

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism por el Socialismo



Military spending surges, domestic programs axed

By Gary Wilson

In case you didn't notice, the only thing on Trump's budget so far is military expansion.

On April 7, Trump announced plans for a \$1 trillion defense budget next year, a massive increase.

"We're going to be approving a budget, and I'm proud to say, actually, the biggest one we've ever done for the military," he said. "\$1 trillion. Nobody has seen anything like it."

At the same time, severe cuts (DOGE) ravage domestic government programs.

The timing of this announcement speaks volumes. As working people grapple with reduced public services and slashed social programs, with tens of thousands of civil service jobs cut and other job losses, as well as cuts in

Continued on page 4



The Billionaire-Military Complex - The Pentagon.

Tariffs a step toward war

China, Japan, South Korea talks

Socialism tackles malaria

Trump's war on Yemen



MAY DAY NOLA

New Orleans photo: National Nurses United

Cuba photo: Bill Hackwell



May Day message from CENESEX Cuba

MAY DAY CUBA



Trump's deportations

Protest at ICE prison

"NYC fare ain't fair"

Nurses and immigrant workers stand together

NEW ORLEANS



On May Day, New Orleans nurses with National Nurses United went on strike for a contract for a third time since last October. They were joined on the picket line by immigrant worker organization, Unión Migrante, who led the May Day march.

nurses and patients of LCMC, where most of our immigrant community turns to for health care.

“Let’s say it clear to the greedy men in charge of the hospital. Human lives matter more than money! Nurses’ working conditions are our healing conditions as pa-

tients. It is disgusting that LCMC treats its employees and patients as disposable – we deserve better!

“They deserve a collective agreement with a sustainable patient ratio for each nurse. They deserve decent salaries, as we all deserve. Bills and rent aren’t going down. They deserve union representation and a job with respect.

“This May 1, we remember to stand on the shoulders of people who fought and died for a weekend, an eight-hour workday, health insurance, and much more. So we say, together with the nurses, one more day, one more day stronger! Towards victory always!”#

By Gregory E. Williams

Nurses at New Orleans’ University Medical Center went on strike on May 1. After voting to unionize in December 2023, they’ve been in contract negotiations since March 2024 and went on strike in October 2024 and again this February.

Here’s an April 29 statement from nurse Terry Mogilles posted to [nolanursesunited](#) on Instagram:

“I’m a registered nurse at University Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a proud member of National Nurses United. I am joined here today

by some of my colleagues from UMC and a group of strong, fighting nurses from all over the country. On May 1, we will begin our third strike to win a strong contract for our nurses that protects our patients and our community. We want corporate health care to know: When you take on one of us, you take on all of us!”

The nurses were joined on the picket line by the immigrant worker organization Unión Migrante, which led the May Day march later in the evening. In their Facebook livestream at the picket line, Unión Migrante said:

“We are here in solidarity with the

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May Day message from Cuba's CENESEX

By CENESEX

(Cuban National Center for Sex Education)

This May Day occurs at a difficult time for just causes around the world.

We see how rights are being rolled back in several countries, and revolutionary forces have had to mobilize to express their resistance to a retrograde, neoliberal, and far-right offensive advancing under the guise of modernity and media manipulation, fueled by the erosion of traditional politics and the exploitation of the exploited working class, which sees the satisfaction of its needs increasingly at a disadvantage.

New powers, allied with the established powers, are consolidating and building consensus against leftist ideas. There are attempts to dilute the class struggle, camouflage exploitation, exclusion, and inequality with “technological” capitalism. Revolutionary ideas are stigmatized, and the identity of those who defend socialist and communist ideas is attacked. In this context, no just cause should be seen as an isolated struggle.



Photo: Cenesex

In the face of the advance of neo-fascism and capitalism, of genocide and the economic blockade, as a method of imposition of imperialist power, as has occurred against the Palestinian and Cuban people, and above all, for the class consciousness we must have in our struggle for all rights for all people, the workers and activists

of CENESEX will once again be in the Plaza marching in support of the ideal of the Cuban Revolution and socialism, alongside our people on this International Workers' Day, aware that one cannot fight for a just cause if one is not capable of fighting for all just causes.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield

Cuba's determination and resistance are on full display

MAY 1

By Bill Hackwell and Cheryl LaBash

Havana, May 1 — The massive outpouring filled the emblematic Plaza of the Revolution in Havana this morning to show their resolve that they will not go back or give in to the maximum pressure that U.S. policy imposes on the Cuban people.

For the first time since 2022, when

the scaled-back May Day celebrations gathered in other venues for economic reasons, today the march returned to the Plaza in an unmistakable response to the unrelenting extra-territorial starvation measures imposed by Cuba's rapacious neighbor to its north.

At exactly seven o'clock, as the sun broke into the plaza, the first notes of the National Anthem were heard. And

the 25th anniversary, the speech given by Cuba's historic leader Fidel Castro Ruz, echoed across the people and the hundreds of international union and solidarity delegations attentively gathered there, defined what Revolution is, “Revolution is a sense of the historical moment; it is to change everything that must be changed; it is full equality

Continued on page 4

MAY 1 CUBA'S

Continued from page 3

ty and freedom; it is to be treated and to treat others as human beings; it is to emancipate ourselves by ourselves and with our own efforts; it is to challenge powerful dominant forces within and outside the social and national sphere; is to defend values in which we believe at the price of any sacrifice; is modesty, selflessness, altruism, solidarity and heroism; is to fight with audacity, intelligence and realism; is to never lie or violate ethical principles; is a deep conviction that there is no force in the world capable of crushing the force of truth and ideas. Revolution is unity, it is independence, it is fighting for our dreams of justice for Cuba and for the world, which is the basis of our patriotism, our socialism

Continued on page 5

Photo: Bill Hackwell

Military spending surges, domestic programs axed

Continued from page 1

health care and education, the Pentagon secures yet another windfall. This is not just a budget reallocation but a declaration of who truly holds the reins of power — the billionaires like Elon Musk and the military-industrial complex. Maybe we should call it the billionaire-military complex.

