

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**What 1961 Cuban victory
at Bay of Pigs teaches**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 16 APRIL 25, 2011

Workers hit by 'shared sacrifice' in California

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—Under the banner of “shared sacrifice,” California governor Edmund Brown, a Democrat, signed \$11.2 billion in cutbacks into law March 24.

The bipartisan knife-wielding includes: kicking workers off welfare—for life—after four years instead of five; cutting \$2 billion from mental health and child development programs; closing the state’s senior day care centers; and slashing \$500 million in funding for the state university system. Medi-Cal spending will be slashed by \$1.7 billion, increasing the cost of medical coverage for those with low incomes and those in nursing facilities.

“California is balancing the budget on workers’ backs,” Carmen Rodriguez, a student at San Diego State University, told the *Militant*. “If it has anything to do with something workers may need like social services or education, it will be cut.”

The community college system faces an \$800 million cut in funding.
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Egypt: mass protests demand rights, justice

Army attacks workers’ freedom to organize



Mohammad A. Hamama

Demonstration in Tahrir Square, April 8. Protesters demanded prosecution of Hosni Mubarak and other figures in his regime, as well as cancellation of draft antiunion law restricting strikes.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In one of the largest protests since the February ouster of Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak, tens of thousands of working people and youth rallied in Cairo April 8. The “Day of Trial and Cleansing”—the second Friday in a

row that mass protests have returned to Tahrir Square—demanded prosecution of Mubarak and key figures in his regime, many of whom still hold office.

Other demands, some vividly emblazoned on banners, included cancellation of a proposed law banning demonstrations and strikes that create “an impediment or obstruction” of
Continued on page 4

U.S. court sets free anti-Cuba mercenary

BY DOUG NELSON

A CIA-trained counterrevolutionary Cuban who bragged to the *New York Times* that he directed hotel bombings in Cuba in 1997 was acquitted in federal court in Texas April 8.

Acquitted of what? Not on charges related to the killing of an Italian tourist in Cuba and the wounding of 12 others at those hotels. Instead, the indictment for which Luis Posada Carriles was found not guilty was for lying to U.S. immigration cops about how he entered the United States in 2005 and his role in those murderous assaults.

“His being tried for committing perjury during an immigration process and not for being a terrorist is an outrage against the people of Cuba and the families that were plunged into mourning by the actions committed by Posada,” said a statement by Cuba’s foreign ministry. The verdict is “additional proof of the support and protection that the U.S. authorities have traditionally granted to him.”

Posada also faces charges in Cuba and Venezuela for masterminding the bombing of Cubana Airlines flight 455 after its takeoff from Barbados in 1976. All 73 passengers were killed.
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A working-class paper that helps bring fighters together

BY DOUG NELSON

More than 900 new subscribers have signed up for the *Militant* since February, when sales of the working-class paper picked up in response to mobilizations toppling proimperialist dictators in Tunisia and Egypt and to labor protests from Wisconsin to London against government union-

busting and austerity measures. Well over 200 readers have renewed subscriptions, as well.

In the process, workers and young people attracted to the fighting perspective of the *Militant* are meeting each other.

Rich Thomas, a bus driver from
Continued on page 3



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

Militant supporter Dan Fein, left, selling paper and *Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, by Jack Barnes, one of four books on special with subscription, at April 9 labor rally in New York City.

Next week: Egyptian workers leaders speak out

Next week the *Militant* will feature an interview with textile workers leaders in Mahalla, Egypt. Strikes and mass protests there since 2006 gave impetus to the mobilizations that toppled dictator Hosni Mubarak earlier this year.

“What is known as the January 25 Revolution really began here in Mahalla several years before,” explains Kamal Fayoumi, a leader of the textile workers.

Readers have responded generously to our appeal to help cover costs of the recent *Militant* reporting team to Egypt. More than \$3,800 has been raised from some 20 contributors and collections at Militant Labor Forums in several cities.

To contribute, send a check made out to the *Militant*, 306 W 37th St. 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

New Zealand ‘terrorism’ trial targets Maoris, workers rights

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A trial is set to open here May 30 with big stakes for the workers movement. Fifteen Maori rights advocates and other targets of a political frame-up will be tried three and a half years after their arrest in “anti-terrorism” raids.

In October 2007 police stormed homes in a number of cities and laid siege to the Maori town of Ruatoki in the Urewera region, homeland of the Tuhoe iwi (tribe). The raids and frame-up sparked protests across
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New Orleans cops get time for slaying and cover-up

BY OMARI MUSA

Two New Orleans cops were sentenced for the killing of 31-year-old Henry Glover in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Former officer David Warren was sentenced to more than 25 years. His accomplice, Gregory McRae, got 17 years plus.

Warren shot Glover from a second-floor balcony of a strip mall. Trial testimony showed that Glover and his friend Bernard Calloway had gone to the mall to pick up supplies so they could evacuate the city.

Warren claims he shot Glover because he feared for his life. But officer Linda Howard, Warren's partner, testified that Glover and Calloway weren't armed and didn't pose a threat.

A passerby, William Tanner, drove Glover and his brother Edward King to a nearby school for help, but SWAT police had commandeered the school. Tanner and King say officers beat them as Glover lay in the car bleeding to death.

The cops then confiscated the car, which McRae drove to an isolated area near a levee, and set it on fire with Glover's body inside.

McRae claims he burned the evidence "because he was weary of seeing rotting corpses after the storm," reported Associated Press. According to another cop's testimony, McRae was laughing after he set the car on fire.

"Henry Glover was not at the strip mall to commit suicide. He was there to retrieve some baby clothing," said

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk. "You killed a man. . . . It was no mistake."

The jurors also convicted former Lt. Travis McCabe of lying on his report on the shooting. His sentencing was postponed while his lawyers seek a new trial.

Two other cops involved in the killing were cleared by the jury, including one indicted for beating King and Tanner.

Twenty former and current cops were charged last year alone in a series of Justice Department investigations.

Two other cops are slated to go to trial this month for the beating death



Edna Glover talks to reporters in December 2010 during New Orleans trial of cops accused of killing her son, Henry Glover, and burning his body in car (inset).



in July 2005 of Raymond Robair, 48, and subsequent cover-up.

A trial of five cops is scheduled in connection with the killing of two and wounding of four on the Danziger

Bridge days after Katrina. In a previous trial, five other officers pleaded guilty to covering up the bridge shootings, receiving sentences ranging from three to eight years.

Cop convicted for beating of worker in Chicago

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO—Former officer James Mandarino faces a possible five-year sentence a year after his own squad car video camera captured him brutally beating Ronald Bell with a metal baton.

A Cook County judge found Mandarino guilty of aggravated battery and official misconduct March 23.

