Cuba!

Stop US military threats!
Lift US oil blockade on Cuba!
End economic war on Cuba!

Picket at Federal Post Office Building, at Moynihan Hall
421 Eighth Ave. @ 33rd St.,
in Manhattan, NYC

Sat. June 27, 1 p.m.

CubaSiNYNJCoalition.org

Gains of Cuba's agrarian reform

Continued from front page
en power five months earlier on Jan. 1, 1959, led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army.

The law nationalized millions of acres of large plantations owned by foreign and Cuban capitalists, guaranteeing use of the land to those who live on and work it — a right that remains in force today.

Farmers across the island also celebrated the founding of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), formed in 1961. ANAP organizes hundreds of thousands of independent farmers and cooperatives in the nonstate sector, who till the majority of the country's agricultural land, growing 70% of the food.

"There is no political, economic, or social measure that has been taken in Cuba after the 1959 revolution in which ANAP has not played a leading role," José Miguel Lara, a leader of the association, told Cuban television May 17.

These activities across Cuba were marked by farmers' commitment to defend Cuba's sovereignty and the gains of its socialist revolution in the face of Washington's brutal and escalating economic sanctions and military threats.

In recent years, ANAP members have confronted the challenges caused by U.S. economic sanctions, as well as others caused by government bureaucratic practices that put obstacles in the way of food production.

Thousands received title to land

The agrarian reform "radically changed the life of Cuba's peasantry," Beatriz Navarro, head of ANAP's international relations department, said on Cuban TV. "It ended the humiliation to which they were subjected. Today they are men and women with rights that had been denied to them" prior to the revolution.

Over 100,000 peasant families received land titles when Fidel Castro signed the reform law at La Plata, in the Sierra Maestra mountains. It was the first of a series of far-reaching advances carried out through the mobilization of millions of workers and peasants. It included a national campaign that wiped out illiteracy; countrywide construction of schools, housing and medical centers; and the electrification of rural Cuba. These were all conscious steps taken by the revolutionary leadership to close the

gap between conditions in city and countryside.

The two anniversaries, marking gains that helped transform Cuba and its people, are part of the country's living memory.

Before 1959 the best land in Cuba belonged to U.S. capitalist giants like the United Fruit Company and Cuban-American Sugar Mills Company as well as wealthy Cuban landowners. Cuba's peasants were forced to work as sharecroppers, subject to arbitrary evictions and limited to seasonal work.

The land expropriations and other measures advanced by the revolution increased the well-being and confidence of working people at the expense of the capitalist exploiters, who responded with increasing virulence. The U.S. rulers, allied with landowners who still controlled 5 million acres, organized armed counterrevolutionary bands to attack and terrorize supporters of the revolution.

These counterrevolutionary efforts — aimed at preparing the ground for a U.S. military invasion — were ultimately defeated both politically and militarily, as peasants saw their interests lay with the revolution and fought to defend and advance it. In 1963 a second law was adopted that did away with the remaining large capitalist-owned estates.

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven working people in Cuba for taking control over their land, factories, banks, public utilities and mineral resources and used them to meet their needs. For over six decades the U.S. government — regardless of which capitalist party is in office — has waged a relentless economic war against the Cuban people to destroy their socialist revolution and restore capitalist exploitation.

Since January Washington has blocked fuel deliveries to Cuba and tightened sanctions aimed at suffocating the country's economy and the lives of millions of Cubans. Washington's threats of imposing tariffs on any country that sells or provides oil to Cuba has succeeded in preventing any further deliveries except for one in March.

'Heads high, hands in the soil'

Under the slogan "With our heads held high and our hands in the soil," ANAP's May 17 activities were an affirmation of Cuban farmers' commitment to keep producing despite the U.S. rulers' assault.

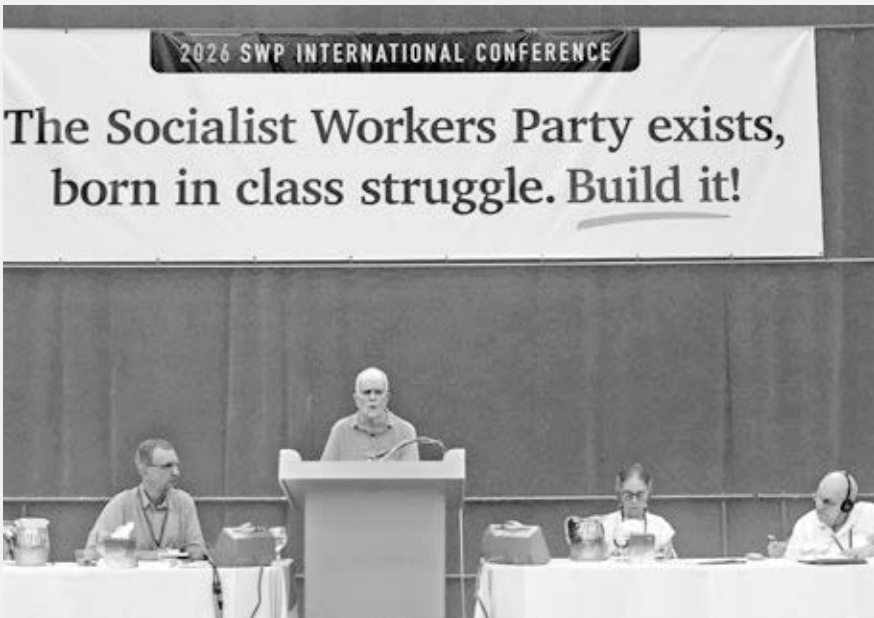
"We take on the big commitment to contribute everything we can," said Alfredo García, vice president of the Fructuoso Rodríguez Cooperative in Boyeros, near Havana, May 10. "Many people depend on these products for farmers markets, childcare centers and other needs in the municipality."

The Fructuoso Rodríguez, a farm that grows flowers, like many cooperatives across the country, has now reorganized production to also plant food crops, taking advantage of seasonal rainfall.

"We don't have a set schedule to irrigate," said García. "We do it whenever the electricity kicks in, whether at midnight, 1 a.m., 4 a.m., or whenever."

In collaboration with government institutions, farm cooperatives are now pooling scarce fuel resources to deliver their fresh produce to area

SWP holds international conference, plans to meet new opportunities



Militant/Laura Anderson

OBERLIN, Ohio — The SWP opened its 2026 International Conference here June 11-14 under a large banner reading, "The Socialist Workers Party exists, born in class struggle. Build it!" SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, at podium, gave the political report. Seated, from left, are SWP leaders Paul Mailhot, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark. Three days of plenary sessions, classes and wide-ranging discussions, formal and informal, followed. Almost 300 people came from seven countries, the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, France, Greece and New Zealand.

Barnes described the growing interest in the working-class course forward being advanced by the SWP and the international communist movement today. The U.S. and its rival capitalist powers are building up their militaries as they fight to gain advantage in their ruthless fights over profits, world markets, labor power and natural resources, which threaten to drag humanity into another world war.

