



APRIL 20, 2018

Successful National Student Walkout

On April 20, students in every state from about 2500 schools and universities walked out of class. The students are demanding solutions to the problem of gun violence, at their schools and in their communities, including demanding an end to police killings. They are also defending their right to education, including safe schools and the funding required.

Across the country, students are rejecting government plans for increasing the use of guns and force, such as having armed police in public schools, more fences and security cameras and various other means to make schools like prisons, not places of learning. As signs in many actions have brought

DEMONSTRATIONS DEMAND

Hands Off Syria! End All U.S. Wars Now!



Across the country on April 14-15 antiwar demonstrations took place rejecting Trump's illegal bombing of Syria and demanding *Hands Off Syria! End All U.S. Wars Now!* In some cities, like Boston, emergency demonstrations

were held before the bombing took place and the day after as well. Elsewhere, regional actions in Washington, DC, New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles brought people together to demand U.S. wars

Antiwar Demonstrations •

CELEBRATE MAY DAY, DAY OF
INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS UNITY
AND STRUGGLE

Advance the Aim of an Anti-War Government

On this May Day, the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization sends its revolutionary greetings to the teachers and students across the country fighting for change that favors their inter-

ests and to all workers here and worldwide. We salute the many struggles for rights abroad and at home and affirm the necessity to advance politics of empower-

Anti-War Government • 3

SALUTE HISTORIC THIRD INTER-KOREAN SUMMIT

Koreans Pave the Way for Peace and Ensuring Korea Is One!

The great success of the Inter-Korean Summit held at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the 38th parallel in Panmunjom April 27 brought great joy and hope, in Korea and worldwide. The summit

paved the way to peace and reunification, ensuring that Korea is One! The summit provided a clear example of the stand north and south to move forward on the basis

Korea is One • 4

43RD ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEAT OF U.S.

Salute the Heroic Vietnamese People and Their Advances in Building Their Nation

April 30, 1975 marked the victory of the Vietnamese in their struggle against the U.S. Forty-three years ago, the U.S. imperialists had to flee Viet Nam as their armed aggression and intervention in Viet Nam was defeated. The

Vietnamese, like the Koreans before them, showed that a people armed with their just cause and organized to defend their independence and rights emerge victorious. It is not weaponry that is decisive, but

Vietnamese Victory • 11

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I • Advance Aim of Anti-War Government

ment — politics of and for the working class and its struggle to end imperialist wars and take society in a new direction.

When it comes to issues of war and peace, or those of solutions to the social problem of gun violence at home, workers and students are confronted with the reality that they do not have decision making power. The broad anti-war stand of the large majority and solutions being suggested, such as *Bring All U.S. Troops Home; Demilitarize the Police; Defend the Rights of All Abroad and at Home* are not implemented.

Police powers, which are arbitrary and enforce impunity for crimes, from the president on down to killer police, are being expanded. The genocide of killer drones and killer cops continues, with the government refusing to be accountable for these crimes. Raids on workers, such as meatpackers in Tennessee, more and longer family detention, troops to be used against people at the southern border, illegal searches and seizures of immigrants despite court rulings, demands for five years of social media records for people, including students, applying for visas — these are just a few of the police powers imposed, against the will and interests of the people.

Organizers among the youth, teachers and immigrants are being targeted for defending rights. Despite broad demonstrations across the country involving millions demanding an *End to All U.S. Wars; Books not Bullets; to Arm Teachers with Resources Not Guns*, the U.S. continues in a backward and dangerous direction of war and attacks on rights, abroad and at home. This direction of a government of police powers is serving to eliminate political structures and institutions and attempting to eliminate politics and political organizing all together. A dysfunctional and marginalized Congress, an electoral system that resolves no conflicts, whether among the rulers or between the governed and those governing are all indications that the old is finished and only the new can move society forward.

We are being deprived of political power and that must be addressed from our vantage point — from our drive for empowerment. It is not a matter of reacting to the rulers and getting embroiled in their battles, but rather looking at the reality which is telling us that the problem of political power is critical.

To grapple with this issue, working class politics and broad

political discussion are necessary to identify the interests of the workers and students and what is needed to defend and advance them. The rulers are constantly striving to rob workers of their own politics and their own way of looking at the world. This too is a form of coercion, right alongside the violence of police powers. We are to accept the thinking of the rulers and their trap that the only answer is for or against one or the other faction among them. Voting for or against their politicians, accepting their electoral system which guarantees they remain in power, are all means of robbing workers of their own thinking and experience.

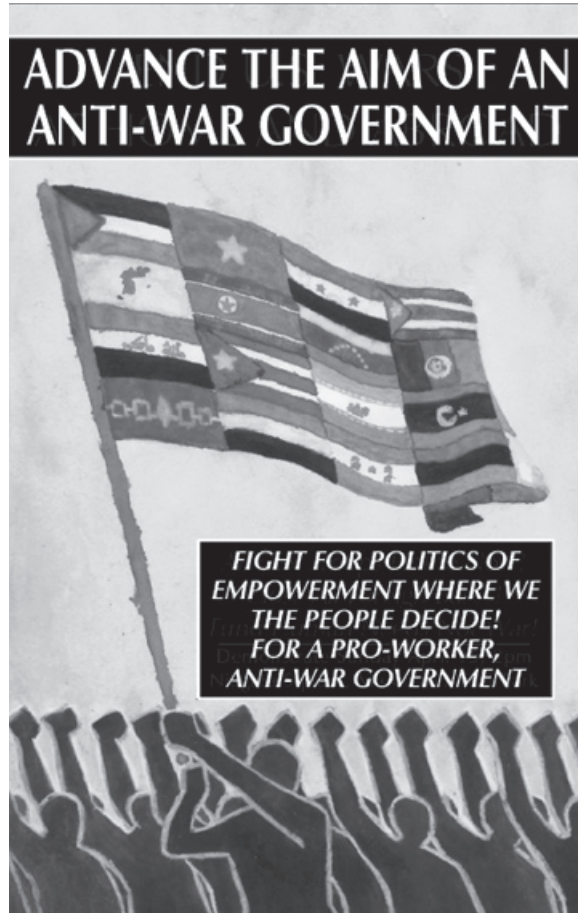
Experience repeatedly shows the rulers have no solutions and are taking the world in a dangerous and direction. Without our own thinking, our own aims, our own program to achieve them, we fall into these traps of the rulers designed to keep them in power and the people out.

