

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Puerto Rican *independentista* Rafael Cancel Miranda on Cuban Revolution

—PAGE 6

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Socialist Workers candidates in Iowa:

‘Israeli troops out of Lebanon and Gaza now!’



Militant/Mary Martin
Diana Newberry, left, Socialist Workers candidate for Iowa governor, campaigns August 1 in Des Moines.

BY MARY MARTIN

DES MOINES, Iowa—“Our campaign demands the Israeli government stop its murderous bombing and ground assault on Lebanon and withdraw all its troops immediately,” said Diana Newberry, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Iowa, as she campaigned in this city.

“We are urging workers, farmers, and young people to join public protests against the Israeli aggression and the U.S. government’s bipartisan support for this assault,” she said. Newberry is a meat packer who works at the Swift cut-and-kill plant in nearby Marshalltown.

Newberry said, “The main goal of Washington and its allies in their so-called war on terror is to increase their control over markets and natural resources—in the Mideast and around the world. It’s an extension of the assault they are carrying out against the living

Continued on page 7

Socialists in Pennsylvania file for ballot status

Affirm victory against state ‘loyalty oath’

BY JOHN STUDER

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, July 31—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign in Pennsylvania today filed some 2,100 signatures here—more than four times the number required—to gain ballot status for John Staggs, the party’s candidate for state representative in District 198 from Philadelphia.

Staggs crossed out the “loyalty oath,” a reactionary requirement, on Pennsylvania’s books since 1951, requiring a candidate to state that he is “not a subversive person.”

On July 25, after being told by offi-

cials from the Pennsylvania Department of State that the Socialist Workers campaign intended to challenge the anti-subversive measure in court, Pennsylvania attorney general Thomas Corbett told them to “discontinue use of the oath.”

“We were consulted by the Department of State,” William Frederiksen, spokesperson for the state attorney general, told the *Militant*, “and we advised them that the matter had been settled by the [U.S.] Supreme Court in 1974. The case ruling is very clear.”

After a brief discussion, officials of the

Continued on page 4

‘We have had the privilege to fight’

Cubans celebrate 53rd anniversary of assault on Moncada garrison

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS
AND LUIS MADRID

HAVANA, July 26—“It’s not that we Cubans are better than others,” Fidel Castro told a 100,000-strong rally in Bayamo as he described the recent accomplishments of the people of the eastern province of Granma. “Rather, we have had the privilege to fight.”

The Cuban president was addressing the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of the simultaneous assault he led on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks in Bayamo. The attacks, of which Castro was the principal organizer,

initiated the revolutionary struggle that five and a half years later, on Jan. 1, 1959, brought down the hated U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and opened the door to what became the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Early in the rally, messages were read from Fernando González and René González, two of five Cuban revolutionaries serving draconian prison terms in the United States after being framed and convicted in 2001 on charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage as well as murder conspiracy.

“Our pride grows whenever we learn

Continued on page 6

Israeli forces step up ground war in Lebanon

Bombing of housing complex kills dozens



Getty images/ Marco Di Lauro

Residents of Aitaroun, village near Bint Jbail, flee August 1 in face of Tel Aviv’s bombing campaign in southern Lebanon. Bint Jbail was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting between Israeli ground troops and Hezbollah-led forces.

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

August 1—Seeking to deal a decisive blow to the Hezbollah militia based in southern Lebanon and unable to do so in a brutal three-week aerial bombing of the country, the Israeli government has begun a large-scale ground assault. The attack has been concentrated in a 20-mile region from the Israeli border to the banks of the Litani River in Lebanon.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said the

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) “now would make a concerted effort to achieve ground success through operations that the army has avoided until now,” the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported August 1. “Five brigade-level commands—more

Continued on page 3

Legalization of all immigrants now!

Working people everywhere should actively build and participate in the upcoming conferences and demonstrations that are part of the developing mass struggle for the legalization of immigrants.

EDITORIAL

A range of important actions are already planned for the coming months. On August 11–13, a National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention will be held in Chicago. On the Labor Day weekend in Los Angeles, immigrant rights groups will sponsor a September 2 march, and the traditional union-led march on September 4 will highlight support for immigrants’ rights. In Washington, D.C., a “Legalization now!” march will be organized September 7. And other actions are taking place across the country.

It is important to join in these activities and bring fellow workers, farmers, and young people. Unionists have been part of many of the events, and workers have often put their stamp on such meetings.

The mass demonstrations for legalization of all immigrants have been the big

Continued on page 9

D.C. conference backs protests, meetings for immigrant rights

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—A national conference here July 28–30 backed a range of protests and meetings over the coming weeks that are part of the developing struggle for the legalization of undocumented immigrants.

Among the several dozen participants were representatives of coalitions that built massive demonstrations for immigrant rights this spring in Los Angeles, officials of the Carpenters union in Kansas City, day laborers from New Jersey, leaders of the National Asian American Student Conference, and several church,

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

Venezuelan government buys arms from Russia	2
NATO takes over operations in southern Afghanistan	3
WWII was not inevitable till defeat of Spanish revolution	5
California Socialist Workers launch election campaign	7

Venezuelan gov't buys weapons from Russia

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a visit to Moscow at the end of July, Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez announced that the Russian government has agreed to sell 24 fighter jets and 53 military helicopters to Venezuela. The deal, the final part of a \$3 billion arms agreement negotiated over the past year, was reached despite demands by Washington that it be scuttled.

In mid-May the Bush administration had announced the banning of all U.S. arms sales to Venezuela. Last November, Washington blocked the sale of eight Spanish patrol boats and 12 aircraft to Venezuela on the grounds that the equipment contained U.S. technology. Citing the same reason, they prevented Venezuela from buying four Brazilian jets.

During his visit to Russia, Chávez said the new weapons were badly needed because of the U.S. arms ban. “We are breaking the U.S. blockade that was aimed at disarming Venezuela,” he told the media.

The 24 Su-30 fighter jets will replace the Venezuelan air force of about 20 U.S. F-16 jets, most of which are in disrepair because Washington has refused to provide replacement parts.

“We are not going to attack anyone, but nobody should make a mistake with us, especially the U.S. empire that wants to dominate the world with cannons and bombs,” the Venezuelan president said.

The U.S. government tried unsuccessfully to pressure Moscow to drop the arms sale. At a July 25 news conference, U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said Washington had repeatedly told Russian officials that “the arms purchases planned by Venezuela exceeded its defensive needs and are not helpful in

terms of regional stability.”

Earlier this year, despite strong U.S. government objections, Moscow signed a contract to sell 100,000 Kalashnikov AK-103 automatic rifles to Venezuela. As of late June, some 30,000 of these had been delivered. The Russian government has now agreed to build a factory in Venezuela to produce the bulk of these rifles.

“Venezuela is not the target of any sanctions, and we already have developed bilateral military-technical cooperation,” Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said in June, in defense of the arms agreements. “If an opportunity to sell our weapons at a good price arises, we will do that.”

Russian energy firms are also co-operating with Caracas in conducting energy exploratory work in Venezuela’s Orinoco basin. The Russian state energy company Gazprom has also secured licenses to work on the Rafael Urdaneta gas field in the Gulf of Venezuela.

While expressing “concerns” over Caracas’s arms purchases from Russia, Washington continues to pour billions in military aid into Colombia and other Latin American countries. The U.S. government has backed repeated efforts by sections of the Venezuelan ruling class to overthrow the Chávez-led government. This includes a failed military coup in April 2002, an employers’ lockout in December of that year, and a presidential recall referendum in August 2004. These efforts by the Venezuelan capitalists have each failed because of mass mobilizations by workers and peasants, who since Chávez took office have gained more space to fight for land, jobs, and democratic rights.

Los Angeles: protesters oppose rightist political killings in Philippines



Apollo Victoria

LOS ANGELES—A spirited picket line protested the murder of trade unionists, political activists, and youth and student leaders in the Philippines at the country’s consulate here July 24. It was part of a day of action called by Bayan USA in several U.S. cities and Canada. The sponsors included Anakbayan Los Angeles, Habi Arts, Filipinos Organizing Workers for Empowerment and Respect (POWER), and the March 25 Coalition, an immigrant rights organization here.

