

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

How Japanese immigrants have faced discrimination in Americas

—PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 38 OCTOBER 9, 2006

8,000 coal miners strike in Kazakhstan for job safety

Bosses' profit drive killed 41 miners, workers say

BY PAUL PEDERSON

September 27—Five days after a massive explosion killed 41 coal miners in one of the deadliest mine disasters on record in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, about 2,000 coal miners and family members marched September 25 to the local government office in the industrial city of Shakhtinsk. The workers demanded improved safety conditions, new equipment, and higher wages.

The protest touched off a strike involving some 8,000 coal miners who work at the Lenin mine, where the explosion occurred, and the nearby Shakhtinskaya, Tentetskaya, and Kazakhstanskaya mines, Reuters reported.

Company and government officials tried to brush off responsibility by claiming an “unforeseeable” accident caused the fatalities. Miners and their relatives,

Continued on page 3



Reuters/Olga Tropinina

Relatives of miner killed in underground blast carry coffin in September 22 funeral procession in Shakhtinsk, Kazakhstan. Three days later 8,000 coal miners went on strike there.

Solidarity with striking miners! Get ‘Militant’ around! Sell subs! Letter from the editor to our readers

Dear Reader,

The 8,000 coal miners on strike in Kazakhstan to demand safety on the job need and deserve the active solidarity of working people and the labor movement the world over. One of the most effective ways to do that is to spread the facts about their struggle. Getting the *Militant* around and sign-

ing up as many people as possible to subscribe will go a long way in accomplishing that.

The workers in Kazakhstan are setting an example for all those working for a living, including miners in the United States and other countries facing similar unsafe conditions due

Continued on page 4

Kentucky miners fight suspensions

BY PAUL MAILHOT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Nearly 60 coal miners in Kentucky have lost their mining certificates, and their jobs, as a result of a new drug-testing law that went into effect July 12 in that state. Because these miners no longer have valid mining papers they cannot be hired by another company.

According to press reports, half of the miners have appealed the state and

Continued on page 3

Marchers in Washington: Free 5 Cuban revolutionaries!

BY LAURA GARZA

WASHINGTON—Chants of “Free the Cuban Five” rang out as more than 350 people marched September 23 from the U.S. Justice Department building to the White House, where a lively picket line was held. Then they joined a public

forum at George Washington University, where a panel of speakers discussed the case of the five Cuban revolutionaries serving draconian sentences in U.S. prisons and other threats against revolutionary Cuba.

The demonstrators demanded the

extradition to Venezuela of Luis Posada Carriles, a Cuban-American rightist linked to numerous attacks against Cuba, including the October 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados that killed 73 people.

The action, the first such nationally sponsored march, was part of a month of events around the world, held on the eighth anniversary of the arrests of the five Cubans and the 30th anniversary of the Barbados bombing.

The five Cubans—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González—had integrated themselves into Cuban-American groups in Florida that have a record of carrying out violent attacks against Cuba operating with impunity from U.S. shores. They were arrested in September 1998. A federal court in Miami convicted them in 2001 on charges that included “conspiracy to commit espionage” and “conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent.” They were given sentences ranging from 15 years

Continued on page 9



AP/Manuel Balce Ceneta

Some 350 people march to White House September 23 demanding, ‘Free Cuban Five!’

Rally in Connecticut to protest arrests of day laborers

BY RÓGER CALERO

Eleven day laborers were arrested September 19 in Danbury, Connecticut, in a sting operation by agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency posing as contractors and working with local police.

Supporters of immigrants' rights called a march and rally in Danbury for September 30 to protest the arrests and demand that the federal and city governments stop such sting operations and other workplace immigration raids.

Socialist Workers candidates:

Build actions to protest deportations!

— see page 9

Washington prepares for military action inside Pakistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In an interview aired September 24 on the “60 Minutes” CBS television show, Pakistan’s president Gen. Pervez Musharraf said that former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told the director of Pakistani intelligence in the wake of 9/11 that Pakistan would be bombed “back to the Stone Age” if its government did

Continued on page 7

Also Inside:

Venezuelan foreign minister detained at U.S. airport 2

Socialist Workers: Defeat California measure restricting women’s right to choose! 3

Rulers of Japan impose new sanctions on N. Korea 5

Government of Bolivia presses for access to the sea 6

Venezuelan foreign minister detained at U.S. airport

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

U.S. authorities detained Venezuelan foreign minister Nicolás Maduro at New York’s John F. Kennedy airport September 23. The hour-and-a-half detention caused him to miss his flight home after the UN General Assembly meeting.

Speaking on Venezuelan television, Maduro said that the detention was reprisal for Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez’s speech to the General Assembly, in which he called U.S. president George Bush “the devil” and denounced Washington’s war in Iraq as imperialist.

Several dozen protesters caravanned through Caracas neighborhoods September 25 to denounce the provocation from Washington. Local authorities denied demonstrators permission to rally in front of the U.S. embassy. According to *Los Tiempos*, the protesters boarded cars and trucks and drove around Venezuela’s capital honking their horns.

Department of Homeland Security agents confiscated Maduro’s computer and travel documents and reportedly threatened him with physical violence and strip-search. “Threats of violence increased when we produced our passports and identity documents,” Maduro said, pointing out that the detention violated international laws regarding diplomatic immunity.

In addition to Maduro’s detention, Washington did not grant visas to six members of the Venezuelan delegation to the General Assembly meeting, including Chavez’s doctor and his security chief, as well as some Cuban citizens.

The U.S. government has made repeated attempts to undermine the Chavez government since his election in 1998. Washington backed a military

coup in 2002, a bosses’ “strike” in 2003, and a presidential recall referendum in 2004. Through conscious organization and mobilization, Venezuela’s workers and peasants have defeated each of these attempts and broadened the political space they have to fight for land, jobs, and decent living conditions by taking advantage of laws and social programs passed by the government.

The U.S. State Department issued an official apology for the detention. However, U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton dismissed Venezuela’s complaints. “There was no ‘incident’ at the airport—this was Venezuelan street theater,” he said. “He purchased his ticket at a time and in a manner and with funding such that he was asked to go to secondary screening.” Bolton was, referring to the fact that Maduro paid for his one-way ticket with cash.

The same day William Brownfield, U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, stated that the relationship between Washington and Caracas “is so important for the two countries that we try to ignore the polemical words, the rhetoric.” Venezuela is the world’s fifth-largest oil producer and the third-largest oil supplier to the United States.

New York meeting hears leader of Cuban Revolution

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ
AND MAURA DELUCA

NEW YORK—More than 350 people gathered at the Church of the Intercession in Harlem to hear Esteban Lazo Hernández, vice president of Cuba’s Council of State. He was in New York heading Cuba’s delegation at the opening of the 61st session of the

1000s at Puerto Rico pro-independence action honor Filiberto Ojeda Ríos killed by FBI



Militant/Ron Richards

HORMIGUEROS, Puerto Rico—This year’s September 23 *Grito de Lares* (Cry of Lares) rally, marking the 1868 pro-independence uprising against Spain launched in the western town of Lares, was a tribute to independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, killed on this date a year ago in an FBI assault on his home in Hormigueros. Several thousand *independentistas* rallied in Lares, and many then joined an evening march in Hormigueros. The Lares event also honored recently deceased Socialist Front leader Jorge Farinacci.

Speakers at the actions condemned the FBI for its persecution of the independence movement. Days earlier FBI agents raided the homes of independence supporters Liliana Laboy and Norberto Cintrón in San Juan, José Morales in Aguadilla, and the shoe shop of Miguel Sánchez in Mayagüez, accusing them of association with the underground Macheteros group previously led by Ojeda.

Longtime pro-independence leader Rafael Cancel Miranda told the crowd, “We will continue fighting. They [the U.S. rulers] may get scared, but not us.”

—RON RICHARDS

United Nations General Assembly.

Participants were welcomed by Rev. Gerald Keucher, pastor of the church. The meeting was co-chaired by Rev. Lucius Walker, director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, and historian Jane Franklin.