"Any rational analysis [of the video] will show that the conduct of the defendant was wrong, just plain wrong, unprovoked, unnecessary and unacceptable," said Judge Thomas Fecarotta Jr. in issuing the verdict. "There's no doubt that the baton was used as a club with full force, striking Mr. Bell in the head, the back, the forearms. If you look at the video, Mr. Bell is on all fours. That's when the beating started."

On March 28, 2010, Bell, a member of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, and his friend Nolan Stalbaum were driving to Bell's home on their way back from a union gathering. They were being tailed by Mandarino, who pulled up behind them in the driveway of Bell's home. Mandarino claims he thought they were drunk and initiated his pursuit after Bell allegedly "squealed his tires."

The cop ordered Bell, the driver, out of his car and told him to kneel on the ground. Bell complied.

Stalbaum got out of the car evidently to see what was going on and Mandarino ordered him to get back in. When Stalbaum did not move fast enough for the cop, Mandarino Tasered him.

The cop then ordered Bell to lie face down on the ground. When Bell, who was on all fours, questioned why he was being treated this way in front of his own house, Mandarino began beating him, striking him 15 times with the metal baton. The beating only stopped when Bell's brother Stacey emerged from the house to see what the commotion was about.

Bell was left with a concussion and multiple bruises

and ultimately needed seven stitches to close a gash on his ear.

The judge's contempt of working people also came through the trial. "I'm not saying Mr. Bell and Mr. Stalbaum are upstanding citizens," the judge said as he read his verdict, claiming the workers were probably not telling the whole truth and that Bell was "probably driving drunk."

"I just want justice to be served the right way," said Bell outside the courthouse on the opening day of the trial, March 8. "I think my civil rights have been violated, and it was the wrong thing for him to do."

Mandarino is scheduled to be sentenced April 25.



Ronald Bell handcuffed to hospital bed after he was beaten by cop James Mandarino in Chicago, March 28, 2010.

THE MILITANT

Defend rights of immigrant workers!

The battle to win the vast majority of the working class to support the legalization of undocumented immigrants is crucial to building an effective, militant labor movement. Read about this struggle in the 'Militant.' Turn out for May Day and demand legalization!



Participants at April 2 labor rally in Blaine, Washington, on U.S.-Canadian border, hold banner for coming May Day actions.

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

Working-class paper

Continued from front page
Vancouver, British Columbia, ran into supporters of the *Militant* at an April 2 labor solidarity rally of 1,500 unionists from both Canada and the United States in Blaine, Washington. “I came today as a bus driver for one of the contingents and found out this was a union rally, so I decided to participate,” he said. “Bus drivers are facing a takeback contract and unsafe conditions because the company is cutting bus maintenance.”

Thomas was one of 15 there who subscribed to the *Militant*. He also bought a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes, one of four books on special sale with a subscription. The following weekend he spoke at a Militant Labor Forum in Seattle on “Continuing Solidarity and the Way Forward for the Labor Movement,” where he described worsening safety conditions bus drivers face. “I’m glad to meet socialists who have a vision of how society can be changed,” he told participants.

A steady flow of new subscriptions and renewals have come in over the last 10 weeks at an average weekly rate of some 110. This provides a solid groundwork for the April 23 opening of the *Militant*’s spring subscription campaign.

More than 100 copies were sold at an AFL-CIO labor rally April 9 in New York City’s Times Square. Fifteen people bought subscriptions. And four new subscribers took advantage of the special book offer—with two picking up copies of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* and the other two getting *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Jack Barnes.

In New York the same day, a couple subscriptions were sold at a Borough of Manhattan Community College class where socialist worker Dan Fein reported on his recent solidarity visits to Madison, Wisconsin,



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Some 30 subscriptions were snapped up by demonstrators at a large rally in London March 26 to protest government austerity measures.

and Cairo, Egypt. And two more subs were sold at an antiwar march at Union Square.

The weekend was good for many *Militant* distributors. Fortunately, supporters of the paper in Des Moines forgot to send in a request to lower their bundle to 50. They ended up selling 111!

Militant supporters in Chicago ran out of their bundle of 75 at a labor rally, where they sold nine subscriptions. A member of the Carpenters union got a subscription with a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and*

\$115,800 pledged for the Militant Fund

BY CINDY JAQUITH

“I wanted to give because the people with the *Militant* are fighting for workers’ rights,” said Laticia Kirkaldy, a laid-off union electrician. “I know how organizations work. They need help.”

Kirkaldy pledged \$40 to the Militant Fund at an April 9 Militant Labor Forum in New York where two socialists recently returned from the

Canada communists join tuition hike fight



Militant/John Steele

MONTREAL—Joseph Young, right, Communist League candidate for the Montreal constituency of Papineau in the May 2 federal election, campaigns with *Militant* at March 31 protest here of several thousand against Quebec government plans to raise university tuition fees by 75 percent.

“The Communist League supports all those resisting the drive by ruling capitalist families here and around world to make working people and youth pay for the deepening economic crisis of the capitalist system,” said Young in a press release.

The action, organized by Quebec’s three main student federations, had as its central theme “Education is a right.” Some 50,000 students across the province voted to boycott classes that day.

After most of the students had dispersed, police on horseback fired stun grenades and used pepper spray on a small group of students carrying out a sit-in, arresting five.

—JOHN STEELE

the *Road to Workers Power*.

“I’m here today to make sure the struggle that started with Wisconsin doesn’t die,” said Timothy Olaosebikan, a health-care worker originally from Nigeria, who got a subscription along with a copy of *Is Socialist Revolu-*

tion in the U.S. Possible? by Mary-Alice Waters.

Supporters of the *Militant* in San Francisco sold 16 subscriptions and 62 papers at a Cesar Chavez Day Parade April 9 and antiwar protest the next day.

Havana Book Fair, Doug Nelson and Martín Koppel, spoke about the 50th anniversary of the defeat of U.S. invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

Kirkaldy first ran into the *Militant* when she stopped at a street table the Socialist Workers Party sets up regularly in the predominantly Black working-class neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn. This was her first time attending a Militant Labor Forum. “I used to see everything from the perspective of one person,” she said, “but now I can step back and see more of the grand picture.”

The New York meeting raised more than \$8,000 in cash and pledges for the Militant Fund. New York socialists are aiming to bring in \$21,000 over the course of the drive, which ends May 30.

In Philadelphia an April 9 program featured Paul Mailhot, the *Militant* circulation director, who had just returned from Cairo where he was part of a team of socialists distributing the paper and revolutionary books at the Tahrir Book Fair.

Mailhot explained that the fund not only covers printing and mailing expenses but makes it possible to offer subscriptions at a rate workers can afford. It enables the *Militant* to send correspondents to flashpoints in the class struggle from Egypt to Madison,

Wisconsin. Philadelphia supporters pledged \$3,100 to the fund.