According to the human rights group Karapatan, military-backed rightist forces in the Philippines have carried out more than 700 political killings since 2001, when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became president. U.S. aid to the Philippines in the last five years, much of it military, was \$685 million. There are currently 5,500 U.S. troops in the country.

—ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

Antiabortion ‘consent’ bill targets young women’s right to choose

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

In a bipartisan vote, the U.S. Senate approved a bill July 25 that would make it a federal crime to transport or assist a minor across state lines to avoid “parental consent” laws in obtaining an abortion. The so-called Child Custody Protection Act is the most recent effort by capitalist politicians to chip away at a woman’s access to abortion since it was decriminalized in the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*.

The bill, which places an added obstacle for young women, particularly working-class women, from exercising their right to control their bodies, was approved 65–34. Last year the House of Representatives approved a similar bill. President George Bush has said he will sign the legislation.

Faced with mass support for a woman’s right to choose, opponents of women’s rights are pushing this piecemeal approach to attack the 1973

Supreme Court decision rather than a more frontal attack.

Currently 35 states require parental consent or notification for a young woman to obtain an abortion if she is a legal minor. Thirty-one states have laws that require women seeking an abortion to undergo “counseling,” a provision designed to discourage women from obtaining abortions. Six of these laws have been declared unconstitutional by courts, according to NARAL Pro-Choice America. In addition, many of these states impose a mandatory 24-hour waiting period.

Eighty-seven percent of U.S. counties have no health facilities or doctors that provide abortions, according to Planned Parenthood. This creates special obstacles for women who cannot take time off to travel to the nearest clinic. These laws have made abortion inaccessible to large numbers of working-class, rural, and young women.

THE MILITANT

Legalization now!

Millions of immigrant workers and their supporters have engaged in nationwide political protests demanding: Legal residence now! The ‘Militant’ explains why labor must champion this fight, and how it is in interest of all workers.

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30,000 marched in Chicago July 19 for legalization of undocumented immigrants.

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Invasion of Lebanon

Continued from front page
than twice the number of forces operating in the area thus far—will operate in southern Lebanon.”

That force was reportedly involved in fierce combat in the southern Lebanese town of Ayta a-Shab. Three Israeli soldiers were reported killed in the fighting and 25 wounded August 1.

“At this very moment army brigades are advancing in south Lebanon to annihilate the terror infrastructure there,” Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert said in a July 31 speech. Olmert stressed that “there is no cease-fire and there will be no cease-fire in the coming days.” Tel Aviv has called up as many as 30,000 reserve troops.

On the same day, U.S. president George Bush in an interview on FOX News gave the nod to the stepped up ground invasion. “Stopping for the sake of stopping...won’t address the root cause of the problem,” which Bush said is “armed militias firing rockets from a sovereign nation into another sovereign nation.”

A day earlier, one of the bloodiest chapters in Israel’s air campaign unfolded.

The Israeli air force—which has carried out 4,500 sorties in the first two-weeks of the offensive alone—bombed an apartment building in Qana July 30, causing it to collapse and crush dozens of civilians seeking shelter in the basement, many of them children. The ages of those who died reportedly ranged from 10 months to 95 years.

This is not Tel Aviv’s first bloody bombing in Qana. On April 18, 1996, Israeli forces bombed a refugee camp there, killing 102 of 750 Lebanese who had fled from a brutal Israeli bombing attack. Then as now the Israeli government claimed it was responding to attacks from the area by Hezbollah forces.

Israeli setbacks

Tel Aviv began its assault on Lebanon on July 12. Using the pretext of the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah, Israeli officials announced their aim to rapidly break the back of the organization with a massive bombing campaign. Hezbollah demanded the release of some of the thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by the Israeli government in exchange for the captured soldiers.

While leaving more than 500 dead, thousands wounded, displacing more than 750,000, and destroying substantial infrastructure in the nation of 4 million, the 20-day bombing of Lebanon has not achieved Israel’s stated objectives.

“What was clearly conceived two weeks ago as a quick battle using air power and strikes on specific targets

with commando raids to degrade Hezbollah’s resources,” John Kifner pointed out in the July 30 *New York Times*, “has turned into a crisis.”

Contrasting the myth of “invincibility” that the Israeli government promotes with the reality on the ground in Lebanon, Kifner noted that “in Bint Jbail, a town the Israelis said they controlled, a well-laid Hezbollah ambush pinned down infantrymen from the elite Golani Brigade for hours. At times the firing was so heavy the brigade’s soldiers could not return it; eight Israelis were killed. The highly advanced Merkava tanks were reduced to ambulances and several were destroyed.”

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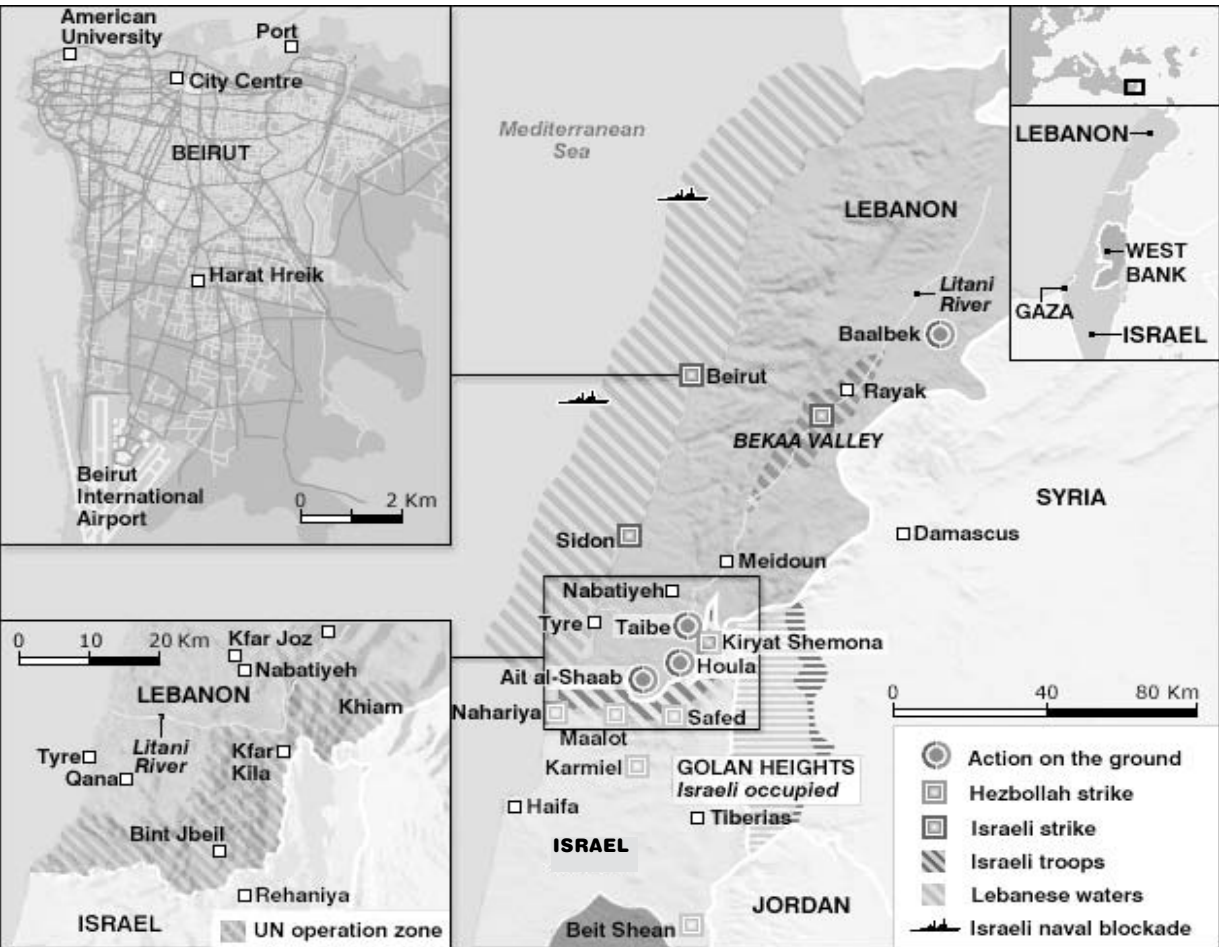
Ground war

A wide range of editorials in U.S. and Israeli newspapers—from the *Wall Street Journal* to the *Jerusalem Post*—have used these examples to press for a full ground invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon.