The two other main reports to the conference were: "Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution," given by Waters, and "Iran, Israel, and the United States in the Imperialist Epoch: Two Wars in One," by Clark. Workshops were held to discuss each of the presentations, alongside four classes expanding on the conference's central themes.

An added feature of the conference was discussions on party-building, informed by the just-published new edition of *In Defense of Marxism* by Leon Trotsky. The book, with a new introduction, documents how the Russian revolutionary leader, in exile in Mexico, collaborated with the majority leadership of the SWP to win a decisive political struggle to advance a course forward based on the example of the Bolshevik Party in Russia. They fought against a petty-bourgeois minority in the party buckling to the patriotic war pressures of the U.S. rulers at the onset of the second world imperialist slaughter.

After a concluding rally, participants left the gathering better politically armed to take advantage of the new opportunities to sink roots in the labor movement and recruit. More detailed coverage will appear in upcoming issues of the *Militant*.

— ROY LANDERSEN

provincial markets. Even with these efforts, however, severe shortages and high prices are still widespread, especially in larger cities.

These conditions have aggravated the already existing bottlenecks in the collection and distribution of fresh milk, sold at subsidized prices for young children, pregnant women and people with special nutritional needs. More than 100,000 children are affected.

Cuban farmers are striving to make

maximum use of the means we have available to find solutions, said Marcelino Acosta, a farmer in Boyeros. "With blackouts or without blackouts, we're pushing ahead."

"Every furrow we dig is a trench against the blockade," said Ailén Amador Sánchez, at the main Peasants Day celebration in Aguada de Pasajeros, in Cienfuegos province. "Everything we can harvest with the scarce resources we have is the best tribute to Fidel, who made us the owners of the land."

Locked-out BP workers win support

Continued from page 3

They have organized bus rides for those who need them, leaving from the Carrie Gosch Early Learning Center at 4001 Indianapolis Blvd. in East Chicago. To make a reservation, email the USW at officemanager@USW7-1.com.

The union is also building a contingent in the Whiting July 4 parade, starting at 10 a.m. Immediately afterward there will be a cookout at the union hall. For reservations, call the union hall at (219) 659-1181.

Three punk rock bands have volunteered to put on a benefit concert

— Union Solidarity Against the BP Lockout — Aug. 21 at Avenue 912, 202 W. Ridge Road, in Griffith. Doors open at 6 p.m. The \$20 door charge goes to the USW 7-1 Strike Fund. And the concert is free for USW members. The bands are The Effigies, The Bollweevils and The Rumble.

Join the picket line! Help build and attend these events! Send a contribution to the USW Local 7-1 Strike Fund. Donations and volunteer pickets are welcome, just stop by the union hall at 2045 Schrage Avenue in Whiting. To learn more, visit www.supportoilworkers.com.

Essential reading



pathfinderpress.com

Workers discuss how to take on new attacks on immigrants in UK

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — Anti-immigrant riots broke out for several days in parts of Northern Ireland after a June 8 brutal knife attack on Stephen Ogilvie in Belfast by Hadi Alodid, originally from Sudan. The riots occurred as both the Labour government and opposition parties are pushing for restrictions on immigrants, shining a light on the need for unions to lead a fight against divisions fostered by the capitalist rulers that weaken the entire working class.

A widely watched video of the attack in Belfast showed bystanders courageously saving Ogilvie's life after he had been repeatedly stabbed in the face and back. Alodid has been charged with attempted murder. Authorities haven't indicated a motive. Ogilvie lost an eye, but is now out of a coma.

Following the attempted murder, masked gangs attacked and fire-bombed immigrant housing across the city, with the fire brigade called out to attend 62 incidents June 9. Foreign-born health workers were intimidated on their way to work. In several districts thugs blocked roads. On Newtownards Road 200 people attacked cops who were trying to prevent a mob from breaking into a hotel that was used to house asylum seekers.

Ogilvie's family condemned the assaults on immigrants. "We do not want this terrible tragedy to be used to divide people or fuel hostility — do not do this in the name of our loved one as we do not share the same values," they said in a statement June 10.

"We had more than 40 people yesterday that had to get out of their homes" Danisa Khanyisa Hlaisi, who lives in the Falls Road area of Belfast, told the *Independent*. Hlaisi is an asylum seeker from South Africa and a member of the Happy Women's Group, an organization of immigrants that is coordinating the relief effort and providing aid to families too scared to leave their homes. Hlaisi said she was "horrified" by the attack on Ogilvie. "We live here, this is our community and we don't want anyone to be attacked," she said.

Thousands joined a June 13 Belfast rally called by United Against Racism to protest the anti-immigrant attacks. One of those who joined the action, Raied Al-Wazzan, told the BBC that despite the assaults, he saw "people delivering food to their neighbors and

driving nurses to their work."

In Lendrick Street in Belfast a woman followed anti-immigrant attackers into a house they'd broken into and helped the family living there escape.

Cops ignore dying man's call for help

On June 2, news reports revealed that cops in Southampton in England had handcuffed a dying man who had been stabbed in an attack the previous December. Vickrum Digwa, a British-born man of Indian descent, had stabbed 18-year-old student Henry Nowak, of Polish descent, in his chest, leg, face and groin. Police had been called by Digwa's brother who said that Digwa had been racially abused by Nowak. He never mentioned the stabbing by his brother.

On arrival the cops spoke with Digwa about what had happened, while Nowak was on the ground, shouting hoarsely, "I've been stabbed, I can't breathe, call an ambulance."

A cop retorted, "I don't think so, mate." Only after Nowak was arrested and handcuffed did another cop say, "We have to check, don't we?" It took a further three minutes for them to call an ambulance. Nowak died half an hour later.

The evening following the June 2 news report, violent protests in Southampton targeted the police with bottles and bricks.

Mark Nowak, Henry's father, said that the way his son was treated by the police "was inhuman and degrading." Digwa was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison June 1.

While the Conservative and Reform parties seized on the police response to Nowak's murder to blame the govern-



Peter Morrison/PA Wire ULSTER (Press Association via AP Images)
Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance union contingent joins June 13 protest in Belfast against anti-immigrant riots. U.K. parties of all stripes are pushing crackdown on immigration.

ment's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies, all the capitalist parties are for tightening controls on immigration.

Unionists discuss road forward

The incidents in Southampton and Belfast were one of many issues discussed by striking rail workers on the picket line at Victoria Station here in Manchester June 20. The ticket collectors, organized by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, won union recognition in 2025, but are now fighting the bosses' refusal to give them a pay raise. "The police made a judgment before they knew the facts," striker Abu Baboukar said about the killing of Nowak. Fellow striker John Taylor agreed. He also pointed to their 20-strong picket line, with a majority of workers from different parts of the world.

