Los archivos de los cinco cubanos regresan a casa

By Cheryl LaBash
Havana, Cuba

Three days of solidarity will mark May Day 2022 in Havana. In Cuba, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation in 2020 and 2021, the awesome May Day march will joyously take place Sunday, May 1. The march theme, Cuba Vive y Trabaja — Cuba Lives and Works — expresses the firm and unconditional decision to continue consolidating “Our Economic-Social Socialist Development Model.” The events are dedicated to Cuba’s historical leader, Fidel Castro Ruz. On the eve of May Day, April 30, the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba [Cuban Workers Central Union] is welcoming workers from around the world to learn from Cuban workers and their neighborhoods the pain caused to Cuban families by the unilateral U.S. economic, commercial, and financial blockade — essentially an illegal economic war. After meetings with the hotel and tourism union, delegations will visit communities under reconstruction and partake in the community soup called caldosa with Committees for Defense of the Revolution.

Hundreds — most under 30 years of age — are coming from the United States in various brigades, delegations and just coming as individuals to demonstrate their solidarity with revolutionary Cuba — real aid to the Cuban people. Their experiences will inform their work when they return to the U.S., be it in work places, mutual-aid projects, communities fighting for affordable housing and against evictions, to abolish the police abuse and murders and to stop the

Continued on page 2

U.S.-NATO war and attacks on trans rights:

Two fronts in the class war

By Greg Butterfield

In Texas and Alabama, transgender youth are facing forcible detransition. A law passed by Alabama’s legislature and signed by Gov. Kay Ivey April 8, and an executive order by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in February, not only ban gender-affirming care for children, but subject their parents and health-care providers to prosecution.

This means that even kids who have been transitioning for years, who have lived as and always been known as a girl or boy to their peers, would be forcibly “outed” and denied the care they need to grow up happy and healthy — even banned from using the restroom they choose at school.

These measures directly contradict the recommendations of medical experts, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association.

A University of Washington Study released at the end of February found that trans youth who got gender-affirming treatment experienced a 60% drop in depression risk and a 73% drop in suicidal thoughts, on average.

“Our study builds on what we have already seen from an already staggering amount of scientific research,” study lead author Diana Tordoff told HealthDay News. “Access to gender-affirming care saves trans youth’s lives.”

Tennessee and Arkansas already have laws banning gender-affirming care. Nearly half of U.S. states currently have similar legislation pending.

It’s worth noting, perhaps, that about 1.5 million people in the U.S. openly identify as trans — that is, less than half of 1% of the U.S. population of 330 million.

Slander campaign

In recent weeks, a new campaign of dangerous slander has accompanied this effort, as right-wing politicians, news outlets like Fox News and social-media bigots shout about the LGBTQ2S community and its supporters as “groom-

Continued on page 3
Howard University Hospital nurses stage one-day strike

By Andre Powell

The District of Columbia Nurses Association staged a one-day strike to highlight the failure of Adventist Healthcare to sit down and bargain in good faith. Adventist Healthcare is the administrator for Howard University Hospital. The day-long rally ran from 7:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. on April 11. The nurses that attended represented the various different bargaining units. For the morning rally over 200 participants were in attendance. Adventist Healthcare on several occasions has come to the bargaining table claiming that they had not seen any proposals. The union officials assert that all proposals were properly forwarded to the hospital administration. Just one day before the one-day strike was held, the hospital chief negotiator claimed that the proposal was invalid and that the hospital couldn’t afford it. He told them that there was nothing to talk about and left the room.

Many issues have been raised by the union in this round of contract negotiations. Among them are patient ratios that make sure that nurses are not assigned more than a reasonable number of patients for care. Additionally, management has eliminated the differential pay for evening and weekend shifts which results in a cut in pay of several thousand dollars.

Chants demanding safe staffing levels were heard continuously throughout the day along with chants denying failed negotiations. The nurses on the picket line received tremendous support from the public as drivers honked their horns in support. Just about every bus driver that drove by honked loudly to show support. Many people walking by stopped to listen and discuss the issues with the nurses.

Howard University Hospital nurses, April 11.

Why is Earth Day on Lenin’s birthday?