This May Day is a time to break with the old and rotten direction of the rulers and advance the aims and outlook of the single U.S. working class. It is necessary to have a vantage point to *our advantage*, which cannot be achieved by reacting to the rulers and remaining stuck in their old way of looking at the world — which justifies their rule while depriving the people of political power

An important way to advance the new is to take up the aim of an anti-war government and the political process necessary to achieve it. The U.S. working class is saddled with a war govern-

ment and war economy that is directly opposed to its interests and those of workers worldwide. It serves to block the international unity of workers of all countries and undermines the fraternal unity of the peoples. Yet this internationalism is what modern times require. They require empowering the people to govern and decide and for the working class to lead this struggle.

The aim of an anti-war government is a unifying one, as it recognizes the connections between war abroad and attacks on rights at home. Both are needed for the rulers to continue their rule. Neither are needed for the people to defend their interests and advance their aims. Taking up this aim and urging all to do the same, whatever front of struggle they may be contending with, is a means to advance politics of empowerment where we, the people decide. In this election year, let there be broad discussion about advancing these politics and developing new institutions for a new democracy of our own making.



of “By Our Nation Itself.” The Koreans set their own agenda to achieve peace, the unification of their nation and prosperity. They achieved this victory by not permitting the U.S. to derail their efforts and by refusing to submit to outside interference. Together the two leaders signaled to the world that repeated U.S. imperialist threats to unleash nuclear weapons against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will fail. *Korea is One* and will no longer be divided. *Voice of Revolution* joins all those in Korea, the U.S. and worldwide in saluting this great achievement. *Our Congratulations!*

The summit and its declaration (see p.5) showed that when the people’s interests are upheld, peaceful solutions without use of force can be found. It put to rest the U.S. insistence that security can only be achieved through force and threats. The world witnessed instead important steps toward peace. Everything was done to ensure the success of the talks. There was not the usual display of mudslinging and provocations typical of U.S. summits of various kinds, where the notion is not mutual respect and benefit but rather ensuring the U.S. comes out on top. There was a high level of culture providing a calm and optimistic atmosphere where concrete measures could be taken together by the Koreans. The two statespersons, President Moon of the Republic of Korea and Chairman Kim of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and their organizations, using great care to fully prepare the summit and ensure its success brought honor to the Korean people and their leaders.

The summit demonstrated the stand now needed by the U.S. to further contribute to peace. Mutual respect and benefit, concrete measures in this direction and upholding the aspirations of the



people for peace and complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the region and world, are needed. It is now up to the U.S. to remove its ships and bombers and troops and sign a peace treaty to end the 1950-53 war. *Voice of Revolution* urges all peace-loving people across the U.S. to stand up for this direction and help galvanize public opinion in favor of peace through peaceful means.

Let the inter-Korean summit be an example for the upcoming summit between Chairman Kim and President Trump. U.S. striving for domination and wrecking what it cannot control must have no place. The aspirations of the Korean nation for unity and peace and the aspirations of people in the U.S. for peace and fraternal relations must guide the summit. Serious political affairs can be sorted out on a political basis without use of force. It can be done in a manner that favors the peoples, upholds their dignity and deepest aspirations, and contributes to the cause of peace, in Korea and worldwide. The summit showed this. That Trump is unlikely to pursue such a path makes it all the more urgent for people in the U.S. to take a clear and public stand: *Support Korean Reunification and Sign a Peace Treaty Now!*

U.S. Must Disarm Now and Remove All Troops from Korea

In the spirit of the recent Inter-Korea Summit, which took concrete measures to lessen tensions and move toward denuclearization, the U.S. also needs to take similar steps before and at the upcoming DPRK-U.S. summit. This can be done immediately by removing all U.S. battleships and bombers from the region, which are a show of force and means to enforce U.S. threats to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against Korea. Given the steps toward peace and reunification accomplished by the Summit, this show of force is not needed. It is evident that the Koreans can resolve problems themselves and achieve the best results when there is not outside interference. The Koreans provided a clear and firm example of how serious political issues can be resolved on a political basis, through negotiations aimed at achieving the interests and aspirations of the people. Let this spirit and stand guide U.S. actions.

Instead, Trump has continued to emphasize use of force and sanctions, which harm the Korean people and block relations of mutual respect and benefit. Echoing the administration, much of the U.S. monopoly media is promoting confusion about the issue of denuclearization. The claim is that for the U.S. it means elimination of weapons by the DPRK and a regime of

verification, but not elimination of U.S. nuclear weapons and occupation troops. Indeed such discussion is not even supposed to be on the agenda. Such a one-sided approach, particularly given the U.S. has a massive nuclear arsenal, has dropped nuclear bombs and threatens to do so again, poisons the atmosphere from the start.

His actions at the Summit show there is no doubt Chairman Kim of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) will make every effort to further the cause of peace and efforts to normalize relations with the U.S. Let the U.S. respond in kind. This can be done by taking steps to eliminate nuclear weapons from the U.S. arsenal and initial efforts to remove the 28,500 troops from the south. This is necessary to meet the aspirations of the Koreans to pursue peace and reunification on the basis of their own efforts. The U.S. has responsibility, not only towards the Koreans but based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to reduce and eliminate its nuclear weapons and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify it is doing so.

Denuclearization and demilitarization falls primarily on the U.S. For peace and security, it is the U.S. that must disarm and bring its troops home.

Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, in reflection of the unanimous aspirations of all the fellow countrymen for peace, prosperity and reunification, held north-south summit talks at the House of Peace at Panmunjom on April 27, 2018 at a significant time when a historic turn is being brought about on the Korean Peninsula.

The leaders of the north and the south solemnly declared to the 80 million Koreans and the whole world that there will not be another war on the Korean Peninsula and a new era of peace has been ushered in there.

They, with a firm will to put an end to the protracted division and confrontation, outcome of the Cold War era, as early as possible, to open a new era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity with determination and to improve and develop inter-Korean relations more positively, declared at the historic place of Panmunjom as follows:

1. The north and the south will make an all-round and epochal improvement and development in their relations so as to reconnect the severed blood vessel of the nation and bring earlier the future of co-prosperity and independent reunification.

To improve and develop north-south relations is a unanimous desire of all the fellow countrymen and an urgent demand of the times that brooks no further delay.

