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NO ROOM FOR GENOCIDE

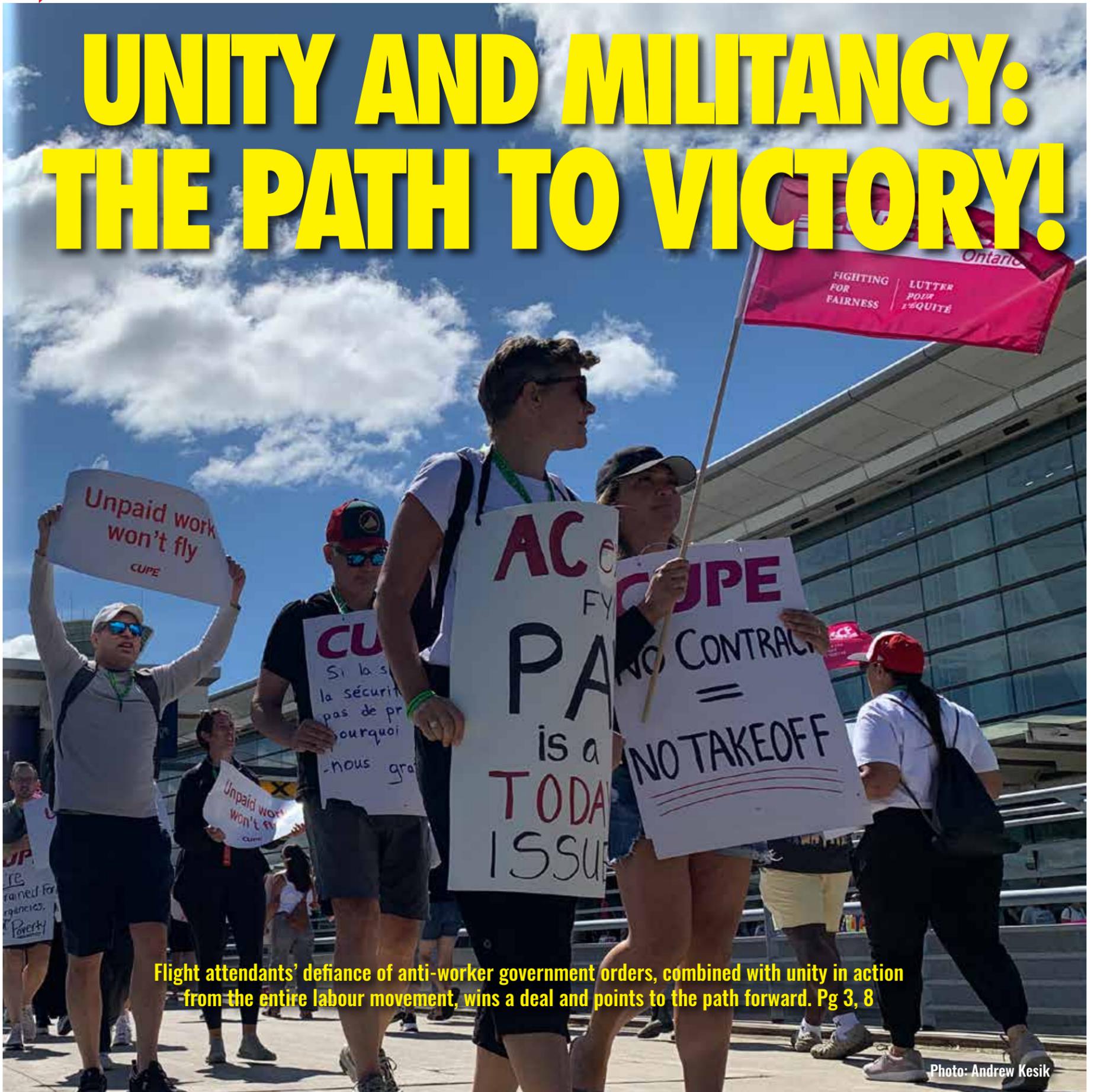
Palestinian BDS National Committee launches new campaign
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UNITY AND MILITANCY: THE PATH TO VICTORY!



Flight attendants' defiance of anti-worker government orders, combined with unity in action from the entire labour movement, wins a deal and points to the path forward. Pg 3, 8

Photo: Andrew Kesik

CONDITIONS ON STATEHOOD?

If Mark Carney wants to put conditions on Canada's recognition of states, he should start with Israel
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PARALLEL GOVERNMENT DOUBLES SUDAN'S CRISIS

The emergence of parallel governments in Sudan makes the ongoing crisis that much worse
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YOUTH PAY THE PRICE FOR CORPORATE PROFIT

Youth unemployment is soaring, even as corporate profits continue to rise - it's time for a different approach
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Pages from our past...

Canadian Tribune Vol 54 No 1962 ~ September 3, 1975

Labour hits back at government slurs

Just as the federal government used the Labour Day period to attack labour, spokespersons for the working people of Canada castigated government ministers who act as corporation mouthpieces and try to misrepresent the motives and effects of labour's struggle.

At the "friendship" luncheon held each Labour Day at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Shirley Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress, offered an answer to the distortions by federal Industry Minister Alastair Gillespie.

Gillespie had told the same CNE directors that labour was guilty of a "monumental sellout" of Canada's future for not accepting wage restraints. He appeared to ignore the CLC's nine-point program for dealing with Canada's economic crisis and instead that the "Leaders of the Canadian union movement... tell it how it is."

"I would suggest," said Carr, "that the corporate community was pursuing its own selfish interests and the maximization of its profits. I would also suggest that it was doing this with the blessings of the federal government, for the politicians stand condemned on the issue through their own silence."

She reiterated the nine-point program and said that "while the portion of national income going to wages and salaries decreased from 72.9 percent to 70.5 percent from 1971 to 1974, the share of corporate profits had risen from 12.3 percent to 17 percent." In the same period, she said, profits jumped "111 percent while average earnings increased by only 25 percent."

How it's done

Bruce Magnuson, labour secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, points to the interesting mechanics of such inequity:

While politicians, federal and provincial, use the smoke-screen of "blaming labour for inflation, monopoly interests continue to raise prices at will, unhampered by any restrictions of any kind, while labour has to negotiate and strike to recoup losses from the unrestricted profiteering of the corporate giants."

Carr accused Gillespie of acting "in an extremely irresponsible manner in seeking to protect and serve the interests of the corporate communist against the interests of the Canadian people and of workers in particular." ■

Notes: Written fifty years ago, this article indicates that the portion of GDP going to wages and salaries ("labour share" of GDP) was just over 70 percent in 1974, and that the share of corporate profits was 17 percent.

If that was enough to rile labour leaders then, the current situation should be enough to put them on the barricades. Labour share of GDP has continued to diminish over the decades and now sits at around 50 percent – a whopping drop from just a generation ago. Meanwhile, corporate profits reached record levels of \$577 billion in 2022, when they made up an all-time high of nearly 22 percent of GDP.

All the same, bosses and their government mouthpieces continue to blame workers and unions for economic woes like inflation and unemployment, which they themselves actually create, maintain and/or benefit from.

Why the "No" vote at Canada Post is a resounding victory for workers, union**Far from bringing a resolution, rejection is another step in protracted conflict**

J.P. FORTIN

After months of uncertainty fueled by government interference, postal workers rejected Canada Post's "final and best offer" on August 1. Both urban and Rural and Suburban Mail Carrier (RSMC) units rejected it by nearly 70 percent.

After the government's use in December of Section 107 of the Canadian Labour Code to force striking postal workers back to work and initiate the Industrial Inquiry Commission (known as the Kaplan Report and released in May) the vote organized by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) was added to Canada Post's empty hand as a new card the employer could play to circumvent the bargaining process.

Working people and unions across the country condemned Minister of Jobs and Families Patty Hajdu for resorting to this anti-union provision, and the federal Liberal government for interfering yet again in negotiations at Canada Post.

While the outcome of the forced vote is a resounding victory for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), it was far from a foregone conclusion. On one side were Canada Post, the major private media outlets, and right-wing think tanks and researchers – all of whom have unlimited resources and take pleasure in blaming workers. On the other side was the patient and militant work rejected out among workers on the shop floor. The rejection of the offer was a pure affirmation of workers' rights.

Forced votes like this are not uncommon – they are a desperate attempt to delegitimize the union in the bargaining process, and a strategy that Liberal and Conservative governments have been pursuing for years. This is part of a sustained attack to eliminate intermediary bodies, particularly unions, and hand over all democratic levers to large private monopolies. When Pierre Poilievre, echoing Donald Trump, says he is defending workers against "union bosses," this is what he is really talking about.

Since the beginning of the negotiations, the entire narrative from the corporation and the mainstream media has been based on this rhetoric. It is an attempt to shift the decision-making process away from the union, away from the hands of workers, and transform a democratic decision into one made by "experts" and commentators. The use of legal tools shifts the struggle to a terrain where the state and employers have a clear advantage.

This campaign also involves the corporation and media seizing on any crisis, real or fabricated, to deliberately promote privatization and liberalization. Knowing that this avenue is unpopular with the general public, pro-privatization forces try to scapegoat the union and union rights.

Despite all the tools deployed against it, the union was able to take advantage of mistakes, blunders and disconnectedness of Canada Post, the CIRB and others promoting the dismantling of the postal service. While it is perfectly understandable that CUPW members were inclined to accept the offer – given the sustained fear campaign and the protracted conflict – the calculated, relentless and dehumanizing bias of Canada Post and the mainstream media served as a deterrent. Even isolated workers are not fooled by so much dissonance and bad faith.

The struggle continues after the vote

Far from bringing a resolution, the vote is another step in a protracted conflict. The next phase is likely to require sustained mobilization by workers

in the face of a management strategy of attrition. Three scenarios seem possible for the future of the conflict:

The first option, desired by the union and many who are anticipating the 2028 negotiations, is arbitration imposed by the government. Faced with political pressure and Canada Post's total unwillingness to negotiate, CUPW has decided to ask the government for arbitration. This solution, which aims to cut the losses for the workers, has the advantage of allowing the government to sweep the conflict under the rug and the union to preserve unity and working conditions for a time. Eventually, it would postpone major changes until the next review of the corporation's mandate in Parliament.

The second option, which is pushed by the Kaplan Report, is a long and difficult lockout that would weaken employees and sow resentment toward the union. The aim here would be to force structural changes by impoverishing workers until they reluctantly accept the offer. Obviously, this situation could have a political cost for Canada Post, but the mainstream media would undoubtedly rationalize the decision as a necessity "to get things done."

The third option, which many consider a fantasy, would be to conclude a genuine collective agreement through normal negotiation. As unlikely as it may seem today, this option is not impossible. It is worth remembering that, in most of the disputes at Canada Post over the past 30 years, it was government intervention that ended or prevented the disputes.

The problem is a political one

At the end of the day, the conflict at Canada Post has political roots. The current economic dynamic, in which the public sector is subordinate to monopoly capitalism, makes a mockery of purely workplace-based trade union efforts. The liberalization of the delivery market is a political project – it goes beyond the personal interests of Doug Etinger or Jeff Bezos. It's not cyclical but structural, and it is class based.

This political vision has as its goal for the entire delivery sector the maximum exploitation of workers for the benefit of large private monopolies, most of which are foreign. The consequences of this are socioeconomic segregation, rising prices, the end of universal access to basic services, and a reinforced wealth gap and system of unequal treatment.

The struggle ahead requires a shift of scale – it is no longer just a matter of mobilizing one's workplace, but of mobilizing all progressive allies. Postal workers will not see any significant improvement until sufficient political pressure forces the government to curb the liberalization of essential services. This is particularly true now, as public services have been hit by across-the-board spending cuts which will all be used to fill the coffers of the military-industrial complex as Carney raises arms spending to \$150 billion per year.

Perhaps more than ever in living memory, it is clear that the fight for public services is the fight of all workers.

With a possible review of Canada Post's mandate approaching, now is the time to close the door to foreign monopolies and demand a truly public postal service. We need a service that both defends working conditions and guarantees a strategic, accessible and affordable infrastructure for everyone, everywhere in the country. ■

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Air Canada fight shows that unity and militancy are the path to victory

PV STAFF

The Liberal federal government use of Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to override Air Canada flight attendants' right to strike and negotiate was just its latest attempt to directly intervene in the collective bargaining process on the side of the employer.

The 10,000 workers and their union, however, stood firm and defied the back-to-work order. In this struggle, they quickly received solidarity from unions, progressive organizations and members of the public from across the country.

This unity, solidarity and militancy forced Ottawa and the company to stand down, and within hours the union got a deal which appears to have won big gains. Reports available at publication time indicate that wages will increase by 16-20 percent over the four-year agreement. Furthermore, currently unpaid work will be paid, beginning at 50 percent in the first year of the deal and increasing to 70 percent in the fourth.

