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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 90/NO. 40 NOVEMBER 9, 2026

INSIDE

Worldwide protests demand: 'US hands off Cuba!'

— PAGE 6

Working people should support Israel's battle to defeat Hamas

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Three years ago on Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas carried out a deadly pogrom against Jews in Israel, financed and backed by the reactionary rulers in Tehran. Hamas thugs swept across the border from Gaza, hunting down and murdering 1,200 people, overwhelmingly Jewish civilians. This included residents of kibbutzim and other communities in the area, as well as hundreds attending the Nova music festival.

The pogromists also wounded thousands, raped and mutilated dozens of women and took more than 250 hostages back to Gaza, where they faced intimidation and torture. It took two years before the last of the living hostages were released.

Hamas also killed, brutalized or took hostage several dozen migrant workers from Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and elsewhere, as well as a number of Israeli Arabs. Hamas considers these workers a legitimate target simply because they associate with Jews.

Continued on page 5

Vote Socialist Workers Party! Join the SWP campaigning, now and after the elections!

Militant photos: left, Terry Evans; right, Mary Martin

Left, Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, describes her party's program to hospital electrician Darwin Cruz in Perth Amboy Oct. 25. Right, Kevin Dwire, SWP Senate candidate in Minnesota, joins Oct. 26 Minneapolis protest, "U.S. hands off Cuba!"

EDITORIAL

Vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates Nov. 3!

Join with the SWP and build the one party that speaks loudly and clearly for the class interests of all working people and exploited producers — the party that points the road forward for workers in our tens of millions to take political power into our own hands.

There is no "lesser" evil between the bosses' two parties, both are dedicated to governing on behalf of the U.S. capitalist rulers. Both back the bosses in their drive to profit off workers' backs, to divide us and pit us against each other, and to advance their preparations for more wars abroad in search of resources, markets, plunder and power.

SWP members get out the truth about Cuba and champion its socialist revolution as an example for working people here to emulate. They explain toilers in Cuba were transformed by taking power and their destiny into their own hands. And they point to Cuba's decades-long record of unparalleled internationalist aid to liberation struggles worldwide. The SWP helps organize protests calling for an end to Washington's blockade and its

Continued on page 9

SWP points road forward for working class to take power

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Confronted with a daily barrage of vitriolic campaign ads by the Democratic and Republicans berating each other ahead of the Nov. 3 elections, working people in the U.S. have welcomed discussions with Socialist Workers Party candidates about a road forward to defeat the bosses' efforts to put the costs of their deepening capitalist crisis onto our backs.

To take advantage of the opportunity, SWP campaigners across the country are on a special 10-day expanded outreach to introduce the party and its program.

When Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist

Continued on page 3

Back Phillips 66 refinery workers locked out by bosses in New Jersey

Christine Queally

Teamsters Local 877 members rally after lockout Oct. 19 at Phillips 66 Bayway oil refinery, largest on East Coast. Workers rejected bosses' concession demands on pay, health, safety.

BY LEA SHERMAN

LINDEN, N.J. — Some two dozen locked-out members of Teamsters Local 877 walked the picket line outside the main gate to the Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery here Oct. 25. Passing car and truck drivers honked their horns in support.

The company locked out the 385 oil refinery workers Oct. 19 after they voted to reject a contract that failed to meet their demand for higher pay. At the same time the bosses are demanding concessions on healthcare benefits, paid time off and vital safety protections. They are also demanding a shorter training period for new hires, at the same time pushing to extend the 10-month probation period, tying it to workers gaining

Continued on page 3

In face of US blockade, cooperatives in Cuba defend gains of the revolution

BY RÓGER CALERO

After working people in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1, 1959, the new revolutionary government that emerged took decisive measures to put the toiling majority in control of their own destiny.

For the first time landless peasants in the countryside could get land free of charge, eliminating capital's monopoly over the land. It stopped the practice

Continued on page 6

Is Russian dictator Vladimir Putin a 'humanitarian'?

BY ROY LANDERSEN

"You are a humanitarian," was the gushing praise Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump's special envoy, heaped on Russian President Vladimir Putin when they met in St. Petersburg Oct. 21. Putin had just released from prison Stephen Hubbard, a retired schoolteacher, to return to the U.S.

In 2022, Hubbard was arrested and framed up on false charges of being a Ukrainian mercenary several weeks after Putin launched Moscow's inva-

Continued on page 9

Inside

Unions in Canada fight gov't attack on the right to strike 2

Farmers and truckers unite to fight high fuel prices in Italy 5

Puerto Rico fishermen discuss how to defend their livelihood 7

– On the picket line, p. 4 –

Workers in Auckland picket Ikea for better wages and conditions

Steelworkers locked out over six months stay strong

Unions in Canada fight gov't attack on the right to strike

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — The Canadian Union of Public Employees "will advocate defiance of any use of Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to break strikes and supports any union that decides to defy strikebreaking laws," Mark Hancock, the union's national president, said at an online program organized by the Canadian Labour Congress Oct. 13. It launched a campaign to defend the right to strike from new attacks by Prime Minister Mark Carney's government.

Officials from many of Canada's major unions and some 7,600 unionists and others participated in the phone-in.

"When Ontario Premier Doug Ford tried to take away the right to strike of Ontario education workers" in 2022, Hancock said, "they defied the law with the backing of the whole labor movement. [Ford] folded and had to withdraw the legislation.

"Then Carney tried to do the same thing to the Air Canada flight attendants" in August 2025.

Flight attendants fought the government's move "with the support of the labor movement and forced Air Canada to accept a groundbreaking contract." For the first time, workers won the right to be paid for some of the hours they work when loading and unloading passengers. Their victory opened the road to WestJet flight attendants winning a similar contract when they went on strike this August.

Since 2023, Ottawa has used Section 107 — which covers 1.1 million workers under federal jurisdiction — 10 times, ordering postal, rail, port and airline workers back to work.

Bill C-39 targets right to strike

The Liberal Party Carney government is now pushing Parliament to pass Bill C-39. It would give a federal labor minister the power to unilaterally force an end to a strike or lockout and impose binding arbitration if the government declares the action significantly affects the Canadian capitalist economy or causes major disruption.

Carney appealed to Canadian nationalism to try to justify the new law, claiming it's needed to strengthen Ottawa's hand in the ongoing trade war with the U.S. rulers.

"If Bill C-39 becomes law, working conditions at Canada Post would become worse, because management would not negotiate knowing that a strike by the union would be outlawed," Jan Simpson, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, warned at the Oct. 13 meeting. Unions across Canada "have to together mobilize against Bill C-39" and prevent it from becoming law, she said.

The Canadian Labour Congress is calling on Parliament to defeat Bill C-39 and to repeal Section 107 entirely.

However, at the same time the CLC proposes Ottawa establishes an "independent panel of labour relations experts to assess whether a strike has created a genuine national economic emergency."

This would let the government retain the power to end a strike through a vote in Parliament instead of by a decision of the Canada Industrial Relations Board. CLC President Bea Bruske claims this is needed because "Canada's unions want a strong economy, reliable supply chains and stable labour relations. We share those goals with the business community."

British Columbia Federation of Labour

Members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and other unions rally in Burnaby, British Columbia, Sept. 25 against Bill C-39, which would give the government power to end strikes.

"Working people have no common goals or interests with the bosses who exploit us and are attacking our rights," Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate in the upcoming federal by-election in Montreal's Rosemont — La Petite-Patrie constituency, told the *Militant*. Tessier is a rail worker and member of the Teamsters union.

"Giving Parliament the power to end workers strikes in the name of 'stable labor relations' rather than the Industrial Relations Board, changes nothing. It's still a way for the government to attack the right to strike," Tessier said. Parliament has passed back-to-work laws 37 times since 1950.