First, the north and the south affirmed the principle of national independence that the destiny of our nation must be decided by our nation itself, and agreed to bring about a turning point in the improvement and development of relations by thoroughly implementing inter-Korean declarations and all agreements already adopted.

Second, the north and the south agreed to hold high-level talks and other dialogue and negotiations in all fields at an early date in order to take proactive measures for putting into practice the issues agreed at the summit talks.

Third, the north and the south agreed to set up a north-south joint liaison office permanently stationed by the authorities of both sides in the Kaesong area so as to keep close contact between them and ensure smooth nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation.

Fourth, the north and the south agreed to reenergize many-sided cooperation, exchanges, visits and contact of all social strata in order to stoke up the atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity.

They agreed to boost the atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation at home by positively promoting joint events of the nation involving the authorities, parliaments, political parties, local autonomous and nongovernmental organizations and all other social strata to mark significant anniversaries common to



both sides, including June 15, and to demonstrate to the whole world the resourcefulness, talents and united appearance of the nation abroad by jointly entering international games, including the 2018 Asian Games.

Fifth, the north and the south agreed to strive for an immediate settlement of humanitarian issues caused by national division and open inter-Korean Red Cross talks in order to discuss and resolve various issues, including the reunion of separated families and their relatives.

For the present, they agreed to arrange such a meeting on the occasion of the forthcoming August 15 national liberation day.

Sixth, the north and the south agreed to push ahead with projects agreed upon in the October 4, 2007 Declaration so as to ensure a balanced development of the national economy and achieve co-prosperity and take practical measures for relinking, upgrading and exploiting the railway lines and roads on the east and west coasts in the first stage.

2. The north and the south will work together to ease the acute military tension and substantially remove the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula.

To defuse military tension and remove war danger on the peninsula is a very important issue related to the destiny of the nation and a vital issue for ensuring a peaceful and stable life of our fellow countrymen.

First, the north and the south agreed to completely discontinue all hostile acts against each other, which are the source of military tension and conflict, in all spaces of the ground, sea and air.

They agreed to stop loudspeaker broadcasting, leaflet scattering and all other hostile acts along the Military Demarcation Line and remove means of these acts from May 1 for the present and turn the Demilitarized Zone into a true peace zone in the future.

Second, the north and the south agreed to take practical measures for preventing any accidental military clash and ensuring

safe fishing activities by turning the area along the “northern limit line” on the West Sea into a peace zone.

Third, the north and the south agreed to take a series of military security measures for revitalizing mutual cooperation, exchanges, visits and contact.

The north and the south agreed to hold frequent talks of military authorities including ministers of the people’s armed forces and to arrange general-level military talks first in May so as to immediately discuss and resolve military issues arising between both sides.

3. The north and the south will closely work together to build a permanent and durable peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula.

It is a historic task that allows no further delay to put an end to the current abnormal armistice and set up a definite peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula.

First, the north and the south reaffirmed the nonaggression agreement on the non-use of any type of armed force against each other, and agreed to strictly observe it.

Second, the north and the south agreed to reduce armaments by stages in accordance with the easing of military tension and the substantial building of mutual military confidence.

Third, the north and the south agreed to push ahead with holding of three-party talks involving the north, the south and the U.S., or four-party talks embracing the north, the south, China and the U.S. to declare the termination of war, replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace pact and establish a permanent and lasting peace mechanism in this year that marks the 65th anniversary of the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement.

Fourth, the north and the south affirmed the common goal to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free through its complete denuclearization.

The north and the south shared the view that the proactive measures taken by the north are very important and crucial for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and agreed to fulfill their respective responsibility and role in the future.

The north and the south agreed to work hard to win support and cooperation from the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The leaders of the north and the south agreed to frequently have a serious discussion of the matters of national importance through regular talks and hotline to consolidate confidence, and make concerted efforts to further expand the trend favorable to the sustainable development of inter-Korean relations and peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

For the present, President Moon Jae-in agreed to visit Pyongyang in autumn this year.

Panmunjom, April 27, 2018

Moon Jae-in

President

Republic of Korea

Kim Jong Un

Chairman, State Affairs Commission

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Note

1. The spellings used for Korean place names in this article and elsewhere in *Voice of Revolution* are those used in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Transcript of Press Conference by President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un

The following is a transcription of the BBC English simultaneous translation of the joint press conference by President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un following the signing of the Panmunjom Declaration, April 27.

President Moon Jae-in

Fellow south and north Koreans, Chairman Kim and I had a historic meeting and made an important agreement based on your aspirations. We’re not going to have war and we are declaring a new era of peace.

Over the past decades we’ve endured the tragedies of secession but now we are here together because we overcame all those hardships. Chairman Kim and I agreed and confirmed that our goal is the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In that sense it is really significant that north Korea declared that it would stop nuclear development and it is going to mark a very important beginning.

South and north Korea are going to cooperate more closely;

through the truce and peace treaty we are going to end the Cold War regime and we are going to build a permanent system for peace. The international order including the Korean Peninsula can be changed with this important agreement. We believe that on land, on sea and in the sky, there are going to be no further provocations and hostility. We are going to put in place measures to prevent such confrontations. The Demilitarized Zone will become a true place for peace, and we are going to prevent accidental military clashes on sea as well, so that both south and north Korean fishers can focus on their business.

I’d like to thank and pay my respects to the brave and courageous determination of Chairman Kim who made it all possible. We are going to work together for future developments.

Chairman Kim and I share firm trust with each other and we are going to have regular meetings and phone calls for reunification. From now on, we will not return to the past.

Fellow Koreans, along with Chairman Kim, I will work hard for the unification and [inaudible] and peace. We have just started

DENUCLEARIZATION FOR THE U.S.

this step. Working level staff are going to cooperate closely and negotiate. All corners of the society and the country are going to be engaged in the exchanges. We are going to resume the reunions of the separated families and they will be given the opportunity to exchange letters. There will be a joint liaison office between south and north, where staff from north and south are going to be stationed.

North and south will hopefully begin investigation and further development of institutions.

Chairman Kim and I have set a milestone for reunification, peace and prosperity that will not waver. Thanks to the determination of Chairman Kim, we've reached this human decision, as a gift to people around the world and in Korea. This announcement is quite exceptional. This is the first time a north Korean leader has been in front of the world for such an announcement.

Once again, I'd like to thank you Chairman Kim for your determination and courageous act.

Thank you.

