By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Oct. 2 — A year after the United States invaded Puerto Rico in 1898 and imposed a military regime, Hurricane San Ciriaco hit the island and devastated nearly its entire infrastructure. This allowed the invaders to restructure the country at their convenience. Agriculture was destroyed, and the coffee and tobacco that went to European markets were eventually replaced by gigantic sugar cane plantations imposed by the U.S. to benefit their sugar industry.

Profits went to their home offices in New York and Boston, thus beginning the draining of Boricua’s wealth by the U.S. Together with this, the U.S. Congress passed the Foraker Act in 1900, which established the U.S. dollar as the official currency of Puerto Rico, replacing the peso, which the U.S. had already devalued in January 1899. With one Yankee slap, Puerto Ricans lost 40 percent of their wealth.

Today, after Hurricane Maria’s Sept. 20 devastation of the island, it seems that the Yankee empire is preparing to restructure Puerto Rico again to serve its new interests in these times of terrible capitalist decline, which makes that system no less cruel and criminal.

This latest restructuring had already begun when the U.S. Congress passed the Promesa Act under the Democratic administration of President Barack Obama, forcing Puerto Ricans to pay an illegitimate and odious debt of $74 billion. A debt for which the authorities still — and this must be stressed — refuse to accept a people’s audit.

This act imposed a Financial Control Board of seven members (known as the “Junta”) associated with the banking industry. This Junta will rule Puerto Rico, including over the island’s government. Just before Maria struck, the PCB had already imposed a horrific and damaging neoliberal Fiscal Plan for Puerto Rico directed against the working people, which would plunge more people into poverty. Part of Promesa is the privatization of state entities such as the PR Electric Power Authority (AEE), especially its electricity-generating capacity, which produces the most profits.

It is within this framework that the monumental devastation of the hurricane arrived.

Like a harbinger of what is currently happening, writer Yarimar Bonilla commented:

"Continued on page 7"
By Joe Piette

Philadelphia

A letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) received by WW Publishers on Sept. 11 stated, “The August 31 issue of Workers World newspaper has been deemed to contain up to 150 Thought Control violations. The DOC found the following issues:...

This is the fourth issue of WW denied so far to Pennsylvanians serving time in state prisons. Since 2011, the DOC censored issues numbered 7, 12 and 13 for a variety of reasons.

Responding to the Aug. 31 Issue, a DOC official authored an article entitled “AFL-CIO’s Trumka leaves union council – He never should have joined!” The DOC seems to have taken offense with this paragraph: “The bigger question for labor, of course, the conduct of Trumka. How can he justify taking a seat on this hideous council, knowing all about Trump’s bigoted rhetoric and the presence of open white supremacists in the cabinet?” (workers.org/2017/09/29)

The page 7 article also cited “A statement from the Durham branch of Workers World Party: On the upsurge of Confederate statues.” On the top of page 11 was "BULLETIN: More Durham arrests – Call the sheriff!” (workers.org/2017/08/29)

Every U.S. newspaper has carried articles this past summer about the growing fight against white supremacy. Prisoners have as much right to read Workers World as any other newspaper or magazine, especially because WW articles are written by activists playing leading roles in the dynamics of this struggle.

WW Publishers filed an appeal on Sept. 26, demanding that the DOC cease this unconstitutional practice for future issues; that each prisoner be given the copies that they ordered; that each prisoner whose subscription has been held in abeyance be returned $5.00 for each illegally deprived issue.

Instead of limiting the response to an appeal letter, Workers World shared this DOC letter widely in social media, urging all prisoners to maintain the spirit of the prison action in their own administration of their own words.

The live ones behind bars in Pennsylvania and every state are subjected to those racist attitudes and actions every day. WW urged readers and activists to send complaints to the DOC office: 20120 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055; 717-728-2753.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If the U.S. is resorting to armed nuclear force on a world scale, to threatening nuclear first-strikes, is it likely that the peace of the world will prevail?

Read more at http://tinyurl.com/y9bt6lk0

Workers World has yet to receive an official response letter from the DOC.

Close to 300 prisoners in Pennsylvania have free subscriptions to WW, whose front-page masthead contains the words: “Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!” Readers wishing to support more free subscriptions to prisoners are encouraged to donate through patreon.com/wwwp.

After criticizing their own reason for their denial as “groussly inaccurate,” the DOC reacted to wide public condemnation, alleging it “does not tolerate racism in any form and supports policies of equality.”

WWP fights for socialism because the working class will be the only government. The capitalist government has covertly encouraged and promoted the Klan over decades. It is often overlooked in media reports that the durability of the Klan rests on long-term bonds to the state. The capitalist government not only tolerates organizations like the Klan, but once the class struggle of the workers and oppressed people takes on the character of a mass upsurge, the capitalist government is more likely to encourage the Klan. If the U.S. is resorting to armed nuclear force on a world scale, to threatening nuclear first-strikes, it is likely that the peace of the world will be preserved if racism is preserved.

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The politics behind the NFL protests

By Monica Moorehead

The fourth week of the National Football League season saw continuing protests by its players kneeling, sitting, linking arms and, or raising fists.

These recent protests were ignited by Donald Trump’s racist rant during the 2016 Republican rally in Houston, where he called for the firing of any player who sat or knelt during the anthem, because they were “afraid” of the flag, and to Huffman’s statement that “disrespected” the flag and anthem.

In response, more than 200 NFL players took a knee in unprecedented display of solidarity against Trump’s remarks on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25. The NFL players are 70 percent African American.

Following these protests, Trump continued his attacks on the players by tweeting to NFL owners that they were “afraid” of firing the players, who he said “disrespected” the flag and anthem.

Colin Kaepernick, the Black former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, was the main leader before for these protests when he took a knee during the 2016 NFL season to bring more national attention to the police killings and racist oppression that plague Black and oppressed communities.

Now into the second month of the 2017 season, Kaepernick remains unemployed, as no team owner has hired him.

Even though the number of players who protested Oct. 1 was smaller compared to previous NFL players from Kaepernick’s former team, the 49ers, knelt during the anthem, while more than 13 other players stood behind them, putting their hands on the backs of their kneeling teammates in solidarity.