“We hope that, while Ms. [Condoleezza] Rice pursues diplomatic options, privately Mr. Bush is telling Mr. Olmert that Israel must finish the job he started against Hezbollah—including a ground invasion of southern Lebanon if that’s what it takes,” the *Wall Street Journal* editorialized August 1.

This would be the third time Israel has carried out such an invasion. In March 1978, a force of 25,000 Israeli soldiers invaded and occupied southern Lebanon up to the Litani River, withdrawing three months later. Then in 1982, Israel launched an all-out invasion, which at its height involved more than 60,000 Israeli troops. Israeli forces penetrated deep into the country and laid siege to Beirut. Following that war, Israel remained in Lebanon for 18 years, occupying a so-called buffer zone in southern Lebanon until 2000.

Hezbollah, a Lebanese organization based in the southern part of the country, emerged in the mid-1980s in the struggle against the Israeli occupation. In addition to its powerful



Map shows Israeli ground offensive in Lebanon as of August 1. Some 7,000 Israeli troops assaulted cities in the south while tens of thousands massed along border. The invasion reached deep into the Bekaa Valley, a base of the Hezbollah militia, including a commando raid on Baalbek in the north. Map shows population centers targeted in Israeli air assaults and naval blockade. Israeli warplanes bombed an apartment complex in town of Qana (see inset) July 30, killing some 60 civilians seeking shelter in basement.

militia in the south, Hezbollah has 14 seats in the Lebanese parliament.

Calls for ‘peacekeepers’

At a July 28 press conference with British prime minister Anthony Blair, President George Bush said, “A multinational force must be dispatched to Lebanon quickly, to augment a Lebanese army as it moves to the south of the country.”

It is not yet clear what countries would make up this force and when it might be deployed. U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice told reporters that the force would work with the government of Lebanon to “disarm armed groups” and enforce an international embargo against arms deliveries to any entity other than the Lebanese government.

The Lebanese government, whose

ministers include two supporters of Hezbollah, has indicated support for its deployment. The Israeli government says it will continue its operations in Lebanon until such a force is deployed.

War in Gaza

Meanwhile, Israel has continued its assault on the Gaza Strip, a territory controlled by the Palestinian National Authority that is home to 1.3 million Palestinians. According to the United Nations, Israeli forces killed 22 Palestinians in Gaza July 26—the highest one-day toll yet since Tel Aviv began its assault there on June 28. Israeli forces are firing an average of 200–250 artillery shells on the territory each day and have conducted more than 200 airstrikes since the operation began.

NATO takes over operations in southern Afghanistan

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) took over command July 31 from the U.S. military of operations in southern Afghanistan. The move places the imperialist military alliance at the center of combat operations by occupation forces there, a goal Washington has been pushing for.

NATO has expanded its operations in Afghanistan since its forces first deployed there three years ago. Some 18,000 troops are now operating under NATO in the northern, western, and now southern regions. This force is roughly the same size as the U.S.-led “coalition” invasion forces that overthrew the Taliban-led government there in 2001 and continues to operate under an independent U.S. command.

The U.S.-led force will still be operating throughout the country, including in areas under NATO command, NATO spokesman James Appathurai said July 26. It will center its operations in eastern Afghanistan, another region where the occupation forces

have engaged in intense combat.

NATO secretary general Jaap De Hoop Scheffer called the mission in the south “one of the most challenging tasks NATO has ever taken on.” It is the first major ground combat operation the alliance has engaged in since the end of the Cold War.

British lieutenant general David Richards, commander of the 8,000-strong NATO force that will deploy in the south, “indicated NATO would continue to use the heavy firepower that has been employed by the coalition in recent months in response to an escalation in militant attacks,” the Associated Press reported July 31.

More than 800 Afghans have been killed in fighting there since May, and 50 soldiers from the U.S.-led coalition have died since February, U.S. major general Benjamin Freakey told the media at the end of July.

The NATO force in the south will be composed primarily of British, Canadian, and Dutch soldiers. It also includes Australian, Estonian, Danish, Romanian, and U.S. troops.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

TEXAS
Houston

Legalize All Immigrants: Central Question for Workers Today. Speakers: Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, and others. Fri. Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.

Palestine and the Arabs’ fight for Liberation

by Fred Feldman and Georges Sayad

An overview of the Palestinian struggle from World War I to the beginning of the Intifada in 1987. \$6



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Immigrant rights conference

Continued from front page
student, and social service organizations.

Conference participants voted to build the next major event, the National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention, which will be held in Chicago August 11–13 to map out activities for the fall.

Jesse Diaz, a leader of the Los Angeles March 25th Coalition, which helped organize a demonstration of half a million in support of immigrant rights last March 25, reported on plans for a series of protests in Los Angeles around the Labor Day weekend. He said it will include the traditional labor council–organized Labor Day march on September 4, this year featuring support for the rights of immigrants. Diaz said a separate march organized by immigrant rights groups will be held September 2.

The conference voted to support a September 7 “Legalization now!” march in Washington, D.C., initiated by the Boston-based Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. It called for local activities across the

country on October 7 in conjunction with the Day of Migration Actions that will be organized across Europe by the World Social Forum. Another event endorsed by the conference was Camp Democracy, a September 5–21 encampment in Washington, D.C., to oppose the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

The conference was built around support for amnesty and resident status for undocumented immigrants; opposition to deportations, sanctions against employers who hire workers without papers, and the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border; and rejection of the two main “immigration reform” bills before Congress.

The House of Representatives has approved the so-called Sensenbrenner bill, which would make it a felony to live in the United States without proper papers and a crime for anyone to aid undocumented workers. The Senate measure, S2611, whose main sponsors are Senators Arlen Specter, Chuck Hagel, and Mel Martinez, would beef up the Border Patrol, establish a guest worker program, and allow some immigrants to gain legal status after paying heavy fees and meeting other requirements.

“I have come a long way but it is worth it to be able to share experiences with people fighting for the human rights of immigrants in so many different places,” said Vicente Rodríguez, a leader of the group Gente Unida in Los Angeles.

Gente Unida has been involved in organizing centers for day laborers and to counter efforts by the rightist Minutemen outfit to terrorize immigrants attempting to cross the border.

bosses’ profit drive since the beginning of the year.

“There is only one effective tool coal miners can use to ensure mine safety: a local of the United Mine Workers of America in every single mine,” said Hart, whose running mate for lieutenant governor is Anthony Lane, an underground coal miner in the Pittsburgh area. “A strong union can organize to enforce safety standards in the mines and walk off the job if the coal operators refuse to do so.”

The ruling against this “reactionary oath,” Hart said, “will encourage those, like ourselves, who are involved in the fight to defeat anti-working-class attacks on immigrants, from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, to Riverside, New Jersey.

“The massive working-class mobilizations point the road to unity for the working class,” he said. Labor must not only demand the legalization of all immigrants, but above all throw the power and resources of the union movement into this fight—in the streets, in workplaces, and in working-class communities across the U.S.”

Struggles such as these underscore the need for working people to take another step forward and build a labor party—our own party, based on the unions, independent of the Democrats, Republicans, and all other capitalist parties—to fight for the interests of working people.”

The SWP platform points to the necessary strategy for working people to win, said Hart, “a course toward building a revolutionary movement to take power out of the hands of the capitalists, establish a workers and farmers government, and join the worldwide struggle for socialism.”

New York meeting celebrates Cuban Revolution



Militant/Paul Pederson

Speakers at July 29 meeting at SEIU Local 1199 hall. From left, Venezuelan vice consul Jesús Arias; Ileana Núñez, Cuba’s UN deputy representative; Leonard Weinglass, member of Cuban Five legal team; and 1199 vice president Steven Kramer.

NEW YORK—About 170 people attended an event held here July 29 under the theme “Standing with Internationalist Cuba, in Solidarity with Venezuela and Bolivia.” It celebrated the 53rd anniversary of the opening of the Cuban revolutionary struggle on July 26, 1953, when a group of revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro attacked the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship’s Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba.