This week we are running our first chart for the drive showing local quotas, now totaling \$115,800.

Dan Fein and John Studer contributed to this article.

‘Militant’ fund drive

April 2–May 30

Country	Quota
UNITED STATES	
Atlanta	\$7,800
Boston	\$4,000
Chicago	\$10,000
Des Moines	\$3,400
Houston	\$3,000
Los Angeles	\$8,500
Miami	\$3,000
New York	\$21,000
Philadelphia	\$4,000
San Francisco	\$14,000
Seattle	\$8,600
Twin Cities	\$7,000
Washington, D.C.	\$8,500
Total U.S.	\$102,800
Canada	\$6,400
New Zealand	\$3,500
United Kingdom	\$1,600
Australia	\$1,500
Total	\$115,800

Special offers with Militant subscription

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ **\$10 with subscription**



This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.

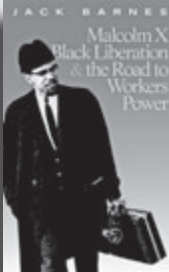
Changing Face of U.S. Politics
Working-class politics and the unions
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A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?
by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ **\$5 with subscription**

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning
by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ **\$2 with subscription**

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2



Pathfinder Press

New Zealand trial

Continued from front page
New Zealand.

No trial date has been set for three other defendants who are part of the “Urewera 18.” In addition to charges of breaching the Arms Act brought against all 15 going to trial, prominent Tuhoe activist Tame Iti and four others also face indictments for “participating in an organised criminal group.”

In a March 19 interview, Valerie Morse, who helps edit a defense newsletter in Wellington, described how in the early hours of October 15, 2007, a police squad arrested her and seized her computer, paper files, books, and photos. In what is officially called “Operation 8,” more than 300 cops raided some 60 homes in Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland, and elsewhere that day.

Ruatoki was targeted for the biggest assault. Heavily armed and balaclava-clad officers set up roadblocks, harassed occupants of a school bus and other vehicles, and rampaged through homes. A police helicopter with a sniper on board flew overhead.

That same morning 20 Armed Offenders Squad cops seized Tame Iti in the nearby town of Whakatane, forcing him to lie down at gunpoint. Iti has been a figure in Maori rights fights for more than four decades.

The Tuhoe people call for the government to return a large national park in the Urewera region to tribal ownership. Most Tuhoe lands were seized by the New Zealand government in a bloody military invasion in the 1860s. The “confiscation line” marking that land grab also demarcated police roadblocks on the day of the “terror” raids.

Operation 8 was presented as an “anti-terrorism” action under the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act (TSA). Using warrants under the TSA, police shot videos, bugged houses and cars, and tapped text messages and phone calls to prepare the prosecutions.

The government alleges that camps in the rugged Urewera bush, a well-known hunting area, were used for firearms training. Police Commissioner Howard Broad claimed the cops acted “in the interests of public safety” to halt military-style training.

Helen Clarke, then Labour Party prime minister, said there was “paramilitary training in the Ureweras by disaffected people” who “at the very least have illicitly used firearms, constructed Molotov cocktails, and trained themselves in how to use napalm.”

Most of those arrested were jailed. Upon release nearly a month later, they faced curfews, police reporting require-

ments, and bans from associating with each other. Overseas travel was subject to veto, and travel to the Urewera valley restricted. Most such conditions have since been eased, Morse told the *Militant*.

Protests condemn cop raids

Four days after the raids, 1,000 people rallied in protest in Whakatane. “We are not terrorists, we have been terrorised,” one sign read. In following weeks, Tuhoe representatives led marches in Rotorua, Wellington, and Auckland. Maori Party Members of Parliament criticized the raids.

In face of the furor, while saying the operation ended some “very disturbing activities,” Solicitor General David Collins ruled in November 2007 that charges under the terrorism act would not hold water. This decision “was a huge victory for us,” said Morse, but the police continued to press the frame-up using the Arms Act. Under that act, she said, a defendant must prove his or her innocence, turning on its head the principle of “innocent until proven guilty.”

Nor did the solicitor-general’s ruling stop the cops from basing their case on material gathered under the TSA. Defense attempts to strike such “evidence” have been rejected by the Court of Appeal. The defendants have challenged that decision in the Supreme Court.

Tens of thousands of pages of police documents are also subject to suppression orders, hindering defendants’ efforts to prepare their defense and win support. Moreover, said Morse, the Auckland High Court ruled late last year that the accused cannot choose a jury trial, a decision upheld by the Court



Militant photos by Mike Tucker, above: Helen Mulrennan, right
Above, protesters rally Dec. 1, 2007, in Auckland, New Zealand, against nationwide “anti-terror” raids earlier that year targeting Maori rights advocates and other political activists. Right, another demonstration Oct. 25, 2007, in Rotorua. Trial for 15 of these activists begins this May.



of Appeal March 29.

Protesting this violation of basic rights, the October 15th Solidarity Committee said the prosecution “has dragged out the case” in order “to wear down the defendants and force them into long and expensive legal battles in the hope that the public will forget about the case and ultimately to force the defendants to plead guilty to end this nightmare.”

Most of the accused are relying on lawyers provided under the govern-

ment’s legal aid scheme, Morse said. The cost of this supposedly free service can be charged to defendants if they have a car, a house, or some other “asset,” she said.

Opponents of the frame-up are planning to organize pickets during the trial. More information about the case, a key front in the fight against government attacks on workers’ rights, can be found at <http://october15thsolidarity.info>.

Egypt: mass protests demand rights, justice

Continued from front page

state institutions and prosecution of those responsible for killing hundreds of protesters in January and February.

“For the first time,” noted the *New York Times*, “Field Marshall Tantawi personally and publicly became the focus of the crowd’s ire as speakers called him a dictator and demanded that he resign.” Tantawi, defense minister under Mubarak for two decades, now heads the Supreme Military Council, the country’s ruling power. “Dictator, dictator, Tantawi is next,” was one of the chants.

“The military council is part and parcel of the corrupt regime,” Abdullah Ahmed, 45, one of the protesters, told the Egyptian newspaper *Al Masry Al Youm*.

A coalition of youth groups that helped lead the protests earlier this year called “on Egyptians to return to Tahrir Square and stay until Mubarak and his followers are arrested and tried.”

The Muslim Brotherhood’s call for its members to join the Friday action “came after two months in which the group was seen as working closely with military leaders,” noted Agence France-Presse. The day after the demonstration the Brotherhood praised the military for leading the transition to democracy and called on Egyptians to support the armed forces..

At around 3:00 a.m., the military tried to drive out protesters who had stayed in the square for the night. Troops beat demonstrators, lobbed tear gas, and fired live ammunition and rubber bullets. Two people were killed and dozens

wounded. Another 42 were detained and interrogated for violating the nationwide 2:00 a.m.–5:00 a.m. curfew.

