

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Declarations of Havana
a living guide to action today

—PAGES 6–8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 10

MARCH 12, 2007

Meat packers at Holcomb, Kansas, plant to vote on unionizing

BY KEVIN DWIRE

DES MOINES, Iowa, February 25—Workers at the Tyson Foods cattle slaughterhouse in Holcomb, Kansas, will vote in a union representation election March 1. If a majority cast ballots to unionize, the United Steelworkers (USW), which has been part of the organizing effort there since early 2006, would represent 2,450 workers at the plant.

The last union drive there failed in 2000, when more than 1,800 workers voted against either the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) or the United Workers Independent Union. The plant was then owned by IBP. Tyson, the world's largest processor of chicken, beef, and pork, bought IBP in 2001.

According to a February 14 Associated Press article by Roxana Hegeman, safety on the job is one of the factors behind the union-organizing drive. "Workers last year reported 452 job injuries at the plant, in addition to the man who died in December after getting hit in the head by a large metal

Continued on page 4

Washington presses for more sanctions against Iran

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

February 27—Washington is using a report the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued February 22 to press for more sanctions against Iran. In another setback to the country's efforts to develop nuclear energy, Moscow announced last week that it would slow work on Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, claiming Iran's government was late in making a \$25 million monthly payment.

The IAEA report said Tehran has defied the resolution the United Nations Security Council passed December 23, and has speeded up its nuclear program, planning to complete a large-scale uranium enrichment facility by May.

Washington immediately assembled a closed-door meeting of officials from four imperialist countries—the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany—plus Russia and China to discuss imposing new sanctions on Iran. U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the six

Continued on page 9

U.S. troops kill 100s of Iraqi militiamen

Iraqis protest U.S. arrest of Shiite official



Reuters/Mushtaq Muhammad

Supporters of Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, a leader of the largest faction of the Shiite-led Iraqi government, march February 24 in Kerbala, Iraq, to protest the arrest and 12-hour detention by U.S. troops of al-Hakim's eldest son, Amar, also a leader of the same group.

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, February 28—Thousands of Shiites rallied across southern Iraq February 24 to protest the arrest and 12-hour detention of Amar al-Hakim, an officer of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), as he returned from Iran. His father, Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, is the central leader of SCIRI, the largest faction in Iraq's Shiite-led government.

The U.S. military said Hakim's convoy traveled along a route used to supply weapons from Iran to Shiite militias in Iraq, according to the Associated Press.

About the same time, Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, announced that some 400 members of Sunni- and Shiite-led militias have been killed, and a similar number arrested, by U.S. and Iraqi government forces in the first 10

Continued on page 9

South Africa's gov't carries out first large-scale land expropriation

BY T.J. FIGUEROA

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, February 24—The South African government carried out its first large-scale land expropriation of white-owned farmland January 26, following the failure of the landowner to agree on a selling price. The 25,000-hectare (61,775-acre) farm in the Northern Cape province, owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, is to be returned to some 470 families under land restitution laws.

In recent months the government has warned recalcitrant landowners that it will not negotiate over land prices forever, and that more expropriations will follow if settlements are not reached soon. The state has until 2008 to settle more than 6,000 outstanding rural land claims.

The dead hand of the past weighs heavily on the rural areas of South Africa. For more than 300 years—first with the advance of colonial settlers into Southern Africa, and culminating under apartheid rule—Africans were driven off their land en masse. These land seizures were codified into law with the 1913 Natives' Land Act, which made it illegal for Blacks to own land outside of designated "native areas."

By 1994, when South Africa's first nonracial democratic elections took place, an estimated 87 percent of agricultural land was in the hands of white farmers. A large percentage of this land was

concentrated in huge commercial estates. Today—nearly 13 years after the African National Congress came to power—a mere 3 percent of agricultural land has been transferred to Black farmers.

The government has legislated two

Continued on page 3

Deal between bosses, union may end strike on Canadian railway

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO, February 25—Canada's federal government announced today it will hold off from passing strikebreaking legislation targeting 2,800 Canadian National (CN) railway conductors and yard workers if they return to work on the basis of a deal reached between CN bosses and officials of the United Transportation Union (UTU).

The agreement was announced in the third week of a nationwide rail workers strike that began February 10.

The workers walked out over deteriorating job conditions, in their fight for a new three-year contract. Locomotive engineers, track maintenance workers, clerical and shop-craft workers—orga-

Continued on page 4

'Militant' supporters exceed subscription renewal goal

Hundreds of workers sign up long-term

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

February 28—The *Militant's* five-week campaign to expand its long-term readership ended with resounding success. Supporters of the paper surpassed the international goal by 15 percent, bringing in 573 renewals or new long-term readers, including 177 over the past week.

"The high point of last week was a team to the San Joaquin Valley," wrote Joel Britton and Gerardo Sánchez, both meat packers in San Francisco. "Among the five people renewing on Sunday were a young construction worker, a Foster Farms poultry worker who had helped win a contract after a long fight, and a farm worker.

"Four of those who renewed bought *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, three bought *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and three bought *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism*," wrote Britton and Sánchez. "We will return in a few weeks to discuss with these workers what they're reading in the *Militant* and the books."

This example is not unusual. From the

Delmarva Peninsula in the mid-Atlantic region to the San Joaquin Valley, from the Upper Midwest to central Texas, *Militant* readers, especially workers, renewed and often picked up Pathfinder books and pamphlets when local distributors met them in person.

The *Militant* received many reports from its supporters about current readers who pass around the socialist newsweekly to their coworkers and friends. Discussions with readers netted not

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

China's president, touring Africa, faces some protests 2

Miners in Mexico wage one-day strike over job safety 3

New York University students protest anti-immigrant 'game' 4

Black Panther supporters indicted for 1971 cop killing 5

China's president, touring Africa, faces some protests

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

Chinese president Hu Jintao wrapped up an eight-country African tour February 10. The 12-day trip, Hu's second in nine months, was part of Beijing's expanding trade and investments on the continent.

During the trip, Hu had to cancel some planned stops due to rumors of protests by workers at Chinese-run mines.

African governments used the diplomatic visits to press for more favorable economic relationships with Beijing. In Sudan, officials pushed for greater Chinese investment in oil refining; in South Africa, for more African imports into Chinese markets; in Zambia, for a greater share of the wealth from that country's mining operations.

Trade between China and African countries increased by 40 percent between 2005 and 2006. By the end of last year, Beijing had invested almost \$8 billion in Africa, largely in mineral and oil extraction projects.

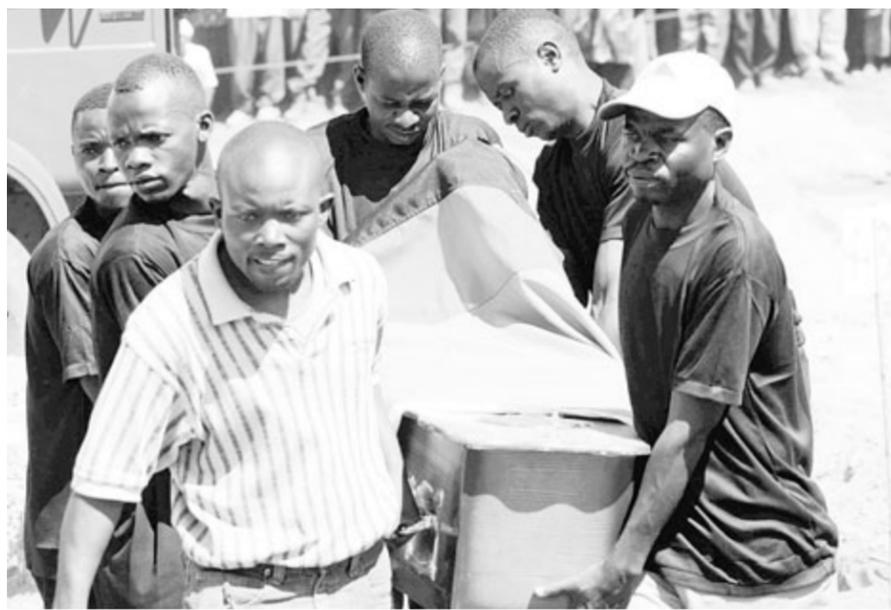
Over the course of his tour, Hu offered \$3 billion in preferential credit to African governments over three years and cancelled \$65 million worth of debt. He made deals for more than \$230 million of grants and loans.