By Stephen Millies

Millions of people around the world rally for environmental justice every year on April 22, which is Earth Day. This struggle is more important than ever as capitalist climate change continues to cook the earth.

A big step forward in the environmental movement has been targeting toxic racism. It’s not accidental that children in the Black-majority city of Flint, Michigan, were poisoned by their lead-contaminated drinking water.

Water protectors from Indigenous nations, Black, Brown, and latinx people exist alongside petrochemical plants from Philadelphia to West Texas. In the North, Black and Latinx people living in the South Bronx have the highest number of asthma cases in the United States. Millions of poor white people also suffer from pollution. Cancer clusters are, now, another gateway to toxic waste from Europe.

The waters off the African country of Somalia were used as a dumping ground for toxic waste from Europe until the polluters were fought off.

Capitalist politicians have learned to speak differently than when Ronald Reagan was elected California governor in 1966. At the time people wanted to save the redwood forests from the clear-cutting lumber companies.

Reagan’s response to this concern was to remark “once you’ve seen one redwood tree, you’ve seen them all.”

Hijacking a movement

So how did April 22 get to be Earth Day? The 1960s were a time of revolt throughout the world.

Socialist countries accounted for nearly a third of the world’s population. The Vietnamese and Laotian people were fighting 500,000 U.S. troops as well as napalm bombs and agent orange pesticides. Their courageous struggle fought for survival of all the planet.

The Black liberation movement tested the limits and power of the Pentagon. Thousands of anti-war demonstrators filled the streets of Washington, D.C. The women’s and the LGBTQ movements were on the rise.

The widespread readership of books and pamphlets by V.I. Lenin – for example the Bolshevik Revolution – indicated how strong the movement of workers and oppressed people was.

By 1970, Lenin’s writings had been translated into more languages than the New Testament worldwide. April 22, 1970, was the centennial of Lenin’s birth. Meetings and events were planned around the world to commemorate Lenin’s life.

The U.S. ruling class wanted to divert attention from this important anniversary. They sought to keep an environmental movement within the bounds of capitalist politics.

Capitalists also wanted to put the socialists on trial as polluters.

Many of the socialist countries – including China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam – had been open or disguised colonies of the big capitalist countries. These countries that liberated themselves from colonial underdevelopment were always trying to catch up.

They often had to use coal as their main fuel supply. Money that could have gone to protect the environment had to be spent to defend themselves from the U.S. and NATO.

The capitalist answer was to establish Earth Day on April 22. Big business claimed it was against pollution, too.

Capitalist media used the slogan “people cause pollution,” as if it didn’t have anything to do with making profits, the profits-beforesociety system.

The TV networks almost never mention that the Pentagon is the world’s biggest polluter. Today the banks, utilities and other corporations claim to be “green” as the earth continues to heat up.

We need to take Earth Day away from the bosses.

The squares are, now, another good setting to support the efforts of the government, the party, the CTC, all the institutions and the people in the desire to build the prosperous and sustainable socialist society to which we aspire.” Abel Vázquez Caballero told Trabajadores.co.

The three day solidarity gathering culminates on May 2, with a solidarity conference featuring CTC General Secretary Ulises Guillarte de Nacimiento that will conclude with the approval of a Declaration of Solidarity with Cuba and the proposal to fight against imperialism and for the advancement of leftist organizations for a progressive change in the world.

On May 2, buses will depart from the solidarity conference headed to Guantanamo for the VII Seminar to Abolish Foreign Bases and NATO.
On Transgender Day of Visibility, Baltimore Safe Haven vandalized

By Ellie McCrow

On March 31 — the Internationa- al Transgender Day of Visibility — Baltimore Safe Haven reported that their Charles Village office had been vandalized with a bigoted message that read “Fuck Pride DIE.”