Protesters defended themselves, “forcing security forces back under a barrage of stones and setting fire to three of their vehicles,” reported the *Times*. Later that morning thousands again gathered in the square in defiance of the army, vowing to keep up the fight.

The following day Egyptian prime minister Essam Sharaf ordered the release of the 42 persons arrested. Seeking to smear demonstrators as agents of “counterrevolution,” the Supreme Military Council alleged the army assault was aimed at thugs of the former ruling party “conducting sabotage” in the square.

Meanwhile, strike actions are continuing. Workers at 14 power stations began a round of walkouts April 11 demanding dismissal of top ministry officials, reported *Al Masry Al Youm*. University students in Cairo and Fayoum are also keeping up their fight to remove senior administrative staff and to reduce tuition and textbook prices.

Egyptian prosecutors April 13 ordered a 15-day detention of Mubarak and his two son Alaa and Gamal for questioning. The move came after he sent television station *al-Arabiya* an audio message claiming he is a victim of a smear campaign and has no accounts or property abroad. Mubarak and his family, who are banned from leaving Egypt, currently reside in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

On April 11, a military tribunal sentenced Maikel Nabil, a 25-year-old blogger, to three years in prison on charges

of spreading false information about the armed forces. Nabil described the military’s imprisonment and torture of activists. “The revolution until now has succeeded in getting rid of the dictator,” he wrote, “but the dictatorship is still there.” Hundreds of civilians have been brought before these tribunals over the last two months.

Capitalism’s World Disorder WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AT THE MILLENNIUM by Jack Barnes

The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world.



The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels

Explains why communism is not a set of preconceived principles but the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.” \$5

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CALIFORNIA
San Francisco
Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Cuba's Victory at the Bay of Pigs, April 1961—The Challenges Facing Cuba Today. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 23. Dinner, 6:30 pm.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

IOWA
Des Moines
The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning. Speaker: Chuck Guerra. Fri., April 22, 7:30 p.m. 3808 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

From Libya to Gulf states, London pushes war and exports to shore up faded power

BY PAMELA HOLMES

LONDON—British defense minister Liam Fox toured the Gulf states to hold talks on joint military operations in Libya in early April. Both Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have sent aircraft to join the war. The *Financial Times* reported April 2 that Fox is visiting the Gulf to “thank these states for helping the operation against the Libyan regime.”

The defense minister’s trip is the latest in a string of visits by UK ruling-class figures as the British capitalists try to shore up their interests in the region.

Following the 2010 UK general election, which resulted in a Conservative–Liberal Democrat coalition government, Foreign Minister William Hague set improving relations with the Gulf states (and India) as top policy goals. Both Prime Minister David Cameron and Fox visited Abu Dhabi within a month of taking office. Hague visited the region early this year.

Reporting on a trip to the Gulf last November by Queen Elizabeth Windsor, the head of the UK state, the *Telegraph* said that the visit was “intended to strengthen ties with key military and economic allies.”

Cameron was the first foreign lead-

er to go to Egypt since Hosni Mubarak was forced to step down as president following sustained protests by working people and youth. Described as a “diplomatic *coup de théâtre*,” the visit was added to a long-scheduled trade visit to a number of Gulf states.

Britain dominated Egypt for seven decades from 1882, when it invaded the country and brutally suppressed resistance. By 1951 tens of thousands of British troops were occupying the country. Egypt was located en route to India, British imperialism’s “jewel in the crown,” and was home to the economically and militarily decisive Suez Canal. A British protectorate and de facto colony, the country kept a façade of independence under the regime of a monarch who ruled at London’s pleasure.

On July 23, 1952, young officers

Continued on page 9



British prime minister David Cameron with Mohammed Tantawi, head of Egypt’s Supreme Military Council. British companies export billions of dollars in arms to Middle East.

French gov’t in 3 shooting wars at one time

BY SETH GALINSKY

French imperialist troops are today engaged in three shooting wars at the same time: in Libya, the Ivory Coast, and Afghanistan. Paris hopes its more aggressive stance as the strongest military power in Western Europe will be a counterweight to Washington’s influence there and bolster its position against its competitors.

“It’s hard to imagine that Paris would have intervened militarily [in the Ivory Coast] if it didn’t believe that its interest in preserving influence over a former colony was critically at stake,” said the *Wall Street Journal* in an April 8 editorial. “In the age of humanitarian intervention the national interest has become the motive that dare not speak its name.”

On April 4, French tanks, helicopters, and soldiers attacked forces loyal to Ivory Coast ruler Laurent Gbagbo—who refused to acknowledge losing the November presidential election—and successfully overthrew him a week later, under the guise of

carrying out a United Nations mandate to protect civilians.

With 259,000 regular troops and 419,000 in its reserves, the French Army is the largest in Europe, ahead of its closest rivals, the British and German armies. In 2008 President Nicolas Sarkozy increased spending by \$1.8 billion a year as part of a five-year plan to transform the French military into a smaller but more combat-ready, better-equipped fighting force.

“We’re planning for one war and a half,” said Francois Heisbourg, a member of the presidential commission that helped develop Sarkozy’s plan. The aim, he said, is to be able to send 60,000 troops, 70 combat aircraft, and a full naval group anywhere from the North Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

French military intervention in Africa, especially in its former colonies and those of Belgium, is nothing new. French troops intervened in Africa at least 19 times between 1962 and 1995.

From 1954 to 1962 the French imperialists fought a brutal war in Algeria in a futile effort to prevent its people from winning independence. French forces routinely used waterboarding and electric shocks to torture those accused of opposing colonial rule. To justify the execution of prisoners it often claimed they were “killed while trying to escape” or “committed suicide.”

After its colonies gained independence, Paris viewed *Françafrique* as its exclusive sphere of influence. Africa remains a key source of oil and metals for French capitalists.

Paris maintains military bases in Djibouti, Gabon, and the islands of Reunion and Mayotte off Africa’s eastern coast, as well as troops in Senegal and the Central African Republic. Washington at the same time has been increasing its military presence in Africa.

The French government is also extending its military reach elsewhere in the world. In 2009 Sarkozy opened a new French military base in the United Arab Emirates, its first permanent one in the region. The base is located on the banks of the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

Paris is flexing its muscle amid simmering trade and financial disputes among the European imperialist powers and Washington. All are jockeying for position and competing for markets, lucrative arms contracts, and natural resources around the globe.

“The Paris leadership is getting on the nerves of many in Berlin,” according to the German web magazine Spiegel Online. The French and German governments—each seeking to assert its primacy in the European Union—have openly clashed over EU trade, financial, military, and nuclear policies.