Lazo was welcomed at the start of the meeting by a delegation of young people, including two Brooklyn youth studying in Cuba. Lazo reminded them that December 2 marks the 50th anniversary of the Granma landing. Quizzing them on their knowledge of the major flashpoints of the revolution, he took them from the beginning of the revolutionary war in 1956 to the sweeping social and economic advances for workers and farmers that began with the triumph in 1959.

In a reference to Washington’s plans

for a “democratic transition” in Cuba, Lazo said: “The transition already took place back in 1959!”

Lazo pointed out that today more than 30,000 Cuban doctors, teachers, and technicians volunteer in more than 100 countries. “Forty-five million Africans have been tended to by our doctors,” he said. “In almost three years, Operation Miracle has restored the eyesight of 400,000 people from 24 countries.”

Cuba’s foreign minister, Felipe Pérez Roque, spoke at the end of the meeting, addressing the tightening by Washington of its economic embargo against Cuba. He reported on the further restrictions by Washington on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba and urged meeting participants to protest these assaults on Cuba’s sovereignty and the right to travel.

THE MILITANT

30 years since bombing of Cuban plane: Why Washington hates Cuban Revolution

The ‘Militant’ reports the truth about Cuba’s socialist revolution and why Washington’s unrelenting economic war and violent assaults on Cuba, including the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados that killed 73 people, doesn’t end. Don’t miss a single issue!



Funeral of victims of 1976 bombing of Cuban airliner over Barbados by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

PHONE

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

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 70/No. 38

Closing news date: September 27, 2006

Editor and circulation director:
Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

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

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June. The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899 Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

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 subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send \$80.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Australia: Send A\$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

Miners in Kazakhstan

Continued from front page
however, said the steel company’s drive for profits and government indifference are to blame for the deaths.

The four mines are operated by the Netherlands-based steel giant Mittal. They are part of the company’s Karmet steel complex. With 61 plants in 27 countries, Mittal is the world’s largest steel producer. It is the biggest private employer in Kazakhstan, with some 55,000 workers at the Karmet complex alone.

“The protest action started yesterday morning [September 25] when 50 workers from the Lenin mine where 41 persons had been killed by a methane explosion September 20 refused to come back to the surface, while another brigade refused to go down to the mine,” *Kazakhstan Today* reported September 26. “During the talks the company management and the regional authorities convinced the miners to continue work in a safe sector of the mine. They were promised a commission that would address their grievances.”

Later at the demonstration, the article reported, “Grigoriy Prezent, Executive Director of the Coal Department of Mittal Steel Temirtau, and Vyavherslave Sidorov, Chairman of Korgau Trade Union, tried to talk to the strikers.”

The paper reported that Sidorov tried to dissuade the miners saying, “We have explained that we are negotiating and that we need four weeks for that.” But, the article said, “The action participants did not want to listen to the company management.”

According to the Associated Press, the miners, who are currently paid the equivalent of \$350 a month, are demanding a raise to \$1,000 a month. Prezent said the company was hoping to persuade the miners to return to work in exchange for the promise of a “pay review” within 10 days.

An article in the September 21 *Wall Street Journal* reported that Mittal paid \$400 million to buy the steel complex in 1995. “The operations there crank out nearly six million metric tons of steel annually and are some of the most profitable in Mittal’s portfolio,” the article said. “The steel plant accounts for about 4% of Kazakhstan’s gross domestic product.”

Government and company officials tried to paint the Lenin mine blast as an act of nature. “These [methane gas] releases will always happen, we can’t guard against it, and very much regret it,” Kazakhstan’s president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, said the day after the explosion. “But it’s impossible to foresee everything. The miners know this.”

“The safety of our workers is a priority,” the company’s chief executive officer

Lakshmi Mittal said after the explosion. He claimed Mittal’s operations were safe because it had invested \$240 million in the steel and mining complex. Lakshmi Mittal, whose personal fortune is listed at \$25 billion, offered “up to” \$55,000 to the families of each of the victims.

Nadezhda Peretyagina, 22, the widow of a 24-year-old miner killed in the blast who was not identified, spoke to AP. “It should not be repeated,” Peretyagina said. “He often said that the mines’ equipment is old and outdated,” she added, referring to her late husband. “Everything in the mines is rotten.”

“Terrible conditions: one lamp for six persons that gives light only for two hours,” a miner at the demonstration quoted anonymously told *Kazakhstan Today*, referring to the mine he works in.

“They give us impossible tasks only to pay us a few pennies,” another miner told the media.

While no official report on the cause of the explosion has been released, Mittal official Grigoriy Prezent said the company had shut down the ventilation system for repairs before the blast occurred.

“Some negligence took place, electricity was turned on in the mine that had not been properly aired. This might have provoked the explosion,” Prezent told reporters.

In December 2004 an explosion at another Mittal-owned mine in the region killed 23 people. Miners demonstrated repeatedly in the months after that explosion to protest company disregard for safety and proposed wage cuts and layoffs.

With a population of 15 million, Kazakhstan, located in central Asia, is a key prize in the competition among the imperialist powers for dominance over the resources and labor power of the people of the region.

While oil production accounts for about half of Kazakhstan’s export earnings, the republic also has massive mineral wealth. According to a report from the U.S. Geological Survey, Kazakhstan ranks first in the world in reserves of barite and tungsten; second in uranium, chromite, and phosphate rock; third in copper, lead, and zinc; sixth in gold; and eighth in iron ore.

On the day the miners went on strike, Kazakhstan’s foreign minister was meeting with U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, in preparation for a White House visit by the republic’s president on September 29. Kazakhstan has grown in importance to Washington, according to an article in *Forbes* magazine, because it “is expected to pump 3.5 million barrels of oil a day in the coming decade.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Statewide Campaign Rally! Meet the Socialist Workers Candidates. Oppose Washington’s Imperialist War Drive! Sat., Oct. 7. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10. 4229 S. Central Ave. Tel.: (323) 233-9372.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Middle East, Capitalism’s World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change. Special forum to help raise funds for the *Militant*. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, *Militant* correspondent in Iran during 1979 revolution. Sat., Oct. 7. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

Stop Police Brutality! A panel discussion.

Fri., Oct. 6. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 113 Bernard St. E., West St. Paul. Tel.: (651) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Imperialism’s Expanding War in the Middle East. Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 6. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th St. 10th Floor (near corner of 8th Ave.; use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

TEXAS

Houston

Asian Immigrant Resistance in the 19th Century: Lessons for the Fight for Legalization Today. Speaker: Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Program includes video showing. Donation: \$5. Fri., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.

Socialist Workers candidates in California: Unionize all workers! Legalize all immigrants! Defend a woman’s right to choose! No to Proposition 85!

LOS ANGELES—“Proposition 85 should be rejected as an attack on the right to choose abortion,” said David Argüello, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in District 51, while campaigning at a street fair in San Diego September 23. “The SWP candidates are for defending all women’s right to control their own bodies, including teenagers.”

The “Parents’ Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative,” or Proposition 85, will appear on the November 7 ballot here. If passed it would amend the state constitution to require doctors to notify the parents of anyone under the age of 18 who seeks an abortion, and then wait 48 hours before performing the procedure.

At the street fair in San Diego, Heather Ford and Liz Landau, both volunteers with Planned Parenthood, who were wearing “Vote No on Prop 85” buttons, welcomed the socialist candidate’s remarks on that subject. “We agree this proposition isn’t just targeting minor women, but women as a whole,” Ford said.

At least 35 states now enforce parental consent and notification laws limiting access to abortion for young women. Other laws requiring waiting periods, “counseling,” and cutting state funding have also made it harder over the last three decades for women, especially working-class and farm women, throughout the United States to receive safe, legal, and affordable abortions.

“No on 85—For Real Teen Safety” is the theme of the campaign against parental notification organized by a coalition that includes Planned Parenthood, the National Organization for Women, League of Women Voters, and the California Physicians Alliance. Some union bodies, including the California Nurses Association and California Labor Federation have gone on record opposing the proposition. Campaigning against the proposition and other attacks on reproductive rights was a focus of discussion at two national women’s conferences that took place here in mid-September—the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum and SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective.