Founded in 2018, Baltimore Safe Haven is a local, trans-led nonprofit that provides the city’s at-risk TG/LBQ community — particularly Black trans women — with food, housing, health care and more. According to the organization’s website, their aim is to serve individuals “with an annual median income of less than $30,000, who are currently engaged in or have a history in sex work, who are substance users, and who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”

Key members of Safe Haven’s staff have expressed their outrage and frustration in the wake of this attack and the online harassment that has accompanied it. “We’re devastated. I’m not talking for my own safety and the safety of my staff at this moment,” remarked founder and executive director Iya Dammons. Case manager Nicole Wells was the first to notice the graffiti and shared a similar comment: “I was shaking. At this point, I didn’t even want to go outside by myself.” Program Manager Ngaire Philip added, “We haven’t done anything to hurt anyone.”

Unfortunately this isn’t the first attack they’ve had to endure. Last October, Safe Haven’s “Project Genesis” youth shelter in West Baltim- more was burglarized and vandalized by a man who previously threatened staff and made “derogatory com- ments around sexuality and gender.” This time, Dam- mons believes the organization is being targeted due to the upcoming Baltimore Trans Pride ‘22 Block Party they are heading this June.

Despite these hardships Baltimore Safe Haven remains committed to their vision: “a world in which all transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, fema- le, and queer (TLGBQ) people enjoy healthy, self-determined and -sufficient lives, liberated from the stigma, violence, and oppression they have suffered.”

“We all just had to take a breath for a second,” says Dammons, who then continued: “We’re not going to let this break us. We’re not going to bend. We’re going to do the job.” The vandalism is currently being investi- gated as a hate crime.

Baltimore’s Peoples Power As- sembly previously marched alongside Baltimore Safe Haven in 2021 for their 2nd annual Black Trans Lives Matter march, and will continue to support the organization’s valiant struggle to uplift the most vulnera- ble members of our community.

Regarding the upcoming festivi- ties Dammons said, “This is the first time we have ever thrown a ma- jor, big Pride like this for the trans community. I would like to see people come out on June 6, and let them know that this will not happen in Baltimore City at all.”

Continued from page 1

In fact, Democratic politicians are rapidly moving to the right on every issue from police brutality to COVID prevention — all while leading the charge for war against Russia.

Big Lies, at home and abroad

On the other side of the planet, anti-LGBTQ+ activists from the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, the Ukrainian anti-fascist under- ground, and trans from the Rus- sian Federation are fighting to stem the tide of a U.S.-NATO takeover of Eastern Europe.

The location chosen by the West for this showdown is the former So- viet republic of Ukraine, ruled by a right-wing coup regime installed by Washington in 2014. The backbone of this regime is neo-Nazi groups that have terrorized leftists, trade unionists, and minority nationalities and immigrants.

The reality of the situation has been turned on its head by the pro- pagandists of U.S. Big Business and the Pentagon.

People in the Donbass region — Don- netsk and Lugansk — have been de- fending themselves from a war waged by Ukraine with U.S./NATO support for eight years. Washington pushed Ukraine to launch a new, massive attack on Donbass earlier this year, hoping to draw Russia into a war.

The people of Donetsk and Lugansk appealed for Russia’s help to defend themselves when a Ukrainian attack became inevitable. Russia’s govern- ment also saw that a complete NATO takeover of Ukraine would endanger its own sovereignty, and felt no op- tion but to act.

And yet, their joint military campaig- n to denazify and demilitarize NATO’s puppet regime in Ukraine is portrayed in the U.S. as the greatest crime against humanity since World War II. (The many, many crimes committed by the U.S. war machine around the world are of course omit- ted from the conversation.)

Blame the victim

Does this “blame the victim” ap- proach sound familiar? It should. It’s the exact same strategy of di- vide-and-conquer, which is aimed at mo- nopolizing trans people here at home.

Consider these parallels: Families of trans children are be- ing forced to flee states that have ad- opted laws banning gender-affirm- ing care and persecuting supportive parents. It’s so grave that even the U.S. Air Force has announced it will help resettle affected service mem- bers’ families from these states!

In the same way, millions of peo- ple in Donbass and Ukraine have been forced to flee their homes be- cause of the war crisis methodically set up by Washington and its allies.

Trans people and their supporters are slandered and dehumanized ev- ery day in print, broadcast and social media and by elected officials. This creates an atmosphere that makes violent attacks inevitable.