Ileana Núñez, Cuba’s deputy representative to the United Nations, outlined gains made by workers and farmers since the 1959 triumph of the revolution in health, education, social development, and internationalist solidarity. Washington has never let up its aggression against Cuba because “they fear our example,” she said. The U.S. government has earmarked \$80 million “to plan for a supposed political transition” in Cuba, she noted, but “the only kind of transition in Cuba will be toward strengthening socialism and preserving our gains.” Venezuelan vice consul Jesús Arias pointed to the contributions of Cuban volunteer doctors and teachers in his country and said Venezuela would continue to stand up to U.S. destabilization efforts. Leonard Weinglass, a member of the legal team representing five Cuban revolutionaries framed and locked up in U.S. jails, spoke about that case. Also speaking were Larry Hamm, chairman of the People’s Organization for Progress, which two days earlier hosted a public meeting for Núñez in a Black community in Newark, New Jersey; Rev. Lucius Walker of IFCO/Pastors for Peace; and Bonnie Massey of the Venceremos Brigade. Plans were also announced to hold a September 12 march and rally here to demand the release of the Cuban Five as part of an international campaign.

—MARTÍN KOPPEL

Socialists file for ballot in Pennsylvania

Continued from front page
state Bureau of Commissions, Elections, and Legislation accepted the petitions for Staggs.

“By filing today, and refusing to sign the ‘loyalty oath,’ we have affirmed this significant victory for political rights,” said Staggs, a packinghouse worker in Philadelphia. “It strengthens the working class and labor movement. It puts us on a better footing to resist the capitalists’ assault on our living standards and job conditions, as well as their wars and preparations for war against other working people, from the Middle East to South America and the Caribbean.”

Osborne Hart, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, joined Staggs and other campaign supporters in the state capital to file the petitions. Both in Pennsylvania and across the country, Hart said, the capitalist government has sought “to maintain restrictions like this to try to muzzle worker and farmer resistance. Today, our campaign is calling on working people to speak out and protest the murderous assault by the Israeli government on the people of Lebanon and Washington’s support for this war,” he said.

‘Not a single miner has to die’

“We are campaigning to advance support for workers’ struggles to organize unions and use them to turn back the bosses’ attacks,” said Hart.

“We say that not one single miner has to die in the country’s mines,” he explained, pointing to the death on July 30 of Jermei Heckler, a contract welder at the Star Bridge coal preparation plant in Mill Creek, West Virginia. Heckler is the 37th coal miner to die from the

Meeting in New Jersey town discusses how to fight anti-immigrant measure

BY CAROLE LESNICK

RIVERSIDE, New Jersey—Some 300 people attended a meeting at the Clube Português on July 30 in Riverside, New Jersey, to discuss how to fight an anti-immigrant law unanimously passed four days earlier by the five-member Township Council here. The meeting was sponsored by the Riverside Coalition of Businessmen and Landlords, which opposes the new law.

The legislation is modeled after an anti-immigrant measure passed recently in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and some other towns. The “Illegal Immigration Relief Act” establishes fines starting at \$1,000 for anyone who hires or rents to people who cannot prove they are legally in the United States. Violators

could also lose their business permit for five years.

Riverside, a town near Philadelphia, has a population of 8,000. As many as 2,000 to 3,000 of its current inhabitants are recent immigrants, many from Brazil.

Residents say the ordinance initially had a chilling effect on many immigrants, but they have begun returning to the streets. Some said they had attended demonstrations for immigrant rights in nearby Philadelphia in April and May. “We are here to defeat this ordinance with the power of the people because we need to live in dignity and peace,” Franco Ordóñez, one of the residents who attended the protest meeting, told the *Militant*.

N.Y. protest opposes rightist Minutemen

BY MARSHALL LAMBIE

NEW YORK—Some 100 supporters of immigrants’ rights picketed here July 26 to counter an action held at the former World Trade Center site by 50 Minutemen, a rightist group that patrols the border to terrorize workers crossing into the United States.

“We’re here to protest the Minutemen, a group that promotes the lie that immigrants are the cause of all evils in this country,” said Miguel Angeles from Asociación Tepeyac, a local advocacy group for immigrants from Mexico.

Among those joining in the counter-protest were members of the New York May 1st Coalition, Coney Island Avenue Project, and Bayan Philippine. The protesters chanted slogans and carried signs saying “No human being is illegal” and “Stop the deportations.”

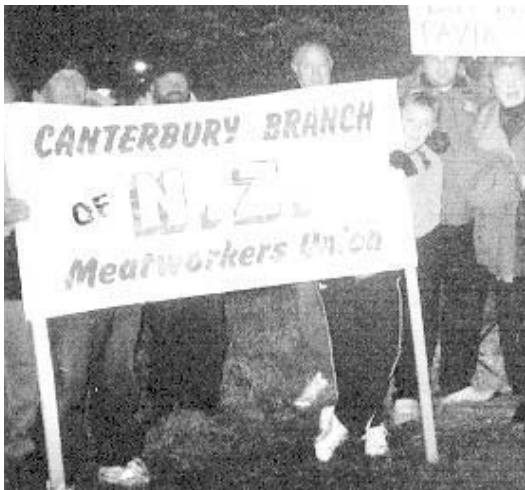
“We need to legalize all those in this country without putting hoops for them to jump through or other obstacles and steps to achieve that,” said Bobby Khan, executive director of the Coney Island Avenue Project, which defends the rights of Pakistanis and other South Asians.

New Zealand meat workers strike for better wages

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—Meat workers conducted a one-week strike starting July 24 against the Southmore meat processing plant, 18 miles south of here. The 24 workers voted to take the action to protest the company's 3.5 percent pay offer.

"We have gone on strike because the company doesn't want to pay a decent wage," said union delegate Shona Hampton.

The union is asking for a 12 percent wage increase. "Current wages here are 30 percent to 50 percent lower than many meat workers and we want pay parity," said Bill Watts, Canterbury branch president of the



New Zealand meat workers on strike July 24

New Zealand Meatworkers Union (NZMWU). The union has sent out a letter to all members appealing for

funds to buy grocery vouchers for the striking workers.

Progressive Enterprises LTD owns Southmore. It also operates the Foodtown, Woolworths, and Countdown supermarket chains. The Southmore plant processes beef, chicken, lamb, and pigs for these supermarkets. Workers at other Progressive-owned supermarkets are now discussing taking industrial action over their contracts.

—Ruth Gray

China: workers protest pay, conditions at McDonald's plant

About 1,000 workers protested conditions at a factory in Guangdong province, China, that makes toys for McDonald's restaurants. Workers at

the Hengli factory in Dongguan City demonstrated July 22–23, starting in their dorms and then by the plant, over low wages, lack of holidays, and poor living conditions, according to New York-based China Labor Watch.

Employees at the factory are forced by management to work 11 hours a day, six days a week. They are paid on a piece-rate basis and have wages deducted if they refuse overtime, which is paid at the regular hourly rate. Monthly wages are 600–800 yuan (US\$75 and US\$100), with the company deducting about one-third of this for room and board. About 100 Chinese cops and factory guards cracked down on the protesters, arresting dozens of workers.

—Brian Williams

Trotsky: WWII not inevitable until defeat of Spanish revolution

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War. In 1931, with the collapse of the monarchy and establishment of a republic, a revolutionary upsurge began. Peasants fought for a land reform, workers battled for improved wages, control over job conditions, social advances, and democratic rights. In the revolutionary battles that swept Spain for much of the 1930s, workers and peasants challenged capitalist rule. Threatened by the spread of popular uprisings across the country, the Spanish capitalists turned to fascist general Francisco Franco, who launched a war against the republican government in July 1936.

The dominant forces in the workers movement, however—the Socialist Party, Communist Party, centrists, and anarchists—allied themselves with representatives of the liberal bourgeoisie in forming the so-called Popular Front government, which actively sought to block the struggles of working people and eventually led to the defeat of the revolution and victory of the fascists.

Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky explained that a victorious revolution in Spain, led by a revolutionary workers party, would have changed the relationship of class forces internationally, shaking the fascist regimes in Germany and Italy and increasing the prospects for revolution elsewhere. The imperialist slaughter of World War II did not become inevitable with the Nazi rise to power in 1933, but only with the defeat of the Spanish revolution.

Below are excerpts from an article, "The lesson of Spain," that was published in the September 1936 issue of *Socialist Appeal*, then the magazine of the left wing of the U.S. Socialist Party, which Trotsky's co-thinkers had joined earlier that year. Copyright ©1973 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.