“Unlike the candidates of the capitalist parties our campaign explains that a woman’s right to choose was won and can be defended only by mobilizing in the streets,” Lea Sherman, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, said in an interview. “This is an issue that the labor movement should champion,” she explained.

Sherman said the socialist candidates put “the union question” at the center of their platform. “We see the fight to organize and mobilize union power to resist the bosses’ attacks as one of the most immediate challenges facing working people,” she said.

The socialist campaign also stands for “legalization for all immigrants now, without conditions,” Sherman said, describing how socialist candidates have been actively building and participating in this fight. Sherman described how over the past year millions of workers have taken the initiative and set a powerful example for all of labor through this struggle.

—NAOMI CRAINE AND DAVID ARGÜELLO



Militant/Robbie Kopec

Joel Britton (right, with cap), SWP candidate for San Francisco Board of Education, and Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, campaign at August 12 rally against Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Kentucky miners fight suspensions

Continued from front page

company actions. All but three of the 31 appeals are by miners who were taking prescribed medication, like pain killers. Four miners have succeeded in reversing their suspensions so far.

“It’s an attempt to shift the blame away from the companies onto the miners themselves for safety problems in the mines,” Tom Moak told the *Militant*. Moak is an attorney based in Prestonsburg, eastern Kentucky, who represents coal miners who have been injured on the job or dismissed due to drug testing.

Fourteen coal miners in Kentucky have been killed on the job this year. Only West Virginia, with 20 deaths, has had more fatalities in 2006. In all, 37 coal miners in the United States have died in the first nine months of this year, almost twice the 22 killed in 2005.

“The state is really putting these miners through hoops to get their certification back,” Moak said. Miners must travel three hours to Frankfort, the state capital, with a clean drug screen that they’ve acquired at their own expense. Once they’ve gone through that process the miners who are recertified and can go

back to work are put on probation by the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing. They must pass follow-up drug tests in 60 and 90 days.

Kentucky officials say that miners who inform their employers they are taking prescription drugs, and are “within therapeutic levels,” will have their suspensions rescinded. “But many miners work hurt and take prescription drugs for pain,” said Moak. “They don’t necessarily want to let companies know they are on medication and jeopardize their jobs. If they are doing their work, and are not a danger, they shouldn’t lose their mining certificate.”

According to the Associated Press, Mike Haines, general counsel of the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, which oversees mine safety, acknowledged that a number of the miners involved tested positive after taking pain killers for back and knee pain.

“There is also a privacy issue involved,” said Moak. “Each miner who is suspended has their name published over the Internet on the state’s Mine Safety and Licensing web site. That has consequences for employment, custody battles, and many other things.”

New Zealand: Locked-out warehouse workers win contract

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—On September 22, 400 National Distribution Union (NDU) and 100 Engineers Union members in Auckland, Palmerston North, and Christchurch voted to ratify a new three-year contract with Progressive Enterprises. “We won,” stated a sign painted by pickets in Auckland after the vote.

Progressive bosses locked out the workers August 25 following a 48-hour strike. For four weeks the workers maintained 24-hour picket lines at the three distribution centers and organized flying pickets against trucks sent directly to the company’s supermarkets, gaining increasing solidarity from unions and working people more broadly.

While the unions did not achieve a single national contract covering the three sites, as they had demanded, NDU national secretary Laila Harré said that wage increases had gained the key aim of pay parity. According to a joint union press release, within two years incomes in Auckland and Christchurch will rise to within 95 percent of their equivalents in Palmerston North.

—Terry Coggan

Alabama: 350 attend annual miners memorial meeting

BROOKWOOD, Alabama—Three hundred fifty miners, family members, and supporters gathered here September 23 at a monument to 13 miners killed five years ago on that date in an explosion at the Jim Walter Resources No. 5 mine. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) holds an annual memorial meeting at the monument, just across a fence from the mine. UMWA locals at two area mines took

mourning days, shutting the mines so members could participate in the event. Other locals arranged for miners who wished to attend to be excused from work on union business. More people came this year than in 2005. This year’s memorial service featured welcoming remarks from UMWA International Vice President Daryl Dewberry. He tied together the 2001 mine disaster with the long history of mining deaths in Alabama, and the mounting toll in U.S. coal mines this year.

Jim Walter Resources was fined \$435,000 for violations of the law connected to the 2001 explosion. Those fines were reduced to \$3,000 by an administrative law judge in November 2005. On August 30 the Mine Safety and Health Review Commission vacated the \$3,000 fine and ordered the judge to reconsider the matter.

—Clay Dennison

Judge rules flight attendants can’t strike Northwest Airlines

A federal district judge on September



Militant/Terry Coggan

Members of the National Distribution Union at Progressive Enterprises warehouse march back into work September 22 after a successful strike in Auckland, New Zealand.

15 blocked flight attendants at Northwest Airlines from going on strike over \$195 million in reduced wages and benefits that the airline has imposed on them. The 9,000 attendants have twice voted down a pact that would cut pay by 21 percent, reduce benefits, and lengthen work hours. “If workers were allowed to strike when terms were imposed by a bankrupt carrier,

the right of companies to impose new terms would be a ‘suicide weapon,’” wrote U.S. District Court judge Victor Marrero in his ruling, according to an article in the September 16 *New York Times*. “That would undermine the bankruptcy law, he added, and make it harder for companies to avoid liquidation,” the *Times* said.

—Brian Williams

Militant Fund drive picks up steam

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

This past week *Militant* supporters collected and sent in \$11,724 for the \$90,000 fund drive, bringing the total to 17 percent of the international goal. That’s a big step forward. If we now keep up this campaigning pace and increase the regular collections to about \$13,000 for each of the remaining six weeks we will reach the target

by November 7. This progress will make it possible to finance two *Militant* reporting teams that are coming right up. Two days after this issue comes off the press, *Militant* editor Argiris Malapanis and correspondent Róger Calero are flying to Venezuela for a one-week fact-finding trip. They will report on the latest developments in the conflict

between the struggles of workers and peasants, on one hand, and the efforts of Venezuelan capitalists and the U.S. imperialist rulers to defeat them.

In the second half of October another team of *Militant* reporters will travel to Havana to provide firsthand coverage from revolutionary Cuba.

The fund also helps meet the paper’s weekly operating expenses—from printing to shipping and utilities.

If you would like to make a contribution to getting a weekly working-class newspaper into the hands of workers, farmers, and others who need it, write your check or money order to the *Militant*, earmarked “Militant Fund,” and send it to 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Also, please send weekly reports by Tuesday nights—a paragraph or two—on how fund-raising is going in your area, to be included in this column.

Sell subscriptions to ‘Militant’!

Continued from front page
to the bosses’ insatiable profit greed. Let’s give these workers a hand by spreading their story in your workplace, neighborhood, or school.

Many readers have sent in notes describing how they are already doing such work effectively. Here’s a few examples. Manuel Sánchez, a building maintenance worker, and *Militant* correspondent Róger Calero reported the following from New York: “On Saturday evening, September 23, a reader of the paper who recently renewed her subscription helped us introduce the *Militant* to her relatives and other neighbors in the apartment building in the Bronx where she lives. Ten people subscribed that night, and three more paid up the next morning. Eleven signed up for the first time and two renewed.

“It’s not fair what they are doing to these workers,” said Candida Torres, after she heard of the news on the front page of last week’s issue about town officials in Mamaroneck, New York, closing a site there where day laborers would wait to get jobs. ‘What are these people supposed to do if they can’t look for work?’ she asked.

“I want to support the cause,” said another worker who subscribed that night after she heard Manuel’s explanation of the struggle to legalize all immigrants. After that exchange, a relative of Torres who works

in a garment shop in the area said she wanted to talk about organizing a union in her workplace.”

