

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
N.Y. conference discusses
Equatorial Guinea today
—PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 16 APRIL 27, 2009

U.S. gov't, UN intensify pressure on N. Korea

BY BEN JOYCE

The United Nations Security Council adopted a statement April 13 that ratchets up pressure against North Korea after Pyongyang's April 5 rocket launch. This move includes a tightening of economic sanctions that were imposed by the council in 2006.

The Security Council's presidential statement condemns the April 5 launch, claiming it was a long-range missile test. North Korea has maintained for months that the rocket was to launch a communications satellite for peaceful purposes.

While a presidential statement is less binding than a resolution, this statement does activate a committee to oversee enforcement of previously imposed sanctions. The committee has until April 24 to come up with a list of specific sanction targets. UN member states may be obligated to freeze the assets of those who do business with North Korea. The statement was adopted unanimously by the Security Council whose permanent members include China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In response to the moves, the For-

Continued on page 5

FBI targets Somalis in Minnesota 'terror' raid

BY TONY LANE

MINNEAPOLIS—In an ongoing "antiterror" campaign aimed at Somalis the FBI raided three money-transfer businesses here April 8. The raids took place at two south Minneapolis malls where Somalis shop. Many Somalis use money transfers to send funds to relatives.

Similar raids were conducted here and in other cities in November 2001 against money-transfer businesses the government claimed provided funds to "terrorist" groups.

Abdirahman Omar, the general manager of Mustaqbal Express, one of the businesses raided, said 15 agents spent about five hours poring over records and interviewing employees. "They were collecting every receipt, money wires and banking statements," Omar told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

An FBI agent confirmed the searches occurred but refused to give any details, reported the *Tribune*. The paper said one of the search warrants was filed in federal court in St. Louis under seal. It said the FBI was seeking information regarding money sent to

Continued on page 2

U.S., NATO troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan!



U.S. Bradley armored fighting vehicles roll through streets in Mosul, Iraq, March 27.

Not 1 penny, not 1 person for U.S. war

President Barack Obama has requested \$83.4 billion more for war funding. Working people need to demand not one cent, not one person for Washington's wars.

EDITORIAL

The U.S. government has managed to cobble together a regime in Iraq that can serve as a stable ally in the region. It has been able to do this,

Continued on page 9

U.S. force in Iraq may delay reduction

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The commander of U.S. troops in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, said April 9 that Washington may keep thousands of U.S. troops in Iraqi cities past the June 30 deadline previously set for their withdrawal. President Barack Obama, meanwhile, requested Congress approve \$83.4 billion in emergency funds for U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through September 30.

In an interview with the London

Continued on page 9

Workers fight plant closures in N. Ireland and England

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Workers at the three Visteon plants in Northern Ireland and England, previously owned by Ford, are pressing their fight against plant closures. After filing for bankruptcy the company March 31 abruptly shut down their factories, which make auto parts.

One hundred fifty workers who have been occupying the Belfast plant in Northern Ireland since then marched April 9 with supporters through pouring rain in west Belfast.

One of the workers, Jake Burns, told the *Belfast Telegraph*, "We're not going down without a fight. Either the plant reopens or we get the redundancies we are entitled to." With Visteon declaring bankruptcy workers will receive only the statutory minimum redundancy (severance) payments, thousands of pounds less than Ford had guaranteed employees "for a lifetime." (£1 = US\$1.48.)

Workers at the Basildon plant just outside London marched through the busy town center April 11 to applause from many local residents. The workers have mounted a 24-hour picket outside the plant after being forced

out of an occupation the day after the factory closure was announced.

"We were escorted out of the plant under threat of arrest by police with riot equipment and dogs," marcher Rob Fitch, who worked at the plant for 13 years, told the *Militant*. He said workers there were pleased to receive a delegation from the plant in Belfast

Continued on page 9

Texas meeting boosts 'Militant' int'l subscription campaign

BY BEN JOYCE

The international campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* got a big boost at a meeting at the University of Texas—Pan American in the Rio Grande Valley where students and others discussed the Cuban Revolution. However, the drive is slightly behind at 694 subscriptions with four weeks left to reach the international

Continued on page 4

Washington agrees to join nuclear talks with Tehran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The U.S. government announced April 8 that it will participate directly in talks with Tehran over Iran's nuclear program. At the same time Washington expanded the scope of sanctions aimed at preventing Iran from getting access to technology and materials it needs to have nuclear self-sufficiency.

Tehran and Washington have had no diplomatic relations since 1979, when the Iranian people rose up and overthrew the U.S.-backed monarchy of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Iranian efforts to develop nuclear power began with U.S. help under the shah.

In 2003 Washington accused Tehran of developing nuclear power in order to produce nuclear weapons. Tehran has denied this, explaining Iran needs nuclear energy to develop the country's industry and agriculture.

The UN Security Council has since imposed a wide range of sanctions

against Iran because it has refused to abandon the enrichment of uranium, a process needed both to fuel nuclear plants and to create nuclear weapons. Washington has imposed further sanctions unilaterally.

London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, and Beijing have periodically held ne-

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

- Tamils in Australia protest
- Sri Lankan gov't attacks 2
- List of May Day actions for immigrant rights 3
- Pakistan: protests erupt over killings in Baluchistan 4
- 'Stand in solidarity with Korean people's struggle' 5

24 million in United States jobless or forced part-time

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Unemployment rose to 8.5 percent, or 13.2 million workers, the U.S. Department of Labor reported April 3. That is up from 8.1 percent a month earlier.

The March figure does not include the 2.1 million “marginally attached” workers—those the government does not count because it says they haven’t looked for work over the past four weeks. Nor does it count the 9 million forced into part-time work. These two categories

bring the total to more than 24 million workers—15.6 percent—unable to get full-time jobs.

The unemployment rolls increased in March by 694,000. Since the recession began in December 2007, the bosses have cut 5.1 million jobs, more than 2 million of these over the past three months. Those without jobs are having increasing difficulty finding any work, with 3.2 million unemployed for six months or more, up 265,000 from March.

FBI targets Somalis in raid

Continued from front page

“any person, business or entity where such transfers were destined for locations in: Somalia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and United Arab Emirates.”

The raid comes on the heels of wide-ranging interrogations by the FBI in March targeting the Somali community. These included questioning and visiting individuals in their homes, at educational institutions, and at airports. To justify the interrogations, the FBI has been using the excuse of “disappearances” of some 20 local Somali youth, who the bureau alleges have gone to fight for the al-Shabab Islamist militia in Somalia.

The *Tribune* reports that more than a dozen Somalis have been subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. (See article “FBI targets Somalis in Minneapolis” in April 6 *Militant*.)

The interrogations have prompted

the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to send letters to area high schools, colleges, and institutions asking for legal support to Somali students who have been questioned on campus by the FBI. CAIR said students have reported that federal agents have approached them in libraries and while they are walking to class. The agents have questioned them without lawyers present.

Hawaiians fight gov’t attempt to sell native lands

BY BEN JOYCE

Supporters of Hawaiian land rights pledge to continue their fight after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a March 31 unanimous decision to refer their case to the state courts. They are currently fighting government attempts to sell their land.

Tamils in Australia protest Sri Lankan gov’t attacks



Militant/Bob Aiken

SYDNEY, Australia—More than 1,000 protesters, mainly Tamils, assembled outside the prime minister’s residence here April 12–13, determined to maintain their protests against the current military offensive by the Sri Lankan government against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam, a group that has fought for Tamil self-determination for two-and-a-half decades.