"We faced management moves to undermine our fight by frightening immigrant workers" with loss of their work visas, he said. But the

union defended the workers.

Without exception, co-workers that this reporter spoke to who had viewed the police body camera video of the killing of Nowak were shocked. Sean Nunan, a rail conductor at Manchester Piccadilly Station, said, "Why haven't the police been prosecuted?"

There is a growing agreement among the capitalist parties in the U.K. about stepping up restrictions on immigrants. A similar course is being pursued by governments elsewhere in Europe.

At the end of last year, Labour Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announced measures to extend from five to up to 20 years the time immigrant workers need to secure permanent residency. The opposition Conservative and Reform parties accused Labour of stealing their policies.

By extending the second-class status of immigrants, the government intensifies the difficulties facing a layer of the working class that the bosses aim to superexploit.

Quebec gov't moves to deny childcare to asylum seekers

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — "The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) deplores the government's legal harassment of asylum seekers by pursuing their case all the way to the Supreme Court to restrict their access to the early childhood education and care network. Once again, it is women and their families who will bear the brunt of this," the union in Quebec said June 17.

They were protesting the latest attack on the rights of immigrants by the Coalition for Quebec's Future (CAQ) government. It comes three months after the federal Supreme Court ruled the exclusion of children of asylum seekers from the government-subsidized childcare system was discriminatory, violating the right to equality guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

This anti-immigrant, exclusionary policy was begun in 2018 by the Liberal government then in power. It was challenged in court by Bijou Cibuabua Kanyinda, an asylum seeker from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who had obtained a work permit. Under the government policy, her three children were denied access to the subsidized daycare network.

After the Supreme Court ruling, the CAQ government drafted a new regulation restricting priority access to childcare at reduced rates — nine Canadian dollars and 65 cents a day (\$6.80) — to

Canadian citizens, permanent residents and temporary foreign workers with a closed work permit.

But asylum seekers, open work permit holders and international students could only get subsidized childcare if additional places were available, which is highly unlikely since the CAQ government refuses to fund them. There are 30,688 children in Quebec today on a waiting list for a place in the system. Thousands more families will be impacted if the new rules are put into place.

Temporary foreign workers with closed work permits are barred from leaving their current employer for another job, however bad the conditions and abuse they face are. Those with open work permits are allowed to change jobs. Last year Ottawa deported over 19,000 immigrants, the highest number ever.

In a statement given to Radio-Canada, Genevieve Blanchard, executive director of the association of early childhood centers — the subsidized daycare centers — pointed to the serious shortage of places in the system. "A child who has been waiting for two years deserves a spot," she said. "A child who has arrived in a new country, often under difficult conditions, needs one just as much."

"There is indeed a shortage of spaces in the early childhood education and care network," Caroline Senneville, CSN president, said. "What's needed is more spaces in early childhood cen-

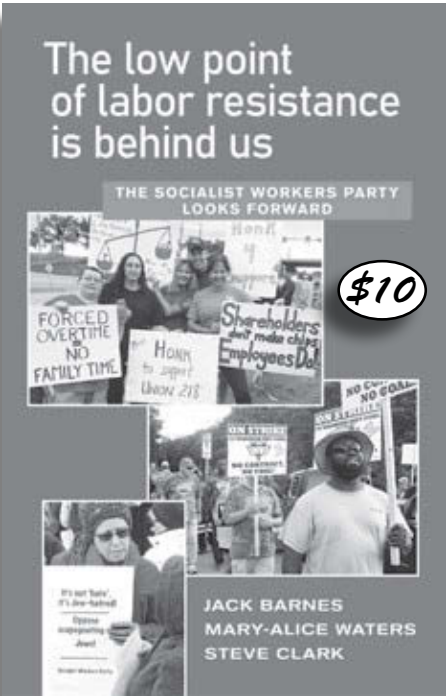
ters and home-based childcare services," as well as improved working conditions and wages for childcare workers. "But one thing is clear — targeting asylum seekers and their children is not and never will be the solution."

Unite workers, strengthen unions

"The proposed new anti-immigrant regulations aim to divide working people, weakening our ability to unite to defend our common class interests against the drive by the capitalist rulers and their governments to save their crisis-ridden system on our backs," Joe Young, Communist League candidate in the Oct. 5 Quebec provincial election, told the *Militant*.

"To counter this drive, the unions need to organize a broad campaign to guarantee permanent residence for all immigrants in Canada. And to expand access to social services like affordable childcare to all workers that need it," he said. "This is the road to strengthen the working class and the unions."

More than 50,000 working people took part in a union federation-sponsored demonstration in Montreal Nov. 29, protesting Quebec government attacks on the right to strike, the rights of immigrants and in defense of the government healthcare system. In February, thousands joined rallies in eight cities across Quebec protesting additional government attacks on the rights of immigrant workers.



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Ultraleft thug tactics pose obstacle to protests at NJ ICE jail

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

NEWARK, N.J. — Families of immigrants held at Delaney Hall detention center here lined up to visit their loved ones on Father's Day June 21. Prison authorities had suspended visits for a week in a vindictive response to a hunger strike by 300 detainees seeking better conditions that began May 22. Visitation has remained limited by stricter rules ever since.

Outside the gates a rally of over 200 people, organized by a group called Labor Eyes On ICE, demanded freeing the detainees and shutting down the detention center. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility is operated by GEO Group, Inc.

Gabriela Soto, wife of Martín Soto, addressed the rally. "Martín was picked up by ICE in February while he was out buying diapers," she told the *Militant*. "Inside Delaney he was singled out and transferred to the detention center in Elizabeth for helping organize protests about the conditions. We're campaigning to get 10,000 signatures to demand his release."

She has spoken out since the hunger strike began, exposing the inhumane conditions inside — inedible food, inadequate medical care, filthy bathrooms, unventilated crowded cells and work programs that pay detainees just \$1 a day. The hunger strike is now over.

Protests in solidarity with the hunger strikers were hijacked by ultraleft radicals within days of the actions beginning. Often dressed for combat, these forces transformed the protests into violent confrontations that were an obstacle to mobilizing the broad support that exists among workers for defending immigrant rights and opposing raids and deportations that target fellow workers.

Heavily armed ICE agents, with an armored BearCat, pointed a mounted gun at demonstrators who were blocking the gates and shouting "Abolish ICE" and screaming obscenities. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka imposed a curfew. Democratic Gov. Mikie Sherrill, who had joined the protests May 25, sent in State Troopers May 29. At least 90 people had been arrested by June 5.

Sally Pillay, a leader of Eyes On ICE, spoke to the *Militant* in the area outside the hall that is used by volunteers to distribute aid to families of detainees. She has been working with them since April 2025. Pillay described the area as a "war zone" where State Troopers used rubber bullets and tear gas to dis-



Family members, supporters rally outside Delaney Hall detention center in Newark June 21. Inset, Roberto Silveira, whose brother is held inside by ICE, told Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, that Trump's lying when he says he only uses ICE against criminals.

perse the ultralefts.