Beijing's massive investment in Africa is an outgrowth of the bourgeois aspirations of a layer of China's ruling bureaucratic caste. Sitting atop a revolution that overthrew capitalist property relations, China's wannabe capitalists mask their resource grabbing in anti-imperialist rhetoric. During his tour stop in South Africa, for example, Hu referred to the "similar suffering and agony" that Chinese and African people had experienced as a result of "colonial aggression and

oppression by foreign powers."

Hu's remarks were in part a response to a December 2006 speech by South Africa's president, Thabo Mbeki, warning that China's investments in Africa could lead to "a replication of that colonial relationship." Unsafe working conditions and low pay at Chinese-run mines, construction sites, and other operations in Africa have sparked protests by workers there. Some local capitalists and petty merchants have complained about the influx of cheap Chinese imports into African markets.

Rumors of protests over working conditions at Chinese-run mines forced Hu to cancel a trip to Zambia's copper belt. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported February 5 that police sealed off all access roads to the University of Zambia the day Hu arrived, after rumors of student protests against his visit. In July, five workers were shot during a protest against the retraction of a pay raise at a Chinese



Reuters/Salim Henry

Pallbearers carry coffin of miner who died in an explosion at the Chinese-owned Chambishi copper mine north of Lusaka, Zambia. Fifty-one people died in the April 2005 blast.

government-owned mine in Zambia.

"They are just using us—we are like tools," Likezo Mukumbi, a security guard at a shopping complex in Lusaka, Zambia, told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "They come here to invest, but at the end of the month they just pay us peanuts."

While in Zambia, Hu promised \$800 million of investment over three years and canceled \$11 million of Zambia's debt. The trade deal is the first of five "Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones" to be established in Africa by China's government. The Zambian zone is supposed to create 50,000 jobs.

U.S.-led offensive deals blows to 'terror' group in Philippines

BY RÓGER CALERO

February 23—Since August, U.S. Special Forces, in conjunction with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), have killed the three central leaders of the Islamist Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) in that country's southern islands. From the beginning of the offensive, 200 of the estimated 400 Abu Sayyaf combatants have been killed or captured, according to Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan, commander of the Philippines Special Forces in Jolo, about 600 miles south of Manila, the capital.

With Washington's backing, Manila

has been in pursuit of Abu Sayyaf, a group both governments have labeled "terrorist." Abu Sayyaf has been waging guerrilla warfare, including through bombings and kidnappings, with the objective of establishing an Islamic Republic. In 1991, the ASG splintered from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)—an organization fighting for an Islamic independent state in Mindanao—after the MILF entered peace negotiations with the Filipino government.

"Working behind the scenes with a rejuvenated Philippine military, U.S. Special Forces have helped kill, capture, or rout hundreds of Abu Sayyaf guerrillas," reported a *USA Today* article, posted on the *Marine Times* web site February 16.

Among the dead are ASG's leader Khadafi Janjalani, who was killed in a shootout last September in Jolo; its senior military commander Abu Sulaiman; and spokesman Aldam Tilao (Abu Sabaya).

Janjalani's death marks "an important and positive step forward in the ultimate goal of eliminating" Abu Sayyaf and destroying its links with "international

terrorist groups," said a January 20 statement by the U.S. embassy in the Philippines.

Washington considers the Philippines an important theater in its so-called global war on terrorism. In addition to providing training to AFP units, U.S. Special Forces have backed the Filipino military's operations with intelligence, satellite imagery, and other technology, and by providing Philippine soldiers with night-vision goggles and other equipment available only to U.S. forces.

U.S. troops played a "crucial but almost invisible" role in finding and killing Tilao, said an article the March issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Tilao was killed by Philippine government forces after a year-and-a-half-long hunt. In May 2001, a group he led had kidnapped 20 tourists and employees of a Philippine resort. The CIA and U.S. troops worked alongside the Philippines Marine Corps during the operation to locate Tilao, "supplying money, equipment, and just enough quiet technological help to close in for the last act," said the *Atlantic Monthly*.

THE MILITANT

'I urge you to subscribe to open your eyes'

"The 'Militant' is a paper that lets you know what is going on in the labor movement and to the labor movement. You will never know these things by reading the daily newspapers. I urge you to subscribe to open your eyes."

—James Weddington
Retiree, ILWU Local 23,
Tacoma, Washington



James Weddington, retired longshore worker, in Tacoma, Washington.

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Land expropriations in South Africa

Continued from front page
principal land reform programs: land redistribution, the objective of which is to transfer 30 percent of agricultural land to Black farmers by 2014; and land restitution, which aims to reclaim land or provide financial compensation to families (or their descendants) driven off the land before 1994. While a high percentage of urban restitution claims have been settled, the majority of rural claims remain unresolved.

In his February 9 State of the Nation speech, South Africa's president, Thabo Mbeki, acknowledged that "very little progress has been made in terms of land redistribution."

The land reform programs have relied on the state purchasing farms at "market prices." Only recently has the government suggested it may abandon its

"willing-buyer, willing-seller" approach, adding in the same breath that there will be no large-scale expropriations. Massive delays in settling restitution claims have developed as white farmers hold out to force up prices.

Land reform officials are warning that more expropriations will take place if landowners do not hurry up and settle. "We have been negotiating with some white farmers for two or three years . . . and this has to stop," chief land claims commissioner Tozi Gwanya said last month. "From March, we will begin expropriating land for which negotiations have gone on for that period or more." A six-month deadline would be imposed on new cases.

South African officials are anxious to avoid any comparisons with Zimbabwe—where President Robert Mugabe's

regime seized most of the white-owned commercial farms in 2000 and 2001. At the same time the government is ratcheting up the pressure on landowners in the face of evidence suggesting that land reform is failing.

"Contrary to what some alarmists have been trumpeting, there has never been any intention to go the Zimbabwe land-grab route," South Africa's agriculture and land affairs minister Lulu Xingwana said last October in a speech to one of



Farm workers at Black-owned farm in South Africa in 2004. Some 84 percent of land in that country is still owned by whites.

the large commercial farmers' unions here. "It is no secret to anyone in this room that this constitution recognizes property rights."

At a land summit in 2005, he continued, "We agreed that the willing-buyer-willing-seller principle is not workable and that the instrument of expropriation should be used selectively . . . and subject to compensation." The land minister added, "It is also in the country's interest to speed up the process to avoid having a restless majority who want land unnecessarily becoming militant."

Mexico miners wage one-day strike over job safety

BY LAUREN HART

LOS ANGELES—Thousands of miners and metalworkers in Mexico took part in work stoppages and other actions February 19 to mark the first anniversary of an explosion that resulted in the deaths of 65 coal miners. The strikers demanded government action against the mine bosses.

On that date one year ago, a methane gas explosion tore through the Pasta de Conchos mine in San Juan de Sabinas, in the northeast state of Coahuila. Sixty-five workers were trapped deep in the mine by a massive roof fall. To this day only two bodies have been recovered.

Miners interviewed by the *Militant* at the time described the dangerous conditions in the mine leading up to the deadly blast. These included dangerous levels of methane gas, poorly maintained and inadequate safety equipment, antiquated methods of roof support, and a production bonus system that pressured miners to continue work at all costs. Investigators have not given an official cause for the explosion, but say they found problems with the mine's ventilation system.

Relatives of those killed in the blast held a vigil and rally outside the mine. They have been fighting to keep the pressure on Grupo Mexico—the mining and railroad giant that owns the Pasta de Conchos mine—to recover the bodies of their loved ones.

About 7,000 miners in the state of Coahuila took part in the 24-hour work stoppage called by the National Mine Workers Union (SNTM), union officials said. Some 3,200 steel workers in Michoacán and 1,400 miners in Zacatecas also participated, according to the Mexican daily *El Imparcial*.

At other work sites, miners carried out more limited protests. Workers from Grupo Mexico's giant Cananea copper mine did not stop work, but held a mass to mark the deaths in Coahuila.

The actions were called by one of two factions in the national miners union. In the wake of the disaster at Pasta de Conchos, Mexico's government announced it was removing the general secretary of the SNTM, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, for alleged corruption, and instead recognized a rival union leader, Elías Morales.