Sri Lankan Tamils face discrimination in language, education, employment, and religion by the Sinhalese-dominated government. The Sri Lankan armed forces have been on a stepped-up drive to take over all territory the Tamil Tigers previously controlled. “More than 77,000 people have been killed in the last two years,” protester Yogan Myl told the *Militant*.

The protesters called for a cease-fire and opening up the Tamil region so food, medical care, and other aid can reach refugees. Three Tamil youth who began a hunger strike outside Parramatta Town Hall joined the protest along with their supporters. On April 8 there was a Tamil demonstration in downtown Sydney.

—BOB AIKEN

THE MILITANT

Legalize immigrants now!

For the fourth year in a row, demonstrations will take place on May 1st across the United States as part of the fight to legalize immigrants, a life-or-death question for the unions. The ‘Militant’ will be there reporting on these important actions.



Militant/Chris Hoepfner

Students protest immigration cop recruitment at Seattle University April 2008.

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

PHONE

E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

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

The Militant

Vol. 73/No. 16

Closing news date: April 15, 2009

Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Ved Dookhun, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

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

Website: 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 send \$85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above

address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, Montreal, Quebec. H2S 2N1.

United Kingdom: Send £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: Send £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

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

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

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

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year 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.

Workers plan May Day demonstration in Atlanta

BY JACOB PERASSO

ATLANTA—About 30 people met here April 6 to plan activities to celebrate International Workers’ Day.

Among those at the meeting were about a dozen workers and their families, members or representatives of the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR), Open Table Community Church, Cajola United in Solidarity for Guatemala, Solidarity, Feminist Women Health Center, Young Socialists, and the Socialist Workers Party. Pedro Marin, Georgia state representative for District 96, and a TV anchorman from Spanish-language network Telemundo in Atlanta also participated.

The meeting was hosted by GLAHR as part of their monthly meeting.

Participants debated and discussed whether or not to have a march or a rally on May Day. Arturo Perez was among several who urged that a march be organized so that “people can see that we are here and present.” Immigrants and their supporters want to march, he said, “to say that we are in this country to work.”

Some participants urged marching on Saturday, May 2, with the hope of get-

ting more participation, while others spoke in favor of marching on May 1. In the end it was decided by majority to call a march on May 2 at 10:00 a.m., beginning and ending at the Georgia State Capitol.

The meeting also heard a report from Larry Pellegrini of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit on state legislation that affects immigrants.

Pellegrini noted that two bills, SB 67 and SB 136, failed to pass. SB 136 would have required deportation of some prisoners during their prison sentences. SB 67 would have made English the only language in which a citizen and some permanent residents could take the driver’s license test in Georgia.



Militant/Eddie Beck

Participants at April 6 meeting of the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights plan May 2 demonstration in Atlanta in defense of the rights of immigrant workers.

Forums strengthen ‘Militant’ fund campaign

BY SAM MANUEL

Partisans of the *Militant* newspaper in San Francisco will host a public meeting April 19 to help raise contributions to the paper’s \$105,000 fund. Supporters of the socialist newsweekly in that city, along with those in Des Moines, Iowa; Atlanta; Los Angeles; Philadelphia; and

the Twin Cities, Minnesota—as well as in Canada and Sydney, Australia—are leading the way in collecting funds.

Socialist Workers Party leader Norton Sandler will speak in San Francisco on “The Accelerating Crisis of Industrial Production and Trade—Why the Working Class Needs to Take Political Power.”

“We expect this forum to give a big boost to our campaign to make our quota in full by the end of the fund drive in May,” reports Joel Britton.

Britton also reports that they are getting a warm response from *Militant* readers. “A worker who first sub-

scribed to the paper last fall renewed his subscription a couple months ago and regularly attends the Militant Labor Forums,” Britton said. “When asked to pitch in on the fund, he quickly pulled a \$100 bill out of his wallet.”

A longtime reader of the *Militant* in Colorado sent a note along with his check for \$100. He explained that in addition to the *Militant* he has found rereading Lenin’s *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* helpful in understanding the worldwide economic crisis.

The eight-week *Militant* fund drive ends May 19. So far it is 1 percent behind schedule with just over \$25,000 collected. Contributions help make possible reporting trips abroad, from Cuba to Equatorial Guinea. The *Militant* also depends on contributions from its readers to cover basic operating expenses.

The chart on this page shows the current pledges and amounts collected so far. To make a contribution or to find out about a fund meeting in your area, contact a distributor listed on page 8 or write directly to the *Militant* at the address on page 2.

— CALENDAR —

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Panel on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Speakers: Carlos Sibaja, vice president, MEChA; Karen Strickland, professor of psychology and social work; Charles Jeffreys, professor of psychology; Martin Koppel, co-interviewer for *Our History Is Still Being Written*; Tina Young, director, Multicultural Activities at Seattle Central. Fri., April 24, 10 a.m. *Seattle Central Community College, BE 1110.*

CANADA

Toronto

First International Festival of Poetry of Resistance in Honour of the Cuban Five. April 24–30. International poets expected to participate include: Ataol Behramoglu, Turkey; Nancy Morejón and Orlando Silverios, Cuba; Gilles Dossou-Gouin, Norway; Muneza Hashmi, Pakistan; Esther Celis, Colombia; Gary Geddes, Victoria, British Columbia; and a theater group from National Autonomous University, Mexico. Events during week take place at various locations throughout city. Opening poetry and music session is Fri., April 24, 7 p.m. *For more information: e-mail resistancepoetryfest@gmail.com.*

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

The Fight for Legalization of Immigrants—All Out for May 1! Panel discussion. Fri., April 24. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.*

FLORIDA

Miami

The Contraction of Capitalist Production and Trade—Why the Working Class Needs to Take Political Power. Benefit for *Militant* Fund. Speakers: Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., April 26, 3 p.m. *6777 NW 7th Ave. #5. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.*

May Day actions for immigrant rights

Below is a calendar of events celebrating International Workers’ Day in the United States this year. We urge workers to join these actions, which, as they have since 2006, will demand legalization of undocumented workers and protest against immigration raids and deportations. Are there May Day actions in your area not listed here? E-mail or fax the information along with a flyer advertising the event and contact information to themilitant@mac.com or fax to (212) 244-4947.

CALIFORNIA

Fresno

May Day march. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 5 p.m., Eaton Plaza. March: 6 p.m.

Los Angeles

Legalization now! Stop the raids! Fri., May 1. Assemble: 1 p.m., Broadway and Olympic.

Oakland

Stop the raids and deportations. Fri., May 1. Program: 3:30 p.m., Fruitvale Plaza. March: 4:30 p.m.

San Francisco

May Day event. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, Dolores Park.

San Jose

March for human rights. Fri., May 1. March: 4 p.m., Story and King Rd. Tel.: (408) 203-1696.

Santa Rosa

Justice and respect for all workers! Fri., May 1. Rally: 3 p.m., 665 Sebastopol Rd. in Rose-land Dollar Tree parking lot. March: 4:30 p.m.

Santa Ana

Legalization now! Stop the raids! Fri., May 1. Assemble: 3:30 p.m., Civic Center Dr. between Broadway and Flower.

Watsonville

For the rights of immigrants and workers. Fri., May 1, 4 p.m.–9 p.m., activities in Watsonville Plaza. March: 6 p.m.

COLORADO

Greeley

Unity march. Sat., May 2. Assemble: 1 p.m., Island Grove Park, 514 N. 14th Ave. Tel.: (970) 388-0834.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

May Day march. Sat., May 2. Assemble: 10 a.m., State Capitol.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Without legalization there will be no equal workers’ rights. Fri., May 1. Rally: 10 a.m., Union Park, corner of Ashland and Washington. March: 12 noon.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Stop raids and deportations that break

up families. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 10 a.m., W. Vernor and Woodmere. Rally: 12 noon, Clark Park. Tel.: (313) 580-5474 or 575-4933.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

March for our rights. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, Union Square, 14th St. and Broadway. March: 5:30 p.m. Tel.: (212) 561-1744.