London-Paris relations are not so smooth either. “Britain mistrusts French ambitions in Europe; France mistrusts Britain’s ties with America,” said *Newsweek* in November. “By and large, the cordiality has been kept for state occasions.”



UK and French troops in El Raswa, Egypt, November 1956. Attempt to retake Suez Canal ended in fiasco for London and Paris.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 25, 1986

NEW ORLEANS—A measure of justice was finally achieved for residents of this city’s Black community when the city government agreed to pay more than \$3 million in an out-of-court settlement of suits charging police brutality and murder.

The lawsuits stemmed from a reign of police terror in November 1980 after a cop was killed over an alleged drug deal in which four Blacks were killed.

According to residents’ descriptions of police behavior the U.S. Constitution had been, in effect, suspended in the city. Police stormed through the community, kicking in doors and searching and dispersing people on the streets. Residents were rounded up and taken down to police headquarters for questioning, beatings, and outright sessions of torture to exact “confessions.”



April 24, 1961

April 19—The people of Cuba, led by the revolutionary government of Fidel Castro, are staunchly defending their country and repelling U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries who began invading before dawn Monday, April 17.

Up to now indications are that the invaders have not penetrated beyond the beaches; and the tone of their communiqués, as well as the reports in the unanimously anti-Castro daily press, would indicate that, unless U.S. armed forces intervene directly to save them, the invaders may face defeat.

A defeat of the invasion would seriously weaken Washington’s military and diplomatic prestige throughout the world, particularly in Latin America where social revolution bubbles just beneath the surface.



April 25, 1936

The tradition of May Day is a tradition of militant mass action. On this day the proletarian prisoners of capitalism assert their right to act as free men and women. Defying the discipline of their bosses, all class-conscious workers lay down their tools; quit their places at the machine; and emerge from factory and workshop to assemble in unified ranks in the streets. The masses who march on May Day herald the time when they will storm the Bastille of capitalism; overthrow their exploiters and oppressors; and construct the socialist society that will usher in a new epoch of peace and progress.

May Day has a special significance for the American working class. Here on May Day, 1886 thousands of workers thronged the streets in a mighty demonstration for the eight-hour day.

California gov't slashes welfare, health, schools

Continued from front page

which may result in the enrollment of 400,000 fewer students and elimination of summer school sessions. "The average student can't afford textbooks—we rent them," said Juana Mora, a student at Rio Hondo Community College.

Supporters of the bill cynically claim that prison inmates will be closer to their homes when tens of thousands from state prisons are transferred to county jails. The real aim of this move is to save on physical exams and mental health screening, which are not required in these facilities.

These new cuts come on the heels of those made by former governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican. Unemployment is 12.6 percent statewide, with higher rates in the agricultural centers. The city of El Centro has the highest unemployment in the United States—28 percent.

These cuts are just the opening act. Since taking office early this year, Brown has been pushing to place a referendum on the ballot to continue the increase in state income tax, sales tax, and motor vehicle fees. Brown says he will push through changes in public workers' pensions, with an urgency clause that enables them to take effect immediately.

Top leaderships of the unions are campaigning to get their members to back the tax extensions, claiming this will forestall even more draconian cuts. The United Teachers of Los Angeles website states that Governor Brown "inherited a \$25 billion-plus deficit from Governor Schwarzenegger. Brown's budget splits the difference to close the deficit—one-half budget cuts, and one-half new revenues in the form of extending temporary tax increases."

Union organizers fight firings by Jimmy John's

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

MINNEAPOLIS—Six organizers of the Jimmy John's Workers Union are fighting their firings for putting up posters around town demanding paid sick days at the chain of sandwich shops.

David Boehnke, Erik Forman, Micah Buckley-Farlee, Davis Ritsema, Max Spektor, and Mike Wilklow were fired by Jimmy John's March 23. They have filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). They say their activity is protected union activity.

"The firing is bogus," said Jaim'ee Polte, a sandwich worker, while on break outside a Jimmy John's shop in downtown Minneapolis. Those fired were "the core organizers of the union," said Polte, who is also a student at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

"As far as I am concerned, the firings were a violation of free speech," said Mathias Sturn, a delivery driver.

The Jimmy John's Workers Union, affiliated with the Industrial Workers of the World, narrowly lost a union representation election last October. Voting for the union were 85 workers while 87 voted against. The unionization drive was one of the few national attempts to organize fast-food workers. It received broad solidarity among working people in the Twin Cities.

Following the October vote, the union filed charges against the owners saying that they had engaged in a pattern of labor rights violations, from firing prounion workers and bribe offers to threats of closing shops if workers voted for the union. The NLRB ruled in the union's favor, allowing a new representation election to be called anytime in the next 18 months.

Low wages (most workers are paid \$8 or less), irregular hours, no medical benefits, and no paid sick days are the main issues that sparked the unionization drive.

In the months since the election, the union has focused on fighting for paid sick days. A union flyer states, "We don't want to work sick, we can't afford to work sick, and we sure as hell believe no one should be disciplined for refusing to work sick or for fighting for paid sick days."

Posters put up by union supporters show two identical sandwiches. One shows a sandwich made by a healthy worker, the other by a sick worker. "Can you tell the difference?" the poster says. "We hope your immune system is ready because you're about to take the sandwich test."

The union's complaint says the workers were fired for "publicizing the ongoing labor dispute over the employ-



Militant/Eric Simpson

Laid-off teachers at March 26 protest in Los Angeles. Democratic governor Edmund Brown has continued antilabor cutbacks begun under Republican governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Endorsing the tax increases, the website urges lobbying Republican legislators who oppose a ballot initiative to "let the people vote on whether or not to extend the taxes."

Members of the Service Employees International Union—United Long Term Care Workers (ULTCW), who provide in-home and nursing-home services, face sharp attacks.

ULTCW member Ramon Baca told the *Militant*, "Our hours were cut by 3.7 percent two months ago, and now they're being reduced by another 7.5 percent. There is even talk about cutting the workforce in half—a disaster for us, and for people we care for. The union stopped cuts in 2010. We fought. This is exactly what is needed now."

Norton Sandler contributed to this article.

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May 1 rallies for immigrant rights

In recent years immigrant workers have revived the labor movement's tradition of celebrating May Day as hundreds of thousands have marched for immigrant rights. Below are announcements of May 1 actions sent in by readers. Let us know about events planned in your area:

New York Hempstead, Long Island

March starts at North Franklin St. and Front St. 11 a.m. For more information call (516) 565-5377 or visit www.workplaceprojectny.org

Manhattan

Union Square, 14th St. and Broadway. 12 noon. For more information call (212) 633-6646 or visit www.may1.info

Foley Square at Worth St. 1:00 p.m. For more information call (212) 239-7323 or contact rmann@theadvancegroup.com

Minnesota St. Paul

Assemble at Cathedral St. 4 p.m. March to capitol. For more information contact May1Minnesota@gmail.com

Thousands march to defend public workers under attack

Columbus, Ohio

BY BOB LAYCOCK

COLUMBUS, Ohio—More than 11,000 demonstrators gathered at the Ohio Statehouse April 9 to protest anti-union legislation signed into law March 31 by Gov. John Kasich. The rally was called to kick off a campaign to repeal the new law, known as Senate Bill 5, in a statewide referendum this November.