In the same way, social-media monopolies, corporate media and Washington officials promote neo- Nazi-spawned claims of “Russian war crimes,” suppress and deplac- e alternative sources of news and analysis, and support measures that dehumanize and belittle people who live in the Donbass region and peo- ple of Russian nationality.

How interesting that many or- ganized sports bodies are banning trans people from competing while also banning Russian athletes!

Trans people, anti-fascists in East- ern Europe and anti-war activists have a common enemy: U.S. imperialism.

It might seem that geographical distance, lack of mutual understanding and the intensity of the attacks make it impossible for these struggle- (and others) to unite. That’s what the imperialists are counting on.

It is the job of communists to prove them wrong, by building bridges be- tween diverse sections of the work- ing class at home and abroad to fight back. We need to start today.

U.S.-NATO war and attacks on trans rights

Over 10000 students at West High School in Salt Lake City walked out classes April 6 to protest pending anti-trans legislation in Utah.

PHOTO: LINDSAY AERTS

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STRUGGLE + LA LUCHA
April 25, 2022  Page 3
Oakland teachers unite with longshore workers to demand: Stop privatizing Oakland!

Rank-and-file members of the Oakland Education Association and the longshore workers in ILWU Local 10 issued a call for a “shutdown” of Oakland schools and the Port of Oakland on April 29. Teachers and longshore workers in the Schools and Labor Against Privatization (SLAP) coalition are leading the unified labor action. The following report was published by the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center on April 16: tinyurl.com/4885yfh

Oakland teachers will be striking and joining with ILWU longshore workers on April 29 against privatization and closure of Oakland schools and the privatization and destruction of the Port Of Oakland by the Mayor and Democratic Party City Council supported by the leadership of the Alameda County District Attorney and the Alameda Building Trades.

There will be a rally at 2 p.m. at Oscar Grant Plaza and march through Oakland.

• Stop Privatizing Oakland!
• No Stadium At Howard Terminal!
• No School Closures! No Cuts!

The billionaires are after our public resources here in the City of Oakland. The Oakland School Board has recently voted to close 11 public schools, despite overwhelming opposition from the community. School closures disproportionately harm communities of color.

They are part of a long-term plan by corporations to destroy public education – selling them off to real estate developers or converting them into charter schools. Oakland does not have “too many schools,” as the district says. Oakland has too many charter schools!

Meanwhile, the City of Oakland is planning to spend $855 million in taxpayer money to construct a new A’s stadium and condo complex at Howard Terminal, which is crucial to the port of Oakland. These privatization schemes are part of the gentrification of Oakland — attacking working-class communities, destroying union jobs, and displacing our low-income tenants of the Bay Area.

We must come together and fight back! This year May Day (International Workers Day) falls on a Sunday, so our action will be the two days earlier, on April 29. The ILWU Local 10 has informed the port that they will be having Port Shutdown! School Shutdown!

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2 p.m. - Rally at Oscar Grant Plaza
Schools & Labor Against Privatization
@slapbayarea

Schools & Labor Against Privatization: Mission Statement

Schools and Labor Against Privatization (SLAP) was formed in direct response to the organized efforts of the Fisher family, various Oakland elected officials, the Oakland School Board and various Bay Area labor officials to privatize our public schools and public land/shipping ports.

As a collective we understand that Oakland is not the only American city under attack from billionaires attempting to privatize/gentrify for personal monetary gain.

We understand that Black and Brown communities across the country continue to be disproportionately affected by the resulting wealth gap epidemic.

We also understand the continued effect privatization and gentrification have on the working class as a whole. The wealth disparity between the very rich few and the majority working class is larger than it has ever been in this country’s history.

The main reason for this phenomena is that our elected representatives continue to give the rich and corporate America access to public resources and wealth at an alarming rate — resources and wealth created by the poor and working class.

We say NO to the closing of public schools in Oakland, which provide education and jobs to disadvantaged communities, to pave for the Fisher family and other privatizers to take them over as private charter schools.

We say NO to the Fisher family’s attempt to benefit financially by acquiring industrial public land that creates good union-paying jobs and benefit financially by acquiring industrial public land that creates good union-paying jobs and tax revenue for our communities to build private multi-million dollar condos and a baseball park.