Three members of the Miami Dolphins, including outspoken player Kenny Stills, knelt.

Nine defensive players from the Seattle Seahawks — Michael Bennett, Frank Clark, Garrison Smith, Marcus Smith, Jarran Reed, Michael Wilhoite, Cliff Avril, Sheldon Richardson and Naz Jones knelt during their Sunday Night Football game versus the Indianapolis Colts.

Bennett was assaulted by the Las Vegas police in late August. He has taken a very visible, consistent stance similar to Kaepernick’s.

Six members of the Buffalo Bills, along with a large number of Baltimore Ravens, knelt before the anthem played, and were still booted by majority white fans.

Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch wore a “Trump vs. Everybody” shirt. The Raiders staff surrounded Lynch so he would not be photographed while sitting during the anthem.

The Carolina Panthers’ black quarterback, Cam Newton, gave a “Black Power” salute in the end zone as a call for solidarity after scoring a touchdown on Oct. 1.

1. Newton is a strong Kaepernick supporter.

Many athletes from different sports continue to kneel to protest inequality, including high schoolers.

Significance of players’ protests

Black athletes have historically used sports as a platform to help forward the struggle for racial equality and national liberation, most notably Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Wilma Rudolph, Muhammad Ali, Tommie Smith, John Carlos and now Kaepernick.

Sports is an important part of U.S. culture that socially brings together many nationalities, generations, genders and gender expressions, despite the super-exploitation of athletes for bosses’ profits.

The NFL remains the most popular pro sports league in the U.S. Therefore, no matter the wide spectrum of political views on the role of the U.S. flag, the military and the anthem play in the protests, in general, these athletes have taken an important step forward by using their visibility as athletes in the fight against white supremacy and police brutality and in solidarity with Kaepernick’s fight to be signed to a NFL team.

These players have become important allies in the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement that emerged following the vigilante murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012.

As Bryant Gumbel stated on HBO’s “Real Sports,” “Thanks, Trump, for energizing social consciousness of all athletes to stand for something.” Many of these players are acknowledging in their actions what ESPN’s sportscaster Jemele Hill said on Twitter in early September: Trump is a white supremacist.

As their class consciousness deepens, many of these players will also come to realize — like millions of other workers — that their interests are diametrically opposed to the billionaire owners’ interests to make profits from their athletes as a large number of players are forced to cut their football careers short due to devastating, chronic injuries, the bosses force them to cut their football careers short.

The owners may be upset with Trump for demanding that they fire protesting players, but these same owners are also doing everything possible to persuade the players not to use the platform of the play field to protest, calling it “divisive.”

The actions of the NFL athletes are encouraging others to take a stand, especially against police brutality. A group of white residents in Queens, N.Y., held a banner Sept. 22 in Met’s stadium, home to the New York Mets, while the anthem played. It read, “This is us taking a knee. Black Lives Matter.”

There are 70 percent African American.

Despite any racist backlash, these players in the long run will continue to press the powers that be — from the mainstream media to the team bosses — to just stick to sports. It reconfirms the Marxist view that no struggle takes place within a vacuum. No struggle can be isolated from society, especially when white supremacy is so prevalent.

Houston activists demand Indigenous Peoples Day

By Gloria Rubac

Houston activists ral lied at a statue of slave owner Sam Houston, then marched to a statue of Houston, the Carnalismo Brown Berets, Carnalismo Brown Berets de TezAztlan, Black Lives Matter and the Democratic Uhuru Movement.

The rally ended with Native blessings, drumming and dance. The March for Justice and the UMBA antipolice protesters, a recording from political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, and two lawyers explaining people’s rights and how to interact with the police. The day ended with a self-defense class by Ray and Mike of Brooklyn-based POP Gym.

Up to 12 cops and their captain showed up at the event, plus a community affairs officer. Shannon, an activist, got them to buzz off when she told them that she is a New York City Housing Authority resident and that the organizers didn’t need a permit for anything. They lingered until the police left at 5:30 p.m.

By World Workers’ Party

Freedom fighter Takiyah Thompson in NYC Oct. 14

By Workers World New York bureau

Freedom fighter Takiyah Thompson, the North Carolina Central University student and Workers World Party member who climbed the Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., in August to begin the act of taking it down, will be in New York City on Oct. 14. Thompson will discuss this event and how to continue to support the 14 Durham arrestees and carry on the struggle against all forms of white supremacy, including police repression.

The event took place Aug. 14, just two days after white supremacists in Charlotte- ville, Va., attacked anti-racist activists. Thompson was subsequently arrested for the action, along with 13 others, who face felony and misdemeanor charges.

The event will be at 133 W. 23rd St. (between 6th and 7th Aves.) in Manhattan, will begin at 4 p.m.
By Kathy Durkin
Baltimore

Dozens of protesters affiliated with the Baltimore Bus and Transit Riders' Union, an organizing proj-
ec t of the Baltimore People's Pow-
er Assembly, gathered outside the Maryland Transit Administration headquarters in downtown Balti-
more on Sept. 27. Carrying signs that read "Restore and Expand Bus Service" and "Sink the Link," pro-
testers handed out literature and spoke on a megaphone about their experiences of being underserved by the MTA's transit infra-
structure — particularly the bus system, which's75% of the city's rides are via bus. In June under the brand "BaltimoreLink."

For Baltimore city and county resi-
dents, the name is a cruel joke. Nothing about the overhaul helps "link" anyone to anything, and Baltimore's already crum-
bbling transit infrastructure has become even more user-hostile. Adding insult to injury, the change came with a significant fare hike, the third in the last year.

BaltimoreLink did not emerge out of a vacuum. When Republican Gov. Lar-
ry Hogan was elected in 2014, one of his first actions was to destroy a long-stand-
ing plan to provide Baltimore with an east-west light rail transit system, known as the Red Line. Baltimore has been fighting to get east-west rail transit since 1965, but powerful elements invested in maintain-
ing the segregation of white and Black, of rich and poor, have repeatedly shut these efforts down.

Millions of dollars and years of research were poured into the development of the Red Line, but Hogan called it an "expen-
sive boondoggle" and slashed it. Instead the billions of dollars that would have gone into construction of the Red Line were poured into re-
peving roads in the sub-
rubs and rural areas. The message is clear: Balti-
more city doesn't matter to the political forces in power, and the poor and working people of Balti-
more who depend on transit to survive don't matter either.

