

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Pope visits Latin America,
appeals to poor, oppressed
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 79/NO. 27 AUGUST 3, 2015

US-Iran deal heightens contradictions in Mideast

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Immediately after U.S. and Iranian officials announced a nuclear agreement July 14, backed by Russia, Germany, France, the U.K. and China, most Republicans in Congress vowed to vote against it. Some Democrats are hesitant. But no bourgeois political figure proposes any serious alternative. President Barack Obama appears to have the votes to override any veto. The deal is happening.

“You can’t ignore the fact that you have Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France and Germany all aligned,” said California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Intelligence Committee, motivating support for the deal. “It is very likely that, regardless of what we do, these nations will drop their sanctions at some point.”

The deal is part of the Obama administration’s efforts to reimpose stability in the Mideast to the advantage of U.S. imperialism as the post-World War I order there continues to unravel. In the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement and subsequent accords, the capitalist rulers of Britain and France, victors

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SWP candidates campaign for \$15/hour, unionization

Call for labor party based on the unions



Osborne Hart, right, SWP candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, talks to retired leather worker James Roletter July 18. Roletter said removal of Confederate battle flag was long overdue.

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA — “The Socialist Workers Party candidates, John Staggs for City Council at-large and myself for mayor, are both workers at Walmart,” Osborne Hart told Robert Taylor, a truck driver and Teamsters union member, as Taylor signed a nominating petition on his doorstep in the Port Richmond neighborhood here July 18.

As of July 21 more than 1,200 people have signed to put the socialist candidates on the ballot. Campaign supporters go door to door in working-class neighborhoods and join labor rallies, protests against police brutality and other actions, discussing political developments from Iran

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Cuba opens DC embassy, presses call to lift embargo

BY OMARI MUSA

AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

WASHINGTON — Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla raised the flag in front of the newly opened Cuban Embassy here July 20 to strains of Cuba’s national anthem and cheers from the more than 500

‘U.S. BLOCKADE MUST BE LIFTED’

— Speech by Cuban leader, p. 7

people gathered to celebrate the formal re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments. Washington severed diplomatic relations with the island on Jan. 3, 1961, as Cuba’s workers and peasants advanced their socialist revolution and the U.S. rulers prepared a mercenary invasion force they erroneously hoped would be able to crush it.

Guests joining the celebration came from all over the U.S., from California to Massachusetts, Illinois

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Fight against cop brutality grows in year since Eric Garner was killed



Rally July 18 in Brooklyn, N.Y., was among events to commemorate anniversary of chokehold killing of unarmed Eric Garner by New York cop. Inset, Garner’s wife, Esaw Garner, spoke to crowd.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — “I can’t breathe,” said Esaw Garner, widow of Eric Garner, at a rally of hundreds across from the federal courthouse here July 18. The crowd repeated the words Eric Garner cried out 11 times as New York police officer Daniel Pantaleo held him in a chokehold that killed him July 17, 2014. The event

was part of two days of actions and church services marking the anniversary of Garner’s death, an occasion to take stock of events of the last year and the gains scored in the fight against police brutality.

Bystander Ramsey Orta’s video of the killing of Garner was seen by millions around the world. Broad pro-

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From Ukraine to Baltics, Moscow seeks to extend sphere of influence

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Moscow’s ongoing military intervention and collaboration with separatist forces battling Kiev for control of Ukraine’s eastern regions, a fight that has taken more than 6,500 lives so far, is part of the Russian capitalist rulers’ broader drive to establish a buffer zone in territories near the Russian border.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his allies call this area, including Crimea, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and the Balkans, Russia’s “near abroad.” Moscow’s strategy has roots running back to Russia’s defense against the invasion of Napoleon

Bonaparte in 1812.

Fear of Russian interference has pushed regimes in Poland, the Baltics and elsewhere to press NATO and Washington to demonstrate their commitment to defend them, as pledged under NATO membership. This has led to a series of recent NATO military exercises in the region and pledges from Washington to store heavy weapons there.

However, President Barack

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United flight attendants hold international day of action

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Calif.: ‘Join monthly protests against solitary confinement’

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — “We want everyone who is willing, to get involved in the monthly statewide coordinated actions against solitary confinement,” Marie Levin, a leader of the movement for prisoners’ rights here, told a workshop at the U.S. Social Forum in San Jose June 26.

Levin is the sister of Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa, one of the leaders of the prisoners’ hunger strike in California in 2013 that grew to include more than 30,000 inmates and put a spotlight on the brutal conditions faced by thousands of prisoners held in solitary confinement in the state. The call for monthly actions originated with leaders of the hunger strike at the Pelican Bay State Prison.

Since March, pickets, rallies, tabling and other activities have taken place on the 23rd of each month across the state, organized by a broad coalition of groups including the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition, California Families Against Solitary Confinement and California Prison Focus.

“My brother has spent 34 years in jail, 31 in solitary, for a crime he didn’t commit,” Levin said. “California has more prisoners in solitary than any other state. While other states have reduced the numbers in solitary, here they are maneuvering to continue the torture.”

Following the hunger strike, Levin’s brother and several other strike leaders were transferred to Tehachapi State Prison, where they found conditions even worse than in Pelican Bay. Jamaa was put into the Step Down Program, touted by prison authorities as a way for

prisoners to work their way out of solitary by attending group meetings, keeping a journal the authorities monitor and not breaking prison rules.

Prison authorities initiated the program after the hunger strike. In a February 2014 statement hunger strike leaders denounced it as a “sham” that did not end the arbitrary placement and maintenance of thousands in solitary at the discretion of prison authorities.

In the July 2015 *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper, Jamaa reports that 40 prisoners are withdrawing from the Step Down Program.

Ten prisoners with a decade or more in solitary at Pelican Bay are plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights charging that the isolation violates their Eighth Amendment right against cruel and unusual punishment.

On June 2, 2014, U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken gave the suit class action status, meaning it now covers hundreds of prisoners in Pelican Bay who have been in solitary 10 or more years.



Militant/Betsy Stone

Marie Levin, left, leader of fight against solitary confinement, signs up youth on coalition mailing list at information table in downtown Oakland June 23 during monthly protest.

The trial will be in December.

“The hunger strikes were a significant part of an ongoing national sea change regarding the use of solitary,” Marie Levin wrote in the December 2014 *Bay View*.

This change was registered in a recent tentative settlement, in which Contra Costa County agreed to stop holding juveniles in solitary. A suit filed in 2013 in

the U.S. District Court in San Francisco alleged that youths with psychiatric and development disabilities have been routinely locked in narrow cells for up to 23 hours a day.

For information on how to join actions against solitary confinement, visit the California Prison Hunger Strike Coalition website at <http://prisonerhungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com>.

Montreal: ‘Don’t deport Haitians, Zimbabweans’

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — About 50 people gathered at the Haitian Community Office here July 5 to discuss the next steps in the struggle against threatened deportations of 3,200 Haitians and 300 Zimbabweans by the Canadian government. Last December federal officials announced they were lifting a moratorium on deportations to Haiti and Zimbabwe, saying conditions in those countries no

longer warranted an exemption.