Jacque Henderson, a garment worker in Houston, sent this note September 25: “A meat packer took a sub blank from me at the entrance to the plant where he works. Today he brought it filled in to renew his subscription, giving the money to a supporter of the *Militant* who also works there. He said he enjoyed reading the paper. This is in addition to three workers at the Tyson packing plant who subscribed last week as a result of a radio interview on a Spanish-language program with Amanda Ulman and Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Senate and governor of Texas, respectively.” Ulman works at Tyson.

Militant supporter Mary Smith reported this from Toronto September 24: “Today I helped staff a booth at a book fair here called ‘Word on the Street.’ We displayed books on revolutionary working-class politics published by Pathfinder Press and the *Militant*. We sold 16 subscriptions and \$580 worth of books.

“Many of the new readers took advantage of the specials offered with the sub, buying six copies of the book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* for only \$5 and the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Myth of ‘Education Reform’ Under Capitalism* for just \$1.”

Join in! To order a bundle contact the *Militant* directly (see information on p. 2) or distributors near you (see directory on p. 8). Sincerely,
Argiris Malapanis, Editor

\$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive Sept. 9 –Nov. 7 ♦ Week 2 of 8			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
CANADA	3,500	1445	41%
FRANCE	250	75	30%
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	570	23%
ICELAND	450	96	21%
AUSTRALIA	1,200	205	17%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	4,750	1,930	41%
Philadelphia	3,500	1,000	29%
Houston	3,200	780	24%
Seattle	7,000	1,630	23%
Miami	2,500	510	20%
Chicago	5,000	825	17%
Des Moines	2,200	352	16%
New York	13,000	1,915	15%
Newark	3,500	450	13%
Pittsburgh	4,200	500	12%
San Francisco	8,500	960	11%
Birmingham	3,500	385	11%
Boston	3,500	375	11%
Los Angeles	8,200	690	8%
Twin Cities	4,800	350	7%
Washington, D.C.	2800	188	7%
Albany	120	0	0%
Amherst	60	0	0%
Other		250	
U.S. total	80,330	13,090	16%
SWEDEN	500	0	0%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	500	0	0%
London	1,300	0	0%
UK total	1,800	0	0%
Intl'l totals	90,530	15,481	17%
Goal/Should be	90,000	22,500	25%

Ultrarightist scapegoats immigrants in new book

***State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America* by Patrick Buchanan. 308 pp. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006.**

BY SAM MANUEL

"If we do not get control of our borders, by 2050 Americans of European descent will be a minority in the nation their ancestors created and built. No nation has ever undergone so radical a demographic transformation and survived."

So writes ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan in his latest book *State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America*. Throughout the

IN REVIEW

book Buchanan describes the massive immigration of the last half-decade, especially from Mexico, as an "invasion," encouraged by the policies of Mexico's government to "take back through demography and culture what their ancestors lost through war."

In the stock and trade of an incipient fascist politician, Buchanan rails against "Corporate America" and its drive for cheap labor in order to hold down wages at the expense of "American" workers.

"For the corporate elite," Buchanan writes, "immigration means low-wage workers to replace high-wage Americans, while taxpayers assume the social costs—welfare, Medicaid, rent supplements, food stamps.... The Business Roundtable believes in socializing costs,



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

About 400 rightists organized counterprotest August 20 against rally for immigrant rights by 300 workers and others in Riverside, New Jersey. City council there passed an ordinance imposing fines on anyone who hires or rents to "illegals."

while privatizing profits."

Buchanan decries the support by U.S. president George Bush for a "guest worker" program as "economic treason against the American worker."

The rightist politician describes the changes brought about as a result of the civil rights movement as "political correctness, political cowardice, political opportunism, a sense of guilt for America's sins," and argues these are the cause of a "paralysis" on the part of the White House and Congress to take effective action on immigration.

During the civil rights movement, discrimination against Blacks and other

"people of color" came to be seen as the "original sin of Western man and its extirpation his highest moral duty," Buchanan writes. "But it was the transference of this idea—that America has sinned unpardonably against equality and must make amends, no matter the cost—to immigration law that may spell the end of the United States."

Europe faces a similar "invasion" of immigrants, according to Buchanan, with the Mediterranean being Europe's "Rio Grande."

In a chapter entitled "*Eurabia*" he infers that the millions of Africans, Arabs, and other Muslims who have immigrated

to Europe are the source of the 2005 revolt by youth of African descent across France. He also refers to a second Moorish conquest of Spain punctuated by the March 11, 2004, bombings of commuter trains in Madrid; and the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh on the streets of Holland by a Dutch-born youth of Moroccan descent.

The book seeks to take advantage of the debate on "immigration reform" among bourgeois politicians to help build a cadre of an incipient fascist movement the capitalist class may need down the road if faced with a working-class radicalization that could threaten its rule.

In the final chapter of *State of Emergency* entitled, "Last Chance," Buchanan outlines proposals to push for measures tougher than any of those presented to Congress so far in order to recruit rightists to his cause. Among them are: a 10-year moratorium on all immigration; opposition to any "guest worker" program or amnesty; building a 15-foot-high double wall along the entire 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border that would include sophisticated surveillance electronic devices and reinforced border patrols; revising the 14th Amendment to deny citizenship to children of undocumented immigrants born in the United States; limiting family members that immigrants can bring to the United States to their spouses and minor children; and ending dual citizenship.

Buchanan is fighting against the course of history. The recent massive immigration into the United States and the integration of these workers into the hereditary proletariat of this country has resulted in the irreversible strengthening of the U.S. working class, as was shown by the huge marches last spring and the May Day general political strike—the first such nationwide walkout in U.S. history—demanding legalization for all.

At the same time, the high sales of Buchanan's book point to the danger this ultrarightist tract poses for the toilers and to the need to explain and win millions away from its insidious anti-working-class course.

Japanese, Australian rulers tighten sanctions on N. Korea

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

The governments of Japan and Australia announced on September 19 new economic sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The measures freeze the transfer of money to north Korea by more than a dozen companies or individuals specializing in high-tech equipment, manufacturing, and mining.

"We strongly encourage other states to undertake similar actions," said U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack, referring to the sanctions.

Beijing responded by announcing it would not attend upcoming talks with U.S. and south Korean officials on the DPRK's nuclear program. "The Chinese government has always advocated that this issue should be resolved by dialogue and we are opposed to sanctions," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

In July, Washington and Tokyo successfully pushed through a resolution in the United Nations Security Council retaliating against north Korea for testing seven long-range ballistic missiles earlier that month. The resolution bans UN member states from the "transfer of financial resources, items, materials, goods, and technology that could contribute to the DPRK's missile and other WMD [weapons of mass destruction] programs."

The U.S. Treasury Department blacklisted eight north Korean firms in October 2005, after Washington accused Banco Delta Asia in Macau of counterfeiting U.S. dollars for the DPRK.

On September 1, just as 17,000 U.S. and south Korean troops were completing joint military exercises based on a scenario of invading the north, the U.S. military successfully tested an anti-bal-

listic missile. At the time, U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld specifically pointed to north Korea and Iran as prime targets. In late June, Washington and Tokyo signed an agreement to jointly produce anti-ballistic missiles, and to deploy Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles on U.S. bases in Japan.

Following the DPRK missile tests in July, Tokyo barred entry into Japan of north Korean government officials and banned for six months a ferry

providing the only direct passenger link between the two countries.

Six-party talks involving the governments of the United States, China, Japan, Russia, and north and south Korea that are aimed at pressuring the DPRK to abandon its nuclear program have been stalled since last November. Pyongyang has said it will not participate as long as imperialist economic sanctions remain in effect.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 9, 1981

President Reagan's executive order directing the Coast Guard to intercept ships on the high seas suspected of carrying undocumented immigrants is a dangerous new exercise of presidential "authority."

Aimed immediately at the thousands of Haitians fleeing the murderous dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier, the September 29 order opens the door for new U.S. aggression. It can be used as the pretext for stopping Cuban ships that "might" be carrying immigrants.

The ships of other countries on Washington's "enemy" list could be interfered with, too. The Reagan order specifically authorizes the Coast Guard to fire at ships which do not comply with its command.