The BaltimoreLink, then, is a boondoggle of its own, a booby prize for a pulp substitute for a transit system. It's a travesty for a modest chunk of an all-too-large pot of federal funds to be spent on a project that was, in the words of Maryland Transit Administration headquarters, Sept. 27.

Two weeks after the full-fledged protests began, another pair of ICE raids took place in Baltimore, the Boston area, Maryland Transit Administration headquarters, Sept. 27.

Pinkey was a thorn in the side of the Whirlpool Appliance Corporation, which laid off thousands of Black workers in Benton Harbor at the end of the 1990s during the deindustrialization period re-
sulting from capitalist globalization.

On behalf of Whirlpool's interests, the local racist powers that be targeted Pink-
ey for leading a struggle to empower the Black community in Benton Harbor, Mich. Pinkney was released from pris-

On behalf of Whirlpool's interests, the local racist powers that be targeted Pink-

Another protester, Glen Schmidt, shed light on some of the factors that led to the BaltimoreLink: "The MTA hasn't done a destination study since 2008, so they don't know where people need to go. They don't know where they're leaving from. That's like putting the cart before the horse. In order to change the system, you need to know where people need to go." Schmidt is vice president of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition, an organization that ad-

The Baltimore-Link disaster impacts everyone who depends on the bus for their survival, but especially senior citi-
ens, people with disabilities, youth and other vulnerable populations.

Ronald, a man with disabilities, spoke about getting caught in the back door of a BaltimoreLink bus and about his feel-
ings of frustration trying to be heard af-
terwards by the bureaucracy: "I ended up at the bus terminal, but they told me that they couldn't help me."

Ronald concluded: "I got on the wrong bus ... and that's how I ran into this [rally] today. I didn't even know about this, but God save in my mystery. I got into these guys, the Sink the Link, the Union for Riders. God bless them."
Rooanne struggles display people's power

By Workers World Staff
Roanne, Va.

An intense week of class struggle events in Roanne, Va., displayed the power of poor and working people fighting back against Wall Street banks, corporations and their servants.

Union YES, Organize the South!

Non-union transit drivers at RADAR, a private company, participated in their first informational picket on Sept. 26 to demand union representation. The drivers, who transport people with a variety of disabilities and seniors, work for wages just above the minimum wage, with no benefits and challenging working conditions.

Despite verbal harassment by management, the RADAR drivers, with the assistance of Amalgamated Transit Union locals 894 and 895, the Southern Workers Assembly and other community groups. The next informational picket is Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 2762 Shenandoah Ave. NW.

No more jail deaths!

Dozens of community members came to the Roanoke City Jail on the evening of Sept. 26 to join a picket organized by the Roanoke Peoples Power Network. Since 2015, at least six people incarcerated there have died under suspicious circumstances. Sheriff’s officials claim these were suicides.

The loud picket, with drumming, chants, and banners and placards demanding “No More Jail Deaths,” reached major media coverage throughout the Roanoke Valley. Natasha Harper, mother of Clifton Antonio Harper, 22, who died inside the jail in 2015, and other family members and their allies spoke out to bring attention to the horrific conditions inside the jail and to demand justice now.

Fight white supremacy by any means necessary

A Fight White Supremacy! meeting sponsored by the Roanoke Peoples’ Power Network took place on Sept. 30 at the Gaineshboro Library in the city’s historic Black community. The meeting’s focus was to remember and march, to challenge racist officials that took place in the South, particularly in the 1890s. The Confederacy’s monuments now in place were mostly built from 1890-1920 as victory monuments by capitalist white supremacists and their servants.

“We are here to build our power as poor and working people and invite you to join us in any way you can. We will smash white supremacy — by any means necessary — and to build an international alliance!”

A diverse rainbow of speakers followed and focused on the various struggles against white supremacy now underway in the U.S. and the world, including the tearing down of Confederate statues; fights against the Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE.

NY Teamsters vote to become ‘sanctuary union’

Workers organized and not-yet-organized: It is time for unions to become “sanctuary unions.” When Eber Garcia Vasquez, a Teamster, was arrested by ICE in late August, he was given 45 days to leave the country, to his wife and four-year-old daughter.

“The meeting ended on a powerful rendition of the Sam Cooke song, “A Change Is Gonna Come,” and by honoring Heather Heyer, Sandra Bland and other martyrs to corporate America’s freedoms and anti-racist, pro-worker actions; the fight for justice for Kionte Spencer and all those

has increased 40 percent since 2016 due to a sharp decline in Mexican immigration, and the workers know their value. (Oct. 1)

WW salutes these brave unionists for fighting for their rights, their families’ rights, and their vote inspire others to resist racist abuse and exploitation!

Southern Workers’ first contract

Unions find the South traditionally tough to organize for a variety of reasons. But not so in southwest Memphis, Tenn. More than 600 workers in the Electrolox factory ratified their first contract Sept. 16. The International Union of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 474. The new contract grants yearly wage increases, paid time off; more worker say in safety, training and labor-management issues; and pro-worker language dealing with discipline and absenteeism. Business agent Paul Shaffer declared this a huge victory for organized labor in the South. (Payday Report, Sept. 29)

Though the IBEW lost its first vote in May 2015, the workers continued to fight and, a year later, voted 461 to 93 to unionize. This push won an ideological battle against unions, management and the prison-industrial complex. (Kaplan on Aug. 2, Emanuel on Sept. 25). The five-member NLRB, mostly loyal to the right-wing Federalist Society — were confirmed by the Senate along strict party lines (Kaplan on Aug. 2, Emanuel on Sept. 25). The five-member NLRB, which has been trying to strip workers of the right to a fair vote and of other fundamental rights.

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Beware: Two anti-union flunkies appointed to NLRB

Trump appointees to the National Labor Relations Board — Marvin Kaplan, lawyer who wrote anti-worker laws for several congressional committees, and William Emanuel, a management-side lawyer and member of the ruling Federalist Society — were confirmed by the Senate along strict party lines (Kaplan on Aug. 2, Emanuel on Sept. 25). The five-member NLRB, which has been trying to strip workers of the right to a fair vote and of other fundamental rights.

