

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Voter ID bill targets rights of immigrants, other workers**

—PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 39 OCTOBER 16, 2006

## ‘No more dying for Mittal’ say Kazakhstan miners

24,000 coal miners strike over safety, pay



Reuters

Rescue workers return after recovering bodies from mine in Shaktinsk, Kazakhstan.

BY PAUL PEDERSON

October 3—Holding banners that declared “No more dying for Mittal” and “We don’t want to live in poverty,” some 6,000 steelworkers and coal and ore miners rallied September 30 at the company offices of Mittal Steel in

Continued on page 3

**...As we go to press**

Mittal announced October 4 it had agreed to triple wages of striking miners and grant a 20 percent pay raise to metalworkers at the Karmet steel complex in Kazakhstan, as well as allocate more funds to improve mine equipment.

## Caracas Chinese community marks anniversary of Chinese Revolution

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND RÓGER CALERO

CARACAS, Venezuela, October 1—Some 600 people filled the Chinese Social Club in the El Bosque neighborhood here today. They came to celebrate “Independence Day”—the 57th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese Revolution of 1949.

“The celebration draws Chinese from throughout the city,” said Fermina Li, secretary of the Chinese Association of Caracas, which sponsors the annual event.

“This day is a matter of pride for

many Chinese immigrants here and many of us of Chinese descent,” Honey Liu Lin, a 23-year-old law student born here of Chinese parents, told the *Militant*. “It’s a way to stand up for our culture and identity and say no to anti-Chinese prejudice that was prevalent in the past and continues to exist today.”

The celebration included traditional music, a poetry reading, and performances with martial arts and Chinese dragons, which drew cheers from the audience, especially the dozens of

Continued on page 9



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

October 1 celebration outside Chinese Social Club in El Bosque neighborhood in Caracas, Venezuela, marks 57th anniversary of China’s 1949 revolution.

## U.S. Congress okays ‘enemy combatant’ military trials

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

The U.S. Congress approved the Military Commissions Act in late September, expanding the definition of “enemy combatants” and codifying the denial of democratic rights to those detained as such under the banner of Washington’s “global war on terrorism.”

The bill gives the president the authority to establish military commissions that would be convened by the defense secretary to conduct military trials of individuals held indefinitely by the U.S. government as “alien unlawful enemy combatants.”

The passage of the act follows a June Supreme Court ruling that military trials against such prisoners are lawful provided the president has legislative authorization to carry them out.

Under the new law, U.S. officials have said they plan to conduct military trials of 14 people who were being held

Continued on page 9

## Protesters in Connecticut: ‘Don’t deport day laborers!’

BY WILLIE COTTON

DANBURY, Connecticut—Nearly 150 people demonstrated here September 30 protesting the arrests of 11 day laborers seized in a sting operation by federal immigration cops working with local police. They demanded the workers be released and not deported.

The protest was initiated by several local immigrant rights groups after the September 19 immigration raid. On that day federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents went in an unmarked van to Kennedy Park here, where dozens of day laborers gather every morning, and pretended to be bosses in search of laborers. The workers, tricked into believing they had jobs, were driven away and jailed. ICE worked closely with the local police and in collaboration with the mayor to carry out the raid.

At the protest, Carlos Córdova of the Ecuadorean Civic Center said, speak-

Continued on page 3

## Iraqi parliament debates autonomy for Kurdish areas

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Amid continuing conflicts between various bourgeois factions represented in Iraq’s parliament, the legislators reached a compromise agreement to allow debate on a law to establish procedures to form new autonomous regions in the country. Sunni politicians agreed on the condition that, if passed, such a law would not be implemented for 18 months. The compromise requires parliament to form a committee to con-

sider amendments to the constitution, including proposals by Sunni politicians to restrict new autonomous regions.

As part of this jockeying for influence, the prime minister of Iraq’s autonomous northern region, known as Iraqi Kurdistan, threatened secession if Iraq’s central government continues to challenge the region’s authority to sign oil contracts. The main Kurdish parties, however, have repeatedly stated their objective is autonomy within Iraq, not secession. Iraq’s president, Jalal Talabani, is a Kurd and the central leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The dispute over oil is the latest in a series of clashes with Baghdad as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) presses to extend and strengthen its autonomy.

The compromise to allow debate on establishing new autonomous regions was

Continued on page 7

## ‘Militant’ subs sell well at work sites, campuses

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

Through sales at factory gates and mine portals, house meetings, protest actions, and tables on college campuses, supporters of the *Militant* are winning new subscribers. They are also expanding the circulation of books on revolutionary politics published by Pathfinder Press.

We are in the third week of an eight-week campaign to win 2,600 new and long-term readers of the socialist press. Overall the drive remains on target. But the challenge now is to turn around the fact that, after being on schedule for the first two weeks, almost half the local areas are now behind.

Campaigners sent in the following reports this week: “We sold nine sub-

Continued on page 4

### Also Inside:

- Cubans mobilize in campaign against dengue 2
- San Diego protesters counter rightist Minutemen 3
- How labor misleaders waged anti-Chinese drive 6
- Sweden: Social Democrats defeated in elections 7

# Cubans mobilize to fight new dengue outbreak

BY ROSE ANA DUEÑAS

HAVANA—The local People's Power delegate was knocking on every door in the apartment building to make sure people were up. "They're here to fumigate: close all your windows!" she said.

The team of volunteers followed, with their "bazookas"—hand-carried, gasoline-powered foggers—to spray every home with insecticide as neighbors waited outside.

The weekly fumigation is part of a nationwide campaign that Cubans are waging, mobilized through their mass organizations and revolutionary government, to fight an outbreak of dengue fever.

The immediate goal is to decrease the infestation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which spreads the sometimes-deadly virus, and then to "thoroughly analyze, with a critical spirit" how to prevent further outbreaks, said Vice President Carlos Lage during an August 31 televised meeting.

Dengue causes fever, pain in joints and muscles, skin eruptions, and swollen lymphatic glands. Its hemorrhagic version can kill. Children and the elderly are at particular risk. According to the World Health Organization, dengue is a threat in more than 100 tropical and subtropical countries, where 40 percent of the world's population resides, and in some cases it is endemic.

In 1981 thousands of Cubans were infected with the virus and 158 people died, most of them children. The government reported at the time that the disease was deliberately introduced from outside Cuba, blaming the U.S. government. Similar crises have not

been reported since then, and Cuba collaborates with medical organizations around the world in researching the disease and searching for a vaccine.

The Ministry of Public Health has a year-round prevention program using full-time employees known popularly as "the mosquito people," who inspect homes and public places for the insect, which lays its eggs in clean or dirty standing water in everything from water tanks to old tires, empty bottles, and hollow spots in trees. Others regularly involved in this "anti-vector" campaign include the Youth Army of Labor, made up of young people completing their military service, and junior high school students who make weekly rounds of their neighborhoods armed with flashlights.

This year the extremely hot summer and recent heavy rains of the hurricane season have helped create ideal conditions for the mosquito's spread.

While there is no danger of an epidemic, "the ability to respond adequately in response to an outbreak will allow us to control it without it reaching epidemic proportions," said Dr. José San Martín Martínez, national director of the health ministry's Anti-Vector Monitoring and Combat Unit, the magazine *Cuba Ahora* reported.

The country's Defense Council has coordinated with the legislature, known as People's Power, as well as with the Communist Party, the unions, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), Union of Young Communists (UJC), Cuban Women's Federation, and other mass organizations to mobilize people to get rid of the mosquito and to immediately detect



Social worker in Havana visiting home during campaign against mosquito that carries dengue fever in February 2002.

and treat cases of the virus.

Because the insect is most often in and around homes, education and elimination of breeding grounds are key to the campaign. Posters and flyers announcing "Offensive against the invader!" and explaining the steps for hygiene have been put up everywhere, and constant public announcements run on television and the radio.

Workers have volunteered through their unions to be freed up for two-week periods or more to be part of the inspection and fogging teams. In Havana, 145 men and women from all different industries have been organized into the first Detachment of the Anti-Vector Struggle for the Plaza neighborhood, one of many such "advance forces" to be organized in the coming weeks across the city.