And Trump thinks that his tariff war on the world will pay for the military expansion. Trump's top economic adviser, Stephen Miran, said that the administration is using tariffs to pressure foreign nations to finance U.S. military and financial dominance.

Miran laid out the Trump administration's strategy in a speech on April 7 at the Hudson Institute. The White House later published an official transcript of his remarks.

Miran said that the Trump administration seeks to strengthen U.S. global power, demanding that allies and rivals alike pay for the "benefit" of global U.S. military and financial dominance.

He suggested several ways other countries could pay, including:

- Accepting U.S. tariffs on their exports without retaliating, allowing tariff revenue to help finance the U.S. military.
- Buying more U.S.-made goods, specifically including military equipment (while cutting back on trade with China).
- Investing in and building factories in the U.S.
- Making direct financial contributions ("simply write checks") to the U.S. Treasury (bonds).

Miran said: "Our military and financial dominance cannot be taken for granted; and the Trump Administration is determined to preserve them." He also affirmed the goal of ensuring "dollar dominance can continue for decades, in perpetuity."

Military-industrial complex in Silicon Valley

The U.S. military-industrial complex is centered in Silicon Valley.

A report by Roberto González published in April 2024 by the Costs of War Project, has the details:

"Although much of the Pentagon's

\$886 billion budget is spent on conventional weapon systems and goes to well-established defense giants such as Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Boeing, and BAE Systems, a new political economy is emerging, driven by the imperatives of big tech companies, venture capital, and private equity firms. As Defense Department officials have sought to adopt AI-enabled systems and secure cloud computing services, they have awarded large, multi-billion-dollar contracts to Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and Oracle. ...

"Booming demand for AI-enabled military technologies and cloud computing services is being driven by several developments. Perhaps most importantly, the easy availability of massive amounts of digital data collected from satellites, drones, surveillance cameras, smartphones, social media posts, email messages, and other sources has motivated Pentagon planners to find new ways of analyzing the information."

The United States military has shifted

Continued on page 5

determination & resistance are on full display

Continued from page 4

and our internationalism.”

The celebrations were led by army general Raul Castro Ruz, and President of the Republic, Diaz-Canel Bermudez. In the major address by the Secretary-General of the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC), Ulises Guilarte said, “Cubans do not fear threats or blackmail.”

Guilarte went on to say, “We are celebrating the feast of the world proletariat in the midst of a complicated international scenario, the world suffers a renewed and dangerous imperialist offensive, with neo-fascist expressions that seeks to redesign the international system, ignore the principles of peaceful coexistence and sovereign equality between states as well as to overturn the conquests of justice and human dignity achieved

Continued from page 4

toward AI and “data-driven” warfare. A new revolving door is placing senior Pentagon officials in executive positions or as advisers to big tech companies.

González of Costs of War Project says: “Over the past two years, global events have further fueled the Pentagon’s demand for Silicon Valley technologies, including the deployment of drones and AI-enabled weapon systems in Ukraine and Gaza, and fears of a global AI arms race against China.”

The Costs of War Project report “refutes the popular misperception that China is poised to surpass the U.S. in a global ‘AI arms race’ that will determine the future of geopolitics and global economic dominance. It does this by showing how the arms race narrative has been propagated by Pentagon officials and tech leaders who stand to benefit from increased sales of high-tech weapons, surveillance, and logistics systems enabled by AI. These myths and misperceptions risk diverting taxpayer funds towards research and development (R&D) projects that meet military needs, rather than civilian needs.” #



Photo: Bill Hackwell

by the peoples. ... Without hesitation, we will continue the battle we wage for the consolidation of our freedom, independence and social justice; this is strongly being confirmed by the sea of people that are flooding the squares of the whole country today, with the slogan ‘For Cuba together We Create.’ The Secretary–General went on to add, “We reaffirm our most absolute rejection of the genocidal war waged by the Israeli government against the children of Palestinian land.”

Officially, 5.3 million Cubans turned out across the island, according to the CTC publication Trabajadores, including an estimated 700,000 in Havana alone, according to the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. A thousand friends from more than 30 countries, including members of the May Day brigade, shared the revolutionary energy, dreams and commitment of struggle of the Cuban people.

The first contingent in Havana this morning was the doctors, health professionals, hospitals, research and pharmaceutical facilities providing improved outcomes by prioritizing human health needs instead of piling up profits for Big Pharma, corporate hospitals, and insurance companies.

Recently, Secretary of State Marco

Rubio has upped the attacks on Cuba’s medical missions by threatening to sanction individual leaders of countries for engaging in legal bilateral agreements with Cuba for medical support, which was widely rejected by Caribbean leaders.

The U.S. has targeted the tens of thousands of Cuban doctors providing the health needs of under-served communities primarily in the Global South. The extraordinary example of Cuban doctors coming from this blockaded country is an embarrassment to the U.S., which is the richest country in the world that only identifies healthcare with profit. It is important to remember that we are approaching the twentieth anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when President Bush ignored Cuba’s offer to send 1,500 fully equipped disaster-trained medical professionals to save lives in New Orleans, as the majority Black population died in flood waters and on rooftops. That contingent was named the Henry Reeve Brigade for a U.S.-born hero who fought and died struggling for Cuba’s independence from Spanish colonialism.

For those visiting Cuba for the first time, today’s event provided a tremendous inspiration to fight along the lines of Fidel’s words.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – English

Gestapo tactics: Trump's deportation war not about "fighting antisemitism"

By Lev Koufax

Donald Trump wants the world to believe that fascist thugs kidnapping people in broad daylight is simply a necessary step to protect the poor, suffering Jewish community from an onslaught of antisemitism.

According to the president, the key to winning the battle against antisemitism is to seize and deport pro-Palestine activists, students, professors, and labor organizers. Whether it was Mahmoud Khalil, Rümeyza Öztürk, Alfredo Juarez, Rasha Alawieh, Yunseo Chung, or one of the other people facing abduction and deportation by Trump's regime, the fact pattern was roughly the same.

Kidnapping workers and activists

Enter a worker, student, or activist going about their lives. Some are on their way to dinner with friends. Some are on their way to work. Some are arriving home along with their pregnant spouses. Now, enter a squad of jack-booted Gestapo throwback agents from the Department of Homeland Security.