At the top of the new board’s anti-labor agenda is undoing such Obama rulings as speeding up elections, holding major fast food corporations responsible for labor violations committed by their franchisees (the so-called “joint employer” decision) and allowing unions to organize “micro-unions.” No wonder industry groups led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are cheering. (The Hill, Sept. 23) Get ready for the class struggle to heat up!
Why FEMA can’t protect us

By Deirdre Griswold

First came the devastation of hurri-
canes Harvey in Houston and Irma in
Florida. Now, an even more terrible di-
ester is unfolding in the U.S. territories
of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in
the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. And
all in little more than one month.

And these are just the areas covered
by the United States. Many other nations
in the Caribbean have been hit equally hard.

The U.S. has the biggest, most expen-
sive government in the world. There is a
government body supposedly prepared
to handle disasters — the Federal Emer-
gen Management Agency. It failed in 2005,
in Hurricane Katrina’s wake, to hit New
Orleans. It’s had 12 more years to get its
act together. Why hasn’t it?

The truth is that FEMA was never set up
to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.
It was originally a super-secret agency
tasked with providing a safe place for the
U.S. government in the event of a nuclear war.

And that is still a large part of FEMA’s budget, according to a very detailed ex-
posure of the agency, “The Secret History
of FEMA,” by Garrett M. Graffle. (Wired, Sept. 3)

Tool of the Cold War

Originally set up under President Har-
ry Truman as the Federal Civil Defense
Administration, it was renamed in 1979
and eventually wound up as part of the
Its secret plans for “continuity of govern-
ment” were to be downplayed once
the threat of a nuclear war seemed remote.

However, the majority of its funding and a third of its workforce was actually
spent on “terrorism preparedness,” not
central to its original mission.

When disaster strikes, there is no real
center to develop advanced technology and current federal depart-
ments and agencies requirements. The “continuity programs” are meant
to protect the politicians in the White
House and Congress as well as the top
military brass in any situation where
their ability to rule might be in question.

FEMA is a quasi-civilian agency, but
it is totally integrated with the military.
When disaster strikes, there is no real
civilian infrastructure to deal with the
deadly consequences.

By contrast, in a socialist country like
Cuba the people are organized block-by-
block to help one another when another
hurricane rips through, and the govern-
ment provides transportation to evacu-
ate those along the coast.

But the workers and poor in affected
areas of the U.S. are on their own to ei-
ther evacuate or hunker down in a fierce
storm. State governors may tell people to
leave, as happened recently in Florida. But how? There is no mecha-
nism in place to make it happen, no train-
ing, no marshaling of public transporta-
tion. The roads become clogged with cars.

If you don’t have one, you’re out of luck.

One thing emerges clearly every
disaster strikes here: There are thou-
sands of volunteers who want to help
their neighbors. They come out in little
boats during floods, or help people find
shelf life during intense winds. They ask for those who may be trapped in their homes or are washed away in a flood.

Instead of aiding such self-organiza-
tion with material assistance, the local
and national authorities focus on protect-
ing the bigwigs and the property of the
rich, personal as well as corporate.

Social change must come

The weather systems on our planet
have been deeply impacted by capitalist
development, which puts profits before
anything else. At the same time, great
advances in science and technology have
provided us with the knowledge and
means to plan our economy on a rational
basis and put the needs of the people in
sync with our environment.

And yet we’re stuck with a social and
political system that can plan to evacuate “leaders” like Trump and his ilk, but can’t
get water and power to working people in
dire need.

As the threats of severe weather grow,
the falling of FEMA’s underscoring the need
to build a monolithic movement of the
working class and all the oppressed
against the billionaire class of exploiters.
We must liberate the wealth that our
labors have created and put it into the human
wealth, not to rescue the warmon-
gearing profiteers.

Philadelphia

Protest denounces U.S. for Puerto Rico crisis

By Betsy Piette

Philadelphia

More than 100 people
gathered for a late
afternoon, rush-hour rally outside Phila-
idelphia’s City Hall on Sept.
29 to demand imme-
diate humanitarian
relief for storm-rav-
aged Puerto Rico.

Initiated by Dias-
pora in Action, a loose
collection of groups
of Philadelphia’s Puer-
to Rican community
with strong ties to their island nation, the rally was an attempt to
collect material aid for Puerto Rico.

While organizers sought to increase
public awareness of the suffering of cri-
nis their friends and families are suffering under, several speakers also addressed
the century-old impact of imperialist col-
onialism and its continuing legacy.

Ortiz recounted the legacy of U.S. colonial-
ization and its continuing
impact. “We didn’t ask the U.S. military
to come to our island to rape our women
or subject them by force
to birth-control test-
ing it puts pressure on them to release it.

Graffle writes that “today, FEMA still
spends tens of millions on its continuity
programs — the unclassified portion of that budget is used to
build a revolutionary movement of
people to continue sending donations, noting that “when more stuff arrives
arriving it puts pressure on them to release it.”

Johanna Janies, whose family lives in
St. Croix, raised the lack of adequate re-
sponse to the storm damage from 2017.

The way they have left Puerto Rico
and the U.S. Virgin Islands is unaccept-
able," Janies stated. "We need a continu-
ous fight!"
By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Puerto Rico: Second Yankee invasion?

Continued from page 1

The grassroots group Puerto Rican Action Delivery acted on a citizens’ war crime indictment to the chain of command at Hancock Air Force Base in Syracuse, N.Y., on Sept. 25. Seven UDA members were arrested in the action.

The action involved a six-foot-high dollar sign dripped with “blood” at the main gate of the base to dramatize what they see as the determining factor in Pentagon/CIA war-mongering: corporate greed.

Hancock AF Base hosts the 174th Attack Wing of the NY National Guard, one of two wings in the world, according to Project军工/CIAPAC. The 174th is composed of officers and the Army National Guard, one of the many majority-Islamic nations. These attacks, most infamously in northwest Pakistan and Iraq, are also en route to the island,” said Pen- bonilla says the manager “was ex -tremely upbeat about the economic cli- mate. Anticipating government default, she had redirected her clients’ assets to-ward U.S. stocks. “The only thing we need now is a hurricane.” She was referring to how such natural disasters bring in feder- al money for rebuilding and often become a boon to the construction industry. As I left her office, she encouraged me to buy stock in Home Depot.”