"The unions need to fight against giving Ottawa *any* power to break workers strikes, however they propose to do it," he added.

CLC rallies across Canada

On Oct. 15 the CLC organized rallies against Bill C-39 in 21 cities across Canada, most outside the offices of local Members of Parliament.

Around 100 unionists participated in the Montreal rally at the Guy Favreau federal government building, including members of CUPE, and steel, construction and municipal workers' unions.

"The right to strike is fundamental. Without it unions can't fight for better wages or for our rights as workers," Frederic, a construction electrician, who declined to use his last name, told the *Militant* at the action.

On Oct. 21 the Public Service Alliance of Canada announced a nationwide strike vote in November among 120,000 federal government workers. The union says the government has made an "insulting wage proposal" — an increase of less than 1% per year. It's also demanding an end to the union's right to negotiate job security and to allow bosses to schedule workers at unusual hours with no extra pay.

In 2023 the Public Service Alliance waged a hard fought 12-day strike for wage increases to match inflation.

pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Threat of spreading Ebola epidemic in Africa

In sharp contrast to the effective response of Cuban medical volunteers during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Africa, Washington now prevents Cuba from responding to its rapid spread in Central Africa today. This poses a deadly threat to toilers worldwide.

Estudios Revolución

Then Cuban President Raúl Castro sees off volunteer medical brigade going to Sierra Leone to combat Ebola in October 2014.

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

SWP points the road forward

Continued from front page

Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, knocked on the door of Darwin Cruz, a hospital electrician, in Perth Amboy Oct. 25, he wanted to talk about the sharp increase in the cost of healthcare.

Kuniansky pointed to Cuba, where every person has the right to free medical care offered with human solidarity. That's the difference a revolution makes.

"The U.S. is going after Raúl Castro to pave the way for military intervention," Cruz said. "Just like they did in Venezuela." In May Washington provocatively filed frame-up charges against Castro and five Cuban pilots for "conspiracy" to murder four U.S.-based counterrevolutionaries who repeatedly violated Cuban air space, threatening attacks.

"The U.S. rulers are determined to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution because of the example it sets," Kuniansky said. "But the Cuban people are determined to defend what they've won. We join them, organizing protests in the streets here against Washington's oil blockade and threats of attack."

Cruz got a subscription to the *Militant* and *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa,* a firsthand account of that struggle and the decisive role of its leader, Amílcar Cabral, by Cuban combatant Víctor Dreke.

As part of the special campaign week, members of the Socialist Workers Party from New York and Washington, D.C., took part in the 3rd Annual Amílcar Cabral Conference in Falmouth, Massachusetts, an event organized by the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center. Museum director Barbara Burgo invited Pathfinder to bring its literature and participate.

Of the 25 people present, 16 bought Pathfinder titles including 11 copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde*. Two people subscribed to the *Militant*.

Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for governor of California, and campaign supporters traveled to Fresno Oct. 24 to talk with workers there about how to push back against the expanded Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation being carried out across the state.

They gave out a statement — "Amnesty for undocumented workers: It's in the interests of all working people" — issued by Trowe and Laura Garza, SWP candidate for Los Angeles mayor.

"What you're saying is good, but I don't think that will ever happen," Martín Mejía, a landscape and construction worker who was fixing his car, told Trowe. With a smile he added that as a young man working in California's grape fields, he won legal status under the amnesty granted 40 years ago during the administration of Ronald Reagan. In 1986, 2.9 million immigrant workers won amnesty under Reagan.

Mejía got a subscription to the *Militant* and wished Trowe well.

Campaign on the radio

Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, was interviewed Oct. 26 on "Cafecito con Vicky," a daily Spanish-language radio show in Chicago. The host, Vicky Corces, who was born in Mexico and supports the Cuban Revolution, bought a subscription to the *Militant* earlier in the year. In a discussion with campaign supporters about renewing her subscription and getting a copy of Dreke's book, she invited Craine to speak on her program. They promoted an Oct. 28 rally in Chicago to demand an end to Washington's blockade against Cuba.

Militant/Joel Britton

Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for governor of California, discusses why amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S. is in the interests of all workers with Martín Mejía in Fresno Oct. 24.

Later in the day, Craine and campaign supporters set up a table at a transit hub where they passed out literature and built the upcoming Cuba rally. Three people subscribed to the *Militant* and two of them took advantage of special book offers available with a subscription and got a copy of *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro and *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.*

Nat London and another *Militant* supporter set up a table at the march of more than 100,000 in Paris Oct. 24. "Our posters drew lots of attention and from the limited number of books we were able to bring we sold 12 French-language Pathfinder books and a copy of the *Militant*," he said.

So far in the 10-day special election campaign effort, 155 new readers have signed up for *Militant* subscriptions and 257 books have been sold. This gives a boost to the seven-week international campaign by the SWP and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K. to win 1,150 *Militant* subscribers and sell an equal number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders. And another $23,585 was collected toward the $140,000 SWP Party-Building Fund. For full campaign results see the chart on this page.

To join in the campaigning, find a campaign center near you in the directory on page 8.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund

Sept. 26 - November 17 (week four)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	35	29	35	23	$9,500	$2,335
Chicago	55	23	55	32	$13,500	$3,622
Cincinnati	35	18	35	21	$5,000	$1,627
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	34	60	35	$5,000	$2,329
Los Angeles	65	20	65	30	$13,000	$3,010
Miami	45	30	45	38	$5,000	$293
Minneapolis	55	25	55	29	$7,000	$3,625
N. New Jersey	60	38	60	37	$7,500	$4,556
New York	70	44	70	63	$20,000	$10,477
Oakland	75	47	75	53	$15,000	$8,974
Philadelphia	35	14	35	18	$6,000	$1,835
Pittsburgh	45	37	45	37	$7,250	$3,576
Seattle	50	23	50	22	$15,000	$8,330
Washington	40	20	40	30	$4,500	$1,435
Other		14		340		$250
Total U.S.	725	416	725	808	$133,250	$56,274
Prisoners		100				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	28	40	30		
Manchester	35	29	35	31		
Total U.K.	75	57	75	61		
Canada	65	43	80	61		
Australia	30	22	30	23		
Total	**895**	**638**	**910**	**953**	**$133,250**	**$56,274**
SHOULD BE	**1,150**	**657**	**1,150**	**657**	**$140,000**	**$80,000**

Back locked-out New Jersey Phillips 66 refinery workers

Continued from front page

a list of qualifications taking as long as six years.

The union is maintaining 24-hour picket lines at all three gates of the refinery, the largest on the East Coast.

"We're doing this for our families and for the young guys and gals in the refinery," Jason, a refinery worker for 10 years who asked that his last name not be used, told this *Militant* correspondent. "We work 12 hours a day, and they can work us 13 days before giving us a day off. We need a decent fatigue and sick-day policy."

Steve Beatty, president of the New Jersey Education Association, joined the picket line. He said solidarity from the union movement was essential.

"How are locked-out workers supposed to afford groceries and healthcare? How are educators supposed to absorb crushing health insurance increases on salaries already stretched thin? Working families cannot keep being handed the bill for corporate greed," he posted on Facebook. "I'm calling on our locals and members to turn solidarity into action. Organize a visit to the picket line. Ask Local 877 how we can help meet families' immediate needs."

The New Jersey AFL-CIO also urges its members to join the picket lines, at 1400 Park Avenue in Linden. "Wear your union colors. Show your union pride! We hope to see you there!"

News of the lockout spread quickly in the area. When we came a large stack of pizza boxes was piled up at the picket line, a generous donation from John's Cafe in nearby Elizabeth. "Every show of support reminds our members and their families that WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS FIGHT!" the local wrote on its Instagram page.