Chairman Kim Jong Un

Fellow Koreans at home and abroad, President Moon and I met for the first time at the village of Panmunjom with a huge obligation to history. For the success of these talks and Summit meeting, President Moon and all the staff in south Korea worked really hard and I'd like to thank you. I'd also like to thank all the south Koreans for their hospitality and for welcoming us so whole-heartedly.

The north and the south wasted such a long time to meet again. We've been waiting for this meeting for a long time. We are one nation, we cannot be separated and we share the same blood, and this is what I really feel.

We live close to each other and we must not confront each other; rather we are brothers and one nation, to live with each other. We should pave the way for a new future where all the people can live peacefully. That's why I came here.

President Moon and I took this seriously and we've had sincere discussions on many issues. The whole nation should be able to live without [inaudible] and confirmed our determination for a peaceful future. We also agreed on the measures and plans to implement all the agreements already made. We are going to turn around the situation by sticking to the agreements.

For the peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean Peninsula, we reached an agreement and signed the declaration reflecting those agreements. The declaration shouldn't repeat the tragic history of the previous agreements. So we are going to



Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae-in's return after crossing together to the north of the Military Demarcation Line.

work closely together for the full and successful implementation of the declaration.

I sincerely hope that both south and north Koreans can move freely along the path I just took today. We are going to be one again as we share the same history, same language, same culture and same blood.

Fellow Koreans at home and abroad, we can make everything possible if we work really hard. Based on trust, we should think about the significance and we can even speed up the development of relations. We can even achieve reunification.

History can only be made by the hard work of the generations. The reconciliation, peace and prosperity of the nation, can only be achieved when we fulfill our duties sincerely. There can be some stumbling blocks and setbacks. No pain, no gain. And failure can pave the way for victory or success. Overcoming those hardships, we are going to happily look back at the hard times in the past once we achieve the new future. Let us go forward step by step for this bright future together.

I sincerely hope that this declaration can satisfy all of you, with high expectations and aspirations for peace and unification.

I'd like to thank all Koreans for your unwavering support and expectations for this Summit meeting. I'd also like to thank all you journalists who've been paying attention to this historic occasion.

President's Senior Secretary for Public Communication Briefs Media on Meeting Between Two Leaders

I will brief you on the undisclosed conversations between President Moon Jae-in and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un, from their historic meeting at the Military Demarcation Line to their friendly chats thereafter.

First of all, the leaders of south and north Korea met for the first time.

During his historic handshake with Chairman Kim, President Moon asked, "You came to the south, but when can I go over to the north?" Chairman Kim responded by stepping across the Military Demarcation Line to the south side and saying, "Why don't we go over now?" He took President Moon by the hand and crossed north of the [Military Demarcation Line] with him. That's why Chairman Kim and President Moon had a photo taken from the north side today, something that was not originally planned.

While being escorted by the honor guard, President Moon remarked to Chairman Kim, "Foreign dignitaries like the traditional honor guard, too." He added, "It's unfortunate you can only see the simplified version of the traditional honor guard routine. If you come to Cheong Wa Dae [the Presidential Blue House], we can show you a far better performance."

Chairman Kim responded, "Is that so? I will visit Cheong Wa Dae whenever you invite me."

Shortly afterward, an honor guard review took place.

After reviewing the honor guard, Chairman Kim shook hands with the official delegates from both sides and said, "There are some officials who came here today and need to return after the review of the honor guard."

President Moon responded by saying "Then, I hope all the official delegates from the south and the north can stand together for a commemorative photo before some of them return to the north." His suggestion led to an unscheduled photo session.

While viewing the painting titled "Bukhansan Mountain" by Min Joung-ki at Peace House, Chairman Kim asked President Moon, "What techniques did the painter use for this work?" and the President answered that although it was a Western-style painting, it was executed with oriental techniques.

They exchanged a few words at the reception room at 9:48 am.

The President introduced "Hunminjeongeum," a photographic artwork by Kim Jung-man hanging on the reception room back wall.

President Moon said, "This is a photograph of a calligraphic work of a quote from the 'Hunminjeongeum' created by King Sejong." President Moon also explained the meanings of some of the old Korean words that were used in the "Hunminjeongeum."

He said the first letter of two of these words were highlighted in color and they represented the family names of himself and



of Chairman Kim. Chairman Kim smiled and replied that the south Korean Government paid attention to details.

President Moon asked Chairman Kim, "How did you get here?" Chairman Kim answered, "I came here by car via Kaesong early this morning. You must have departed early in the morning, too."

President Moon said, "It just took me about an hour because it is only 52 km away."

Chairman Kim said with a smile, "I was told that you used to be unable to get a good night's sleep, being awakened in the wee hours of the morning because you had to attend the National Security Council meetings because of us. You must've gotten into the habit of rising early in the morning."

President Moon responded to the Chairman's remarks, saying, "I'll sleep well, free from care, from now on, because you gave your word when our special envoy went to the north."

Chairman Kim said, "I'll make sure that you can sleep soundly. While walking down the mere 200 or so meters, I wondered why it has appeared to be so distant and why it has been so hard. I originally expected to meet you in Pyongyang,

while now I think it is better for us to meet here. Many people with high expectations are watching us meet here at the very spot that symbolizes confrontation. On my way here I saw that those who had been nervous about any shelling from [the] north Korean army, including the Yeonpyeong Island residents, north Korean defectors and displaced people, do have high hopes for our meeting today. I look forward to making the most of this opportunity so that we have the chance to heal the wounds between the north and the south. The demarcation line, which is in fact not high, may disappear with many people stepping on it and passing over it.”

President Moon said, “On my way here from Cheong Wa Dae, I saw so many people who had come out to see me off along the roadside. As such, people have high hopes for our meeting today. The residents of Daeseong-dong all came out and had their picture taken together. We have a lot on our shoulders. I hope our meeting today at Panmunjom will lead to more meetings in Pyongyang, Seoul, Jeju and Mt. Paektu.”

President Moon pointed to the paintings ... on the wall of Peace House and explained, “To the left is the painting of Jangbaek Waterfalls and to the right is the painting of Seongsan Ilchulbong (“Sunrise at Mt. Seongsan”) on Jeju Island.”

Chairman Kim said, “President Moon seems to know more about Mt. Paektu than I,” to which President Moon replied, “I have never been to Mt. Paektu, but there are a lot of people who have traveled there through China. I would like to visit Mt. Paektu from the north’s side.”