The event was organized by the Non-Status Action Committee, a group “fighting to get everyone living in Canada without a status to gain their permanent residency,” committee leader Serge Bouchereau told the crowd.

Immigrants affected by the end of the moratorium were given six months to apply for permanent residency on humanitarian grounds, with a June 1 deadline.

Some applications have been rejected, but so far nobody has received a deportation letter, said immigration consultant François Jean-Denis. “This is a result of the fight that we have waged, but we need to fight harder to stop the deportations entirely,” he said. There have been several vigils and demonstrations against deportations, including a march here of 500 May 31.

Jean-Denis called for pressing the Quebec government to accept the im-

migrants. As a product of the Quebecois struggle against national oppression in the 1960s and ’70s, the Quebec government decides who can settle here. In 2002, responding to pressure, the provincial government used this power to allow hundreds of Algerian immigrants who had fled civil war to stay.

“A quarter of a million people of Haitian descent face deportation today in Dominican Republic,” Frantz André Trouillot, spokesperson for the Actions Committee against Decision 168-13, told the meeting. He described broad international support won since 2013 against the Dominican government’s moves to deny citizenship to residents whose parents or grandparents were undocumented immigrants from Haiti. “We need to work together,” he stressed.

Some 40 people picketed July 9 at the Montreal office of the Quebec Minister of Immigration and Diversity to demand all refugee claims be accepted.

THE MILITANT

Support rail workers’ fight for safety!

The rail bosses’ drive for profits risks life and limb of workers and residents, and threatens environmental disasters. The ‘Militant’ backs demand of rail workers and their unions to end one-person crews to ensure safety on the trains and the areas they pass through.



July 6 protest in Portland, Ore., marks two years since Lac-Mégantic oil train disaster.

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Malcolm X: Revolutionary leader of the working class

Below are excerpts from the book Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The first selection is from a talk presented in 1987 titled "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class." It is followed by excerpts from an interview Malcolm gave to the Young Socialist magazine in January 1965, just a month before he was assassinated. Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

The reason we need to learn about Malcolm, the reason we need to read and discuss what he said, is not simply in order to do justice to a great revolutionist. We need to understand and absorb Malcolm's political legacy because it's a powerful political tool we must have to help make a socialist revolution in the United States. It aids us in gathering and unifying the forces among working people and youth who will forge a working-class party able to lead such a revolution. It is needed by anyone, here or anywhere else on earth, who wants to be part of an international revolutionary movement of the kind Malcolm was so determined to help build — a movement to rid humanity of all forms of oppression and exploitation.

You're living in "a time of revolution," Malcolm told a young audience at the Oxford Union, the student debating society at that British university, in December 1964. That was Malcolm's message. Revolution, he said, was the question of questions confronting "the young generation of whites, Blacks, browns, whatever else there is. ... I for one will join in with anyone, I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth."

If we don't read what Malcolm said — the conclusions he drew from experiences he worked through at an accelerating pace in the closing year of his life — then, as we engage in battles today and tomorrow, all of us will be weaker as thinking, political people. Not less energetic, not less inspired (we will suffer that, also) — but *less political*.



YOUNG SOCIALIST: How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

MALCOLM X: I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth.

But when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador, who is extremely



Malcolm X at rally of Muslim Mosque Inc. in Harlem, New York, March 22, 1964. We need to understand Malcolm's political legacy to help make a socialist revolution in U.S., said Barnes.

militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to

overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.

So I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven't been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country. ...

YOUNG SOCIALIST: What part in the world revolution are youth playing, and what lessons may this have for American youth?

MALCOLM X: If you've studied the captives being caught by the American soldiers in South Vietnam, you'll find that these guerrillas are young people. Some of them are just children and some haven't yet reached their teens. Most are teenagers. It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. In the Congo, the refugees point out that many of the Congolese revolutionaries are children. In fact, when they shoot captive revolutionaries, they shoot all the way down to seven years old — that's been reported in the press. Because the revolutionaries are children, young people. In these countries the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist. And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people are more incensed over it — they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it.

I think young people here can find a powerful example in the young *simbas* [lions] in the Congo and the young fighters in South Vietnam.

Cop brutality fight rises since Garner's death

Continued from front page tests took place in the weeks following Garner's death, ruled a homicide by the coroner.

The outrage galvanized by Garner's death grew in response to a series of killings by cops of other unarmed Black men. Among them: Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Aug. 9; Akai Gurley, shot and killed in a Brooklyn stairwell Nov. 20; 12-year-old Tamir Rice, carrying a toy gun, shot by Cleveland cops two seconds after they pulled up next to him Nov. 22; Walter Scott, shot in the back by a cop in North Charleston, South Carolina, April 4; and Freddie Gray, who died of spinal injuries sustained after being arrested in Baltimore April 12.

After grand juries let the cops who killed Brown and Garner walk, Black Lives Matter protests, many spontaneous, broke out across the country, with tens of thousands marching in New York Dec. 13.

This movement has overlapped with and reinforced the growing fight for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and unionization, spearheaded by fast-food and Walmart workers, with many young people joining actions around both questions.

While Garner's killer was allowed to walk free, the surge of protests since his death, a manifestation of greater confidence, combativeness and solidarity in the working class, has resulted in some victories and led the ruling class to begin reining in the cops to a degree.

Vincent Liang, the cop who killed Gurley, was charged with manslaughter in February. Michael Slager, Scott's killer, was indicted for murder and fired in April. Militant protests forced Maryland officials to bring serious charges against six Baltimore cops involved in Gray's

death. On June 11 a Cleveland city judge found probable cause to prosecute two cops who killed Rice, though the county prosecutor has refused to file charges.

Barely three weeks after the massacre of nine African-Americans at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, by a white supremacist terrorist, the Confederate battle flag — a symbol of racist terror — was removed from the state Capitol. This victory was the result of the mass struggle for Black rights that overthrew segregation in the 1950s and '60s and its social and political consequences over decades, reinforced by today's struggles.

Several hundred people took part in a rally at Columbus Circle at the corner of Central Park July 17. Sponsors included Millions March NYC and Stop Mass Incarceration. They then marched through Midtown, eventually dispersing at Union Square later in the evening.

Significant union presence

The Brooklyn rally, which was marked by a significant union presence, was sponsored by the National Action Network, 1199SEIU, New York Nurses Association, NYC Communities for Change and the Working Families Party. Participants included SEIU Local 32BJ janitors, members of the New York Civil Liberties Union and a contingent from the Nation of Islam mosque in Harlem.

Speakers demanded the U.S. Department of Justice file civil rights charges against Pantaleo and that he be fired. Pantaleo was moved to a desk job after killing Garner and is under review by New York police internal affairs.

Speakers included Eric Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, and his daughter Emerald Garner. Also present were Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, killed by New York cops in

2012; Wanda Johnson, mother of Oscar Grant, killed by a transit cop in Oakland, California, in 2009; Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, killed by a vigilante in Sanford, Florida, in 2012; and Leslie McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown.