BY LEON TROTSKY

At the present time, while this is being written, the civil war in Spain has not yet terminated. The workers of the entire world feverishly await news of the victory of the Spanish proletariat. If this victory is won, as we firmly hope, it will be necessary to say: the workers have triumphed this time in spite of the fact that their leadership did everything to bring about their defeat. All the greater honor and glory to the Spanish working class!

In Spain, the Socialists and Commu-

nists belong to the Popular Front, which already betrayed the revolution once, but which, thanks to the workers and peasants, once again attained victory, and in February created a "republican" government. Six months afterwards, the "republican" army took the field against the people. Thus it became clear that the Popular Front government had maintained the military caste with the people's money, furnished them with authority, power, and arms, and given them command over young workers and peasants, thereby facilitating the preparations for a crushing attack on the workers and peasants.

More than that, even now, in the midst of civil war, the Popular Front government does everything in its power to make victory doubly difficult. A civil war is waged, as everybody knows, not only with military but also with political weapons. From a purely military point of view, the Spanish revolution is much weaker than its enemy. Its strength lies in its ability to rouse the great masses to action. It can even take the army away from its reactionary officers. To accomplish this, it is only necessary to seriously and courageously advance the

program of the socialist revolution.

It is necessary to proclaim that, from now on, the land, factories, and shops will pass from the hands of the capitalists into the hands of the people. It is necessary to move at once toward the realization of this program in those provinces where the workers are in power. The fascist army could not resist the influence of such a program for twenty-four hours; the soldiers would tie their officers hand and foot and turn them over to the nearest headquarters of the workers' militia. But the bourgeois ministers cannot accept such a program. Curbing the social revolution, they compel the workers and peasants to spill ten times as much of their own blood in the civil war. And to crown everything, these gentlemen expect to disarm the workers again after victory and to force them to respect the sacred laws of private property. Such is the true essence of the policy of the Popular Front. Everything else is pure humbug, phrases, and lies!

The victory of the people means the end of the Popular Front and the beginning of Soviet Spain. The victorious social revolution in Spain will inevitably

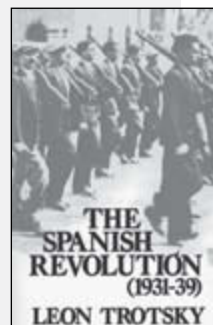
spread out over the rest of Europe. For the fascist hangmen of Italy and Germany, it will be incomparably more terrible than all the diplomatic pacts and all the military alliances.

Further Reading

The Spanish Revolution (1931–39)

by Leon Trotsky

In response to a growing social crisis and faced with fascist attack, Spanish workers and peasants seized factories and land. It was the Stalinist and other misleaderships and their "popular front" course, which allied the workers movement with the capitalists, that prevented the possibility of a revolutionary triumph. \$31



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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 28, 1981

OBERLIN, Ohio, August 10—The 500 striking air controllers at the Cleveland Center facility here are part of the national strike by over 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. PATCO is part of the Marine Engineers Benevolent Association and is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO. They are on strike against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is trying to bust their union and impose intolerable working conditions.

The air controllers went on strike Monday, August 3, after 95 percent voted against a contract proposed by Reagan's Secretary of Transportation, Drew Lewis.

When they walked off the job, Reagan denounced them. He described as "patriotic" the scabs crossing the picket lines. He gave the workers forty-eight hours to return to work or be fired and "barred for life" from federal jobs.



August 13, 1956

The tremendous rallying throughout the Arab world and Asia in defense of Egypt's right to nationalize the Suez Canal Company is causing U.S., British and French imperialism to have second thoughts about invasion of Egypt and seizure of the canal. Whether these second thoughts will restrain the imperialists from naked military aggression against Egypt that could convert the whole Middle East into a second Korean holocaust cannot yet be said. Military preparations by Great Britain and France—mobilization of reserves, hasty dispatch of paratroopers, aircraft carriers and battleships to the Mediterranean, continue. The U.S. Navy's atom-equipped Sixth Fleet has been sent steaming to within striking distance of Egypt. High-placed officials—from members of Parliament in Britain and the government in France to Senator [Joseph] McCarthy in this country are calling for the sending of battleships to the canal to provoke the Egyptians into firing the first shot.



August 15, 1931

Confronted with no serious break in the ranks of the Paterson silk strikers, the police agents of the bosses are proceeding to the attempt at breaking the backbone of the movement by the policy of mass arrests and the clubbing of pickets. Last Tuesday alone brought about the arrest of fifty-two strikers. While most of the pickets were seized by the police in front of a Paterson dye plant, more than a dozen others were arrested at the conclusion of a sharp encounter between the police and strikers who attempted to cross the city line leading to Clifton, neighboring upon Paterson, where the strikers are attempting to get the support of the many silk workers employed. At the city line, the police threw a cordon across the street and for hours kept a mass of strikers from passing through. However, the militancy of the workers finally prevailed and despite police efforts, a number of them succeeded in breaking through the cordon of police.

‘I was expelled by Batista regime, embraced by Cuban revolutionaries’

HAVANA—The following interview with Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda appeared in the July 21 issue of the Cuban daily *Granma*. Cancel Miranda is one of five Puerto Rican Nationalist Party members who spent a quarter century in U.S. prisons following armed protests they carried out in Washington against colonial rule, including one in 1954 inside the Capitol building. Released in 1979 through an international defense campaign, he has remained a prominent leader of the independence movement.

At a July 7 ceremony in Havana, Cancel Miranda was awarded the José Martí Order, the highest honor issued by the Cuban government to non-Cuban leaders. The event was held at the Puerto Rican mission in Havana, a diplomatic office for the independence movement.

In bestowing the honor, Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, said his government was “fulfilling a duty, because you too have been a tireless defender of our country, in Puerto Rico as well as in prison. You have always stood with us and Cuba will always stand with the Puerto Rican fighters who continue to struggle.”

Alarcón added, “Though Puerto Rico is today a colony, for us it is and will always be a Latin American and Caribbean nation, which will one day achieve its full sovereignty and become an independent state.” The event was attended by nearly 100 Puerto Rican *independentistas*, visiting Cuba for the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Puerto Rican mission here.

The translation and bracketed material are by the *Militant*.

—Mary-Alice Waters

BY ORLANDO ORAMAS LEÓN

I went for a story and came back with two, which is not surprising since the subject of my interview is Rafael Cancel Miranda, the Puerto Rican patriot and emblem of the independence struggle.

We agreed to talk about his Cuban anecdotes, because he lived in Cuba and he was caught here by the 1952 coup [by U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista].

“I was in high school in Puerto Rico when I refused the U.S. draft. I was sentenced to two years and one day and

sent to a prison in Tallahassee, Florida, where I remained from 1949 to 1951. I couldn’t get a reduced sentence because I threw some punches at an abusive cop. I got out when I was 20. When I arrived in Puerto Rico the Yankees wanted to jail me again for the same thing. My family and friends decided I should come to Cuba.”

Young Cancel Miranda landed in Santiago de Cuba using a different identity, Rafael Rodríguez, the second last name of his father, a fearless Nationalist leader. It was in the days of misrule by Carlos Prío Socarrás, which the Puerto Rican experienced firsthand.

“I arrived in Havana by bus. Through the son of [Puerto Rican independence leader Pedro] Albizu Campos, I was provided housing at the Civil Damages Office, which was on Obispo Street. It was headed by Aracelio Azcuy, a politician of those days. Those were the days of *botellas* [no-show patronage jobs] and *garroteros* [loansharks]. A fake job appeared under the name of Lázaro Babot, who never came to collect. I told Azcuy, ‘Give it to me—I’ll do the job.’ That’s how I started at the Public Works, using a pick and shovel on the streets.”

By then they called him Lázaro from

Santiago, because of his accent, which sounded so much like that of eastern Cubans, and which he attributes to the constant exchange between the eastern part of the Largest of the Antilles and his island, of which [Cuban leaders] “José Ramón Balaguer and Pedro Ross are descendants.”