A broad spectrum of public workers unions participated along with union coal miners, steelworkers, construction workers, nurses, and others.

Chicago

**BY BETSY FARLEY
AND ALYSON KENNEDY**

CHICAGO—Thousands of workers crowded into Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago April 9 to protest attacks on workers rights and show solidarity with public workers in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio.

Among the largest contingents were hotel workers from UNITE HERE, Chicago Teachers Union, and the Illinois Federation of Teachers. They met at the Hyatt Hotel for a rally and spirited march to Daley Plaza. Workers at the Hyatt in Chicago have been fighting for a union contract for over a year.

Bill Wroblewski, a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 1, from Wyncet, Il-

linois, said there was a rally of 400 in his area April 4. "Right now there are 40 chemical workers in Henry, Illinois, who were locked out of their jobs two weeks ago. They have set up picket lines. The company wants what they all want—a 30 percent pay cut."

Just days before the union protest Chicago mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel laid out demands that teachers work longer hours and give up the right to strike. And he accused sanitation workers, members of Laborers Local 1001, of chronic absenteeism.

Olympia, Washington

BY EDWIN FRUIT

OLYMPIA, Washington—More than 7,000 unionists and their allies rallied at the state capitol here April 8. There were contingents from the Carpenters, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Teamsters, American Federation of Teachers, Washington Education Association, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers, Amalgamated Transit, and Firefighters unions, along with unions representing the Washington State ferry workers.

The Washington State legislature is proposing \$4.4 billion in cuts to education, health care, and other social programs, as well as denying social services to undocumented workers.

Fighting in Yankee heartland alongside Cuba

As Cuban toilers routed invaders at Bay of Pigs, Washington's lies unraveled

April 19 is the 50th anniversary of the victory of Cuba's working people over a U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs. Below we print an excerpt of an account by Jack Barnes that appears in Cuba and the Coming American Revolution and Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas. Barnes, today the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, was in 1961 an organizer of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

On the morning of April 18, 1961, readers of daily newspapers across the United States woke up to front-page headlines proclaiming, "Rebels Near Havana, Invade Four Provinces." Many radio stations blared an Associated Press news dispatch reporting that "Cuban rebel forces" had landed within thirty-eight miles of Havana and at numerous other points on the island. Citing a press release from the "Cuban Revolutionary Council," the dispatch said that much of the Cuban militia had already defected to the invading forces and "in the next few hours" the deciding battle for the country would be fought. "Rebel" forces were "in control of the Isle of Pines and had freed some 10,000 political prisoners held there."

Most Americans took the story as good coin, expecting to soon hear that the "pro-Communist dictator" Fidel Castro had been ousted.

Around the country, however, in dozens of cities and on a number of college campuses, there were pockets of individuals who knew from the beginning that every word of the AP story was a lie. We had been carrying out an intensive educational campaign for weeks to counter the Kennedy administration's mendacious disinformation efforts. We were getting ready for the invasion we knew was coming, preparing to act here in the Yankee heartland side by side with the Cuban people the moment it was launched. Between April 17 and April 19, as the battle was being fought in Cuba, we confidently took to the streets,



Above: Granma; Inset: GuardianPhoto
Above, members of Cuba's revolutionary militia march into battle at Bay of Pigs, April 1961. Inset, Fair Play for Cuba Committee demonstration at United Nations, New York, April 15, 1961, day before invasion.

organized speak-outs, posted marked-up newspaper clippings a couple times a day, and went on the radio asserting that, all press reports to the contrary, the U.S. government-organized and -financed invasion was being defeated, not winning.

As we had been doing for months, we pointed to the immense popularity of the revolution among the Cuban people in response to the measures the new government was organizing them to take. The Mafia-run gambling dens and brothels, a national shame, had been shut down. Land had been distributed to more than 100,000 tenant farmers, sharecroppers, and squatters. House and apartment rents, as well as electricity and telephone rates, had been slashed. Racial discrimination was outlawed and equal access not only made law but also enforced. The best public beaches, which had been previously off limits to blacks, had been opened to all. A nationwide campaign to eliminate illiteracy had been launched—part of a broader extension of public education to the countryside, among the poor, and for women. Popular militias had formed in factories, other workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and towns across the island, as Cubans demanded arms and

military training to defend their new conquests. The huge money-gouging U.S. monopolies had been nationalized, as well as the major landed, commercial, and industrial property holdings of the wealthy Cuban families who had been the social and political base of the Batista dictatorship.

Through more than two years of popular mobilization, the workers and farmers of Cuba had begun transforming not only their country but themselves. It was precisely for this reason, we explained,

U.S. court sets mercenary free

Continued from front page

including Cuba's entire Olympic fencing team, a number of whom were in their teens. But Washington rejects extraditing Posada to either country.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone allowed the jury to hear only selected and edited portions of the taped 1998 interview with *Times* journalist Ann Louise Bardach.

Bardach also testified at the trial. "In a hundred ways he admits to the bombing campaign," she said. "He was proud."

Bardach authored two articles in July 1998 in which Posada details how he organized the bombings from El Salvador and Guatemala. "We just wanted to make a big scandal so that the tourists don't come anymore. We don't want any more foreign investment" in Cuba, he said.

Cuban lieutenant colonel Roberto Hernández Caballero, who works for Cuba's Interior Ministry and headed the investigation of the bombings, was among the prosecution's 23 witnesses.

Posada's long history as an asset in Washington's counterrevolutionary wars in Latin America began when he joined the U.S.-organized mercenary brigade that invaded Cuba in April 1961 near the Bay of Pigs. He was supposed to be part of a second wave of attackers from Guatemala. But the reinforcements never got off the ground, since the first wave was crushed in fewer than 72 hours by Cuban workers and farmers, who had conquered power through a popular revolution two years earlier.

Posada was later trained by the U.S. Army and CIA in explosives, sabotage, and assassination. He soon became a

that Cubans could, and would, fight to the death to defend their revolution—and do so successfully.

Only thirty-six hours after the initial AP stories made headlines across the United States, the counterrevolutionary "rebel forces"—who had landed not thirty-eight miles from Havana or on the Isle of Pines, but near the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of the island—had been ignominiously routed at Playa Girón by Cuba's popular militias, Revolutionary National Police, Revolutionary Air Force, and Rebel Army. Not only the decisiveness, but also the speed of the April defeat was stunning. The strategic plan authorized by President John F. Kennedy called for the 1,500-man mercenary force to establish and hold a beachhead on an isolated slice of Cuban territory long enough to declare a provisional government and appeal for direct military intervention by Washington and its closest allies in Latin America. . . .