Emergency services in the refinery are normally carried out by union members who today are locked out of the plant. "To me, running this refinery with a skeleton crew is a huge safety risk. The company maintains that they can do it. I hope they can," Local 877 President Jeff Sanford told CBS News.

Many on the picket line said they are following the months-long lockouts of fellow refinery workers at Marathon in Martinez, California, and at BP in Whiting, Indiana. Refinery bosses, already rolling in record profits, are driving to squeeze even more out of workers.

Vivian Sahner contributed to this article.

Vote Socialist Workers! Build the Socialist Workers Party!

California
Margaret Trowe, governor
Laura Garza, mayor of Los Angeles

Florida
Rachele Fruit, U.S. Senate
Nelson Gonzalez, governor

Georgia
Sam Manuel, U.S. Senate

Illinois
Naomi Craine, U.S. Senate

Minnesota
Kevin Dwire, U.S. Senate

New Jersey
Joanne Kuniansky, U.S. Senate
Craig Honts, U.S. Congress

New York
Paul Mailhot, governor
Willie Cotton, lieutenant governor

Ohio
John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Pennsylvania
Tony Lane, governor
Osborne Hart, lieutenant governor
Abby Tilsner, U.S. Congress
Sergio Zambrana, U.S. Congress

Texas
Alyson Kennedy, governor
Dennis Richter, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C.
James Harris, delegate to Congress
Samir Hazboun, mayor

Washington state
Jacob Perasso, U.S. Congress
Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Congress

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Workers in Auckland picket Ikea for better wages and conditions

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — More than 50 Workers First Union members walked out of the Ikea store here Oct. 24 and set up a picket line to demand better pay and working conditions. Their yellow uniforms caught the eye on the busy road outside the store.

"This picket is a boost for our morale," shop steward Amber Willis, a member of the union's bargaining committee, told the *Militant*. For months the union has been pressing the company to sign its first union contract. The union says 300 workers out of the 400 that work there have joined the union.

Willis said the company's refusal to pay extra for weekend work is "a big thing in the dispute." Workers First says that Ikea pays this in Australia, and overall the company is offering a "low ball" pay raise. The effects of the ever-rising cost of living — official inflation is at 3.7% — got worse for many workers when the company reduced their hours several months ago. Ieuan Davies added that unsafe working conditions and management harassment are other important issues.

Most pickets said they had worked at Ikea ever since the store — the first in New Zealand — opened last December. Amid the fanfare and free advertising the multinational retailer got when it opened, managers told new hires they were the "chosen ones," claiming they had received 25,000 applications for the original 500 jobs. New Zealand's official unemployment rate is 5.6%.

"We're looking at future strike actions next weekend," Willis said.

— Patrick Brown

Steelworkers locked out over six months stay strong

TROIS RIVIERES, Quebec — "They were expecting we would enter on our knees but the union is strong," striker Lucas Breton-Daigle, who has worked five years at the Siemens plant here, told this *Militant* correspondent on the picket line Oct. 22.

The 105 members of the United Steelworkers, who make electrical transformers, were locked out April 15. Siemens, based in Germany, employs 318,000 workers worldwide. The company reported a profit of $13.18 billion in 2025. Reuters reports its profits have risen to the highest levels ever since they jumped into the scramble over AI.

Striker Alain Lizotte told me negotiations just started up again after the company had suspended them for two and a half months.

Strikers said that in 2025 the company brought in a new director, Chadi Tannous. He is infamous in union circles for shutting down Amazon warehouses in Quebec after the workers first union recognition battle there. Since coming to Siemens, he has aggressively attacked the union.

In May, inspectors from the Labour Ministry learned that Siemens had begun using strikebreakers, which is supposed to be against the law in Quebec. Strikers informed us that nothing has been done about this.

Many unionists have visited the picket line to bring support, including several Steelworkers locals; members of Unifor, a major industrial union; postal workers; the Canadian Union of Public Employees; paper workers; and others. Breton-Daigle said that between the union's strike pay and donations workers are managing to get by.

Help get the word out about the strike battle here! Visit the picket line up 24/7 at 300 rue Bellefeuille in Trois Rivieres.

— Joe Young

Militant/Patrick Brown

Members of Workers First Union walk out and picket first Ikea store in Auckland, New Zealand, Oct. 24, in fight for higher wages, improved working conditions and for a union contract.

1,000s of Ontario school workers rally for more pay, staff

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

OTTAWA, Ontario — Thousands of teachers, custodians, education assistants, librarians and other school workers and their supporters rallied here and in four other Ontario cities Oct. 24, under the theme "Together For Publicly Funded Education." Over 250,000 education workers represented by five unions are planning strike votes in November. Their contracts expired at the end of August.

"Here are different organizations speaking with the same voice," Mary Fowler, vice president of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, told the rally on Parliament Hill. Rallies took place at the same time in Sudbury, London, Thunder Bay and Queen's Park.

Rally emcee Stephane Paquette told the crowd, "Class sizes are growing. I was in Sudbury yesterday and there were 36 students in one Grade 7 class. How do you expect those students to learn, those teachers to teach?"

The five unions represent Catholic school teachers, secondary school teachers, elementary school teachers, francophone school teachers, support staff and others, all of whose representatives spoke, describing deteriorating conditions in the schools.

"We're asking for more staff, smaller classes, real safety protections and pay that reflects the work we do," said Tina Ryn of the Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario, which represents education assistants. "We are not asking for too much, we're asking for schools that work."

An Ontario Teachers Federation study shows "a growing number of teachers leaving within the first five years." Many cite unsustainable working conditions and the inability to get permanent employment as the reasons they quit. The unions point to a near 10-year low in government funding per student.

"This all began six or seven years ago. The government is taking away our rights," secondary school teacher Melanie Bouffard told the *Militant*. "We're at war — not with guns, but with information."

"The Provincial Executive strongly condemns the federal government's proposed expansion of its powers to intervene in lawful labour disputes," the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation said in a statement opposing Ottawa's new bill, C-39, which further attacks the right to strike. "Every provincial government in this country is watching what Ottawa does."

The statement pointed to a move by the Ontario provincial government in 2022 to outlaw an education workers strike, which workers successfully defied. "Ontario's labour movement stood together then, and we will stand together again."

Student representatives, a spokesperson for the Ontario Federation of Labour and others addressed the rally, underlining the broad support for the fight. "I'm the proud parent of two autistic students who attend Ottawa schools. Families stand with education workers," Kate Dudley-Logue of the Ontario Autism Coalition said. "The only reason the education system is standing is because of you. That's why we're standing shoulder to shoulder with you."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE Mmilitant
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

November 5, 2001

Washington is stepping up its daily bombardment of Afghanistan and its use of troops inside the country, as it drives to impose a protectorate there. Punishing air assaults from bombers, fighters, and AC-130 gunships targeting front-line Afghan government forces, supply depots, and military facilities in major cities have also hit residential areas, hospitals, and other civilian areas.

The imperialist assault has already pushed more than 1 million Afghan people from their cities and villages as they seek to escape the bombing.

While deepening its war against Afghanistan, Washington is at the same time stepping up its assault on the rights of working people in the United States.

U.S. and British troops out of Afghanistan! Stop the bombing!

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

November 5, 1976

Socialist Workers Party candidates have received unprecedented backing from independent activists across the country. "I consider Camejo and Reid infinitely more noteworthy than the major candidates and worthy of support," declared Phillip Berrigan, the anti-Vietnam War leader. "The SWP's suit against the FBI has been a major service to the American people. More power to you," wrote Dr. Salvador Luria, winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Others include leaders of the Black movement such as *Black Scholar* editor Robert Allen and Robert F. Williams.