"Without you, we couldn't do this alone," said Carr. "We need your support, because we know next time it could be you or your son. We want no more members" of the club of bereaved families. "This club is full. It's closed."

"I support the families of people killed by police," said Olga López, 70, a cleaner who came with her son, a hospital worker and member of 1199SEIU.

"I came because I have a close-up view of the systematic institutional racism perpetrated by the justice system," Nora Carroll, 33, a public attorney who was born in the South, told the *Militant*.

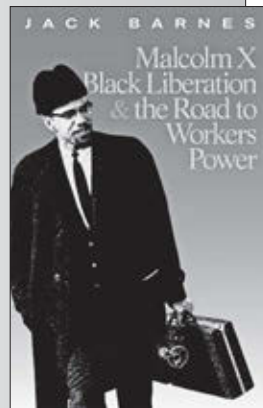
Members of People's Organization for Progress were at the rally passing out handbills for the July 25 Million People's March Against Police Brutality, Racial Injustice and Economic Inequality in Newark, New Jersey, a protest being built widely in the region.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

"Don't start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in the broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It's the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over." \$20

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Fatal factory blasts highlight UK bosses' drive for profits

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

HELLESDON, England — With two fatal factory explosions in England in the same week, workers are discussing how to counter the bosses' profit drive affecting safety on the job and surrounding communities.

Daniel Timbers, 29, and Barry Joy, 56, were killed in a flash fire July 13 at Harford Attachments in this suburb of Norwich. According to news reports, the two were working in a confined area when a buildup of toxic fumes caught fire. Workers in other parts of the factory, which makes parts for excavators, rushed to the scene, but were unable to save them. Their bodies weren't recovered until the next day, with police citing high levels of toxic chemicals.

It's not yet clear what led to the accumulation of fumes or their ignition. An investigation is being carried out by local police and the Health and Safety Executive.

Four days later a massive explosion destroyed Wood Flour Mills in the village of Bosley, near Macclesfield. As of July 19, scores of rescue workers are still looking for four missing workers — Dorothy Bailey, 62, William Barks, 51, Jason Shingler, 38, and Derek Moore, 62 — who are believed to have been near the source of the blast.

The explosion was felt a mile away and some nearby houses were damaged, with six families not able to return home. Firefighters told the *Manchester Evening News* that temperatures reached up to 1,000°C as an inferno engulfed the mill. Some 5,000 liters of kerosene were

released, leaching into the River Dane. The building is also known to have contained heating oil, acetylene and asbestos. Next to it is a silo containing highly flammable wood flour used for making laminate flooring.

Local officials had been to the site two weeks earlier in response to complaints about sawdust. There were previous fires at the mill in 2010 and 2012.

Company representatives have not commented on the disaster.

Workers in Hellesdon discussed the disaster at Harford Attachments with a team of communist workers from London who went door to door in the area July 18.

"It's terrible what happened, but unfortunately it won't be the last," said a worker from a mobile phone repair shop who had worked with Joy in a previous job. He spoke to the *Militant* as he and his wife tidied up the dozens of bouquets that workers have brought to the fence by the plant in a makeshift memorial. "The bosses are always cutting corners with health and safety. They take all the money," he said. "That's why we've just got a union organized where I work." He asked that his name not be used because "my company is vindictive."

Stephen Carr, who works in a boiler factory organized by the UNITE union,

L.A. port truck drivers strike to expand union



Militant/Bernie Senter

LOS ANGELES — Port truck drivers began their sixth strike in two years against Pacific 9 Transportation July 21. They're demanding union recognition and a contract. Picketing is organized at the trucking company and firms that haul cargo to the L.A. port and Long Beach marine terminals.

"We are in this struggle because we have to work 16 to 18 hours a day to subsist," Rigoberto Monarrez told the *Militant* while walking the picket line. "The company deducts from our pay all the repairs, license plates, diesel and insurance. We have no benefits, health insurance or coverage for on-the-job injuries. We're demanding to be seen as employees not contractors."

Truckers have won Teamster union contracts at four hauling companies — Eco Flow Transportation, Shippers Transport Express, Toll Group and Horizon Lines.

— DEBORAH LIATOS

said workers there routinely challenge unsafe conditions in face of the bosses' attitude. "Until something goes wrong, the managers won't deal with things," he said. "We used to have a bonus system

linked to the health and safety record, so people wouldn't report things. But we got rid of it. Now people report everything," strengthening the fight for safety on the job.

SWP candidates campaign for \$15/hr, unions

Continued from front page
and Greece to fights against boss attacks and the example of the Cuban Revolution. The SWP is going to sign up 1,000 over the required 1,325 signatures and file on July 31.

"I never shop at Walmart. I'm union and they fight against having a union," Taylor said.

"We don't ask people not to shop there," Hart said. "We say, 'Support our fight for higher wages, regular hours and a union.' The percentage of workers in this country who are union members is the lowest it's been. Workers fighting for \$15 an hour and a union at Walmart, McDonald's and elsewhere are leading the fight to change that.

"We need our own political party, a labor party based on the unions, a party that can bring workers together, build solidarity and confront the crisis we face," Hart said. "Such a party can bring together workers' battles on the job, fight to defend jobs, safety conditions and political and social rights. It can point the road to working people taking political power."

"Workers face attacks all over the world — look at what's happening in Greece today," he said. "There's a world crisis of capitalism and we need to respond as a class."

Protest against police abuse

Earlier that day Hart and campaign supporters joined a protest demanding freedom for 22-year-old Tyree Carroll, who is imprisoned on frame-up drug charges after being brutally beaten by some 26 Philadelphia cops April 3.

His grandmother Nancy Carroll and other relatives said Tyree was stopped for riding his bicycle the wrong way on a one-way street and then attacked. A neighbor caught the beating on video.

After beating him, the cops took Car-

roll to the hospital, claiming he was hurt, "intentionally striking his own head against the protective shield located in the police vehicle."

Ten family members and other marchers signed to put the SWP campaign on the ballot.

The night before, Hart, Staggs and Carmen Guerrero, a leader of efforts to defend the human and political rights of immigrant workers in the Philadelphia suburb of Norristown, spoke at the weekly Militant Labor Forum.

Staggs pointed to battles brewing as the United Steelworkers and United Auto Workers enter talks with the bosses over contracts that expire in September. ArcelorMittal has two steel mills in the Philadelphia area.

"With the downturn in capitalist production and trade worldwide and the cooling off of expansion and production in China, steel bosses face shrinking markets and fierce competition," he said. "U.S. Steel has laid off thousands of workers and told 9,000 more they may be next. These bosses want the workers to take more concessions to try and protect their profits."

"I'm proud to support the campaign," Guerrero said. "As workers we need to make our own power. It is time to fight for real change, and to do that we need a revolution in our consciousness."

"I am proud that I am one of those invited to come to Washington, D.C., and join the celebration at the reopening of the Cuban Embassy there after decades," she said. "This is a big victory and the Cuban Revolution is an example for all of us."

Independence for Puerto Rico

Sunday morning, Pastor José Díaz invited Hart to the Christ and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community. Hart and

other SWP members had worked with Díaz to build the May 30 demonstration demanding freedom for Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López, who has been imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 34 years.