The neighborhood CDRs are calling on residents to participate in clean-up efforts around their homes and yards to get rid of old tires, empty bottles, or other potential breeding grounds. Youth who work as revolutionary social workers, organized by the UJC, are making daily rounds in neighborhoods where cases have been reported, to check up on the elderly and people living alone. Special medical attention is being provided, including close observation under mosquito nets, when people have been bitten and show possible symptoms. Along with the

house-to-house, school, and workplace fogging, health ministry trucks are spraying the pesticide, sometimes nightly in particularly infested neighborhoods, and crop-duster planes have also been used.

Workplaces can be fined if they do not take care of water leaks or other conditions that are conducive to the mosquito's spread. The weekly *Tribuna de La Habana* published a list of workplaces fined after mosquito breeding grounds were found, and where "the administrative managers have not shown the attitude required for the anti-vector battle being waged by our people."

## For Further Reading

### Making History

Interviews with four generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces

Through the stories of four outstanding Cuban generals—Néstor López Cuba, Enrique Carreras, José Ramón Fernández, and Harry Villegas—we can see the class dynamics that shaped the Cuban Revolution and our entire epoch. \$15.95



WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

## THE MILITANT

### Miners fight for safety

From the response to the Sago Mine explosion in West Virginia, to the Darby Mine in Kentucky, to the protest by miners in Kazakhstan, the Militant's coverage of the fight of miners for safe working conditions is unmatched. Don't miss an issue.



Protest in Kentucky by family members of miners killed in Harlan mine explosion.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

### RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

## The Militant

Vol. 70/No. 39

Closing news date: October 4, 2006

Editor and circulation director:  
Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: David Argüello, Róger Calero, Martín Koppel, Olympia Newton, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899  
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send \$80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

# Rally against deportations

Continued from front page  
ing in Spanish, “We are not terrorists. We are not criminals. The only crime of those 11 people was to work.”

Leonel Villavicencio, president of the Danbury Coalition for the Rights of Immigrants, reported that eight of the 11 workers, who are all Ecuadorean-born, were now in touch with their families and immigration lawyers, but three had still not been heard from. Villavicencio also said that these arrests were a “violation of immigrant dignity,” and that the coalition was “inviting the city government to a responsible dialogue” on immigration.

Also speaking was Fidela San Miguel, from the United Day Laborers of Freehold, New Jersey, where for several years immigrant workers have been waging a struggle to seek work free from harassment.

Among the demonstrators were Walter Sincha and Vicente Mayorga, Ecuadorean-born workers who came from New York City to show solidar-

ity. Mayorga, who walked with a cane, pointed to the unsafe conditions that immigrant workers are often exposed to because of their vulnerable legal status. He himself was injured lifting a heavy load on a construction site.

Sincha said, “We are not alone—this is a struggle for immigrant rights all over the country. We are not the problem. We are the solution.”

Some 25 ultrarightists, including supporters of the Minutemen, held a counterprotest. As the last speakers at the immigrant rights action were wrapping up and the march to City Hall was to begin, three rightists interrupted. One shouted, “English! English!” Others held signs saying, “Save American workers. No Amnesty” and “Arrest Criminal Employers.”

One carried a sign that stated, “Deport Everyone. Speak English or Die.” The two demonstrations were kept on opposite sides of the street by the police.

The supporters of immigrant rights



Militant/Stu Singer

Maura DeLuca (center), Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York governor, and Willie Cotton, SWP candidate for state comptroller, campaign at September 30 action in Danbury, Connecticut, to protest immigration arrests of 11 day laborers there.

had a lively mile-long march to City Hall waving signs such as “No Human Being is Illegal” and “Today We March, Tomorrow We Vote.” They

chanted, “No somos uno, no somos cien, somos millones, cuéntanos bien” (We’re not one, we’re not 100, we are millions, count us well).

## Protesters in California counter rightist Minutemen

BY DAVID ARGÜELLO

NATIONAL CITY, California—More than 200 supporters of immigrants’ rights held a countermobilization September 23 in front of the civic center and police department here opposing a protest called by the ultrarightist Minutemen in this largely Mexican immigrant community of southern San Diego county.

The counterdemonstrators chanted and carried signs demanding, “*Fuera racistas*” (Racists out) and “No to the militarization of the border.” They rallied for more than three hours and remained until all but a handful of the rightist group had left.

About 80 supporters of the San Diego Minutemen held signs saying “Illegals go home,” “Amnesty: hell no,” “Illegal workers destroy living wages,” “Deport Mayor Inzunza,” and “No sanctuary city.”

The rightists opposed Mayor Nick Inzunza’s proposal to make National City a “sanctuary city,” whereby city funds would not be used to enforce federal immigration laws. Later that week the city council signed the measure into effect.

Police Chief Adolfo Gonzales said, “Our policy doesn’t change” because of that action by city officials.

The Sí Se Puede Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, and

Border Angels were among the immigrant rights groups that organized the countermobilization.

Two blocs of armed cops divided the street between the opposing demonstrations. Hundreds of cops

from National City, Vista, San Diego, Coronado, La Mesa, and Carlsbad policed the streets and blocked the main boulevard.

Despite the potential for provocations by the cops and rightists, the

immigrants’ rights protesters organized an effective security team and remained disciplined throughout.

On September 30 some 500 people rallied here again to support the legalization of undocumented workers.

## Coal miners in Kazakhstan strike for job safety

Continued from front page  
Temirtau, Kazakhstan.

More than 24,000 coal miners are now on strike in the former Soviet republic against the Netherlands-based steel monopoly. Steelworkers and iron ore miners employed by Mittal at the same giant steel milling and iron ore and coal mining complex of 55,000 workers have threatened to join them if their demands are not met.

The strike began five days after a September 20 methane explosion killed 41 miners at the Lenin mine, one of the deadliest mine disasters in the history of the central Asian country. After workers there refused to return to work on September 25, they were joined by miners at three other Mittal-owned mines. By September 29 miners at the company’s four remaining mines had also walked out.

Mittal, today the world’s largest steel producer, with 61 plants in 27 countries, purchased the Karmet steel plant, with the coal and iron ore mines that feed it, from the government of Kazakhstan in 1995. The complex is the country’s largest private employer. It is one of the steel giant’s most profitable ventures, accounting for 8 percent of its production last year—with the capacity to make 5.5 million tons of steel annually.

Mittal responsible for disaster

On September 29, Emergencies Minister Shalbai Kulmakhonov announced that a government investigation into the September 20 disaster “found the blast was caused by the turning on of electricity in an unventilated mine,” Associated Press reported.

“The main cause is the poor organization of work and a lack of coordination among workers,” Kulmakhonov said. He said Mittal Steel was respon-

sible for the conditions that led to the explosion.

The striking miners are demanding the company replace the dangerous and deteriorating Soviet-era equipment in the mine, raise their wages to \$15 per hour from their current rate of \$350 a month, and substantially increase compensation for injury and death on the job.

According to *Kazakhstan Today*, they are also demanding the government increase pension payments to workers “engaged in harmful and hazardous production” and resolve “social problems in the towns of Shakhtinsk, Abai, Sarani by means of municipal budget increases.” The article adds that “in relation with this the regional governor will visit the town facilities: hospitals, schools, roads, and the heat power plant.”

The steel company, which raked in \$28 billion in earnings last year, has promised to raise the miners’ wages if they agree first to go back to work. “But,” *Kazakhstan Today* reports, “The miners categorically refuse to go back to work until their salaries are raised.”

Steelworkers, others may join strike

A Mittal executive said steel production is down 30 percent due to the strike. The company is seeking to import coal from Russia and is speeding up production at its steel mills in Poland and Romania, AP reported.

Steelworkers and iron ore miners at the complex, however, whose union has been in negotiations for two months, may vote to join the walkout if their demand for a 40 percent wage increase is not met.