"Many people always say a vote for a minor party or an independent is a 'wasted vote,'" writes Anne Braden, the longtime civil rights fighter. "This year it seems to me a vote for either of the major parties is a wasted vote."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 5, 1951

Capitalist politicians and editors in the United States are trying to create the impression that the British election represents a "repudiation" of socialism.

An honest analysis of the election results shows that there was no important shift to the right in a Britain that was becoming fed up with the austerity policies of a half-hearted Labor Party government that was willing to cut social services under the pressure of Washington's war preparations program.

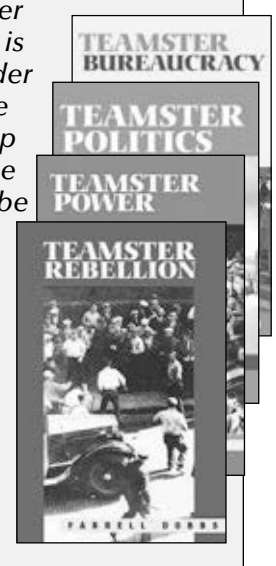
Anyhow, socialism could not be repudiated in Britain because it had not been introduced there. The Labor government policy aimed at the reform of capitalism, not its abolition. When genuine socialism comes to Britain, the measures it takes will be so decisive, the support it evokes will be so overwhelming, that the capitalists will never get another chance to save their decaying system.

Teamster Series

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

by Farrell Dobbs

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



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Israel's battle to defeat Hamas

Continued from front page

After it was formed out of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas adopted a covenant explicitly proclaiming its goal as the destruction of Israel and the Jews, to complete the Holocaust launched by the Nazis in the Second World War.

These facts are essential to understanding why Israel has waged a defensive war to prevent any further such pogroms. And why this war is key for advancing the struggles of the working class in the region today.

The Hamas thugs were trained, financed and armed by the counterrevolutionary capitalist regime in Iran, backed by Tehran's Jew-hating "axis of resistance," including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and militia forces in Iraq and elsewhere.

Hamas built hundreds of miles of tunnels under Gaza to store weapons and ammunition and provide shelter for its thugs. It also set up command posts and weapons storage depots under schools, hospitals, homes, U.N. warehouses and mosques there.

Hamas knew this would maximize the number of Palestinians killed and injured in battles with Israeli forces, and it would then blame these deaths on Israel. Having plotted for an all-out war for years, Hamas spent not one penny on shelters for the civilians of Gaza. They were more useful as human shields.

The Israel Defense Forces, on the other hand, called off hundreds of attacks in Gaza to avoid civilian deaths and repeatedly used cellphone calls, texts and aerial leafleting to give Palestinians notice to get out of buildings and neighborhoods ahead of planned strikes against Hamas.

Blows dealt to Hamas

In their efforts to defend the existence of Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred, Israeli forces have dealt enormous blows to Hamas over the last three years, as well as taking military action to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon. One atomic bomb the size of the one dropped on Hiroshima could kill the large majority of Jews and others in Israel.

"Our struggle against them is not yet over," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in June.

The U.S. capitalist rulers are the biggest obstacle to completing this task. Their interests don't include defending Israel as a refuge for Jews. These rulers' aim is to consolidate control over the vast oil and other natural resources, the markets and labor power of toilers in the Mideast, in order to plunder them and advance against capitalist competitors.

Since President Donald Trump forced Israel to back down from further attacks against Hamas in Gaza last year, the terror group has reasserted its dictatorial grip over Palestinians there, violently preventing a return of earlier substantial protests demanding an end to Hamas rule. And it has no intention of disarming.

Fighting Jew-hatred key for workers

The Jewish question is a class question, and not just a question of Israel and the Middle East, explained Socialist Workers Party leader Dave Prince in the first chapter of the Pathfinder book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. "Jew-hatred is a *world* question. The fight against it is decisive to every working-class battle today against the brutal consequences for humanity of imperialism and its convulsions."

Ever since the Oct. 7 pogrom, there's been a torrent of lies slandering Israel and the Jews by the middle-class left, by Democrats from both the party's liberal and so-called socialist wings, as well as some Republicans and ultrarightists who've always hated the Jews. These lies are repeated incessantly by the big-business media, claiming Israel is an "apartheid" state committing "genocide" and carrying out "ethnic cleansing" against Palestinians.

They are stepping up efforts to ostracize Israel from political debate worldwide, to bar its artists from musical and other competitions and sporting events, and to punctuate these moves with physical attacks.

Pro-Hamas forces, as early as the morning of Oct. 7, have hailed the pogrom as a progressive military response to the national struggle of the Palestinians. Nothing could be further from the truth. The mass slaughter of Jews was not an anti-imperialist action. It had nothing to do with advancing the interests of the Palestinian people, or of the exploited and oppressed anywhere in the world.

When given the chance, Gazans have taken the opportunity to speak out, saying their number one obstacle is Hamas and its thugs.

"The deepest *abhorrence* of the October 7 pogrom is found in the working class in the United States and elsewhere," wrote Prince in *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms*, "*not* among privileged professionals and the middle classes, or on university campuses, where Jew-hatred is flourishing today."

The defeat and dismantling of Hamas by the Israel Defense Forces, the only force capable of doing so, would be an important advance for the class struggle in Gaza. It would open the ability of Palestinians to speak out and join in common struggles to forge unity between working people in Israel, Gaza and throughout the Mideast. Through these battles a proletarian revolutionary party can be forged to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and end Jew-hatred once and for all.

Truckers, farmers join together in protests in Italy

Reuters/Igor Petyx

Beginning Oct. 18, truckers and farmers came together, blockading roads, ports and fuel depots across southern Italy to protest the soaring cost of diesel and its devastating impact on their livelihoods. They've won widespread support from working people across the country.

"At the end of the month, with our costs, we can't live like this. We can't work like this," trucker Salvatore Esposito told the *New York Times* in Naples. The cost of diesel has risen 32% since February.

"We cultivate land, we harvest debt," read a banner at a farmers' protest in Gela, Sicily. Fishermen who work along Italy's Adriatic coast joined the protests Oct. 21, with fuel now estimated to eat up 60% of their total operating costs.

Above, farmers protest high fuel prices in Gela Oct. 3. Sign reads, "It is always families and those who work the fields who pay the price."

The truckers' successful blockade forced auto bosses at Stellantis to shut down production at several of its plants as they've run out of parts.

Carmela Apetino told the *Times* that her family owned a pizzeria in Naples that was running out of yeast and cheese, but she didn't mind because she supported the protests. "Someone's quiet, quiet, and then he can't be anymore," she said. "I think it was time for an earthquake."

Ciro Testa, who is unemployed, told the *Times* he was worried he'd run out of fuel for his car. "I'm praying to Padre Pio," he said. "But pay attention — I'm praying that the government folds, not the truckers."

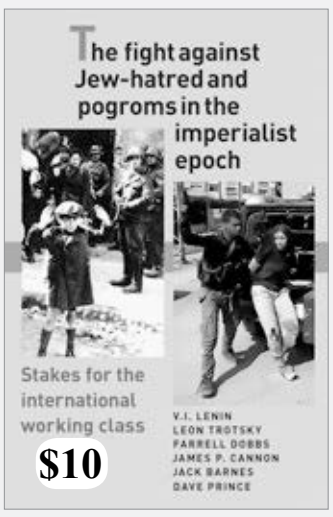
Deli owner Gennaro Lubrano said he still had some goods on his shelves, "But we will run out. And when we do, we'll go protest with the truckers."

The government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced Oct. 22 it would dispense nearly $200 million worth of subsidies to truckers, farmers and fishermen hit by the rising prices. "It's not enough," Esposito said.