Last year union members in Cananea and many other places organized work stoppages to oppose this blatant government intervention in union affairs, and to demand better safety conditions. The

anniversary protests were organized by sections of the union that continue to back Gómez Urrutia.

In the year since the explosion, neither

the federal nor the state governments have taken action to improve safety at other mines, many of which have similar conditions to those at Pasta de Conchos.

U.S. Special Forces operate from bases in Ethiopia

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington launched bombing attacks from an air base in Ethiopia against southern Somalia in January, the *New York Times* reported February 23. The unnamed government officials from several U.S. agencies cited in this report also said that the U.S. Special Operations unit Task Force 88 was deployed on the ground in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, as part of operations aimed at routing combatants of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC). The SICC had controlled Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia since last June, until being ousted by an invasion of Ethiopian troops in late December.

"The Pentagon for several years has been training Ethiopian troops for counterterrorism operations in camps near the Somalia border," the *Times* article stated, "including Ethiopian special forces called the Agazi Commandos, which were part of the Ethiopian offensive in Somalia."

As part of this operation, two U.S. Air Force AC-130 gunships "arrived at a small airport in eastern Ethiopia" on January 6, the *Times* stated. "American Special Operations troops operating in Kenya, working with the Kenyan military, also set up positions along the southern border [of Somalia] to capture militants trying to flee the country." The following day the AC-130s bombed Ras Kamboni, a small fishing village in Somalia near the Kenyan border.

A second U.S. airstrike by AC-130 gunships was conducted January 23 in southern Somalia.

In addition to using Ethiopian airfields in these attacks, "support planes were de-

ployed in Djibouti," where the Pentagon maintains a base, and "F-15Es from Al Udeid air base in Qatar also flew missions," the *Times* said.

John Negroponte, then director of

national intelligence, also authorized U.S. spy satellites to be diverted to provide battlefield intelligence directly to Ethiopian troops in Somalia, government officials told the *Times*.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Women and the Cuban Revolution Today. Come hear representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women: Alicia González, Ana Milagros Martínez, and Maritzel González. **Sat., March 10, 7:00 p.m.** Sponsors (initial list): Casa de las Americas, Cuba Solidarity New York, Freedom Socialist Party/Radical Women, Popular Education Committee to Free the Cuban Five, Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party, Young Socialists. *MLK*

auditorium, SEIU Local 1199 Building, 310 W. 43rd St. (between 8th and 9th Ave.). Tel. (917) 887-8710.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Rally for an Immediate Moratorium to Deportations, Raids, and No More 'No-Match' Letters! Unconditional Legalization for All! Bring the Troops Home Now! Sat., March 10, 12:00 noon. *Federal Plaza, corner of Adams and Dearborn.*

Presentations of 'Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution'

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Thurs., March 8, 6:00 p.m.

Speakers include: Awam Amkpa, director of NYU Africana Studies Program; Peter Kwong, Professor of Asian American Studies at Hunter College; Kathleen Lopez, assistant professor of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College; Lok Siu, associate professor of Anthropology and Asian/Pacific/American Studies at New York University; Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, interviewed the three generals. Sponsors include: NYU A/P/A Institute and Program, Museum of Chinese in the Americas, China House, and LUCHA. *New York University Asian/Pacific/American Institute, 41-51 East 11th Street, 7th Floor Gallery. Please RSVP. Tel. (212) 992-9653; www.apa.nyu.edu*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Sun., March 11, 2:00 p.m.

Speakers include: Prof. David Goodman, deputy vice chancellor, University of Technology Sydney (UTS); Dr. Mabel Lee, University of Sydney; Arthur Gar Lock Chang, respected elder in Sydney Chinese community, member of Chinese Youth League and Chinese Seamen's Union; Dr. Adrian Hearn, research fellow on China-Latin America relations, Institute for International Studies, UTS; Martin Koppel, Pathfinder Press, interviewed Chinese-Cuban generals for book. Sponsored by UTS Institute for International Studies, Chinese Australian Historical Society of Sydney, and Pathfinder Books. *University of Technology Sydney, Room 430, Level 6, Building 10, entry on Wattle St. off Broadway. Tel. 9718 9698.*

Canada Speaking Tour featuring Armando Choy, Chinese-Cuban general and an author of the book

Vancouver

Sun., March 11, 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Association of Chinese Canadians for Equality and Solidarity Society, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, Pathfinder Books, Vancouver and District Labor Council, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, Vancouver Public Library. *Vancouver Public Library Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, 350 W. Georgia St. Tel. (604) 324-2671.*

Pathfinder Books. *Salle DS-R510, Pavillon J-A, De Sève, Université du Québec à Montréal. For information (514) 987-3667; www.ieim.uqam.ca*

Toronto

Sun., March 18, 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by Chinese Canadian National Council, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, The Chinese Magazine at University of Toronto, Free the Cuban Five Committee Toronto, Pathfinder Books. Donation: \$5. *Medical Science Building Auditorium, University of Toronto, 1 Kings College Circle. Tel. (416) 417-3475, (647) 292-2557.*

Montreal

Thurs., March 15, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by International Studies Institute of Montreal and

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The Imperialist-Engineered Breakup of Yugoslavia and the Fight for Self-Determination in Kosova. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 9, 7:30 p.m. Donation \$5. *5907 Penn Ave., Room 225. Tel.: (412) 365-1090.*

New York University students protest anti-immigrant 'game'

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY

NEW YORK, February 22—A demonstration today at New York University (NYU) drew several hundred students and others to protest a game called "Find the Illegal Immigrant," which the campus College Republicans organized here.

The counterprotest was organized by several campus groups, including Latinos United with Honor and Friendship (LUCHA), Students Creating Radical Change, and the NYU College Democrats.

In the game a group of students pretending to be immigration police competed to find another student posing as an "illegal immigrant" in order to win a prize.

The Republicans claimed that 12 people signed up to participate. They then organized a picket line involving about 10 students holding signs that said "illegal immigration" is "disrespectful," violates American "national sovereign-

ty," and increases the crime rate.

Across the street behind police barricades, hundreds of counterdemonstrators marched, chanted, and held signs with slogans including, "No One Is Illegal"; "Racism Is Not a Game"; and "Legalize, Don't Criminalize Immigrants."

"I am here to try to dispel some ignorance," said Natalia Ospina, the operations chair for LUCHA. "They need to acknowledge that this is not a joke." Ospina called for "respect and open dialogue" on campus around the issue.

Several of the participants interviewed had joined the massive actions calling for legalization of all immigrants that took place across the country last spring.

"I feel strongly that illegal immigrants are not being treated fairly," said Andrelie Suarez, 19, a NYU student who had participated in last year's May 1 demonstration. "I support legalization for all."

Erasma Beras, 34, a graduate student



Militant/Salm Kolis

February 22 counterdemonstration organized by campus groups at New York University to protest 'Find illegal immigrant' game organized by college Republicans.

in the International Development program, also joined the counterprotest. She said that the demand for legalization was not realistic. She supports a "guest worker" program, such as that promoted by the Bush administration.

"My mother came here from the Dominican Republic and got her citizenship through amnesty," Beras said, referring

to the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act that established a process through which 2.7 million undocumented immigrants gained permanent residency. Beras also participated in the massive May Day action last year.

Paul Pederson contributed to this article.

Tyson workers in Kansas to vote on unionizing

Continued from front page

door, Occupational Safety and Health Administration logs show," AP said.

The article, which was reprinted widely across the country, quoted workers in the plant who told of nerve damage from repetitive work, and strong chemical vapors that cause nose bleeds. One worker, Gabino Martínez, told AP that after his hand was smashed by a cow he "had surgery at 8:30 a.m. and was back at work by 4 p.m. with his arm in a sling because

the company would not pay him otherwise. He said Tyson eventually fired him after he refused to move heavy carcasses against his doctor's recommended weight restrictions."

The unionization vote comes on the heels of a victory by workers at Holcomb who sued Tyson to get back pay for time spent putting on and taking off safety equipment, known as "donning and doffing." On February 16, U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum cleared the way

for the workers to seek class-action status. George Hanson, an attorney representing the workers, said more than 800 have indicated they wish to join the suit, which he said could cost Tyson millions.