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte

Rally for immigrants’ and workers’ rights. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, Trade St. and Tryon St. March: 6 p.m.

OREGON

Portland

March and rally for immigrant and workers’ rights. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 1 p.m., South Park Blocks. Rally: 4 p.m. March: 5 p.m. Tel.: (503) 236-5573.

TEXAS

Austin

March for just and humane immigration reform. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 6 p.m., Texas Capitol south steps. March: 7 p.m.

San Antonio

Legalization, reunification, no border wall. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 6 p.m. Milam Park. Tel.: (210) 299-2666.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

May 1 march and rally. Fri., May 1. Rally: 3:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Church, 611 20th Ave. S. March: 4 p.m. Tel.: (206) 324-6044.

WISCONSIN

Madison

May Day march. Fri., May 1. Assemble: 11 a.m., Brittingham Park, W. Washington Ave. and Park St.

Milwaukee

Statewide immigrant and labor rights march. Fri. May 1. Assemble: 12 noon, 1027 S. 5th St. Followed by program and music at Veterans Park. Tel.: (414) 643-1620.

Pakistan: protests erupt over killings in Baluchistan

BY DOUG NELSON

Mass demonstrations erupted throughout the Pakistani province of Baluchistan April 9 to protest the killing of three Baloch nationalist leaders found dead the night before.

The Baloch are an oppressed nationality residing in some of the least developed areas in Pakistan and Iran. The majority live in southwest Pakistan, where nearly half subsist on incomes below the poverty level as defined by the government. Several hundred thousand also live in southern Afghanistan.

The three killed were Ghulam Mohammad Baloch, president of the Baloch National Movement (BNM); Lala Munir, also of the BNM; and Sher Mohammad Baloch of the Baloch Republican Party. Their bodies were found in the village of Pedarak in the mountainous region of southwest Baluchistan.

The three were abducted by force from their lawyer's office April 3 after appearing in court where, according to the Pakistani daily *Dawn*, a judge had dismissed charges against them for "sparking political unrest in Quetta and Karachi in relation to the Baloch nationalist movement and the increasing number of missing persons cases."

Ghulam Mohammad Baloch was a member of a committee investigating more than 1,000 reports of missing people. Baloch politicians and activists al-

lege that Baloch nationalists have been abducted by government agents.

The lawyer who represented the three, Kachkol Ali, said Pakistani police prevented him from filing a criminal complaint against the government's intelligence bureaus and its paramilitary Frontier Corps following the abduction of the three.

Evidence indicates the three were tortured and shot in the head shortly after they were kidnapped. Their bodies were found late in the day April 8.

Protests broke out early April 10 across Baluchistan. Demonstrations were coupled with a three-day general strike, road barricades, and a boycott of courts by lawyers. Businesses were shuttered. All universities and schools closed down for five days.

A total shutdown was reported in Quetta, the provincial capital, as well as two dozen major cities and towns throughout the province. Baloch also demonstrated in Karachi, the capital of adjacent Sindh province.

Demonstrators burned tires, as well as some banks, vehicles, and government buildings. Police responded with tear gas in several cities.

Gun battles and bombings took place in a number of cities across the province as well as in Karachi. *Dawn* reported 16 deaths on April 11, including six coal miners. By April 13 protests had begun to subside. One cop and three workers



Reuters/Athar Hussain

Supporters of Baluchistan National Movement rally in Karachi, Pakistan, April 12 to protest killings of political activists in Baluchistan Province.

were killed that day.

Washington has been discussing expanding its aerial drone strikes in northwest Pakistan to Baluchistan province, according to the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*. U.S. officials say they believe the former head of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammad Omar, currently operates in or around Quetta.

President Asif Zardari said April 9 that he was assured by the U.S. envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, and Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Washington would not conduct aerial drone strikes in Baluchistan.

The Pakistani government has waged a constant fight against the Baloch struggle for national rights and has put down five Baloch insurgencies since the country was founded in 1947.

Following the Soviet war in Afghanistan, the Taliban established a base

among the newly arrived, massive Afghan refugee population in Baluchistan. The Pakistani government propped up the Taliban there to counter the secular nationalist Baluchi movement, including rigging elections in favor of pro-Taliban parties.

In an attempt to stem growing unrest in Baluchistan, Zardari has promised concessions, including greater autonomy as well as more control and benefits from the province's rich oil and gas resources.

"The intelligence agencies have decided that the only way to deal with Baluchis is with the gun," BNP leader and Senator Hasil Bizenjo said. "We warn them that the reaction will be severe."

Also in Baluchistan at least 14 coal miners were killed and 19 others injured March 5 when an underground methane gas explosion occurred in a mine in Soreng, about 20 miles east of Quetta.

U.S. travel restrictions to Cuba eased for those visiting relatives

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The Obama administration April 13 dropped most restrictions on Cuban Americans visiting relatives in Cuba and on the amount of money they can send to relatives on the island. The U.S. ban on travel to Cuba by non-Cubans and Washington's harsh embargo on trade with the island—used to punish Cuban workers for the revolution they made 50 years ago—remain in place.

In 1962 U.S. president John Kennedy imposed a ban on all trade with Cuba after workers and farmers there had risen up in their millions to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. They used their new revolutionary government to implement a sweeping land reform and literacy drive, outlaw segregation, and nationalize capitalist corporations, placing them under workers control. The Cuban government estimates its economic losses from the embargo are \$225 billion.

Within hours of the White House announcement former Cuban president Fidel Castro published an article that welcomed easing of restrictions on Cuban American families but condemned the announcement's failure to even mention the embargo. In an article entitled, "Not a word about the embargo," the Cuban leader pointed out that the severe curbs on trade with Cuba "are the most severe of the measures" imposed by the U.S. government. Even medicines and medi-

cal equipment that contain tiny amounts of components made by U.S. companies are denied to patients in Cuba.

Travel restrictions the U.S. government imposed on Cuban Americans in 2004—limiting them to one visit every three years to close family in Cuba—are dropped, as are limits on how much money can be sent to relatives in Cuba.

The measures also allow U.S. telecommunications service providers to offer service in Cuba.

The current ban on remittances, gifts, or donations from the United States to officials of the Cuban Communist Party or Cuban government, and to organizations Washington describes as "controlled by the Cuban government," remains.

The Obama administration announced the moves on the eve of the Summit of the Americas, to be held in Trinidad and Tobago, where some governments will challenge Washington's anti-Cuba embargo. Every country in the Americas except Cuba is invited to attend.

Castro concluded his article on the measures saying, "Cuba has resisted and will resist. We will never beg. We will move forward with our heads held high, cooperating with our fraternal peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, whether there is a summit or not, whether the president of the United States is Obama or someone else, a man or a woman, a white or a black citizen."

‘Militant’ subscription drive

Continued from front page

goal of 2,150. Reaching out to working people and youth who are looking for a way to effectively fight back against the deepening capitalist crisis will be central to making the drive a success.

Twenty-seven subscriptions to the socialist newsweekly were sold during a weeklong effort to build the meeting at the University of Texas—Pan American, which discussed the Pathfinder book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* (see article on page 7).

"Several students came back to the literature table a second, third, or more times," reports Jacquie Henderson. *Militant* supporters also sold 24 copies of revolutionary books, including four copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and five copies of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* The latter is on sale for only \$4 with an introductory subscription.