Those two issues were among the key issues in the fight. Air Canada, like many carriers in the industry, limits attendants' compensation to the "doors closed" period of the flight, which excludes the time they spent assisting passengers before and after then. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) says attendants average 35 hours of unpaid work each month.

On the wage side, Air Canada claimed its offer of an 8-percent wage increase was fair. In fact, that increase would only bring junior flight attendants' pay to \$2108 per month, far below the federal minimum wage of \$2840 per month. Over the term of the last contract, a ten-year agreement, attendants' real wages were 9 percent below inflation.

By contrast, Air Canada CEO Michael Rousseau made \$12.4 million in 2023-24, including \$1.3 million base pay plus stocks and options.

The Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) issued the back-to-work order within hours of the start of the strike on August 16, at the directive of Jobs and Families Minister Patty Hajdu who exercised powers in Section 107. The CIRB also ordered the union and employer to binding arbitration.

As seen in a series of recent labour disputes under federal jurisdiction, Section 107 is a powerful tool for the government to hamper the ability of workers to engage in effective strike action. The threat to fine or jail striking members and CUPE leaders is a direct attempt to limit free collective bargaining and union membership in Canada.

As one worker told People's Voice, "This order is complete anti-worker, anti-union bullshit. If the government really cared about 'industrial peace' why didn't it tell Air Canada to bargain in good faith? Why didn't it pass legislation ensuring that workers are paid for every hour of work time? Instead, Ottawa chose to shut down a legal strike and side with a corporation that fleeces workers out of a week's pay every month."

The Carney government has already

demonstrated its fidelity to pro-corporate policies, including imposing massive social spending cuts to pay for a huge increase to military spending and war preparations. The fight at Air Canada only further exposes this government's phony claim to govern on behalf of all people in Canada.

The outpouring of solidarity for CUPE and the flight attendants was immediate and impressive. It was reminiscent of the united response in November 2022, when unions across Canada threatened political labour action after Ontario Premier Doug Ford invoked the notwithstanding clause to declare the strike by provincial school board workers to be illegal. That action was also successful in quickly forcing the government to back down. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) held an emergency meeting in which heads of unions agreed to "stand united behind Air Canada flight attendants in defying the government's unconstitutional attack on workers' rights."

CLC President Bea Bruske announced that the union heads had voted unanimously to call on Ottawa to immediately withdraw the order to end the strike, to cease its use of Section 107 to end or prevent a legal strike, and to amend the Canada Labour Code to remove Section 107 as the first order of business when Parliament resumes.

Bruske also stated that unions in Canada were prepared to support these demands by coordinating a fightback campaign, promoting and coordinating financial contributions to assist with the legal costs related to CUPE's decision to defy the Minister's order, disseminate information on demonstrations and other actions with affiliates to ensure maximum impact, and work with CUPE and all affiliates to respond swiftly in the event that the government takes legal action against these workers.

This is just the kind of role working people need and expect the CLC to play – coordinating and leading labour's political action on the basis of class struggle.

Struggle continues to repeal Section 107, renationalize Air Canada

The call for active solidarity and for the government to repeal Section 107 was echoed beyond the labour movement. In a statement issued August 18, the Communist Party of Canada said, "Section 107 must be repealed as part of broader efforts to defend and expand the labour rights of all workers in Canada to join trade unions and engage in free collective bargaining."

Communist Party leader Elizabeth Rowley said that government action also needs to include putting Air Canada back under public ownership and operating it democratically. "The Conservative government of Brian Mulroney privatized Air Canada under the so-called 'Open Skies' agreement," she said. "Those actions were clearly aimed at using deregulation and privatization to boost corporate profits – part of this current struggle needs to be renationalizing Air Canada and repealing the 'Open Skies' policy. But there's no way this government will do that without being forced to by working people – we need to fight!" ■

Palestinian BDS National Committee launches "No Room for Genocide" campaign



Movement calls on governments around the world to use visa and immigration policies to oppose genocide and apartheid

Countering the wilful negligence and complicity of states in Israel's genocide against 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, its illegal occupation and its 77-year-old regime of settler-colonial apartheid, human rights activists, organizations, as well as businesses are stepping in to uphold respect and ensure accountability in accordance with international law.

From small business owners demanding guests sign a pledge of non-involvement in war crimes to treks and tour companies declaring "war criminals are not welcome," these courageous actions are defending the pillars of the international law system, even as Israel with US and European support dismantles it.

Yet, it is high time for states to take on their responsibility to ensure war criminals are not allowed into their territory and/or to prosecute them for their crimes.

The Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC), as the largest coalition of Palestinian civil society and the leadership of the global BDS movement, calls on partners, allies and supporters across the world to pressure their governments to amend immigration and visa policies to align with international legal standards and obligations. Specifically, we demand the following actions:

1. Terminate all visa waiver agreements with Israel.
2. Institute screenings at immigration borders to check individuals of Israeli or other nationalities for possible involvement in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, including against Palestinians. Anyone credibly suspected to be responsible for involvement in such atrocity crimes should face accountability measures, including denial of entry and, where possible, legal action.
3. If individuals suspected of involvement in international crimes slip through or somehow evade the screening process and are found within the third state borders, relevant authorities must investigate and, if warranted, prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

These measures are in line with legal obligations under international law, including the duty to not commit, not be complicit in, as well as to prevent, prosecute and punish genocide, apartheid and other atrocity crimes. This call focuses on complicity, not identity, and recommends the following criteria for screening:

1. Anyone, regardless of carrying Israeli citizenship or otherwise, who has served in the Israeli military (including logistical and intelligence units) since October 7, 2023.
2. Anyone who is reasonably suspected of aiding, assisting or conspiring in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide at any time, whether during military service or not.
3. Anyone who is reasonably suspected of involvement in public incitement to commit war crimes, crimes against hu-

manity or genocide at any time, whether during military service or not.

Also, any Israeli who resides or works in, and any Israeli or international who provides material support to, an illegal Israeli colonial settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) including East Jerusalem, or in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, is knowingly participating in a war crime and must therefore be held accountable.

Through this call, the BDS movement demands accountability in accordance with key United Nations General Assembly resolutions, International Court of Justice provisional orders and advisory opinion, ongoing International Criminal Court investigations, and reports and recommendations by UN human rights experts as well as Palestinian and international rights organizations pertaining to Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, and its illegal regime of military occupation and apartheid.

Several states have screenings for war crimes as part of their visa application and immigration policy. Recently, the European Union has amended its mechanism of suspending short-stay visa-free travel to include human rights violations as grounds for suspension.

While such measures theoretically prioritize international law and human rights, their consistent and thorough implementation remains to be seen. It is incumbent on these states to eschew the hypocrisy they have shown so far in shielding the genocidal Israeli regime from accountability. It is equally important that such policies do not become tools of reinforcing violent immigration regimes, which already target the poor, refugees, migrants and people of colour.

Lately, such policy changes have begun to target potential Israeli war criminals. Colombia has announced a reversal of its short stay visa-free policy for Israeli citizens, though it is yet to be implemented. Visa screenings have led to denial of entry, and in other cases investigations have been launched against suspected Israeli war criminals and genocidaires when their presence was flagged.

Implementing screenings for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide before granting visas to suspected Israeli war criminals, genocidaires and illegal colonial settlers is the first step in the direction of holding them accountable. It also would protect the safety and wellbeing of people across the world from those suspected war criminals.

This extends beyond a few individuals at the top. Hundreds of thousands of Israeli men and women have served in the military during this ongoing genocide, and the probability of their involvement in the commission of atrocity crimes is extremely high. All of them must be investigated and, if warranted, prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Without such concrete measures, there is no deterrence against committing such crimes with impunity. ■

EDITORIAL

CARNEY SHOULD APPLY HIS PALESTINE STATEHOOD CONDITIONS TO ISRAEL

After nearly two years of genocidal assault, and amid a humanitarian crisis caused by systemic starvation, the Canadian government finally says it is preparing to recognize the State of Palestine. It should be a big moment, worthy of celebration, so why doesn't it feel that way?

The announcement – echoing similar ones from Britain and France – came in response to Israel's continuing escalation of its campaign against the Palestinian people. For Canada and other steadfast allies of Israel, things came to a head on August 8 when the Israeli cabinet approved Benjamin Netanyahu's plans for the "full occupation" of the entire Gaza Strip.

Israel's occupation of Gaza is illegal under international law, and its actions since October 2023 have sparked growing international condemnation. This includes the January 2024 decision by the International Court of Justice that Israel is committing a "plausible genocide," followed by the court's order that Israel take specific measures to prevent genocide.

Yet Israel has ignored all international pressure, including that from the ICJ. In doing so, it has received overwhelming support from the United States and its allies including Canada.

Throughout the genocide, Canada has continued to trade with Israel – including trade in arms – and has repeatedly provided diplomatic and political support, citing Israel's "right to defend itself." More recently, Mark Carney has given Canada's support to statements modestly criticizing Israel and threatening unspecified "further action," and has airdropped aid into Gaza. But all the while, Ottawa has refused to recognize that Israel's campaign is genocide, to impose a two-way arms embargo or initiate sanctions, or to take any meaningful diplomatic action against Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

Against this record, it's difficult to see Carney's statement that Canada will recognize the State of Palestine as anything but duplicitous.

First, he says the recognition will occur at the September session of the United Nations General Assembly, providing Israel with plenty of time to continue its genocidal war with impunity.

Second, he has explicitly stripped longstanding key demands from the discourse around Palestinian statehood. These include contiguous territory secured by internationally recognized and respected borders (described clearly in UN resolutions) and the right of return for millions of Palestinians in the diaspora. Furthermore, Carney has applied a range of anti-democratic, pro-Zionist positions including reforming the Palestinian Authority governance, banning certain organizations like Hamas from elections, demilitarizing Palestine and having it recognize "Israel's inalienable right to security and peace."

If the Canadian government wants to place such conditions in front of state recognition, why does it not begin with Israel? Ottawa could, for example, call for Israel to demilitarize – it spends close to 9 percent of GDP on its military and ranks 12th in the world, has a brutally aggressive policy toward Palestine and other countries in the region, and is "widely believed" to have a nuclear weapons arsenal.

The Canadian government could also refuse to maintain relations with Israel's governing war criminals like Netanyahu. This country has an "anti-terrorism list" that names several national liberation movements (including ones in Palestine), providing for seizure of their assets and criminalizing any direct or indirect involvement with them, yet it happily continues its diplomatic relations with an active *genocidaire*?

Ottawa could and should do these things and much more. But instead, Carney is taking a hypocritical approach that applies conditions in an entirely uneven and asymmetrical way. It is designed to ensure and perpetuate Palestine's subservience to Israel, within the more stable confines of false statehood. Rather than supporting Palestinian statehood, he is dangling recognition of the same as a threat/bribe to Netanyahu. ♦



IN BRIEF



PEOPLE'S VOICE welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity, and to refuse to print letters which may be libellous or which contain personal attacks.

Protests greet Carney's tour of Nanoose Bay torpedo test range

On August 4, prime minister Mark Carney toured a joint Canadian-US naval test range in BC's Nanoose Bay. Peace demonstrators rallied by the gate to protest the US Navy's regular presence in the harbour. The protest highlighted Carney's failure to halt the use of Nanoose First Nation's shores and waters by the only foreign military that is threatening Canada's sovereignty.

The Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges (CFMETR) has occupied the shore of Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island since it was established by a 1965 Canada-US treaty. CFMETR tests naval underwater equipment and weapons, including sonobuoys and torpedoes, in the nearby "Area WG" which extends over 200 square kilometres across the Salish Sea. CFMETR harbours several US Navy ships each year, and much of its removable equipment is United States property.

Peace activists, including the mid-island Freedom From War Coalition (FFWC) have exposed CFMETR as an obstacle to First Nations and civilian use of the Nanoose Bay shore, harbour and surrounding waters, as well as its ecological harms and its role in US imperialism. An FFWC pamphlet describes the facility as a "US naval base on our island, which tests lethal weapons that are destined to be used against people fighting for freedom worldwide."

The peace group assembled over twenty demonstrators at the CFMETR gate ahead of Carney's visit. RCMP and military police kept demonstrators off the facility's driveway. For over three hours spanning Carney's entire time at the facility, demonstrators remained at the roadside with signs and banners demanding "Out of NATO" and "US Navy Off Our Island." Carney's motorcade crossed the

demonstration twice.