The company currently pays workers using knives four minutes a day for donning and doffing. Many workers say that is not enough time. Their lawsuit also seeks additional pay for workers required to wear hair nets, gloves, and ear plugs.

Holcomb is located in southwest Kansas. There are many cattle plants in that part of the state, as well as to the south in the Oklahoma Panhandle and northern Texas. Smithfield Beef has announced plans to build a plant in Hooker, Oklahoma, that would process 5,000 head of cattle daily and employ as many as 3,000 workers. Currently, Hooker has 1,700 residents.

A February 24 AP dispatch said some in Hooker fear the plant will "attract immigrants who will overwhelm city services." The article quotes rancher John Hairford, who is described as "the unofficial leader of a group of 140 residents who oppose the plant." He said, "I have nothing against Latinos coming up here legally to work. . . . What we don't need is gangs; we don't want the criminals."

According to AP, many workers from Latin America who work in nearby meatpacking plants in Guymon, Oklahoma; Cactus, Texas; and Liberal, Kansas, have settled in Hooker. The Swift plant in Cactus was one of those raided December 12 by immigration agents, who arrested nearly 300 workers.

Workers in the area took part in nationwide protests last spring demanding legalization for all immigrants. Some 3,000 people attended an immigrant rights rally in Garden City, Kansas, just east of Holcomb, on April 10. The following day, about 600 workers at the Excel beef plant in Dodge City, Kansas, walked off the line. They gathered in the cafeteria to protest the company's attempt to discipline workers who had taken the previous day off to join the immigrant rights actions. The workers, represented by UFCW Local 2, forced Excel to back down. During the protest the company called the cops and "dozens of highway troopers assembled to handle any possible disturbance, law enforcement officials said," AP reported at the time.

Canadian rail strike

Continued from front page

nized by the Teamsters, United Steelworkers, and Canadian Auto Workers, respectively—continued working under existing contracts during the strike.

The claim by CN bosses that their 600 company personnel could keep the freight trains running and on time proved to be bluster. Shipping containers piled up in the Vancouver and Halifax ports. Unshipped products clogged warehouses across the country. Shortages of parts at one Ford plant in Ontario forced its shutdown. Bosses in the grain, forestry, chemical, and other industries demanded the government force strikers back to work.

The strikers' rallying cry has been "enough is enough," referring to the productivity drive for a "precision railway" that CN bosses have been carrying out over the past decade. CN is now the fifth largest railway in North America in terms of annual revenue. Last year the company raked in profits of more than Can\$2 billion (Can\$1 = US 87 cents). The strikers complained of harassment by CN managers, lack of adequate break time and rest periods, and an increasing workload that compromises safety on the job. The union demanded a 13 percent wage increase over three years.

Since 1950 Ottawa has used strike-breaking laws six times against rail workers, and on 25 other occasions against grain-handlers, port and postal workers, and air traffic controllers.

Under the impact of Ottawa's threats, and divisions between the UTU officialdom in Canada and the United States, about 680 of the 2,800 strikers returned to work as the government announced its intent to break the strike.

If the one-year pact UTU officials and CN bosses agreed to is ratified by at least 50.1 percent, the workers will receive a 3 percent wage increase and a \$1,000 signing bonus. Another 150 union demands that were on the bargaining table are set aside for talks between union officials and the company this fall.

UTU officials are urging workers to return to their jobs even though they are supposed to remain on strike until the four-week ratification process by mail-in ballot is completed. The vote will be tallied at UTU offices on March 26.

Over top on 'Militant' subscriptions

Continued from front page

only renewals but also opened relationships with workers and others who have

a broad range of political interests and class-struggle experience. These reports highlighted a point *Militant* editor

Argiris Malapanis made in a February 19 letter to readers. "In the eyes of working people," he said, "the *Militant* has become more of an instrument of the resistance to the bosses' attacks."

Halfway through the drive, Ellen Berman in Philadelphia reported that a young Eritrean worker renewed because "he thought it was important to build solidarity through supporting the paper."

"Two renewals came in this week from workers at a nonunion meatpacking plant where a *Militant* supporter works," wrote Bev Bernardo from Toronto, February 23. "They decided they wanted to be part of the *Militant* making its goal."

In one weekend in mid-February, *Militant* supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, picked up 13 renewals from a rubber worker, meat packers, and construction workers in the area. They were attracted to the paper's response to large-scale immigration raids at Swift packing plants, including the one in nearby Marshalltown.

While this circulation effort is over, the opportunities to expand the paper's readership, and to increase the number of those making it happen, abound. Before the end of March the *Militant* will launch its spring subscription drive to reach out to new readers. To get involved in these efforts, contact local distributors listed on page 8.

'Militant' Subscription Renewal Drive			
Jan. 20 – Feb. 25, 2007 ♦ Final chart			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
CANADA	25	27	108%
U.S.			
Tampa, FL	3	4	133%
San Francisco*	30	39	130%
Chicago	20	25	125%
Atlanta	17	21	124%
Washington, DC	25	30	120%
Boston	20	23	115%
Des Moines, IA	35	38	109%
Newark, NJ	25	27	108%
Twin Cities, MN	27	29	107%
Los Angeles	30	32	107%
Philadelphia	30	32	107%
New York	50	53	106%
Houston	20	21	105%
Albany, NY	5	5	100%
Miami	36	36	100%
San Diego	5	5	100%
Seattle	20	20	100%
Pittsburgh	15	12	80%
Birmingham, AL	23	16	70%
U.S. Total	436	468	107%
NEW ZEALAND	20	21	105%
SWEDEN	13	13	100%
UK			
London	20	22	110%
Edinburgh	8	6	75%
UK Total	28	28	100%
AUSTRALIA	15	14	93%
ICELAND	4	2	50%
Int'l totals	541	573	115%
Should be	500	500	100%
*raised goal			

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Electronics workers in Scotland march against plant layoffs

IRVINE, Scotland—More than 300 workers laid off by Simclar electronics marched here February 17 with placards demanding justice. On January 29 Simclar closed two plants without notice. Four hundred twenty workers, members of the Community union, lost their jobs. Since receiving government redundancy (severance) payments, the workers have now ended their protest actions with this march. Other unionists joined the demonstration to celebrate the stand the Simclar workers had taken, including 12 workers from the Mackinnon knitwear plant who last year struck for 18 days to fight for a wage raise.

—Peter Clifford

Massachusetts grocery workers vote to authorize strike

LOWELL, Massachusetts—More than 5,000 members of United Food and



Militant/Anne Howie

Simclar workers and supporters march in Irvine, Scotland, February 17 to protest layoffs.

Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1445, who work at Stop and Shop in eastern Massachusetts, voted here February 18 to authorize a strike. The previous three-year contract expired that day. The local is one of five UFCW locals negotiating on behalf of 43,000 workers at the giant supermarket's 231 stores in

Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

The company wants workers to begin making partial payments on their health insurance and to eliminate the pension plan for new hires, replacing it with a 401(K) plan. The company is also demanding cuts in the number of paid holidays and sick leave, and wants to split a yearly wage increase between February and August. "It appears that Stop and Shop is loyal to its stockholders," said Ronald Roberson, a Stop and Shop driver for the past five years.

—Ted Leonard

Meat packers in Quebec vote to accept concessions

TORONTO—After voting three times against company-demanded concessions, meat packers who work

for Olymel at Vallée-Jonction, south of Quebec City, approved by a 62 percent margin a 27 percent cut in wages and benefits on February 13. Initially the bosses demanded cutbacks of 38 percent, warning they would close the plant if this was not accepted. There are almost 900 unionized workers in the plant, which is organized by the Confederation of National Trade Unions. On January 14 the workers voted by 99 percent to reject the bosses' demands. The owners then put forward a 27 percent reduction in wages and benefits. This was rejected January 30 by a 97 percent margin. Under growing pressure, the unionists voted on this offer again, rejecting it February 11 by 53 percent. After this vote, the bosses agreed that present wages and benefits would continue until the end of the present contract in September and withdrew a demand that would have taken away the right of workers to choose when they take their vacations.

—Joe Young

Black Panther supporters charged in 1971 killing of cop in Bay Area

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO—The courtroom here was packed February 14 for the arraignment of Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Henry Jones, and Richard O'Neal on charges linked to the killing of a San Francisco policeman nearly 36 years ago. Three of the men, who range in age from 57 to 71, were members or supporters of the Black Panther Party in their youth.