“Ten years ago we produced 160,000 tons of steel a year. Now we turn out 300,000 tons, while the pay is the

same,” Yuri Baranov, a leader of the steelworkers union, told the crowd of steel, iron ore, and coal workers rallying September 30 outside the headquarters of Mittal’s Kazakh division, according to AP.

Daily pickets of about 1,000 miners and family members are taking place at the town council in Shakhtinsk. In response, *Kazakhstan Today* reported, cops are stopping and checking all cars entering the town.

A “conciliatory commission” composed of delegates from all eight striking mines, the regional governor, the mayor of Shakhtinsk, several members of parliament, and representatives of Mittal’s top management has been established to negotiate a settlement.

U.S., Kazakh governments get closer

Meanwhile, as the strike unfolded, the presidents of the United States and of Kazakhstan conducted a highly publicized White House meeting. Kazakhstan president Nursultan Nazarbayev pointed out in a September 29 press conference in Washington that “one-third of all foreign investments in Kazakhstan are from the United States.”

A joint statement by the two governments lauded the advances that U.S. and other private capital has made in extending its reach over the country’s natural resources and labor power, especially energy resources. The Kazakhstan government promised to work with Washington on “strengthening the rule of law, taking steps to improve Kazakhstan’s investment climate, and reducing business risk.”

Referring to the increased U.S. military presence in the region, the two presidents committed to “further cooperation between our armed forces in counterterrorism and peacekeeping programs.”

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

**The Fight for Immigrant Rights Today.** A panel discussion. Fri., Oct. 13. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 113 Bernard St. E., West St. Paul. Tel.: (651) 644-6325.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

**The Middle East, Capitalism’s World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change.** Speaker: Tony Hunt, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 14. Dinner, 5:00 p.m.; program, 6:00 p.m. Donation: £3 dinner; £3 program. 120 Bethnal Green Road, first floor (entrance on Brick Lane). Tel.: (020) 7613-2466.

# Congress approves Voter ID bill, border fence

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

After tabling various "immigration reform" proposals, the U.S. Congress used the final days before its election recess to help lay the groundwork for a national ID card and tighten up the borders.

The House of Representatives approved a bill September 20 requiring all voters to show a photo ID. Nine days later the Senate voted 80-19 to build a 700-mile fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. The House had passed the fence bill two weeks earlier.

The newly adopted Federal Election Integrity Act requires everyone intending to vote to show a photo ID by the 2008 federal elections. By 2010 voters will be required to show their ID with proof of citizenship. Supporters of the bill called for such a measure to keep undocumented immigrants from voting in U.S. elections.

The bill builds on the 2005 Real ID Act, which requires all applicants for a driver's license to prove legal residency in the United States beginning in 2008. Under this law all licenses will indicate the citizenship status of the holder.

Twenty-four states have laws requiring voters to show some sort of identification, and seven of these require government-issued photo ID. In September, Superior Court judges in both Georgia and Missouri ruled unconstitutional state laws requiring voters to show photo IDs at the polls.

In August 2005 thousands of people, the majority Black working people, marched in Atlanta to protest the Georgia voter ID law. Some noted

that such restrictions on voting rights would bear down hardest on immigrants, Blacks, the elderly, and rural residents, who are less likely to hold a driver's license or other government-issued ID.

In a related move, the Senate on September 29 allotted \$1.2 billion toward the construction of a double-layer fence along one-third of the U.S.-Mexico border. The barrier would cover rural sections of the California and Texas borders and nearly the entire Arizona border.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, complained that the border measures fall "very far short of what Democrats have proposed over and over and over again."

The government of Mexico asked President George Bush to veto the fence proposal, something Bush said he won't do. Mexican president-elect Felipe Calderon said the fence "only creates migrants willing to take ever-greater risks and in consequence,



Militant/Maceo Dixon

Thousands marched in Atlanta Aug. 6, 2005, against the state version of a new federal bill that would mandate voters show photo identification in order to vote.

probably, will produce more unjust deaths along the border."

Deaths of workers crossing the U.S.-Mexico border have nearly doubled in the last six years, to 472 in 2005.

Also on September 29, the Senate allotted funds to hire 1,500 additional Border Patrol cops and to build jails capable of holding 6,700 additional immigrants awaiting deportation.

## 'Militant' supporters reach out for funds

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Supporters of the *Militant* collected \$10,000 this week in the \$90,000 fund-raising campaign. To be on pace for the remaining five weeks, a weekly collection of close to \$13,000 is needed.

An appeal for the fund was made at an October 1 Militant Labor Forum in San Francisco, and those attending contributed \$1,300, putting San Francisco close to the top of the chart. Making regular use of these forums in every city to solicit payments and win new pledges is an important way of keeping up a weekly campaign pace.

Speaking at the San Francisco forum were Joel Britton, the Socialist Workers Party

candidate for the San Francisco Board of Education, and two Young Socialists, Ben O'Shaughnessy and David Argüello, who are also running as part of the socialist tickets in New York and California, respectively.

O'Shaughnessy pointed out that Young Socialists in several cities have taken quotas in the campaigns to raise funds and increase readership of the socialist newsweekly. This includes Detroit; San Diego; Amherst, Massachusetts; Albany, New York; and Tampa, Florida.

Joe Swanson from Des Moines reports that *Militant* supporters there have been organizing systematic visits to subscribers of the paper in Iowa and Nebraska over the weekends, winning a number of

contributions.

"Two supporters of the *Militant* did some house meetings in Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday afternoon," Joe said. "The visits netted one renewal subscription from a meat worker and one new subscription from a construction worker. The team collected \$20 for the *Militant* Fund."

Swanson said a similar effort in Lincoln, Nebraska, brought in \$30 for the fund and an additional \$50 pledge. Two other longtime *Militant* subscribers contributed when supporters of the fund visited them. In all, these visits raised \$240 from new contributors in the region, Swanson reported.

### Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive Sept. 9 - Nov. 7 ♦ Week 3 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
London*	100	61	61%
Edinburgh*	45	29	64%
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Philadelphia	130	66	51%
San Francisco	75	38	51%
Washington, DC	105	48	46%
Chicago	100	44	44%
Houston	100	43	43%
Miami	170	73	43%
Amherst, MA	10	4	40%
Des Moines	175	69	39%
Newark	150	57	38%
Atlanta	100	37	37%
Birmingham	115	42	37%
New York	300	106	35%
Twin Cities	160	54	34%
Boston	120	37	31%
Albany, NY	20	6	30%
Detroit	10	3	30%
Seattle	80	21	26%
Los Angeles	145	38	26%
Pittsburgh	60	10	17%
San Diego, CA	6	1	17%
Tampa, FL	10	1	10%
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>38%</b>
*raised goal			

## 'Militant' subscription drive

Continued from front page  
scriptions, including a one-year renewal at this year's Baltimore Book Fair," wrote Janice Lynn from Washington. "We also sold 50 Pathfinder titles and 39 copies of the *Militant*."

"Our biggest success was in getting out sales to garment and meatpacking plants where supporters of the *Militant* work," Jacquie Henderson reported from Houston. "We also sold 25 copies of the *Militant* at the Alcoa mine/smelter/power plant outside of Houston. All these workers were interested in our front-page coverage" of the miners' strike in Kazakhstan.

Henderson noted that a number of the new subscribers in the Houston area are students. "One new subscriber is a high school student, brought to the Militant Labor Forum last Friday by his schoolmate who is a renewing subscriber," she added.

Joe Young, a meat packer in Toronto, wrote that he was part of a team that went to Alberta, Canada. "We sold nine sub-

scriptions in Brooks, including seven to meat packers at the big Tyson beef plant there. Three purchased long-term renewals. We also sold six subscriptions at the University of Calgary. Several subscribers took advantage of the special offers on books, buying three copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, three of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, and two of the issue of *New Internationalist* magazine with the article 'Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun.'"

Dean Hazlewood from Los Angeles reported about a worker who *Militant* supporters met at a demonstration in National City, California, against the rightist anti-immigrant Minutemen (see page 3). "She looked at the *Militant* article and liked what she saw. She got an introductory subscription and donated \$15 to the *Militant* Fund. She explained that she had come to the march straight from her union meeting and agreed with the way the *Militant* champions both legalization for immigrants and building the unions. 'Keep up the good work,' she told us."