Until now, the Coast Guard has had the authority to intercept ships only within U.S. territorial waters. Washington says it has the agreement of the Duvalier regime to flout international law relating to the high seas.



October 8, 1956

Several Moscow newspapers came out Oct. 2 with reports that Stalin had failed as a military commander as early as 1918, and admitted that historians (under Stalin's regime) had credited him with a greater role in the Bolshevik Revolution than he actually played.

The Soviet military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said historians mistakenly had given primary importance to the Southern Front during the Civil War, which followed the Bolshevik Revolution.

"The activities of J.B. Stalin on this sector were evaluated as decisive," the paper said. "Actually, the Southern Front at that time was of secondary importance. The Eastern Front was the most important one."

This is the first breach in the myth that Stalin himself built up about his career as a military leader. Actually, as Trotsky details in *My Life*, Stalin was removed from the Southern Front for his intrigues and cliquist activities.



October 17, 1931

It is not a danger of war that exists in Manchuria. It is a state of war in actuality. Whole sections of the country have been invaded and occupied by Japanese military forces. Squadrons of Japanese airplanes have flown over Chinese cities, raining down machine gun bullets and bombs, terrorizing the civil population and already placing to its account a growing list of casualties. The situation is almost identical, feature for feature, with the invasion of Belgium by German imperial troops in August 1914.

The veritable war which Japan has launched against China marks no new departure in its relations with that country. It is part and parcel of that arbitrary, domineering, rapacious policy of plunder and subjugation which it has pursued in common with the other imperialist powers since the industrial revolution towards the end of the last century brought Japan to the forefront in world politics and economics, and more specifically as an Asiatic and Pacific power.

Japanese immigrants historically faced abuse throughout Americas

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Asian-American historians and others dedicated to educating about the history of Asian immigrants in the United States are engaged in a project to open a museum at Angel Island, in the San Francisco Bay. The site is well-known as the center where, between 1910 and 1940, the U.S. government “processed” 175,000 Chinese immigrants, subjecting them to degrading conditions and sometimes detaining them for long periods.

The museum will also shed light on a lesser-known part of this story: that of the 60,000 immigrants from Japan who entered the United States through Angel Island. Many of them, like the Chinese, were subjected to humiliating medical exams. After their release, they faced systematic discrimination in California and other areas where they lived and worked, and many fought against these conditions.

As part of the effort to restore the historic site, organizers are appealing to Japanese-Americans to provide information about these experiences.

Japanese immigrating throughout the Americas, from Canada to Cuba to Brazil, faced similar treatment at the time.

“Our hope is to recover some of the memories and stories from the descen-

dants” of those who passed through Angel Island, Judy Yung told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in a September 14 article on the project. Yung, a professor emerita at the University of California at Santa Cruz, is co-authoring a book on the immigration center with University of Minnesota professor Erika Lee. The book is scheduled to be published in 2010, coinciding with the completion of the full Angel Island complex, part of which will open to the public next summer.

While Angel Island was closed in 1940, Japanese-Americans, like other Asians, continued to be treated as second-class citizens in the United States. During World War II, Washington locked up 112,000 people of Japanese descent in concentration camps. The one area where Japanese-Americans were not subjected to mass incarceration was Hawaii. Some 38 percent of Hawaii’s population was Japanese, making such a move too economically and politically costly to the U.S. rulers, though 1,500 were interned by the end of the war.

Same treatment throughout Americas

In Canada, 23,000 Japanese living in British Columbia were also detained. Shipped to inland camps, they were not permitted to return to their homes until 1949, four years after the war.

Latin American governments did the same. Nearly 2,300 Japanese from 13 Latin American countries were arrested, stripped of their property, and kidnapped to the United States, where they were thrown into concentration camps set up by the Roosevelt administration. About 1,800 of them were citizens of Peru, whose government refused them reentry after the war.

The governments of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Cuba set up their own prison camps for Japanese residents of those countries. In Cuba, after Washington’s December 1941 declaration



Model Prison on Cuba’s Isle of Pines (now Isle of Youth) where Batista regime held 300 Japanese-Cuban males after Washington declared war on Japan in 1941.

of war against Japan, some 300 adult males from the small Japanese community were rounded up and imprisoned at the Model Prison on the Isle of Pines (now the Isle of Youth). The regime of Fulgencio Batista, a U.S. ally, did so even before the Japanese-Americans were detained in the United States.

Stalinists backed jailing Japanese

In the United States, Canada, and Latin America, the Communist parties, following the Stalinists’ Popular Front policy of supporting the “democratic” imperialist powers against the “Axis” imperialist governments, supported the imprisonment of the Japanese in the concentration camps. In Cuba the Communist Party, then called the Revolutionary Communist Union Party (PURC), was part of Batista’s 1940 electoral coalition. It joined his “national unity government” in 1943–44. Two PURC leaders, first Juan Marinello and then Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, were ministers without portfolio in Batista’s cabinet. The Japanese Cubans were detained on the Isle of Pines from 1942 to 1946.

The July 13, 1940, issue of the CP paper *Hoy* defended its support for Batista’s government, calling him “one hundred percent Cuban, a jealous guardian of the freedom of the fatherland.” In 1943 CP general secretary Blas Roca wrote, “In the National Unity [government coalition] there is room for all social classes, from the workers to the bourgeois, from the peasants to the *latifundistas* [big landowners].” That government ended when Batista’s

candidate lost the 1944 presidential elections.

In the 1950s most Japanese-Cubans supported the revolutionary struggle against the Batista dictatorship led by the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement, whose central leader was Fidel Castro.

Anti-Asian discrimination was uprooted with the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Today the Japanese community in Cuba, numbering 1,300, celebrates the “obon” festival every August on the Isle of Youth, where many Japanese remained after their release from prison. As part of this cultural event they commemorate those who were locked up during World War II.

And last year a monument was unveiled in Havana in honor of the Japanese killed in the 1945 U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

German gov’t to send troops to Lebanon

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Reversing the German government’s earlier course, the parliament in Berlin voted September 20 to commit up to 2,400 soldiers to the French-led United Nations military force that is enforcing the terms of the cease-fire negotiated between the Israeli government and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The German naval deployment includes 1,500 troops stationed on two frigates, two supply ships, and four fast-patrol boats off the coast of Lebanon; 400 headquarters personnel, and 100 troops charged with training Lebanese soldiers.

The German fleet will join warships from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands in enforcing a blockade on arms shipments to Hezbollah. They will be authorized to use force.

With forces in Afghanistan, Congo, and Kosova, there are now more than 10,000 German troops deployed abroad, the largest number since World War II. The Lebanon deployment is Berlin’s first in the Middle East since the end of that war. It registers an ongoing shift by German imperialism toward a more aggressive military role in the world.

“We are in a transformation to make it possible to deploy troops outside of Germany,” Sascha Lange, an analyst at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, told the *New York Times*. “And this is only the beginning.”

Bolivian gov’t presses for access to the sea

BY RÓGER CALERO

Negotiations currently taking place between the government of President Evo Morales in Bolivia and that of Michelle Bachelet in neighboring Chile have included talks, for the first time in years, on Bolivia’s historical demand for an outlet to the sea.

Last May the two governments, which have not had full diplomatic relations since 1978, began talks on Bolivia’s

demand to restore its land corridor to the Pacific. The last time they formally discussed the issue was in 1987, failing to reach agreement.

Bolivia has been landlocked since 1879, after Chile seized Bolivia’s 250-mile coastline in the 1879–84 War of the Pacific, which was primarily fought among Chile, Peru, and Bolivia over control of lucrative nitrate deposits in the Atacama Desert. The conflict was also a proxy war between British interests, which dominated Chile, and the rising U.S. imperialist power, which backed Peru in the war.

For more than a century, workers and peasants throughout Latin America, including class-conscious workers in Chile, have supported the Bolivian demand for an outlet to the Pacific as part of a struggle for national self-determination and against domination and plunder by imperialism and the larger capitalist powers in the region.