"The worldwide crisis of capitalism is responsible for what is happening to workers here, in Greece and in your home of Puerto Rico," Hart said. "U.S. bondholders bought up Puerto Rico's bonds, seeking to make a killing. Now, when the colonial government says the spiraling debt is unpayable, they try to make workers on the island bear the burden. We oppose this assault on the working class and support the fight for independence for Puerto Rico."

"We join you in campaigning for freedom for Oscar López," he said. "Oscar, as many of you know, is a supporter of the Cuban Revolution. We join with him in pointing to the Cuban people's unbroken record of solidarity with workers and farmers throughout the world — from Puerto Rico to Angola and elsewhere."

Forty members of the congregation signed petitions when church members passed them up and down the rows.

Tuesday morning campaign supporters Chris Hoeppner and Mitchel Rosenberg went with Staggs to the Port Richmond neighborhood.

"Chris and I went two blocks in a little over two hours, knocking on doors, and got 58 signatures," Rosenberg, an oil refinery worker, said. "I talked to a woman named Debbie who is unemployed. She signed and got her daughter to sign."

"She said she really liked what the campaign had to say about the Confederate battle flag coming down, about how it brings workers together," he said. "She took my phone number to get a subscription to the *Militant* when she gets her check."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Behind Iran Accord. Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 2826 S. Vermont Ave., #1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

Oakland

The Fight for Immigrant Rights Today. Speaker: Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Celebrate Cuba's Victory Against U.S. Imperialism — Washington Is Forced to Open Discussions on Re-establishing Relations for the First Time in More Than 50 years. Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 2018 S. Ashland Ave. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

CANADA

Calgary

Defend Tom Harding, Framed Up for Lac-Mégantic Train Disaster. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 4909 17th Ave. SE. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

Montreal

Celebrate Socialist Cuba's Victory Against U.S. Imperialism: After 50 Years Embassies Open in Washington and Havana. Speaker: John Steele, Communist League. Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Housing Is a Right! Speaker: Janet Roth, Communist League. Fri., July 31, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 188a Onehunga Mall. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover steel, auto and other contract fights!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about the labor resistance that is unfolding today, to give voice to those engaged in battle and help build solidarity. National steel and auto contracts are expiring this summer and fall. I invite workers involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

United flight attendants hold international day of action

DENVER — Some 90 workers organized by the Association of Flight Attendants marched in a spirited picket outside Denver International Airport July 16, holding signs that read, “Contract Now” and “Record Profit\$\$\$ It's Our Turn.”

Similar protests took place at 16 United Airlines hubs around the world, part of a day of action to bring pressure on United to sign a contract. Negotiations have been going on for three years for a contract that covers workers at both United and Continental, which merged in 2010. The union, which now represents 24,000 flight attendants at United, is demanding wage and benefit increases, job security, scheduling and rest time.

United's 2014 profit of \$1.97 billion was up 89 percent over the previous year.

A July 17 letter signed by members of the union's joint negotiating committee thanked members for the turnout and said, “Negotiations should be about give and take, but it cannot be, it will not be, one party doing all the giving and the other party doing all the taking.”

The mechanics, who are also demanding a joint agreement, staged a protest in June.

—Horace Kerr

Seattle hospital workers demand more nurses per patient

SEATTLE — About 500 hospital workers marched and rallied in front of Swedish-Providence Hospital here July 1.

Some 7,000 nurses and health care workers represented by SEIU Healthcare 1199NW are protesting the lack of progress in current contract negotiations.

“Swedish-Providence has more than 1,600 vacancies, which nurses and healthcare workers attribute to declining standards for staffing and jobs,” a posting on the union website says.

SEIU members carried signs reading, “People Before Profits” and “Increase Staffing for Patient Care.”

Nurses say that with 12-hour shifts there are too many patients for each nurse to give the care needed. “We don't have sufficient staffing to properly care

for patients,” said Alexandra Dennis, who works in the neuroscience department.

“We need affordable health care,” said Joy Ouano, a nurse in the ambulatory infusion center. “How can we take care of patients' needs when the hospital won't take care of ours?”

After Swedish Medical Center merged with Providence Health Services, a Catholic organization, it stopped doing abortions in its hospitals and clinics, causing an outcry from women's rights organizations.

—Edwin Fruit

Washington farm workers union marches to demand contract

BURLINGTON, Wash. — Two years after launching a fight for a union



Berry pickers, members of Familias Unidas por la Justicia union, and supporters of their fight for a contract rally in front of Sakuma Brothers Farms in Burlington, Washington, July 11.



Militant/Horace Kerr

Members of Association of Flight Attendants picket Denver International Airport July 16, part of international day of action at United Airlines hubs around world demanding contract.

contract at Sakuma Brothers Farms in Washington's Skagit Valley, 250 farm workers and supporters marched to the company's office here July 11 to demand a contract.

In July 2013, after farm worker Federico Lopez was fired for challenging the piece rate, more than 200 of his co-workers walked off the job. They won his reinstatement. Through that struggle the berry workers formed the Familias Unidas por la Justicia union (Families United for Justice).

The recent rally at the company's gates included a line-up of speakers showing the respect the union has won in the labor movement. Among those addressing the crowd were Jeff Johnson, president of the Washington State Labor Council; Steve Garey, former president of United Steelworkers Local 12-591, which organizes oil workers at the Tesoro refinery in nearby Anacortes who were on strike earlier this year; Kent Stanford, president of the Washington Public Employees Association; and Ramón Ramírez, president of Oregon-based Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Tree-planters and Farmworkers United).

Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and United Food and Commercial Workers participated in the action. Religious and social activist organizations were there as well.

—Clay Dennison

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 3, 1990

Nelson Mandela's eight city tour of the United States registered a step forward in the international struggle against apartheid. From the ticker tape parade of hundreds of thousands in New York June 20 to a rally in Oakland, California, June 30 the response to the political message of the deputy president of the African National Congress demonstrated the extent to which apartheid is seen as a crime against humanity.

Like other mass revolutionary leaders of our time — Malcolm X, Ernesto Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara, Fidel Castro, and Maurice Bishop — Mandela is leading a mass struggle and acts and speaks as a fighter in the world. He is an example of those entering the struggle of the caliber of leader that can emerge from the struggle of the oppressed and exploited today.



August 9, 1965

PARIS — In the month or so after the coup d'état that deposed Ben Bella [in Algeria], the new regime, in one form or another, was granted recognition by the various powers, the big ones like the United States, the USSR and China, and the medium and small ones. The act of violence has thus been ratified on an international scale.

Within the country, the demonstrations that broke out immediately after Boumedienne seized power have come to an end. He does not have the capital of sympathy, of personal authority enjoyed by Ben Bella. In proceeding to a coup d'état, he created a new situation in which the first conclusion is that the Algerian revolution is weaker than before. The masses have been disoriented, and the partisans of the coup d'état encouraged.