While the drive is behind schedule, opportunities to bring the perspective of the working-class fight for power to those who need it will be plentiful in the coming period, as working people respond to the accelerating attacks on our standard of living and democratic rights. Actions to demand legalization for all immigrants that will take place across the United States on May 1 are an example of these struggles.

The *Militant* encourages working people to take part in this effort. To find out how you can help, contact or visit a local distributor listed on page 8.

‘Militant’ Subscription Drive

March 21 – May 12, 2009 Week 3			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Newark, NJ	75	32	43%
San Francisco	150	62	41%
Houston	95	37	39%
Boston	60	22	37%
Miami	150	50	33%
Atlanta	160	51	32%
Los Angeles	125	40	32%
Twin Cities, MN	140	40	29%
New York	280	78	28%
Des Moines, IA	130	35	27%
Seattle	101	27	27%
Chicago	120	29	24%
Philadelphia	75	18	24%
Washington, D.C.	70	15	21%
Other		4	
TOTAL	1,731	540	31%
CANADA	115	34	30%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	80	42	53%
Edinburgh	35	13	37%
TOTAL	115	55	48%
NEW ZEALAND	70	22	31%
AUSTRALIA	55	33	60%
SWEDEN	20	10	50%
Total	2,106	694	33%
Should Be	2,150	921	43%

‘Stand in solidarity with Korean people’s struggle’

Below we reprint greetings sent April 10 to Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Ben Joyce of the Young Socialists.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the occasion of your April 15 national holiday. In face of recent and ongoing efforts by Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul to crank up military and economic pressure against the DPRK [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea], we continue to stand in solidarity with the Korean people’s decades-long struggle to reunify your country and end the imposition of U.S. troops and armaments, including nuclear weapons.

It is the U.S. imperialist government that introduced nuclear arms and delivery systems on Korea’s soil, and maintains them throughout the region, despite the DPRK’s longstanding call for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Yet U.S. President Barack Obama has the imperial arrogance and temerity not only to declare that the DPRK’s recent satellite launching poses “a threat to the northeast Asian region and to international peace and security,” but to reaffirm Washington’s intention to continue deploying and expanding its deceptively named “ballistic missile defense” programs, today targeting peoples and governments of Korea and Iran above all.

The U.S. rulers are jointly developing these strategic weapons systems with their allied class of exploiters in Japan. Just this week the White House announced plans to add nearly \$1 billion to spending on these programs, and both Washington and Tokyo maintain Aegis missile-equipped warships off Korean waters.

The Socialist Workers Party and

U.S.-to-Cuba travel agents win lawsuit

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In a victory for the right to travel to Cuba, a federal district judge overturned a Florida law April 14 that would have imposed onerous financial burdens on agencies booking trips to the island.

The Florida state legislature adopted the law last year. It required travel agencies in the state that sell trips to Cuba to post a \$250,000 bond and pay up to \$25,000 in registration fees. Proceeds from the bond, according to Florida State Rep. David Rivera, would have been used to investigate travel agencies. The law had not gone into effect, pending the outcome of a lawsuit by travel agencies to block it.

In August 2008 a federal judge ruled unconstitutional a Florida law preventing students, professors, and researchers at state universities and community colleges from using state or federal funds—or even private grants—to travel to Cuba or four other countries on the U.S. list of “terrorist” nations.

Rivera has reintroduced the restrictions on university trips into the Florida House education budget, currently under debate.

Young Socialists condemn efforts by the U.S. and Japanese governments and their allies to pursue punitive United Nations Security Council sanctions against the DPRK, once again seeking to choke off the Korean people’s access to food, fuel, and financing for needed imports. We stand with Koreans on both sides of the U.S.-imposed border in rejecting Seoul’s submissive and provocative decision in March to join imperialism’s so-called Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), under which Washington and its allies claim the right to conduct piracy on the high seas by stopping and boarding any vessel “suspected” of transporting materials to produce “weapons of mass destruction.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. military, with bases strung across Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa, is sending some 20,000 additional troops to wage war in Afghanistan, launching growing numbers of murderous missile attacks inside Pakistan, and still deploying more than 140,000 soldiers in Iraq even as it announces plans to draw down its forces over the next few years. This is the government whose head of state dares to vilify the DPRK as “a threat” to “international peace and security”!

The capitalist rulers confront their deepest global crisis of production and trade since the depression that culminated in the second interimperialist slaughter of the last century. Hundreds of millions are being thrown out of work worldwide, and employer and government assaults are mounting against the wages, safety and health conditions, and political rights of working people. Social relations between capital and labor are being transformed not only in the United States but across the capitalist world, preparing to drive down the living standards of the working class to a degree not experienced for well more than a half a century. Relations among the world’s leading imperialist powers and strongest semicolonial bourgeoisies are also undergoing shattering changes, as nationalist rivalries over markets and low-cost labor, trade protectionism, competitive currency devaluations, and anti-immigrant



Bridge between North and South Korea. Country was brutally partitioned by Washington more than five decades ago. U.S. government maintains nuclear arms throughout the region.

demagoguery spread and intensify.

Over time, defensive struggles and mobilizations by working people will mount around countless demands for immediate protection from the devastating consequences of the workings of the market system. As such battles unfold, growing numbers of workers and our allies will gain experience and be tempered in class combat, expanding our social and political consciousness. More will be open to seeing and acting on the need for proletarian revolution—the need to build revolutionary workers parties and a mass social movement capable of taking state power out of the hands of the capitalist ruling families.

Threats against North Korea

Continued from front page

Foreign Ministry of North Korea issued a statement saying that Pyongyang would withdraw from the six-party “nuclear disarmament talks.” Pyongyang has also expelled U.S. and UN nuclear inspectors and said it will restart the nuclear reactor in the city of Yongbyon. The talks have been in place since 2003 with the aim of convincing North Korea to end its pursuit of nuclear energy. They include representatives from Beijing, Moscow, Pyongyang, Seoul, Tokyo, and Washington.

It is among workers and youth engaged in such struggles, in the United States and the world over, that the Korean people will find support and solidarity in your efforts to reunify your homeland, which was brutally partitioned by Washington more than six decades ago.

On the occasion of your April 15 national holiday, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists stand together in demanding: No to sanctions against the Korean people! End Washington’s abuse of food and fuel as political weapons! U.S. troops, “anti-ballistic missile” ships, and weapons—conventional and nuclear—out of Korea and the Pacific! Denuclearize the region! Korea is one!

Leading the charge among the imperialist powers are Washington and Tokyo, who had both threatened to shoot down the rocket if they deemed it a missile. Both governments have imposed their own sanctions against North Korea under the pretext of preventing nuclear proliferation. Washington first introduced nuclear weapons in and around the Korean peninsula in 1958, some five years after working people in Korea made a socialist revolution and, in the Korean War, issued U.S. imperialism its first military defeat.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 27, 1984

The Supreme Court has struck a dangerous blow against the union movement and the rights of immigrant workers. In an April 17 decision the court ruled the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) may conduct unannounced raids on factories. Under the guise of a hunt for “illegal aliens,” these raids are designed to intimidate and terrorize all workers.

The racist ruling threatens not only the Latino, Asian, and Caribbean workers. It endangers all union organizing.

These raids are intended to create an atmosphere in which any worker is afraid to speak out, to oppose abuses of any kind, or to be active in their union.

Employers increasingly are collaborating with the INS in staging these raids.



April 27, 1959

May Day is an international labor holiday that began in the struggle of the American workers for an eight-hour day. Millions of workers stop work on May Day and march with their banners in token of the coming victory.