Militarization of Puerto Rico

Nearly a week after the terrible event, the Pentagon announced the arrival of forces to “help the people of Puerto Rico.” The Department of Defense increased its staff from 406 to 6,433 and stated that “this will ensure that the people are able to access the help they need,” according to Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosello.

From Fort Bliss, Texas, 16 helicopters are going to Puerto Rico. They bury their dead in the back yard. Driving out of the airport, a friend of this writer, who will soon travel to the island, said she was able to get a ticket in first class, which al- lowed her to carry 70 pounds per suitcase.

People traveling to Puerto Rico carry all kinds of items that can be used in communities. Neighbors come together to clear roads and rebuild their homes with materials that can often be salvaged. Work brigades from the diaspora are also organizing to assist in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico.

Ana, a friend of this writer, who will soon travel to the island, said that this is not really happening, as indicated above.

The people are saving the people

The Puerto Rican diaspora in the U.S. is living with anguish and despair for their families on the island. These sentiments have been profound and deep for decades.

FEMA has become the “coordinator” of aid arriving on the island and the military supposed-ly helps with distribution. The problem is that this is not really happening, as indi-cated above.

This whole counter-drone technol-o gy that SRC developed for the military is one of the hottest markets in the civilian drone industry,” Brinker said. “Drones, sta-tching power plants and other critical infras-tructure, are all concerned about protecting their in-frastucture. Every sheriff that has a prison in New York wants some sort of这种反无人机系统。”

The mamas of the U.S. military drone program, used to disarm those resisting the impe- rial onslaught, are the flip sides of U.S. military spending. Such measures to privatize the island, this statement is indeed true.

No to the militarization of Puerto Rico!

No to privatization!

No to the General Confederation of Workers (in Spanish FMPR), which is one of these organizations. They work together with the General Confederation of Workers (CUB) and the National Coordination of African and Puerto Rican Workers (Northeast UAS Airspace Integration), are the flip sides of U.S. colonial laws. The mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz Soto, accepted the help of Venezuela, which will send gaso-line. Venezuela’s nationalized oil compa- ny, PDVSA, through its Cito company in the U.S., can ship the product. In addi-tion, due to international pressure, Pres- ident No, 45 lifted the Jones Act of 1920 for 10 days. This law prevents Puerto Rico from using any shipping company other than from the U.S., with U.S. personnel and ships built in the United States.

Pay attention!

Donald Trump will travel to the island Oct. 3, apparently for two hours. His itin- erary is secret.

But it’s not just Trump who will visit. There are other vultures lurking to see how they can take advantage of Puerto Rico. That is the biggest problem: It aris-es from the restructuring that the U.S. capi-talism wants to make, taking advantage of the devastation of the island.

Also expected is John Davies, pres- ident of the Baton Rouge Foundation that participated in the restructuring of Louisiana in 2005 after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Davies is advising the “Recovery Fund” that the Center for a New Economy created on Sept. 22.

The CNE is composed of bankers and financial advisors who are very close to the process that the Fiscal Control Board is carrying out in PR. Here is the danger of restructuring with neoliberal privatiz-ing measures. Such measures to privatize the energy sector are already included in the Promesa Act.

No to the militarization of Puerto Rico!

Repeal the Jones and Promesa Laws! Support the 45th Amendment!

Reparations to the Puerto Rican people for more than a century of U.S. crimes!

Give to the people what belongs to the people!

Long live a free and sovereign Puerto Rico!

See Wilton Vought’s video of the action at youtube.be/PHBnj8HbmMU. More infor-mation is at upstatedroneaction.org.
Police attack anti-capitalist march in Moscow

By Greg Butterfield

Communist and other leftist youth in Moscow had planned to hold their annual “Anticapitalism-2017” march on Sept. 23, highlighting the crisis conditions for workers and their rich pals, not us!

Letter on Korea

Don’t kill for Trump and the Pentagon!

To the Editor:

Why does north Korea want nukes? It’s pretty simple, and totally unpertur-

bated in the corporate media. The U.S. Air Force flattened practically every building and structure there during the Korean War in the 1950s. It’s not “paranoia” (as we are told again and again and again, using the methods of pseudoscience) that worked so well in Nazi Germany. It’s a rational decision based on the Koreans’ terrify-
ing previous experiences with bombing by the Yanks and other powers.

The recent Korean rocket launches are small compared to the huge, year-after-

year_UISS Maddox and USS Turner Joy (ships of free enterprise, “or else.” In 1866,

Korea was one of the first countries gunboats to Korea in the 1880s that
to go through the (FROM USA OR THE CARIBBEAN) for the benefits of trade and being a middleman. Before
decision based on the Koreans’ terrify-
ing many police, who

pinned to the

SC: I’ve heard that many Russian and for-

which worked so well in Nazi Germany. It’s a rational decision based on the Koreans’ terrify-
ings themselves, they didn’t hold signs, but even so they

been born and raised in New York high school,

us food and water. We didn’t feel aban-

incorrectly that we would not be allowed
to hold up a banner with the inscription

“Capitalism is shit!” and began to march
to the left forces in the cap

to the left forces in the cap

mass marches and rallies, and some-

time back in Arthur’s time. Having been

and shout the same slogan. We knew per-

will not be able to
to walk 20 meters without being detained, but the march was to be held at all costs, and we did everything in our power.

will save photos and videos that showed very brutal treatment of you and other

materials for the benefits of trade and being a middleman. Before

the march to where I was

The authorities carried out all this

and not afraid of anything. Many activ-

us food and water. We didn’t feel aban-

never called foolhardy on the part of the

The right to organize and carry out acts of resistance is a right enjoyed by the Active members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth League and the Revolutionary Communist Youth League of America. The Russian authorities are using this right to stifle the left.