### \$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive Sept. 9 - Nov. 7 ♦ Week 3 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40%</b>
ICELAND	450	166	37%
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	740	30%
AUSTRALIA	1,200	340	28%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>			
Miami	2,500	1,305	52%
Boston	3,500	1,735	50%
Atlanta*	5,500	2,385	43%
San Francisco	8,500	3,235	38%
Philadelphia	3,500	1,120	32%
Seattle	7,000	1,945	28%
Des Moines	2,200	587	27%
Birmingham	3,500	860	25%
Houston	3,200	780	24%
New York	13,000	2,941	23%
Chicago	5,000	1,065	21%
Newark	3,500	730	21%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	563	20%
Los Angeles	8,200	1,465	18%
Twin Cities	4,800	757	16%
Pittsburgh	4,200	607	14%
Albany	120	0	0%
Amherst	60	0	0%
Detroit	1,200	0	0%
San Diego	50	0	0%
<b>OTHER</b>		<b>500</b>	
<b>U.S. total</b>	<b>82,330</b>	<b>22,580</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
Edinburgh	500	0	0%
London	1,300	0	0%
<b>UK total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>92,530</b>	<b>25,591</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Goal/Should be</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>34,200</b>	<b>38%</b>
*raised goal			

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Filipino sailors docked in California win back pay

Eighteen Filipino sailors on strike September 7–10 on a ship docked at the Port of Long Beach in California, won a total of \$227,000 in back pay and flights back to their home country at company expense. The ship's crew members refused to work or sail after an inspection by the International Transport Workers Federation showed they were owed more than \$300,000 in back pay, according to wire services.

The strike settlement also includes providing each crew member with letters of indemnity promising that they will not be blacklisted from future sailing jobs. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union supported the Filipino workers throughout their strike, refusing to load cargo on the ship as it sat in its berth.

—Brian Williams

### Voortman Cookies workers strike plant in Ontario

TORONTO—More than 230 workers at Voortman Cookies, members of Local 264 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, are striking the Burlington, Ontario, plant here in a fight for decent wage increases. On September 16 the workers voted 164–32 to walk out. They had been without a contract since June 1. The average wage is Can\$14 an hour (US\$12.54) at the plant, lowest among the three biggest cookie manufacturers in Canada, according to striking workers.

The last strike at Voortman Cookies lasted three days 21 years ago, but “we’re stronger now,” union members on the picket line added in a chorus. Workers have been receiving donations of food and firewood from the Teachers Union and workers at the adjacent Stelwire plant.

—Robert Simms

### San Francisco: hotel workers win contract



Militant/Lea Sherman

SAN FRANCISCO—Hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, overwhelmingly approved a new five-year pact on September 22 covering more than 4,200 workers at 13 area hotels. The agreement eliminates the employers’ demand for two-tier health benefits. Non-tipped workers will get a raise of \$3 an hour over the next three years. Some 1,500 hotel workers (above) rallied in front of the Palace Hotel here August 31 as part of their fight for a new contract. The unionists had been fighting the San Francisco Multi-Employers Group’s concessionary demands for the past two years.

—BETSEY STONE

## Hurricane Katrina evacuees threatened with losing aid

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

HOUSTON—Hundreds of people who were driven from their homes last year in the wake of Hurricane Katrina packed two neighborhood centers in southwest Houston in mid-September to apply for “recertification” to continue receiving housing benefits. Those who did not reapply could lose their benefits by October 31.

Cindy Gabriel, a member of the government’s Joint Hurricane Housing Task Force, told KTRK-TV, “If they are successful in recertification, it will buy them four more months, which will give them more time to get their feet on the ground, to go

out and look for work if they haven’t found a job yet.”

City officials, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies organized the events because only about 6,000 of the 24,000 eligible households have submitted the forms, due October 31.

One of those reapplying for benefits was John Beaufort, who worked as a cook in New Orleans. “There’s no way I can go back now. I’d have no place to live, no job, nothing,” Beaufort told the *Militant*. “And I’d sure have to make more money than I was working in a restaurant to afford renting a place!”

Rents are skyrocketing in New Orleans—up an average of 39 percent since the hurricane, the *New York Times* reported. The city has announced that it plans to refurbish only a small percentage of its traditional public housing units. Though some aid has been set aside for landlords, many workers say they are unable to return because they have been priced out by rent-gouging.

And those who owned homes in the flooded areas are now faced with a new predator—the real estate developer.

“The developers have moved into city in force in a land grab operation

that targets working people and the poor,” said retired merchant seaman Howard Allen. “It started with an August 31 deadline for gutting houses that were damaged in the floods. But that’s not so easy. A lot of homeowners in the 9th Ward haven’t yet been able to settle with the government and FEMA on how much money they’ll get and how they should rebuild their houses.”

“In Louisiana,” Allen said, “the homestead law says if you’re living on your property you don’t have to pay property tax. Many people in the flooded areas were covered by this. But since the deadline passed, many non-gutted homes have been bulldozed and taxes have to be paid on thousands more. A number have been taken over by developers who paid the taxes owed.”

“One millionaire who came to one of our community meetings was bragging about how he bought a whole block of Mandeville Street and was going to put up high-priced condos. These developers have shown how worthless all these laws are that are supposed to help protect the poor from skyrocketing rents.”

## In face of Washington’s restrictions on Cubans, U.S. academic conference to move to Montreal

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) has decided to move its next international congress, scheduled for September 2007, from Boston to Montreal because of Washington’s record of refusing to grant visas to Cuban scholars invited to its gatherings.

LASA president Charles Hale wrote in the organization’s summer 2006 issue that the primary reason for the change of venue was “the protection of scholarly freedom.” He said LASA has faced a “problem with visas for Cuban scholars at least since 2004.”

LASA’s international congresses, held every 18 months, bring together thousands of Latin American studies professors, students, and other academics, mostly from the United States but also some from other countries. For years the participation of invited Cuban academics has been an integral part of these events.

For this year’s congress, held March 15–18 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the U.S. government denied visas to 55 academics invited from Cuba—the entire delegation. Washington also denied visas to six other academics from Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, and Uruguay. LASA sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice protesting that the visa denials “seriously in-

terferes with LASA’s ability to carry out its core mission and represents an egregious affront to academic freedom.”

Just 10 days before the start of the 2004 congress in Las Vegas, Nevada, State Department officials informed all 65 Cuban scholars in the delega-

tion that they would be denied entry.

The previous year Washington granted visas to 70 and denied entry to 33 Cuban academics invited to that year’s conference in Dallas, after LASA launched a campaign to reverse the government’s initial refusal to grant any visas.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 16, 1981

The Iranian armed forces scored a major victory September 27 against the year-long invasion and occupation of Iranian territory by the Iraqi dictatorship.

The army and the Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) drove Iraqi forces out of the area east of the Karun River in the southern part of Khuzestan Province, and broke the Iraqi siege of Abadan, a major oil-refining city.

The big victory boosted morale among the masses, stiffening the workers’ resistance to efforts by the employers and the government to chip away at gains won since the shah’s downfall. In some cases, the workers have forced the reinstatement of militants expelled from their jobs.



October 15, 1956

Oct. 8—The Supreme Court today began hearings on a number of cases whose outcome can have an important effect on the state of civil liberties. A key issue again before the high court is the constitutionality of the Smith Act under which the advocacy of ideas has been made a crime.

The court will hear an appeal on the Pennsylvania Smith Act conviction of Communist Party leader Steve Nelson and three co-defendants. The court refused to act on a government motion to remand the case to a lower court for hearings on the credibility of the testimony of Joseph Mazzei, a professional FBI stool pigeon whose testimony against Nelson contradicted his stories in other government proceedings.



October 24, 1931

London—This week has seen the struggle against the National government’s economies reach its highest point since the fight began. Not a day has passed without demonstrations of unemployed workers; demonstrations which by their size and militancy testified to the deep feeling and anger of the unemployed at the threatened reactions in their benefits.