Before too long, the person is far from their loved ones in a hellhole of a federal detention center.

Donald Trump wants the Jewish community, and really the entire working class, to believe that they should accept the kidnapping and concentration of their neighbors because it is necessary to defeat antisemitism. How ironic, a fascist demagogue would attempt to use the trauma of the Holocaust to justify the usage of the exact same tactics from the holocaust against oppressed communities and progressive organizers.

Donald Trump did not deport a single neo-Nazi who marched on Charlottesville. Donald Trump did not deport the cohorts of Robert Bowers, the fascist organizer who murdered 11 Jewish people in cold blood at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Donald Trump did not deport any of the vicious anti-Semites who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. In fact, Trump pardoned all of them.

Good people on both sides, he says.

A new red scare

No Jewish person should be fooled by these deportations as anything but a new attack on the working class and anti-imperialist organizing during a new red scare.

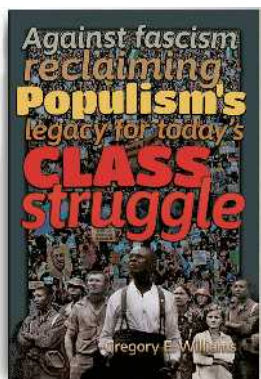
Bring them home! End the deportations! Tear down the prisons!

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.



Donald Trump insisted that there were "good people on both sides" when hundreds of violent neo-Nazis marched on Charlottesville, Virginia, chanting "the Jews will not replace us."

All this comes from the same man who insisted that there were "good people on both sides" when hundreds of violent neo-Nazis marched on Charlottesville, Virginia.



A new book ...

- ▶ Populism: progressive farmers' movement of 1890s
- ▶ Contemporary trans struggle
- ▶ The Silicon Valley-MAGA connection
- ▶ Legacy of Jena Six ▶ Abortion rights movement in South
- ▶ Real motives of right-wing governors
- ▶ Fight against KKK leader David Duke

Also: Vince Copeland's historic pamphlet
'SOUTHERN POPULISM AND BLACK LABOR'



Find online at tinyurl.com/Populism-book

Free them all: protest outside ICE prison in Jena, Louisiana

By Workers Voice Socialist Movement

People traveled from across the Deep South on April 15 to take part in a protest at an ICE prison in Jena, Louisiana. On any given day, as many as 2,000 people are caged at the LaSalle Detention Facility, one of nine for-profit immigrant prisons across the state. The majority of the people in detention have never been charged with a crime; most are forced to spend months in detention, and some, even years.

Protesters from New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Shreveport, and beyond spoke out against the persecution of immigrants and demanded the release of student activist Mahmoud Khalil, who is being targeted by the Trump administration for speaking out against the U.S. / Israeli genocide in Palestine.

The Trump administration is trying to use ICE as a Gestapo-like force to crush any organizing against U.S. wars-for-profit, for workers' rights, etc. They have been targeting our immigrant brothers and sisters, but their intention is to intimidate and repress any and all efforts to resist the U.S. billionaires' agenda of war and austerity. Any efforts to defend and expand the labor and civil rights and social programs we've fought so hard to win must also be aimed at the abolition of ICE and the legalization of immigrants whose labor the billionaires exploit for super-profits. None of us is free if one of us is chained.

Marches, rallies, and actions to inspire courage among the people are all part of the fight against fascism. We will build our strength that much more by bringing the movement into our workplaces and working-class



People traveled from across the Deep South on April 15 to take part in a protest at an ICE prison in Jena, Louisiana.



communities. The struggle for Palestinian freedom is part of the struggle for food on our table, is the struggle to liberate humanity from the clutches of

the war and prison profiteers in control of the U.S. government.

Workers Voice Socialist Movement is based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

British Supreme Court rules against trans people

On 16 April 2025, the British Supreme Court decreed that the legal classifications of ‘woman’, ‘man’, and ‘sex’ refer only to biological sex and not gender identity in relation to the Equality Act of 2010. The decision was the conclusion of a challenge by the trans-exclusionary organisation For Women Scotland (FWS) to the Scottish parliament for its inclusion of trans women in their ‘gender representation objectives’ in March 2018. After seven years, several appeals, and £300,000 in crowd-funding — including £70,000 donated by JK Rowling — FWS has now achieved its goal. The Supreme Court’s decision will now open the door to trans-exclusionary practices across the board. In the days that followed, spontaneous demonstrations spread across the country as young people expressed their outrage at this reactionary step.

Previously, under the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, trans people in possession of gender recognition certificates (GRCs) were to be treated under their acquired genders ‘for all legal purposes’. This meant that, for example, trans women would correctly be counted under quotas aimed at increasing female representation in public boards or party shortlists. Now, trans people, even those with GRCs, can be legally barred from single-sex spaces including public toilets, changing rooms, hospital wards, shelters, prisons, etc, and also excluded from

affirmative action programmes.

The exclusions will require case-by-case legal justification from the organisations which choose to enforce them, and must be based on ‘proportionate’ and ‘legitimate aims’. The Supreme Court judges sought to reassure trans people that they would still be protected from forms of discrimination based on the characteristic of ‘gender reassignment’ — meaning that it remains unlawful to discriminate against trans people in areas such as employment, education, and the provision of services. But this is of no consolation to the tens of thousands of trans people across Britain who are seeing the revocation of their health care and legal rights, and who are subject to around 5,000 reported hate crimes a year from people emboldened by rulings such as these.

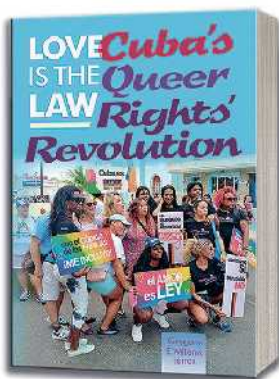
An early consequence of the ruling is the revision by the British Transport Police (BTP) of their procedures on strip searches. These will be henceforth conducted ‘in accordance with the biological birth sex of the detainee’. This would allow for male officers to conduct intimate searches on women whom they suspect are transgender. This will also force trans people working for BTP to conduct strip searches against detainees of the opposite gender. If a change as violent as this can be proved as just within the eyes of the law then it is clear that the law offers no serious protections for trans people at all.