This political battle that began more than forty years ago was one that changed the lives of a substantial number of young people in the United States. It transformed the communist movement here in a way that paralleled the profound changes taking place in Cuba and elsewhere around the world. Nothing since the October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia has had such an impact on the class-conscious workers movement and on radicalizing youth.

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs \$22

Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas



by Fidel Castro, José Ramón Fernández

Fifty years ago, in less than 72 hours of combat, Cuba's revolutionary armed forces defeated a U.S.-organized invasion by 1,500 mercenaries. In the process, the Cuban people set an example for workers, farmers, and youth the world over that with political consciousness, class solidarity, courage, and revolutionary leadership, one can stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds—and win.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution \$10



by Jack Barnes

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland. As the proletarian-based struggle for Black rights was advancing in the U.S., the social transformation fought for and won by Cuban toilers set an example that socialist revolution is not only necessary—it can be made and defended.

The Inevitable Battle by Juan Carlos Rodríguez \$20

The failure of the attack on Playa Girón was not due to poor strategy and tactics on the part of the invading forces, but because the human material available to Washington could not match the courage and determination of a people fighting to defend what they had gained through the continent's first socialist revolution.

Making History \$17

Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces
by Enrique Carreras, Harry Villegas, José Ramón Fernández, Nestor López Cuba, Mary-Alice Waters

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‘Awaken feelings of dignity and revolutionary protest’

Below is an excerpt from *The First Five Years of the Communist International* by Leon Trotsky, a *Pathfinder Book of the Month* for April. Looking to the example of the world’s first workers and peasants republic, brought to power by the October 1917 Russian Revolution, the Communist International was founded in 1919. During its first five years, the International, guided by Bolshevik Party leader V.I. Lenin, organized to build a world movement of proletarian parties able to lead the toilers to overthrow imperialist exploitation and oppression.

The International championed struggles by nationally oppressed peoples, both in colonial countries and the imperialist centers. Reprinted below is a letter from Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky to Claude McKay, who attended the July 1922 Fourth World Congress in



Bolshevik leaders reached out to fighters against national and colonial oppression. After Communist International’s 1922 congress, Leon Trotsky (above left) met with Claude McKay (inset) from United States. In 1924 Trotsky met in Moscow with two leaders of fight against French colonial rule, Joseph Gothon-Lunion from Caribbean island of Guadeloupe and Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) from Vietnam (center and right above).



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Soviet Russia as an invited guest and ended up spending a year there. McKay, a member of the Communist Party in the United States, asked to meet with Lenin to discuss the fight against Black oppression and other questions. Lenin was too ill, but Trotsky met with McKay. The letter below contains Trotsky’s answers to a number of written questions by McKay. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

April

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Dear Comrade McKay,

1. What practical steps are to be taken to prevent France from employing Negro troops on the European continent?—this is your first question.

The Negroes themselves must offer resistance against being so employed. Their eyes must be opened, so that they realize that when they help French imperialism to subjugate Europe, they are helping to subjugate themselves, in that they are supporting the domination of French capitalism in the African and other colonies.

The working class of Europe, and particularly of France and Germany, must realize that their own most vital interests are involved in this work of enlightening the colored peoples. The day of general resolutions on the right of self-determination of the colonial peoples, on the equality of all human beings regardless of color, is over. The time has come for direct and practical action. Every 10 Negroes who gather around the flag of revolution—and unite to form a group for practical work among the Negroes, are worth a hundred times more than dozens of the resolutions establishing principles, so generously passed by the Second International. A Communist Party confining itself to mere platonic resolutions in this matter, without exerting its utmost energies towards winning the largest possible number of enlightened Negroes for its ideas, within the shortest possible time, would not be worthy of the name of Communist Party.

2. There is no doubt whatever that

the use of colored troops for imperialist war, and at the present time for the occupation of German territory, is a well thought out and carefully executed attempt of European capitalism, especially of French and English capitalism, to raise armed forces outside of Europe, so that capitalism may have mobilized, armed and disciplined African or Asian troops at its disposal, against the revolutionary masses of Europe. In this way the question of the use of colonial reserves for imperialist armies is closely related to the question of European revolution, that is, to the fate of the European working class.

3. There is no doubt whatever that the employment of the economically and culturally backward colonial masses for the world conflicts of imperialism, and still more in the class conflicts of Europe, is an exceedingly risky experiment, from the standpoint of the bourgeoisie itself. The Negroes, and indeed the natives of all the colonies, retain their conservatism and mental rigidity only insofar as they continue to live under their accustomed economic conditions. But when the hand of capital, or even sooner—the hand of militarism, tears them mechanically from their customary environment, and forces them to stake their lives for the sake of new and complicated questions and conflicts (conflicts between the bourgeoisie of different nations, conflicts between the classes of one and the same nation), then their spiritual conservatism gives way abruptly, and revolutionary ideas find

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rapid access to a consciousness thrown off its balance.

4. Therefore it is of the utmost importance, today, immediately, to have a number of enlightened, young, self-sacrificing Negroes, however small their number, filled with enthusiasm for the raising of the material and moral level of the great mass of Negroes, and at the same time mentally capable of grasping the identity of interests and destiny of the Negro masses, with those of the masses of the whole world, and in the first place with the destiny of the European working class.

The education of Negro propagandists is an exceedingly urgent and important revolutionary task at the present juncture.

5. In North America the matter is further complicated by the abominable obtuseness and caste presumption of the privileged upper strata of the working class itself, who refuse to recognize fellow workers and fighting comrades in the Negroes. [American Federation of Labor president Samuel] Gompers’ policy is founded on the exploitation of such despicable prejudices, and is at the present time the most effective guarantee for the successful subjugation of white and colored workers alike. The fight against this policy must be taken up from different sides, and conducted on various lines. One of the most important branches of this conflict consists in enlightening the proletarian consciousness by awakening the feeling of human dignity, and of revolutionary protest, among the Negro slaves of American capitalism. As stated above, this work can only be carried out by self-sacrificing and politically educated revolutionary Negroes.

Needless to say, the work is not to be carried on in a spirit of Negro chauvinism, which would then merely form a counterpart of white chauvinism—but in a spirit of solidarity of all exploited without consideration of color.

What forms of organization are most suitable for the movement among the American Negroes, it is difficult for me to say, as I am insufficiently informed regarding the concrete conditions and possibilities. But the forms of organization will be found, as soon as there is sufficient will to action.