August 3, 1940

ST. PAUL, Minn. July 27 — Seven teamsters union leaders from Sioux City, Des Moines and Omaha must enter a federal penitentiary and serve prison terms of two years each, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals here decided last week, when it denied the union leaders an appeal from a conviction in the lower federal courts.

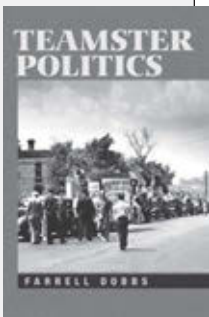
The Federal Bureau of Investigation's “G-men” engineered the conviction. The sensational growth of the drivers' union movement during 1937 in the mid-West when the 10-state North Central Area Committee of drivers unions was formed with Farrell Dobbs of Minneapolis as secretary, centered all eyes there — including the FBI. The seven will probably be confined to the Sandstone (Minnesota) federal prison.

Teamster Politics

by Farrell Dobbs

How Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544, guided by a class-struggle leadership in the 1930s, fought for unions to adopt a course of independent working-class political action — \$19

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Pope visits Latin America, appeals to poor, oppressed

BY EMMA JOHNSON

"I humbly ask forgiveness, not only for the offense of the church herself, but also for the crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America," Pope Francis said at the Second World Meeting of the Popular Movements in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, July 9.

He called for a social movement to shatter a "new colonialism" and to "say no to an economy of exclusion and inequality, where money rules." This was a recurring theme during the pope's highly publicized eight-day visit to Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, three of the smallest and poorest countries in Latin America, all with a substantial indigenous population.

Latin America is home to 425 million Catholics, nearly 40 percent of the world's Catholic population. But even in this heartland the church has lost ground over recent decades. According to a survey from the Pew Research Center last year, 69 percent of adults across the region identified themselves as Catholics, down from 92 percent in 1970.

Since becoming pope, Francis has taken steps to bring the church in step with changing social attitudes and daily lives of ordinary Catholics. He is seeking to regain credibility and restore the institution's moral authority, in a world marked by a deep capitalist crisis that has devastating effects on millions of toilers. In making this shift, he opens the door to broader political discussion among toilers, Catholic and others, about how to advance their interests.

"The new colonialism takes on different faces," the pope said in Santa Cruz. "At times it appears as the anonymous influence of mammon: corporations, loan agencies, certain 'free trade' treaties and the imposition of 'austerity,' which always tighten the belt of workers and the poor. ... Working for a just distribution of the fruits of the earth and human labor is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation. For Christians the responsibility is even greater: it is a commandment."

Francis met with the presidents of all three countries. Rafael Correa in Ecuador and Evo Morales in Bolivia both represent left-wing populist parties that have had strained relations with the Catholic hierarchy in their countries. During the visit in Bolivia, Morales said, "For the first time I feel like I have

a pope."

In Ecuador, Francis spoke on the themes of his encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home" (Laudato Si'), a papal letter to bishops issued in May that focuses on the environment and climate change. "The tapping of natural resources, which are so abundant in Ecuador, must not be concerned with short-term benefits," he said to a group that included indigenous people from the Equatorial Amazon July 7. He said he hopes to influence the United Nations climate change summit in Paris in December.

The church's opposition to homosexuality and divorce is also out of step with working people's sentiments. In 2004 Chile became the last country in Latin America to legalize divorce, and since 2010 same-sex marriage has been legalized in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. While not changing the church's position on these questions, Francis has made clear he doesn't think the clergy should campaign around them.

At the end of June, Francis said that in some instances it would be correct to dissolve a marriage, such as "when it comes to saving the weaker spouse, or young children, from more serious injuries caused by intimidation and violence, by humiliation and exploitation, by lack of involvement and indifference."

On Sept. 19 Francis will arrive in Cuba for a three-day visit and then con-

Cuba opens DC embassy, calls for end to embargo

Continued from front page

and Florida. Many had been fighting for decades against the U.S. policy of trying to overthrow the Cuban Revolution through military action, economic warfare, assassination attempts, the financing of armed counterrevolutionary groups, countless subversive programs and increasingly futile efforts to isolate the island politically and diplomatically.

The mood in the crowd was festive as several hundred waited more than an hour in the blazing heat and humidity of a Washington summer day for the activities to begin. During conversations many noted that it was the steadfastness and courage of the Cuban people and their revolutionary leadership that made this victory possible.

Among the participants in the day's formal ceremonies and the reception

NY picket: 'Stop attacks on workers in Puerto Rico!'



Militant/Candace Wagner

NEW YORK — "What do we want? Stop the cuts!" chanted pickets outside a meeting between Puerto Rican officials and major bondholders at Citigroup offices here July 13, echoing the demands of protesters on the island. The colonial government has already laid off thousands of workers, cut pensions and raised taxes in the name of paying the debt. Some of the roughly 50 protesters held signs denouncing the "Krueger plan," a government-commissioned report that proposes sweeping cuts in social protections and lowering the minimum wage to make Puerto Rico "competitive."

— CANDACE WAGNER

tinue to the United States where he will stay through Sept. 25.

"We're already preparing to welcome Pope Francis in September with affection, respect and hospitality, as he deserves," Cuban President Raúl Castro said at the closing of the National Assembly July 15. "His message —

promoting peace and justice, the eradication of poverty, protection of the environment — and his analysis of the causes of the problems facing humanity, which we all have followed carefully, especially during his memorable tour of Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, inspire admiration worldwide."

that followed were members of the U.S. Congress, business people, students from Washington universities, Cuban-Americans who have worked for the normalization of relations and U.S. residents long active in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Representatives came from numerous African, Latin American and European embassies as well.

Roberta Jacobson, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, represented the U.S. government at the flag-raising and ceremony addressed by Cuba's foreign minister. Jacobson led the U.S. negotiating team during the bilateral talks begun after the joint announcements Dec. 17 by U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro of the agreement to upgrade the existing Interests Sections of the two governments to full-fledged embassies. The completion of this process is understood as a first step toward normalization of relations.

Rodríguez was received later in the day by Secretary of State John Kerry, following which they held a joint press conference where both spoke of the "profound differences" that continue to exist between the two governments and the "long and complex" process of addressing them that remains ahead. These issues include the lifting of the multifaceted measures of U.S. economic warfare Cubans call the blockade, as well as the return to Cuba of the U.S.-held naval base at Guantánamo and, in Rodríguez's words, discussing the "deep differences between Cuba and the United States with regard to our views about the exercise of human rights by all citizens the world over."

At the same time, Rodríguez said,

"we strongly believe that we can both cooperate and coexist in a civilized way, based on respect for these differences."

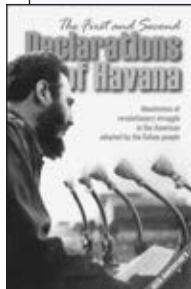
Among those participating in the day's activities was a delegation of some 30 Cubans, including current and former members of the National Assembly, former diplomats long involved in U.S.-Cuba relations, and leaders from a broad cross section of Cuban society — science, industry, medicine, sports, women, farmers, artists, writers and musicians, youth and more.