The Morales government has appealed

for Bolivia’s right to regain access to the sea at various international forums, including the Organization of American States general assembly in June and the September 14 meeting of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries during the Havana summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In 2003 a plan by the Bolivian government to begin exporting natural gas to the United States at low prices, including the construction of a pipeline across the Chilean region claimed by Bolivia, was the catalyst for massive popular mobilizations that forced the resignation of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada.

As part of the steps taken by the new Bolivian government to increase state control of the country’s oil and gas industry, and to press the Chilean government to resolve the land dispute, Morales and Argentine president Néstor Kirchner signed an agreement in June barring the resale of Bolivian natural gas to Chile.

Our History Is Still Being Written



THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE-CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sio Wong—three young rebels of Chinese-Cuban ancestry—threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. They became combatants in the clandestine struggle and 1956–58 revolutionary war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship and opened the door to the socialist revolution in the Americas. \$20.

www.pathfinderpress.com
or from distributors listed on page 8

U.S. troops to act in Pakistan

Continued from front page

not cooperate with U.S. forces invading neighboring Afghanistan.

“Musharraf’s comments were made public a day after U.S. President George W. Bush said that U.S. forces will ‘absolutely’ be sent into Pakistan to capture or kill al-Qaeda leaders if they have actionable intelligence,” said an article by Strategic Forecasting, a U.S. “think tank” providing intelligence and news analysis to government officials and others.

Bush told the media he was not aware of the threat against Islamabad that Armitage had made and said relations between the U.S. and Pakistani governments are cooperative, not adversarial.

Other indications, however, show that frictions between the two states may grow. Strategic Forecasting said Musharraf used his recent trip “to set the stage for enhanced American operations on Pakistani soil.” Washington is prepared to take such action, including unilaterally, against militiamen of al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the former rulers of Afghanistan toppled in the 2001 U.S. invasion, who are being tolerated by Islamabad, some reports in the U.S. media say.

The government of Pakistan has abandoned its four-year campaign to take control of the mountainous region on the Afghanistan border called North Waziristan, said an article in the October 2 issue of the conservative magazine *Weekly Standard*, headlined, “Pakistan Surrenders: The Taliban control the border with Afghanistan.”

Islamabad “had entered into a peace agreement with the Taliban insurgency that essentially cedes authority in North Waziristan, the mountainous tribal region bordering Afghanistan, to the Taliban and al-Qaeda,” the magazine stated. It added that on September 15 “the blow was compounded” when the Pakistani government released 2,500 “foreign fighters” from prison.

Pakistan’s government last spring abandoned efforts to control South Waziristan, the *Standard* said. Waziristan is an area about the size of New Jersey with a population of some 800,000 people.

“The accord provides that the Pakistani army will abandon outposts and border crossings throughout Waziristan,” the *Standard* said. “Pakistan will return weapons and other equipment seized during Pakistani army operations. Of particular concern is the provision allowing non-Pakistani militants to continue to reside in Waziristan as long as they promise to ‘keep the peace,’...defined as refraining from attacks on the Pakistani military.”

It continued, “Adding to the peril of this surrender, Musharraf has reiterated that the U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan won’t be allowed into the tribal areas covered by the peace deal.”

At a September 22 joint news conference in Washington with Bush, Musharraf defended the Waziristan accord, stating, “The deal is not at all with the Taliban. This deal is against the Taliban. The deal is with the tribal elders.”

“We’re on the hunt together,” responded Bush. “When the president

looks me in the eye and says the tribal deal is intended to reject the Talibanization of the people and that there won’t be a Taliban and there won’t be al-Qaeda, I believe him.”

In a related development, showing how liberal politicians often criticize the Bush administration from the right on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Senator John Kerry, the Democratic candidate for U.S. president in 2004, called for “the immediate deployment of at least 5,000 additional U.S. troops” to Afghanistan in a September 25 *Wall Street Journal* column. That would be a 25 percent increase above the 20,000 U.S. soldiers now occupying a large part of the country.

“Less than five years after American troops masterfully toppled the Taliban, the disastrous diversion in Iraq has

Factional strife engulfs British Labour Party Battle over leadership succession is about future of ‘New Labour project’

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON, September 25—As the annual conference of the British Labour Party opened yesterday in Manchester, the proceedings were overshadowed by the factional strife that has gripped the party in recent weeks.

Currently the factionalism centers on who will succeed Anthony Blair as party leader, and when. Earlier this month, a number of junior government ministers resigned, leaking a statement to the media that called on Blair to go. There was speculation in the media that Gordon Brown, now Chancellor of the Exchequer and front-runner to succeed Blair, had orchestrated an attempted “coup.”

This struggle in the social-democratic party that has governed for a decade is about the future of the “New Labour project” that Blair has led, which has made the Labour Party more like imperialist bourgeois parties such as the Democrats in the United States.

In May, in a wide-ranging “cabinet reshuffle” the prime minister fired Home Secretary Charles Clarke; demoted foreign secretary Jack Straw; and stripped the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, of a number of his powers. Bourgeois commentators suggested that the reshuffle was indirectly connected to the positioning of candidates for the leadership succession.

Now, it has been widely reported that forces within the government most closely associated with the prime minister are seeking to stand a candidate against Brown when the leadership election finally takes place. Blair has yet to publicly endorse Brown despite his private agreement to do so years ago. This agreement, widely known here as “The Deal,” is the subject of many newspaper articles and a major TV drama. Blair, many pundits and politicians argue, has reneged on the deal to keep himself at the helm, thwarting Brown’s ambitions.

But the intensity of the factional struggle involving major forces in the ruling class cannot be explained away by the naked ambition of two capitalist politicians, as strong as that may be.

Nor is it to be found in any deep political differences between Blair and Brown. The two have been in agreement on all of the government’s decisive policies. Brown is strongly pro-Washington and has supported Blair’s foreign policy of



AFP/Getty Images

U.S. troops fire artillery September 20 in Bermel, Afghanistan, toward Pakistani border.

allowed these radicals the chance to rise again,” Kerry wrote. “We cannot allow Afghanistan to become a terrorist stronghold and a staging ground

for attacks on America.... When did denying al-Qaeda a safe haven in Afghanistan cease to be an urgent American priority?”

enhancing London’s “special relationship” with its U.S. ally, a course that is the firm position of the dominant sections of the British ruling class. An article by Martin Wolf in the September 18 issue of the *Financial Times* said that “the chancellor of the exchequer has had a bigger impact on the condition of Britain than the prime minister. New Britain is more Gordon Brown’s than Tony Blair’s.”

The concern of Blair and his allies is whether Brown, and those around him, can be relied on to continue advancing the New Labour project.

Blair and New Labour

Since its founding at the beginning of the 20th century, the Labour Party has had a capitalist program. Its imperialist character has undergone no fundamental change for nine decades. It has, however, converged in its “political character and functioning with imperialist bourgeois parties such as the Democratic Party in the United States,” as a feature article, titled “Their Transformation and Ours,” in issue 12 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* put it, referring to other “Social Democratic,” “Socialist,” or “Labor” parties. New Labour, like its counterparts in Europe and elsewhere, has sought to maintain an electoral base in the working class while expanding support in the middle classes and organizing to weaken institutional controls—in fact or in form—by the trade union movement over its policies and course.

In 1999, Blair told the Trades Union Congress not to expect any “special favors” from the government. “In many ways we have a better, clearer relationship than ever before between trade unions and Labour,” he said. “You run the unions. We run the government. We will never confuse the two again.”

Blair also sought to end the division between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. He appointed as aides people who had previously split from Labour and aligned themselves with the Liberals. He gave two Liberal Democrats seats in a cabinet committee in his first government. And he engaged in informal electoral pacts with leaders of the Liberals.

Behind the move by Blair loyalists to stop Brown lies their concern that, the overall political agreement by the chancellor of the exchequer with the prime minister notwithstanding, Brown’s allies

would act as a block to advancing the New Labour project. Writing in the *Financial Times* September 12, Philip Stephens said that Brown heads “a faction dominated in the House of Commons by those of an Old Labour disposition.”