In America, too, hundreds of thousands of workers used to celebrate. Today this is not so. In America the official heads of the unions still preach the virtues of capitalism, still support the imperialist war drive of the ruling class.

The capitalist-minded labor bureaucracy appears strong and entrenched; the socialist movement appears weak and divided. Marxism teaches us to see the struggle for socialism from the long-range view of history and the whole globe.



April 28, 1934

On May Day this year New York will witness the most imposing demonstration of the workers and the most tangible advances toward their united struggle against the common enemy that has been seen for many years. The participating workers’ organizations will march together and hold a common demonstration at Madison Square.

The idea that the political and economic organizations of the workers, regardless of their differences in principle, must form a united front of action against the class enemy—this idea, which was rejected with such fatal consequences in Germany, has brought a host of organizations together.

The no less important condition—that each organization shall preserve its own identity and march under its own banner—is likewise respected.

N.Y. conference discusses Equatorial Guinea today

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HEMPSTEAD, New York—A three-day international conference at Hofstra University on Long Island was a forum for discussion and debate on a wide range of topics about Equatorial Guinea—its history, economic development, languages, natural resources, literature and art, biodiversity, and ethnic composition and conflicts. The event, held here April 2–4, was titled “Between Three Continents: Rethinking Equatorial Guinea on the 40th Anniversary of Its Independence from Spain.”

Equatorial Guinea, a Central African country of about 1 million inhabitants, gained its independence from Spanish colonial rule in October 1968. For 11 years the people of Equatorial Guinea faced a brutal dictatorship under the first president, Francisco Macías, who in 1979 was overthrown by young Guinean military officers led by Teodoro Obiang Nguema, the current president. Since the mid-1990s the exploitation of the country’s newly discovered oil and natural gas reserves has turned it into the third-largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa.

In what was one of the least economically developed nations in Africa, the government is today using some of the revenues from the labor of those who work in the oil fields to begin to create the nationwide infrastructure necessary for industrial development—such as paved roads, electrification, cellular phone networks, safe water distribution, primary health care, and the national university. Equatorial Guinea remains marked by the contradictions between this rapid transformation of production and the legacy of millennia of economic activity based on hunting, fishing, and subsistence agriculture, distorted by subjugation to slave traders and colonial domination.

The Hofstra conference was the largest such event on Equatorial Guinea to be held in the United States, drawing about 150 people from several countries. Among them were some 30 Equatorial Guineans, including a dozen or more resident in that country. Many participants were professors from across the United States and Spain, with a few from other European countries and Canada. A number of Hofstra students attended some sessions. The conference coordinators were Benita Sampedro, professor of Romance languages and literatures at

Hofstra University, and Baltasar Fra-Molinero, a professor of Spanish at Bates College in Maine.

Support for the conference came from Spanish government agencies as well as a number of university institutions.

Diverse participation

The conference organizers had worked to include diverse political forces in the program. A majority of participants were liberal and social democratic opponents of the Equatorial Guinean government, including a number of Guineans living abroad, mostly in Spain or the United States. Some of these currents consider the government today a dictatorship barely distinguishable from the reign of terror under Macías. Others disagreed, expressing a variety of viewpoints.

Among the participants were representatives of the Equatorial Guinean government who joined and debated the issues as panelists and from the floor. It made for a rich and often intense three days of exchanges and debates. Conference organizers set a tone of civil discussion throughout the event.

The heart of the conference, which was conducted in both Spanish and English, was the multiple panel discussions on diverse themes, including a special round table of Guinean writers. Four new documentary films on Equatorial Guinea were screened, and an exhibit by Guinean artists was presented, along with musical performances.

A book table organized by the university bookstore offered numerous hard-to-find titles by Guinean writers, from poetry and novels to books on history and politics. It also included several titles published by Pathfinder Press such as *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa: Reports from Equatorial Guinea* and books by world leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Thomas Sankara.

In conjunction with the Hofstra event, speaking engagements were organized for 10 Equatorial Guinean writers at eight other U.S. campuses including Spelman College in Atlanta, the University of Missouri in Columbia, Harvard University, Hunter College, and New York University.

Panels at the conference ranged widely in topic: “Equatorial Guinea in Historical Perspective,” “From the Zoo to Biodiversity,” “Mapping Languages in Equatorial Guinea,” “The Politics of Offshore Oil/Gas Production in West



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Panel on “Identity and Literature in Equatorial Guinea Today” held April 4 at “Between Three Continents” conference at Hofstra University. From left, professors Marta Sofía López of León, Spain; Nayra Pérez of Canary Islands; Laurence Prescott of Pennsylvania State University (moderator); and José Fernando Siale Djangany, writer in Equatorial Guinea.

Africa,” and “Identity and Literature in Equatorial Guinea Today,” to name a few.

Anticolonial resistance

Several panels took up the history and place of the ethnic groups that make up the population of Equatorial Guinea: Fang, Bubi, Fernandino, Annobonese, Ndonge, and others. Speakers provided a wealth of facts on the history of resistance to European and Arab slave traders and colonialists. Ibrahim Sundiata from Brandeis University, for example, focused on a series of Bubi revolts in the early 1900s against efforts to force them to work on the Spanish cacao plantations on the island of Fernando Poo (now Bioko), which led to the importation of Nigerian laborers.

Other panelists described the independence struggle that began to develop after World War II. Eugenio Nkogo Ondó, a participant in that struggle now living in Spain, pointed to the role of Guinean independence leaders Acacio Mañé and Enrique Nvó, assassinated in the late 1950s by colonialist forces.

Some speakers focused on current social questions. Damaso Mitogo Ondo Ayekaba, from the University of Washington in Seattle, spoke about the importance of the fight for economic and social equality for women in Equatorial Guinea. Others pointed to struggles by Guineans in Spain against anti-immigrant attacks. That theme was captured in a poem by Francisco Zamora Loboch, a Guinean writer living in Spain, titled “How to be Black and not die in Aravaca,” referring to the 1992 racist murder of a Dominican immigrant in Madrid. Another panelist was writer Remei Sipi Mayo, a founder of Ewaiso Ipola, an organization of African immigrant women in Spain.

In a panel on languages in Equatorial Guinea, John Lipski of Pennsylvania State University spoke about the use of the Guinean dialect of Spanish

in literature and challenged the view that it is “bad Spanish.”

Debate over ‘human rights’ offensive

At the political center of the conference was the debate over charges of human rights abuses and corruption leveled against the Equatorial Guinean government by U.S. and European liberal forces organized in Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and other groups along with several of the Guinean writers living abroad. Opponents of the Obiang government, in their overwhelming majority, looked to U.S., Spanish, and other imperialist governments, their well-funded nongovernmental organizations, and giant international oil monopolies operating in the country to put pressure on the government in Equatorial Guinea to become more “democratic.”

Neither the Guinean oppositionists nor their foreign supporters had a monolithic position, however. Some argued that there has been one continuous dictatorship in Equatorial Guinea since 1968. Others acknowledged that the Obiang government is qualitatively different from the Macías dictatorship, and some expressed the view that there has been significant progress in recent years in curbing abuses.

Opposition forces who spoke generally called for imperialist-imposed “transparency” and focused on charges that the Obiang family is stealing most of the government revenue from the oil and gas extraction and that little if anything has changed in conditions of life for ordinary Guineans. Various opposition figures abroad, such as Severo Moto, have long been implicated in plots to overthrow the Obiang government with imperialist backing and get a piece of the oil-related wealth for themselves.

Some of the opposition forces that spoke acknowledged that important infrastructure projects are under way, but insisted that a mere pittance is being

Continued on page 8



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Final banquet April 4 at “Between Three Continents” conference. From left, Purificación Angüe Ondo, Equatorial Guinea ambassador to United States; Guinean writer Justo Bolekia Boleká, resident in Spain; conference codirector Benita Sampedro.