Ramón Sánchez-Parodi, who headed the Cuban Interests Section in Washington for 12 years following its opening in 1977, was among those present. In remarks published in the Cuban press he commented with satisfaction that he had been confident this day would come. "Decades have passed," he said, "but it was worth it because the United States has recognized the resistance of the Cuban people and now we enter a new stage in bilateral relations."

World-renowned artist Alexis Leiva Machado, better known as Kcho, voiced the sentiments of many when he noted that the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States was also Fidel's achievement. Without the revolution, "Cuba could not have done what we have done," he said, calling attention to the fact that Cuba was recently singled out by the World Health Organization as "the first country in the world to have eliminated the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to child.

"The enemy has recognized it made a mistake," he said. "That's a victory of more than 50 years of the revolution which is the people."

Read more on the Cuban Revolution...



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by Jack Barnes

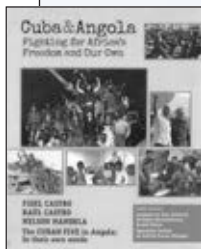
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‘Blockade must be lifted, Guantánamo returned’

Speech by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez on reopening of Cuban Embassy in US after 54 years

Below is the speech by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla at the July 20 ceremony to reopen the Cuban Embassy in United States in Washington, D.C. Translation and sub-headings are by the Militant.

Your Excellency Roberta Jacobson, assistant secretary of state;

Officials of the U.S. government accompanying her;

Honorable members of Congress;

Esteemed representatives of the U.S. organizations, movements, and institutions that have made enormous efforts to change U.S. policy and improve relations between the two countries;

Esteemed representatives of the organizations and movements of the patriotic emigrés;

Distinguished ambassadors;

Compañeros of the Cuban delegation; José Ramón Cabañas, chargé d'affaires;

Officials and workers of the Cuban Embassy;

Dear friends:

The flag we honor at the entrance of this room is the same one that was lowered here 54 years ago. It was closely guarded by a family of freedom fighters in Florida and later by the museum in our eastern city of Las Tunas, in anticipation that this day would certainly come.

Flying once again here is the lone-star flag. It embodies the generous blood that was shed, the sacrifices made, and the struggle our people waged for more than 100 years for national independence and full self-determination, in face of the most serious challenges and risks.

We pay homage to all those who died in its defense and renew the commitment of the present generations, with full confidence in the future ones, to serve it with honor.

We invoke the memory of José Martí, who dedicated his life to the struggle for Cuba's freedom. He knew the United States in great depth. His collection *North American Scenes* presents a vivid description of the great nation to the North and extols its best qualities. He also left us a warning against its boundless appetite for domination, a caution that was confirmed by a long history of differences.

Fidel Castro's leadership

We're here thanks to the firm and wise leadership of Fidel Castro Ruz, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, whose ideas we will always uphold with utmost loyalty. We recall his visit to this city in April 1959. He came to promote equitable relations between the two countries, as well as to pay sincere homage to Lincoln and Washington. The aims that brought him here early on are the same ones we have pursued for decades and are the same we pursue today.

Many in this room — politicians, journalists, figures in the fields of art or science, students, U.S. social activists — have treasured countless hours of rich discussion with the commander in chief,

gaining a better understanding of our motives, goals, and decisions.

This ceremony has been made possible by the free and unshakable determination, unity, sacrifices, selflessness, heroic resistance, and work of our people. And, at the same time, by the strength of the Cuban nation and its culture.

Several generations of our revolutionary diplomatic corps have been part of this effort and provided their martyrs. The example and vibrant words of Raúl Roa [Cuban foreign minister 1959-76], the Ambassador of Dignity, continue to inspire Cuba's foreign policy and will remain alive in the memory of the younger generations and future diplomats.

I bring greetings from President Raúl Castro, as an expression of our good will and firm political determination to move forward, through a dialogue based on mutual respect and sovereign equality, toward a civilized coexistence, despite the differences that exist between our two governments. This can make it possible to solve bilateral problems, promote cooperation, and develop mutually beneficial relations, which both peoples desire and deserve.

We know this would contribute to peace, development, equity, and stability in the continent. It would help fulfill the purposes and principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter and in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, which was signed at the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana.

The re-establishment of diplomatic relations and the reopening of embassies today completes the first stage of the bilateral dialogue. It opens the door to the complex and undoubtedly long process toward the normalization of relations between the two countries.

The challenge is great. The United States and Cuba have never had normal relations, despite a century and a half of intensive and enriching ties between the two peoples.

The Platt Amendment, imposed in 1902 under U.S. military occupation, cut short a fight for freedom that had included the participation or support of more than a few American citizens.



Ismael Francisco/Cubadebate

Rodríguez with honor guard raising flag over newly opened embassy.



Bill Hackwell

“This was made possible by the unity, sacrifices, selflessness, heroic resistance, and work of our people,” said Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez at July 20 opening of Cuban Embassy in Washington.

It also led to the usurpation of part of Cuba's territory at Guantánamo. Its devastating consequences left an indelible mark in our common history.

In 1959, the United States refused to accept the existence of a small neighboring island that was fully independent. Much less did it accept, a few years later, a socialist revolution that was forced to defend itself. A revolution that has embodied, ever since, our people's determination.

I have referred to history to state that today an opportunity has opened to begin working toward establishing new relations between our countries that will be different from everything that existed in the past. This is something the Cuban government is fully committed to.

End embargo, return Guantánamo

If the historic event we are witnessing today is to have meaning, the economic, commercial, and financial blockade, which has caused our people so much harm and suffering, must be lifted; the occupied territory at Guantánamo must be returned; and Cuba's sovereignty must be respected.

Every step forward will be acknowledged and welcomed by our people and our government. It will also most certainly have the encouragement and approval of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the entire world.

We reaffirm Cuba's willingness to move toward normalization of relations with the United States in a constructive spirit but without harming our independence and without interference in affairs that are exclusively under Cuban sovereignty.

To persist in obsolete and unjust goals, seeking only a change in the way they are achieved, will neither legitimize such goals nor aid the national interests of the

United States and its citizens. Should that course be taken, however, we will be ready to confront the challenge.

As President Raúl Castro wrote in his July 1 letter to President Obama, we are engaging in this process “in the spirit of reciprocal intention of developing respectful and co-operative relations between our peoples and governments.”

From this embassy, we will continue to work hard to promote relations in the cultural, economic, scientific, academic fields and in sports, as well to develop the ties of friendship between our peoples.

We would like to convey the Cuban government's respect and acknowledgement to the president of the United States for calling on the U.S. Congress to lift the blockade and for the change of policy he has announced. In particular, we take note of the willingness he has shown to make use of his executive powers for that purpose.

We are particularly reminded of President Carter's decision to open the respective Interests Sections in September 1977.

I am pleased to express my gratitude to the Government of the Swiss Confederation for having represented Cuba's interests for the last 24 years.

Many worked for this day to happen

On behalf of the Government and the people of Cuba, I would like to express our gratitude to the members of Congress, scholars, religious leaders, activists, solidarity groups, business people, and many other U.S. citizens who worked hard for so many years to make this day happen.