Last Sunday over twenty-thousand workers assembled in Hyde Park and, at the conclusion of the meeting, marched off to Wormwood Scrubs Prison, where several militants were imprisoned. On Tuesday evening, thousands gathered again in the Park. The workers surged out of the Park, through the West End and gathered around Parliament.

# How labor misleaders led ‘Yellow Peril’ campaign

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

At the turn of the 20th century the U.S. capitalist rulers, in their efforts to keep the working class divided, fostered a racist, anti-immigrant campaign that particularly targeted Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian workers. The dominant leadership in the labor movement, including the Socialist Party right wing and the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor, promoted this anti-working-class chauvinism. They labeled these workers “strikebreakers,” fanning prejudices against what the capitalist press called the “yellow peril.”

A minority in the leadership of the workers movement at that time took an internationalist stand, from Socialist Party leader Eugene Debs to the early Communist Party in the 1920s. They approached immigrant workers as fellow fighters and advocated organizing them into unions as the only effective way to combat the bosses’ divide-and-rule tactics.

In the mid-1870s, amid depression conditions, the Workingmen’s Party of California, fell into the bosses’ trap. While professing a socialist perspective, it campaigned around the slogan “The Chinese Must Go.” As the employers scapegoated Asians for the economic crisis, they joined in anti-Chinese pogroms in California and other parts of the West where Chinese immigrants comprised a significant component of the workforce. A three-day racist riot in San Francisco in July 1877, for example, led to the death of 22 Chinese workers and destruction of much of their property and homes.

In 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first federal law restricting immigration to the United States. It remained in effect for six decades, and restrictive immigration quotas continued to limit entry of Asians until those were lifted in 1965.

The American Federation of Labor (AFL) officialdom sought to limit unions to a relatively privileged layer of workers, the labor aristocracy. Turning their backs on the vast majority of workers, they promoted narrow craft unions, often all-white job trusts.

Under Samuel Gompers, AFL president from its founding in 1886 to 1924, the federation campaigned for excluding Chinese workers from the country. In 1878, for example, Gompers decried the presence of these immigrants, labeling them “Chinese strikebreakers” and “a menace to our trade [that] federal legislation alone could remedy.”

In 1902 Gompers lobbied before the Senate Committee on Immigration for “the exclusion of Chinese laborers from the United States.” He presented Congress an AFL document titled “Some Reasons for Chinese Exclusion. Meat vs. Rice. American Manhood Against Asiatic Coolieism. Which Shall Survive?”

The following year the Japanese-Mexican Protective Association (JMPA), a union composed of 800 Japanese and 400 Mexican farm workers, waged a militant strike in Oxnard, California, against the Western Agricultural Contract Company. When the union then applied for membership in the AFL, Gompers rejected the request on the basis of its Japanese-American members.

Terence Powderly, the main leader of the Knights of Labor, one of the



Chinese workers during building of Northern Pacific Railroad in Montana, late 1800s, when AFL and Socialist Party leaders campaigned to exclude Chinese immigrants.

main union organizations in the late 19th century, adopted a similar chauvinist course. In 1887, when Chinese assemblies of the Knights of Labor were organized, Powderly ordered their dissolution, declaring that Chinese and Japanese were “unfit to reside in the United States.”

The dominant leadership of the U.S. Socialist Party also promoted these immigration restrictions. It submitted a resolution to the 1907 World Socialist Congress in Stuttgart, Germany, campaigning against “the willful importation of cheap foreign labor calculated to destroy labor organizations, to lower the standard of living of the working

class, and to retard the ultimate realization of socialism.” Right-wing SP leader Morris Hillquit argued that these workers are “a pool of unconscious strikebreakers.” He asserted, “Chinese and Japanese workers play that role today, as does the yellow race in general.”

The SP resolution, which was defeated at the Congress, drew condemnation from Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin. “This is the same spirit of aristocracy that one finds among workers in some of the ‘civilised’ countries, who derive certain advantages from their privileged position, and are, therefore, inclined to forget the need for international class solidarity,” Lenin wrote after the

congress. In a November 1915 letter to the Socialist Propaganda League, a left-wing formation within the American SP, Lenin emphasized, “One cannot be internationalist and be at the same time in favor of such restrictions.”

Even Mother Jones, an outstanding working-class fighter for the rights of coal miners and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), backed the union officialdom’s anti-Chinese campaign. In a speech at the September 1921 UMWA convention, she spoke glowingly about how in previous decades the union officialdom had “made the government in Washington come out and put a stop to the Chinese coming in to invade the American labor movement.” She added, “I had a hand in that Chinese agitation: we kept it up and stopped the Chinese coming over.”

Since the elimination of immigration quotas 40 years ago, the United States has seen an unprecedented wave of immigration, especially from Asia, Latin America, and Africa. This has helped strengthen the working class and break down the racist divisions the capitalist rulers constantly foster among working people. Rejection of anti-immigrant scapegoating and, instead, organizing foreign-born workers into the unions is a life-and-death question for the future of the labor movement.

## N.Y. officials ask for pacifist group’s minutes

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

New York City officials are seeking to subpoena minutes from internal meetings of the War Resisters League, a pacifist organization. They claim the minutes will aid in their defense in lawsuits stemming from the arrests of several hundred people during protests against the Republican National Convention in the summer of 2004.

“Our position is we’re not turning over any information,” Ed Hedemann of the local War Resisters League chapter said in a September 22 phone interview.

“This attempt by the city is intended to have a chilling effect on organizing. People will be more afraid to come to meetings and watch what they say when they do come” if the city is successful, he said.

New York police arrested more than 1,800 people during the protests, which involved tens of thousands of people over the course of a week. The city government deployed as many as 10,000 cops during the actions.

The War Resisters League previously turned over to the city three redacted sets of minutes. According to Hedemann, all detail had been deleted from the minutes except for decisions related to the planning of an Aug. 31, 2004, protest. Cops arrested 227 people during that action, for which the group says it had a permit. The city is pursuing a subpoena for the full text of the minutes, including attendance and the content of discussions at the meetings.

Peter Farrell, the city’s attorney, argued that subpoenaing minutes of political organizations is within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. “Planning to engage in unlawful conduct is not protected by the First Amendment,” he insisted.

Hedemann said, “I think this case shows that the First Amendment is good as long as you don’t do anything the government doesn’t like. And then

it’s suspended as soon as you appear to be a threat.”

The judge is expected to rule on the request at the end of October.

## Navajos protest killer cops

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—“Our struggle continues. People say the death of Clint John shocked the community, but Native people have faced racism and brutalization by the police for a long time. This is nothing new,” said Norman Dave, a coal miner and long-time Native rights activist from Kirtland, New Mexico.

Clint John, a 21-year-old Navajo youth, was killed June 10 by police officer Shawn Scott in a parking lot of a Wal-Mart store in Farmington, in northwest New Mexico. According to eyewitness accounts, John was shot four times, the last shot fired directly into his head. He was unarmed. A police investigation absolved Scott and deemed that he acted appropriately.

On September 2 some 1,000 people marched one and a half miles to protest the police brutality and racist harassment of Navajos. They were joined by 100 bikers who carried flags representing the sacred colors of the Navajo Nation. Among the marchers were members of the Hopi, Apache, and Ute Nations, from Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, respectively.

Della John, mother of Clint John, led about 80 supporters and family members, wearing T-shirts with a large photo of her son, from her home to the rally site on Highway 64. She told the *Navajo Times*, “I just couldn’t sit back.”

She reported that some passing motorists yelled obscenities at the group as they marched.

Because of racist violence in Farmington, in the 1970s the town was sometimes referred to as the Selma of the Southwest, referring to the 1960s civil rights battles in Selma, Alabama. In 1974, the bodies of three Navajo men were found burned and bludgeoned. The three white teenagers charged in their killings were sent to reform school, not to prison.

In 1978 Duane “Chili” Yazzie was shot by a white hitchhiker and lost an arm in the attack. Yazzie is today the president of the Shiprock, New Mexico, chapter of the Navajo Nation, and helped organize the September 2 rally.