This concern is sharpened by the continued strength of Old Labour in “devolved” Scotland, which has gained a measure of autonomy from London. Gordon Brown is a Scot and a member of parliament (MP) for the Scottish constituency of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath.

Some bourgeois commentators see this as a potential obstacle to a Brown government effectively tackling the continuing lag of UK productivity behind London’s competitors in France, Germany, and the United States. They also question whether such a government is best equipped to move forward in eroding the social wage. The *Financial Times* comment and analysis editor, Brian Groom, for example, recently opined, “Genuine long-term success, however, may require a leader who is more radical than Mr. Blair rather than less, particularly on reform of public services such as health and education. Whether Mr. Brown has the stomach for that is not yet clear.”

Cameron: Blairism without Blair

The concern in Labour circles has been heightened by the emergence last year of David Cameron as leader of the Conservative Party. For those looking to build on the successes of the Blair government for the rulers, Cameron’s “Blairism without Blair” image is a tempting alternative to the uncertainty surrounding Brown. Cameron’s standing in the polls continues to rise, putting pressure on Labour MPs. As Pete Riddell put it recently in the *Times*, “If Labour deserts Blairism, then it will be handing the initiative to David Cameron and the Tories.”

Seeking to counter this concern, Brown emphasized his New Labour credentials in his keynote speech to the Labour Party conference. “New Labour will never retreat, but positively entrench our position in the center ground—in the mainstream as the party of reform,” he said.

What is being played out is the death agony of the old Labour Party. The recent events indicate that, whoever succeeds Anthony Blair, the factional strife in the ruling class will continue.

Fascism: a way to maintain capitalist rule

Below is an excerpt from *Fascism and Big Business*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. It examines the development of fascism in Germany and Italy and its relationship with the ruling capitalist families there. The specific selection below contrasts the fascists' initially radical anticapitalist demagoguery with their moves to shore up the capitalist profit system once they form the government. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY DANIEL GUERIN

"Mysticism" is not enough; it fills no bellies. The individuals composing the fascist troops are not all equally fanatic, and even the most fanatic do not forget their material interests. Concern for these interests continues to dwell in their subconscious. In order to win them and keep up their enthusiasm, fascism must *also* hold forth to them a practical solution for the ills from which they suffer. Although in the service and hire of capitalism, it must—and this is what radically distinguishes it from the traditional bourgeois parties—make a show of demagogic *anti-capitalism*.



Nazi storm troopers march on Communist Party headquarters in Berlin, Germany, Jan. 22, 1932. The Stalinized CP capitulated to fascism without a struggle.

But this anti-capitalism, if closely examined, is quite different from socialist anti-capitalism; in fact it is *essentially petty bourgeois*. Fascism thus kills two birds with one stone: on the one hand it flatters the middle classes by becoming the faithful interpreter of their most reactionary aspirations; on the other, it feeds the working masses, and particularly those categories of workers lacking class consciousness, with a utopian and harmless anti-capitalism that turns them away from genuine socialism.

But this "pass-key" demagoguery will not satisfy everybody. Fascism is obliged therefore to speak, not without understandable embarrassment, to the conscious workers, and to the small peasants hungry for land, in a more radical language.

We shall see that they will push this self-styled "socialism" very far—in words. Is it really useful, the reader will ask, to go to such pains to dissect this lying phrasemongering? The undertaking is indeed necessary, both to understand what slogans the fascist demagogues have used to dazzle their

followers, and to point up the gulf between promises and fulfillment.

Fascism's game is to call itself anti-capitalist without seriously attacking capitalism. It first endeavors to transmute the anticapitalism of the masses into *nationalism*. An easy task! In all periods, as we have seen, the hostility of the middle classes towards big capital is accompanied by a tenacious attachment to the idea of the nation. In Italy and Germany particularly, the masses as well are disposed to believe that the enemy is less their own capitalism than foreign capitalism. Hence fascism has no difficulty in shielding its financial backers from popular anger by diverting the anti-capitalism of the masses to the "international plutocracy...."

Although fascism arouses the popular masses especially against the "international plutocracy" and the Jews, it cannot avoid—without unmasking itself—an attack on its own big bourgeoisie. However, the fascist declamations against the big bourgeoisie, if examined closely, are in no way *socialist*.

The middle classes' opposition to the

big bourgeoisie differs sharply from that of the working class. The middle classes do not desire the elimination of the big bourgeoisie as a class. On the contrary, they would like to become big bourgeois themselves. When fascism proclaims itself anti-bourgeois, and when it denounces the "degeneration" of the big bourgeoisie, it has no intention of attacking the existing social order; rather, it wants to rejuvenate that order by injecting fresh blood, *plebeian* blood. Thus it flatters the middle classes, while at the same time diverting the masses from the class struggle and proletarian socialism....

The Nazis make the big bourgeois their whipping boy. Hitler has not enough epithets at his command with which to flay the big bourgeoisie. He denounces its "proverbial cowardice," its "senility," its "intellectual rotteness," its "cretinism." But later his real meaning appears: it is necessary, he writes, "to take care that the cultivated classes are continually renewed by an influx of fresh blood coming from the lower classes...."

Fascism cannot, however, unless it is to unmask itself, avoid taking issue with the capitalist system itself, though here again its anti-capitalism is very far removed from proletarian socialism.

The anti-capitalism of the middle classes has as its chief target the organization of credit. Throughout the nineteenth century, the petty-bourgeois theoreticians attacked not *producing* capitalism but *idle* capitalism—the lender, the banker....

Most of the radical demands of the fascist program of 1919 were directed against the banks and loan capital: "The dissolution of corporations; suppression of all sorts of banking and stock market speculation; state credit through the creation of a national organization for credit distribution; confiscation of idle income; a special graduated surtax on capital."

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 695 Gullen

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

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

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

NEWYORK: Albany: Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail: Young Socialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan:** 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

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

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA

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

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

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

ICELAND

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

SWEDEN

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

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

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

Fascism and Big Business
by Daniel Guerin
A comprehensive study of fascism as it evolved in Italy and Germany in the 1920s and 1930s and its relationship with the ruling capitalist families in those countries. \$23. **Special price: \$17**

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

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

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

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

Leon Trotsky on China
\$35. **Special price: \$26.00**

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

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

Build immigrant rights actions!

The following statement was released September 27 by Róger Calero and Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Senate and governor of New York, respectively. Calero is a Militant reporter who successfully fought a government attempt to deport him in 2002. DeLuca is a garment worker in the Bronx and member of Local 155 of the UNITE HERE union.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign urges working people to take part in September 30 demonstrations for immigrants’ rights in cities across the United States. In the Northeast we encourage participation in the march and rally in Danbury, Connecticut, to protest the arrests of 11 day laborers there in a sting operation by federal immigration cops who worked hand-in-glove with the local police—a spreading practice.

We join with the millions who have mobilized to demand federal legislation granting permanent residency—immediately and without conditions—to all undocumented immigrants. This is a precondition for combating employer-fostered divisions the bosses use to drive down the wages and job conditions of all workers. Resistance to the capitalists’ unrelenting antilabor assaults can be effective only if the labor movement embraces every unionization effort by workers and acts to organize all workers, U.S.- and foreign-born.

The arrests in Danbury are part of the broader attacks by the employers and their government. This includes federal police raids and deportations; firings of workers based on Social Security “no-match” letters; the expansion of the fence along the Mexican border; the further militarization of the frontiers, including the deployment of National Guard troops at the Rio Grande; and local measures designed to criminalize undocumented workers. Examples of the latter range from closing down a hiring site for day laborers in Mamaroneck, New York, to an anti-worker ordinance in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, that bans hiring and renting to those without papers.

These attacks by Democratic and Republican officeholders have emboldened rightists like the Connecticut Citizens for Immigration Control. That outfit—led by backers of fascist-minded politician Patrick Buchanan, whose anti-worker tract *State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America* is selling briskly—has called an anti-immigrant rally October 7.

Such efforts are demagogically couched as

targeting “illegals” and “lawbreakers.” But their real aim is to intimidate and push back not only immigrant labor but the entire working class.