We say YES to redistributing corporate wealth to fund high quality public education and services, adequate and affordable housing, and high quality union jobs for all working people.

We shall organize to forge a social, economic and political movement for all working people — employed and unemployed — in our own name. We shall spread awareness, influence elections (governmental and union) to once and for all provide a voice for the working class, independent of influence by either of the corporate-dominated political parties.

We shall work in conjunction with any organization(s) in which the purpose is to put an end to the oppression and exploitation of the poor and working class.

We shall hold any elected official (labor or governmental) accountable for catering to the interests of the rich few instead of the majority working class that elected them. We will achieve this by using class-struggle methods to expose and eradicate all efforts to privatize/gentrify any and all public resources and the financial benefit of billionaires attempting to privatize/gentrify.

Oakland is not the only American city under attack.

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Thursday, May 12, 2022

Meet author Clarence Thomas and hear the story behind his new anthology ‘Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March’

This anthology is a call to working people organized and unorganized to unite and mobilize around our own agenda.

The book is about African American trade unionists from one of the most renowned radical labor organizations in the world, the Int’l Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10, that defied the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO and mobilized the MWM on October 17, 2004, at the Lincoln Memorial.

Find out how the MWM reclaimed May Day in 2005. On May Days in the years that followed, the ILWU shut down the ports to demand justice for victims of police violence; to demand universal health care, and to demand workers rights for all.

The ILWU shut down West Coast ports — to oppose wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — and in solidarity with Palestine.

On June 20th, 2020, ILWU Local 10 mobilized 29 Port Stop Work Actions to Stop Police Terror, to End Systemic Racism and to Stop Privatization of the Port of Oakland.

Clarence Thomas Book Signing at The People’s Forum

Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
320 W. 37th St. (between 8th & 9th Aves.) NY, NY 10018

Clarence Thomas Local 282 District 1189
Sat., May 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
2500 Marcus Ave., Lake Success, NY 11042

ILWU Local 10
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
195 Montague St., 9th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Purchase ‘Mobilizing in Our Own Name’ at a 15% discount and have it signed by Clarence Thomas at the event. tinyurl.com/54drhzwx

Photo: Leon Kunstenaar
On Feb. 24, the anti-fascist Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, together with the Russian Federation, launched a military action with the goal of “demy militarization and de-Nazification” of the U.S./NATO coup regime in Kiev. Following are links to reports and analysis that give an understanding of the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine.

Victory to the anti-fascist forces of Donbass and their allies U.S./NATO hands off Russia! Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido statement on the military conflict in Ukraine

¡Victoria a las fuerzas antifascistas del Donbas y sus aliados! (EUA / OTAN, saquen sus manos de Rusia! Comunicado del Partido de Socialismo Unido sobre el conflicto militar en Ucrania

Looking behind the headlines

Why Russia recognized the Donbass republics

In order to have a clear anti-war, anti-imperialist position today, class-conscious workers need to understand the significance of the Russian Federation’s Feb. 21 declaration of conflict unfolding in Ukraine. Ukraine and its Western sponsors spent the last seven years sabotaging the 2015 Minsk II agreement meant to end Kiev’s attacks on the people of the Donbass region. Washington and Kiev spent the last three months preparing an invasion of the Donbass and Lugansk People’s Republics as a means to draw Russia into a war.

Former NATO military analyst exposes West’s Ukraine invasion narrative

In his speech on Feb. 24, Vladimir Putin stated the two objectives of his operation: to “demylinarize” and “demazify” Ukraine. It is therefore not a question of seizing Ukraine, nor even, in all likelihood, of occupying it and certainly not of destroying it.

Pentagon mania 1992: Bush disowns but won’t denounce plan for world domination

On March 8, 1992, the New York Times published excerpts from a 46-page secret Pentagon draft document that it said was leaked by Pentagon generals meant to send Kiev’s attacks on the people of the Donbass region. Washington and Kiev spent the last three months preparing an invasion of the Donbass and Lugansk People’s Republics as a means to draw Russia into a war.