In a press interview, FFWC spokesperson Eden Haythornthwaite pointed to the hypocrisy of Canada's military integration with a belligerent and profiteering neighbour:

"Who's threatened you with invasion? The same people who are asking you to spend billions and billions of dollars on equipment that they will sell you. They have 21-foot missiles that they're testing out in the bay that are worth five million dollars. We're developing weapons here to torment and oppress people all over this world."

On the demand for Canada to leave the NATO military alliance and war budget, Haythornthwaite said that "NATO is about bombing a country like Libya or Yugoslavia. That's why they're asking us to devote five percent of our GDP to NATO. It's insane. There's no one on the planet who wants to invade us. There's no one we have to concern ourselves with, except the Americans."

Haythornthwaite noted that the military control of Nanoose Bay's land and waters undermines Indigenous sovereignty, saying Nanoose First Nation "have asked for it back on numerous occasions."

Coalition demonstrators were interviewed on the scene by reporters from the Nanaimo News Bulletin and Canadian Press.

FFWC previously led a demonstration against the US Navy in Nanoose Bay on June 15, the day US president Donald Trump arrived in Canada for a G7 summit. ■

**Pepper Saltman
Nanaimo, BC**

No enthusiasm for Carney's Palestine gesture

Hurrah! The Canadian government has finally joined 147 other UN members and agreed that the Palestinians constitute a nation entitled as such to their own state. Pro-

gressive Canadians will be greeting the news with less than unbridled enthusiasm.

Why? Let us count the ways.

First and foremost, there is nothing in Prime Minister Carney's announcement that recognizes the right of return for Palestinian families forcibly expelled from their homeland in 1948 and later.

Secondly, the unequal division of the land resulting from Israeli conquest in 1948 is left undisturbed and undiscussable. And there's no mention of removing the Israeli settlements set up on stolen land after the conquests of 1967.

Third, the new Palestinian state will have to be demilitarized, Carney says. No mention of demilitarizing the main aggressor, Israel.

Fourth, Canada's recognition is conditional on Palestinian elections being held in 2026. No mention of the fact that it is the Israelis who have prevented elections from being held for many years, for example by arresting successful candidates. And Carney insists upon dictating who can and cannot run in the projected Palestinian elections. But there's no suggestion of disqualifying Israeli genocidaire politicians and parties from running in Israel.

In 1974, from the rostrum of the United Nations, Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat proposed to the Israelis a single democratic secular state over the whole territory of Palestine. A single ruling state is the practical reality there now – but conditions for the Palestinian people under the rule of that state are far from democratic.

If any good is going to come from Carney's shifted position on Palestine, it will mainly be should this after all turn out to have been a first step away from complete subservience to Washington. ■

**Danny Goldstick
Toronto, ON**

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Defeating fascism means recognizing its different forms, building the left, and mobilizing a mass united fight



COMMENTARY BY DAVID LETHBRIDGE

On August 3, People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping addressed a mass gathering marking the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression and the world anti-fascist war. Among those whose memory was especially honoured was Canadian communist and surgeon Dr. Norman Bethune. The theme of Xi's address was "Remembering history and changing the future."

If we want to remember the history of fascism – its development, its defeat and its resurgence today – we should begin with Bulgarian Communist Party leader and General Secretary of the Communist International, Georgi Dimitrov.

Ninety years ago, on August 2, 1935, Dimitrov delivered a report to the 7th World Congress of the Communist International. This lengthy report contains within its pages the definition of fascism that communists throughout the world have held to be true and accurate since it was first elaborated. What, then, is this definition? What is fascism?

The Communist International defined fascism as "the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist elements of finance capital." Dimitrov explained that fascism developed out of the sharpening of the class struggle and that it was "not a form of state power standing above both classes – the proletariat [working class] and the bourgeoisie [capitalist class]." On the contrary, "fascism is the power of finance capital itself."

Dimitrov said that fascism becomes the favoured form of the capitalist class because "the capitalists are no longer able to maintain their dictatorship by the old methods of parliamentarism and of bourgeois democracy in general." In fact, democracy in capitalism becomes "a hindrance in the struggle against the proletariat." Fascism, according to Dimitrov, is not an inevitable stage of capitalism, but depends on the development of the "forces of the fighting proletariat." Fascism, from that point of view, is an attempt to forestall the growth of the forces of revolution.

Dimitrov was also at pains to point out that there was no ideal form of fascism, no model form, but that it could come to power by various routes. It could, for example, completely dissolve all parliamentary political parties and movements or allow their continued existence in no matter how diminished form; and that it could present itself to the working masses in any number of disguises or hide itself behind any number of masks.

In the *ABC of Political Terms*, published in Moscow in 1982, Dimitrov's classic definition of fascism is reiterated but added to it are the typical characteristics of racism, extreme nationalism, anticommunism, the destruction of democratic freedoms, and "the wide practice of social demagoguery." Not only are Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy noted as the first fascist countries, but included also are Franco's Spain and Salazar's Portugal, as well as Greece in the 1970s, Pinochet's Chile and the white racist apartheid regime in South Africa.

But we are in a new historical period. A question of supreme importance – not just to communist parties around the world, but to the international working class – is this: Is fascism developing now, today, in the imperialist heartland, and most especially in the US?

For Dimitrov and the Communist International, fascism arose in the context of a working class that was on the march, organizing itself into communist parties and arming itself for revolution. In order to maintain its hold on power, the most right-wing and reactionary elements of the capitalist class moved to a new and more vicious type of capitalist regime – fascism.

Can fascism only arise during a period of working-class revolutionary upsurge? Can fascism only arise during such a period of the sharpening of the class struggle that it has reached the point of open class war?

At the same time that Dimitrov was providing his analysis, Italian Communist Party leader Palmiro Togliatti was in Moscow delivering a series of lectures on fascism. Basing his lectures on the foundation of Dimitrov's analysis, Togliatti asserted that "fascism can take different forms in different countries" and that "fascism assumes different aspects at different times in the same country."

Most profoundly, he said that all capitalist political institutions and regimes have an inherent tendency towards reaction and hence to fascism. "This tendency toward the fascist form of government is present everywhere," Togliatti said. "But this does not mean fascism must perform be arrived at everywhere." Like Dimitrov, Togliatti maintained that much depended on the fighting strength of the working class.

During the century since Dimitrov delivered his report to the Communist International, and Togliatti delivered his lectures, much has changed and much has been learned.

In the 1970s, Greek communist Nicos Poulantzas wrote an important and useful book, *Fascism and Dictatorship*. Writing under the influence of the wave of revolution that stretched from the early 1960s to the mid-1970s, Poulantzas argued that there were any number of what he referred to as "exceptional states." That is to say, states and regimes that were "exceptions" to the classical model of capitalism. Such exceptions were fascism, Bonapartism, Caesarism, authoritarian military regimes and various forms of police states.

From Poulantzas's point of view it was necessary to determine precisely what form of extreme right-wing state was in power or coming into power in order to know how to combat it. And while there is a good deal of truth to his position, ultimately what is necessary is to examine the actual and concrete situation brewing in imperialism in the present historical conjuncture.

Dimitrov, Togliatti and Poulantzas were each in their own way analyzing fascism during periods when working-class revolutionary forces were relatively strong, when the fascist alternative seemed to the ruling class necessary to hold on to power, and

■ FASCIST INTERNATIONAL, PG 10



From Cuba to Palestine — working people, internationalism and solidarity

ROZHIN EMADI

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Cuba on behalf of my union. What I witnessed was nothing short of remarkable. Despite the brutal and criminal US sanctions and embargo, Cuba has managed to build some of the strongest public infrastructures in the world, especially in education and healthcare.

Even more inspiring is how workers and unions are integrated into Cuba's political system. Every union has representation in the National Assembly, giving workers direct influence over legislation and governance. That is a reality far removed from our own, and one our labour movement must learn from.

When we met with the union representing education, sports and science workers, we learned that 80 percent of its leadership are women. This reflects broader gender equity across Cuban society, where over 60 percent of government members are women. Again, this stands in stark contrast to our reality in Canada – something we must reckon with and strive to change.

Cuba's achievements are not accidental. They are the result of a socialist system, one that prioritizes the liberation and wellbeing of working people over the pursuit of profit. A system that upholds education, housing, healthcare and food as rights, not privileges. A system that values environmental protection over destruction for private gain. A system that strives to unite people across race, cultures, gender and sexuality, rather than divide them for the benefit of the powerful.

As such, these values are reflected in Cuba's foreign policy. Unlike imperialist countries that export war and violence, Cuba exports doctors, solidarity and hope. Rooted in internationalism and a love for humanity, Cuba has always stood with Palestine – calling for an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people long before most people in our world even knew what was going on. Fidel Castro himself demanded an end to that violence decades ago.

In contrast, during the ongoing genocide in Palestine today, imperial powers – led by the US and supported by Canada – have doubled down on their military and political backing of Israel, working to crush Palestinian self-determination.

But Palestine is not an isolated case. The current genocide is part of a much broader imperialist project. From Iraq and Afghanistan to Libya, Syria, Iran, China, Korea, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, we see the same pattern – nations and peoples who resist imperial domination are targeted, destabilized and punished.

The erasure of Palestine from the map is no accident. It has been a longstanding goal of Western powers seeking economic and strategic control over the Middle East. And it is no coincidence that the only two countries that consistently vote to maintain the US embargo on Cuba are the US and Israel. So, the same forces actively supporting the genocide of the Palestinian people are the same forces that have been attempting to destroy the Cuban revolution and socialism for decades.

Canada is not innocent either. As mentioned, it remains one of Israel's closest allies – militarily, politically and econom-

ically. This alliance is unsurprising, given Canada's own colonial foundations and its ongoing displacement of Indigenous peoples. In fact, Canada's reserve system directly influenced both South African apartheid and Israel's regime of occupation and segregation.

People in Canada must demand better. We must hold our government accountable. We must call for an immediate end to arms sales to Israel and fight for a foreign policy rooted in justice.

Since launching Labour for Palestine in Vancouver, we have done this. We've built a growing network of union members committed to this struggle. We've passed resolutions in our unions, led educational workshops, launched the national Hot Cargo Campaign, and worked to keep Palestine front and center in our labour work. Because Palestinian liberation is a labour issue.

We must take inspiration from Cuba's example of internationalist solidarity. We must push our unions to rise to the moment: to support boycotts, raise awareness and answer the call from Palestinian workers for global solidarity – just as workers did in the fight against South African apartheid, which Cuba very much opposed as well.

Some Canadian factories developing weapons or sending off weapons from Canada directly to Israel are unionized. That is why we have launched our Hot Cargo Campaign – so unions refuse to handle any goods directly enabling the genocide.

As the saying goes, "an injury to one is an injury to all." The Cuban people have lived by that principle since the start of their revolution – despite decades of imperialist aggression. Cuba has never backed down. It continues to fight for sovereignty and for a world where people and the planet come before profit. Palestinians do the same. In the face of military occupation and genocidal violence, they resist with courage and dignity. Working people in Canada have much to learn from both.

Think of these words from Fidel Castro:

"Why should some people walk barefoot so that others can travel in luxurious cars?"

Why should some live only thirty-five years so that others can live to seventy?"

Why should some be miserably poor so that others can be immensely rich?"

I speak on behalf of the children in the world who have no bread.

I speak on behalf of the sick who have no medicine, of those whose right to life and human dignity has been denied."

Working people must carry this vision forward. Fidel's words and the ongoing resilience of the Cuban and Palestinian people should inspire us to act, to organize and to believe in the possibility of a better world. We must continue to educate, mobilize and fight – for justice, for the planet, and for a future where no one is disposable.

Because when we fight, we win. And we have to fight harder than ever because we have a whole world to win. ■

Speech on behalf of Labour for Palestine at Moncada Day event in Vancouver



Militarism and climate change: a suicidal spiral

MARÍA JULIA MAYORAL

Investments to address environmental pressures suffer from chronic under-funding, while trillions of dollars fuel arms buildup and war

Global military spending is rising rapidly, regardless of the ecological damage and despite the knowledge that the arms race intensifies greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which exacerbate global warming.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the amount rose to more than \$2.7 trillion in 2024, representing a 9.4 percent increase in real terms compared to 2023.

The top five countries – the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India – accounted for 60 percent of the total with combined spending of \$1.6 trillion, the report said.

According to the agency's calculations, the global military burden – that is, the proportion of global gross domestic product (GDP) allocated to such purposes – rose to 2.5 percent last year.

In the case of the US, the figure rose to \$997 billion due, among other reasons, to the interest in "modernizing military capabilities and the atomic arsenal to maintain the strategic advantage over Russia and China," according to SIPRI.

Other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also increased their budgets, resulting in a combined total of more than \$1.5 trillion, equivalent to 55 percent of global military spending during the previous fiscal year.