Charges of murder to kill police are faced by Boudreaux, who is an electrician for Los Angeles County; Brown, a community activist and for 20 years a job counselor in San Francisco; and Jones, who lives in Altadena, California. O'Neal, a San Francisco city custodian, is charged with conspiracy to kill police.

Five other men face murder and conspiracy charges in this case, which stems from the killing of John Young at the Ingleside police station here on Aug. 29, 1971. These defendants include Francisco Torres of Queens, New York, and Harold Taylor of Panama City, Florida.

Two others also charged, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), are serving time in a New York prison on frame-up charges of killing two New York City policemen in 1971.

The cops have not been able to locate another man, Ronald Bridgeforth.

When the four men entered the San Francisco Superior courtroom here, shackled and in orange prison garb, many of those in attendance applauded. Judge Donna Little stopped the proceedings and police cleared the court. After objections from the defendants' lawyers, people were let back into the court on the condition that they remain silent.

Defense attorneys have filed challenges to the case, asking that the charges be thrown out due to the "illegal" delay of 35 years in bringing the indictments.

The hearing began with objections by defense attorneys to their clients being shackled. They also challenged the high bail. All four men remain locked up, each facing bail of \$3 million.

An earlier attempt in 1975 to prosecute three of the men for the 1971 kill-

ing in Ingleside failed. A federal court in San Francisco threw out the case after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions. Over the course of several days in 1973, New Orleans police subjected Harold Taylor, John Bowman (who died recently), and Ruben Scott to electric shock, cattle prods, beatings, and put plastic bags put over their heads.

In 1999, the San Francisco cops reopened the case, saying that forensic science had led to alleged new evidence. In 2005, four of the men currently under arrest refused to testify before the grand jury investigating the case and were briefly jailed.

On January 28, several hundred people turned out for a San Francisco showing of the film *Legacy of Torture, The War Against The Black Liberation Movement*, which features interviews with those tortured in 1973.

Prosecutors claim that the accused men were members of the Black Liberation Army, a group they say was waging a battle against the police between 1968 and 1973.

The defendants are scheduled to return to court on March 13.

Picket line held outside New York Times to protest its lack of coverage of Cuban 5 case



Militant/Salm Kolis

NEW YORK, February 21—"Stop the slanders! Stop the lies! Freedom for the Cuban 5!" chanted two dozen picketers outside the *New York Times* Building this evening, as they protested the refusal of the paper to cover the case.

The Cuban 5—Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Gerardo Hernández, René González, and Fernando González—are revolutionaries framed-up eight years ago and serving draconian sentences in U.S. jails on charges that include "conspiracy to commit espionage" for Cuba. They were in Miami to gather information on activities of Florida-based ultrarightist groups with a record of violent attacks on Cuba carried out from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity.

Organizers of the protest said they plan to continue gathering petitions and seeking letters to the *Times* from prominent individuals. More than 500 signatures on petitions have already been submitted to the paper demanding the *Times* break its news embargo on the case.

—SALM KOLIS

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



March 12, 1982

"Reagan Reagan have you heard, this is not Johannesburg"; "Reagan Reagan he's no good, send him back to Hollywood." With these chants, 1,000 mostly Black demonstrators began an eleven-mile march February 20 from Social Circle to Monroe, Georgia. The march and rally were organized to protest the lynching of the Black GI Lynn Jackson. Jackson's body was found December 8 hanging from a tree near Social Circle.

He had disappeared in August. Jackson was on leave from the Army. By the time the protesters reached Monroe the march had swelled to over 2,000.

Rising anger among Walton county residents forced officials to impanel a jury to investigate the cause of death.



March 11, 1957

The fight to end segregation in the New York schools registered an important victory Feb. 28 when the Board of Education accepted the Zoning and Teachers Assignment reports of its subcommittee, the Commission on Integration, and thereby approved in principle a program to equalize educational opportunities for Negroes and other minority groups in the city.

Under the insistent pressure of parent groups and civic and religious organizations, these reports were unanimously accepted in spite of opposition from supporters of the Jim Crow system, some of the daily papers and the leaders of some teachers' organizations.



March 12, 1932

On Monday, March 7, Ford's cosacks fired on a crowd of jobless workers demonstrating before his plant at Dearborn, Michigan. Four workers were shot and killed because they had come to demand from the apostle of "class peace" work, a chance to earn their living.

The demonstrators, upon the call of the Unemployment Council of Detroit, were marching in orderly fashion and had intended sending up a committee to the management of the Ford plant, to present their demands. Ford, the idol of the post war social democracy and all the other preachers of class collaboration, the symbol of "Americanization," immediately ordered his gunmen to pour lead into the masses calling for work and bread.

Declarations of Havana: a living guide

Forged in crucible of Cuba's earth-shaking revolution, manifestos address burning

Below are remarks by Mary-Alice Waters and Mario Rodríguez at a February 13 meeting to present *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, recently published by Pathfinder Press. The event took place as part of the 16th Havana International Book Fair. An account of the meeting was published in the March 5 Militant.

Waters is editor of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* and president of Pathfinder Press.

Rodríguez is a member of the national leadership council of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. The association is made up of Cubans who have taken part in revolutionary struggles and internationalist missions over more than half a century.

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BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

On behalf of Pathfinder Press, thank you and a warm welcome to all the *compañeras* and *compañeros* here with us today for an activity that is in fact a celebration of the 45th anniversary of a momentous day in history.

On Feb. 4, 1962, the people of Cuba assembled in what was perhaps the most awe-inspiring mobilization of the Revolution. They gathered in their millions to adopt the manifesto of revolutionary struggle in the Americas they made known to the world as the Second Declaration of Havana.

I remember well the impact those words had on me at the time. A student in my third year of college, I had only recently begun to call myself a socialist. Needless to say, I had barely the foggiest notion what that meant. Like many of you, the Cuban Revolution had made me a Fidelista before I became a communist.

Lessons of struggle

It was two great working-class battles, one in Cuba, the other in the United States, however, that gave me my first concrete lessons in what socialism is. One was the crushing victory of the Cuban revolution-in-arms at Playa Girón.¹ The other was the rising mass proletarian struggle in the United States to bring down Jim Crow—the institutionalized system of racist segregation established in the late 19th century in the U.S. South that is referred to throughout the pages of the First and Second Declarations



Militant/ Jonathan Silberman

Panelists at February 13 launching of Pathfinder's *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* at Cuba's 16th International Book Fair. From left: Fernando Rojas, president of Federation of University Students in Havana; Mario Rodríguez of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution; José Ramón Fernández, vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers; Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor and president of Pathfinder Press; chairperson Iraidá Aguirrechu of Cuban publisher Editora Política; and Gladys Hernández of the Center for Research on the World Economy.

of Havana. (This system was used as a model by the South African capitalists and their government in the late 1940s to institutionalize what became known as "apartheid.")

From those battles I began to learn what communism is—not a set of preconceived ideas, but a course of struggle by the working class and its allies toward power, which the toilers must take and, if successful, defend arms in hand.

In February 1962 I was in Paris. Eager to explore the world, I had gone to study French art and literature at the Sorbonne. But my real education that year came from an even more powerful source of French culture—from the streets of Paris, where I was drawn into the almost daily street confrontations between the hated special police force known as the CRS and the youth mobilizations supporting the independence war of the Algerian people led by the Front de Libération Nationale, the FLN.²

When I read that powerful closing paragraph of the Second Declaration of Havana, proclaiming "this great mass of humanity has said 'enough,' and has begun to march," I had no doubt what the men and women of revolutionary Cuba were committing themselves to. And I had no doubt that I wanted to become a conscious, trustworthy part of that same great march of humanity.

Published in the 'Militant'

In the United States, the *Militant* newspaper published the Second Declaration of Havana in a matter of days. Within a few more days the predecessor of Pathfinder Press had it on the streets as a pamphlet. In one form or another—usually together with the First Declaration of Havana as an appendix—it has not gone out of print for 45 years.