Chairman Kim said, “What worries me about President Moon visiting us is that our transportation system is deficient, and you might find it uncomfortable. Those who went to the PyeongChang Olympic Games have said how fast the PyeongChang high speed train is. Because you are used to this in the south, you might be disconcerted when visiting the north. We will prepare so that we can make your stay comfortable.

President Moon said, “When the railways of the north and south are linked again, everyone will be able to use the high speed railroad. This is something that is stipulated in the June 15 and October 4 agreements but we have not been able to implement them in the past decade. We regret that the momentum has been broken as south-north relations deteriorated. Chairman Kim has restarted this broken momentum of the past ten years by his courageous decision today.

In response, Chairman Kim said, “As expectations run high, there are also skeptical views. Extensive agreements were concluded in the past, but we failed to put them into practice for over a decade. Some people thus cast doubts over the implementation of any agreement to be reached during today’s meeting. On my short walk, I thought to myself about whether it really took us 11 years to come this far. Over the past 100 days or so, however, we have made constant efforts to bring forth the thing we have failed to achieve over the past 11 years. If we move forward hand-in-hand with firm determination, the situation would not take a turn for the worse compared to the present situation.”

Chairman Kim continued, “I thought our meeting here would be uncomfortable. However, I now feel at ease thanks



to the President’s personal letter and the conversation I had with the south Korean special envoys. I think mutual trust is important.”

Pointing to 1st Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party Kim Yo Jong, who was accompanying Chairman Kim, President Moon said, “First Vice Department Director Kim rose to stardom in south Korea.” This mention drew [great] laughter among the official delegates, [at] which the cheeks of First Vice Department Director Kim flushed.

President Moon continued, “Today, Chairman Kim and I are the main characters. Learning a lesson from past failures, we will do a good job. As past agreements were reached halfway through or belatedly at the end of the term of an administration, their implementation failed when there was a change of administration. About one year has passed since I took office as President. I hope Chairman Kim will be able to keep up the pace shown in his New Year’s message to today’s meeting while I am in office.”

Chairman Kim said, “Kim Yo Jong’s department coined a term, ‘acceleration like a horse that can gallop 10,000 miles a day,’” and said, “Let’s make it the pace of progress toward the unification of the two Koreas.” The audience laughed and Chairman of the Inter-Korean Summit Preparation Committee Im Jong-seok added, “There is a saying that one should not slow down when walking on thin ice.” President Moon said, “Lessons from the past tell us speed is what matters.”

Chairman Kim said, in response, “Let’s meet more often from now on. We should be fully determined not to come back to the starting point again.” He went on, “Let’s meet people’s expectations to make a better world. I promise we will do well in the future.”

President Moon said, “I heard there was an unfortunate accident in the north. You must have been busy handling it. I was told that you went to a hospital to meet the victims in person and prepared a special train for them.”

Chairman Kim said, “I came here to put an end to the history of confrontation as well as to work shoulder to shoulder with you to tackle the obstacles between us. I came too with the confidence that a brighter future awaits us.”

President Moon responded, “It is the two of us who deal with the matters on the Korean Peninsula firsthand, but we should also work in concert with the world. We should take the initiative in handling our matters so that surrounding countries can follow us.”

(April 27, 2018. Text and photos: Korea.net)

Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union Hails Panmunjom Declaration

Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union, Apr 27, 2018

The following statement was issued by the Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU), which is an affiliate of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU).

* * *

Today an historic agreement to dramatically improve relations between South and North Korea and achieve denuclearization and a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula was reached between President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong Un. The Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU) welcomes the agreements contained in the "Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula" and hopes that this will mark a turning point in Korean history.

Through this agreement, the two leaders confirmed the joint goal of "realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula" and agreed to "actively seek the support and cooperation of the international community" towards denuclearization. This agreement is welcomed by workers not only in Korea, but throughout East Asia and the world. We recall that real denuclearization means not only North Korea's abandonment of its nuclear weapons, but also removal of the nuclear threat from the United States, including withdrawal of the U.S.' nuclear preemptive strike policy and discontinuation of military exercises involving nuclear strategic assets.

The root cause of the nuclear crisis surrounding the Korean Peninsula lies in the failure to truly end the Korean War. Recognizing this, we sincerely welcome the commitment to actively pursue trilateral meetings involving the two Koreas and the United States, or quadrilateral meetings involving the two Koreas, the United States and China with a view to declaring an end to the war and concluding a peace treaty.

Any plan for denuclearization must be agreed to and implemented as part of a wider plan for establishing a peace regime. We have high hopes that such a plan will be discussed and agreed to during the U.S.-North Korea Summit. In order to make this possible, the United States must be ready to agree to reverse its hostile policies towards North Korea, sign a peace treaty, normalize relations with North Korea and lifting sanctions at the upcoming summit. We state clearly that we will do everything in our power to push the US-North Korea Summit and the process of implementation afterwards in the right direction.

We also place great significance in the two leaders' reaffirmation of "the Non-Aggression Agreement between the two countries, which precludes the use of force in any form against each other", and their agreement to "carry out disarmament in a phased manner." These measures are important for creating the material conditions for a real peace. As a first step, the South Korean government must remove the THAAD system being illegally operated in the Soseongri Village.

In addition, we note that these agreements indicate a direction different from that indicated in the US-South Korea joint statement of 30 June 2017, which states, "The ROK will continue to acquire the critical military capabilities necessary to lead the combined defense, and detect, disrupt, destroy, and defend against the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats, including through interoperable Kill-Chain, Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD), and other Alliance systems." As such, we understand this agreement between the U.S. and South Korea to increase South Korea's war capacity to be null and void, and declare our intention to work for continuous disarmament.

Finally, we welcome the agreement between the two leaders to strengthen civilian exchange and cooperation. In particular, as the union representing the public sector and workers in charge of rail and road transport, we assign great significance to the agreement to connect and modernize the rail and roads on the eastern transportation corridor as well as between Seoul and Sinuiju. We stress that the right to exchange, participation and leadership of South and North Korean workers in this process must be guaranteed.

The 'peace and prosperity' referred to in the Panmunjom Declaration must be shared equally by all. To this end we plan to deepen exchange and solidarity with the workers we will come into contact with on the Peninsula and Eurasian Continent through the process of integration.