"We've tried to keep our tent as a 'safe zone' for the families, separate from the protests," she said. Peaceful protest is needed, but "this violence hurts families and those locked up inside."

Pillay described how authorities retaliated against hunger strikers by transferring their leaders out of units where the strike was strongest. She pointed to the cancellation of family visits and

new rules that make visitation more difficult. Immigrant workers detained in the facility are being pressured to agree to "self-deport," she said.

Truck driver Roberto Silveira spoke to the *Militant* outside Delaney Hall after visiting his brother, Rafael, who has been held there since March 9.

"My brother had an argument with his girlfriend and was arrested in Newark. Even though the case against him was dismissed, after he was released

G7 summit shows deepening rifts among capitalist powers

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump joined other government leaders for a Group of Seven summit held at a French resort June 16-17. This is one of the main imperialist blocs set up to confront challenges to the capitalist world order that emerged from World War II. In addition to Washington, its members are Germany, France, U.K., Canada, Italy and Japan.

They attempted to put forward a united face amid today's deepening global crisis, and to conceal their increasingly antagonistic relations.

This is the nature of the imperialist epoch we live in. The world has been divided up among all the advanced capitalist powers and the only road for any to make progress against their rivals is through conflict and war.

The meeting backed Trump's new and unstable "peace" agreement with Tehran, after earlier sharp disagreements over the U.S. rulers' bombing of Iran. And they agreed on a rare and unexpectedly unanimous statement declaring the G7's "unwavering support for Ukraine" in its defensive war against Moscow's brutal invasion.

Relations between European leaders and Washington have been increasingly strained as each government is driven to defend its own imperialist interests against Washington's and each other's as their economic and political rivalries grow. They are all moving to rebuild their militaries, looking for new allies and preparing for new conflicts.

French President Emmanuel Macron, the host of the summit, claimed Paris and London are assembling a new maritime coalition ready to help Washington in demining and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. If oil shipments from the Middle East begin again, the rival European rulers all hope they will gain from a fall in prices.

Despite the undertones of friction,

the G7 issued the united statement recognizing Ukraine's "resilience and progress on the battlefield in recent months" against Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion, now into its fifth year. For now, Trump has shifted from his stance pressing Kyiv to give up territory that its forces tenaciously hold and cede it to Moscow. The simple fact is Moscow is losing territory in Ukraine and suffering serious attacks on its oil refineries and other infrastructure in Russia itself.

Ukraine has 'new momentum'

The statement said Ukraine has a "new momentum." But neither Washington nor the European powers act out of concern for Ukrainian sovereignty, only for their rival self-interests over profits, resources and markets. Despite the united statement, Trump said at the G7 that the U.S. "has nothing to do" with the conflict.

The European rulers are much closer to the war, the deadliest on the continent since World War II. The Trump administration has pushed for each of the European powers to shoulder more of the burden of its own defense. Competing governments in Europe are attempting to advance their own positions vis-a-vis their rivals.

The Kremlin is taking blows, despite Russia's larger army, economy and population. Ukraine has taken the lead in drone warfare and is inflicting heavier damage to military targets in Russia. Ukrainian combatants are motivated by their deep support for the sovereignty of their country. They have used collective ingenuity to take the offensive.

Moscow responds with deadly missile strikes on Ukrainian civilians, punishment for their defiant resistance. Kyiv's targets, in marked contrast, are Russia's air defenses, military supply lines and troop concentra-

ICE picked him up," he said.

"He's been in the U.S. 19 years. I can understand them trying to deport criminals, but how come he's inside? He runs a painting business that employs 10 people, works hard and pays taxes. And they do this to him!" Silveira said. "Trump is lying when he says he's only deporting 'the worst of the worst.' Rafael has an application for a green card pending, but they're still trying to deport him."

Soon after Delaney Hall was reopened last year, some of New Jersey's Democrats joined protests demanding it be shut down. Newark Mayor Baraka and Congresswoman LaMonica McIver were arrested in stunts outside the center, which were aimed at enhancing Democrats' electoral prospects.

In contrast, this reporter, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, and Craig Honts, the SWP candidate for Congress, have joined actions at Delaney Hall to show solidarity with the families of detainees. We're also campaigning widely among working people across the state for a union-led fight for an amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers. The SWP explains that's the road to removing the threat of deportation confronting millions of immigrant workers and unifying the working class.

Terry Evans contributed to this article.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes



This is a book about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary — it can be made.

It's about the class struggle in the U.S., where the potential of workers and farmers today is

as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly. \$10

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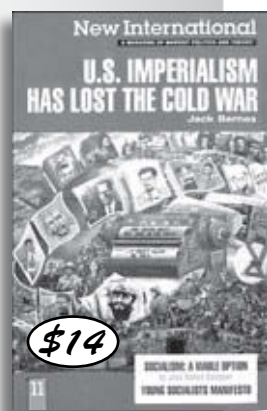
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U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

in New International no. 11

"The Bolsheviks' policy on national self-determination and voluntary federation began to be reversed from the early 1920s by the emerging bureaucratic caste led by Joseph Stalin. The USSR reemerged as a prison house of nations inherited from the czarist empire." — Jack Barnes



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Protests continue to spread in Iran, despite arrests, executions

BY SETH GALINSKY

Despite devastating losses to its military, police and other parts of its repressive apparatus, as well as the destruction of many factories during the recent wars with Washington and Israel, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei claimed the ceasefire it signed with Washington shows Tehran is “truly a superpower.”

Meanwhile, the reactionary regime continues to arrest teachers union leaders, lawyers who defend political prisoners, supporters of Kurdish rights, artists who defy repressive laws, members of the Baha’i religious minority and others it views as threats to its brutal rule.

The government has stepped up use of the death penalty for some criminal offenses and for those it accuses of “corruption on earth” for participating in anti-regime protests. Torture to force confessions is common.

These are signs of weakness, not strength.

“A country in which workers, nurses and teachers are forced to choose between paying rent, getting medical treatment, and feeding their children is weak at its core, no matter how many tanks and missiles it possesses,” an article posted on the Iran Retirees Council internet site June 19 says.

Regime slogans discredited

“When a retiree with 30 years of service stands in front of his office chanting, ‘Our table is empty,’ this is

not merely a protest,” the article says, “it discredits all the slogans that have been promoted for years on billboards and television.”

Working people and oppressed nationalities in Iran have borne the brunt of the capitalist economic crisis — made worse by harsh U.S.-imposed sanctions — for years. The war deepened this crisis. Job cuts, rising prices and shortages mean that many working people can’t afford basic necessities, including meat, chicken or even pistachio nuts. Protests are spreading again.

In the first few weeks of June, retirees demanding government-funded health insurance and higher pensions protested in Shush, Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Tehran, Qazvin and other cities. On June 7 many weekly retiree actions, which had been suspended amid the war, began again calling for freeing imprisoned unionists and political prisoners and abolishing the death penalty.