On 25 April, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) issued its own guidance in response to the ruling. This will apply to all schools, workplaces, sports bodies, public services, and associations of 25 people or more. Under this guidance, trans people ‘should not be permitted’ to use facilities in line with their gender identities. Not only this, but there are now also circumstances wherein trans people will be barred from using facilities that correspond with their biological sex! This is in the event of the provision of a third, segregated space for use by transgender people. One wonders if we will next be forced to access services through our own ‘transgendered entrances’!

Despite claims from the Supreme Court’s supporters, including Keir Starmer and Women and Equalities minister Bridget Phillipson, that the ruling provides ‘real clarity’ for women and services, the decision clearly raises more questions than it answers. How will exclusions be enforced? How will a person’s sex be ascertained? How will intersex people be affected? Cabinet Office minister Pat McFadden has said that there ‘isn’t going to be toilet police’ but is that because they are instead going to rely on toilet vigilantes? The Supreme Court has bent the knee to the bio-essentialist, conspiratorial ideology of the trans-exclusionary radical feminists, while the Labour party is now able to distance itself from its supposed ‘wokeness’ on the issue, an important electoral consideration for the party as it seeks to compete with Reform UK for the votes of the most reactionary sections of the electorate.

The Labour Party is not alone in capitulating to the most backward sections of the electorate. A joint communiqué by the Communist Party of Britain (CPB) and the Young Communist League (YCL) issued two days after the ruling stated:

Continued on page 9



Newly released book

Love is the Law, Cuba's Queer Rights Revolution

- ◆ Presentation by Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín
- ◆ Discussion with a transmasculine Cuban activist
- ◆ Reports from LGBTQ+ delegation who went to Cuba to learn about new Families Code
- ◆ Report Guantánamo Peace Seminar
- ◆ The full text of Leslie Feinberg's

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw



British Supreme Court

Continued from page 8

‘We welcome the Supreme Court’s clarification that “sex” means biological sex in the Equality Act 2010 . . . This materialist outcome corroborates our view that “sex” must mean biological sex for the purposes of the Act and any other interpretations would negate its single sex statutory protections. We reject any notion that the Supreme Court ruling was influenced by, or issued as a result of, a transphobic political climate and note Lord Hodge’s remark when delivering the judgment – that it should not be seen as victory of one side over another.’

Thus did supposed ‘communists’ welcome a decision by the guardians of bourgeois moral order, an essential component of the reactionary state apparatus: a hymn of praise for its supposed enlightenment. More than welcome the ruling, in fact, the CPB/YCL actually called for it. In March 2023 the CPB released a statement on the Scottish Parliament’s 2022 Gender Recognition Reform Bill which read:

‘Gender as an ideological construct should not be confused or conflated with the material reality of biological sex. Gender is the vehicle through which misogyny is enacted and normalised. Gender identity ideology is well-suited to the needs of the capitalist class, focusing as it does on individual as opposed to collective rights, enabling and supporting the super-exploitation of women. For these reasons, the Communist Party rejects gender self-ID as the basis for sex-based entitlements in law to women’s single-sex rights, spaces and facilities. The Party will continue to oppose any proposed legislation – whether at Scottish, Welsh or British level – that seeks to enact such a provision. We call for ‘sex’ as a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act to be defined as biological sex.’

The implication is that trans people are ideological tools of the ruling class, they are misogynists, they are vehicles for the super-exploitation of women —

Continued on page 12



April 21, Manhattan – the Fare Ain’t Fair campaign held a news conference demanding a rollback in subway and bus fares.

SLL photo

The ‘fare ain’t fair’ in New York City

By Struggle / La Lucha
New York Bureau

Transit fares have gone up 58 times since 1948

April 21 — The Fare Ain’t Fair campaign held a news conference this morning across from City Hall in lower Manhattan, demanding a rollback in subway and bus fares. Initiated by the December 12th Movement, the campaign advocates a big expansion of the Metropolitan Transit Authority’s “fair fares” program.

The campaign estimates four million New Yorkers would benefit if the program were expanded to include those living below 400% of the miserably low federal poverty limit. It would certainly help one-out-of-three New York City residents who are paying at least half their income on rent.

Speakers pointed out that the current \$2.90 fare is 58 times what it was in 1948, when it was a nickel. Nobody’s wages have risen like that. The fare is scheduled to go up to \$3 in August.

People can’t afford the fare, and many are jumping the subway turnstiles out of necessity. Police have flooded the subways hunting for poor people to jail.

Last year, cops shot Darrell Mickles for allegedly skipping the fare and shot two other people as well at the Sutter Avenue station. Over 88% of those arrested for non-payment are Black or Latinx.

The real crime is the Metropolitan Transit Authority paying \$2.8 billion every year in tax-free interest to the banks and other bondholders. That’s four times what the MTA claims it’s losing to folks’ self-help at the fare box or turnstile.

As the Fare Ain’t Fair campaign stated, “it’s time the MTA starts TAXING Wall Street rather than BORROWING from them and putting us in more debt. It’s time THEY PAY THE FARE!”

After the news conference, people testified at a City Council hearing. To get in touch with the Fare Ain’t Fair Campaign, contact fareaintfair@protonmail.com. #

Tu Youyou, Ho Chi Minh, Mao Zedong and the struggle against malaria

By Stephen Millies

Caused by a parasite which is spread by infected mosquitoes, malaria has killed billions during thousands of years of human history. Just in the last century, an estimated 150 to 300 million people died from the disease.

While smallpox, cholera, polio and the plague have been beaten back, malaria and tuberculosis continue to kill hundreds of thousands of people annually. In 2023, an estimated 597,000 people died from malaria. Ninety-five percent were Africans.

This disease also endangered Vietnam's liberation struggle against the U.S. capitalist empire. In addition to the napalm and Agent Orange dropped by U.S. planes, Vietnamese people were also dying from malaria.

Mosquitoes were infecting Vietnamese soldiers marching down what the corporate media called the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Older remedies like chloroquine were not as effective as they once were.