Available in English, Spanish, and French, that pamphlet has consistently been one of our most sought-after

publications, one of the basic foundations of educational material we use to explain what imperialism is. To explain why imperialism can only be successfully faced down by a profoundly popular revolutionary struggle of the workers and peasants that breaks the military and economic power of the capitalist class and establishes a revolutionary government. One that defends the interests of working people and uses state power to help the toilers transform all economic and social relations.

That is the example the Cuban Revolution has given the world. In the words of the Second Declaration: "What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible."

Questions of revolutionary strategy

As the preface to *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* explains, this new book was born in Caracas, barely three months ago. During the nonstop political discussions that marked the Venezuela International Book Fair, it became clear that the real history of the Cuban Revolution is not well—or accurately—known by revolutionary-minded workers, farmers, and young people in Venezuela.

Many have great hopes and illusions that a violent confrontation with Washington can be avoided since Venezuela has oil and other strategic resources—resources that the imperialist world, including U.S. capitalism, needs. Illusions that the imperialist powers will have no choice but to accept inroads into what they consider their rights and prerogatives, as working people in Venezuela take control over more and more of their national patrimony and use the fruits of their labor and natural resources to better the lives of the majority rather than line the coffers of the ruling capitalist families of Venezuela and the imperialist centers.

Nowhere are these burning questions of revolutionary strategy addressed with greater clarity than in these declarations adopted by millions of Cubans in arms. That is why Pathfinder published it. Not as a museum piece, but because it is needed as a living guide to action by those on the front lines of the class

struggle throughout the Americas—and the world—today.

Then as now, those who think they will be able to sit on their doorstep and watch the corpse of imperialism pass by are only inviting a bloody and costly defeat.

Some will object that too much has changed in the last 45 years for the example of the Cuban Revolution to be useful today. To them we answer, history teaches just the opposite.

Where else in our hemisphere has Washington been held at bay for nearly five decades?

Where else can working people proudly proclaim their country a free territory of the Americas?

Where else can working people defend that reality, as the men and women of Cuba have done from the beaches of Playa Girón to the challenges of the Special Period?³

Needed in United States above all

This book was not published for Venezuela or Cuba, however. Above all, it was published because it is needed by militant workers and revolutionary-minded youth in the United States.

The working class there has been strengthened over the last year by massive proletarian mobilizations that swept the country last spring demanding legalization of some 12 million immigrants who live and work in the United States without papers. Resistance by working people within the U.S. to the manifestations at home of Washington's "long war" is now stronger.

It was not just millions of immigrants who poured into the streets with confidence and pride last May Day, taking the ruling class completely by surprise. And when agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement—*la migra*—raided meatpacking plants across the country two months ago, rounding up 1,300 workers for deportation and bringing criminal charges of "identity theft" against more than 200 of them, it was not just fellow immigrant workers who helped them hide in the plants to escape arrest and who took in children whose parents had been grabbed. Working-class solidarity was strong.

These massive actions in the streets, and tests under fire, are preparing work-

Continued on page 8

The First and Second Declarations of Havana



These uncompromising indictments of imperialist plunder and "the exploitation of man by man," adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962, affirm the power of the great mass of toiling humanity that "has begun to march." They continue to stand as manifestos of revolutionary struggle by working people the world over. Also in Spanish. \$10

Special pre-publication offer: \$7.50 (good until April 1)

www.pathfinderpress.com

de to action today

questions of toilers' 'great march' to power

BY MARIO RODRÍGUEZ

As has been said here, this expanded edition, published in English and Spanish, is not simply a repetition of something. Pathfinder brings us documents with tremendous importance and relevancy for today, documents that enrich the political arsenal of new generations of revolutionaries fighting for their independence, their sovereignty, and socialism.

I want to speak about the people who proclaimed these declarations at the first and second National General Assemblies of the Cuban People. The Cuban people at the time were in the heat of an impassioned battle to consolidate revolutionary power. They were confronting the reality of a powerful enemy: U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Latin America. An enemy who sought to block even the first measures we took: applying justice to the hangmen and murderers of our brothers and sisters killed in the struggle against the bloody tyranny of Fulgencio Batista.

Many of us were convinced we would apply justice without a lot of effort. But it did take a lot of effort. The cancellation of the sugar quota and the cutoff of oil supplies were precisely when the first imperialist campaigns of lies and threats to starve us began.¹

'Nothing halted our advance'

Nothing, nothing halted our advance. The people applied revolutionary justice for the first time in Cuba and Latin America. We rose above the desire for revenge. No vendettas, no group vengeance. We established revolutionary power based on revolutionary justice, administered by duly constituted public tribunals.

As the military and civilian institutions of repression were demolished, the people organized into battalions and companies of popular militias. We trained our army of students, peasants, workers, and intellectuals, who for the first time in a Latin American country were taking up arms to defend their rights and their freedoms.

On March 4, 1960, the steamship *La Coubre* was blown to bits. Dock workers and other workers, rebel soldiers, members of the national police, militia members gave their lives. Even as the ruins of the El Encanto still smoldered, the people were organizing into their mass organizations, into their unions.² The Rebel Army was becoming strengthened as an expression of the new power around which we all united and marched forward, making the revolution.

Teenagers and even children took part in the great endeavor of teaching peasants and workers to read and write. They too gave their generous quota of blood, simply to teach reading and writing in our mountains and our countryside. With

the first steps in carrying out the agrarian reform law, land began to belong to those who worked it.³

In this environment, in this revolutionary atmosphere, on September 2 the First Declaration of Havana was proclaimed. We were proclaiming the sovereign right to establish relations with the People's Republic of China. To establish relations with the Soviet Union and accept its solidarity and aid in face of imperialist aggression and betrayal by the Latin American lackeys.⁴ That betrayal would take military form seven months later at Playa Girón, where the mercenary forces met a crushing defeat as a result of the courage and sacrifices of our combatants, who by now were consciously fighting and dying for socialism.⁵

The duty of every revolutionary

In February 1962 we proclaimed, before the Americas and the world, the duty of every revolutionary: to make the revolution. Whether this came about through peaceful or painful means depended on the forces of reaction. Today, in the processes under way in Venezuela and Bolivia, we have a tremendous historical basis to prove that whether or not revolutionaries in those countries have to use might to defend their work of liberation depends completely on the forces of reaction.

In 1962 our Union of Young Communists was born.⁶ And in March 1962, barely a month after the Second Declaration—which was in February—the Cuban Revolution defended, wisely and rigorously, the unity that was leading us to victory and that was being damaged from within. We attacked what separated us, what weakened us. We forcefully denounced an evil that had to be uprooted—the schematic and bureaucratic conception of society and how it is led, divorced from the masses who were making the revolution and divorced from their values. I'm referring to sectarianism.

Unity began to be strengthened among the masses of industrial workers of Havana, working people in city and countryside, intellectuals, and students who were fighting and proclaiming before the world that Cuba would not fail. This is precisely where the construction of the party came from, the party that was destined to build socialism and march in the vanguard of the masses' political and ideological thought and action, the party that would guide us to victory and provide continuity to the revolution.⁷

In October of that same year, as history willed it, came the first great test of fire in which we participated—the brilliant yet sad days of the October Crisis.⁸ Those political and moral values that served as

Continued on page 8

Declarations of Havana presented in Cuba at meeting of revolutionary combatants



Militant photos by Jonathan Silberman

HAVANA—Pedro de la Cruz (bottom), vice president of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution in Santiago de Cuba, takes the floor during a February 20 presentation of a new Pathfinder title, *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, to a meeting here of leaders of the Association from each of Cuba's provinces. The organization is made up of Cubans who have taken part in revolutionary struggles and internationalist missions, from the 1950s to today.

The speakers at the book presentation (top, from right) included Alexis Hernández, a member of the national leadership of the Association of Combatants; Iraida Aguirrechu of the Editora Política publishing house in Cuba; and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press.

In a lively discussion from the floor, combatants exchanged views and asked questions on subjects ranging from the campaign to free the five revolutionaries from Cuba currently held in U.S. federal prisons to how revolutionaries carry out various forms of their political work in the United States.

Hernández said the book presentation and discussion was an "expression of the mutual solidarity between American and Cuban revolutionaries, which has an incalculable value for us."