We are deeply aware that the tasks we as workers must now undertake in order to bring about peace and reunification are now more varied and more urgent than before. We thus make clear our intention to increase our capacity in the area of anti-war, peace and unification work, in order to be able to concretize a workers' vision for a peace regime and a unified nation, to fight for peace and prepare for the difficulties created by economic integration.

Visit our website: usmlo.org

Ensure U.S. Acts to Contribute to Peace in Korea

Jodie Evans, CodePink

On April 27, as I watched North Korean leader Kim Jong-un gently take the hand of South Korean President Moon Jae-in to walk back and forth across the line that has signified the divide between their two countries for 74 years, I was in tears. It was just three years ago that 30 international women, drawn together by Christine Ahn, crossed the DMZ with a call for peace on the Korean peninsula. Medea, Ann Wright, and I were there. We saw the insanity of the separation, a line drawn in Washington D.C. in 1953 that tore apart families, separating parent from child, brother from sister. At that time the leadership of South Korea was not talking to North Korea, and the idea of them meeting was a distant dream. Three years later, the two leaders met and produced a joint peace declaration!

Let us face it, if Kim Jong Un can give up his nuclear weapons, then it is time for investment firms like BlackRock to say no to war, too. CODEPINK has been calling for a large-scale movement away from investing in weapons of war because no one should profit from conflict. Tell BlackRock to say no to war, yes to peace, and to Divest from the War Machine.

The North and South Korean leaders have laid out a path toward a comprehensive peace. They have agreed to phase

denuclearization; a peace treaty; reuniting families; connecting rail and roads, and transforming the DMZ into a peace zone. The agreement between these two nations exemplifies the breadth and depth of what truly peaceful relations would look like. Now we all have to ensure that the United States will also move forward and make the necessary compromises to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula.

After the announcement in Korea, the stocks of U.S. weapons manufacturers plummeted. In just one day, the big five companies lost \$10 billion, even though non-military stocks around the world either went up or stayed neutral. Peace is bad business for the weapons makers and their investors. BlackRock is the largest investment firm in the world. It controls trillions of dollars and has billions invested in weapons manufacturers. Join us in calling for BlackRock to divest from war, and redirect their investments towards the enrichment of our communities and conditions conducive to life.

I am still overwhelmed with joy. We have a real chance for peace in Korea when just months ago we were holding our breaths in fear of a nuclear war. While there is much work to be done, let us celebrate peace and the peacemakers, and let us stop those who profit from war.

In ‘Tremendous’ Steps Toward Peace, North and South Korea Vow to End War and Pursue a Nuclear-Free Peninsula

Jake Johnson, Common Dreams

In a historic meeting on Friday that sparked hope of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula after decades of hostilities, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in embraced at the border village of Panmunjom and agreed to work toward bringing an official end to the Korean War and fully denuclearizing the peninsula.

“The two leaders agreed, through regular meetings and direct telephone conversations, to hold frequent and candid discussions on issues vital to the nation, to strengthen mutual trust, and to jointly endeavor to strengthen the positive momentum towards continuous advancement of inter-Korean relations,” reads the “Panmunjom Declaration,” a document signed by both leaders on Friday. “South and North Korea confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.”

As the monumental summit between the two nations progressed, videos of Kim and Moon embracing circulated on social media and were hailed by experts as truly heartening displays of

diplomacy after months of heightened nuclear tensions — fueled in large part by the belligerent rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump.

After Kim steps over into South Korean territory for the first time, he asked Moon to walk over to the Northern side, which they did together. Finally, after signing the “Panmunjom Declaration,” Kim and Moon shook hands once more and hugged it out.

Responding to the summit on Twitter, Christine Ahn, founder of the peace group Women Cross DMZ, wrote it is “deeply touching to watch Kim Jong Un and Moon Jae shake hands, cross together on both sides of the [demilitarized zone], and make peace and history!”

Other Korea experts echoed Ahn’s celebration of the historic meeting — which makes Kim the first North Korean leader to visit the South — arguing it is a crucial and genuine step toward peace that must be built upon, especially with “warmongers” occupying the highest levels of the American foreign policy establishment under Trump.

Over 200 Organizations and Individuals Call for Maximum Engagement in Korea

Veterans for Peace, March 28, 2018

President Donald J. Trump of the United States (U.S.)
President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (ROK)
Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Dear President Trump, President Moon and Chairman Kim,
As U.S. groups and individuals deeply concerned about dangerous military tensions between our nation and the DPRK, and the rising global risks of nuclear catastrophe, we wish to convey our deepest gratitude for the groundbreaking steps you have taken to begin the essential dialogue and diplomacy that must be undertaken if we are to prevent a war that would likely result in an unthinkable disaster for the Korean Peninsula, the United States and the world. We fully support the upcoming inter-Korean summit in April and the U.S.-DPRK summit in May, and we urge you to patiently and diligently seek common ground.

Ever since the uneasy armistice of 1953, nearly sixty-five years ago, tensions between states involved in the Korean War have periodically erupted, but your actions in recent weeks have demonstrated to the world that the time is ripe for a formal resolution of that war. Your vision and leadership, with the support of peace-loving people everywhere, can end the escalation of international tensions in Northeast Asia and lay the groundwork for a peace treaty among the original parties to the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. We applaud you for taking the bold steps needed to make that a reality. We are truly grateful for the vision of a world at peace that your promises to engage in dialogue have prepared us for.

We recognize that one encounter between U.S. and North Korean leaders will not likely produce an agreement that leads to a lasting solution, but the planned summits offer the potential for starting a serious process that could move us decisively away from the current crisis. We deeply appreciate the DPRK's openness and flexibility that has enabled this process to move forward by pledging to refrain from conducting nuclear weapon or missile tests while the talks continue, and its readiness to address a course of denuclearization provided it is given assurances that its security will be guaranteed. Moreover, the DPRK has not raised objections to the planned April joint U.S.-ROK



military exercises. We are heartened by reports that U.S. aircraft carriers and possibly nuclear-powered submarines will not be participating in the upcoming joint military exercises. But in the spirit of the Olympic Truce, we urge the U.S. and ROK to postpone the military exercises indefinitely, which would contribute significantly to creating a favorable environment in which to conduct peace talks.