The blockades in Italy are part of a wave of protests spreading across Europe in recent weeks against moves by the bosses and their governments to dump ever more of the capitalist crisis onto the backs of working people. Demonstrations by unions, students and others have shaken politics in Albania, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

— TERRY EVANS

Pogroms are part of the permanent social convulsions and wars that mark the imperialist epoch



The fight against Jew-hatred is of decisive importance to the working class and oppressed nations of the entire world. These books are for workers of all ages, skin colors and both sexes who are saying, "Enough is enough."

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—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Cuba, the African Liberation Struggle and the Leadership of Amílcar Cabral. Speakers: Catherine Silva Walker, Cape Verdeans of Southern California; Eric Mann, CORE veteran, Strategy and Soul Book Center; Norton Sandler, Pathfinder Books Los Angeles; Michael Vera, member Inlandboatmen's Union and LA US Hands Off Cuba Committee. Sun., Nov. 8, 2 p.m. *Strategy and Soul Book Center, 3542 W. Martin Luther King Blvd. Tel.: (415) 606-0643.*

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Leandro

Labor Resistance Today and the Working-Class Stakes in Defending Democratic Rights and the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party Trade Union Director. Reported from Cargill picket lines in Colorado for the *Militant*. Fri., Nov. 6. Buffet dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: $10. Community Center, 13909 E. 14th St. *Tel.: (510) 686-1351.*

CANADA

Montreal

Join Communist League Campaign to Fight Ottawa's Attacks Against Workers at Home and Abroad. Build Labor's Battle in Defense of the Right to Strike. Speaker: Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate in federal by-election in the Rosemont-la-Petite-Patrie constituency. Sat., Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Donation: $5. *7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.*

Cuban cooperatives defend gains

Continued from front page

of foreclosing on working farmers for debts, and other practices of capitalist rule that had kept rural peasants trapped in economic dependency.

Along with sweeping agrarian reform, working people organized to carry out a deep social transformation. Workers and youth in city and countryside volunteered by the thousands to go into remote rural areas to teach people to read and write, eliminating illiteracy. Newly graduated doctors voluntarily deployed to mountainous areas that had never seen a physician before, drastically reducing infant mortality and the scourge of preventable diseases.

But today, the U.S. rulers are trying to strangle the Cuban people, imposing an oil blockade and escalating sanctions that severely affect farmers in planting, harvesting and the distribution of agricultural products.

The Cuban government estimates the damages caused by Washington's systematic trade and financial embargo of the country's agricultural sector exceeded $848 million in just one year between March 2025 and February 2026. And that's before the oil blockade was imposed in January.

This tightening of economic sanctions comes on top of six decades of an embargo maintained by the U.S. rulers — under Democratic and Republican administrations alike — with the goal of overthrowing Cuba's socialist revolution and the conquests working people there have made.

This includes the Cuban Revolution's commitment to improve the standard of living of rural producers and working people as a whole. This was accomplished with conquering state power, the mightiest weapon working people can use to advance and defend their own class interests.

Working people in Cuba are currently in a titanic fight to defend the gains of the socialist revolution from the latest onslaught unleashed by the U.S. capitalist rulers, who are determined to bring capitalist exploitation back to the island.

Cuban farmers enter the fray

With the support of the government, Cuban farmers, led by the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), have been involved in a battle to break the country's reliance on importing food, which drains billions in hard currency that is sorely needed for economic and social development.

Like other countries historically underdeveloped by imperialist exploitation, the price Cuba pays for imported goods far outpaces the country's income from its exports. In Cuba's case, this is compounded many times over by Washington's systematic targeting of its primary sources of foreign revenue.

To combat shortages and soaring food prices, the country's leadership has expanded incentives for farmers to grow more vegetables, grains, fruit and other crops and sell them directly on the market, without having to use state-run intermediaries. Production, however, has been hampered by the U.S. blockade, which cuts off supplies of fuel, fertilizers, pesticides and animal feed, as well as causing power outages and exorbitant diesel costs.

Earlier this year Cuba had to halt major portions of its sugar harvest due to the lack of fuel. The July 26 Agricultural Production Cooperative (CPA) in Abreus, in Cienfuegos province, was one of the many cooperatives affected. Its 150 members have shifted its efforts to raising cattle and producing milk to stay afloat and keep members working.

"We have had to explore several alternatives to avoid shutting down entirely," Aliuska Moreira, a leader of the CPA, told Cuban TV last September.

A few years ago, the cooperative had set up a "mini-industry" — a small operation that processes surplus harvested food into tomato paste, canned and dried fruit and juices, providing employment for women in nearby communities. In the last two and a half years, however, production has declined due to the lack of electricity and worn-down equipment. The cooperative is now planning to build a small-scale slaughterhouse.

Many cooperatives are taking initiatives together with the local governments to meet broader social needs, drawing on farmers' consciousness and commitment to the revolution's conquests.

The July 26 cooperative runs a childcare center serving cooperative members and workers in the mini-industry. It also supplies the local home for the elderly with produce, as well as 15 families with special needs in a nearby settlement. "Our cooperative has always had the tradition to serve the community, it has been a principle" for us, Moreira, a leader of the CPA, told Canal Caribe on YouTube in June 2024.

"Thanks to the cooperative, I now live right next to the school," said Yaniela Rodríguez, a teacher at the multigrade rural school there. "It was difficult for me to commute" from where I was living, "so they turned a classroom into a house for me."

The July 26 cooperative stands out, but initiatives like theirs can be found among others of the more than 4,500 agricultural cooperatives in the country.

They are also applying for credit to invest in solar panels to power a charging station for the community.

Juan Carlos Dorado

The July 26 Agricultural Production Cooperative in Abreus, Cuba, one of many cooperatives hard hit by lack of fuel due to the U.S. blockade, has been forced to make shifts to continue production. Above, cooperative members during massive sugarcane planting drive in 2021.

Worldwide protests demand: 'US hands off Cuba!'

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK — Some 60 people marched and rallied here Oct. 24 to demand an end to Washington's brutal oil blockade against Cuba and its countless other sanctions and threats against the Cuban people. It was part of a series of actions around the U.S. and worldwide aimed at getting out the truth about the U.S. rulers' bipartisan assaults on the Cuban Revolution.

Organized by the New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí coalition, protesters marched from Union Square to Washington Square Park, chanting "Cuba sí, bloqueo no" and "U.S. hands off Cuba!" They drew support from many bystanders.

A highlight of the rally was a bucket collection for Global Health Partners' campaign to aid maternal healthcare in Cuba. People readily threw in $5, $10 and $20 bills. The total collected was $150. One consequence of the U.S. rulers' tightening blockade has been to more than double the infant mortality rate on the island since 2018.

The protest kicked off a Global Week of Action in solidarity with Cuba Oct. 24-31. Dozens of events are taking place in the U.S. and worldwide to coincide with the annual debate at the United Nations Oct. 27-28 condemning Washington's economic blockade of Cuba.

Days before, President Donald Trump renewed Washington's threats to attack the Cuban people during a rally in Fort Meyers, Florida. With imperial arrogance, Trump said U.S. warships returning from the Middle East would stop off the coast of Cuba until the Cuban people surrender.

In another provocative move, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier issued an arrest warrant Oct. 19 for Raúl Castro, a historic leader of Cuba's socialist revolution. This follows a federal government frame-up indictment of Castro in May. The latest charges are aimed at restricting Castro's ability to travel outside Cuba, Uthmeier boasted.

❖

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Cuba Committee and other groups opposing Washington's assaults on Cuba are carrying out a week of activities across the Twin Cities. Despite heavy rain, supporters of Cuban sovereignty hung banners denouncing Washington's threats from a highly visible highway bridge and on a busy street corner in downtown Minneapolis Oct. 26.