“There was a lot of poverty in Cuba. Saturnino, a Black man who worked with me, would tell me, ‘I see that all you eat is bread and bananas.’ Things are rough, I told him, and when he learned that I was staying at the Civil Damages Office, he told me to go to his house and that there he would ‘fix up a little room.’ I went there, and it was conditions of extreme hardship. I told him, thank you, brother, for sharing your poverty with me. From that moment on, his mom would send me, in the lunch bucket she prepared for Saturnino, a *pisito* with fried plantains and other things. It was a gesture I will never forget.”



Granma/Jorge Luis González

Ricardo Alarcón (right), president of Cuban National Assembly, awards lifelong Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda the José Martí Order July 7 in Havana.

Another no-show job, this one without a name, took him to work on the construction of the Línea Street Tunnel, which connects the two banks of the Almendares River. There, confronting “the exploiting and arrogant *gringo*,” he reciprocated the solidarity shown him by the Cubans.

“Raymond Concrete Pipe Co. was in charge of building the tunnel. I began wielding a pick and shovel, then working as a pipe builder, and later as head of a crew of 12 or 15 men. I was there about eight months and made some good friends. I remember the loansharks would take deductions out of the workers’ wages. There were several fatal accidents, but those lives meant little

Continued on page 9

‘We have had the privilege to fight’

Continued from front page

of Cuba’s contribution to the literacy of hundreds of thousands throughout the world,” wrote Fernando González from the federal prison in Oxford, Wisconsin. Saluting the people of Granma, René González, who is incarcerated in Marianna, Florida, told the rally, “Breaking the wall of silence, the echo of each victory in Cuba reaches our cells. . . Each triumph of our people sows dignity, ideas, and solidarity, which in turn find fertile ground beyond our borders.”

Together with Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino, all five have now been imprisoned for close to eight years, even though nearly a year ago an appellate court in Atlanta overturned their convictions on the grounds that they had not received a fair trial in Miami. That decision has been appealed by the U.S. government.

Castro focused his speech on the

achievements of the people of Granma since 2002, when several major social campaigns were launched. Among numerous examples he cited was the program to introduce computers in elementary education. The effort that started with one computer in a primary school with 18 students in the town of Pílon has now become a computer training program benefiting 75,000 elementary school students throughout the province with access to more than 2,000 computers.

Stressing the educational, health, and other gains over the last four years, the Cuban president said, “The truth is Granma does not need any Yankee transition plan to teach our people to read and write or to vaccinate them and provide health care.” The Cuban Revolution itself was the “transition” the Cuban people fought and died for, he noted.

Castro was referring to a report released July 5 by the U.S. government’s cabinet-level Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, which proclaims that Washington will offer health care, education, housing opportunities, and humanitarian assistance to Cubans during a period of “transition” from socialism back to capitalism—if the revolutionary government is first overthrown by forces Washington deems “democratic.”

The subject of much popular derision in Cuba today, the plans being laid in Washington provide for wresting homes, land, and basic industry from the workers and peasants of the island, and returning them to their pre-1959 owners, who many decades ago fled to Miami and elsewhere.

Castro pointed out that solar panels to provide electricity for TVs and other equipment have been installed at 485 schools in Granma—a third of them with

fewer than five students and 24 with one student and one teacher each.

“Not a penny’s worth of fuel is used for the electricity needed,” he reminded his listeners, adding that the resources devoted to maintaining these schools is an important commitment not only to the children, but to women of Cuba as well.

The only alternative, he noted, one rejected by the revolutionary leadership of Cuba, would have been for the mothers of the children attending these small rural schools to assume responsibility for their education.

That evening in the eastern city of Holguín, Castro dedicated the province’s new integrated system of small generating plants. Linked to the national grid, these units have boosted electrical production in the country by more than 100,000 megawatts. The largest such complex of generators yet installed in the country—119 at 27 sites located in 13 of the area’s 14 municipalities—is part of the multifaceted campaign under way here in what is known as “the year of the energy revolution.”

Taken together, the measures being implemented will cut electrical consumption by more than 50 percent by installing more energy-efficient industrial equipment, making millions of energy-efficient household electrical appliances available at subsidized prices (to date, 8 million to 9 million have been distributed to homes throughout Cuba), while increasing electric generating capacity and decentralizing it to strengthen the country’s readiness to resist military aggression.

The military threat is one Cubans take seriously in light of Washington’s announced “transition plans” and its growing hostility to the social and po-

Continued on page 9



Granma/José Correa

Some 100,000 people turned out for July 26 celebration in eastern Cuban city of Bayamo. Billboard reads, “Revolution means full equality and freedom.”

Iowa SWP campaign

Continued from front page

standards and rights of working people at home.”

The Socialist Workers Party campaign in Iowa has launched its effort to get on the ballot in the November elections. In addition to Newberry, the socialists are running Kevin Dwire for lieutenant governor, Frank Forrestal for secretary of agriculture, and Helen Meyers for U.S. Congress in the third district.

In the first weekend of petitioning in late July, some 1,200 people signed to put the working-class ticket on the Iowa ballot. The campaign is organizing to collect 2,500 signatures, twice the official requirement.

“The big majority of those who signed were workers. We had rubber workers, truck drivers, UPS employees, construction workers, roofers, landscapers, restaurant workers, meat packers, teachers, and many others sign,” Joe Swanson, organizer of the petitioning effort, told the *Militant*.

One aspect of the socialist election platform that has drawn support is the

demand for immediate unconditional permanent residency for all undocumented workers.

“The fight for the legalization of immigrants strengthens the working class as a whole,” Newberry said. “The recent immigrant rights march in Chicago of 30,000 people and the projected actions over the coming weeks in support of legalization are actions we urge all workers and farmers to participate in.”

“I like what she had to say,” commented Stacy Howard after she signed Newberry’s petition. “It’s a good idea to have a campaign that stands up for working people. I also like what she said about not cutting Social Security. I was a restaurant worker and now I am fighting to get Social Security disability support due to work injuries.”

One couple, retired farmers, signed the petition and told socialist candidate Forrestal that their number one concern is the drought and that many farmers cannot afford crop insurance if they face losses.

“We call for government-funded

thousands of high school students. Repeal the exit exam legislation.”

This year, for the first time, youth who meet all other requirements to graduate from high school are being denied a diploma if they do not pass a state “exit exam.” This law disproportionately hits

Continued on page 9

SWP launches California ticket

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign from across the state met here July 29–30 to nominate the 2006 SWP candidates in California. Heading the ticket are James Harris for governor and Lea Sherman for U.S. Senate. Harris is a meat packer in Los Angeles. Sherman works in a garment warehouse in San Francisco.

The socialists have also nominated Chauncey Robinson, chair of the Young Socialists chapter in Los Angeles, for California Secretary of State; and three candidates for U.S. Congress: Gerardo Sanchez, a meat packer in San Francisco, in District 8; Naomi Craine, a sewing machine operator and member of UNITE HERE, in District 34; and Young Socialist member Michael Ortega in District 35. SWP leader Joel Britton is the party’s candidate for the San Francisco Board of Education.

“We are presenting a working-class alternative to the Democrats, Republicans, and other capitalist candidates at a time when massive working-class political actions have taken place to demand the legalization of all immigrants,” said Harris. “This is not just an ‘immigrant’ issue—this struggle has given a powerful boost to the entire working class to stand up to the assaults by the employers and their government.”

“Our campaign is an active part of this movement,” continued Harris. “We are urging all our campaign supporters, co-workers, and others to help involve the broadest forces possible to build important immigrant rights actions called for the Labor Day weekend.”

In Los Angeles, the March 25 Coalition has called a march on September 2 to demand legalization and an end to immigration police raids and deportations. Other actions are being planned in the Bay Area and elsewhere.

The SWP campaign platform includes the demand to “defend and extend affirmative action in employment, education, and housing” to combat the continued racist discrimination that is endemic to capitalist society. The Socialist Workers candidates in California are also demanding, “End the denial of diplomas to tens of

Proclamation by Fidel Castro delegating responsibilities

The following is the text of a statement by Cuban president Fidel Castro, broadcast the evening of July 31 on Havana radio and television, informing the Cuban people that he had been hospitalized for major surgery and outlining the decisions he had taken on delegating his leadership responsibilities.