In recent weeks racist attacks have escalated. On June 4, six days before John was murdered, three white men beat William Blackie, a Navajo man, and shouted slurs at him asking him to buy beer for them.

Navajos are 17 percent of Farmington’s population, but account for 69 percent of police arrests on assault charges and 62 percent of arrests on “driving under the influence” charges.

“The violent victimization of Native Americans is twice the U.S. national rate,” Yazzie told a special session of the Navajo Nation Council on June 23, called in the wake of Clint John’s killing.

“Farmington is a mining town. This type of harassment and abuse is what we face when we go to the border towns. This is a struggle for dignity. We are going to go and shop where we please,” Norman Dave told the *Militant*.

# Coup by army generals ousts Thailand gov't

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Army generals in Thailand overthrew the government in Bangkok on September 19. They dissolved both houses of Parliament and declared martial law in the capital. Washington quickly condemned the ouster of prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been a staunch supporter of the U.S. government's "war on terrorism."

In the previous weeks Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin had clashed with Thaksin over charges of corruption against the government and its handling of an insurgency in the mostly Malay Muslim provinces in southern Thailand. The country is 94 percent Buddhist.

The generals quickly received the backing of Thailand's king, Bhumibol Adulyadej, the official head of state. Within hours of the coup the king appeared on television in an audience with General Sondhi.

Washington and several of its imperialist allies condemned the coup. White House press secretary Anthony Snow said the United States was "disappointed," and that talks with Bangkok on a free trade agreement were in jeopardy. The U.S. government suspended \$24 million

in military aid, maintaining another \$10 million.

Thaksin was overthrown while on a trip to address the United Nations General Assembly. In April he was forced to step aside due to huge street protests but continued to act as a "caretaker" until new elections were to be held in mid-October. Corruption charges by his opponents gained credence after his family's tax-free sale of its \$1.9 billion share in a giant telecommunications company.

The military has established several "anti-corruption" panels to investigate alleged wrongdoing of the Thaksin government. The former prime minister's family is one of the wealthiest in Southeast Asia.

The military said it would return authority to a civilian government within a few weeks. General Sondhi said the ruling military council had completed drafting an interim constitution and would name a new prime minister soon, according to the Associated Press.

Former army chief Surayud Chulanont was expected to be tapped for the position, according to press reports.

Successive governments in Bangkok have attempted to crush unrest in three

## Pathfinder books, 'New International' sell well at book fair in Gothenburg, Sweden



Militant/Catharina Tirsén

GOTHENBURG, Sweden—At this year's international book fair here, which drew 100,000 people September 21–24, volunteers promoting titles by Pathfinder Press met particular interest in the newly printed issue 4 of *Ny International*, the Swedish-language translation of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Ten copies of that publication, featuring the article, "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun," were sold in its Swedish, English, and Spanish editions. Books on the Cuban Revolution, including *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, were best-selling Pathfinder titles, as were titles by Malcolm X, George Novack, and books about the struggle for women's liberation.

—FILIP TEDELUND

## Social Democrats defeated in Sweden election

BY DAG TIRSÉN  
AND ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—After 12 years as the main governmental party, the Social Democratic Party was voted out of office in the September 17 parliamentary elections here. It was their worst electoral showing since 1914.

The Alliance for Sweden, an electoral coalition headed by the conservative Moderate Party, won 48 percent of the vote, edging out the Social Democratic-led coalition's 46 percent. Moderate party leader Fredrik Reinfeldt will replace Göran Persson as prime minister.

Reinfeldt focused his campaign on calls to cut welfare programs and create more jobs. He has promised to reduce unemployment benefits, sick leave payments, and employers' social security contributions for young workers. He also proposed cutting property and estate taxes for the wealthy.

He argued that the official unemployment rate of 5.7 percent was misleading, and that the actual rate is more than 20 percent if you include people who have taken early retirement or who are on long-term sickness or disability leave or in government job training programs.

In the elections four years ago the Moderates' main issue was lowering taxes and the need for a "system change," and they received their lowest vote in decades. Since Reinfeldt became party leader he has toned down some of the more conservative aspects of its policies. It now calls itself the new Moderates, and pledges that it will keep the basic elements of the existing welfare state. This time the Moderates increased their vote in the general elections by 11 percent.

The Social Democrats remain the largest single party, receiving 35 percent of the vote. The cutbacks proposed by the Moderates will build on previous attacks by the Social Democrats on the pension system and other aspects of workers'

social wage.

The election, which registered the ongoing rightward shift in bourgeois politics, also marked the growth of the ultrarightist Sweden Democrats. The main election theme of that party was sharp cuts in immigration and advocating an "ethnically and culturally homogeneous" nation. It also campaigned for reinforcing the police.

The Sweden Democrats received

## Iraqi parliament debates autonomy for Kurdish areas

Continued from front page

reached after weeks of angry exchanges, walkouts, and boycotts of sessions in parliament.

In one instance Sunni politicians objected angrily to the presentation of a map that showed the disputed oil-rich city of Kirkuk as part of Iraqi Kurdistan. In another, all the Kurdish members of parliament walked out after an Arab politician asserted that Kurds are only 4 percent of Mosul, another oil-rich city in dispute.

The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the dominant party in the faction of wealthy Shiites in the government, is pressing to form an autonomous region in the predominantly Shiite and oil-rich south. Wealthy Sunnis fear that with the KRG in the north and a Shiite-led government in the south they would be cut off from much of their access to the country's oil revenues.

There is also opposition among some forces within the Shiite bloc to moving too rapidly to set up other autonomous regions. Among them are cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and Iyad Allawi, the former interim prime minister handpicked by Washington.

Al-Sadr's militia fought fierce battles against U.S. troops in southern Iraq in 2004, but his movement now heads several ministries in the current U.S.-backed

southern provinces where Malay Muslims make up 80 percent of the population. Leaders of Muslim organizations in southern Thailand expressed hope that the ouster of Thaksin could lead to an easing of the conflict in these provinces, where 1,700 people have been killed since 2004.

Two months before the coup Thaksin was stunned by General Sondhi's public

nearly 3 percent of the vote, shy of the 4 percent required for a seat in parliament. However, in local parliaments it won seats in 145 areas, up from 31 in the last elections. In Landskrona, a small town in the south of Sweden, it received 22 percent of the vote. The party will now qualify for state financial support, amounting to about \$5.5 million over the four-year period before the next elections.

government.

Another object of dispute is Mosul province, which is predominantly Sunni but also has a large Kurdish population. Khasro Goran, the deputy governor of the province, is a Kurd. Half of the 30,000 soldiers in the 2nd and 3rd Iraqi Army Division stationed in the province are Kurds and have Kurdish commanders. They were instrumental in suppressing a Baathist-led uprising in the province aimed at aiding Baathists in Fallujah during the U.S. ground assault there in 2004.

Goran said a referendum scheduled for the end of 2007 to decide what areas will be incorporated into the KRG could result in the inclusion of most of Mosul province together with the former Baathist stronghold of Tal Afar.

Iraqi oil minister Hussein al-Shahrastani told *al-Sabaah* newspaper that he was not "committed to oil investment contracts signed in the past...by officials of the government of the Kurdistan region."

In a sharply worded response Nechirvan Barzani, prime minister of the Kurdish region, accused Shahrastani of flouting Iraq's constitution. He said the Iraqi charter gives regional and federal governments joint control of oil fields currently in production but gives the federal government no role at all with

call for a dialogue in the three provinces with insurgents, who the government has labeled "terrorists." The general had been given control of counterinsurgency measures in the region. He is the first Muslim to head Thailand's military.

"The ouster of Thaksin should make the situation in the South better," said Waedueramae Mamingji, chairman of the Pattani Islamic Committee. Pattani is one of the majority-Muslim southern provinces along with Yala and Narathiwat.

The new military-installed government is expected to implement reforms recently issued by the National Reconciliation Commission, set up to find solutions to the insurgency. Its recommendations include use of the Malay language for official documents, the partial use of Islamic *shariah* law, and including more Muslims in local administrations.

regard to the new oil fields.