On Ukraine

Voices from Donbass speak to U.S. anti-war movement

On March 27, the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper hosted a webinar called “Stop the War Lies: Voices from Donbass.” This was a unique opportunity for the U.S. anti-war movement to hear directly from people in the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics (DPR and LPR), whose voices are silenced by the Western mass media’s pro-Ukraine war propaganda.

Mariupol and Donetsk: a tale of two cities

The U.S. and other Western media mostly ignored Mariupol for the eight years it was under fascist occupation. They couldn’t have cared less for the workers and political activists who had to live under the threat of the Azov Battalion and Ukrainian security forces.

Imperialist propaganda and Ukrainian Jews

The history of Ukrainian nationalist collaboration with Nazi Germany and the present alliance between the Kiev government and neo-Nazis.

War crimes and white power: The Black Alliance for Peace calls for the dismantling of NATO, U.S./NATO real culprits in Ukraine crisis

Ukraine: NATO launched its attack eight years ago

A short history of NATO eastward expansion and the current tensions in Europe

NATO expansionism in Europe

The danger of a world ruled by NATO: Interview with Ángeles Maestro

U.S./NATO real culprits in Ukraine crisis

WAR PROPAGANDA

Who’s the war criminal?

Refuting lies about “Bucha atrocities” by Russian military

The vast international network in charge of Ukrainian war propaganda

FACT SHEET

No to U.S./NATO war: Here are the facts!

STAYMENEFORTHEU.S./NATO

John Parker (Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido):

John Parker (Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido):

We must remain on the correct side of history

Ukraine, war crimes and white power: The Black Alliance for Peace calls for the dismantling of NATO, AFRICOM and all imperialist structures

LENIN AND IMPERIALISM

Is Russia imperialist?

For socialists, the fundamental understanding of imperialism goes back to World War I and is found in the pamphlet written by V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism.”

Lenin: How to oppose an unjust war

The Leninist view of how to fight against imperialist war remains one of the most controversial and defining characteristics of the communist movement, because it means standing up to the capitalist class at the moment its fangs are bared.

Ukraine and the Bolshevik Revolution

Gay communist on Russia, fascism and USSR’s legacy

WAR ECONOMY

Biden gives Big Oil a win, gas prices going up

Who benefits from the crisis in Ukraine?

U.S. spends billions on war in Ukraine and working class pays the price
The Czarist regime was hated. It was a time of great poverty and despair. The Ukrainian peasants who lived in the countryside were often hungry and their lives were miserable. They were beaten by their owners, who were often cruel and inhumane. The Ukrainian peasants were often forced to work long hours for very little pay. They were often illiterate and did not know how to read or write.

The Czarist empire was the greatest exporter of wheat during most of the 1800s. Ukraine was a land of riches and poverty. The majority of the people were poor, but a small group of rich landowners owned most of the land.

The Ukrainian peasants who harvested wheat and other crops were often hungry and their lives were miserable. Farm labor, which would have been very difficult and dangerous, was often not paid. The wages paid were very low and did not provide enough money to support a family.

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NATO military expansion to target Russia & China, says top official

By Gary Wilson

As the U.S. and its NATO satellites flood weapons into Ukraine, NATO is being "transformed" into a fighting force capable of direct wars on Russia and China, says NATO General-Secretary Jens Stoltenberg.

NATO formally launched a 40-nation strong rapid response force targeting Russia in February. This was in addition to the 175,000 NATO troops already on Russia's border.

Also to be noted is President Joe Biden's shift away from the "no first use" of nuclear weapons, with the Pentagon announcing March 29 that the U.S. would consider first use of nuclear weapons.

In an interview with the Telegraph, Stoltenberg said NATO is in the process of making a "fundamental" shift from engaging in what he called "tripwire deterrence" to "be transformed into a major force capable of" direct warfare.

Stoltenberg made clear that China is now as much a target as Russia — We are financing the work on the new strategic concept that will be agreed at the NATO summit in June. And there, I expect China to be an important part.

Stoltenberg adds: "It is also of concern that we see that Russia and China are working more and more closely together."

Ukraine & Bolsheviks

Continued from page 6

it paid more of its debts.