Recommended reading

Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa

REPORTS FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- Transforming production and class relations
- Cuban Revolution's internationalist road

\$10 ❖ \$5 with an introductory subscription

Our Politics Start With the World

In New International No. 13

by Jack Barnes

“We are part of an international class that has no homeland. That’s not a slogan. That’s not a moral imperative. It is a recognition of the class reality of economic, social, and political life in the imperialist epoch.” —**\$14**

Complete catalog online:
www.pathfinderpress.com
or see book centers on page 8

Texas students discuss Cuban Revolution's example

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

EDINBURG, Texas—More than 100 people attended a meeting here at the University of Texas–Pan American (UTPA) in the Rio Grande Valley April 8 to discuss the Cuban Revolution and significant role of Chinese immigrants in Cuba presented in the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

The event featured brief talks by UTPA professors David Carlson and Emmy Pérez, and Mary-Alice Waters, the editor of the book and president of Pathfinder Press. More than an hour of lively discussion followed the talks.

English professor David Anshen chaired the meeting. The UTPA departments of Latin American Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, and History and Philosophy sponsored the meeting.

Our History Is Still Being Written tells the stories of Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong, three generals of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba of Chinese ancestry. In the 1950s, when they were still in their teens, each of them joined the revolutionary movement to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. The victory of that struggle in 1959 opened the road for the socialist revolution in the Americas.

Each of the three carries important



Militant/Tom Baumann

Panelists at April 8 meeting at University of Texas–Pan American on *Our History Is Still Being Written*. From left, English professor David Anshen (chairperson, at podium), history professor David Carlson; English professor Emmy Pérez, and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book.

responsibilities in Cuba today.

The program opened with a portion of the documentary film *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors and Settlers*, produced by Loni Ding, that depicts how hundreds of thousands of Chinese were forced into indentured labor in Cuba and elsewhere in the Americas during the 19th century and how they resisted their virtual enslavement. Elaborating on the film's themes, Carlson, who teaches Latin American history at UTPA, described how Chinese brought to the Americas as indentured labor "were deprived of their dignity and self-worth, and driven to extreme exploitation."

"The Chinese resisted," he said. He gave as an example a January 1868 rebellion at a sugar plantation in Guantánamo by 80 Chinese sugarcane workers. Chinese in Cuba "also fought in the war for independence against Spain" in the late 19th century, said Carlson.

The plantation owners sought to pit Cubans of African descent against the Chinese to keep them divided, he said. "Bosses setting workers against each other has always been part of the history of labor."

Pérez, who teaches English literature and poetry writing, talked about the common experiences of immigrant workers in the Americas and read her poem "El Paso," which evokes her own search for her ancestors. Pérez, who is a second-generation Chicana, described the pressures she confronted to deny her heritage as she was growing up. "The title of this book refers to all of us here. Our histories, too, are still being written," she said.

Waters explained that this book of interviews with participants in the Cuban Revolution is part of a series that has now grown to 19 books published by Pathfinder that bring alive the example of the Cuban Revolution and its importance for today.

"These three Cubans were part of the generation that refused to bow down to the indignities of life under one of the most brutal dictatorships in Latin America," said Waters. "Initially, they didn't set out to make a socialist revolution. Along with millions of others, they simply set out to create a society with a greater degree of social justice and equality. When they destroyed Batista's army and police, one of the first and defining acts of

the revolutionary government was to carry out a land reform—confiscating the enormous plantations and giving land to the peasants. They organized 100,000 young people to carry out a literacy drive and wiped out illiteracy in one year. They passed laws that made discrimination on the basis of the color of one's skin illegal, and enforced them."

"These basic democratic reforms," Waters continued, "brought the workers and peasants of Cuba up against U.S. owners of land, factories, and natural resources in Cuba." And this remains the reason for the implacable hostility of the U.S. government toward Cuba and the Cuban Revolution today, she added.

"This is the reason why the U.S. government has imprisoned for more than 10 years, five Cubans who came to the United States to monitor counterrevolutionary groups responsible for terrorist acts against Cubans," she said. Waters was referring to the men—known internationally as the Cuban Five—who were framed up by the U.S. government on false charges ranging from conspiracy to commit espionage to conspiracy to commit murder. They were in the United States to gather information on Cuban groups in Miami that have a history of carrying out violent attacks on Cuba with Washington's complicity. "They are being held hostage, because the Cuban people refuse to surrender to U.S. power," she added.

During the discussion period, a

participant asked if Cuba's ability to resist and win against the U.S. government has to do with the European, African, and Chinese mixture of the Cuban population.

Waters said that the ability of Cuba to resist is part of how the Cuban nation was forged, through the independence struggle against Spain intertwined with the fight to abolish slavery and indentured servitude, and its century of struggle against imperialist domination.

Among the other questions discussed were: Do Chinese Cubans still speak their own language? How much do Chinese Cubans know about their history? Do Cubans in general know this history? Is capitalism being reestablished in Cuba today?

Carlson said that from his own travels to Cuba he found the Barrio Chino in Havana ethnically mixed where "some speak Chinese but many others don't." He also said, "There is very little knowledge of the real history of the Chinese here in the United States."

Waters said that today there are hundreds of thousands of Cubans of Chinese ancestry, but "very few Cubans who grew up speaking Chinese and speak it today as their first language. That is because second and third generation Chinese Cubans, like the three generals, are integrated throughout Cuban society. That is a measure of the blows Cuban working people have dealt to racist oppression and prejudice—what they made possible by carrying out a *socialist* revolution." She added, "But interest in this culture and history is increasing today in Cuba, just as people here are also rediscovering our history as Professor Pérez expressed in her poem."

Following the meeting a number of the participants got copies of *Our History Is Still Being Written* and other titles at the Pathfinder literature table, and picked up information about an international conference on the importance for today of the political legacy of José Martí, Benito Juárez, and Abraham Lincoln to be held May 18–19 in Monterrey, Mexico.

The animated discussion—including around plans for May Day activities in the Valley demanding legalization of immigrants the U.S. government deems "undocumented"—continued informally for almost an hour more.



Militant/Tom Baumann

More than 100 people attended the meeting at University of Texas–Pan American

The Cuban Revolution in World Politics

A 19-volume series edited and introduced by Mary-Alice Waters

Pathfinder's "The Cuban Revolution in World Politics" series features essential speeches, documents, and interviews spanning over 50 years of revolutionary activity by men and women whose lives have been shaped by their determination to defend the Cuban Revolution and its internationalist course.

Includes:

Our History Is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

By Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong

Also in Spanish and Chinese—\$20

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

By Jack Barnes

Also in Spanish and French—\$10

The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Manifestos of revolutionary struggle in the Americas adopted by the Cuban people.

Also in Spanish, Farsi, French, Arabic, and Greek—\$20

Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa

Reports from Equatorial Guinea

By Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel

Also in Spanish—\$10

For a complete catalog, visit:

www.pathfinderpress.com



Equatorial Guinea

Continued from page 6

devoted to improvements that affect the lives of most Guineans and that they are taking unnecessary years to complete.

These arguments were answered by the government officials and others participating in the conference. In the opening plenary session, Purificación Angüe Ondo, Equatorial Guinea's ambassador to the United States, underscored the changes from the brutal Macías years, when churches and schools were closed down and she herself, a schoolteacher, was among those imprisoned. She defended the progress and achievements in her country since then, while acknowledging that they still faced many problems regarding "the economy, human rights, transparency," and corruption, which she said the government was dealing with by working with various international agencies.