We would also like to express our acknowledgement to the majority of Cubans living in the United States, who have called for a different kind of relationship between this country and our nation. Deeply moved, many have told us they will step up their efforts, remaining faithful to the tradition of the patriotic emigrés who helped sustain the ideals of our independence.

We express our gratitude to our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean who have resolutely supported our country and called for a new chapter in relations between the United States and Cuba. In this they were joined, with extraordinary perseverance, by many friends all over the world.

I reiterate our acknowledgement to the governments represented by the diplomatic corps here. Their voice and vote in the U.N. General Assembly and other international forums has made a decisive contribution.

It was from the United States that José Martí organized the Cuban Revolutionary Party to win freedom, justice, and full human dignity. His ideas, which were heroically championed on the centennial of his birth [the 1953 attack on the Moncada barracks], continue to be the underlying inspiration along the path that our people have freely chosen.

Thank you.

The new “bailout” imposed on Greece by the stronger imperialist powers, led by the ruling class of Germany, puts a spotlight on the fissures within the shifting alliances and rivalries known as the European Union. Capitalism’s World Disorder, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August, contains several speeches by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, that point to why a capitalist united Europe is impossible. The first excerpt below is from a talk given in 1992; the second from the following year. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

Conflicts between rival national capitalist classes and governments are blowing apart the myth of a “united Europe” at an accelerating pace. Since the end of the so-called Cold War, bourgeois politicians and commentators have had trouble coming up with phrases to describe the world balance of power. They talked about a New World Order for awhile, but that did not seem to fit so well in light of the outcome of the Gulf War, the permanent crises in Eastern Europe and the former USSR, and the onset of depression conditions. So some



June 23 protest in Athens against demands by German capitalist government and financial institutions for even more cuts in pensions, increased sales taxes and other measures squeezing Greek workers and farmers. The deepening capitalist economic crisis exposes conflicts between stronger and weaker imperialist governments in European Union.

of them began talking about “the tripolar world” — the United States, Europe, and Japan were the three poles. But that description of power relationships in today’s world has already bumped up against a big problem — *there is no Europe pole*.

How long ago was it that many ruling-class figures in Europe (especially in Bonn, and to a lesser degree Paris) were insisting that the European imperialist powers — whatever their problems and frictions — were on the road toward political unity? Members of the European Community would pool their funds — so the story went — and give some money to Ireland, to Portugal, to Greece, and even a little bit to Spain, so these countries could catch up and narrow the economic and social gap with the rest of capitalist Europe. They would adopt common social welfare rules, labor standards, and pollution controls. Eventually they would converge toward a common foreign and military policy. They would smooth out differences in productivity and eventually all agree to use the same tokens as a common currency. And then, this new and united Europe — with class differences slowly but surely disappear-

ing for all practical purposes—would emerge big, powerful, and competitive with the United States and Japan.

The opposite has actually happened over the last decade, however. Despite all the talk about unity, the evolution of world capitalism has increased uneven development across Europe and made its character more explosive. And not just between the weakest capitalist powers in southern Europe and the rest. The gap has also widened, for example, between rates of capital accumulation and economic development in Britain and other, more powerful capitalist countries in Europe.



Enormous changes are taking place that are improving the odds that the international working class can become a social force able to transform and salvage the future. The working class makes up a larger and weightier component of the population in countries the world over than ever before in history, and it continues to expand. In a growing number of countries, moreover, the working class is more international in its makeup than ever before too. And these trends will continue and deepen as the crises of world

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capitalism unfold in coming years.

Communists often explain that there is no "Europe"; there are only a number of capitalist states and their rival national ruling classes. That is true, but I have learned that leaving it at that is not the best way to help people understand the political point we are making. It is more accurate to say that *their* Europe is *disappearing* — the capitalists' Europe. Their idea of a Europe of a single currency, of a single fiscal and monetary policy, of converging or at least compatible foreign military policies — all of this still widely talked about in ruling circles in Europe — is a bourgeois utopia.*

Our Europe is slowly coming into being, however. Think about the expansion of intra-European travel. What comes along with expanded flows of capital and commodities worldwide is greater migration by workers to get jobs. In every single capitalist country in Europe today there is a higher percentage than ever before of workers from other countries and other nationalities who are part of the working class. The working class in every imperialist country — and this will even begin to include Japan — is more multinational than at any time in its modern history.

* On January 1, 1999, eleven governments in Europe did begin using a common currency — the “euro” — to denominate stock, bond, and banking transactions. Actual “euro” notes are to replace German marks, French francs, and other national currencies in circulation in 2002. Compared to its eleven separate predecessors, the euro will put up stiffer competition to a relatively weakened U.S. dollar as a store of value in national treasuries around the world, and later perhaps even as a unit of account. From birth, however, the euro’s stability was undermined by the conflicting of the rival imperialist bourgeoisies it pretends to yoke together. As the onerous effects of capitalist overproduction bear down in differential ways on countries and regions across Europe — and working people press demands for jobs, against farm foreclosures, and for livable wages and government-funded social benefits — the fissures in the new currency union will widen.

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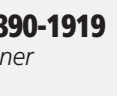
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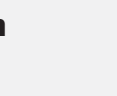
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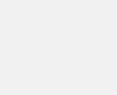
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Drop charges against Harding now!

The following statement was issued July 21 by Dennis Richter, chairperson of the Nebraska Socialist Workers Party.

It is two years since 47 people were killed in the town of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, by a train derailment that destroyed the core of the town, released 1.5 million gallons of crude oil into the lake and contaminated 560,000 tons of soil. Instead of implementing measures to ensure rail safety, the companies and governments responsible have framed up the locomotive engineer, Tom Harding, and are threatening him with life imprisonment.

Harding, a member of the United Steelworkers union, was the one-man crew on the train. When the explosion happened he risked his life to depressurize brakes and avoid further destruction, making him a hero in the eyes of many in town. He now faces 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death.

Unionists internationally and everyone who supports rail safety should now join in the campaign to drop the charges against Harding.

The propertied capitalists use their courts and governments to attack working people. This is why we need our own political party, a labor party to unite us in action to defend ourselves and to chart a course to take political power out of their hands.

It's the only way we will be able to enforce safety, while using the energy resources of oil, nuclear, coal, and other sources, as developed, to provide electricity to the toilers of the world.

We should use the example of the rail unions at the BNSF Railway when they voted last year by an overwhelming majority to reject a company proposal to reduce crew size to one person. We need to immediately organize to implement emergency measures for safety of rail workers and the communities the trains travel through.

Make it illegal for the railroads to operate without four-person crews to defend the safety of rail workers and the public. A minimum of two crew members on the engines at each end of oil trains.

Mandate a maximum train length of 50 rail cars, and immediate use of double-hulled cars to haul oil, natural gas, and all hazardous materials.

Reduce train speeds of oil trains.

Order the railroads to open their books to provide immediate and total transparency in the disclosure of all oil train contents and traffic and order oil and energy companies to disclose all pipeline contents to the communities affected.

Create statewide emergency response plans to prepare for any oil train/pipeline explosions or spills.