Drivers in many of the cars passing by honked in support. Further banner drops were held Oct. 27-28.

For 33 years, the U.N. General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly to end Washington's blockade, the Minnesota Cuba Committee points out, noting "the U.S. government has ignored every single vote."

— Mary Martin

More reports on actions in defense of Cuba as part of the worldwide week of protests will appear in the next issue of the *Militant*.

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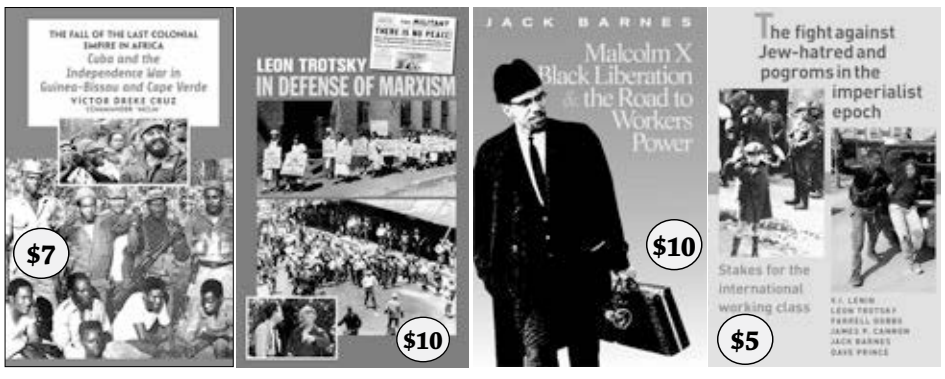

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Puerto Rico fishermen discuss how to defend their livelihood

BY SETH GALINSKY

HUMACAO, Puerto Rico — The fight by fishermen here for a ramp that would make launching and beaching their small fishing boats qualitatively easier, spotlights some of the challenges facing the working class in Puerto Rico. It also provides a good example of the many ways in which Washington's colonial domination serves the interests of U.S. capital.

Militant correspondents and members of the Socialist Workers Party on Oct. 23 met six members of the Punta Santiago Association of Fishermen on a beach on the outskirts of the town.

Nearby, still lay two of their boats damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017, as well as a wrecked pier — evidence of the months it took for fishermen to recover from their losses. They were plagued with power outages as well as marine habitats upended by the storm.

"For over 40 years we have been fighting for a boat ramp," Eddie López, the association's president, told us. "Senators from all the political parties have come here. They have posed for pictures helping us push the boats into the water by hand. We've taken them out in our boats so they can see for themselves how hard it is. They make promises to help, but never resolve anything."

The association has 17 members, López said. There are over 170 similar groups of fishermen in the island's coastal towns, but no national association. López says that Punta Santiago is the only town without its own boat ramp.

Most of the members own one boat. Instead of paying a wage to the two or three workers they hire, they divide up the catch with them at the end of each day.

Like other small businesses and self-employed workers across the island, the fishermen are being battered by the capitalist economic crisis, made worse by their status as a U.S. colony. When we asked if the price of gas for their boats had increased, they broke into bitter laughter. The price of all their necessities has soared.

Electric rates have skyrocketed, with an 18% increase this month alone, making it nearly twice as expensive as in the continental U.S. Faced with frequent brownouts and blackouts, many of the fishermen have turned to renting solar panel systems. That can cost them between $150 and $320 a month.

"We're not asking for much," said fisherwoman Elsie Rodriguez, who still goes out on their boat every Saturday at the age of 81. "We just need a little bit of concrete." She and her husband, Ángel Luis, also own a store that buys the catch from other fishermen and resells it to the public.

Militant/Rachele Fruit

Eddie López, president of the Punta Santiago Association of Fishermen, second from right, other fishermen, tell delegation from *Militant* and Socialist Workers Party about conditions fishermen, like other small businesses, face.

When asked why members of the association don't organize to build the ramp themselves, Rodríguez shrugs her shoulders. "We can't get the permits" from the government, she says.

The U.S. overseers and local capitalist governing bodies try to block workers from organizing collectively to solve their problems. They foster dependency on government "aid" and create the illusion workers can't go around the bureaucratic obstacles, which are compounded by final control in the hands of colonial bodies.

"The only way they will get a ramp is if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers builds it," Yamary Morales, a former fisherwoman in nearby Yabucoa, told the *Militant* the next day.

López showed us newspaper articles from 2012 and 2017 when government officials promised the ramp would soon be built. It never was. He also played a video showing the back-breaking work of pushing their boats from the beach to the sea and back.

Courtesy Asociación de Pescadores de Punta Santiago

Fishermen put up sign Sept. 10, the day before Puerto Rico Gov. Jenniffer González came to Punta Santiago to announce plans to begin construction of a $20 million pier. "We don't oppose constructing the pier," the sign says. "We want you to add a ramp for the fishermen."

The fishermen are angry that $20 million was approved for construction to replace the pier in Punta Santiago destroyed by the hurricane in 2017 — *without including a boat ramp.*

"The pier would be good for tourism and the community," said fisherman Vidal Silva, 62. "But why can't their plans include a ramp?"

The fishermen said they also face harassment from officers of Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. When he was moving his boat, "one of them told me that my truck was polluting the beach and water," Luis said.

The new pier is being built mostly with funds from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Puerto Rican government is required to contribute 10%.

But the U.S.-government imposed Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility Board — known by Puerto Ricans as the Junta — has veto power over any expenditure greater than $10 million. The fishermen at first didn't think the Junta would have a say if the colonial government decided to allocate the funds, but when Rodríguez looked up the regulations as we were talking, she said it seemed the Junta would have final say if it ever reached that point.

Even though most Puerto Ricans are proud of their culture and history, many don't support independence, fearing the economic consequences.

"If Puerto Rico becomes independent, I'll take the first plane to the United States," said López, as discussion turned to the broad economic and social crisis facing working people in Puerto Rico and the U.S. today.

He also reacted strongly when something in the *Militant* defending the Cuban Revolution caught his eye. "Do you think it's right people are starving in Cuba, have no electricity, no water, no food, no freedom?" he demanded. "I want the U.S. army to invade Cuba."

None of the other Puerto Ricans in the group jumped in behind López. To the contrary, they helped bring the discussion back to the conditions they face and the meeting ended on a positive note.

The fishermen are hoping they will get an affirmative answer soon, said López. "Otherwise we may have to organize another protest."

Róger Calero contributed to this article.

Washington's blockade of Cuba condemned at UN hearing

BY WILLIE COTTON

UNITED NATIONS — After two days of often acrimonious debate by the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 27-28, the body voted overwhelmingly to pass a motion submitted by Cuba — "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" — denouncing Washington's over 65-year-long economic war against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution. The vote was 130 in favor, 17 against, 25 abstentions. The remaining 21 U.N. members didn't vote.

While the vote reflects significant opposition to Washington's brutal punishment against Cuba, a heavy-handed pressure campaign by the U.S. rulers has had an effect. The 130 "yes" votes is 35 less, and the 17 "no" votes 10 more than last year.

"There is no blockade," Mike Waltz, U.S. representative to the U.N., incredulously claimed in his speech to the body. "A blockade is a ring of military ships around an island. It doesn't exist."

He issued a veiled threat against any country who voted "for" Cuba's motion — "You are complicit."

Virtually all the rest of his remarks consisted of charges of corruption, repression and incompetence against Cuba's elected leadership.

Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, spoke in favor of Cuba's motion. "A great power is attacking a member state of this organization — a small, independent, peace-loving nation and fraternal — by submitting it to an economic warfare," he said.

He noted the debate was taking place "amidst new and extraordinary circumstances," where the U.S. rulers have "unleashed a wave of pressures, intimidation and blackmail against many member states with a coercive, illegal, immoral and unwarranted demand to change their traditional stance" in favor of Cuba.