In early June thousands of high school students in at least 14 cities across the country took to the streets to oppose what they called top-down government decisions about their schooling made without the involvement of students and teachers.

The protests began when the government decided to hold in-person exams, despite the monthslong disruption of classes because of the war. “We’ve heard many promises, we’ve seen no justice,” the students chanted.

Workers’ protests are spreading as



Iranian Labour News Agency

Workers at West Islamabad Health Center in Iran’s Kermanshah province protest June 22 over wages, benefits and delays in getting paid. “We are the guardians of people’s health in a deprived region, but we ourselves are struggling,” they told the Iranian Labour News Agency.

well. On June 16 truck drivers gathered outside the Sistan and Baluchistan province governor’s office in Rask to protest the suspension of fuel quotas for heavy vehicles and minibuses.

On June 17 farmers in Garmsar and Aradan counties, southeast of Tehran, blocked the train tracks to protest government responsibility for water shortages that have plagued the rural region for years. “The people want water, not promises!” they chanted.

That same day in the village of Pashmouki in Kerman province, soldiers severely beat with batons and kicked seven women from the oppressed Baluchi nationality after two days of protests against the effects of the chromite mine there. The protesters say that the mine hires few local residents and the profits are not used to help the community.

Workers at the Sepah Bank — which has ties to the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps — went on strike in several cities June 17, after they were only paid 50% of their monthly wage, rapidly forcing the bank to pay up.

Solidarity with Afghan women

Dozens of refugees protested outside the Afghanistan Embassy in Tehran June 12, in solidarity with protesters in Herat, Afghanistan, who were brutally beaten earlier in the week by Taliban forces. Echoing the 2022 protests in Iran, the Herat demonstrators chanted “women, work, freedom.”

Tehran authorities have backed off attempts to impose the hijab on women — who by law are supposed to cover their hair. In the wake of the war the regime has permitted public concerts, including looking the other way when women sing in public, which is officially banned.

In part this is an attempt by the regime — which is widely hated by working people and many in the middle classes — to garner support by projecting itself as standing up to “foreign” attempts by Washington and Israel to impose their will on Iran.

Despite this “relaxation,” the Qom provincial court sentenced singer Parastu Ahmadi and eight other musicians, who were participants in an online concert in December 2024, to 74 lashes, a two-year curfew, and a two-year ban on artistic activity for “producing and publishing vulgar and immoral content in cyberspace.” The indictment says their exposed head, neck, and hands were “obscene.”

‘Hear our approaching footsteps’

A June 9 statement by the Council for Organizing Protests of Oil Contract Workers in Iran reminded the regime thousands of oil workers had protested over their conditions before the start of the war.

Oil bosses forced workers to keep working despite dangerous conditions during the war, “recklessly endangering our lives,” the council said, including using “workers as human shields in oil production projects.”

It noted that their wages had been held up, thousands have lost their jobs and “even now, you are trying to finance the costs of war and repression from the tables of workers and ordinary people, while your plunder and corruption continue unabated.”

“You were eventually forced to partially reopen the internet, now open your ears,” the council wrote. “We seek justice. We press our demands. Hear our footsteps approaching.”

US, Tehran deal means no peace in the Middle East

Continued from front page

“Trump reneged on every promise,” wrote Ben-Dror Yemini, a columnist at *Yedioth Ahronoth*, Israel’s largest newspaper, “and as a final flourish, gave Israel a kick and humiliation.”

According to the memorandum, Tehran will reopen the Strait of Hormuz “with no charge” for 60 days and Washington will lift its blockade of Iran’s maritime trade and begin lifting all economic sanctions on Tehran.

Washington also agreed to unfreeze \$12 billion of Iranian funds, insisting that at least half of that be used to buy goods from the U.S.

Tehran “reaffirms” that it will not “procure or develop nuclear weapons.” But that is what Tehran has always said, while all the time it was building sheltered facilities deep underground to enrich uranium to levels close to what is needed to produce nuclear bombs.

The memorandum does not say that Tehran must end all enrichment. Instead, the U.S. and Iranian rulers will negotiate over the following 60 days a “methodology” for “down-blending” already enriched nuclear material inside Iran.

There is no mention at all of Tehran’s ballistic missiles, which it has used repeatedly against Israel. Those weapons killed some three dozen people and wounded hundreds more during the latest war. They were also used against targets in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qa-

tar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Imagine the threat to Israel, home to nearly half the world’s Jews, if those missiles carried nuclear weapons.

When questioned by reporters on why eliminating the missiles is not in the agreement, Trump replied, “I mean, they have to have some, because other people have some.”

“Missiles aren’t the problem,” he said. “They hurt a little location, but they don’t blow up the planet.”

The memorandum also demands the “immediate and permanent” termination of military operations on “all fronts,” a provision primarily aimed at Israel’s efforts to stop Hezbollah using southern Lebanon for repeated attacks on northern Israel. It not only says that Israel must cease all attacks on Hezbollah but implies it must draw down its forces deployed in the south of Lebanon as well. Created, armed and led by the reactionary regime in Tehran, Hezbollah had been rebuilding its forces and launching provocative attacks on Israel.

Israel vows to protect its borders

Underscoring Washington’s and Israel’s conflicting interests, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that Israel will “not withdraw from [Lebanon] as long as Israel’s security needs demand it.”

Vice President JD Vance lashed out at Israel’s refusal to obey Washington’s dictates. “If I was in the cabinet of the

Israeli government, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have anywhere left in the entire world,” he said at a White House press conference. President Trump is “the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time.”

In reality, no section of the U.S. imperialist ruling class is an ally of the Jewish people or defends Israel’s right to exist as a refuge from rising Jew-hatred.

In response, Netanyahu reiterated June 23 that Israel needs to “free ourselves from dependence” on Washington’s military aid. “We must manufacture our own armaments,” he added. “Where we will be in 30 years depends on our strength.”

Despite continued bombast between Tehran and Washington, including threatening to toss the deal aside and retaliate against each other, since June 17 the number of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz has increased.

Iranian workers, youth and oppressed nationalities have engaged in rounds of protests against the regime in Tehran for years. They bore the brunt of the war both from U.S. bombing and regime repression.

Amir, a business owner from Mashhad, told the *Guardian* that he once hoped for U.S. intervention. Now “I feel humiliated,” he said. “This is not a ceasefire. It’s a never-ending auction between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic over our lives and our blood.”

SWP: Independence for Puerto Rico

Continued from front page

sons and daughters of working people in Puerto Rico to fight Washington's wars abroad.

We join with others here to say: *U.S. military out of Puerto Rico and all of the Caribbean! U.S. hands off Cuba!*

For the past decade Washington has imposed a so-called financial oversight board to squeeze workers and farmers in Puerto Rico in order to guarantee debt payments to wealthy U.S. bondholders. This *junta* has imposed cuts in jobs and pensions, school closures, hikes in utility rates and university tuition, and much more.