As a result of the enormous effort I made to visit the Argentine city of Córdoba to participate in the meeting of Mercosur, in the closing ceremony of the Summit of the Peoples at the historic University of Córdoba, and in the visit to Altagracia, the city where Che [Guevara] spent his childhood, and, along with all this, to attend immediately the commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of the assault on the Moncada and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks on July 26, 1953, in Granma and Holguín provinces, days and nights of continuous work, barely being able to sleep, my health, which has withstood all trials, was subjected to extreme stress and broke down.

This provoked an acute intestinal crisis, with sustained bleeding, that obliged me to face a complicated surgical operation. All details of this health accident are evident in the X-rays, endoscopies, and filmed materials. The operation forces me to spend several weeks of rest, away from my responsibilities and duties.

Because our country is threatened under these circumstances by the United States government, I have made the following decisions:

1. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba to the Second Secretary,



Militant/Bernie Senter

In Florida, Eric Simpson (right), SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in 17th CD, campaigns at July 23 protest in Avon Lake against proposed anti-immigrant city ordinance.

affordable credit for working farmers and price supports to cover production costs. We also demand protection for working farmers who suffer losses from drought and floods,” said Forrestal, a meat packer who works on the kill floor at Tyson Foods, a pork processor in Perry, Iowa.

The party’s campaign focus on the need to use union power to defend workers was welcomed by many who face contract fights or layoffs. Several petition signers were workers who had recently lost their jobs at the Maytag plant in Newton, Iowa. The plant, in operation since 1893, will permanently close in 2007, laying off some 1,800 workers.

A number of workers from the Firestone Agricultural Tire plant in this

city also signed the socialist petitions. These workers are operating under an old contract that expired July 22. Workers at the Steelworkers-organized plant told campaigners at the shift change that the company is pushing for across-the-board concessions, including contracted-out work, a two-tier wage system with lower pay for new employees, increased health insurance co-payments, and no retiree medical and pension coverage for new hires.

A couple dozen people attended a bar-becue and meet-the-candidates event July 29, contributing more than \$650 to the SWP campaign. Campaigners are carrying out another big week of activity to collect the remaining signatures by August 6.

comrade Raúl Castro Ruz.

2. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as Commander in Chief of the Heroic Revolutionary Armed Forces to the aforementioned comrade, Army General Raúl Castro Ruz.

3. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as President of the Council of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba to the First Vice President, comrade Raúl Castro Ruz.

4. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as principal promoter of the national and international program of public health to comrade José Ramón Balaguer Cabrera, member of the Political Bureau and Minister of Public Health.

5. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as principal promoter of the national and international program of education to comrades José Ramón Machado Ventura and Esteban Lazo Hernández, members of the Political Bureau.

6. I delegate, on a provisional basis, my functions as principal promoter of the national program of the energy revolution in Cuba, and cooperation with other countries in this field, to comrade Carlos Lage Dávila, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The funds required for these three programs—health, education, and energy—must continue to be managed and prioritized, as I have been doing personally, by comrades Carlos Lage Dávila, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; Francisco Soberón Valdés, Minister President of the Central Bank of Cuba; and Felipe Pérez Roque, Minister of Foreign Re-

lations, who accompanied me in these tasks and who must form a commission for that purpose.

Our glorious Communist Party, supported by the mass organizations and all the people, has the mission to assume the task recommended in this proclamation.

The Summit of the Movement of Nonaligned Nations, to be held September 11–16, must be given the closest attention by the state and the Cuban nation so it may be held with the greatest brilliance on the appointed date.

Regarding the 80th anniversary of my birth, which thousands of people so generously agreed to celebrate next August 13, I ask everyone to postpone it until December 2 of this year, the 50th anniversary of the landing of the *Granma*.

I ask the Party’s Central Committee and the National Assembly of People’s Power for the firmest support to this proclamation. I have not the slightest doubt that our people and our Revolution will fight to the last drop of blood to defend this and other ideas and measures that may be necessary to safeguard this historic process.

Imperialism will never be able to crush Cuba. The battle of ideas will go forward.

Long live the homeland!
Long live the Revolution!
Long live socialism!
Ever onward to victory!

s/Fidel Castro Ruz
Commander in Chief
First Secretary of the Party and President of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba
July 31, 2006, at 6:22 p.m.

Cuba, Black rights, and opposition to war in Vietnam

Below is an excerpt from Out Now! one of Pathfinder's books of the month for August. The author, Fred Halstead, was a participant and leader of the international movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam. His account shows that this movement drew strength in the United States from the social upheavals of the 1960s—above all the fight for Black rights and the Cuban Revolution. Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FRED HALSTEAD

Between 1960 and 1965 a radicalization of some of the youth in the U.S. began to appear, not around Vietnam at first, but around two other issues: the Cuban revolution and the civil rights struggle in the South. Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista was overthrown by Castro's guerrillas on New Year's Day, 1959. The first Black student sit-in occurred at a Woolworth dime store lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960.

From the time the Cubans nationalized their major industries in 1960 through the Cuban missile crisis of



Militant/Flax Hermes

Contingent of Blacks participate in march in San Francisco against the U.S. war in Vietnam, April 15, 1967. Civil rights struggle helped spur this anti-war movement.

1962, the U.S. perspective for military attack on Cuba was hardly a secret. The opening gambit in such an attack was launched by CIA-organized Cuban counterrevolutionaries in April 1961. It was crushed at the Bay of Pigs before the beachhead could be established.

In the U.S. a series of educational meetings and demonstrations were held opposing intervention in Cuba. These were organized mainly by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. This was, in a very real sense, an antiwar movement, but one which the old peace movement refused to endorse. Radical pacifist Dave Dellinger, however, played a prominent role in these activities.

At first the Cuban revolution received widespread sympathy in the U.S., particularly among the youth, but after U.S. holdings were nationalized in 1960 and the full force of the anti-communist campaign was unleashed against the Castro regime, support by

adult liberals tended to fall away. The Fair Play for Cuba Committee became a united front of American radicals and pro-revolutionary Cuban residents of the U.S. (The political complexion of the Cuban-American community reversed itself over the next few years as many of those favoring the revolution returned to their homeland and many of those against it emigrated to the U.S.)

The Fair Play committee established a precedent for united activity of several sectors of the American left that had not been on speaking terms for many years. For example, at a demonstration of 5,000 in New York's Union Square protesting the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, two of the main speakers were Peter Camejo of the Trotskyist Young Socialist Alliance and Mike Stein of Advance, a youth group associated with the Communist Party. It was the presence on the scene of a new and broader force—in this case the Cuban Americans—that impelled this unity.

(Both Camejo and Stein would later play significant roles in the anti-Vietnam War movement.)

The Southern civil rights struggle was sparked by college students and gave birth to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), originally affiliated with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and based mainly on Black campuses in the South. There was widespread support by Northern students, including picketing of stores in the Woolworth chain. In addition some Northern students and sympathizers went South on such activities as Freedom Rides, SNCC community organizing projects, and the Mississippi summer voter registration campaigns.

A central issue in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement (FSM), which burst forth in the fall 1964 semester, was the right of students to carry out support activities on the Berkeley campus of the University of California for the Southern civil rights struggle. Jack Weinberg, later a member of the Independent Socialist Club, was arrested for setting up a table for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Several thousand students surrounded the police car in which Weinberg was under arrest and for two days used its roof as a stage for speeches while Weinberg sat inside.

By the end of 1964, then, there existed a few thousand young people who had already begun to consider and adopt radical ideas and who had become activists to one degree or another around the Southern civil rights struggle and/or the Cuban revolution. These youth were ready, willing, and able to enter a struggle against the Vietnam War, but they could not do so through the old peace movement coalition, which was still dominated by the shibboleths of the cold war.

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Legalization of all immigrants now!

Continued from front page

gest and most significant working-class political actions in decades. This includes the 2 million-strong action on May 1, the first nationwide political general strike in U.S. history. Workers who did not go to work that day set a vanguard example for others.

Foreign-born workers have gained confidence in speaking out and becoming involved in political and union activity. Their actions have also had an impact on native-born workers, making it easier to break down employer-fostered divisions. And many immigrants are more predisposed to shed prejudices about their U.S.-born brothers and sisters. This process is living proof that the unfolding wave of immigration has irreversibly strengthened the working class.

Protesters have rejected the bill passed by the House of Representatives that would criminalize all 12 million undocumented workers. The Senate-approved bill should also be rejected—it would reinforce the police crackdown on the border, expand a “guest worker” program, and offer legal status to

some after meeting a number of onerous conditions including dependence on employers.