At a well-attended panel titled "Challenges and Opportunities for Improved Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Equatorial Guinea," Marisé Castro from Amnesty International, Lisa Misol from Human Rights Watch, and Ken Hurwitz of Open Society Justice Initiative gave remarks that were particularly arrogant in portraying Washington, Madrid, and other imperialist powers as a force for progress against African governments like the one in Equatorial Guinea. They presented themselves as the voices for the victims of abuse within Equatorial Guinea who couldn't speak for themselves.

Two other human rights campaigners sharing the platform, Tutu Alicante, a U.S.-based Guinean lawyer and founder of the antigovernment group EG Justice, and Peter Rosenblum of Columbia Law School, felt obliged to take some distance. Rosenblum called attention to the dangers of "cultural imperialism," while Alicante noted that to some the words being spoken could sound like "the voice of colonialism."

Panelist Agustín Nze Nfumu, the Equatorial Guinean ambassador in the United Kingdom, took issue with them all. Nze, who was jailed under the Macías regime and exiled in Cameroon until 1979, said conditions had qualitatively changed for the better for the people of Equatorial Guinea. He helped defuse the charged atmosphere, saying his government welcomed discussion of the issues raised. He said he was not offended by the remarks made by other panelists. Conceding that there were many problems the government was trying to address, he insisted that such problems would be dealt with by Equatorial Guineans, not by others pretending to speak for them.

At the panel on "The Politics of Offshore Oil/Gas Production in West Africa," professors Hannah Appel and Joseph Kraus from the United States and Alicia Campos from Madrid raised the themes of the "resource curse" and "corporate social responsibility." The argument underlying these catchphrases is that the corrupt leaders of African oil-producing nations—unlike the imperialist democracies of North America and Europe—are incapable of using oil wealth for the benefit of all, and that they need to be "held accountable" by enlightened oil company officials and imperialist governments.

Other panelists, speaking later that evening, presented different views. Sara Nso, a Guinean-Spanish researcher, noted that the low level of labor pro-

ductivity and absence of agricultural development are not the result of an "oil curse." There are much more long-term challenges, going back well before the discovery of oil there.

Nicolas Donner, a doctoral student at the Sorbonne University in Paris, rejected the terms "oil curse," "good governance," and "transparency" as "maxims of the Western order" that hypocritically blame African governments for social inequalities while ignoring the fact that U.S. and European economic development exists in large part because many in Africa live in poverty.

Francisca Tatchouop Belope, vice minister of economy in Equatorial Guinea, cited facts about how the government is using oil revenues to put in place a modern infrastructure capable of raising labor productivity, adding that "we know we have many deficiencies. We are seeking assistance to resolve them" from other governments and international institutions.

Example of Cuba's internationalism

Speaking on a panel April 3, Mary-Alice Waters, coauthor of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*, gave a presentation on "The transformation of production and class relations in Equatorial Guinea, and the importance of Cuba's internationalist example in Africa." She said the development of oil extraction in Equatorial Guinea has unfolded "in a blink of the eye, historically speaking." Today resources from the exploitation of hydrocarbons "are being used—whatever the limitations—to extend roads, primary health care, electrification, and education." To give a historical perspective for the speed of these changes, she asked, "How long did it take to get paved roads and running water and indoor plumbing in many parts of the United States?" noting that these were largely unknown in rural America when she was growing up.

What is most important historically about Equatorial Guinea today, Waters noted, is that capitalism and a modern capitalist class structure—including a bourgeoisie and a working class—have begun to emerge, as in other parts of the world at different historical junctures. Recognition of that historical and social reality does not make one a partisan of



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Conference coordinators Benita Sampedro of Hofstra University and Baltasar Fra-Molinero of Bates College. Event took up Equatorial Guinea's history, economic development, ethnic composition, literature and art, and its place in Africa and the world.

capitalism. "To the contrary. One cannot effectively chart a course to fight for a world free of class exploitation" without understanding them, she said.

Waters highlighted the role of the Cuban doctors, teachers, electricians, and other internationalist volunteers working in Equatorial Guinea today, often in the most isolated and poorest areas of the country where no doctors have ever lived before. The men and women who set this example of proletarian solidarity "are products of Cuba's socialist revolution," she said. "And without the example of that revolution it would be much more difficult for any of us to see the way forward."

The interest among many conference participants in the points raised by Waters was seen in the 86 Pathfinder books and pamphlets they picked up during the three-day gathering. These included 36 copies of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*, as well as titles by revolutionary leaders Thomas Sankara, Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, and others—in Spanish, English, and French.

Round table of Guinean writers

The largest conference session was a round table of nine Guinean authors, held at the Cervantes Institute in Manhattan. After some of the panelists implied by their remarks that the government of their country prevented them from living there, Ambassador Angüe took the floor. She remarked that, after being jailed by the Macías dictatorship, she herself had spent many years in exile in Gabon. During this time, however,

her one goal was "how to get back to my country." She asked each of the writers declaring themselves to be exiles what they were demanding of the government. What would have to change for them to return?

This question provoked varying responses by the panelists. Francisco Zamora Lobo said that as a journalist he could not work in Equatorial Guinea until there was complete freedom of the press. Juan Manuel Davies Eiso said he would be happy if his books could be printed and sold there (there are no printing presses or bookstores in Equatorial Guinea). Donato Ndongo Bidyogo, probably the best-known Guinean author, said he could not return without electricity by which to work at night. The responses effectively exposed the pretenses of the "exiles" that they lived abroad only because of government persecution.

One of the panelists, well-known writer María Nsue Angüe, who lives in Equatorial Guinea, said she hoped a gathering like the Hofstra conference could be held in her country.

At one of the panels on the final day, Anacleto Oló Mibuy, an anthropologist who is an official in Equatorial Guinea's ministry of culture, addressing the Guineans present, announced, "We invite all of you to attend a similar conference that will be held in Equatorial Guinea."

The civil debates and exchanges continued right to the end. The final banquet heard remarks by the conference organizers, Guinean writers, and the Guinean ambassadors to Washington, London, and the United Nations, and concluded with music and dancing.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2826 S. Vermont Ave. #9 Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 737-2191. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 6777 NW 7th Ave., Suite 5. Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 465 Boulevard SE Suite 201A. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 627-3704. 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@qwestoffice.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205.

E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

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

NEW YORK: 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

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW Suite 15. Zip: 20011. 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

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, H2S 2N1. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: clc_can@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

NEW ZEALAND

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

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: clondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

‘Not one penny, not one person’

Continued from front page

in part, because there is no party in Iraq that is capable of uniting working people and small farmers across ethnic and religious lines in an effective fight against imperialist domination. Instead, landlord and bourgeois forces compete for their piece of the pie under U.S. domination.

But the U.S. government is not yet confident the regime in Baghdad can stand entirely on its own. Gen. Raymond Odierno admits this when he says that U.S. troop withdrawals will be delayed in Mosul and Baqubah. He also told the London *Times* he was “concerned” over the conflicts between Kurds and Arabs. The Kurds, an oppressed nationality in Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria, have historically faced discrimination in all four countries. Washington’s concern is not for the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination, but worry that capitalist interests could be upset.

Even if the U.S. troop withdrawal goes accord-

ing to plan, Washington plans to leave a garrison force of up to 50,000 in place.

At the same time, Washington is sending 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, stepping up drone missile attacks inside Pakistan, and crowing about killing three Somali “pirates”—all since President Obama took office. This is certainly not a “peace” president in the White House.