We demand: *Washington, cancel Puerto Rico's debt now!*

Workers in the United States are fighting against these same conditions. Tens of thousands of nurses in New York, meatpackers in Colorado, railroad workers, auto-parts workers and others have turned to their unions this year to fight for wage increases that are adequate to raise a family; for safe job conditions; for schedules that make it possible to have a life outside of work.

The employer class protects its profits at the expense of working people. Neither in Puerto Rico, nor in the United States, can workers rely on the parties of the bosses. We have to build revolutionary parties that will fight for workers power.

The class conflicts sharpening in both Puerto Rico and the U.S. are part of a world capitalist disorder. Today's cut-throat rivalries among imperialist powers and other capitalist challengers are once again marching humanity toward social catastrophes, another Holocaust



Paul Mailhot speaks at U.N. hearing June 22.

against Jews and a third world war.

The working people of Cuba led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and took state power, demonstrating that a transformation in the lives of the toiling majority is possible. The capitalists of this country have never forgiven the Cuban people for taking control of their country — just 90 miles from U.S. shores.

The powerful example of Cuba's socialist revolution, where workers and farmers mobilized in their millions to fight in their own interests under a revolutionary leadership, shows the road to genuine freedom and independence. It is an example for working people in Puerto Rico, in the U.S., and in the world.

Today, the fight for the independence of Puerto Rico, the struggles of U.S. working people and defense of Cuban sovereignty are more closely tied than ever.

The Socialist Workers Party adds its voice to those here who are fighting to end Washington's colonial domination of Puerto Rico.

Thank you.

'US hands off Cuba,' say Puerto Rican Parade marchers



Militant/Samir Hazboun

CHICAGO — Opponents of Washington's deepening attacks against Cuba got a tremendous response from thousands of people lining the route of the annual Puerto Rican People's Parade here June 13. Two dozen people took part in a special Cuba solidarity contingent, chanting "Cuba sí, bloqueo no!" and "U.S. hands off Cuba!" Many onlookers cheered and waved, calling back, "No war!"

Marchers from the Chicago Cuba Coalition, Levántate por Cuba, the Socialist Workers Party and others carried placards, Cuban flags and banners. Members of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, which helped organize the parade, carried a banner with pictures of Cuban leader Raúl Castro, who faces frame-up charges filed by Washington, and Oscar López, a Puerto Rican independence fighter who spent 36 years in U.S. prisons because of his steadfast opposition to U.S. colonial rule.

"Every opportunity to bring attention to Cuba is important," Stacy Alikakos said, telling the *Militant* why she joined the contingent. Alikakos is a student adviser at Northeastern Illinois University who visited Cuba on a May Day delegation. "There's a long history of U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean."

"What the U.S. armed forces and government are threatening to do against Cuba, to attack 11 million workers there, is unacceptable," Moises Cruz, a retired government worker who is from Puerto Rico and has lived in Chicago for decades, said. "That's why I wanted to come today. It was good that lots of people saw us. My first action in defense of Cuba was six months ago, and I'm still learning."

— NAOMI CRAINE

Working people are squeezed by growing crisis of capitalist rule today

Continued from front page

prices on basic necessities, from groceries to gas, electricity, rents and mortgages, healthcare, daycare and more, and where a decent-paying full-time job is hard to get.

The vast majority of the jobs ballyhooed by the *Journal's* editors were in leisure and hospitality, food services and bars and in healthcare, jobs notorious for low pay, few benefits and either too few or way too many hours. Meanwhile, some 2 million workers — 27.5% of all those on the government's unemployment rolls in May — have been unable to find work for the last 27 weeks or more, with their benefits running out.

At the same time, another 4.8 million work part time because they can't get full-time jobs. And the government admits at least 6.2 million want a job but haven't been able to find one for so long that they are no longer counted as part of the labor force.

The bosses continue to push to maximize their profits and privileges from exploiting our class, deepening class divisions we face. "Labor's share of gross domestic income," the *Journal* reported May 28, "sank to 51%, the lowest since records began in 1947. Profits' share climbed to 12.1%, the highest since 1950."

Average hourly wages have risen by a measly 3% since the end of 2019, but for many this "raise" has been wiped out by higher prices. At the same time, profits of the bosses and bank-

ers are up 50% or more.

The consumer price index rose 4.2% in the month of May from a year earlier, the highest increase in three years. Impacting this hike was the huge increase in gasoline at the pump, up 40.5%, and fuel oil, up 58.9%. The big-business press tries to push the blame onto Washington's war with Iran, but the fact is the price increases are primarily aimed at protecting the bosses' profits from erosion.

Soaring prices squeeze workers

On other fronts, coffee is now 18.5% higher and beef roasts are up 17.8%. "Something so basic as buying fresh vegetables is starting to become a serious financial decision for many families," New York City chef Isaac Bernal Carbajo told The Associated Press. He pointed to the sharp increase in the price of tomatoes, up 40% over a year ago.

The prices of other vegetables are also higher. At the Hunts Point market in the Bronx in New York in mid-May, asparagus was selling for around \$60 for 11 pounds. A year ago it was half that.

Jason Turek, who grows sweet corn on his farm in New York state, told the *Journal* his freight cost per shipment jumped from \$4,000 last year to \$6,600 this year. "At a certain point, it's not worth picking up the crop, just to ship it up the road at a loss," he said.

Electricity prices have risen by about 40% over the past five years, with double-digit increases in the last year as

data center hotspots like in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania suck up billions of kilobytes. Bosses in some 40 states are already charging millions of working-class households extra for upgrades to these power grids before they're even built.

Work overtime to make ends meet

"I'm working between eight and 12 hours of overtime every week," Alex Watt, a hospital nurse in Columbus, Ohio, told the *New York Times*. "We're cutting even, at best, but sometimes we're spending more than we're getting." He and his wife, Kali, own a home and are raising three children there. They have a combined income of about \$140,000 a year, which seems, on paper, to be enough to get by, but that's no longer the case, with prices rising on just about everything.

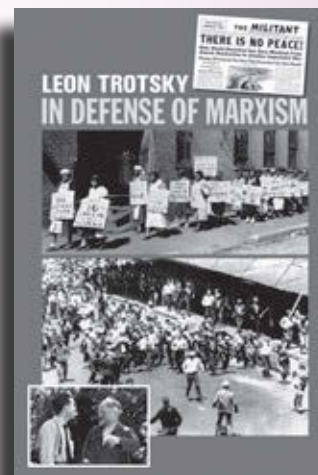
To try to cover essential expenses, they and increasing numbers of working-class families across the country are using their credit cards. Credit card balances reached a record \$1.3 trillion at the end of 2025. With average annual interest rates climbing over 22%, these cards are a profits bonanza for the giant banks, while pushing increasing numbers of working people deeper into debt.