On this issue, the Transnational Institute (TNI) drew attention to the effects in a 2023 report entitled *Climate Crossfire: How NATO's 2 percent military spending targets contribute to climate breakdown*.

The report noted that mitigation and adaptation measures to combat climate change suffer from a chronic funding deficit, as "the richest countries, which are primarily responsible for environmental collapse, have not been able to fulfill even their limited promises."

However, they are increasing budgets for defense and direct incentives to private companies linked to the sector, including high-tech firms whose products have dual use (ci-

vilian and military).

As a result, NATO's military carbon footprint, TNI noted, rose from 196 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2-eq) in 2021 to 226 million tCO2-eq in 2023, an increase of 30 million tons in two years.

When the research came to light, the bloc had 31 members, all of whom promised to allocate amounts equivalent to 2 percent of their respective national GDPs to defense.

Achieving this goal could generate an additional 467 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions in eight years, the TNI research revealed.

If the members of the transatlantic alliance fulfill their 2 percent commitment, between 2021 and 2028 their collective military carbon footprint will be 2 billion tCO2-eq, higher than the annual GHG emissions of Russia, one of the world's leading oil producers, the study said.

But the latent risk continues to grow: in June 2025, NATO announced that the vast majority of its current 32 members intend to raise the proportion to 5 percent of GDP by 2035.

In this regard, the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau argued that all stages of the military economic cycle are linked to specific damage to the environment, from the consumption of energy and resources necessary for normal military activity, weapons testing and production, as well as their transport, to post-conflict reconstruction, which includes pollution caused by toxic waste, deforestation and the loss of habitats and ecosystems as a result of militarization and conflict.

The Spanish institution argued that ecological transition necessarily involves "processes of disarmament and demilitarization: reduction of global military spending, conversion of the arms industry into a renewable energy industry, and dismantling of the nuclear arsenal."

Every eight hours, humanity spends the same amount of money on military matters as the World Health Organization has for an entire year, denounced the organization's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

According to the United Nations, 8.2 percent of the world's population – some 673 million people – went hungry in 2024; therefore, there is also a need to distribute more food and fewer weapons. ■

Granma (English)

Youth of Palestine: the backbone of struggle and revolution

STATEMENT FROM THE PALESTINIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH UNION (PDYU)

On the twelfth of August each year, the world celebrates International Youth Day – an occasion established by the United Nations in 1999 as a global platform to shed light on youth issues and challenges, and to highlight their role in development and change.

While the world marks this occasion this year with slogans of development and the future, the youth of Palestine are bleeding on the fronts of struggle. They are resisting genocide in the Gaza Strip, confronting annexation, settlement and ethnic cleansing projects in the West Bank and Jerusalem, and suffering from poverty, unemployment, marginalization and racism in refugee camps. All of this unfolds under a political and economic siege aimed at breaking their will and uprooting them from their land and national memory.

Since October 7, 2023, the occupation has targeted all foundations of resilience and resistance in its cowardly war, causing catastrophic repercussions for Palestinian youth everywhere. In the Gaza Strip, the occupation has turned schools and universities into rubble and halted the educational process entirely, aiming to destroy the awareness of generations and deprive them of their right to education. This is paralleled by a policy of starvation and blockade designed to break their will and leave them facing an uncertain fate and future.

In the West Bank and Jerusalem, persecution and arrests of young people and students have intensified, with universities turned into arenas of raids and intimidation, in an attempt to silence any resisting voice and block any organized national action. Meanwhile, in the refugee camps, suffocating economic crises have deepened unemployment and poverty rates, narrowing educational and employment opportunities for youth and making their daily life an open battle for survival.

This all-out war on the Palestinian people and youth is but one chapter in a colo-



rial project seeking to kill the present and steal the future. Yet, despite wounds and oppression, the youth of Palestine prove every day that they are the foundation of resistance, the guardians of land and identity, and that they are moving forward until victory, freedom and return.

We extend our pride and honour to the youth of Palestine in the occupied homeland – in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem – and in the refugee camps of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, as well as in the diaspora. We salute their legendary steadfastness in confronting occupation, settlement, siege and marginalization, and their unwavering adherence to national principles despite attempts at displacement and identity erasure.

We affirm that Palestinian youth are not on the sidelines of the battle – they are at its very heart. Our youth are the vanguard of popular resistance, the initiators in defending land and identity, and the steadfast holders of the right of return, despite all the siege, restrictions and deprivation they face. Every bullet, every stone, every chant in a march and every word of truth is a youthful act defying the liquidation proj-

■ THE WILL OF THE YOUTH, PG 11

"Hoekstra Go Home!" — hundreds protest US Ambassador to Canada at Wpg speaking event

CAM SCOTT

On July 29, over two hundred people gathered outside the Winnipeg Art Gallery to protest an appearance by Pete Hoekstra, United States Ambassador to Canada, on his cross-country speaking tour. The event was promoted by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce as a simple "fireside chat," but the meeting was far more suspenseful than your average \$200 luncheon for the business class. Three months into a fraught assignment, Hoekstra's road trip was clearly meant to preserve the longstanding integration of US and Canadian corporate monopolies, and to assuage concerns amid an escalating trade war.

Hoekstra has his work cut out for him, and his strained humour hardly softens the effects of Trump's diatribes against Canada and other allies. Hoekstra has spent much of his camera time so far trying to brush away Trump's threats as an obvious joke, but this begins to feel like a "good cop-bad cop" routine where his boss remains committed to the bit.

Only weeks before Hoekstra's cross-country tour, Trump gave an interview in which he restated his desire for Canada to become "the 51st state," leaving his ambassador to backpedal frantically before his hosts. Hoekstra's attempts at damage control mimic Trump's blunt delivery, to the point of sounding like a degraded echo of the President. "Get over it, Canada," Hoekstra quipped before a May press conference – but his slightly softer



brand of schoolyard diplomacy continues to offend both popular and elite interests north of the border.

That said, a cursory roll call of Hoekstra's Winnipeg reception shows who stands to lose, and who to profit, from this new era of US-Canada relations. Inside the gallery, a cross-section of business owners, sitting members of Parliament and city councillors assembled to learn about "the global economic forces reshaping our cross-border relationship" from a MAGA Republican of hateful pedigree. Outside, a worker's chorus gathered to oppose the hospitality extended this belligerent by Winnipeg's own ruling class, with speakers from a range of social movements including Healthcare Workers for Palestine, Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee, Peace Alliance Winnipeg and more.

■ WHO IS PETE HOEKSTRA, PG 12

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Crisis in Sudan deepens with emergence of parallel governments: Sudanese CP

In April 2025, Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF), one of the factions in the country's devastating civil war, formed what it calls the "Government of Peace and Unity" (also known as the Transitional Peace Government) in the areas it controls. The RSF established this body as a "parallel government" to the Transitional Sovereignty Council, the governing military junta controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) which is the other faction in the civil war.

Below, we reproduce a communiqué from the Sudanese Communist Party, analyzing this situation of parallel government and the dangers it poses to the people of the country.

The recent proclamation of a so-called "parallel government" under the leadership of RSF head Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (also known as Hemedti) constitutes a grave usurpation of political legitimacy, further compounded by the continued existence of the equally unlawful Transitional Peace Government administration in Port Sudan.

This new entity is not merely unconstitutional – it is the direct consequence of the illegitimate military coup of October 25, 2021, which tore up the transitional Constitutional Charter, plunged the nation into a protracted and ruinous war, and set in motion a humanitarian catastrophe marked by mass displacement, the loss of countless lives, and widespread atrocities.

Both warring factions bear full responsibility for heinous crimes including genocide, ethnic cleansing and sexual violence. These constitute egregious violations of international humanitarian law, and any credible path forward must be rooted in the principle of accountability. The culture of impunity must be irrevocably dismantled.

The concurrent existence of two rival governments imperils the very foundation of Sudan's territorial integrity and political cohesion. This fragmentation mirrors the trajectory that culminated in the secession of South Sudan, foreshadowed now by the self-determination clause embedded within the constitutional draft of the RSF-led Tasis Alliance – an article that legitimizes secession in the absence of secular governance at the national level.

Such provisions do not reflect national self-assertion, but rather the deepening erosion of the state, laying Sudan bare to exploitation by regional and international powers whose agendas are neither neutral nor benevolent.

Moreover, this development augments the likelihood of an entrenched, prolonged conflict and intensifies the already intolerable suffering borne by the Sudanese people. Secession, once again, presents no viable resolution to Sudan's existential crisis; the harrowing experience of South Sudan remains a cautionary tale.

To invoke self-determination under such conditions is not an act of liberation but one of disintegration – a retreat from the collective national struggle to reclaim the revolution and to forge a Sudanese state founded on democracy, civic equality and genuine national emancipation. These are the imperatives articulated by the December 2018 Revolution and echoed in every region of the country.

Fundamental questions of state structure, including secularism, must not be imposed

by force or faction, but rather deliberated within the framework of a nationally convened constitutional conference – a truly sovereign political process.

The establishment of the parallel government was transparently a maneuver designed to pre-empt and shape the deliberations of the July 29 meeting of the Quad (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and the United States) which purports to facilitate a cessation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement. Yet such a development must be situated within its broader geopolitical context: the intensifying contest among rival capitalist powers for control of Sudan's vast natural resources and its strategic geography, particularly the Red Sea corridor and the Horn of Africa.

What is at stake is not merely peace, but the sovereignty of Sudan and the future of the African continent. This scenario is not anomalous; it is integral to the broader framework of the "Greater Middle East" project, whose strategic logic aims at the dismemberment of national unities across the region in order to facilitate imperial expropriation.

It is evidenced today in the systematic liquidation of the Palestinian cause, the genocide and forced displacement of the Palestinian people, the attempted erasure of the December 2018 Sudanese Revolution, and the ignition of the infernal war that presently consumes the nation.

In summation, the proliferation of rival governments within Sudan constitutes an existential threat to national unity, accelerates the pillaging of national wealth, undermines sovereignty, extends the duration of armed conflict, and deepens the suffering of the Sudanese people. The ongoing political processes must not be assessed in isolation but understood within the matrix of global capitalist competition over Africa's resources and strategic waterways.

Needed now: a popular national front

What is required now is the construction of the broadest possible popular national front – uncompromising in its demand for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the restoration of the revolution's momentum, and the preservation of Sudan's unity. The overthrow of both illegitimate regimes is imperative.

The Sudanese people must press forward in their struggle until the complete withdrawal of the military establishment, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and all militias from the spheres of politics and economy is achieved.

This entails the dismantling of the entrenched networks of economic and political patronage ("Tamkin"), the restitution of misappropriated public wealth, and the unyielding pursuit of justice. Only through the establishment of a fully civilian and democratic government, the disbandment of all militias and rebel armies, and the creation of a unified, professional and nonpartisan national military under civilian authority can Sudan realize the full aspirations of its revolution.

Any political settlement that reproduces the structures of crisis, conflict and exploitation must be unequivocally rejected. The Revolution's objectives must be fulfilled, and the transitional period must be used to lay the groundwork for a new, just and democratic Sudan. ■

Report associating sanctions with death has implications for blockade of Cuba

W. T. WHITNEY, JR.

The new report from The Lancet medical journal does not mention Cuba, but its main finding – that sanctions are lethal – clarifies to what extent and how it is that the US economic blockade of Cuba is war against Cuba. The report informs activists and others of the defining features of a state of war that many are already aware of.

The report shows that the economic sanctions making up the blockade are more dangerous and lethal than are those US actions often characterized as hybrid war. That kind of aggression, aimed at destabilizing or undermining governments not to US liking, involves the use of armed toughs, cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns or "economic pressure" of a softer variety.

Lethal sanctions

The authors analyzed the effect on health of sanctions for 152 countries between 1971 and 2021. They reported that, during the period between 2010 and 2021, "unilateral sanctions were associated with an annual toll of 564,258 deaths." The report is remarkable for its sophisticated methods of statistical analysis.

They add that, "This estimate corresponds to 3.6 percent of total deaths observed in sanctioned countries [and is] higher than the average annual number of battle-related casualties during this period (106,000 deaths per year) and similar to some estimates of the total death toll of wars including civilian casualties (around half a million deaths per year)."

According to the report, "unilateral economic sanctions were significantly associated with increased mortality for at least six of the seven age groups." More specifically, "deaths of children younger than 5 years represented 51 percent of total deaths caused by sanctions over the 1970–2021 period [and] most deaths (77 percent over the same period) were in the 0–15 years and 60–80 years age groups."