—MARTÍN KOPPEL AND JACOB PERASSO

NOTES

1. In the weeks after the victory of the Cuban Revolution in January 1959, hundreds of the most notorious murderers of the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista were arrested and tried by popular tribunals. Many who were found guilty were sentenced to death and executed. Washington seized on the vociferous, nearly hysterical opposition to the tribunals among Cuban counter-revolutionaries as a pretext to launch an international propaganda campaign against the new revolutionary government and to pave the way for increasing economic and political sanctions.

For many years Washington had maintained agreements with the Cuban government that a certain quota of sugar imports sold in the U.S. market would be from Cuba. In July 1960 the U.S. government slashed the quota by 95 percent, later eliminating sugar imports from Cuba altogether. In February 1962 Washington imposed a total embargo on trade with Cuba, which has been maintained and tightened, with bipartisan support, ever since.

2. On March 4, 1960, the French ship *La Coubre*, carrying munitions purchased by Cuba in Belgium, was blown up in Havana harbor, killing 101 people. On April 13, 1961, a fire set by counterrevolutionaries destroyed the El Encanto department store in Havana and killed a worker in the store.

3. During 1961 the revolutionary government waged a campaign to wipe out illiteracy in a single year. By the end of the year, more than 700,000 Cubans had learned to read and write. This was accomplished largely through the mobilization of 100,000 young people who went to the countryside and isolated working-class districts, where they lived with the peasants and workers who were learning to read. During the drive, counterrevolutionary bands organized by Washington murdered nine literacy volunteers and students and injured many others.

4. In August 1960 the Organization of American States—composed of all formally independent Latin American governments and the United States—voted to condemn Cuba's revolutionary course. In January 1962 the OAS expelled Cuba and called for collective measures to counter the Cuban "threat." Subsequently all Latin American governments except Mexico broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

5. On the eve of the battle at Playa Girón, Fidel Castro had, for the first time, described the socialist character of the revolution the Cuban people were making, calling them to battle in defense of Cuba and socialism.

6. In April 1962 the Association of Rebel Youth, acting on a proposal by Fidel Castro, took the name Union of Young Communists (UJC). The Rebel Youth had been launched

Continued on page 8

Donate to cover costs of 'Militant' reporting team to Cuba

A team of *Militant* reporters was in Cuba during most of February to cover the 16th International Book Fair taking place in Havana and other Cuban cities, as well as other political developments in the country. The trip's costs exceeded \$12,000. Donations from readers to help defray such costs add up to \$670 so far. Please donate generously to help the *Militant* pay for the trip and continue fielding similar international reporting teams. Earmark checks or money orders "Havana book fair travel fund," and send your contribution to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Remarks by Mary-Alice Waters

Continued from page 6

ing people in the United States to give a proletarian answer to the question that will increasingly decide the political fate of the entire working class and the very existence of a labor movement.

But it is also important to understand that Washington's "long war" against "terrorism" generates contradictory responses among working people. If the pollsters ask whether one is opposed to the current course of the U.S. government in Iraq, for example, the majority will answer "yes." When asked, however, whether Washington should send in the forces necessary to "win" a new stability and then leave, a large percentage of the same individuals answer in the affirmative to that question too.

Many workers are influenced by imperialist rationalizations put forward by a wide spectrum of both ruling parties in the United States. They see the brutalities of the accelerating civil war and communal battles in Iraq not as a consequence of the U.S. invasion and war, but as an argument for maintaining the imperialist occupation, at least "for a time," in order to prevent "ethnic cleansing."

This is the opposite of what happened during the Vietnam War, where the revolutionary course of the national liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people increasingly won the political battle for support worldwide, including within the United States, especially among the youth.

This is the world in which the political clarity of the Declarations of Havana and the revolutionary course they present are sorely needed.

To conclude, it is important to note that *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* is not just a new edition of a pamphlet long in print. It is genuinely a new book.

The two declarations are placed in their proper historical order, clarifying the events and the continuity that link them. They are accompanied by a chronology focused on developments in the world and in the Cuban Revolution that shaped them. By a glossary to identify names and historical events that were common knowledge at the time for those to whom the declarations were addressed. By 16 pages of photos that bring those names

and events alive. By an index to help those who will be studying these documents. In short, by the things necessary for those who did not *live* those historic years to begin to understand the lessons of revolutionary struggle that the people of Cuba were writing with their own blood in the months that linked the First and Second Declarations of Havana.

Those lessons remain as true today as they were then, as true as they have been since the Communist Manifesto. It is in that spirit that this book has been published. And, as the preface says, "It is to those who will use it in that manner that it is dedicated."



Militant/Dave Salner

March 7, 2006, rally of 20,000 in Washington, D.C., demanding legalization of undocumented immigrants. "The working class in the United States has been strengthened by last spring's mass proletarian mobilizations," Waters said.

Presentation by Mario Rodríguez

Continued from page 7

foundations to build the party—values of solidarity, firmness of ideas, and leading by example—must continue to be the guarantee of the very existence of the revolution that the First and Second Declarations of Havana proclaimed.

Every single letter and sentence of the First and Second Declarations of Havana expresses this vast and just cause of Latin America, of Martí, Juárez, Bolívar, and Marx.⁹ These two documents can never become dead letters. They were conceived in the heat of historical experience, but forged primarily in the crucible of the earth-shaking power of the Cuban people, which was laying down the roots of the first socialist state that, in its search for new popular and democratic forms, was taking on the exploitation of man by man just 90 miles from the strongest imperialist power on earth.

Like the Communist Manifesto, the First and Second Declarations of Havana are an example that neither recipes nor manuals nor dogmas lead to the triumph of revolutionary ideas.

The Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution would like to thank Editora Política and Pathfinder for this invitation.



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NOTES (continued from page 7)

in December 1959 at the initiative of the Rebel Army's Department of Instruction, headed by Ernesto Che Guevara. In October 1960 it had fused with the youth wings of the Popular Socialist Party and of the March 13 Revolutionary Directorate. In many ways its revolutionary trajectory prefigured the path being taken in replacing the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations with what, in 1965, would become the Communist Party of Cuba.

7. In December 1961 the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI) was formed in Cuba, uniting the July 26 Movement, which led the fusion; the March 13 Revolutionary Directorate; and Cuba's Moscow-oriented Popular Socialist Party (PSP). On March 26, 1962, less than two months after the Cuban people adopted the Second Declaration of Havana, Fidel Castro gave a televised speech rejecting the bureaucratic and sectarian course of ORI organization secretary Anibal Escalante. If such practices were allowed to continue, Castro said, they would alienate masses of workers and peasants from the government and from building a revolutionary party. Fidel announced that Escalante, who had been a central PSP leader, was being removed from his post. The process of building a communist party began, and in 1965 it took the current name of Communist Party of Cuba. (The *Militant* ran excerpts from Fidel Castro's March 1962 speech in its April 16, 1962, issue. The entire speech was published a few weeks later by Pathfinder's

predecessor under the title, *Fidel Castro Denounces Bureaucracy and Sectarianism*. Supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States campaigned with it widely, together with *The Second Declaration of Havana*, which the publishing house had also published.)

8. A reference to the Cuban "Missile Crisis." In face of Washington's escalating preparations to invade Cuba, the Cuban government signed a mutual defense agreement with the Soviet Union under which nuclear missiles were deployed on the island. In October 1962 Washington ordered a naval blockade of Cuba, stepped up preparations to invade, and placed U.S. armed forces on nuclear alert. Cuban workers, farmers, and the entire people mobilized by the millions to defend the revolution. Following an exchange of communications between the governments of the United States and USSR, on October 28 Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, without consulting the Cuban government, announced Moscow's agreement with Washington to remove the missiles.

9. José Martí (1853–95), Cuba's national hero, organized Cuba's war of independence against Spanish colonial rule at the end of the 19th century. Benito Juárez (1806–72), was Mexico's national hero, who fought French occupation of the country. Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) led a series of armed rebellions that helped win independence from Spain for much of Latin America. Karl Marx (1818–83) was a founding leader, from 1847, of the modern communist workers movement.

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Support union drive at Tyson!

The nearly 2,500 workers at the Tyson Foods cattle slaughterhouse in Holcomb, Kansas, deserve the support of the entire labor movement and all working people as they head into their March 1 union representation election. Unionizing that plant would help set an example for the entire working class.