Kurds were brutally oppressed under the Baath party regime of Saddam Hussein. They have administered an autonomous region in northern Iraq since the first U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 1991. A bloc of Kurdish parties now holds the second largest group of seats in the Iraqi parliament.

### Tensions sharpen with Turkey

In an interview on National Public Radio, Talabani downplayed the possibility of a Turkish invasion of northern Iraq, saying the presence of U.S. troops prevents that.

But he warned that if Iraq's neighbors, in particular Turkey, Iran, and Syria, continued to intervene in its internal affairs, the Iraqi government might in turn support opposition forces in those countries. Two days after his remark, Iranian authorities blamed the Turkish-based Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) for blowing up a section of a natural gas line between Iran and Turkey.

Ankara has accused the KRG of providing support and bases in northern Iraq to the PKK, a Maoist-led Kurdish organization that has carried on a decades-long guerrilla war against the Turkish government. Last August Turkish warplanes bombed PKK bases inside Iraqi Kurdistan, according to Reuters.

# Why 1925–27 Chinese revolution was defeated

Below is an excerpt from Leon Trotsky on China, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The articles and letters in this collection record Trotsky's fight to reverse the disastrous course authored by Joseph Stalin in Moscow and carried out by the Chinese Communist Party during the 1925–27 revolutionary upsurge in China. This course, which subordinated the CCP to an alliance with the capitalist Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), resulted in a bloody defeat. Copyright



Workers take to streets in anti-imperialist demonstration in Shanghai in June 1919

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

© 1976 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

### BY LEON TROTSKY

The participation of the CCP in the Kuomintang was perfectly correct in the period when the CCP was a propaganda society which was only preparing itself for future independent political activity but which, at the same time, sought to take part in the ongoing national liberation struggle. The last two years have seen the rise of a mighty strike wave among the Chinese workers. The CCP report estimates that the trade

unions during this period have drawn in some 1.2 million workers. Exaggeration in such matters is of course inevitable. Moreover, we know how unstable new union organizations are in situations of constant ebb and flow. But the fact of the Chinese proletariat's mighty awakening, its desire for struggle and for independent class organization, is absolutely undeniable.

This very fact confronts the CCP with the task of graduating from the preparatory class it now finds itself in to a higher grade. Its immediate political task must now be to fight for direct independent leadership of the awakened working class—not of course in order to remove the working class from the framework of the national-revolutionary struggle, but to assure it the role of not only the most resolute fighter, but also of political leader with hegemony in the struggle of the Chinese masses.

Those who favor the CCP's remaining in the Kuomintang argue that "the predominant role of the petty bourgeoisie in the composition of the Kuomintang makes it possible for us to work within

the party for a prolonged period on the basis of our own politics." This argument is fundamentally unsound. The petty bourgeoisie, by itself, however numerous it may be, cannot decide the main line of revolutionary policy. The differentiation of the political struggle along class lines, the sharp divergence between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, implies a struggle between them for influence over the petty bourgeoisie, and it implies the vacillation of the petty bourgeoisie between the merchants, on the one hand, and the workers and communists, on the other. To think that the petty bourgeoisie can be won over by clever maneuvers or good advice within the Kuomintang is hopeless utopianism. The Communist Party will be more able to exert direct and indirect influence upon the petty bourgeoisie of town and country the stronger the party is itself, that is, the more it has won over the Chinese working class. But that is possible only on the basis of an independent class party and class policy.

We have taken the above-quoted argument in favor of the CCP's remaining in

the Kuomintang from the July 14, 1926, resolution of the CCP Central Committee plenum. This resolution, along with other documents of the plenum, testifies to the extremely contradictory policies of the CCP and to the dangers flowing from that. The documents of the July plenum of the CCP Central Committee testify at every step to the "intensified process, during the past year, by which each of the two poles—bourgeoisie and proletariat—has defined its own separate position" (quoted from the same resolution).

The resolutions, documents, and reports record, first, the growth of the Kuomintang right wing, then the rightward movement of the Kuomintang center, and after that, the vacillations and splits in the Kuomintang left. And all of this has followed the pattern of stepped-up attacks on the communists. For their part, the communists have been retreating steadily, from one position to the next, within the Kuomintang. Their concessions, as we shall see, are both of an organizational nature and of the kind involving matters of principle...

The drawing of organizational lines, which inevitably flows from the class differentiation, does not rule out but, on the contrary, presupposes—under existing conditions—a political bloc with the Kuomintang as a whole or with particular elements of it, throughout the republic or in particular provinces, depending on the circumstances. But first of all, the CCP must ensure its own complete organizational independence and clarity of political program and tactics in the struggle for influence over the awakened proletarian masses. Only with this kind of approach can one speak seriously of drawing the broad masses of the Chinese peasantry into the struggle.

*October* BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS**

25% DISCOUNT

**Leon Trotsky on China**  
by Leon Trotsky  
Articles and letters on the Chinese revolution of the 1920s, recording the fight to reverse Stalin's disastrous course of subordinating the Communist Party there to an alliance with the capitalist Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). \$35. **Special price: \$26**

**Manifiesto Comunista**  
(Spanish-language edition of the Communist Manifesto)  
by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels \$5. **Special price: \$3.50**

**Struggle for a Proletarian Party**  
by James P. Cannon  
On the eve of World War II, a founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Communist International in Lenin's time defends the program and party-building norms of Bolshevism. \$24. **Special price: \$18**

**Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution**  
by Joseph Hansen  
Written as the revolution advanced from its earliest days. \$25. **Special price: \$19**

**W.E.B DuBois Speaks 1920–1963**  
\$21. **Special price: \$16.00**

**Fascism and Big Business**  
by Daniel Guerin  
\$23. **Special price: \$17**

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

ORDER ONLINE AT  
**WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM**  
OFFER GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 31

## — IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP —

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

### UNITED STATES

**ALABAMA: Birmingham:** 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: swp@bham.rr.com

**CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles:** 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Diego:** Tel: (619) 253-1396. E-mail: sdyoungsocialists@gmail.com **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

**FLORIDA: Miami:** 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net **Tampa:** Tel: (813) 774-1059. E-mail: youngsocialists813@gmail.com

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

**IOWA: Des Moines:** 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

**MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst:** 114 Rolling Green Dr. Zip: 01002. Tel: (914) 466-6772. E-mail: AmherstYS@hotmail.com **Boston:** 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 695 Gullen

Mall Apt. 408. Zip: 48360. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: youngsocialistsdetroit@gmail.com

**MINNESOTA: St. Paul:** 113 Bernard St. E, West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

**NEW YORK: Albany:** Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail: YoungSocialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan:** 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@verizon.net

**TEXAS: Houston:** 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@sbcglobal.net

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW

2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**ONTARIO: Toronto:** 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

### FRANCE

**Paris:** P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

### ICELAND

**Reykjavík:** Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauack@paradise.net.nz

### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@gmail.com

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND: London:** First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

**SCOTLAND: Edinburgh:** Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

## Join effort to free the Cuban 5

October 6 marks 30 years since U.S.-trained counterrevolutionaries blew up a Cuban airliner over Barbados, killing all 73 people on board the flight, which originated in Venezuela. The U.S. government is responsible for that crime, of which a key perpetrator was Cuban-American rightist Luis Posada Carriles. It is part of Washington's 47-year-long effort to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

The facts about this brutal record must be told broadly. That is key to expand support for the campaign for the release of five Cuban revolutionaries locked up in U.S. prisons today: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, and René González. Venezuela's demand, rejected by Washington, for the extradition of Posada Carriles to be tried for his crimes also deserves support.

Why were the five arrested? For defending their country and revolution. They entered right-wing groups that have carried out assaults on Cuba with Washington's complicity. They were arrested in 1998 on charges including "conspiracy to commit espionage," "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent," and, in the case of Hernández, "conspiracy to commit murder."

After a federal trial that proved none of the charges, they were given draconian sentences, from 15 years to a double life term. In a breach of elementary human rights, U.S. authorities have denied visas to Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva to visit their husbands: Gerardo Hernández and René González, respectively. Last year a federal three-judge panel ordered a new trial on the basis that the five did not receive a fair trial in Miami.