The Vietnamese communist leader Ho Chi Minh asked the People's Republic of China for help. Ho's comrade, Mao Zedong, responded by setting up Project 523 to find a new and better cure.

It was named for its starting date of May 23, 1967. Its leader was the woman medical researcher Tu Youyou.

Project 523 included more than 500 researchers, including Yu Yagang and Zhong Yurong. (Science, Sept. 29,

2011) Tu and her colleagues searched through thousands of old recipes from Chinese traditional medicine.

A plant called sweet wormwood, mentioned in a 1,600-year-old Chinese medical text, became the focus of attention. Tu Youyou helped develop an extraction method that led to the discovery of the anti-malaria drug Artemisinin in 1972.

Socialist solidarity vs. capitalist greed

Artemisinin and a later medication also developed in China, called dihydroartemisinin, have saved millions of lives around the world. Tu Youyou was finally awarded a Nobel Prize in 2015.

The struggle against malaria continues. It's outrageous that over half a million Africans die from it every year.

Project 523 followed other massive public health efforts in socialist China, including the struggle against schistosomiasis, which was carried by snails. An army of volunteers waded into waterways to destroy the snails, as recounted in "Away with all pests," by Dr. Joshua S. Horn.

The number of schistosomiasis cases in China fell from 11.6 million in the 1950s to 38,000 in 2017.

Compare that with capitalist Big Pharma's record against COVID-19 in Africa. While by the fall of 2021, 6.4 billion vaccine doses had been administered worldwide, only 2.5% of them had been given in Africa.



Beginning in 1969, Chinese scientist Tu Youyou led more than 500 researchers to develop a malaria treatment. The project began to assist Vietnam, but it has gone on to save millions of lives all over the world, especially in the Global South.

Back in 2001, the U.S. Agency for International Development head, Andrew Natsios, declared it was useless to provide treatment for HIV/AIDS in Africa. He claimed that the medications — which had to be taken at certain intervals — were worthless because Africans allegedly "don't know what Western time is."

This year is the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's victory against the U.S. empire. On April 30, 1975, a Vietnamese tank smashed through the gates of Wall Street's former embassy in what was to become Ho Chi Minh City. Poor and working people rejoiced everywhere.

Helping Vietnam was the solidarity given by the other socialist countries, including the then-existing Soviet Union, China, Cuba, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Part of that solidarity was the work of Tu Youyou and her fellow scientists in finding new cures for malaria.

The Pentagon killed millions of Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians, yet the U.S. war machine was defeated. Despite the genocide in Gaza, Palestine will also win. #



CHINA Celebrating 75 years

October 1, 2024, marked the 75th anniversary of China's transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in pollution reduction, and space exploration. China has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

This book aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

tinyurl.com/USWarChina

China, Japan, South Korea restart economic talks amid Trump's tariff war

By Andrew Matatag

On March 30, 2025, delegates from China, Japan, and South Korea held their first economic dialogue in five years. This appears to be a reaction to Trump's tariff war against the world. Only time will tell what these talks mean for the U.S.-dominated political and economic order, but they may indicate increasing independence from the U.S. However, China, Japan, and South Korea each have different relationships to U.S. imperialism, the nature of which is obscured in the capitalist media.

Japan and South Korea dominated by U.S. in different ways

South Korea, though typically referred to as an “ally” of the U.S., is a semi-colony or a satellite state. The U.S. dominates it politically, economically, and militarily, even if Washington doesn't control the government directly. South Korea is occupied by the U.S. military, with some 30,000 troops, the third largest U.S. military occupation after Germany and Japan.

This is no conspiracy. It's how U.S. imperialism operates. This kind of arrangement gives the U.S. all the same control and profits without the overhead costs of an outright colony like “Israel.” This has been the case with South Korea since the end of World War II in 1945.

Japan is different because it is an imperialist power itself. Japan brutally occupied Korea between 1910 and 1945. Today, Japan is generally aligned with and subordinate to the U.S. After World War II, the U.S. deliberately rehabilitated and modernized Japanese industry — to strengthen the Japanese ruling

Following trade talks against U.S. tariffs, South Korean President Yoon impeached

class against both their own working class and the socialist wave sweeping Asia, particularly China, as well as the socialist countries led by the USSR.

After World War II, both Germany and Japan were subordinated militarily by the U.S., with each occupied by the largest U.S. military deployments in the world (that is, there are more U.S. military personnel and equipment, headquarters, etc., in Germany and Japan than in anywhere else in the world outside the U.S.). They are U.S.-occupied imperialist satellites.

The U.S.-imposed constitution on Japan, particularly Article 9, initially limited Japan's military capacity, and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty ensured that Japan served U.S. strategic interests in Asia against the Soviet Union and China.

Japan's post-war economic resurgence (“economic miracle”), aided initially by U.S. policy, eventually led to economic contradictions and inter-imperialist rivalry with the U.S. and Europe. Trade disputes and competition in industries like automobiles and electronics emerged. In recent years, Japan's government has essentially

overridden Article 9 with a serious buildup of military forces. On Dec. 26, 2024, the Associated Press reported:

“The Japanese Cabinet on Friday approved a record 8.7 trillion yen (\$55 billion) defense budget for 2025 as Japan accelerates building up its strike-back capability with long-range cruise missiles and starts deploying Tomahawks to fortify itself against growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia.”

This comes amid a rise of economic and political nationalism accompanied by anti-immigrant movements and growing racism in Japan, as in other imperialist countries like the U.S., Germany, Britain, and France.

China's socialist revolution made a difference

China, however, had a socialist revolution in 1949. It put the majority of people — the workers and peasants — in charge. China had endured its own “century of humiliation” as a semi-colony of Great Britain, which began in 1839. Before the 1949 socialist victory, Japan had occupied parts of China, namely with the colonial puppet state of Manchuria. A U.S. Library of Congress source says that 20 million Chinese people were killed in the Second Sino-Japanese War between 1937 and 1945, making it one of the deadliest conflicts of WWII.

After so much death and destruction, the people of China would not fall into the same trap again. China's revolution secured its sovereignty. Western powers, led by the U.S., have never forgiven China for its revolution. The U.S. has spent much of its military budget for decades trying to economically and militarily encircle China.