The authorities carried out all this

and not afraid of anything. Many activ-

us food and water. We didn’t feel aban-

never called foolhardy on the part of the

Revolutionary Communist Youth League and the Revolutionary Communist Youth League of America. The Russian authorities are using this right to stifle the left.
Haitians hold popular uprising against new budget

By G. Dunkel

While hurricanes Harvey and Maria didn’t strike Haiti, Hurricane Irma gave the country a glancing blow mainly in the northwest, the poorest section of Haiti. It displaced more than 100,000 people and destroyed crops, roads and infrastructure. The rest of the country was spared but lost a major food source.

Nevertheless, a social and economic hurricane is hitting the country now, fueled by avarice and greed, and will continue to hit Haiti for the foreseeable future. It is the new tax code, embodied in the budget that went into effect Oct. 1. Under this code, drivers who want to renew their licenses will have to pay $148 for an income tax report. All Haitians — even those living abroad — who want to use governmental services, such as getting a professional license, a passport, a diploma or school transcript, vaccines and so on, will annually have to pay 10,000 gourdes ($159 at the current exchange rate).

The association of public transport drivers and owners called a strike on Sept. 28, which was widely followed in Port-au-Prince, as well as in some major cities outside the capital. Workers used the bus strike as an excuse to stay away from work, making it an undeclared general strike.

The representatives of the Protestant churches in Haiti and the head of the council of Vodou practitioners both issued statements opposing this new budget and demanding that Haitian President Jovenel Moïse back down. The Vodou council explicitly supported protests.

While Moïse was in New York, a coalition of groups in the Haitian community called two demonstrations against his new budget and taxes, which also apply to Haitian citizens living in the U.S. The first rally was held the night of Sept. 20 in a Brooklyn church called the Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men. The next day a protest was held in front of the U.N. building. Groups calling this demonstration included Fanmi Lavalas (Lavalas Family) New York, Pitt Desalin (Dessalines Children) of NY, Ayiti Libete (Haiti Liberte), Radyo Pa Nou, SOHID and KAKOLA.

When Moïse returned to the Port-au-Prince airport, he decided to march to the National Palace. He had with him cops, a security detail, members of his Balled-Headed Haitian Party (PIHTK), as well as a few hundred former soldiers, (One of his pet projects is reconstituting the Haitian army.)

As the parade left the airport, it was met with bottles and rocks, so his security team rushed him into a car.

A bus operator strike and other protests called for Sept. 28 and 29 were called off, or postponed to Oct. 2 and 3, for a variety of reasons; yet some protests still took place. Forty-nine of Haiti’s 140 city halls closed their doors and went on strike for three days, from Sept. 25 to 28, to protest the new tax code.

HaitiLibre.com reported Oct. 1 that the government had made some concessions and some sections of the bus operators were calling off their strike.

The situation is fluid. Traditional trade unions and workers groups with their own grievances, as well as community groups, are very likely to continue pushing to have the new budget/tax code withdrawn.

What the U.S. wants above all else in Haiti is stability. As long as Moïse can keep the lid on resistance, keep Haitian labor cheap and keep Haiti’s markets open for U.S. goods like rice, the U.S. will keep supporting his rule.

WWP extends solidarity to Puerto Rico

From the belly of the imperialist beast, the members of Partido Mundo Obrero/Workers World Party send a strong shout-out of solidarity with the Borin-cano people, who are facing the devastating conse-quences of the powerful Hurricane Maria.

This hurricane is the most powerful and dangerous to strike Puerto Rico since Hurricane San Felipe in 1928. An Atlantic storm rated Category 5 on the Saf-fir-Simpson scale, that one caused 900 deaths.

Maria arrives at the archipelago during the worst political and social moments in the history of that nation.

We wish great pain we have witnessed scenes of floods and catastrophes that occurred within a few days after Hurricane Irma hit the island. Entire neighbor-hoods have been under water and dangerous electric-ity cables have fallen, endangering the lives of anyone who touches the electricity cables. Buildings have broken windows and doors, their roofs are blown off, and there is massive destruction that has not yet been registered given the lack of communications.

The deprivation of electrical service, with its consequent impact on all areas that depend on electricity, such as running water and refrigeration of food as well as the environment, is so important in a subtropical land where temperatures have exceeded 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the last few days.

We embrace and sympathize with every Puerto Rican, within or beyond the island’s borders, who make up that nation and are separated only by the cruelty of the Empire’s colonizing process. We share the anguish of those families who try to find out about the situation of their loved ones in the archipelago but live in torment waiting for news because of the lack of communication.

Increasing this misfortune is the process of privatiz-ing some sectors, such as communications, which are so essential at the moment. Privatization never benefits the people; on the contrary. An example is the telephone network, now in the hands of a company called Claro, which can’t run without electric service, leaving the people incomunicado. This contrasts with the state-run Telefónica de Puerto Rico, which had emergency generators during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and demonstrated that communications could be maintained without the main electrical grid.

From here in the U.S., we will help all we can to alleviate the enormous burden imposed by nature and by the hands of criminals on Wall Street and in the governments — both of Puerto Rico, which is in collusion with the criminal Board of Fiscal Control illegally imposed by the U.S. Congress, as well as by the current fascist-like resident in the White House.

Our strongest supportive embrace for the Puerto Rican people.

From the cruel and murderous empire,

Berta Joubert-Ceci and Teresa Gutíerrez
For the National Committee of Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero

Puerto Rican diaspora rallies in New York City

By Anne Pruden

New York

A bilingual “mic check” and demon-stration was held at Manhattan’s Federal Plaza on Sept. 28 to denounce the U.S. governmental neglect of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria, led by President Donald Trump.

Hundreds of people joined the protest after long marches through various New York communities. Other emergency rallies in Puerto Rico were held in several New York City locations.

Protesters chanted “Donald Trump! Shame on you!” and “Yo soy Boricua!” (“I am Puerto Rican!”), and they held signs denouncing Trump. They sang songs in Spanish, such as the revolutionary Puer-to Rican anthem, “Que Boni-ta Banderita” (What a Beau-tiful Flag!). As they passed by, a city sanitation truck driver and a car driver both honked their horns in support.

A flyer distributed at the event demanded the U.S. re-lease life-saving relief, cancel the debt and abolish the Jones Act, which requires goods shipped to Puerto Rico to be transported only by U.S. vessels. Under pres-sures, Trump later waived the act on Sept. 28 — for only a 10-day period.
The horrific massacre that took place in Las Vegas during a country music festival late at night on Oct. 1 has taken the lives of a recorded 58 people and injured at least 652 as of Oct. 2. It is the deadliest massacre, in terms of numbers, that has occurred on U.S. soil in recent history.