The US government is the lead offender: "US unilateral sanctions were significant for six age groups, whereas EU unilateral sanctions were not significant in any of the age groups [and we] found no statistical evidence of an effect for UN sanctions." Ultimately, "unilateral and economic sanctions, particularly those imposed by the US, lead to substantial increases in mortality, disproportionately affecting children younger than 5 years."

Epidemiologic data show that, indeed, those Cubans vulnerable on account of age and dependency are more likely than other Cubans to die. Cuba's infant mortality rate (IMR), the number of babies dying in their first year of life per 1000 births, is 8.2 so far in 2025; that's up from 7.1 in 2024. Cubans and their government had taken pride in having reduced Cuba's IMR to 4.2 in 2014. Cuba's 1960 IMR was somewhere between 65 and 39 (estimates vary). The US IMR in 2014 was 5.9, down from 25.9 in 1960.

By 2023, Cuba's death rate for children under five per 1000 births, 6.0 in 2014, had increased to 8.3. Life expectancy at birth in Cuba dropped in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic but afterwards returned to pre-pandemic norms.

The survival of infants anywhere rests on access to competent healthcare and on favorable social circumstances. These include mothers with education and families with adequate income, food and housing. These conditions hardly exist in Cuba today, thanks to the blockade.

Mechanisms

Cubans have been confronting a process that starts with US regulations, continues with shortages, and finishes with suffering and even death. We review elements of this process, probably familiar to many readers, in order to clarify the nature



of US war on Cuba.

The US government restricts Cuba's worldwide imports and exports, the arrivals of ships and planes, and Cuba's sources of foreign income. These include the tourist industry, remittances, Cubans working abroad such as doctors, international loans, and payments from abroad. Regulations requiring international financial institutions to not handle dollars in Cuba's transactions cause special grief. Most countries must use US dollars in international dealings, and Cuba is not allowed to do so.

Food supply is unreliable due to Cubans' lack of purchasing power and farmers' lack of resources like spare parts, new equipment, credit, fertilizers, seeds and adequate transportation. The need to import food is a great financial drain.

Healthcare is problematic due to shortages of medical supplies and drugs and of healthcare workers, their numbers being diminished on account of emigration, amplified by the blockade. The repair and building of houses suffer from lack of funds, supplies, equipment and tools. Schools confront shortages of imported supplies, emigration of teachers, and infrastructure deficiencies.

Imperialism

According to the report, sanctions mushroomed following World War II: "The fraction of the world's economy subject to unilateral sanctions has grown from 5.4 percent in the 1960s to 24.7 percent in the 2010–22 period."

The onset of the sanctions regimen coincided with decolonization and determination by the United States and other industrialized states to maintain control over newly independent states and other poorer nations. Sanctions facilitate imperialist purposes.

Writing on the "The Brutal Impact of Sanctions on the Global South," legal scholar Joy Gordon agrees: "Sanctions are overwhelmingly a tool of wealthy and powerful nations, used almost exclusively against countries that are vastly smaller and economically precarious." Following World War II, the US "had a near monopoly on the aggressive use of [sanctions] to achieve its objectives."

Mark Weisbrot, coauthor of the report discussed here, notes in a separate article where he discusses his report that, "Sanctions are becoming the preferred weapon of the United States and some allies – not because they are less destructive than military action, but more likely because the toll is less visible." However, establishing the equivalence as regards the Cuba blockade requires adherence to a crucial criterion, namely the fact of deaths caused by the blockade, the killing. The US blockade passes that test.

For US powerbrokers, Cuba may be a special case, and the blockade is "worth it" – after all, a Communist Party holds political power there. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke those words in 1996 as she justified US sanctions against Iraq. They killed 500,000 children. ■

LABOUR

Coast Victoria Hotel workers strike

Following a one-day strike on August 8, workers at Coast Victoria Hotel walked off the job again on August 20.

UNITE HERE Local 40, which represents room attendants, front desk agents, kitchen staff, servers and other employees at the hotel, has been in negotiations for several months. Key issues include workloads, respect on the job and living wages.

The union points out that the living wage in Victoria is now nearly \$27 an hour.

Coast Victoria is owned and operated by APA Hotels & Resorts, the Tokyo-based hotel chain. In February, APA reported record earnings across international operations of \$2.1 billion CAD and stated in a company publication that the company was "setting sales and profit records for the second period in a row."

Dalhousie U locks out faculty

Dalhousie University locked out nearly 1000 members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) on August 20, even as union members were voting on the university's final offer.

DFA President David Westwood called the lockout reckless. "This is a labour disruption initiated by the employer, not by the union. We have been clear all along that our objective is to negotiate at the table. We want to work, and we have a lot of preparations to get ready for the fall term. It is beyond irresponsible for the Board to suggest to students with any confidence that there will be little to no disruption to the Fall semester."

Key issues include the university's continued reliance on limited-term contracts for long-term continuing teaching needs, and ensuring that wages keep pace with dramatic increases in the cost of living in Nova Scotia.

Ontario college staff vote in record numbers to authorize strike

Over 8000 support staff at Ontario colleges voted by over 77 percent in favour of strike action by their union, OPSEU.

A key issue in the dispute is the fact that an estimated 10,000 workers in Ontario's public college system have or will be laid off, and 600 programs have been cut due to decades of government underfunding.

The union says that, with the province's college system facing a near total collapse, it is fighting for a fair contract and for a different college system:

"A system where our work is respected. A system where we are job-secure, without constantly preparing a Plan B or C to make ends meet. A system where we invest in staff on the frontlines because it's an investment in students and classrooms – instead of courting corporate sponsors or private partnerships. A system that listens and responds to community interests – instead of cutting programs that our communities need."

24-hour strike Lavo factory in Montreal

On August 20, approximately 140 workers at the Lavo plant in Montreal began a 24-hour strike. The walkout follows the employer's decision yesterday to break off talks with the CSN union, just as the parties were preparing to begin three days of negotiations with a conciliator.

"Our members are fed up with the nonsense at the table. The negotiating committee had reviewed and eliminated several demands in the hope of breaking the deadlock in the talks," said local union president Sébastien Sylver.

Since the start of negotiations in October 2024, nearly 30 meetings have been held without significant progress. Faced with this, union members unanimously adopted a five-day strike mandate.

Needed now:

A strong, united, mobilized labour movement!



UNITY AND MILITANCY CAN WIN - LABOUR LEADERS FROM ACROSS CANADA GATHER TO OPPOSE DOUG FORD'S ATTACK ON THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, 2022

The federal government's latest intervention to break free collective bargaining took place just two weeks before Labour Day when striking Air Canada employees were ordered back to work, within hours of commencing job action.

The government's defence was the same as it was when it intervened to block strikes in the rail industry, strikes of dock workers on the west coast and in Montreal, and postal workers across Canada: "Protecting the public interest." But strike breaking is strike breaking. If the government had any real interest in the "public interest" it would have told employers to negotiate collective agreements instead of holding out until employer-friendly governments came to their rescue with back to work legislation. In the case of Air Canada, it would have passed legislation requiring employers to pay workers for all time worked, rather than fleecing them for an average of 35 hours of unpaid work each month.

Free collective bargaining *is* in the public interest. And it's the law in Canada, as is right to strike for all but essential workers. But these rights can only be guaranteed if they're included in a Labour Bill of Rights in Canada's Constitution. The fact that Air Canada and CUPE reached a tentative deal within hours of the union defying the back-to-work order shows that free collective bargaining works.

Liberals and the Conservatives have a history of restricting and negating those rights, in support of corporate power and profits. As former head of the Bank of Canada and then the Bank of England Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney has lots of experience defending corporate profits and interests. His job has always been to protect monopoly interests, utilizing economic levers such as interest rates to hold down workers' wages and living standards while supporting back-to-work legislation on striking workers.

The right to strike is a fundamental right for unionized workers in Canada, as is the right to picket and to organize and join a union. Almost a third of the workforce in Canada is unionized, and is growing as young workers and unorganized and laid-off workers seek the economic security and protections that unions provide. This is despite the never-ending efforts of corporations and right-wing governments to undermine and limit the power and the strength of the trade union movement in Canada. This includes the Conservative Party which claims to be a party for workers – "but not unions" – just like Trump in the US. It also includes Quebec's CAQ government whose Bill 89 seeks to expand the definition of "essential workers" so that the government can shut down strikes and refer them to binding arbitration.

Organized labour in the US has shrunk to a density of just 8 percent of the workforce, leaving millions of workers unorganized and unprotected from unrestrained corporate power and greed, and fascist political movements and governments. This is the result of union busting legislation and campaigns combined with virulent an-

ti-communism that broke the back of the AFL-CIO and weakened the labour movement in Canada too.

International labour unity, solidarity and collective action against transnational corporations, supra-national bodies like the World Bank and World Trade Organization, and trade agreements like CUSMA/NAFTA is needed today more than ever. Workers around the world have common interests for good jobs, rising living standards, social programs, peace, democracy and development; but are increasingly facing off against global corporations whose only interest is profits and more profits. Elon Musk is a perfect example of what workers in the US and internationally are facing today. This includes military invasions and wars as transnational corporations fight for control of global resources and markets.

Trump's war on the world is US imperialism's response to China's rapid advances in national and global economic development and trade which will soon eclipse the position of the US as the dominant economic power internationally. Major efforts have been made by the US, Canada and other NATO countries to paint China as a political and economic threat though there is no evidence to back up the claim as the Hogue Commission report showed.

The US, on the other hand, has done serious damage to the Canadian economy, to workers' jobs and security, and the threats and damage keep escalating. It's the US – with complicity of corporate monopolies and right-wing political movements here – that's attacking Canada, and not only the economy, but also Canada's sovereignty and independence. Trump's threats are also fueling the Alberta government's drive to separate from Canada – and become the 51st state.

Trump's tariffs – both on their own and by exacerbating existing crises – have already cost tens of thousands of workers their jobs in the auto industry, in steel, and in aluminum, with more to come following Trump's August 1 announcement raising across the board tariffs to 35 percent, with 50 percent tariffs on copper, steel and aluminum, and with more attacks and tariffs on lumber and dairy coming soon.

Unifor has warned that the tariffs on cars could lead to 20,000 autoworker layoffs in the city of Windsor alone, plus thousands more in Oshawa, Brampton, Oakville, St. Catharines and wherever US auto companies have assembly plants, and in the parts plants that feed them. Honda has decided not to build a plant in Canada because of the trade war, leaving hundreds of workers jobless. Other automobile companies are making similar decisions, including those making electric vehicles and the engines that make them work.

Prime Minister Carney's response has been to make enormous concessions including elimination of the Digital Services Tax which would have generated an estimated \$2 billion annually from US corporations alone. This and other corporate tax cuts could have been put into Medicare, or Employment Insurance, or social hous-

ing, or childcare, or pay and employment equity, or youth employment, or municipal services – the list is long. Instead of raising – and collecting – corporate taxes, the PM has bowed to Trump's demand to increase military spending to 5 percent of GDP (\$4000 per capita) annually by 2035. This would include increased funding for NORAD, \$300 billion on new warships, and joining the US in its Golden Dome "continental defence."

Carney has ordered 15 percent across-the-board cuts to social spending and public services to pay for increased military spending, and there will be more.

Now the PM and Parliament are orienting on renewing the Canada-US-Mexico free trade agreement (CUSMA) which is up for renewal in 2026. But it is this hemispheric agreement that has caused so much grief for Canada and Mexico. In 1988 the newly minted Canada-US Free Trade Agreement was condemned by the Communist Party and others as a "continental corporate constitution." These free trade agreements have been dominated by, and subjugated Canada's economy and foreign policy to US control.

Instead of expanding and deepening US control over Canada's economy, foreign policy and trade, Canada needs to get out of CUSMA, get out of NATO, and assert its sovereignty and independence with a foreign policy of peace and disarmament, with a trade policy that's multi-lateral and mutually beneficial, and with an economic policy that builds up the Canadian economy with a strong base in secondary industry and manufacturing, creating hundreds of thousands of well-paid, value added jobs in the process. A strong economic policy will also protect farmers and the supply management system that guarantees farmers' incomes and a safe food supply for consumers.

We need to nationalize the big auto operations in Canada and build a Canadian car and a Canadian transportation industry that's includes trains, planes and shipbuilding. We also need to put the airline industry under public ownership and democratic control – starting with the renationalization of Air Canada – and repeal the Open Skies policy that has led to high prices, low wages and greatly reduced transportation service within Canada. The PM's drive towards further deregulation must also be stopped.

We need to nationalize the oil companies and move to major investments in renewable energy sources now, while there is still time. And instead of new pipelines that threaten the environment and trample on Indigenous rights and land, we need to build millions of units of affordable social housing, rebuild federal, provincial and municipal infrastructure, expand universal social programs and public services, and create permanent and well-paid jobs for today and for the future.