Immigrants are drawn to each metropolis of finance capital by the wealthy rulers, who line their pockets not only by exploiting native-born workers but by exporting capital to capture markets and natural resources, forcing millions to flee the countryside and cities of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean impoverished by imperialist plunder.

But these workers are not willing to turn the other cheek and be permanent second-class citizens. Millions declared in mass rallies and strikes this year, “We are workers, not criminals!” These actions, involving up to 2 million in the streets nationwide, have shown that the unprecedented immigration of the last decades and the integration of these workers into the hereditary proletariat of the United States have strengthened the working class palpably and irreversibly.

Capitalist politicians rationalize their attacks by blaming immigrants for unemployment, housing crises, the “Medicaid drain,” drug trafficking, and other social ills. They are simply scapegoating workers for the profit system’s world disorder.

The purpose of the police raids, deportations, and restrictions on the rights of immigrants is not to expel most undocumented workers. That would be impossible given the historic wave of immigration under way. And the U.S. employers depend on superexploited immigrant labor, especially in face of international competition among capitalists.

All the current “immigration reform” bills, both House and Senate versions, contain provisions designed to do just that: maintain a layer of workers more vulnerable to exploitation.

It’s true that bosses use immigrant labor to push down the wages of all. There is only one way to prevent them from doing that: Organize all workers into unions! Embrace immigrants as fellow fighters and join hands to resist the bosses’ attacks. Offer solidarity in action to our brothers and sisters around the world, from teachers in Mexico to coal miners in Kazakhstan, who are in the same trenches fighting a common enemy: the capitalist exploiters and their dog-eat-dog economic system at its highest and final stage—imperialism.

We should champion the demand voiced loudly by millions of workers: Unconditional legalization of all immigrants now!

Protest called against arrest of laborers

Continued from front page

Latin America, gather every day to await for contractors to hire them.

According to local media, the immigration cops approached the group of workers standing at Kennedy Park around 6:30 a.m., wearing work helmets, carrying tools in the back of a van, and pretending to look for laborers to build a fence. Thinking that they had been hired to do the job, the workers boarded the van and were then taken to a nearby street where other immigration cops were waiting.

The cops went back to entrap more workers using different cars and agents, workers told the local Spanish-language weekly *El Canillita*.

“They did it early in the morning, when no one can see them,” María Cinta Lowe, executive director of the Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, told *El Canillita*. “They come like thieves, hiding, to take these people.”

José Andrade, 29, is a roofer from Ecuador. He has been living in Danbury, a city of 78,000 in southwest Connecticut, since he was six years old. He told *El Canillita* he went to Kennedy Park more than an hour after the sting operation started. He later saw the name of one of his friends on the list of those arrested. “We are here because we need to work,” he said. “Now it’s harder to trust anybody. I don’t know when I go

into a restaurant if the waiter suddenly turns out to be from immigration and they arrest me.”

The 11 workers, all Ecuadoran-born, are being held in immigration jails in Massachusetts and are facing deportation proceedings.

The raid was carried out with the help of the Danbury police, which called *la migra*, after supposedly receiving complaints from residents that day laborers were obstructing traffic.

In the last two months local cops have stepped up patrols near the park. Police chief Al Baker told the *News-Times* that officers on bicycles usually begin watching the area around 6:00 a.m.

“In my opinion, if they are looking for criminals, or terrorists, since that is what they always say, I don’t think Kennedy Park is the best place to do that, since the people that go there are only looking for work,” said Lowe.

Organizations supporting the struggle to legalize all immigrants and other groups have called a September 30 acton to protest the arrests. Demonstrators will assemble at Kennedy Park at 12:30 p.m., organizers said, and will march to City Hall, where they will hold a picket line at 2:00 p.m.

“We will demand that they stop the raids, stop intimidating us, and we will tell them that we are here to stay,” Franklyn Peña, president of the Ecuadoran Civic Center in Danbury, told the New York Spanish-language daily *Hoy*.

‘Free the Cuban Five!’

Continued from front page

to life. Hernández, framed on charges of “conspiracy to commit murder,” received a double life term.

The largest contingent of about 50 Cubans from south Florida was organized by Alianza Martiana, an organization of Cuban-Americans who oppose Washington’s hostile policies toward Cuba.

Irene Fernández from Key West, said, “The five are heroes, and we demand justice for them.” She said her brother-in-law served as a doctor in Angola for four years, adding, “He was not forced to do anything. Cubans serve in other countries as volunteers.”

Speaking to marchers at the assembly site, Obi Egbuna of the Zimbabwe Cuba Friendship Association pointed to the Cuban Five as an example for all those fighting for justice. He noted that three of them served as volunteer combatants in Angola in the late 1980s, when Cuba helped that African nation defeat an invasion by the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Also speaking at the rally were Max Lesnick of the Alianza Martiana; Brian Becker of the ANSWER Coalition; Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for attorney general of New York; and representatives of the Quebec Roundtable in Solidarity with Cuba and Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

Broad panel at forum

The forum was co-chaired by Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of pro-revolution Cuban-Americans, and Peta Lindsay of the ANSWER coalition. A special welcome was given to Dagoberto Rodríguez, head of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington and the delegation from the Interests Section that accompanied him.

One of the panelists was Livio Di Celmo, brother of Fabio Di Celmo, an Italian tourist killed Sept. 4, 1997, when a bomb exploded at Havana’s Copacabana hotel, one of a string of bombings at Cuban tourist facilities. “The bomb was ordered by Luis Posada Carriles,” he said.

José Pertierra, a lawyer representing Venezuela in its effort to gain extradition of Carriles to face charges for the 1976 bombing of the Cuban plane, also spoke. He said Posada is being held by U.S. immigration authorities but Washington has refused the extradition request and a federal judge on September 11 issued a ruling that paves the way for his imminent release.

Reach out to ‘your natural allies’ in Black community

Akbar Muhammad, international representative of the Nation of Islam, described how he and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan had been impressed by Cuba’s social achievements during a recent visit to the island. He recalled the impact on him of Fidel Castro’s arrival in Harlem in 1960 and of Castro’s meeting with Malcolm X, noting that he had been part of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the early years of the Cuban Revolution. He has served as an aide to Farrakhan since 1965. Muhammad urged those present to involve young people in the campaign to free the Cuban Five, and to reach out to Blacks in the United States especially. Citing discussions Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky had with socialists in the United States in the 1930s, published in the book *Leon Trotsky on Black Nationalism and Self-Determination*, he underscored Trotsky’s advice to reach out to “your natural allies.”

Leonard Weinglass, one of the lawyers defending the imprisoned Cubans, noted the ruling by a federal panel in Atlanta last year that ordered a new trial on grounds that the defendants did not get a fair trial in Miami. On appeal, however, the full court reversed that decision last month. Weinglass explained the appeals court is now reviewing defense motions to overturn the convictions of the Five on other grounds.

Wayne Smith, former chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, was also among the prominent panelists calling for the release of the Five. Other speakers included Saul Landau, author of *Assassination on Embassy Row*, a book on the Letelier assassination; Gloria LaRiva, coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five; Heidi Boghosian, executive director of the National Lawyers Guild; and Cheryl LaBash for the National Network on Cuba.

‘One more voice that joins the coalition to free the Five’

One of the speakers was Francisco Letelier, son of Orlando Letelier, who was assassinated by a car bomb on Sept. 21, 1976, along with his aide Ronni Moffitt. Orlando Letelier had been an official in the government of Chilean president Salvador Allende, overthrown in a U.S.-backed 1973 coup by Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Agents of the Pinochet regime were implicated in the murders along with right-wing Cuban Guillermo Novo, who was convicted of conspiracy in the killings and sentenced to 40 years. His conviction, however, was overturned on a technicality.

Explaining that the five Cubans tried to stop people like those responsible for his dad’s murder, Letelier said, “I want to be one more voice that joins this coalition to demand freedom for the Five.”

Ned Measel from Washington and Matilda Hernández from New York contributed to this article.