What the Soviet Union had to sell at the time was largely oil, lumber and wheat — all at the low Depression prices. As it was, the Soviets did cut farm exports. ("The 1932 Harvest and the Family," 1933, by Mark B. Tauber, Slavic Review, Spring, 1993.)

Imports of machinery were absolutely necessary to industrialize the Soviet Union. And the industrialization carried out by the five-year plans enabled the Soviet peoples to defeat the Nazi invaders, which killed over 5 million Ukrainians.

So many of the new industries were built in Ukraine. One of the best known projects was the Dnieprostroy hydroelectric dam. By 1946, over a half-million Ukrainian workers had high school or college educations.

Today the greatest racist hellhole is the United States. Wall Street was finally able to overthrow Soviet power in 1991. This was quite an overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens — including 78% of Ukrainians — voting to retain the Soviet Union in a March 25, 1991, referendum.

This tragedy was a greater defeat than the victory of Hitler over the bones of the German working class. World capitalism and its media have been able to poison the minds of too many Ukrainians, Russians and other peoples of the former Soviet Union.

We look forward to NATO's defeat and a revival of a revolutionary movement in Ukraine. Long live the unity of all the workers and progressive peoples in Ukraine! Workers and oppressed peoples of the world, unite!

Read full article online at tinyurl.com/jsusnflf

Since 2014, Stoltenberg said, "We have implemented the biggest reinforcement of NATO since the end of the Cold War."

Following the turnover of the Soviet Union, NATO has expanded from 16 countries to 30. NATO's expansion technically means that the member-nation's armed forces are "integrated" into NATO's command. NATO takes command, with the U.S. dominating. No NATO member-state can act without U.S. approval.

NATO expansion into Eastern Europe

For the last two decades, NATO has been expanding into Eastern Europe. In 1999, NATO took in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. In 2004, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were incorporated. In 2009, Albania and Croatia. In 2017, Montenegro. In 2018, North Macedonia.

Finland and Sweden are reported to be "within weeks" of deciding to join NATO.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is expanding its proxy war in Ukraine, as Leon Panetta, who was CIA director and then secretary of defense in the Barack Obama administration, so clearly put it. The United States and its NATO military operation is in a proxy war against Russia, Ukraine as the battlefield. The U.S. role, Panetta says, is to provide more and more weapons to the fasteretter with Ukraine doing the fighting, bolstered by foreign mercenaries.

It's a matter of military fact that in the Ukrainian proxy war, more military-technical assistance has been dispatched by the U.S. and its NATO satellites, in a larger amount and in a shorter time than in any previous military conflict in history.

Stop arming Ukraine

"Russia warns U.S. to stop arming Ukraine," the Washington Post reported April 14. The Post says "Russia this week sent a formal diplomatic note to the United States warning that U.S. and NATO military-technical assistance has the 'most sensitive' weapons systems to Ukraine are 'adding fuel to' the conflict there and could bring 'unpredictable consequences.'"

The diplomatic note, titled "On Russia's concerns in the context of massive supplies of weapons and military equipment to the Ukraine regime," was forwarded to the State Department by the Russian Embassy in Washington. In it, Russia accuses NATO of trying to "pressure Ukraine to abandon peace negotiations with Russia in order to continue the bloodshed."

The U.S. has sent more than $2.6 billion worth of arms and other military aid to Ukraine since Russia invaded the peninsula in 2014. The Pentagon explained, "The United States has now committed more than $3 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration."

NATO's military budget accounts for the majority of military spending worldwide. NATO spending in 2021 was $1.2 trillion ($1,200,000,000,000), up 24.9% since 2014.

U.S. commands NATO

As noted by the Pentagon, NATO is the primary force for U.S. dominance and control in Europe.

All NATO countries are under the effective military domination of the United States. While the governments of the imperialist countries in NATO are not puppet governments, they are unable to take major decisions involving peace and war without the approval of the government of the United States. The civilian governments of the NATO countries lack full control over their own armed forces.

NATO was founded as a U.S.-led military alliance against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe. But it was more than that. After World War II, the United States was determined to bring all the imperialist countries under its military control — first the defeated Axis powers of Germany, Japan and Italy and then increasingly its "victorious allies," France and Britain, through the NATO alliance.