Ultimately, the United States must also address a course of denuclearization if the promise of peace is to be realized. If talks are successful, North Korea could in due course rejoin the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which promised the DPRK access to peaceful nuclear power in return for its promise not to acquire nuclear weapons. We also urge the U.S. to honor its NPT commitment, made nearly 50 years ago, to make good faith efforts to pursue nuclear disarmament by seeking negotiations with the other nuclear-armed states to achieve the promise of a world without nuclear weapons. When the NPT was extended indefinitely in 1995, the U.S. reaffirmed its pledge to undertake "the determined pursuit... of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons."

Your talks hold the promise of moving not only the region, but the entire world closer to realization of that most desirable outcome, in which there would no longer be a need for a menacing U.S. nuclear umbrella relied upon by the ROK and Japan, and a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia would exist in a nuclear weapon-free world.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEJU MASSACRE COMMEMORATED IN KOREA

Remembering the April 3 Jeju Uprising

Zoom in Korea

On April 7, organizations seeking justice for the April 3 Jeju Uprising and Massacre in 1948 held a press conference in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. The Association for the Bereaved Families of the April 3 Victims, the Memorial Committee for the 70th Anniversary of the Jeju April 3 Uprising and Massacre, and the Pan-National Committee for the 70th Anniversary of Jeju April 3 organized the joint press conference to call on the U.S. to issue an official apology for the role of the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea (USAMGIK) in the state repression and genocide that occurred over a seven-year period from 1947 to 1954. Two hundred people including the families of victims, Jeju residents, and peace activists also demanded a full investigation of the U.S. military to uncover the truth on U.S. involvement in the massacre.

They attempted to deliver a letter containing their demands to the U.S. Embassy but were turned away by the police guarding the building. They subsequently staged a sit-down protest in front of the building to demand the U.S. accept their letter.

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the April 3 Jeju Uprising and Massacre. In April 1948, guerrilla fighters in the southern island of Jeju waged an armed struggle against the U.S.-backed Korean police and right-wing paramilitary groups. More than 30,000 Jeju residents — 10 per cent of the island's population at the time — died at the hands of government forces and right-wing paramilitary groups. At the time, the U.S. military occupied the southern half of the Korean Peninsula and controlled all police, military and government forces in the south.

Seventy years later, the families of the fallen victims, the people of Jeju, and activists for peace are still seeking justice and demanding the U.S. acknowledge, apologize and take responsibility.

Historical Background

The root of the April 3 Jeju Uprising can be traced back to Korea's liberation from Japanese colonialism. After decades of struggle and resistance, the Korean people liberated themselves from Japanese colonial rule in August of 1945 — only to be occupied again by foreign forces. The United States took control of the southern half. Set on permanently dividing the Korean Peninsula, it decided to hold a separate election in the southern half to install its own puppet, Syngman Rhee, as president.

In the name of "democracy," the U.S. decided to install a puppet dictator through whom it could grow its influence in the region. Not all people, however, approved of the U.S. intervention. Those who opposed protested, carrying on the spirit of the liberation movement against colonial Japan. They challenged the U.S. plan



Protest against U.S. efforts today to build a nuclear Naval Base on Jeju Island

to force the separate election in May of 1948.

March 1, 1947

On the anniversary of the March 1 Movement to resist Japanese colonialism, residents of Jeju Island mobilized a rally to denounce the U.S.-planned election. In an attempt to control the dissidence, the police force fired indiscriminately into the crowd and killed six civilians, including a young child, a mother and her baby.

In response to the violence enacted by the U.S. military-controlled government, the Jeju Chapter of the South Korea Labor Party (SKLP) staged armed protests, burning down polling centers and attacking police stations. Jeju residents also staged general strikes targeting both private and state-owned companies. Over the next year, the U.S. military ordered the arrests of over 2,500 Jeju residents suspected of being communists.

U.S. Anti-Communism and Right-Wing Extremism

The U.S. justified the suppression of dissidents in Jeju by framing it as a part of the "battle between democracy and communism." It also enlisted the help of a violent, right-wing Korean paramilitary group called the Northwest Youth League. U.S. military advisers provided training and logistical support for the suppression of rebellions.

In late 1947, at the advice of American Counter-Intelligence corps, anyone identified as leftist or sympathizing with communism was targeted as "terrorist" by the governor of Jeju Island and

DEMAND REPARATIONS NOW FOR U.S. CRIMES

the Northwest Youth League. One unnamed former U.S. military adviser was quoted as saying, “My duty was to suppress the rebellion and wipe out the communists. We conducted several mop-up operations across Jeju Island.”

April 3, 1948 and Beyond

The struggle of Jeju residents culminated in a mass rebellion on April 3, 1948. Guerrilla fighters of SKLP led the uprising against the police and right-wing paramilitary forces. They attacked police stations and burned down polling centres to prevent the election and denounce the U.S.-controlled government of Syngman Rhee. The SKLP Women’s League led residents into the mountains to keep them from being physically threatened by government forces to vote in the election.

In the early hours of April 3, three hundred and fifty guerrilla fighters attacked 12 out of the 24 police stations on Jeju Island. In the weeks leading up to the May 10 election, the guerrillas dismantled election offices and disrupted all communication about the election by cutting telephone lines and blocking access to roads and bridges. Due to their resilient efforts, the election result in Jeju was rendered null and void. Months later in July of 1948, however, Syngman Rhee was installed as the president of south Korea.

In response to the guerrilla opposition, the U.S. officially declared Jeju as a “red island” and ordered all residents identified as associated with communists to be hunted down. This order was referred to as “the red hunt.” The struggle against the so-called red hunt was not a one-day ordeal. It lasted seven years, during which the police and right-wing paramilitary forces claimed tens of thousands of lives.

On November 17, just four months after taking office, Rhee declared martial law on Jeju Island. He then ordered the south Korean military to enact its “scorched earth” strategy against the guerrilla fighters still resisting the authority of the newly-formed south Korean government. The Rhee government deployed the martial law army and made a proclamation to the Jeju residents that anyone caught within the Chungsangan area would be identified as a “rioter” and killed immediately. In a five-month period, 95 per cent of the Chungsangan village was burned down, and the villagers who were able to survive and escape were forced to take refuge in the mountains.

The U.S. used anti-communist propaganda to justify its mass repression and genocide on Jeju Island. Its media conjured up baseless stories about Soviet influence behind the Korean uprising against U.S. military presence. In January 1949, the *New York Times* published an article claiming that Soviet submarines were near Jeju Island to give aid to the so-called leftist rebellion. On April 9, 1949, U.S. Ambassador to south Korea John Muccio claimed Soviets infiltrated Jeju to wage “terrorist attacks.” There was no conclusive evidence, however, to back up such claims.