Continued on page 12



Trade ministers (from left to right): Japanese Industry Minister Yoji Muto; South Korean Industry Minister Ahk Duk-geun; Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao.

China, Japan, South Korea restart economic talks

Continued from page 11

But even with intensified aggression, starting under Obama and intensifying into Trump's second term, China is not backing down, and is not bending to kiss Trump's ring.

Significance of current trade talks

As a response to U.S. tariffs, China, Japan, and South Korea agreed to expand their economic cooperation by continuing to stabilize supply chains and maintain continuous dialogue on export controls.

Japan and South Korea are interested in importing raw materials for semiconductors, and China is interest-

ed in finished chip products in return.

To avoid drawing attention from the imperialists in Washington, both Japan and South Korea have downplayed the discussions.

But the joint statement speaks for itself:

“We noted with satisfaction the advancements made in trilateral cooperation between our three countries and held fruitful discussions on the future trajectory of our cooperation. We especially recognized the need for ongoing trilateral economic and trade cooperation to effectively address emerging challenges and achieve tangible outcomes in key areas.”

Though this is not a new trade agreement, an agreement to continue talks independently of the U.S. could be significant. It could signal that Washington's ability to control the situation may be waning. Trade relations in themselves (even in defiance of U.S. efforts to isolate China) will likely not be enough to counteract Japan's remilitarization and increasingly racist posture.

But in this current period, it may be a political accomplishment in itself for two nations aligned with U.S. imperialism to be in the same room as one that has proven to be its counterweight, discussing economic cooperation. Ultimately, though, it is people's struggles, particularly in Japan and South Korea, that can fundamentally change the dynamics.

People's Victory in South Korea

Days later, on April 4, 2025, President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol was ousted by the country's Constitutional Court.

This was a result of a four-month-long struggle that followed President Yoon's attempted declaration of martial law. Working-class forces, including the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), took to the streets demanding his removal.

Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, an organization of Koreans in the diaspora for reunification and national liberation, put it succinctly:

“The movement in the streets that brought down Yoon has always demanded far more than his removal. Yoon is simply one representative of South Korea's ruling capitalist class, and this class itself is dependent on U.S. imperialism to remain in power.”

A special election for the presidency takes place in June. What this may mean for continued economic cooperation with China and Japan remains to be seen. But the South Korean people have shown that they have the power to topple U.S.-backed stooges. This is likely not comforting to the imperialist leaders in Washington and their Wall Street constituents. #

British Supreme Court v trans people

Continued from page 8

something that real communists have always regarded not as an ideological question, but one rooted in the material conditions of capitalist production. Any idea of sex as an immutable, static binary completely falls apart when you bother to acknowledge the existence of intersex people. Any argument for a single determining factor in whether a person is male or female breaks under the slightest scrutiny. Moreover, we as Marxists examine the world through the scientific model of dialectical materialism, not through the mechanical materialism that the CPB subscribes to. In practice, the CPB/YCL are adapting to the sentiments of the most backward sections of the working class. The ruling has nothing to do with defending or advancing the rights of women: these will come under increasing attack by the Labour government as the crisis deepens.

We want to be clear: you cannot be a socialist, let alone a communist, and remain a member of the CPB/YCL. Nor can you be whilst attaching yourself to the thoroughly reactionary Labour party. The policies of socialist Cuba towards trans people, in particu-

lar its 2022 Family Code, are the negation of these parties' reactionary standpoints. Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! has and will always be an organisation that stands against all forms of discrimination. We will always completely encourage and welcome the involvement of trans people within the broader struggle towards socialism. The demonstrations across the country in the days that followed the judgment were a refreshing response to the ruling: dominated by young people, protests were democratic in spirit and conduct, with open mics being the norm rather than the exclusionary methods adopted by the official labour movement whose pre-selected platform speakers are intended to ensure passivity in any audience. In Brighton, Liverpool, London, Newcastle and elsewhere comrades of FRFI addressed the crowds to call for solidarity with trans people in the face of this attack by the British state. FRFI will continue to support these protests as they develop.

Another world is possible!

Trans liberation now!

*Source: Fight racism!
Fight imperialism!*

U.S. fuels organized crime in Latin America with illegal weapons

By Alejandra Garcia

The Trump administration's designation of drug cartels as "terrorists" has opened the door to direct military intervention in Latin America. However, behind this security narrative lies an uncomfortable reality: most of the weapons that fuel organized crime violence come from the United States.

The U.S. government, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Donald Trump, issued an executive order designating Mexican and regional drug cartels as "terrorists". With this, the White House and the Pentagon build the framework of justification for self-enabling drone and missile warfare attacks on the sovereign territories of Latin America.

In parallel to this decision, and according to a recent investigation by analysts Paula Giménez and Matías Caciabue published in Nodal News, the illegal arms trade supplies the cartels, strengthening their firepower, which has become a scourge for the region. This reality has become a serious affront to Latin American states and a danger to their citizens.

But where do drug trafficking weapons come from, what are the interests of the political and economic actors involved, and how does this dynamic impact regional security and forced migration?

Gimenez and Caciabue say the weapons come mainly from Arizona, Texas and Florida, where weak legislation and controls allow arms to flow easily to organized crime. In these states, the arms business and the world's largest drug market converge in a symbiotic relationship: while weapons cross the southern border to strengthen criminal groups, drugs make the reverse journey to feed U.S. demand.

"The money from the lucrative narco-economy continues to feed the ille-

gal circuit of buying and selling weapons. Violence that, obviously, ends up promoting the immigration that has awakened so much xenophobia in U.S. voters, that is encouraged by Trumpism," the experts affirmed.

U.S.-made weapons fuel violence in several regions. "In the case of Latin America, it is known that a significant number of guns recovered at crime scenes were either manufactured in the United States, or first imported into the United States and then illegally trafficked," they stated. For example, 98% of illegal guns in Haiti and the Bahamas come from the United States. In Mexico this figure reached 70% in the last decade. In the 7 Central American countries, 50% of illegal weapons come from the US.