For information on Harding's defense go to: www.tomhardingdefensefund.com.

US-Iran deal heightens Mideast contradictions

Continued from front page

against Germany and the Ottoman Empire, carved up the oil-rich region, drew new national borders and divvied up hegemony.

In the ashes of World War II, Washington emerged as the unrivaled imperialist power. It took over domination of the Mideast with the help of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, which kept revolutionary movements in the region in check in the name of "peaceful coexistence" with U.S. imperialism.

Old arrangements coming apart

Conflicts and wars are spreading throughout the region, from Syria to Iraq to Yemen and elsewhere in a world of deepening capitalist crisis, following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and growing competition from China and elsewhere. The old arrangements are coming apart and Washington is attempting to cobble together a new world order in the Mideast and beyond from a much weaker position than 60 years ago.

Since taking office, Obama has presented combat in the region as "blowback" resulting from Washington's past military interventions. Acting to avoid putting any significant "boots on the ground," he has sought negotiated settlements with rulers he regards as enlightened where possible, and used aerial bombardment, special forces and drone strikes when there is no alternative.

The exhaustion of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois nationalist forces and counterrevolutionary betrayals by Stalinist parties in the region have created a vacuum that the reactionary Islamic State has moved to fill. Obama has pivoted toward Iran and Russia, both of which, for their own reasons, have vested interests in fighting IS.

The new Iran accord, submitted to Congress July 19 with a 60-day deadline for a vote, sets limits on the Iranian government's nuclear activities for 10 years.

In return, the U.S. and its allies pledge — after verifying compliance, a process expected to take six to nine months — to lift the punishing economic sanctions they began imposing on the country in 2006. While some clerics and Revolutionary Guard commanders in Iran have opposed the deal, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei backs it.

Leading Republican presidential candidates have denounced the accord. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker opposes ending the sanctions and told CNN July 19 the deal would "accelerate the nuclear arms race, and it is empowering Iran to do what they're going to do."

The United Nations Security Council unanimously

approved the Iran deal July 20, deferring its implementation until after Congress votes.

European powers didn't waste any time making overtures to Iran, a country with a population of 82 million and a gross domestic product of \$400 billion. German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani July 20, accompanied by a delegation of business executives. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius is also planning to visit.

Contradictory response in Mideast

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the agreement as a "historic mistake" not binding on Israel. "We will always defend ourselves," he said, appealing to Congress to vote it down. To mollify Tel Aviv, Obama sent Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to meet with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Yaalon and Netanyahu July 20-21, pledging expanded military collaboration against Iranian-supported Hezbollah in Lebanon and other Iranian-backed forces.

Carter also flew to Riyadh to meet with Saudi Arabia's King Salman July 22. The country's Sunni monarchy, which is in direct competition throughout the Mideast with largely Shia Iran, gave tepid support to the agreement, but has said it will develop its own nuclear program. The Saudi rulers have given substantial aid and military support to forces fighting Iranian allies in Yemen and to opponents of the Syrian regime.

Islamic State, with its thuggish methods, attracts a layer of youth who despair for the future and see no other road forward to its cause of imposing Sharia law through terror. It has some similarities with fascism. It has expanded control over large swaths of Syria and Iraq. Its repressive governance, loathsome to many, is regarded by some as preferable to corruption, neglect and discrimination against Sunnis under the Iraqi or Syrian governments.

Washington hopes that the deal with Tehran, backed by Moscow, will strengthen efforts to crush Islamic State. In Syria, where the Russian and Iranian rulers finance and arm the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad, a civil war raging since 2011 has destroyed the country, killing more than 220,000 and forcing some 11 million from their homes.

"The Iranian nation and government will remain at the side of the Syrian nation and government until the end of the road," said Rouhani in June.

So while Washington counts on the Iran deal to help re-establish stability, its coalitions of allies have contradictory and irreconcilable interests. The moves the U.S. rulers are taking risk unleashing more frictions and wars for years to come.

Moscow's influence

Continued from front page

Obama's administration still seeks a "reset" with Moscow and has no intention of military confrontation in the region.

"It's not hard to believe that the U.S. and Russia might have the beginnings of a tacit understanding on Ukraine," Leonid Bershidsky wrote in Bloomberg News July 20. "Obama last week praised Putin for 'compartmentalizing' helpfully on Iran. Putin, however, never gives anything away for free."

"From eastern Ukraine to Moldova, from meddling in Georgia to making Armenia dependent on Russia for its energy and security, not to speak of Russia's economic grip over Belarus, Moscow is carving out its spheres of influence," wrote Judy Dempsey, editor-in-chief of Strategic Europe, in a June 26 *Newsweek* article.

Kiev reports that about 8,000 Russian troops remain in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine, despite Moscow's denials, and another 40,000 are stationed in expanding bases close to its borders.

Moscow's aim is not to annex these areas in Ukraine, as it did with Crimea in March 2014, but to advance its sphere of influence in countries bordering or close to Russia. Washington and imperialist powers in Europe have done little to alter this "let it bleed" approach in Ukraine. In June, Obama turned down the Ukrainian government's latest request for defensive weapons, including anti-tank missiles.

As the Ukrainian government's debt crisis mounts with deepening attacks on working people, Washington and European Union governments are holding back on supplying funds to cover Kiev's expenses. The EU has committed \$5.5 billion in loans to Kiev compared to \$218 billion for Greece. The U.S. has approved \$3 billion in loan guarantees.

"Will this be remembered as the summer when the West let Ukraine die? It's beginning to look like it," noted a July 5 *Washington Post* opinion column by Jackson Diehl.

Washington and the EU have instead imposed economic sanctions on Russia whose brunt falls heaviest on working people.

Shortly after the Iran pact was announced, Moscow, in a move aimed at further strengthening its longstanding ties with Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, said July 16 that it plans to send to Syria from its port of Kerch in Crimea 220,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas per year, in addition to arms it exports to Damascus. Putin also proposed Washington and Moscow open talks on ways they can work together in Syria.

Moscow's 'near abroad'

The Russian president argues that military moves like its annexation of Crimea are designed to protect Russian citizens living in its "near abroad." This has alarmed governments of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which all border the Russian Federation and have significant Russian minorities.

In Narva, Estonia, just across a narrow river from Russia, more than one-third of the city's 60,000 residents are Russian citizens and just 4 percent are ethnic Estonians. If the Putin regime was to take over this area, it "would be a devastating blow to NATO's credibility," said a *New Criterion* article. "But, who in NATO really wants to die for Narva?"

The governments of the three Baltic states joined NATO a decade ago and have requested along with Polish officials that permanent brigades of NATO troops be stationed in their countries.

NATO has announced the formation of a 5,000-strong Very High Readiness Joint Task Force to be operational by January. Washington will make "enabling contributions" — surveillance aircraft, weaponry and some Special Operations forces — with Germany and the Netherlands to supply the bulk of the forces, an unnamed senior defense official told the *Washington Post*.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told the media June 22 the U.S. military would position heavy weapons for a military company or battalion on a temporary basis in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the Baltic States, with the option to move it around the region for further training and military exercises.