It will take days, weeks and — who knows — maybe even months for a full investigation to answer certain questions leading to the motive of the alleged shoot-er, Stephen Paddock. One obvious question is how was he able to bring 10 suitcases packed with 18 to 20 automatic rifles, many of them fully loaded, to his 32nd-floor hotel room overlooking the festival, without arousing any kind of suspicion.

Another obvious question is why? Was this his aim to defeat domestic terrorism as soon as Paddock, who is white, was identified? Usually the government and the corporate press are quick to characterize Muslims as “terrorists,” but not in this case. Police only stated that Paddock was a “lone wolf” attacker.

This should come as no surprise, since the white supremacist attacks in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, resulting in the death of anti-fascist activist Heather Heyer, were not characterized, by either President Donald Trump or the press, as domestic terrorism.

There are some political facts related to Las Vegas that we do know. For instance, to cite a popular baseball quote, “Mass shootings are as American as apple pie.” A chart, compiled by the British Guardian, indicates there have been 1,316 mass shootings in the U.S. over the past 1,735 days — the highest rate in any developed country recorded since 1982. A mass shooting is defined by the Gun Violence Archive as four or more people shot in one incident, whether killed or injured.

We also know that racism plays a prominent role in determining whose lives receive more priority than others. The Black Lives Matter movement reflects the fact that when it comes to racial profiling by the police or vigilantes, Black and Brown lives are dehumanized on a daily basis.

When two hurricanes hit Puerto Rico within a two-week period, virtually dev-asating the entire island and leaving residents with little to no drinking wa-ter, electricity, food or sanitary supplies, Trump accused the mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz, of “poor leadership.” This was after she outlined her admin-istration for not responding immediately to the crisis for 3.4 million U.S. citizens.

Ten days after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Trump visited the island for one day, on Oct. 3. After claiming he would visit the hurricane-wrecked Vir-gin Islands, a U.S. territory with a mostly Black population, he decided not to visit it at all.

In contrast, Trump is scheduled to visit Las Vegas, where the massacre victims were mostly white, on Oct. 4, just three days after the carnage. This past weekend, Trump was at a golf tournament in Jersey City, N.J., where he dedicated the trophy to the people in Puerto Rico. WTP! Trump’s response shows how the Puerto Rican people, due to national oppression, are treated as less than hu-man. An Oct. 3 Washington Post arti-cle (“Trump says Puerto Rico officials should be ‘pride’ more haven’t died like in Katrina”) reports that during his visit to Puerto Rico, he condescendingly told officials, “I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, you’ve threw our budget out of whack.”

Many say that guns are a societal problem when in reality, capitalism — a system that depends on class violence and especially white supremacy to sur-vive — is the REAL problem that must be eradicated.

By WW Boston bureau

Sept. 25 — In response to Massachu- setts Gov. Charlie Baker’s murderous budget cuts to HIV, housing and youth services, protesters staged “die-ins” at the State House and a nearby shopping district in Boston on Sept. 19.

Despite thousands of HIV infection cases in Massachusetts and hundreds of new cases each year, Gov. Baker used his line-item veto to cut nearly $3 million to HIV-related services from the state’s 2018 budget. Organizers called upon members of the state legislature to override these cuts, representing millions of dollars in services stolen from the oppressed.

Protesters — led by ACT-UP Boston — led a chant and chanted, “I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, you’ve threw our budget out of whack.”

Many say that guns are a societal problem when in reality, capitalism — a system that depends on class violence and especially white supremacy to survive — is the REAL problem that must be eradicated.

A voice from Harper’s Ferry

written by Osborne P. Anderson, a Black revolutionary who was there.

Essays by Mumia Abu-Jamal, Monica Moorehead and Vince Copeland on the “Unfinished Revolution.”

Read it at www.workers.org/ebooks/AsVoiceFromHarperFerry.pdf

Why Colin Kaepernick is right

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper

www.workers.org/books

Save the date!

WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFEERENCE

Saturday and Sunday NOV 18-19

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Plenaries, discussion groups and workshops will take up:

- Commemorating Centennial of Russian Revolution and Its Lessons for Today’s Struggles
- Building a United Movement Against All Forms of White Supremacy, Led by Trump Regime
- Accessing treatment for HIV is often insurmountable for those without insurance and stable housing, especially poor and working people, trans, Black and/or Latinx people. HIV infection rates are also high among people who use drugs and face that related stigma disproportionately under capitalism.

Among the programs set to be completely axed by Gov. Baker is Youth On Fire, a highly valued Cambridge program providing beds, meals, overdose preven-tion and other support for LGBTQ youth and youth with HIV.

An affinity group of ACT-UP Boston, called ACT-UP CLASS WAR — the Coali-tion of Local Activists and Seropositive Siblings formed to Fight out Austerity and Racism — mobilized to raise de-mands beyond the call to urge legislators to overturn budget cuts.

The CLASS WAR group called for secur-ing housing as a basic human right and for ending Boston’s exploding luxury housing market, which has produced mass evic-tions of longtime working-class and poor residents. They also demanded full, per-manent funding for Youth On Fire, as well as additional services that would provide housing for homeless people living with HIV/AIDS and supervised consumption facilities for people who use drugs.

As of this writing, the Massachusetts House has voted to override Gov. Baker’s cuts to 2018 funding for youth homeless-ness and HIV programs, including Youth On Fire. It remains to be seen if the state Senate will do the same. Two other pro-grams — Residential Assistance for Fam-ilies in Transition (which includes help for people with disabilities) and support for section 8 vouchers — have not yet re ceived an override vote in either chamber.

People wait anxiously to learn the fate of these budget items that seriously im-pact their lives. One “die-in” speaker related that they might not survive the winter if the line-item cuts get pushed through.

As true today as it was 30 years ago, in the face of capitalist austerity, “Silence is death.”