The U.S. government’s immigration policy—including both the House and Senate bills—aims not to expel all the undocumented, but rather to maintain a permanent layer of workers in pariah status, superexploited for the profit of the bosses. This allows employers to foster divisions among our class. The fight for legalization of all undocumented immigrants is in the interests of the *entire* working class, foreign- and U.S.-born: it is the only way to effectively counter the divide-and-rule tactics of the ruling rich.

The continued mass street actions, conferences, and other events advocating full legalization will provide opportunities to draw more forces in the fight to oppose factory raids, deportations, the National Guard border deployment, and other efforts to criminalize workers without papers. The labor movement, especially, must champion the fight for immediate, unconditional permanent residency for all.

A victory for political rights

A significant victory for the working class and labor movement has been won thanks to a challenge of a “loyalty oath” by the Socialist Workers Party campaign in Pennsylvania. The state attorney general told Pennsylvania election officials July 25 to “discontinue use of the oath” requiring all candidates for public office in the state to swear they are “not a subversive person.”

Since 1951, when the Pennsylvania Loyalty Act was passed, this reactionary oath has been a danger to the political rights of every working person, to the union movement, and to defenders of free speech. Its demise is an aid to militant workers fighting to organize and strengthen the unions. It removes an obstacle to political activity by candidates like those on the Socialist Workers Party ticket who advocate revolutionary change: taking power from the handful of capitalist families in the United States and establishing a workers and farmers government.

The successful campaign over the past year by SWP candidates challenged the oath, both politically and legally, and helped explain the stakes in the fight.

Attorney general spokesperson William Frederiksen told the *Militant* that the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Communist Party of Indiana vs. Whitcomb*, which declared the oath unconstitutional, was “very clear.” But evidently not clear enough to stop the state’s propertied rulers and government representatives from enforcing this thought-control measure for another 32 years!

Why did they keep it in place? Not as an anachronistic vestige of the past. They’ve been holding it in reserve for today and tomorrow, as they prepare to meet not only union resistance but independent working-class *political* opposition to assaults on our wages and conditions, and as they carry out imperialist wars abroad.

Now the employing class has one less weapon in its political arsenal. This victory shows that blows can be dealt to the capitalists’ efforts to attack the rights of working people—from organizing unions, to mobilizing opposition to anti-immigrant ordinances in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and other cities, and more.

SWP launches California campaign

Continued from page 7

young people of oppressed nationalities. In 2002 the passing rate on this exam was 28 percent for students who are Black and 30 percent for Latinos, compared to 65 percent for students classified as “white” and 70 percent for Asian youth.

Congressional candidate Sánchez pointed out that many jobs require a high school diploma. “The ruling class wants to keep these youth in a lower status so they can be superexploited,” he said. “It’s like what Malcolm X said, what we get is not education, it’s miseducation.”

In addition to campaigning in California, the socialists are planning deeper involvement with other workers, from the coalfields of Utah to the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico, who are fighting to build or strengthen unions and defend their health and livelihoods,.

Campaigners will be collecting the signatures and filing fee needed to place Britton on the ballot for San Francisco Board of Education. Due to restrictive ballot access laws, they will petition for the other SWP nominees to obtain official status as write-in candidates.

July 26 celebration in Cuba

Continued from page 6

litical advances being registered by the people of Venezuela. Not only do the governments in Havana and Caracas collaborate on many initiatives, but tens of thousands of Cubans are today living and working in Venezuela as doctors, teachers, and agricultural specialists, and contributing to numerous other social programs.

The rally in Holguín was addressed by representatives of the thousands of young Venezuelans and Bolivians studying in the province, as well as by a representative of the Cuban families hosting Latin American medical students in their homes.

Saluting their presence, and the advances being registered by the struggles in their countries, Castro also addressed the people of Cuba saying, “Let us enjoy the satisfaction of having fought for more than half a century, under threats, blockade and Special Period, which will be medals held high not only by

the children and Cuban families. They will be carried by the children of other Latin American peoples too, because we are not foreigners to you, and you will never be foreigners to us.”

“It encourages us to know that it is those of us on this planet who defend justice, true freedom, true human rights who are increasing in numbers,” Castro noted, “not those who attack and kill hundreds of thousands of human beings, as is now occurring in Lebanon, a peaceful country, deserving of international sympathy and respect, whose people are being massacred, bombed and invaded by Yankee imperialism.”

On the eve of July 26, bonfires lit the streets of Havana block by block as, throughout the day, neighbors contributed vegetables, meats and spices for the block’s soup “chef” to take charge of. Once the hearty *caldosa* was ready, young and old savored it and mingled, some dancing—as midnight brought another 26th of July.

Cancel Miranda

Continued from page 6

to the owners of the company. Then the gringo supervisor, a big guy named Smith, started insulting the Cubans in English, which they didn’t understand. I’d already been in prison in Florida and knew the language pretty well. I dished back at the American all his swearwords, and a few more I knew from prison. That was the end of that job.”

Around the same time the events of March 10, 1952, took place. “We went to sleep with Prío and woke up with Batista,” Cancel recalls people saying at the time. The Puerto Rican even wanted to respond to the coup with arms, but...

“Azcu, that loudmouth politician of the Civil Damages Office, used to ask me to campaign for him, to write his speeches, but I would tell him no, because Puerto Rico had many friends in Cuba and I didn’t want to get mixed up in that horse trading. When the Batista coup happened, I slipped into his office, because Azcu had a lot of light weapons, and I told him, ‘OK, now.’ But I had the bad luck of volunteering to the wrong person, because he chickened out. If I had hooked up with Fidel, the story would have been different and I might even have been involved in the attack on the Moncada [barracks on July 26, 1953].”

Expelled by Batista

“In 1950 there was a Nationalist insurrection in Puerto Rico, in which my father, who was later captured, took part. Since then the FBI had been looking for me. In 1951 I published an article in a Havana paper to commemorate the first anniversary of that uprising. The Yankee embassy learned about it and demanded the Prío Socarrás government turn me over along with another Puerto Rican, Reynaldo Trilla, but the authorities ignored them. Our position was that we didn’t have to go to the embassy because it wasn’t ours. After the coup, Batista’s police arrested us. They locked me up in Tiscornia, where foreigners were jailed. Trilla and I were expelled in August 1952. Just think, what an honor: expelled by Batista and then embraced by Fidel.”

How did he learn of the January 1959 revolutionary victory?

“After the attack in the Capitol building in 1954, carried out with Lolita Lebrón, Andrés Figueroa, and Irvin Flores, they sent me to Alcatraz prison. Not even California newspapers got into that prison, but the magazine *Carteles* did circulate there, I don’t remember why. In one of its issues I received the first information that something had happened in Cuba, but I didn’t pay much attention to it. It had always been a game of ‘You get out so I can get in,’ and the last thing involved were the people. So I didn’t really know what was happening.”

By 1960 Cancel Miranda had been transferred to Leavenworth penitentiary in Kansas, leaving behind Alcatraz, which he had entered at the age of 24 and left at 30. In his new lockup, a photo from a local newspaper reminded him of one of his Cuban experiences, which allowed him to recognize that a genuine revolution was taking place in that country.

“When I was in Cuba, I had met a young woman who sold pastries at a little store on El Prado. I worked on the tunnel, and as I waited for the bus I always chatted with that attractive young Cuban woman. I would tell her, ‘You are like a flower in a swamp,’ because there was a huge amount of prostitution in that area, and she was very decent. In the Leavenworth prison, on a page of a Kansas newspaper, I saw in a picture a group of militia members with guns surrounding the U.S. embassy in Havana. And one of those militia members was that young woman, with her rifle. And I told myself, ‘If she is there, it must be good. And if the Marines, who used to consider all Cuban women prostitutes, go after them, I’m sure they’ll take ’em out, guns blazing.”

Rafael Cancel Miranda, recently awarded the José Martí Order, has many memories of Cuba. Among his favorite is the following:

“When I returned, after getting out of prison, a young Cuban Pioneer put her neck scarf on me. Years later I met her again. That girl was Adriana, the wife of Gerardo [Hernández], one of the Cuban Five jailed in the United States.”