In the first quarter of this year, the percentage of credit-card balances that were delinquent at least 90 days rose to over 13%. That's the highest level in 15 years.

Bosses determined to protect their profit rates have locked out work-

ers at Cargill in Colorado, Marathon in the Bay Area and BP in Indiana, while workers elsewhere are going on strike to defend their wages and improve increasingly unsafe conditions and schedules. These union battles are crucial to meet the attacks of the bosses. Show your support!

New!
In Defense of Marxism
by Leon Trotsky



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At the start of World War II, exiled Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky sharply posed the decisive question for working people the world over: What is the class character and composition of the political leadership the working class must forge to prepare for coming revolutionary battles?

SWP exposed decades of FBI spying, political disruption

Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June features Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom by Nelson Blackstock. Much of what is known about this decadeslong political disruption program is the result of evidence forced into the light through a landmark lawsuit won in 1986 by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. This victory opened political space for all working people to speak, act and organize in our class interests. Excerpts below are taken from the introduction. Copyright © 1988 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NOAM CHOMSKY

From December 1973, the government was compelled through several civil suits to release documentary evidence concerning its various campaigns to undermine and disrupt legal activities directed to social change or simply protest against state policy, through the decade of the 1960s. In comparison with these revelations, the whole Watergate affair was a tea party. The documents and depositions made public during this period, and revelations by disaffected government agents, lay bare a systematic and extensive program of terror, disruption, intimidation, and instigation of violence, initiated under the most



Militant photos: inset, Mary Jo Hendrickson
Los Angeles SWP headquarters firebombed in May 1970, with four people inside, by counter-revolutionary Cubans with long history of working with FBI and CIA. Inset, SWP leader Syd Stapleton with 3,138 documents the FBI was forced to turn over as a result of the SWP lawsuit.

liberal Democratic administrations and carried further under Nixon. ...

The Cointelpro operations of the 1960s were modeled on the successful programs of earlier years undertaken to disrupt the American Communist party. ...

From the evidence now available, it appears that the first FBI disruption program (apart from the CP) was launched in August 1960 against groups advocating independence for Puerto Rico. In October 1961, the "SWP Disruption Program" was put into operation against the Socialist Workers party. The grounds offered, in a secret FBI memorandum, were the following: the party had been "openly espousing its line on a local and national basis through running candidates for public office and strongly directing and/or supporting such causes as Castro's Cuba and integration problems ... in the South." The SWP Disruption Program, put into operation during the Kennedy administration, reveals very clearly the FBI's understanding of its function: to block legal political activity that departs from orthodoxy, to disrupt opposition to state policy, to undermine the civil rights movement. ...

For example, the Phoenix office of the FBI noted in a memorandum of October 1, 1968, that Professor Morris Starsky of Arizona State University, "by his actions, has continued

to spotlight himself as a target for counterintelligence action." These "actions" consisted of the following crimes against the state: "He and his wife were both named as presidential electors by and for the Socialist Workers Party when the SWP in August, 1968, gained a place on the ballot in Arizona. In addition they have signed themselves as treasurer and secretary respectively of the Arizona SWP." ...

The commitment of the FBI to undermine the civil rights movement, despite an elaborate pretense to the contrary (and even some actions as government policy vacillated on the issue), will come as no surprise to people with first-hand experience in the South in the early 1960s. ...

During these years, FBI provocateurs repeatedly urged and initiated violent acts, including forceful disruption of meetings and demonstrations on and off university campuses, attacks on police, bombings, and so on. ... One FBI provocateur resigned when he was asked to arrange the bombing of a bridge in such a way that the person who placed the booby-trapped bomb would be killed. This was in Seattle, where it was revealed that FBI infiltrators had been engaged in a campaign of arson, terrorism, and bombings of university and civic buildings, and where the FBI arranged a robbery, entrapping a young Black man who was paid \$75 for the job and killed in a police ambush. ...

Perhaps the most shocking story concerns the assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark by Chicago police directed by the state's attorney's office in December 1969, in a predawn raid on a Chicago apartment. Hampton, one of the most promising leaders of the Black Panther party — particularly dangerous because of his opposition to violent acts or rhetoric and his success in community organizing — was killed in bed, perhaps drugged. Depositions in a civil suit in Chicago reveal that the chief of Panther security and Hampton's personal bodyguard, William O'Neal, was an FBI infiltrator. O'Neal gave his FBI "contacting agent," Roy Mitchell, a detailed floor plan of the apartment, which Mitchell turned over to the state's attorney's office shortly before the attack, along with "information" — of dubious veracity — that there were two illegal shotguns in the apartment. For his services, O'Neal was paid over \$10,000 from January 1969 through July 1970, according to Mitchell's affidavit. ...

The criminal programs of the FBI during the 1960s are simply an extension of past practices. According to William C. Sullivan, Hoover's assistant for many years:

Such a very great man as Franklin D. Roosevelt saw nothing wrong in asking the FBI to investigate those opposing his lend-lease policy — a purely political request. He also had us look into the activities of others who opposed our entrance into World War II, just as later Administrations had the FBI look into those opposing the conflict in Vietnam. ...

I have spoken of this system as a post-World War II phenomenon, but that is a mistake. Its roots go far deeper. Recall that J. Edgar Hoover rose to national prominence when he was appointed chief of the General Intelligence (antiradical) division of the Justice Department in August 1919, just before the "Palmer raids" of January 2, 1920, when more than 4,000 alleged "radicals" were rounded up in thirty-three cities in twenty-three states (over 200 aliens were subsequently deported), while the *Washington Post* editorialized that "there is no time to waste on hairsplitting over infringement of liberty" in the face of the Bolshevik menace.

June
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Fight against Jew-hatred falls to working class

Violent assaults targeting Jews in the U.S. and worldwide are sharply expanding, shattering illusions that the Jewish people will be protected from abuse and attack by Washington and other “democratic” imperialist powers. These assaults go side by side with the more and more open embrace of Jew-hatred by forces on both the left and right of capitalist politics, presenting a crucial challenge that working people must take head on.

Firstly, we need to discuss with fellow workers why our unions should take responsibility for mobilizing to physically defend Jews and to build actions that protest Jew-hatred and violent attacks. It falls to our class to expose every one of the lies used as a pretext for antisemitic attacks, from blood libels to the claim that assaults on Jews are somehow an inevitable product of Israel’s fight to defend itself as a sorely needed refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms.

Secondly, workers need a clear class explanation of where attacks on Jews come from, both in the past and today. Neither of the bosses’ two main parties — the Democrats and Republicans — are capable of clarifying this.

Jew-hatred is an inherent product of the capitalist social relations the bosses’ parties defend. It’s a product of the endemic financial crises, social upheavals and wars built into the imperialist epoch.