A Voice from Harper’s Ferry
Catalans defy Spanish cops to vote pro-independence

By John Catalinotto

The Spanish state’s brutal attempt to repres - s the Oct. 1 referendum for self-de - termination of Catalonia boomeranged on the Madrid regime. Instead of squelch - ing the vote, it has triggered a massive, un - tamed anger and resistance. This boosted the independence movement of the Catalan people and pushed the working class to the forefront.

The people of Catalonia have the right to decide on their status. And they cer - tainly have the right to vote in a referen - dums, together leaders from various racist and xenophobic parties. These parties, which have dominated the German government since post-war 1945, represent a threat. The National Front, a racist and xenophobic organization, is the political structure of the fascist criminals and the wealthy oligarchs to maintain their position and wealth.

In Spain, the national police, the army — is identi - fied with the fascist era, the repression of the working class and of minority national - ities, and the continuation of this rule and the monarchy under the Transition from 1978 to today.

Reaction today across the territory

Pro-independence Catalan parties — mainly pro-capitalist parties — are lead - ing the regional government in Catalonia. They pushed for the referendum. Others doubt these parties are really prepared to struggle for independence; they see them as in favor of a bigger cut of exploited wealth for the Catalan ruling class.

There is nothing progressive about the Spanish state. On the international arena, it plays a completely reactionary role in Latin America, using its economic and military presence to support the U.S. imperialist regime. It regularly attacks Venezue - la and Cuba at international forums. In 2003 it joined the U.S.-British invasion of Iraq, at that time led by People’s Party Prime Minister José María Aznar. So far the European Union has sup - ported the central Spanish regime against an independent Catalonia.

On the other hand, nominal indepen - dence does not in itself mean a victory for working-class demands. These demands are for an end to austerity, guaranteed full employment, reinstatement of health, public medical care, etc., along with an end to the monarchy and reinstatement of the republic.

All pro-independence organizational statements that reached Workers World from much poorer Galicia and the more repressed Basque Country support Cat - alan self-determination. Of course they also attack Rajoy for police repression.

For revolutionary working-class organ - izations, the key issue is how to build solidarity among the working class of all the peoples of the Spanish state. Demonstrations were held Oct. 1 in at least 11 cities of the Spanish state, among many different peoples, to say, “Catalonia is not alone.”

At the one in Madrid, Ángeles Maestro of the Red Network thanked Catalans: “[B]ecause what is happening today in Catalonia affects us all and impacts di - rectly all the peoples who dwell within the boundaries of the Spanish state. Be - cause what is happening in the streets of Catalonia is a crucial link in the process of a transition that we have experienced here the last 40 years. If it’s not that the transition regime made itself illegitimate today, it was always so. Only its DNA is so profoundly reactionary that today it shows big time.”

German elections show need to intensify anti-racist struggle

By John Catalinotto

The best news from the German na- tional elections of Sept. 24 was that the main parties of German imperialism — the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Christian Democratic Union with its Bav - arian Christian Social Union ally — had lost their worst results since World War II. The SPD got only 20.5 percent and the CDU/CSU 32.9 percent.

These parties, which have dominated the German government since post-war 1945, have been softened, together got barely more than half the votes. The worst news was that the ultra-right wing, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim parties, which entered parliament in 2009, came in third, with 12.6 percent of the votes. For the first time, the AfD, founded in 2013, won 94 of the 790 seats in the Bundestag, which will give these ultra-rightists even more media coverage to spew their racist viewpoint.

The AfD advance should not, however, provide hope for the working class from continuing their courageous activ - ities, which include confronting the rac - ists and neo-Nazis wherever they raise their heads, protesting at U.S. military bases, denouncing German participation in wars abroad and supporting workers who go on strike.

The electoral results fit a general pat - tern in many European countries. Insta - bility in the capitalist economy, coupled with an “austerity” program that cuts wages, reduces benefits and creates eco - nomic insecurity grows, even in the more pros - perous countries.

Mostly NATO members, these coun - tries’ imperialist ruling classes also take part in wars and war maneuvers, from the borders of Russia to the mountains of Afghanistan. They sow misery through - out. Social unrest has grown in Western Europe, direct - ing millions to leave these regions and head toward Europe for survival.

The capitalist, pro-imperialist parties that have run these governments for de - cades offer no solutions for the workers. Right-wing parties arise that offer false solutions. They scapegoat refugees, im - migrants and especially Muslims, blam - ing them for the evils of decadent capitalism.

While none of these ultra-right or neo-fascist parties has taken control of a government in Western Europe, they still represent a threat. The National Front in France received a third of votes there, and parties analogous to the AfD exist in Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and the Scandinavian countries. In addi - tion, they pressure the center-right and formerly social-democratic parties to move their right and boost their racism.

The racist and xenophobically Donald Trump electoral victory in the United States fits this pattern.

Merkel still chancellor

In Germany the CDU/CSU still came in first, with 32.9 percent, despite finishing with such a small plurality. The SPD won 153 seats. Angela Merkel, who has been in power since 2005, still has the task of forming and leading the next government.

Three other parties won seats. The Free Democrats (FDP), a bourgeois party that had lost all its seats in the 2013 elec - tion, came in fourth, winning 80 seats. The Left Party — the only party that has been anti-war and shown solidarity with immigrants — is fifth, with 69 seats. And the Green Party, which can no longer be considered leftist, but still takes positions defending the environment, won 63 seats.

The last German government was a so- called Grand Coalition of the CDU/CSU together with the SPD. This time SPD lead - er Martin Schulz has announced that his party will not join such a coalition, but will instead lead the opposition. That means it will be a serious parliamentary problem for Merkel to form a new government.

Merkel will have to join two diverse partners with her own parties. The most likely coalition would be between the CDU/CSU, the FDP and the Greens. As of now an alliance of any party with the racist AfD is taboo. The CDU/CSU also refuses to allow The Left party into the government.

Being part of a government coalition would, in any case, force The Left Par - ty to surrender its up-to-now consistent anti-war and anti-NATO positions and compromise its defense of workers’ rights. Joining such a government might only dis - credit this party as a pole of opposition to the imperialist regime. Such a development does not in itself mean a victory for working-class demands. These demands are for an end to austerity, guaranteed full employment, reinstatement of health, public medical care, etc., along with an end to the monarchy and reinstatement of the republic.