This August, however, the full court reversed that ruling, and it is now reviewing defense motions to overturn the convictions on other grounds.

The Cuban Five continue to carry out their political work behind bars, explaining to fellow prisoners the truth about the Cuban Revolution. Many workers have experience with police frame-ups and other forms of class "justice." This includes workers railroaded to jail for being part of union battles, immigrants rounded up for the "crime" of seeking work, and youth brutalized by the cops.

From these experiences, many will readily understand the nature of the frame-up of the Cuban Five—and why justice cannot be expected from the capitalist court system but only through a broad international campaign for their release.

A September 23 march in Washington brought hundreds of people in the streets to demand freedom for the Cuban Five. It included a public forum presenting facts about the case and about Washington's assault on the Cuban Revolution. There are many more opportunities to organize educational events as part of this effort, from campus meetings involving student groups to introducing the case at union and social protest actions.

The Cuban Five exemplify why Washington hates the Cuban Revolution: because, by making a socialist revolution and taking political power, Cuban workers and farmers show it is possible to build a society based on solidarity, not the dog-eat-dog brutality of capitalism. And that is a "dangerous" example for working people worldwide.

Free the Cuban Five! Extradite Posada to Venezuela! Stop Washington's economic war against Cuba!

## Government to try 'enemy combatants'

**Continued from front page**  
in secret prisons by the CIA, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. According to press reports there are also plans under way to bring about 100 of the 455 prisoners being held at the U.S. Naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, before military tribunals as well. Many have been jailed there for more than four years without charges. The government has reportedly already brought charges against 10 of them.

The new measure makes it legal to detain indefinitely the Guantánamo prisoners against whom no charges are brought while denying them the right to appeal their imprisonment. The Justice Department is expected to request dismissal of petitions challenging the confinement of hundreds of prisoners in Guantánamo.

The House approved the bill by a vote of 250-170, the Senate by 65-34. Forty-four Congressional Democrats voted for the legislation, which President George Bush is expected to approve.

The law empowers the U.S. government to imprison indefinitely without charges or to try in military courts individuals captured in combat and those accused of giving "material support" to anyone Washington brands a terrorist. It denies them the right to file a writ of habeas corpus to challenge their detention and to a speedy trial as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

In addition, the law permits the use of "evidence" obtained through coercion and hearsay in such trials. Verdicts in the military trials will be delivered by members of the armed forces presided over by a military lawyer, not by a jury. Citizens of the United States and other countries may be considered "enemy combatants." The law also gives immunity to jailers involved in secret interrogations who at the time "reasonably believed" their actions were legal.

In June the Supreme Court gave its stamp of approval to the Bush administration to conduct military trials of prisoners at Guantánamo through its decision in the case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*. While ruling that the military commissions as structured by the administration at

the time lacked legislative authorization, the court said the trials could proceed as long as the president either sought authorization from Congress or ensured that the trials conformed to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and applicable sections of the Geneva Conventions.

The new law allows the U.S. government to determine what constitutes torture of "enemy combatants." It authorizes the president "to promulgate... administrative regulations for violations of treaty obligations which are not grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions." These conventions define "grave breaches" as "willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment," and "willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health."

"It is unreasonable to suggest that any legislation could provide an explicit and all-inclusive list of what specific activities are illegal and which are permitted," said Republican senator John McCain, of Arizona. "It was never our purpose to prevent the CIA from detaining and interrogating terrorists. On the contrary, it is important to the war on terror that the CIA have the ability to do so."

Australian attorney general Philip Ruddock, in Washington to discuss with U.S. officials the military trials, including against an Australian citizen, commented, "Some decisions will have to be taken as to what constitutes torture for the military commission process and those who are adjudicating the matter will determine that." He added, "I don't regard sleep deprivation as torture."

A September 30 news analysis in the *Los Angeles Times* noted that the bill "gave Bush most of what he wanted in substance."

Democratic politicians who opposed the bill have offered tactical criticism of how best to prosecute the "war on terror." Speaking October 2, retired general Wesley Clark, who led the 1999 war on Yugoslavia and bid for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, took issue with the bill, which he said would shine a light on Washington's methods in the "war on terror." The trials, he said, will raise questions about "what coercive tactics were used? How reliable was the information? It's going to bring everything back to the surface."

## Caracas event marks Chinese revolution

**Continued from front page**  
children present.

A colorful and loud welcome was given to officials of the Chinese embassy on the street outside the club, with firecrackers and traditional dragon dances.

Almost all those attending were Chinese. They ranged from restaurant and grocery store owners to professionals and waiters, cooks, and other workers. Many frequent the club for social affairs. The center is also the site of a farmers' market on Sunday mornings, where people sell produce often grown in their gardens, Li said. A good number of people at the event were recent immigrants who primarily spoke Chinese.

"Immigration from China is growing," said Kawa Cheang, who works for CANTV, the main government-sponsored communications network. "Even more are expected next year, when technicians and others are coming to work on projects of PDVSA," the state-owned oil company.

Cheang and others said this immigration is largely due to recent trade deals between Caracas and Beijing, which have substantially increased since the government headed by President Hugo Chávez took office in 1998.

According to figures released by the Chinese embassy in September, trade between the two countries grew from \$1.4 million in 1974 to \$2.1 billion last year. The same source estimates Beijing's capital investments here at \$2 billion, with Venezuela being the top country for Chinese investment in Latin America.

During Chávez's trip to China in August, the two governments announced new economic agreements. These include plans for Beijing to build computer manufacturing plants in Venezuela, a large order of oil tankers for PDVSA to be built in China, and increased exports of Venezuelan oil to China.

One sign of this cooperation is the growing number of Venezuelan military and government personnel and professionals who are learning Chinese, said Honey Liu. Along with her colleagues Sofia Xu and Kelly Jiang, Liu teaches Chinese to a number of them, she said.

The three also teach Mandarin at the School of Chinese Languages, located in the Chacaito neighborhood here on the floor above the Grand King Chinese restaurant. Some 80 Venezuelan-born students, many of whom attended today's celebration, take classes there for a nominal fee, "so we can keep our language alive," Liu said.

Liu was born and raised here and lived in China for two years to learn the language. Xu arrived five years ago, while Jiang came this year and is now learning Spanish.

"At school and work we don't face much discrimination," Liu said. "But on the street it's not uncommon to hear, 'Go back to China.' There's resentment that Chinese people have jobs or own stores. But we don't cause unemployment."

Recent immigrants are often forced to pay exorbitant fees to get residency papers, Xu said.

Anti-Chinese prejudice, however, was much stronger in the past, said Hai Tung Chang, 75, director of the Chang Gallery, which specializes in Chinese artifacts. Chang also offers free classes in the Cantonese dialect and gives lectures on the history of Chinese immigration to Venezuela.

"There are at least 120,000 Chinese in Venezuela today," said Chang. "About 35,000 live in Caracas, where there are 450 Chinese restaurants and 200 Chinese grocery stores. Chinese communities exist in Valencia, Barquisimeto, Maracaibo, and other cities."

The first Chinese immigrants arrived in Venezuela from Cuba in 1856, Chang said. Thousands more were brought to this country as indentured slaves by the English and other colonialists, many of them through Trinidad and other British colonies in the Caribbean, in the second half of the 1800s. "Many were later expelled," he said.

In Cuba, Chinese immigrants fought in the 19th century wars for independence against Spanish colonialism, Chang said. "That didn't happen here, because when the Chinese were brought as slaves Venezuela was already independent."

Immigration began to increase after 1949, when the capitalist regime of dictator Chiang Kai-shek was overthrown in the revolution that established the People's Republic of China, Chang said. "But it was slow because of restrictions under Mao, which were eased in the 1970s. Then Chinese immigration to Venezuela grew. And anti-Chinese prejudice remained widespread."

"There is one country in the region where we are treated differently," said Liu, during a discussion with *Militant* reporters on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The book describes how anti-Chinese discrimination was ended in Cuba as a result of the socialist revolution there. "In Cuba we know the Chinese are respected," she said.