By reaching to organize a union, the meat packers there are fighting back against intolerable safety conditions that jeopardize their lives and limbs. Repetitive motion injuries, illnesses from chemicals, and risks of death from unsafe conditions are realities that a big section of the working class faces every day, whether punching in at a packing plant, coal mine, construction site, or elsewhere. Most workers know that without a union the bosses have an easier time firing or otherwise victimizing anyone who speaks up for safer conditions or refuses to perform unsafe jobs.

The workers at Holcomb are emboldened in their struggle against the bosses by the experiences they and millions like them went through last spring during the mass proletarian mobilizations to demand legalization for undocumented immigrants. One of those actions on April 10, 2006, attracted 3,000 people in the nearby town of Garden City, which has a population of 27,000. The next day, 600 workers walked out at an Excel packing plant in nearby Dodge City, forcing the company to back off from its attempt to discipline those who had missed work to take part in the protest.

Nearly one year later, the U.S. working class remains politicized by such experiences, which included millions of workers downing their tools and taking to the streets last May Day to place

political demands on the government.

The U.S. rulers' antilabor response, including large-scale immigration raids, has not cowed working people into submission. If anything, the brutal and dehumanizing way in which *la migra* carried out its raids has helped workers from different national origins break down the boss-fostered divisions among them. The message of the employers and the government is becoming clearer: the target is the entire working class, not just the foreign-born, not just those without papers. The outpouring of solidarity with the workers rounded up in the December raids at six Swift plants—including the one in Cactus, Texas, which is near Holcomb—and with their families is a case in point.

Unsafe conditions, injuries, and deaths at work don't have to be "part of the job." They are the result of the way in which the bosses organize production, putting profits ahead of workers' lives. The only way to guarantee job safety is for workers to organize and use union power to exert control over working conditions.

The workers in Holcomb are doing just that.

As the bosses continue speeding up the line to shore up declining profits and fatten their wallets, we can anticipate more workers will follow suit. To achieve working-class unity, which is essential in the success of any such struggle, it is necessary to champion the legalization of undocumented immigrants. That's a life-and-death question for trade unions today.

The entire working class and the labor movement should support the actions of the Holcomb workers and demand: Legalize all immigrants now! Unionize all workers! Not a single worker has to die or be maimed on the job!

U.S. troops kill Iraqi militiamen

Continued from front page

days of a crackdown launched in Baghdad in mid-February. The U.S. government is sending 21,500 additional troops to Iraq to spearhead the operation.

Meanwhile, "antiwar" posturing by Democrats in the U.S. Congress continues to sputter. A proposal by Rep. John Murtha, chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on defense appropriations, to tie U.S. funding for the war to "readiness" of the troops being deployed is all but dead in the water, according to press reports.

Amar al-Hakim said during his detention by U.S. troops that he was handcuffed and blindfolded and his bodyguards were "strongly abused," according to AP. Hakim said he was told by the U.S. military that he was being held because his passport had expired. However, he displayed a passport valid until September, AP reported.

Leaders of SCIRI were exiled in Iran during the reign of Saddam Hussein's Baath party regime in Iraq. SCIRI has kept close ties with the government of Iran but also maintains good relations with Washington.

Iraq's cabinet approved a new draft oil law February 26. The U.S. rulers view its passage as a key component in establishing a stable regime in Iraq

friendly to U.S. interests in the region.

A summary of the law shows that the central government would distribute oil revenues to Iraq's 18 provinces based on population. It would also open Iraq's vast oil reserves to extensive investment by foreign companies. A compromise in the draft law allows the Kurdish regional government to negotiate and sign contracts with foreign companies for oil exploration and production. The contracts would be reviewed by Baghdad. The measure still needs to be approved by Iraq's parliament.

Back in Washington, Democrats in the House have pulled back from the "Murtha Plan" due to strong opposition within their party.

Aides to Democratic politicians said Murtha's proposal would be revised to drop some of the more stringent restrictions on troop deployments, such as being trained with the equipment they will use before being sent to Iraq, reported the *Washington Post*.

Democrats in the Senate said they are considering a proposal to revise the 2002 Congressional resolution authorizing the invasion of Iraq. The proposal would keep U.S. troops in Iraq for a year. An unspecified number of troops would remain beyond that time to train Iraqis, secure Iraq's borders, and continue "counterterrorism" operations.

LETTERS

Somalia's Islamist gov't

I am a prisoner incarcerated at Five Points Correctional Facility and I receive a subsidized subscription to the *Militant*. This is my fifth subscription.

I wanted to address a few is-

ssues. "Abu Sayyaf" does not mean "Sword of God" in Arabic, as you asserted in an article in the February 19 issue. It means "Father of the Executioner."

In the editorial "Behind the war and divisions in Somalia" in the February 5 issue, it mentioned that the SICC [Somalia Islamic Courts Council] gained support through its appeals for order. Are there any details about this available? For example, what was the structure of their "Islamist" government during the time of their rule?

I would also like to know if the *Militant* has ever featured an article on the mercenary company Blackwater, USA. How many people realize that an army for hire—20,000

strong—exists and is employed right here on American soil?

I am very pleased with the depth of reporting in your publication, and I appreciate very much the efforts of all who make the *Militant* and its subsidized subscriptions possible. Much thanks. Keep up the tough work.

*Amare Selton
Romulus, New York*

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

Sanctions on Iran

Continued from front page

would hold further phone talks March 1, "at which time they hope to be able to hammer out the elements of a UN sanctions resolution." The resolution the UN Security Council passed in December banned financial transactions and the export of materials and technology that Tehran could use to develop nuclear power.

Washington used the December resolution to tighten its squeeze on the country. In January, U.S. president George Bush ordered a second aircraft carrier group into the Arab-Persian Gulf in striking distance of Iran. Washington has also pressed banks around the world to cut off lending and export credits to Iran, hoping to further damage its oil and other infrastructure.

The nuclear power plant Moscow is helping to build in Bushehr was excluded from the December sanctions. Now, however, Moscow's decision will delay possibly by a year any delivery of nuclear fuel to the plant. The two governments had signed a memorandum of understanding in 1992 and a contract in 1995. The plant was scheduled to be inaugurated in October and connected to the Iranian electric power grid in November.

The problem arose last month when the Iranian bank that settles accounts requested to pay in euros rather than U.S. dollars. The bank was following the orders of the Iranian government, which decided in mid-December to replace the U.S. dollar with euros in all foreign transactions to ease the impact of U.S.-led sanctions against the country. Moscow has refused payments in euros, insisting that such a change in terms must be incorporated as an amendment to the Bushehr contract. It appears that Moscow, faced with rising energy and commodity prices, no longer considers Bushehr a money-making project.

In pushing for a second UN Security Council resolution against Iran the White House is building on the impact of the first. "We did not fully anticipate the strong impact that it would have," U.S. under secretary of state Nicholas Burns said February 22. "It has divided the government in Tehran and frankly knocked them off stride."

London to beef up force in Afghanistan

And pull 1,600 troops from Iraq

BY BJÖRN TIRSÉN

LONDON, February 26—British defense secretary Des Browne announced today plans to send 1,400 additional troops to Afghanistan, bringing the total British forces there to 7,700. Most will be deployed over the summer to the southern Helmand province, where fighting has been the fiercest.

The increased deployment will coincide with British commander Major-General Jacko Page succeeding the present Dutch command of the southern region of Afghanistan in May.

Five days ago, Prime Minister Anthony Blair said that 1,600 British troops would leave Iraq within the next few months. He claimed that their five-month "Operation Sinbad" in Basra was a success.

U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice praised Blair's announcement, saying that the British government had "done what is really the plan for the country as a whole, which is to be able to transfer security responsibilities to the Iraqis as conditions permit," reported the February 22 *Financial Times*.

Differing views among the British ruling class on the coming troop moves are reflected in the main bourgeois papers here. In its February 22 editorial, "Redeployment, not Retreat," the *London Times* said that "Operation Sinbad appears to have severely curtailed [Shia militias'] activities." The editorial was subtitled, "Britain will and should maintain troops in southern Iraq."

The same day the *Financial Times*, on the other hand, called the troop withdrawal "the beginning of the end to a damaging and discredited enterprise," adding that to "misrepresent this as success is, at best, disingenuous."

The Prisoners Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the *Militant* and earmarked "Prisoners Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.