With Communist greetings,
L. Trotsky

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What 1961 Cuban victory teaches

On April 19, 1961, two years after taking political power through a mass revolutionary upsurge, the workers and peasants of Cuba smashed an invasion organized by Washington at the Bay of Pigs, puncturing the myth that U.S. imperialism is invincible. Fifty years later, the lesson of that 1961 defeat remains true—even an army backed by all the firepower and technology the richest capitalist class on earth can deploy is no match for working people who have transformed themselves in the course of uprooting the system of class exploitation by landlords, factory owners, and bankers.

The invasion was well-planned by the Pentagon and CIA. But “they failed to measure the moral relationship of forces,” said Ernesto “Che” Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution, in a speech shortly after the U.S. rulers’ fiasco. What Washington’s invaders ran into when they landed were militias of peasants who had won title to land for the first time in their lives. Armed sugarcane workers, who for the first time were guaranteed a livelihood and schools for themselves and their children. Soldiers steeled in the revolutionary war that brought down the U.S. puppet Fulgencio Batista, who were determined that the propertied classes whose interests Batista served would never again hold power on the island.

The invaders, on the other hand, were the sons of the former landlords, gambling casino owners, big bankers, and privileged professional classes. In his May 8, 1961, speech, Che recounted that when Fidel Castro asked the captured mercenaries who among them had ever cut sugarcane, only one raised his hand. “They don’t know what a canefield is,” said Che. “They don’t know what hunger is. . . . They don’t know what it means to be an unemployed worker.”

And they certainly didn’t have the political morale to fight to the death the way Cuban working people did.

One of the mercenaries who didn’t get captured was Luis Posada Carriles. He never made it to Cuba, since the invasion was crushed before his unit could even set sail. Nonetheless, Posada went on to become a highly prized CIA operative, directly employed by the agency until the mid-1970s. He is wanted for a long string of deadly attacks against Cuba. But he has never been charged in a U.S. court of law in connection with any of the multiple deaths he was responsible for. Nor has Washington honored requests by Cuban and Venezuelan authorities for his extradition to stand trial.

Instead, in a calculated insult to the people of Cuba, Posada was charged with lying to U.S. immigration officials. On April 8 a U.S. court acquitted him of even this charge. A statement by the Cuban government pointed out that Posada still freely walks U.S. streets while five Cuban revolutionaries—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González—remain imprisoned on frame-up charges because they were monitoring the activities in South Florida of violent mercenaries like Posada.

Fifty years after its first military defeat in the Americas at the Bay of Pigs, Washington still relies on the class forces represented by Posada to try to maintain its foothold south of the border and around the world. Meanwhile, the Cuban Revolution, which relies on the power of a mobilized working class and peasantry, remains undefeated and stands as an example to working people the world over of how to fight the capitalist exploiters and win.

Anti-immigrant bills protested in Miami

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MIAMI—More than 100 students, workers, and others demonstrated here March 28 to oppose the anti-immigrant bills currently under discussion in the state legislature.

The main target of the march was SB 2040. This bill would increase state requirements for employers to check workers’ immigration status, either through the federal E-Verify system or other measures. It also seeks to extend immigration enforcement to all state police agencies and county sheriffs and to expand deportations of undocumented immigrants who are arrested for any reason.

On the march, Hector Leonel Hernández told the *Militant* that he had taken part in lobbying, and various politicians had promised support, but deportations have increased anyway. A recent graduate from high school in Miami, Hernández said he can’t afford to go to college so is taking electrical classes and working sporadically in construction.

Stefany Sagastizado, from St. Thomas University, said more students have gotten involved at her

campus after a soccer player from the school was arrested while traveling to a tournament. “He was just a passenger sleeping in the car and because he had no documents he was arrested,” she said.

Several workers from the cleaning staff at St. Thomas joined the march in their work uniforms. They had negotiated with their boss to start and leave work early to participate. “We’ve been out before supporting the students and all undocumented people,” said Ana Menoscal.

Another proposed bill is HB 7089, the “Florida Immigration Enforcement Act.” It would make it a misdemeanor to be in the state of Florida without valid immigration documents. The bill also mandates all public and private employers to use E-Verify; requires all cop agencies to check the immigration status of anyone arrested or subject to criminal investigation; and allows police to arrest a person without a warrant if they have “probable cause to believe that the person is unlawfully in the United States in violation of state and federal law.”



Miami demonstrators March 28 condemned SB 2040, bill that would increase scrutiny of immigrants’ work papers.

London pushes war

Continued from page 5

in the Egyptian army organized in the Free Officers Movement staged a coup, abolishing the monarchy and banning political parties. The officers’ main leader, Gamal Abdul Nasser, became president in 1956.

Nasser’s bourgeois nationalist regime sought capitalist development, with regional ambitions.

In 1956 Cairo took over the Suez Canal, until then in the hands of British and French capital. Reinforcing the post-World War II shift of power in the region from British to U.S. imperialism, Washington publicly condemned an attempted invasion by London, Paris, and Tel Aviv to retake the canal, dooming the assault to end in fiasco.

In the opening decades of the 20th century, Britain had been the strongest imperialist power in the Mideast. It considered the Gulf region the western flank of its colony in India. At the opening of World War II, British companies controlled an estimated 72 percent of oil reserves in the region, as compared to 9.5 percent for U.S. firms. By 1967 U.S. corporations controlled nearly 60 percent of reserves, while British capital was reduced to under 30 percent.

To cite another example, Bahrain—where massive protests have recently met with murderous repression by the Khalifah family dynasty—was a British protectorate from 1861 until independence in 1971. Today the small kingdom is home to the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet.

Cameron traveled to the Gulf with a trade delegation, including top executives of arms firms such as BAe Systems, Thales UK, and others. Last year, the Gulf states reportedly bought £15 billion of British exports, roughly the same as China and India combined. Military export licenses alone over the first nine months of 2010 totaled £64.3 million to Saudi Arabia, £4 million to Egypt, £270 million to Algeria, and £15.9 million to the UAE (£1=US\$1.64).

The BBC reports that “what makes Bahrain stand out for both Britain and the US is its geographical position and its value as a defence and security hub,” especially with regard to Iran. Democracy in the Middle East “may in theory sound like a good idea,” the BBC dispatch continues, “but when it comes to security arrangements, it is not always optimal.”

An opinion piece in the *Telegraph* about Cameron’s February visit put it bluntly, “When Britannia ruled the waves and half the world was coloured pink on the map, the world knew who we were and what we did. Now even the echoes of our imperial past are fading. . . .

“Selling our guns, our companies and our services to foreigners: this is what we do now. A British Prime Minister visits the Gulf not as the wielder of imperial power but as a commercial traveller,” the *Telegraph* said. “Western democracy is only one of the products he offers, and not always the most important one.”

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