U.S. fuels organized crime in Latin America with illegal weapons

Similarly, according to a recent report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, 73% of the weapons recovered between 2018 and 2023 in the Caribbean region originated in the United States, and in some countries these weapons are responsible for up to 90% of homicides.

The geopolitical response to this crisis is contradictory. Washington criminalizes gangs south of its border, but weapons flow freely from the north, a policy that only benefits the war and private security industries. Without a dramatic change gun violence will continue to increase, organized crime will grow stronger, and Latin American societies will continue to be trapped in a spiral of death.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano*
– English

The blackout in Puerto Rico

Continued from page 16

medical instruments, have already lost their lives, or their condition has worsened. Small business owners who cannot afford a generator or a solar panel system have lost their businesses and their families' income. And let's also remember that in high-altitude areas, water service depends on pumps that, in turn, operate on electricity. So when there's no electricity, there's no water!

The local government of Jennifer González, obedient to the Fiscal Control Board imposed by the United States, continues to reward these companies that come not to provide a service, but to steal from the people. They've already raised the cost of electricity seven times since they started four years ago. Now that Board has requested that the rate be raised

again! And unlike other countries that may experience difficulties with this service, there is no remedy or warning from the government. Quite the contrary! The governor only lies and makes false promises to the people.

But it seems the people's patience is running out, and both on social media and in the news, they are protesting against both the operation of these private companies and the governor. And here, six years ago, a similar movement began that forced Governor Roselló to resign.

We'll see if this will turn into Jennifer Resign! Zero Privatizations! And Down with the Junta!

*From Puerto Rico, speaking to
Radio Clarín of Colombia,
Berta Joubert-Ceci*



Tariffs a step toward military mobilization

By Gary Wilson

The Trump administration's April 2 "emergency" executive order reveals that military readiness and defense industrial capability — not merely economic protectionism — are the primary objectives. The administration has explicitly positioned these policies as necessary to rebuild U.S. manufacturing capacity for war.

The April 2 executive order states:

"Large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits have led to the hollowing out of our manufacturing base; inhibited our ability to scale advanced domestic manufacturing capacity; undermined critical supply chains; and rendered our defense-industrial base dependent on foreign adversaries."

Billionaire hedge fund (Bridgewater Associates) manager Ray Dalio says that tariffs prepare the economy for war.

Tariffs "can reduce both current account and capital account imbalances," Dalio writes. "Which in plain English means reducing the dependencies on foreign production and foreign capital which is especially valued in times of global geopolitical conflicts/wars."

Dalio thinks: "The United States and China are now in a trade war, a technology war, a geopolitical influence war, and a capital/economic war, and they are now dangerously close to a military war."

The 'Arsenal of Democracy'

Peter Navarro, White House Senior Counselor for Trade and Manufacturing and author of the Project 2025 chapter on trade, says that military expansion is the goal, to build an "Arsenal of Democracy," the term Franklin D. Roosevelt used to describe the United States' role as a major supplier of weaponry, supplies, and other military aid to Allied countries during World War II.

On Fox News, Navarro said:

"The bigger picture here is restoring the American manufacturing base. We don't have that. We're an assembly...

you remember... something called the Arsenal of Democracy back in World War II? That was how we beat the Japanese and the Germans with our military might. When [U.S. General George] Patton [and the U.S. Army] went to Berlin [in 1945] it was with trucks, jeeps and tanks that were made in the auto plants of the Midwest [of the U.S.] and right now the only thing that looks like the Midwest [did] back then is Mexico. You go across the diaspora [sic] of cities in Mexico, there's ... 50 football field size assembly plants that are down there [and that] make the engines for here. We can't do that. The Germans and the Japanese, the South Koreans and the Mexicans have taken our manufacturing capabilities so we've got to get that back. [...] If we don't have a solid auto industry, when we have problems in the world, we're going to be speaking some other language."

Strategically, U.S. military planners worry about inadequate civilian industrial capacity, which limits the country's ability to convert civilian industries for wartime production quickly. Immediately concerning is the widespread consensus that current military production levels are insufficient and slow to expand, hampered by skilled labor shortages and a weak industrial base.

In November 2024, Admiral Samuel Paparo, head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told Military.com that supplying significant military aid to Ukraine and Israel had compromised the U.S.'s readiness to respond to potential crises in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly regarding Taiwan. Paparo said that the Ukraine and Gaza interventions are depleting critical ammunition stockpiles and emphasized the urgent need to replenish supplies beyond current levels.

Upon confirmation in January 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth vowed to rebuild military capabilities by revitalizing the defense industrial base,

streamlining procurement, achieving fiscal accountability, and rapidly deploying emerging technologies.

Globalized manufacturing

Trump's extreme tariff strategy, which targets all foreign nations, won't be able to bolster isolated military-related industries, given the realities of modern production. The production of complex goods now depends on a globalized division of labor, with scales of specialization and technological intricacy surpassing the capacity of any single country, including the largest economies. Such production demands immense societal resources, a requirement fundamentally incompatible with the profit-driven, market-centric framework of U.S. imperialism.

Globalized manufacturing is not merely about outsourcing to exploit low-wage markets in the Global South. It also relies on a division of labor among wealthy imperialist states, each leveraging distinct industrial and technological specialties. This system serves as a mechanism to contain China, which faces not isolated adversaries like the U.S., Japan, or Europe, but a coalition of imperialist powers united by their shared structural dominance in the global economy. These states collectively benefit from exploiting China and other countries in the Global South.

Should the global trade order fracture, the U.S. would still need to sustain alliances with key imperialist and subordinated states in the Global South to preserve an international (if no longer fully global) division of labor — a structure that defined the first Cold War. Before 1991, imperialist economies thrived without access to Chinese labor, Eastern European manufacturing, or Russian resources. Today, agreements like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) ensure U.S. imperialism retains control over regional pools of low-wage labor and natural resources.

Continued on page 15

Trump escalates war against Yemen

By Lev Koufax

Over the past six weeks, the United States has severely escalated its war against the people of Yemen for their resistance against imperialism and their steadfast solidarity with Palestine. U.S. combined naval and air forces have struck Yemen hundreds of times since mid-March. These strikes have mostly targeted civilian infrastructure: dock facilities, fuel silos, grain supplies, residential buildings, and a major sanitation project.