For more than a century, capitalism has ceased to be a rising progressive system. Its deepening crises have already produced two world wars. And again today national ruling classes are driving to rearm in preparation for new wars against each other to redivide the world and advance their plunder of its resources and exploitation of its peoples. In the course of these bloody conflicts, Jews are blamed for the crushing burdens ruining the middle class and layers of demoralized workers. They’re scape-

goated to divert attention from the real cause of the problem — the exploitation of the toiling majority by the propertied ruling families.

As workers’ struggles grow in response to the oppression bred by capitalism, the rulers will turn to fascist forces — organized under the banner of Jew-hatred — to crush the unions and fighting workers in a last ditch effort to protect their power. This is the lesson of the rise of the Nazi movement in the 1930s.

Jew-hatred and pogroms will not last forever. Leon Trotsky, a leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and of the fight to build revolutionary working-class parties worldwide in the face of the counterrevolution in Russia headed by Joseph Stalin, explained this before World War II.

“Now more than ever, the fate of the Jewish people — not only their political but also their physical fate — is indissolubly linked with the emancipating struggle of the international proletariat,” Trotsky wrote.

As long as capitalism exists there will be more pogroms, like Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel. That slaughter announced to the world that the repeated threats by Hamas and Tehran to carry out another Holocaust are not rhetoric, but a deadly goal.

Preventing that horrific prospect requires overturning capitalist rule in the Middle East and most importantly in the U.S. It requires bringing to power the one class that has no interest in Jew-hatred and national oppression of any kind — the working class.

Working-class parties, with leaders tempered in the class struggle, can be built here and across the globe to lead millions to take power and carry through socialist revolutions. Workers need a party that is proletarian in program, composition and in the conduct of its members.

We don’t have to start from scratch. The Socialist Workers Party already exists, join it!

‘Militant’ victory!

Continued from front page

“The *Militant* and its incarcerated subscribers have a First Amendment right to send and receive the newsletter, and we are glad to see that these impoundments have been overturned,” wrote the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, one of more than 25 prominent organizations, union activists, professors and others who wrote letters to the Florida Department of Corrections asking that the bans be lifted.

“Outstanding news!” said David Fathi from the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project.

Other groups that backed the fight included the Florida Press Association, which represents every daily and most weekly papers across the state; Amnesty International USA; PEN America; ACLU of Florida; Neighbors United from Minneapolis; and La Resistencia from Washington state.

The assistant warden at Taylor Correctional Institution in Perry, Florida, had initiated the bans, impounding issues no. 4, 5 and 6, citing front-page articles reporting on public opposition to heavy-handed Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Minneapolis. Almost every paper in the country reported on the debate over immigration in Minnesota.

Taylor officials alleged the articles were “dangerously inflammatory,” encouraging “riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules.”

But that is absurd. As many who wrote to the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee pointed out, the *Militant* criticized the provocative actions by some ICE opponents, calling instead for labor-led disciplined and peaceful protests, as well as for amnesty for immigrants without papers.

After the initial bans, authorities at Taylor impounded three more issues simply for reporting on efforts to overturn them. And Lancaster Correctional Institution in Trenton, Florida, impounded three additional issues for the same reason. Lancaster also banned another *Militant* issue for opposing the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

Within weeks the Literature Review Committee overturned these seven more recent bans, but upheld the bans on issues 4, 5 and 6.

Second appeal leads to victory

Under a 2022 Florida Department of Corrections rule change, the *Militant* requested the Literature Review Committee conduct a “reconsideration” of its decision to uphold those three bans. The paper presented strong evidence the ruling “was not based on any of the criteria” in the prison system’s own rules. This appeal was successful.

The *Militant* has over 380 subscribers in federal, state and municipal prisons in over 30 states, including more than 160 in Florida. “I know that there is nothing illegal about the *Militant*,” a prisoner at Taylor wrote to the paper. Prison authorities don’t like that “it is for prisoners, to help and inform us and for us to inform you,” about “what they are doing to us in here.”

“The *Militant* views prisoners as fellow working people who for whatever reason are on the other side of the prison walls,” *Militant* editor John Studer said. “They have the same interest as workers everywhere in struggling for a world without exploitation and oppression, one based on human solidarity, an interest we try to help satisfy.

“This is a victory not just for the *Militant*, and not just for our prisoner subscribers, but for all those who defend and seek to use the right to free speech and freedom of the press.”

‘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

LETTERS

Joanne Holowchak

Joanne Holowchak, a longtime member and supporter of the Communist League in Canada, died June 14 in London, Ontario. She had waged a courageous battle against dementia for the last 10 years, and was lovingly cared for by her niece Jessica.

Joanne moved to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1978 and was one of five women who filed complaints with the Human Rights Commission there against Stelco, the largest steel company in Canada. It had hardly hired any women since the Second World War.

Backed by USW Local 1005, the yearlong campaign called Women Back Into Stelco was supported by many of the 15,000 workers in the plant. Stelco had to back down and

hired over 100 women in the coke ovens, blast furnaces and open hearths. Joanne was hired as an apprentice machinist.

In Pathfinder’s newest book, *In Defense of Marxism*, there is a photo of Joanne (third from the right) with other women steelworkers when Local 1005 waged a long strike against Stelco in 1981. The role women played in helping to build the union and win the strike gained them a lot of respect from their male co-workers.

Of Ukrainian heritage, Joanne had studied Ukrainian and Russian at Kyiv University. In 2014 she participated in a *Militant* reporting team to Ukraine, helping speak with coal miners on the barricades on the Maidan, part of the successful fight to overthrow

the pro-Moscow government of President Victor Yanukovych.

Joanne played a valuable role in building the Communist movement in Canada. She had a politically rich and rewarding life.

Rosemary Ray
Montreal, Quebec

Jon Erway

Jon Erway, a member and then supporter of the Socialist Workers Party for five decades, died May 14. He was 73 and had long worked as an editor.

Jon was won to the SWP in the early 1970s, as he participated in the struggle to defend the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialist assault.

He was a regular dusk-to-dawn defender of the mural painted on the Pathfinder building in Lower Manhattan, part of a multiyear effort to protect this six-story celebration of revolutions and revolutionaries around the world from efforts by rightists to deface it. (To see the mural, go to www.pathfinderpress.com/products/pathfinder-mural_poster)

Although challenged by health problems, especially in recent years, Jon found a way to make regular financial contributions to the party.

Jane Harris
South Orange, New Jersey

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa

by Victor Dreke



Amílcar Cabral, left, and Victor Dreke, who led Cuban fighters in Guinea-Bissau during independence struggle, 1967-68



Speakers

Martín Koppel, Co-editor of the book and one of the interviewers

Angelo Barbosa, Director, Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies at Bridgewater State University

Joe Damoura, President, Cape Verdean Museum, Pawtucket, R.I.

Sunday, June 28

3 pm Reception 4 pm Program

Cape Verdean Museum, 617 Prospect St., Pawtucket, RI