We need to invest in Medicare including pharmacare and long-term care, and in public and post-secondary education

CBTU calls for unity and solidarity in fight against Trump's "War on Blackness"

COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS

It's remarkable but perhaps inevitable that THIS American president would impose a military occupation on the capital city itself. But this atrocity, this brazen power grab from a population already denied statehood, is not a random, petty act of a vengeful man. It is an open and explicit declaration of his War on Blackness.

Trump's War on Blackness runs deep. It is relentless and ruthless. But we cannot flinch in this fragile moment. We must stand on legacy and overcome. We know the worst blows recently to democracy have been leveled at Black populations – from L.A. to Texas to D.C. In July, the Trump regime sent 4,000 California National Guard troops and 700 Marines to quell ICE protests in Los Angeles, whose mayor is a well-respected Black woman, Karen Bass, former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Trump's illegal takeover of a city run by a seasoned Black woman was meant to erase her power and elevate the military presence in a city 70 percent non-white – over the mayor's objections. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) stands with the state in its lawsuit to end Trump's illegal seizure of California's National Guards.

Next on Trump's War on Blackness is Texas, where he is bullying the Republican legislature to rip up the current congressional map and draw a new, even more discriminatory political map that would potentially add five more Republican seats in Congress from Texas to help Trump impose his authoritarian agenda after the 2026 elections.

The new GOP seats would come at the expense of members of Congress who now represent hundreds of thousands of Black voters in the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth area. This partisan gerrymandering will disenfranchise Black and Brown people to help Donald Trump rig the pivotal 2026 midterm elections. He's not even trying to disguise his corrupt power grab. Black folks stand in his way to keeping a rubber-stamp majority in Congress. Trump is also plotting now to steal Democrats' seats in other states where Black folks will stand in his way to grab more power, including Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

Trump's attempt to redraw congressional maps before the midterm elections and before the next census is unprecedented but very targeted. He's not trying to shrink representation of white voters in Congress. He only wants to erase the voice and power of Black voters who see through his MAGA lies and distractions. CBTU applauds Texas Democrats for taking a stand against Trump's redistricting scheme. We are inspired by your courage and determination to defend democracy.

So here we land, in D.C. under Trump's fabricated occupation – in spite of crime statistics trending downward in major cat-



egories, including violent crime, which has reached its lowest level in 30 years. As he did in Los Angeles, Trump intentionally bypassed D.C.'s Black mayor, Muriel Bowser, in taking control of the city's police force and deploying over 200 National Guard troops. He also berated her intelligence and demeaned her leadership, as he did to L.A. Mayor Karen Bass.

It's no coincidence that he has tried to embarrass and erase two Black women in powerful positions.

But why does Trump's authoritarian occupation of D.C. matter so much and cut so deep with Black folks beyond Ben's Chili Bowl and the capital beltway? Trump wants to put his racist brand on a city that has symbolic meaning to Black people across the country. He wants to humiliate Black leadership and reinforce the racist stereotype of Black incompetence.

After all, doesn't John Wayne or some white superhero always come to rescue a lawless town from "them"? But for a people who have survived slavery's lash and Jim Crow's noose and saw their beloved leaders cut down by bullets, this moment is only the test before the triumph.

We condemn Donald Trump's rampage against Blackness – from L.A. to Texas to D.C.; from his federal DEI purge to his union-busting and destruction of public education. He cannot purge Blackness from America's DNA no matter how many executive orders he signs or insults he hurls at strong Black leaders.

We reiterate our call for statehood in the District of Columbia, not National Guard troops patrolling city streets.

We strongly urge our white allies in this struggle to openly and consistently denounce the racist targeting of Black leaders, Black populations, and institutions that preserve, teach and elevate Black history and culture.

Silence in this moment could have deadly consequences. Be clear, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists has not and never will bow to evil. We do not believe our future is beyond our control. We will not relinquish the power of our labour solidarity and the strength of our resilient Blackness.

Occupied but not subdued! ■

USW joins global effort to demand Telus respect its workers and their rights

A delegation from United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1944 traveled to Turkey in August, to meet Telus workers in Izmir who received government certification of their union a year ago, but which Telus still refuses to recognize. The workers are employed as content moderators for TikTok and are paid barely above the minimum wage in Turkey.

The Turkish workers described the challenges of organizing in the global 'Business Process Outsourcing' industry.

Telus is primarily known in Canada as a provider of phone and internet services. Yet alongside rivals including Teleperformance and Concentrix, it also employs thousands of workers around the world to

provide content moderation and to train Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the world's big tech companies including Google and Meta.

As in Turkey, these jobs are typically paid at the minimum wage and can involve viewing disturbing images including violence and sexual abuse for hours a day. Minimal support is provided for workers whose mental health is affected. Instead, they are pressured to meet high metrics or risk losing their jobs.

Meanwhile, in Canada over the past decade, Telus has continuously downsized and outsourced thousands of jobs while

■ JOINT UNION PLAN, PG 11



Unifor warns auto industry is in the "fight of our lives" but falls short of calling for nationalization

DAVE MCKEE

Auto workers in Canada were among the first – and worst – affected by Donald Trump's tariff war. The sector, which directly employs around 125,000 workers in the country, was hit with thousands of layoffs on the first day of the tariff announcement and has since seen wave after wave of losses, cancellations and delays.

At an August 15 meeting of the union's auto sector, Unifor President Lana Payne bluntly outlined the stakes: "This is the fight of our lives, [and] we may need to be prepared to lay it all on the line. There is so much at stake right now and at risk. We're up against a US President who has been very clear about he wants – he wants auto jobs and is willing to use extortion and threats on a daily basis to get them. And it is us – collectively – that is standing in his way."

The union, which represents about 22,000 workers in auto assembly and another 28,700 in truck, bus, transit and specialty vehicles, says the impact of tariffs is already apparent. Stellantis has delayed planned electric vehicle retooling at its Brampton assembly plant, and has seen production slowdowns and a postponed third shift at its Windsor plant. General Motors has also announced job and production cuts at Oshawa and Ingersoll.

Trevor Longpre, Local 199 General Motors Plant Chair at the St. Catharines Propulsion Plant and GM Master Bargaining Committee Chair, warned that, "If these tariffs are not dealt with, the Canadian and North American auto industry will never look the

same. We need to look at this as a crisis – maybe the biggest industrial crisis we will face in our lifetimes. And everything is at stake."

In response to this crisis, Unifor is urging the federal government to "establish a permanent resolve that is based on zero tariffs, for the Canadian auto industry." Specifically, the union is calling on Ottawa to continue its counter tariffs on vehicles built in the US, ensure that automakers in Canada who benefit from tariff exemptions maintain their workforce and investment commitments in this country, and use the \$2 billion federal Strategic Response Fund to keep the auto sector afloat during the dispute.

In addition, Unifor is launching a new phase of its "Protect Canadian Jobs" campaign this fall, with rallies planned in key auto industry centres. Payne said the union is working to unite auto workers and members from different industries in this fight.

Why no call to nationalize?

However, lacking from Unifor's statements is anything about nationalizing the auto sector in Canada. This is notable, given that the current layoffs are not isolated incidents and are part of a decades-long assault by corporations on workers' jobs and livelihoods. Furthermore, federal and provincial governments have repeatedly shoveled public money to the auto corporations as a way to "secure" investment and jobs in Canada, only to have those same companies renege on these commitments.

■ CORPORATE THEFT, PG 11

FedEx wants to ban immigrant workers from unionizing, Teamsters union calls move racist

KIM SIEVER

At the end of July, Teamsters Canada posted an update regarding unionization efforts in Fort McMurray around FedEx workers.

Local 362 of the Teamsters has been trying to unionize workers stationed in the company's facility in northeast Alberta.

Unsurprisingly, FedEx is not too happy about it. And I say "unsurprisingly" not just because they are a large corporation. I say it also because they have a tendency to undermine unionization efforts.

For example, in early 2019, Teamsters Local 931 filed an application for certification with the Canadian Industrial Relations Board to become the bargaining agent for about 30 owner-operators employed by FedEx Freight at their Dorval depot.

FedEx Freight tried to undermine that application by arguing that the bargaining unit should also include any drivers that the owner-operators use to drive their trucks, presumably because that would mean that the number of workers that the Teamsters managed to get to sign cards would be in the minority.

Luckily, the CIRB decided in favour of the Teamsters and certified the owner-operators as a bargaining unit on March 8, 2019.

A little over a year later, one of their drivers filed an application to decertify the bargaining unit. After reviewing submissions from the member, the Teamsters and FedEx Freight, the CIRB pulled their certification, and the workers were no longer unionized as of May 13, 2020.

As well, the CIRB certified a unit of

FedEx Freight in Surrey on September 15, 2014, a year after they began operations. This unionized all dock workers except drivers, owner-operators, operations associates, dispatchers, supervisors, managers and anyone above the rank of manager.

Just three days later, the workers served notice to the employer to bargain for their first collective agreement. The two parties agreed to meet November 3-4 to begin bargaining, and the worker's bargaining committee sent their initial proposals to FedEx on October 23, 2014.

Shortly after that, however, the employer cancelled their November 3 meeting and met on the 4th. Instead of initiating bargaining when they met with the worker's bargaining committee, FedEx told them that they were shutting down the depot, and that they wanted to negotiate a closure agreement instead of a collective agreement.

This time, FedEx is trying a new tactic. According to the Teamsters, FedEx "has filed arguments before the Canada Industrial Relations Board claiming that 'temporary workers' like international students and temporary foreign workers, are not 'entitled to' unionize."

Teamsters are challenging this claim, calling it racist.

"The idea that immigrant workers with temporary status should be denied union representation is racist and morally indefensible," said François Laporte, president of Teamsters Canada. "Regardless of how someone came to work at FedEx, they deserve to be treated like any other worker in

■ IMMIGRANT WORKERS, PG 11



Labour unity and independent action are the key to victory

■ FROM PG 8

(which is being aggressively restructured with a view toward increased privatization of colleges and universities, resulting in massive job losses) and in cities and municipal services. We need higher wages, incomes, and pensions, and better living standards for all.

Diverting massive military spending to civilian spending, and increasing and collecting current and deferred corporate taxes can provide the funds needed to do it.

These are the key issues facing labour on this Labour Day 2025. The Air Canada fight shows that labour unity works. Independent labour political action led by a united trade union movement that includes the Canadian Labour Congress, Quebec unions and, and that works closely together with the democratic movements is the powerful force that holds the key to victory.

An injury to one is an injury to all. ■

Central Executive Committee
Communist Party of Canada

Young people cannot remain dormant in the face of looming recession

■ FROM PG 12

is calling for a full employment economy – all young workers must have the right to a decent, safe and full-time job with compensation that can provide for more than just bare necessities, only scraping by and getting into debt.

And we have the answer! We need to slash our ever-growing military budget in favour of investments into public universal social services – we call for “Peace and Prosperity not War and Austerity.” The prime minister has proposed raising the military budget to \$150 billion annually by 2035, in line with demands from Donald Trump and NATO. That amount of money could build 330,000 new social housing units or 3000 new primary schools or 40 new hospitals or 1,300,000 full-time jobs at \$40 per hour – each and every year.

We need to agitate for public monopolies on social services, both to create new full-time jobs and to increase the social wage through education, healthcare, childcare, transportation, culture, recreation and more.

This is connected to the struggles for reforms such as increased wages, shorter workday and work week with no loss in compensation, card-check certification for labour unions, and anti-scab laws. The fight for reforms is essential to building the broader struggle.

Young people cannot remain dormant in the face of the looming recession. Urgent action is needed to build a working-class movement capable of winning reforms and ultimately class power. ■

Rebel Youth (slightly edited for context)

Fascist international beginning to weave web



■ FROM PG 5

when the inherent brutality of capitalism expressed itself in various forms of the “open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital.” Or, as Dr. Bethune put it: “Threaten a reduction on the profit of their money and the beast in them awakens with a snarl.”

But what we are learning today – what has, in fact, become crystal clear and obvious – is that fascism can come to power when the working class of almost every capitalist nation is very far from achieving revolution.

It is also undeniable that the vast majority of the working class has not joined the Communist Party. So, it would seem that the capitalist class of almost every nation has had no need to move beyond the classic model of what is known, falsely, as liberal democracy, in order to maintain its hold on state power.

And yet it has done so. In a good many countries of Europe, for example, extreme-right political parties are making striking electoral gains. In Hungary, the far-right has taken power, as it has in El Salvador, Argentina, India and Israel. A fascist international is beginning to interweave a web.