Since the Trump administration escalated the ongoing U.S. bombing campaign against Yemen in March, hundreds of innocent people have been killed. To be clear, U.S. military aggression against Yemen is not a new development. The Biden administration spent the last year pounding Yemen as punishment for its refusal to abandon Gaza and Palestine.

Biden's strikes killed dozens and threatened to throw Yemen back into famine. And even so, the recent Trump offensive in the Red Sea represents a marked escalation by the U.S. imperialists. Under Trump, the military attack on Yemen has reached a new fever pitch.

Tariffs

Continued from page 14

No imperialist state, including the U.S., can sustain capitalism in isolation. Their wealth and capital accumulation depend critically on extracting value from the Global South through unequal trade relations, securing super-profits that far exceed average returns. Even non-market activities, such as war production, rely on efficiencies derived from globalized supply chains and labor hierarchies. Ultimately, imperialist dominance is meaningless without mechanisms to exploit that power — a reality inseparable from capitalism's drive for profit. #



On April 25, following U.S. airstrikes, massive crowds rallied in Yemen's capital city, Sanaa, raising aloft both the Palestinian and Yemeni flags.

Recently, the New York Times reported that the U.S. military has begun a significant buildup of military equipment and personnel across the Middle East. As a part of this buildup, the U.S. Navy has moved a second aircraft carrier into the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen and begun negotiations with Saudi-backed militias to begin a ground offensive against the Ansar Allah movement.

Furthermore, the U.S. moved two Patriot missile batteries and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to the Middle East. As if this wasn't enough, a half-dozen B-2 bombers capable of carrying 30,000-pound bombs were dispatched to Diego Garcia, an island base in the Indian Ocean. All of this equipment is being positioned to be used not only against defiant Yemen, but also Iran.

When Trump took office, he swore to be a peacemaker. He swore to destroy the cycle of "endless war." The current U.S. military buildup in the Middle East and the severe wave of attacks on Yemen again demonstrate that the Republican and Democratic parties are simply two sides of the same imperialist coin. The imperialist objective to destroy Yemen is not that of Biden or Trump alone, but of all the billionaires who rely on Red Sea ship-

ping lanes and U.S. military presence in the region to rake in profit.

Yemen represents a serious problem for the U.S. imperialists in that part of the world. Trump and Netanyahu want to be able to carpet bomb the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria at will. Yemen and Iran have so far made that impossible. All U.S. and Zionist attacks in the region have been met with a response from the Yemeni people. Whether it is missile strikes on Zionist military bases in Gaza or the blockade on Western shipping in the Red Sea, Yemen has stood up and said no more. No more genocide. No more imperialism. No more war.

The working class of the United States must stand up and stand in solidarity with the people of Yemen now more than ever. Yemen may seem distant, but our solidarity must be exactly the opposite. The fact is, every bomb that falls on Yemeni ports or schools or factories falls right here at home. Every cent that goes to murdering working-class sisters and brothers in Yemen is a cent that could have been used to house, feed, and clothe all working-class people.

Our solidarity with Yemen in their fight must never waver.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

El apagón en Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Este pasado miércoles de Semana Santa, Puerto Rico vivió – por segunda vez en apenas tres meses – un apagón general. El primero fue en vísperas del Año Nuevo.

Desde que se privatizó el servicio de energía eléctrica, hemos vivido con una inestabilidad de ese servicio. Los apagones, que duran horas y las fluctuaciones de voltaje, han causado no solo desasosiego en la población, sino que muchas personas han perdido desde electrodomésticos, aparatos electrónicos, alimentos, hasta su vivienda que se ha quemado ya sea por un cortocircuito, o por la explosión de un generador eléctrico. Y ni se hable del costo a la salud. Algunas personas enfermas, sobre todo en lugares montañosos, que viven a merced de bombonas de oxígeno o instrumentos médicos eléctricos, ya han perdido sus vidas o se le ha agravado su condición. Pequeños comerciantes que no tienen para costear un generador, o un sistema de placas solares, han perdido sus negocios, el ingreso de su familia. Y recordemos también, que en lugares altos, el servicio del agua depende de bombas que a su vez operan con energía eléctrica. Así que cuando no hay luz, ¡tampoco hay agua!

El gobierno local de Jenniffer González, obediente a la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por Estados Unidos



Manifestantes marcharon por el expreso Las Américas para exigir la salida de la compañía Luma ante la continua falta de luz en toda la isla, en San Juan, Puerto Rico, el 15 de octubre de 2021.

sigue premiando a estas compañías que vienen, no a proveer un servicio, sino a robarle al pueblo. Ya han subido el costo de la luz siete veces desde que comenzaron hace cuatro años. ¡Ahora esa Junta ha pedido que se suba la tarifa otra vez! Y a diferencia de otros países que pueden pasar por dificultades en este servicio, no hay ningún remedio ni alertas del gobierno. ¡Todo lo contrario! La gobernadora, solo miente y hace promesas falsas al pueblo.

Pero parece que ya está colmándose la paciencia del pueblo y tanto en las

redes sociales como en los noticieros, se manifiestan tanto en contra del funcionamiento de estas compañías privadas, como del de la gobernadora. Y aquí hace 6 años, comenzó un movimiento similar para que hizo que el gobernador Roselló renunciara.

Veremos si ahora, se convertirá en ¡Jenniffer Renuncia! ¡Cero privatizaciones! Y ¡Fuera la Junta!

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló, Berta Joubert-Ceci



The blackout in Puerto Rico

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

This past Wednesday of Holy Week, Puerto Rico experienced — for the second time in just three months — a general blackout. The first was on New Year's Eve.

Since the privatization of the electricity service, we have lived with unstable electricity. The blackouts, which

last for hours, and voltage fluctuations have caused not only unrest among the population, but many people have lost everything from appliances, electronic devices, and food to their homes, which have burned down either by a short circuit or by the explosion of an electric generator. And let's not

even mention the cost to their health. Some sick people, especially in mountainous areas, who live at the mercy of oxygen tanks or electrically powered

Continued on page 13

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