He said Washington "has openly resorted to the threat of the use of military force and has imposed tens of new economic coercive measures in addition to the ones that have existed for decades."

Today's "blockade silently kills and punishes our population as never before," he noted, pointing to Cuba's inability to get medicines that has caused a sharp rise in the infant mortality rate as well as leaving 100,000 Cubans, more than 12,000 of them children, unable to get needed surgeries.

He said the U.S. blockade is "designed to cause the greatest possible damage in the shortest possible time against an entire people," calling it "an attempt to bring about a humanitarian crisis in Cuba and use it as a weapon." But, he said, the Cuban government and people are taking steps to reorganize, find ways to make gains and to resist. "We will persist in the defense of our independence and national sovereignty."

Rodríguez concluded with noting 2026 marks the centennial of Fidel Castro, saying, "We repeat with him: Homeland or Death, We Shall Overcome."

A number of other countries' representatives stood up in support of Cuba's motion against the U.S. blockade. "Cabo Verde and Cuba continue to enjoy longstanding relations of friendship, built on solidarity, mutual respect and shared values," Tania Serafim Yvonne Romualdo, that country's representative to the U.N., said. "Cuba has made invaluable contributions to our national development."

Cuban combatants played a key role in the independence struggle in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

When Waltz presented his slanders against Cuba, Rodríguez asked for a point of order, telling the U.S. speaker, "You are a liar!" In a display of imperial arrogance, Waltz replied, "You understand who you're dealing with? This is America. Back up."

The U.N. gallery held dozens of U.S. activists, workers and others who came to stand with Cuba.

1917: Lenin, Bolsheviks led Russian toilers to take power

The History of the Russian Revolution *by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The excerpt is from the Preface written by Trotsky, a central leader of the revolution and the Bolshevik Party under V.I. Lenin. Written from exile in the early 1930s, Trotsky describes the social, economic and political conditions that fueled the 1917 Russian Revolution. From the February insurrection, where workers and soldiers in Petrograd toppled the czarist monarchy, through eight months of deepening class struggles, Lenin and the Bolsheviks led Russian toilers to take political power.* *Copyright © 1932 by the University of Michigan. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.*

Petrograd Soviet meets during 1917 Russian Revolution. The Bolshevik Party led by V.I. Lenin went from a tiny minority party in February to leading the workers, peasants and soldiers to take power eight months later, opening the door to the world's first socialist revolution.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

During the first two months of 1917 Russia was still a Romanov monarchy. Eight months later the Bolsheviks stood at the helm. They were little known to anybody when the year began, and their leaders were still under indictment for state treason when they came to power. You will not find another such sharp turn in history — especially if you remember that it involves a nation of 150 million people. It is clear that the events of 1917, whatever you think of them, deserve study. …

The most indubitable feature of a revolution is the direct interference of the masses in historic events. In ordinary times the state, be it monarchical or democratic, elevates itself above the nation, and history is made by specialists in that line of business — kings, ministers, bureaucrats, parliamentarians, journalists. But at those crucial moments when the old order becomes no longer endurable to the masses, they break over the barriers excluding them from the political arena, sweep aside their traditional representatives, and create by their own interference the initial groundwork for a new régime. Whether this is good or bad we leave to the judgment of moralists. We ourselves will take the facts as they are given by the objective course of development. The history of a revolution is for us first of all a history of the forcible entrance of the masses into the realm of rulership over their own destiny.

In a society that is seized by revolution classes are in conflict. It is perfectly clear, however, that the changes introduced between the beginning and the end of a revolution in the economic bases of the society and its social substratum of classes, are not sufficient to explain the course of the revolution itself, which can overthrow in a short interval age-old institutions, create new ones, and again overthrow them. The dynamic of revolutionary events is *directly* determined by swift, intense and passionate changes in the psychology of classes which have already formed themselves before the revolution.

The point is that society does not change its institutions as need arises, the way a mechanic changes his instruments. On the contrary, society actually takes the institutions which hang upon it as given once for all. For decades the oppositional criticism is nothing more than a safety valve for mass dissatisfaction, a condition of the stability of the social structure. … Entirely exceptional conditions, independent of the will of persons or parties, are necessary in order to tear off from discontent the fetters of conservatism, and bring the masses to insurrection.

The swift changes of mass views and moods in an epoch of revolution thus derive, not from the flexibility and mobility of man's mind, but just the opposite, from its deep conservatism. The chronic lag of ideas and relations behind new objective conditions, right up to the moment when the latter crash over people in the form of a catastrophe, is what creates in a period of revolution that leaping movement of ideas and passions which seems to the police mind a mere result of the activities of "demagogues."

The masses go into a revolution not with a prepared plan of social reconstruction, but with a sharp feeling that they cannot endure the old régime. Only the guiding layers of a class have a political program, and even this still requires the test of events, and the approval of the masses. The fundamental political process of the revolution thus consists in the gradual comprehension by a class of the problems arising from the social crisis — the active orientation of the masses by a method of successive approximations. The different stages of a revolutionary process, certified by a change of parties in which the more extreme always supersedes the less, express the growing pressure to the left of the masses — so long as the swing of the movement does not run into objective obstacles. When it does, there begins a reaction: disappointments of the different layers of the revolutionary class, growth of indifferentism, and therewith a strengthening of the position of the counter-revolutionary forces. Such, at least, is the general outline of the old revolutions.

Only on the basis of a study of political processes in the masses themselves, can we understand the role of parties and leaders, whom we least of all are inclined to ignore. They constitute not an independent, but nevertheless a very important, element in the process. Without a guiding organization the energy of the masses would dissipate like steam not enclosed in a piston-box. But nevertheless what moves things is not the piston or the box, but the steam.

The difficulties which stand in the way of studying the changes of mass consciousness in a revolutionary epoch are quite obvious. The oppressed classes make history in the factories, in the barracks, in the villages, on the streets of the cities. Moreover, they are least of all accustomed to write things down. Periods of high tension in social passions leave little room for contemplation and reflection. … For better or worse, a revolutionary party bases its tactics upon a calculation of the changes of mass consciousness. The historic course of Bolshevism demonstrates that such a calculation, at least in its rough features, can be made. …

However, the processes taking place in the consciousness of the masses are not unrelated and independent. No matter how the idealists and eclectics rage, consciousness is nevertheless determined by conditions. In the historic conditions which formed Russia, her economy, her classes, her State, in the action upon her of other states, we ought to be able to find the premises both of the February revolution and of the October revolution which replaced it.

October
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EDITORIAL

Vote Socialist Workers Party!

Continued from front page

countless other sanctions against the Cuban people.

Today the party is campaigning to distribute and organize meetings to discuss *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke.

SWP members join actions against Jew-hatred. They defend the right of Israel to exist as a refuge from pogroms and the threat of a new Holocaust. They refute the lie that Israel is carrying out "genocide" when it carries out a defensive war against murderous assaults by Hamas and Tehran. They also explain that Washington's war against Iran is different, serving the thirst for oil and profits by the very same U.S. capitalists that are assaulting workers' wages and conditions at home.

SWP candidates are on the front lines of today's working-class struggles. You'll find them on the picket lines of striking hotel workers in Chicago; building solidarity for refinery workers fighting lockouts in Whiting, Indiana; Martinez, California; and Linden, New Jersey; and wherever else workers are using their unions to stand up to employers' assaults.

The SWP is the only party presenting realistic proposals to protect workers from the twin scourges of unemployment and soaring prices.