But at the centre of imperialism, and at the purulent heart of the web of fascism, is the US. This is displayed particularly clearly in the regime of Donald Trump. In the heartland of capitalism in its imperialist stage we see before us the slow but steady march towards fascism. It has not yet consolidated itself into a fully-fledged system, but it is moving by incremental steps into a new and perhaps unique form of fascism.

Certainly, anyone paying attention can see that almost every day there is a new move in this direction. Mainstream media commentators note each new event or incident or proclamation, but fail to grasp the interconnections between each of these moments and the system which is being constructed behind the headlines. The fact that these steps are incremental only serves to seem to isolate what is, in reality, intimately connected.

There is no room here to make an exhaustive list of the events that have occurred since Trump came to power but consider that very early in his regime, he demanded that the Gulf of Mexico be renamed the Gulf of America. No one now even mentions this strange and disturbing incident, nor the threats to annex Greenland or Panama or Canada. These demagogic moves appear to have faded from

public consciousness and faded into the past, because each new day contains something that eclipses the events of the day before.

The universities are being crushed. Museums are under threat. Surveillance is increasing, dissent limited. The mass media, from newspapers to television networks, are being aggressively sued or denied access or otherwise forced to comply with Trump’s ideological agenda. Protesting genocide is being increasingly criminalized.

The Trump regime is rife with social demagoguery. Increasingly, anyone who opposes Trump is called a “communist” or a “radical Marxist extremist,” when in fact they are not. When Trump calls someone a communist he is invoking the memory of the McCarthy period when state propaganda turned the American people against socialism. It is intended to evoke hatred and loathing, and is a barely hidden call to violence in the same way that all fascist leaders from Hitler onward have used anti-communism.

And like every fascist or quasi-fascist leader, Trump has insisted that he will “restore law-and-order.” To that end the military has appeared in the streets of America, and in the very capital itself. A new national police force is in the offing, backed up by the fanatical forces of Trump’s MAGA movement. And like every fascist dictator, from the first day of his regime, he has been governing by executive order, sidelining both Congress and the courts and any form of democratic institution.

There is only one way to defeat fascism, and Dimitrov knew what it was. All the forces and people’s movements and political parties from the centre to the left, including democratic socialists, social democrats, other left entities and communists themselves must put aside their differences and organize themselves into a mass united front to resist and to confront and to oppose every manifestation of fascism.

This will not be an easy task. Class collaboration and opportunism is rife among the non-communist centre and centre-left, and communist parties throughout the capitalist-imperialist world are still in the slow process of rebuilding their strength and influence in a period of counter-revolution. Still, it is a task which must be done. Fascism must be destroyed. ■

David Lethbridge is former research director of the Bethune Institute for Anti-Fascist Studies

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SAT SEP 13 7PM PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZING

WHAT'S LEFT

CROSS-COUNTRY

AUG 30-SEP 3 | LABOUR DAY EVENTS

Mark Labour Day by connecting with working people and unions at marches, rallies, BBQs and other events across Canada. For a full event list, check out canadianlabour.ca/events.

VANCOUVER

SUNDAYS | GAZA SOLIDARITY RALLY

2 PM at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Join Palestine solidarity groups every Sunday to protest Israel's siege of Gaza.

VANCOUVER

SEP 13 | RADICAL LABOUR HISTORY

7 PM at the Centre for Socialist Education, 706 Clark Dr. Discussion on "Public Sector Organizing" as part of Radical Labour History of BC Summer Series.

VANCOUVER

SEP 14 | PV AT CAR-FREE DAY

12-6 PM, street festival on Main Street from East 10th to King Edward. Look for the PV tent!

VANCOUVER

SEP 21 | MILITARY SPENDING FORUM

6-8 PM at the Trout Lake Community Centre, 3365 Victoria Dr. Mark International Day of Peace at the Vancouver Peace Council's public forum on military spending. For details, email van_peacecouncil@mail.com.

VANCOUVER

SEP 28 | PUENTES DE AMOR RALLY

1 PM at the corner of Commercial and Broadway. Cuba solidarity rally with CCFA Vancouver.

WINNIPEG

SEP 28 | END THE BLOCKADE

1-2 PM at the corner of River and Osborne. Join the Manitoba Cuba Solidarity Committee for monthly action calling for an end to the US blockade of Cuba.

TORONTO

SEP 21 | PEACE OF THE PIE

1-5 PM at Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil. Mark International Day of Peace at the People's Hearings on Military Spending, organized by the Toronto Association for Peace and Solidarity.

TORONTO

SEP 28 | END THE BLOCKADE

1 PM at the US Consulate, 360 University Ave. Join CCFA Toronto and other solidarity activists for a monthly picket against the US blockade.

OTTAWA

SEP 17 | CUBA SOLIDARITY PICKET

1:30 PM at the US Embassy, 490 Sussex Drive. Join Ottawa Cuba Connections for monthly action to call for an end to the blockade and the return of the Guantanamo base to Cuba.

OTTAWA

SEP 28 | PUENTES DE AMOR RALLY

11 AM at the Cuban Embassy, 338 Main St. Monthly action in solidarity with Cuba.

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Despite some flaws, *Nuclear War* is essential reading for peace and progressive activists

Nuclear War – A Scenario

Annie Jacobsen
Dutton (2024)

REVIEW BY SAJEEV KUMAR

The existential threat posed against humans are climate change, nuclear war and AI – all three are linked to a capitalist mode of production and the production relation it entails. The last time an apocalypse happened was 65 million years ago when an asteroid collided with the earth before the emergence of humans as a species and when dinosaurs were inhabiting the earth.

The book *Nuclear War – A Scenario* by Annie Jacobsen is a scary minute by minute unfolding of a catastrophe of apocalyptic proportions after North Korea launches a nuclear attack on the United States. The hypothetical scenario starts with a radar blip on SBIRS (Satellite Based Infrared Systems) which is an indication of the launch of a nuclear missile from North Korea.

Though the book is based on a hypothetical situation, how the story unfolds is based on inputs from scientists and defence experts. What follows is a nightmare which ends in 1600 seconds. The book insinuates that humans are not worthy of the name Homo sapiens, which means “wise man” in Latin.

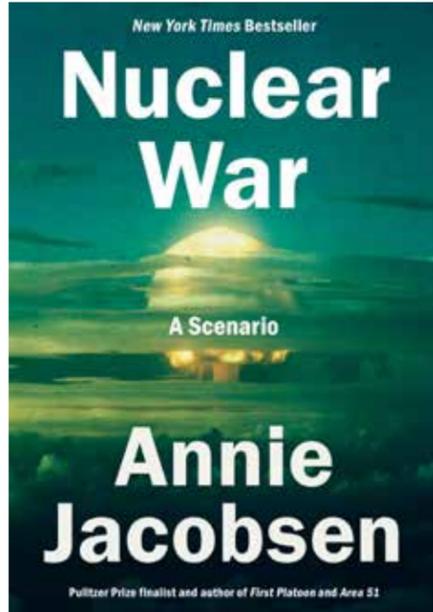
We live in a world of guided missiles and unguided men. Take Elon Musk for example, who recklessly stated in a 2024 interview with Donald Trump that a nuclear holocaust would “not be as scary as people think.” The start and end of a nuclear war using ICBM (Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles) is not far apart: there are only 1600 seconds in between.

Jacobsen’s story exposes how even US presidents are ignorant on the question of a nuclear war scenario. The president is eventually forced to flee Washington DC in KNEECAP (code name for doomsday plane), exposing how in a nuclear war nobody wins and that ultimately the living envy the dead.

Human beings change nature through their labour. In that process, human beings change themselves, and it is through this dialectical relationship that knowledge is gained. It is through the knowledge we have gained in our struggle alongside nature that all progress – scientific and civilizational – has been achieved. As the book reveals, the entirety of this progress could be undone in 1600 seconds.

When it comes to nuclear war, the ultimate goal is to inflict maximum damage to the enemy. At the same time, maximum damage is inflicted upon the planet which we all share. There are no winners – one moment of political folly is enough to lead us to a nuclear winter and mass extinction. Einstein once said, “there are two things that are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I’m not sure about the universe.”

Humankind has been on the edge of nuclear catastrophe in the past: in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis, in 1983 when Stanislav Petrov prevented the initiation of nuclear war after a false alarm, during the recent attack on Iran in which Israel violated Rule



42 of the International Committee of the Red Cross which prevents nuclear reactors being bombed in a war.

In the book, the author quotes John Rubel who reveals a secret meeting happened in 1960 in a bunker within Offutt Air Force base in Nebraska. A chilling plan called SIOP (Single Integrated Operational Plan) was drawn up to destroy Moscow with a preemptive nuclear first strike which could have killed 600 million people. Rubel says that the meeting reminded him of the Nazi meeting in a lakeside villa in the town of Wannsee in 1942 for the Final Solution to exterminate the Jews.

The basis of this barbarous plan to destroy the very planet we live in, is the way in which the world is organized – in the interest of profits rather than that of people’s welfare. In a capitalist world, war is inevitable because peace is not profitable. French socialist Jean Jaures said, “Capitalism carries war like clouds carry rain.” Imperialism needs enemies, and more times than not these enemies are invented – the Cold War, the War on Terror; “installing democracy” and so on.

The problem with the book is that the scenario is not supported by history: North Korea launching a nuclear attack and the US retaliating. History tells us a different story – the only country that has used nuclear weapons on innocent people is the United States, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Israel targeted the nuclear facility in Iran, violating Rule 42. The book fails to nail the real scenario which is the threat to world peace: imperialism.

In 1955 after the Bandung Conference countries like India, Egypt and Indonesia joined the Non-aligned movement (NAM) which emphasized economic development by allotting resources for the welfare of the people rather than military expenditure. Now, an immense amount of money is wasted to accumulate weapons and militarization which could otherwise be used for health-care, education and housing.

This book is a must read for people in anti-war movements and activists who fight for neutrality and peace, but most importantly for those who fight for socialism. The alternative is barbarism. ■

Socialist Voice (Ireland)

The will of the youth will not be broken

■ FROM PG 6

ect, proving that the will of the new generation cannot be broken.

We demand an immediate end to the genocidal war on our Palestinian people, and an end to all forms of killing, siege and starvation. We also call for improving the conditions of youth in the homeland and the diaspora, ensuring them a dignified life and decent job opportunities. We stress the necessity of supporting education at all levels and protecting it from targeting, as it is a strategic weapon for preserving awareness and building the future.

We call for the adoption of a comprehensive national emergency plan to address the problems of youth in the homeland and diaspora – taking into account their economic, educational and social needs, opening avenues for their participation in national decision-making, and mobilizing their energies in the struggle for liberation and the building of an independent Palestinian state.

Finally, we call on the free and revolutionary youth of the world to stand side

by side with the youth of Palestine in their struggle for dignity and freedom. We urge them to be a resounding voice against injustice and occupation, and to engage in solidarity, boycott and anti-colonial campaigns against all forms of racism and oppression our people face.

Supporting Palestinian youth today is supporting the cause of justice and freedom everywhere – a moral and human duty that demands unity and solidarity across borders.

Let us raise our voices together and build a strong global youth front that upholds the Palestinian right to freedom, independence and return, and confronts all attempts of ethnic cleansing and normalization aimed at erasing our just cause.

On this day, we say clearly: the will of the youth of Palestine will not be broken, and the flame of resistance will not be extinguished – until the occupation is defeated, the land is liberated, the refugees return, and the independent Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital. ■

Corporate theft vs public ownership for auto?

■ FROM PG 9

General Motors received \$10.5 billion in federal and provincial bailouts in 2009 and while the public took a loss of nearly \$3 billion at the end of that agreement, GM demanded massive concessions from workers and retirees. In recent years, federal and provincial governments have shovelled public money into monopoly coffers to fund the Electric Vehicle (EV) transition, but with no guarantees, no ownership, and no long-term plan for workers or communities. Queen’s Park and Ottawa have handed billions in subsidies to GM, Stellantis, Volkswagen, Honda and Ford, with \$28 billion to Volkswagen and Stellantis alone.

Rather than calling on governments to continue facilitating this theft of public funds by continuously bailing out the huge monopolies, working people need to press for auto to be taken out of corporate hands and put under public ownership and democratic control.

A nationalized auto sector could be a central pillar of a necessary green transition by producing electric passenger vehicles, light industrial vehicles and mass transit, while meeting climate goals. Combined with strong plant closure legislation that requires corporations to justify closing or moving plants and to repay every dollar of public subsidies before closure, this represents an industrial strategy that can meet multiple needs of working people.

Surely that is in labour’s interest. ■



Immigrant workers the majority at FedEx

■ FROM PG 9

this country. That means fairness, dignity and the right to join a union.”

A majority of the workers who would be covered by this union certification – 31 of 52, or 60 percent – are either temporary foreign workers or international students.