At the end of the Cold War, the newly capitalist oppressed countries of Eastern Europe were signed up as formal NATO members. NATO has been in the process of un oficially taking in Ukraine — minus Crimea and the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, socialist industry was dismantled in Ukraine. Once the second-largest economy in the USSR, "independent" Ukraine is now the poorest country in Europe.

In 2013, the European Union demanded that Kiev impose Washin-ington-based International Mone- tary Fund (IMF) controls, neoliberal structural adjustments, over all aspects of state spending and operations as the conditions required for membership in the European Union. Even more government assets were to be sold off. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych rejected this for a more favorable offer from Russia.

The Euromaidan coup quickly followed in 2014, openly supported and financed by NATO, to put in a government that bowed to the IMF demands and made NATO membership a policy mandate. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky swiftly signed the ed of Ukraine's entrance into NATO. On Feb. 19, Zelensky demanded, once again, entry to NATO, saying, "Eight years ago, Ukrainians made their choice [the Euromaidan coup]."

The resistance to the Euromaidan coup led to NATO in Ukraine has been bigger and more widespread than reported in the U.S. corporate-controlled media. The resistance has been strongest in the eastern part of Ukraine, particularly the Donbass region. The autonomous Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic were created when the people there voted overwhelmingly (89% and 96%) against a NATO-imposed regime and to secede from the Kiev regime.

In Crimea a 2014 referendum re-jected the Euromaidan coup. The result was a 97% vote for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea seceding, with an 85% voter turnout. This is exercising the right of self-determination. A NATO takeover of Ukraine is the opposite.
**Los archivos de los cinco cubanos regresan a casa**

Por Bill Hackwell

Hace una semana Cheryl LaBash y yo iniciamos el viaje para llevar a casa los archivos de los largo lucha por la liberación de los 5 cubanos que con Alicia Jrapko acumulamos durante un período de 23 años, cuidado-sa y meticulosamente guardados en nuestro sótano; desde la primera carta que Gerardo Hernández le envió a Alicia el 12 de diciembre de 2014, a los tres meses que pasó hasta el momento en que la libertad se le otorgó. Es una cantidad significativa del registro histórico, que no representa toda la información acumulada durante 13 años, pero que conectaba a nuestro pueblo cubano en un movimiento internacional que apoyó a los Cinco.

La singularidad de la lucha por la libertad de los Cinco cubanos fue que, a diferencia de la mayoría de las luchas, estuvo claramente enmarcada en el tiempo desde el momento en que fueron arrestados en Miami el 12 de septiembre de 1998, para defender su patria de los ataques terroristas ocurridos el 11 de septiembre de 2001 hasta su liberación el 17 de diciembre de 2014, a través de esta estrecha ventana que se abrió un breve momento bajo Obama.

Lo más inspirador fue que se llevó a cabo cuando Internet se estaba convirtiendo en una herramienta de organización cada vez más importante que conectaba al movimiento como nunca antes, lo que permitía que se llevaran a cabo eventos internacionales en Londres; Holguín, Cuba; Tó-ronto; Puerto Allegre, Brasil; Tijuana, México, y en otras muchas y proyece-ros que tuvieron lugar durante ese tiempo. Si bien es una cantidad significativa del registro histórico, no representa toda la información acumulada durante ese tiempo por el movimiento internacional que apoyó a los Cinco.

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It took place as the internet was becoming an increasingly prominent organizing tool that connected the movement in a way it had never before enabled international events to take place in London; Holguín, Cuba; To-

The uniqueness of the struggle to free the Cuban 5 was that, unlike most struggles, it was clearly framed in time from the moment they were arrested in Miami on September 12, 1998, for defending their homeland to Gerardo’s victorious return in January past. The historic cargo was personal for me, a Miami resident, but take a detour south with the utility vehicle full of the story of the Cuban 5 to the gates of the peniten- ciary that imprisoned Gerardo for so long taking a modest but significant victory lap for a struggle waged by the Cuban people and supported by millions around the world. It seemed like an appropriate thing to do. It also seemed right to get off Inter-