Only through the class struggle can workers make gains. To advance that goal, the SWP calls for our unions to fight for amnesty for workers without papers to eliminate the fear of deportation, end superexploitation and to unify the working class for the struggles ahead. The party presents proposals for a union-led fight for jobs and for cost-of-living adjustments for all workers — union and nonunion alike — so when prices rise, our wages automatically rise to match.

Both Democrats and Republicans promise they will ease the burden workers face and make the world a safer place. But both are beholden to an exploiting class whose system drives it to maximize profits at workers' expense, and that is determined to remain as top dog amid today's increasingly deadly conflicts with its rivals abroad. These clashes point toward a third world slaughter.

The SWP is your party!

Opportunities to build the SWP will continue to grow in working-class struggles after the election. Through participation in these fights, workers develop self-confidence, class-consciousness and stronger leadership capacities.

Only the SWP acts with confidence in the unlimited potential of the working class — the one class with no interest in imperialist wars, capitalist exploitation or oppression of any kind. Workers in the U.S. demonstrated their immense power in the course of leading the unprecedented mass movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation. And in the fight to win women's emancipation. We are capable of taking political power, ruling in the interests of the vast majority and joining the fight for a socialist world.

Workers don't have to start from scratch to build the party we need. The SWP exists! It was born in the struggle to emulate the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Its leaders and cadre were forged in the mighty struggles that built the unions in the 1930s and through the party's opposition in the streets to every one of the U.S. rulers' predatory wars.

Cast your vote for the SWP. If undemocratic laws prevented the party from being on the ballot, write in the SWP. And, most importantly, join the SWP in activities that prepare for the revolutionary struggles that lie ahead.

Is Russia's Vladimir Putin a 'humanitarian'?

Continued from front page

sion of Ukraine. Ihor Shishko, a former Ukrainian prisoner of war jailed alongside him in western Russia, said Hubbard was beaten, given electric shocks and subjected to humiliating physical and sexual abuse. He was sentenced to almost seven years in a penal colony and used by Putin to demand concessions from Washington.

Witkoff's praise for Putin is at one with Washington's efforts to win Moscow as a U.S. ally.

Within hours of Witkoff's fawning meeting with Putin, Kyiv was hit by missile strikes. Three ballistic rockets with cluster warheads designed to maximize human casualties over a wide area were among the missiles. Two people were killed and over 30 injured.

"We thought this was a war and the destruction of Ukraine, but it turns out to be an act of 'humanity,'" Nataliia Stativko, a former journalist, told the Kyiv Independent, on a street devastated by one of the missiles.

Ukraine's war to defend itself targets Russian military and infrastructure sites, while Moscow is targeting Ukrainian working people. Recent Russian attacks have been more deadly than previously, as Washington has held back in providing Ukraine with defensive Patriot missiles. Civilian casualties have reached record levels but have failed to force working people in Ukraine to submit.

Putin's "humane" regime sacrifices the lives and limbs of Russian workers in uniform without compunction in its drive to try to seize more Ukrainian territory. Overnight Oct. 21-22, Russian forces suffered a staggering 2,250 combat casualties, mostly on the Donbas front, a gruesome new 24-hour record.

Putin's rise from KGB agent to autocrat

For 15 years Putin was an officer of the KGB, the Soviet secret police. He was stationed in East Germany when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, setting off the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As a capitalist-oriented economy and government emerged from the Stalinist police-state regime, he began his rise to power.

Elected president in 2000, he acted as an arbiter between political rivals in the newly emerging capitalist class that looted the former state-owned enterprises.

He said he would stop Russia from being "relegated to the second or even third tier of global powers." In the quarter century since, he's acted on a Russian chauvinist course, seeking to reestablish Moscow as a dominant power worldwide.

In 2000 he waged war against Chechnya. In 2008 he ordered Moscow's invasion of Georgia. Several years later he sent forces to intervene in the civil war in Syria to prop up the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad.

In 2014 working people joined a mass uprising in Ukraine known as the Maidan, which toppled the bloody pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovych. Alarmed, Putin seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Then he mobilized forces to lead pro-Moscow separatists fighting in Ukraine's Donbas region.

Since its 2022 invasion failed to conquer Ukraine, the Putin regime has continued a war of attrition that has become the biggest bloodbath in Europe since World War II.

Opponents jailed, exiled or killed

In his nearly 27 years in power, Putin's anti-working-class regime tightened repression to quell mass protests and shut down political rights.

A long list of mysterious deaths is attributed to his rule. Prominent opposition leaders targeted include Boris Nemtsov, shot dead in 2015, and Alexei Navalny, who died suddenly in 2024 during his incarceration in a harsh Arctic prison.

Vladimir Kara-Murza, another Russian opposition leader, survived two poisoning attacks by Putin's agents and was imprisoned for challenging Putin and his war.

Kara-Murza, who was freed in a prisoner exchange in 2024, pointed to his fellow political prisoners and the "millions of people in Russia who reject Putin's dictatorship, who are against his aggression in Ukraine," in an interview with *Time* magazine after his release. These are the people, not Putin, "who are the future of our country."

'Librarians of Color' show interest in Pathfinder titles

BY SCOTT BREEN

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Joint Conference of Librarians of Color took place here Oct. 7-11, with more than 800 attendees from libraries around the country. Younger Latinos, Blacks, Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders made up the bulk of the predominantly female participants.

Pathfinder Press was one of 35 exhibitors at the conference. Many visitors to the booth were attracted to the number of Pathfinder titles in different languages, including English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Farsi.

Many met Pathfinder at the American Library Association or REFORMA conferences this year. REFORMA is an organization of librarians advocating for more Spanish-language books. Seventy-six books in English and Spanish, including 10 copies of *Cuba and the Independence War in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde: The Fall of the Last Colonial Empire in Africa* by Cuban leader Víctor Dreke, were purchased. Over 50 participants signed up for more information on ordering Pathfinder books.

Roseanna Andrade told Pathfinder volunteers, "I got *The Politics of Chicano Liberation* by Olga Rodríguez because I'm interested in Chicano studies. My parents worked in el movimiento in East L.A., and I do educational presentations at the New Mexico penitentiary for the Chicano Club. I also got *Revolution and the Road to Peace in Colombia* by Fidel Castro, because his words are important, especially now with what Washington is doing to Cuba. And I got *Thomas Sankara Speaks*."

Taking on government attack on immigrants

Several workshops and talks focused on fights for funding, against book bans, and confronting government attacks on immigrant workers who rely on libraries for using computers.

Many library workers described families fearful of coming to the library today, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement stops and arrests. They want to make their libraries a welcoming place for the community and hosting "Know Your Rights" sessions. They're also seeking ways to take the library out to the community, through bookmobiles and tables at local events.

Kathy Isaacs is a branch manager at the public library in St. John, a town in eastern Washington of just over 500 people. After looking at the front-page *Militant* article on rallies against immigration raids, she decided to subscribe and got *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed.

Conference sessions also addressed the right of library workers to join unions. One workshop was titled, "Organize your library: Unionizing 101," hosted by Christina Ordonez and Esther Daranciang. They had helped organize a union at the library in Salt Lake City, the first library in Utah to go union.

"Our first meeting was on my living room floor," Daranciang said. "We thought about starting our own union, but decided that was a bad idea, and got organized by AFSCME Local 1004 instead."

"I'm concerned with freedom to access information," said Tyler Mayser, assistant director at Prince William Public Libraries. "When you have to fight for the right to get access to information, for people to make their own informed decisions, that's really important."

Ashley Marshall, from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and Kaeli Gretter, assistant teaching professor there, staffed a booth to recruit to their school. Marshall looked up the *Militant* website. "I think I might end up making an assignment out of something here, there's so much we could do with it. Students could read some articles and discuss them. This is fantastic!" Overall 10 people at the conference subscribed to the *Militant*.

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