Banning them from joining the union would significantly harm the ability of the workers to unionize the Fort McMurray location, never mind the fact that it is inherently unfair to prevent workers from unionizing if they want to.

According to a media release, the Teamsters claim that FedEx workers earn about \$3 less per hour than their unionized counterparts at UPS and Purolator.

As well, UPS and Purolator give their unionized workers pensions that are 100 percent employer funded, while FedEx requires their workers to pay a portion of the pension contributions.

Finally, workers at FedEx are required to lift and move packages on their own that would require two workers at UPS and Purolator. ■

AlbertaWorker.ca

Joint union plan for Telus workers worldwide

■ FROM PG 9

subjecting its employees to high-pressure work metrics and digital surveillance. Participants from Local 1944 at the international meeting described how the union is organizing to confront these challenges.

“We found a lot of common ground in our discussions, as Telus intensely pressurizes its workers, with little regard for mental safety, both in Turkey and in Canada,” said Local 1944 President Michael Phillips. “It was great to strengthen the bond of global solidarity between our two unions and we’ll be working very closely together with our Turkish sisters and brothers in our common struggles with this employer.”

In co-operation with UNI, the global union federation for service-sector workers, the meeting’s participants joined a network of unions to call on Telus to engage in dialogue in order to:

- Fully recognize the right to organize and to bargain collectively in every

country where the company operates, without interference, in accordance with the core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Telus will abide by collective agreements in good faith. Telus will not engage in anti-union behaviour.

- Establish effective and transparent procedures for resolving labour conflicts, through genuine dialogue and in good faith, avoiding any form of retaliation or repression against union activity.
- Guarantee common minimum labour standards, including protection of physical and mental health, psychologically reasonable work metrics, decent wages, fair working conditions, job security and employment stability.
- Protect union members from any form of discrimination or retaliation, ensuring they are free to organize, represent and negotiate on behalf of their co-workers. ■

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Who is Pete Hoekstra, and why is he unwelcome in Canada?



■ FROM PG 6

Any ambassador to US interests deserves a cold reception. But just who is Pete Hoekstra, and why his profile can effectively condense so many issues of pressing concern?

From 2004 to 2007, he chaired the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, exerting a great deal of influence on the US-led “War on Terror.” Hoekstra was one of the foremost falsifiers of Iraq’s military capacity in the form of alleged “weapons of mass destruction,” repeatedly claiming that Iraq had an arsenal of over 500 WMDs and posed a serious risk to US troops in the region. These lies led to some of the most notable war crimes of the century, and as a Senior Fellow with the Investigative Project on Terrorism Hoekstra spent the next decade publishing vicious apologia for the worst excesses of US foreign policy.

(More than a decade on, Hoekstra rejects the naming of the “War on Terror” insofar as he considers it a too-polite euphemism for a declared war on Islam as such.)

Hoekstra’s bigotry and Islamophobia made him an effective culture warrior in the Dutch context, where he served as US Ambassador to the Netherlands during the first Trump administration. In this capacity, Hoekstra forged ties with the far-right Forum for Democracy, plausibly breaking the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations that prevents foreign ambassadors from meddling in the politics of their host state. And where the US itinerary on border security and immigration is a gift to the Canadian right, including some of Hoekstra’s recent hosts, one can imagine a repeat performance here.

Hoekstra’s Embassy biography boasts of his key role in the MAGA coalition’s second victory, where he worked to unite the Michigan Republican Party around Trump and to flip the state red. But Hoekstra exerts a quiet influence on Trump policy as well. As a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation, Hoekstra is a credited author of Project 2025’s “Mandate for Leadership” – a comprehensive plan for ruling class warfare, directed at any number of social fronts and cultural proxies.

Hoekstra’s contributions aren’t clearly attributed, but the Foundation’s current plans to gut public education quote approvingly from a 1998 report that he prepared for the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development. Predictably, this report recommends a greatly reduced Department of Education, far fewer social programs, and financial transfers to private and religious education, all in the name of “parental choice.”

Project 2025’s blueprint for education “reform,” otherwise credited to charter school proponent Lindsey Burke, reproduces lengthy swathes of language from Hoekstra’s commission almost verbatim.

As founder of the Education Freedom Caucus, Hoekstra’s fingerprints are all over Trump’s plan to dismantle the Department of Education. Not only is this influence worth communicating to people in Canada, where a similar program is underway – this attribution also

helps to situate Trump’s escalations in a longer sequence of establishment attacks upon any semblance of a public service.

As both a MAGA insider and a pre-Trump Republican extremist, Hoekstra’s career reveals the continuity of the US right in a moment that is often treated as an exception to business as usual.

A new alignment

In Winnipeg, Hoekstra declined to answer any questions on the status of Trump tariffs or to speculate upon the outcome of negotiations. Rather, his prairie speeches offered a gloating litany of Trump’s successes so far, packed with reminders of the unbreakable integration of heavy industries spanning the US and Canada.

At the Council of State Governments’ Midwestern Legislative Conference in Saskatoon on June 28, he was admittedly bullish. “Within less than 90 days of President Trump coming into office, we have secured our southern border,” Hoekstra claimed – implying non-cooperation at the 49th parallel, where a fabricated crisis of drug smuggling has obliged Canada to bolster security at Trump’s behest.

“On an international basis, under the leadership of the president and the other folks at NATO, a big portion of the western alliance has committed to spending 5 percent of their GDP to secure the stability of much of the world,” he continued, clearly implicating Canada’s new \$150 billion war budget. This refutes any prior rumour that Trump meant to break with the US-dominated military bloc, and Hoekstra boasts of Trump’s ability to force payment of European partners in the same breath as he celebrates Mark Carney’s spineless pledge.

Carney’s immediate capitulation to Trump’s NATO spending demands, among other key pieces of deregulatory legislation, make the US ambassador’s job much easier. By Hoekstra’s own account, his Canadian tour doubles as a conference on critical minerals and energy, where he means to console national stakeholders in extractive industries and aerospace alike.

As Hoekstra tempts would-be partners with “huge business and national security opportunities,” it’s important to insist that many interests ultimately stand to benefit from bluffing escalations with the US, and from Carney’s enormous wealth transfer to US-based defense companies with Canadian subsidiaries.

This arrangement doesn’t stop with defence contractors. Up to 1.5 percent of the NATO tithe can be spent on infrastructure, including mining for the mineral components of military technology to “strengthen the defence industrial base.” This more than explains the enthusiasm of provincial compradors (including in the NDP) for NATO quotas, as well as the timing of the federal Bill C-5, which streamlines approval for ecologically intensive “National Interest Projects.”

Hoekstra’s certainty that US trade with Canada can only grow under present conditions draws evidence from our tightly integrated defence industries and the necessity

of the critical minerals found here for military use.

This optimism of arms and aerospace, comparatively buffered from recent shocks, failed to console some of the smaller firms who came to hear the US perspective. But Hoekstra came bearing a message of indifference to small and medium producers, preferring to speak over their heads to the monopoly interests who stand to gain from the US style of bargaining.

In Winnipeg, Hoekstra’s highest priority after his visit to NORAD’s Canadian headquarters was the city’s Boeing factory. Here, Winnipeg workers play an integral role in the P-8A Poseidon Multi-Mission Aircraft program, an important piece of NATO’s global interoperability initiatives and the militarization of Canada’s Arctic and maritime borders. Hoekstra’s interest doesn’t end with Boeing or the Poseidon, however, and on every stop of his tour he insisted that Canada must commit to purchase F-35 fighter jets from the US as a condition of participation in NORAD. “Canadians have put on hold buying any more F-35s,” he lamented in Saskatoon. “Just remember Canadians invested a couple hundred million dollars in the development of the F-35, and any F-35 flying anywhere in the world has what? Canadian content.”

Hoekstra is correct about the extent of continental integration in aerospace technology, and Canada’s significant contributions. The Canadian-owned corporation Magellan Aerospace remains a federally subsidized supplier to the F-35, manufacturing the jet’s tail assembly at its plant in Winnipeg and other specialized components throughout Ontario.

While these Canadian plants contribute more than \$2 million US in parts per plane, the finished jets are a product of Lockheed Martin, and Canada remains on the line to purchase 88 F-35s from the US company as per escalating pressure from Armed Forces – even as the price threatens to soar from \$19 to over \$30 billion. With a price tag of this magnitude attached to the fleet, Hoekstra’s aggressive salesmanship starts to sound more like extortion.

Hoekstra Go Home!

The US ambassador’s message on his recent trip was clear – that however much the Canada-US relationship appears to have deteriorated in the last year, Canadian industry is far too beholden to US monopolism for any bourgeois assertion of sovereignty to succeed. This much is surely true, and real political and economic independence will require a working-class agenda to reverse the integration that Hoekstra’s coercive messaging presumes.

As one can see from the protests outside his Winnipeg appearance, a countermovement to US imperialism and its Canadian accomplices is already underway and growing. For many in Canada, Trump’s rhetoric has laid bare the role of the US in Canada as never before, and Hoekstra’s reception in Winnipeg shows that working people are gearing up to fight. ■

rebel youth

Youth unemployment soars, while corporate profits continue to rise



IVAN BYARD

On the last Wednesday of July over 2500 people lined up for a job fair in Toronto to work at the Canadian National Exhibition. A record number of people have applied to work at the CNE this summer with over 54,000 applicants for 5000 contract jobs during the month of August, at or near minimum wage. This compares with the 37,000 people who applied to work at the CNE in 2024 and the 18,000 who applied in 2023. In both 2023 and 2024, as with this year, there were only 5000 openings. More than 80 percent of CNE staff is between the ages of 14 and 29.

Youth unemployment across the country remains well above pre-pandemic levels, with teenagers, those with no post-secondary education, and recent post-secondary graduates hit the hardest. Summer job prospects for youth continue to worsen this year, after last summer neared 2009 recession levels.

Meanwhile corporate profits continue to rise.

In June 2025, the employment rate for those aged 15-24 fell by one percent despite the overall employment rate increasing. The current youth unemployment rate of 14.2 percent is significantly higher than the pre-pandemic (2017-2019) average of 10.8 percent. From 2019 to 2025 unemployment rose from 14.9 percent to 22.2 percent for 14-19-year-olds, 9.9 percent to 13.2 percent for 20-24-year-olds, and from 6.2 percent to 8.7 percent for those 25-29.

The rate of youth not engaged in education, employment or training is 11.3 percent (most recent figures from 2024), up from 10.4 percent pre-pandemic. In 2023 (most recent figures) after-tax corporate profits across the country totaled \$577 billion for the year, over \$200 billion (55 percent) higher than in 2019.

It is clear that young workers are being forced to pay for the crisis of capitalism. The cost of living continues to rise with inflation hitting basic necessities like food and rent. Having 54,000 young people apply for 5000 month-long contract jobs is just one symptom of the ongoing jobs crisis for youth.

People aged 15 to 24 are currently facing the highest unemployment rate outside of the pandemic since the mid-1990s. Those with no post-secondary education have the highest rate of unemployment in the country; those with some post-secondary education are increasingly working in jobs for which they are overqualified, or are unable to find work at all. The first quarter of 2025 saw the highest jobless rate for recent graduates in at least two decades, excluding the pandemic period.

There is also the problem of skills mismatch, in which certain industries have a lack of skilled workers available while other industries have a glut of qualified workers but very few job openings.

The unemployment rate in Ontario decreased by 0.1 percent between May and June. This was after May saw the highest unemployment rate since 2016. But, where are the jobs coming from? This year has seen mass layoffs across the province among highly skilled full-time unionized workers across Ontario, particularly in manufacturing and the college sector, largely due to the trade war with our “southern neighbors” and the manufactured crisis in the post-secondary education. Now these jobs are being replaced with part-time, precarious and gig work, in low paying fields. Year over year, the trades saw the biggest increase in unemployment followed closely by manufacturing, whereas retail and services saw the largest increase in employment.

Also important to note is that the growth of the population in Canada has been outpacing job growth, which has meant an increase in the reserve army of labour. Ontario has the second lowest labour force participation rate for workers under 25 out of all provinces, with 48.3 percent not employed or seeking employment – this is up from 45.1 percent a year ago.

Two years ago, the ruling class and their spokespersons in parliament and the bourgeois press were lamenting about a labour shortage. We were told that young people were entitled and lazy, and that they were just unwilling to work. The last two summers have seen countless stories of young people handing out hundreds of job applications in person and waiting in line for hours at job fairs only to never receive an interview or call back. And the statistics reflect these anecdotes.

Our response to the crisis of gig work, hiring agencies, precarious work, cash jobs and part time or zero-hour contract jobs is to say that “One Job Should be Enough!” The Young Communist League