As the economic crisis deepens, the U.S. rulers are planning not just for more wars abroad, but for more resistance by working people in the United States. The FBI raids in Minneapolis are not solely to send a message to Somali immigrants, they are aimed at intimidating all working people who will resist cutbacks in government services, growing unemployment, and attacks on workers’ rights.

To put an end to imperialist wars once and for all, working people in the United States need to take political power out of the hands of the war-makers and begin to organize society to meet hu-

Workers fight three plant closures

Continued from front page

earlier in the week. “I’m working together to fight for jobs with people in the plant I had never spoken to before,” he said.

Alan Phillips, deputy convener of the UNITE union at the New Holland tractor plant in Basildon, attended the march and said he would organize a collection at the tractor plant for the Visteon workers, who are also represented by UNITE.

Chris Jones worked at Visteon in Basildon for 17 years and now takes responsibility for cooking at the picket line. He said that “others are looking at this fight—it’s setting a precedent for what happens elsewhere.”

Lloyd Dixon, who has been employed at the Enfield factory just north of London for seven years, made a similar point on the picket line there. “This is a test case,” he told the *Militant*. “All working people have a stake in what we are doing. The government is helping the company by letting them get away with this.”

Dixon added, “They never thought we would do this. Now the company has been forced to negotiate, because of the action we’ve taken.”

Workers had occupied the Enfield plant to protest its closing but decided to leave April 9 under threat

of eviction. Contempt of court charges had been filed against union convener Kevin Nolan and deputy Piers Hood, who could have faced prison sentences. The union agreed to end the occupation in exchange for dropping the contempt charges.

“They’re turning ordinary people into criminals,” said Ray Dixon, who worked at the plant for 18 years. As the workers occupying the Enfield factory walked out, they were greeted with cheers from more than 200 people gathered outside the plant. “The fight goes on until we get our just demands,” said Nolan.

Workers are now mounting pickets outside the site and have erected several tents to provide shelter and to cook. Sharon Steele, who took part in the occupation, told the *Enfield Independent*, “We are going to try and stop the parts coming out of the plant. It will be peaceful. . . . We will appeal to the drivers’ better natures.”

“We’ve had lots of support, including from students and local shops,” explained Stephen Parenti, a shop steward at the plant. A group of workers from the Basildon plant visited the Enfield picket line April 10.

Ögmundur Jónsson contributed to this article.

U.S. military in Iraq may delay reduction

Continued from front page

Times, Odierno said that U.S. troop numbers in Mosul and Baqubah, and other parts of Diyala province in the north of the country, could rise rather than fall over the next year. The general pointed to the activities of al-Qaeda and conflicts between Arabs and Kurds as unresolved difficulties facing U.S. troops there.

At the end of December, Washington and Baghdad signed an agreement extending deployment of U.S. troops in Iraq until the end of 2011. Obama promised to pull all combat troops out of Iraqi cities by June 30 and to withdraw all combat troops by August 2010—which would still leave up to 50,000 U.S. troops in the country.

Obama made an unannounced visit to Iraq April 7, reaffirming his withdrawal timetable. He told a gathering of troops stationed in Baghdad that the next 18 months is “a critical period” for U.S. forces to “transition to the Iraqis. They need to take responsibility for their country and for their sovereignty.” Obama spent five hours in Baghdad, remaining on the U.S. military base next to the airport throughout his visit.

The following day, tens of thousands of Iraqis, mainly supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, marched through Baghdad demanding withdrawal of U.S. troops, marking the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of the country, the London *Times* reported.

Obama’s request for supplemental war funds is in addition to \$65.9 billion in “emergency” funds

Congress had already approved this year. This will bring Washington’s spending on the Afghanistan and Iraq wars to more than \$900 billion over the past seven-and-a-half years.

Up until now both wars have been financed through 17 emergency supplemental requests passed under the George W. Bush administration. Obama said this would be the only time his administration asks for supplemental funds for the wars beyond the monies allocated in the annual budget. His administration is including \$130 billion for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars in the annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning October 1, reported Bloomberg News.

“The reality is the alternative to the supplemental is a sudden and precipitous withdrawal” of U.S. forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, stated Defense Secretary Robert Gates in an appeal for ongoing bipartisan support. “And I don’t know anybody who thinks that’s a good idea.”

While most of the funds in the supplemental war bill are for the expanding war in Afghanistan and the ongoing military operations and projected drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq, \$800 million would go toward expanding UN “peacekeeping” troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo and for similar imperialist-backed UN operations in Chad and the Central African Republic. Some \$350 million is destined for “security” and “anti-drug” operations along the U.S.-Mexico border. Another \$1.6 billion goes toward a “surge” of diplomatic and U.S. “civilian” personnel in Afghanistan.

U.S.-Iran talks

Continued from front page

gotiations with Tehran to pressure it to abandon or modify its nuclear program. The administration of George W. Bush demanded Tehran end all uranium enrichment before it would join the talks.

The Obama administration’s proposal reverses that policy. “Engaging with Iran is something we’ve said we will now do without preconditions,” State Department spokesman Robert Wood said April 9. “We’ve said all along that Iran is entitled to have a civilian nuclear program, but with that program comes responsibilities.”

When Obama won the U.S. presidential elections last November, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadi-najad immediately sent him a letter of congratulations, the first such letter sent to a U.S. president by an Iranian head of state since Washington broke relations with Tehran. In March Obama reciprocated with video greetings to the Iranian people on the occasion of their New Year. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton then invited Tehran to participate in a March 31 international conference on Afghanistan sponsored by the United States.

On April 9 Ahmadinejad accepted the proposal for talks with U.S. officials, saying, “dialogue has to be based on justice and respecting rights. . . . Justice means both sides are treated equally and bilateral rights are respected.” He was speaking at the grand opening of a new nuclear plant in Isfahan on “National Day of Nuclear Technology,” the anniversary of the 2006 date when Iran first produced enriched uranium.

Officials at the ceremony announced that Iran now has 7,000 centrifuges, the machines that enrich uranium.

Clinton, however, expressed doubt that Iran has made that much progress. There’s “a great gap between what the IAEA observed about seven weeks—six, seven weeks ago and what the Iranians are now claiming,” she said. The International Atomic Energy Agency inspects Iranian nuclear facilities for the United Nations.

The deputy prime minister of Israel, Silvan Shalom, said he did not oppose U.S. talks with Iran but that “there must be a time limit.” Israeli government officials have talked openly about the possibility of carrying out air strikes on Iran’s nuclear sites.

The day after Obama announced U.S. participation in talks with Tehran, the Treasury Department further tightened U.S. sanctions by blocking financial transactions between the U.S. and Iranian entities made through third parties. “This regulatory action will close the last general entry point for Iran to the U.S. financial system,” a statement by the department said.

On April 7, Manhattan district attorney Robert Morgenthau indicted a Chinese businessman for supposedly helping Iran acquire nuclear and missile technology. “There is no greater threat to the world today than Iran’s efforts to procure nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles,” Morgenthau claimed, as he announced he would seek to extradite the businessman, Li Fang Wei, from China.

Li faces 118 charges of engaging in financial transactions to help Iran purchase metal alloys, in violation of anti-Iran sanctions. Li told the *New York Times* the materials in question “are sold everywhere in the world.”

The Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying, “We resolutely oppose some U.S. departments using their laws to sanction a Chinese company.”

Our Politics Start with the World

by Jack Barnes

“Electrification is an elementary precondition if modern industry and cultural life are to develop, and communist workers fight for it to be extended to all the world’s six billion people. . . . We are part of an international class that has no homeland. That’s not a slogan. That’s not a moral imperative. It is recognition of the class reality of economic, social, and political life in the imperialist epoch.” **\$14**

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