Breaking Fifty Years of Silence

For decades, the historical record of the Jeju Uprising and Massacre was buried deep along with stories of the thousands of people killed at the hands of the U.S.-backed right-wing south Korean police. It was more than 50 years later when south Korea passed a special law to mandate the government to investigate the truth behind April 3. In 2003, former President Roh Moo-hyun issued an official apology to the people of Jeju: “Due to wrongful decisions of the government, many innocent people of Jeju suffered many casualties and destruction of their homes.”

The apology, however, has yet to be followed up with any substantive action that meets the demands of the families and supporters of the fallen victims. Organizations like the Association for the Bereaved Families of the April 3 Victims, the Pan-National Committee for the 70th Anniversary of Jeju April 3 Uprising and Massacre, and the Jeju Council have been at the forefront demanding justice and proper reparations from the parties responsible for the massacre. In October 2017, they launched a petition campaign to gather 100,000 signatures to call on the U.S. to take responsibility for its role in the violent military repression against the people of Jeju.

According to Hankyoreh, the Pan-Korean Committee on the 70th Anniversary of the Jeju April 3 Uprising and Massacre presented ten demands:

1. A government investigation to uncover the truth behind the uprising and subsequent U.S.-backed crackdown;
2. Institutionalization of reparations for victims, surviving families and communities;
3. Passage of a law to uncover the truth behind people imprisoned through illegal trials and restore their honor;
4. Preservation and maintenance of historical sites;
5. Creation of a permanent system for collecting reports on victims and surviving families;
6. Excavation of the remains of the missing;
7. Creation of an institution to help survivors and their families to heal from trauma related to the massacre;
8. Passage of a law to prevent defamation and misrepresentation of the uprising;
9. Investigation of U.S. responsibility; and
10. Officially designating an appropriate name for the uprising.

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50th Anniversary of Infamous My Lai Massacre

The My Lai massacre took place on March 16, 1968, when 504 unarmed villagers — 182 women, and 173 children and infants — in the center of present-day Tinh Khê Commune, in Son Tinh District, were brutally killed by soldiers of Charlie Company, under the command of Lieutenant Calley. Vietnam commemorated the victims of the massacre on March 16, with various dignitaries in attendance. Former U.S. veterans of the Viet Nam War were also present to express remorse, their opposition to the war and seek forgiveness and develop positive ties with the Vietnamese people.

One of the U.S. veterans present was former U.S. Army photographer Ronald L. Haeberle. His photos documented the massacre and brought world attention to the crimes, further galvanizing anti-war sentiment in the U.S. and around the world. At the time, Haeberle carried two cameras; one assigned by the U.S. Army with two rolls of black and white film, to follow the action. He returned these rolls of film to the commander of Charlie Company, but kept his own camera, with which he took 18 color photos that were published in Life magazine, exposing the true story.

“My photos of the massacre told the world the truth about what happened 50 years ago. The true story had not been told in America and the world. I just wanted to tell everyone about the massacre with my photos from the field,” he said during his visit to My Lai this March.

Another U.S. veteran at the ceremony, Roy Mike Boehm, has made regular visits to My Lai, where he would play violin in honor of the victims of the massacre and in promotion of peace. Boehm has established an NGO to raise funds for women, farmers and victims of Agent Orange to buy livestock as well as to support poverty reduction efforts. He calls on other U.S. veterans to visit Viet Nam to bridge and promote the relationship between the country and its international friends to alleviate the pain of war.

U.S. veteran Mike Hastie, who was in An Khê of Gia Lai Province in 1970, joined the commemoration with his only daughter. “The My Lai massacre was only one of many different massacres during the war. The Vietnamese people are respected by the world when they demonstrated how to protect the country’s independence,” he said, adding, “I was born in the U.S., but my heart belongs to Viet Nam. I am so proud of the Vietnamese people and the country.”

Do Ba, a survivor of the massacre, recalled that he was rescued by Hugh Thomson (a helicopter pilot) and Larry Coburn (a gunner on the helicopter) when they stopped U.S. soldiers killing residents of Thuan Yên and Tu Cung hamlets. “I was 7 years old,



Memorial ceremony in Viet Nam to victims of My Lai massacre

and I was lucky when the two American soldiers saved me from the killing. It was a bloody day in my life,” Ba said.

Pham Thành Công, 63, another survivor of the massacre, recalled that the morning on that day was broken by 30 minutes of shelling at around 5:30 am. The assault continued with rockets launched from helicopters.

Eight of his 15 family members tried to escape but were shot; the rest were killed by mines or grenades. An eight year-old boy running from the shelter was shot dead, his mouth still full with the morning’s rice, he recalled. He said his mother and six brothers were killed in their house. He was seriously injured but was saved by his father.

The March 16 ceremony in My Lai was attended by former President Truong Tan Sang; Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hòa Bình, local residents and U.S. veterans. The ceremony inaugurated the My Lai Memorial Foundation, to build connections between the peace-loving peoples of the world.

Participants in the event visited the My Lai Museum, that retells the massacre through images of damaged thatched roofs and footprints of villagers escaping from U.S. soldiers in March 1968. The main building at the center of the museum complex houses over 1,000 items and photos, remnants of the massacre. The site also preserves a stream in the village, where American soldiers herded remaining villagers to kill them off, turning the water red.

A 41-hectare My Lai Peace Park is also planned for construction in the village, and a square will also be built in the coming years.

Dang Ngoc Dung, Vice Chairman of the Provincial People’s Committee, said the memorial ceremony of the My Lai massacre “reminds the world that lovers of peace should do everything to preserve peace forever, and ensure the My Lai massacre is never repeated.”

Viet Nam Veterans Return to My Lai, Where U.S. Slaughtered 500 Civilians

Democracy Now Interview with Veterans in Viet Nam

A group of Viet Nam War veterans and peace activists traveled to Viet Nam in March to mark the 50th anniversary of the My Lai massacre. Three members of the delegation were Viet Nam veteran Paul Cox, who later co-founded the Veterans for Peace chapter in San Francisco; Susan Schnall, former Navy nurse who was court-martialed for opposing the Viet Nam War; and longtime activist Ron Carver, who has organized an exhibit honoring the antiwar movement among soldiers at the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. Below are their comments.

* * *

RON CARVER: In My Lai, 50 years ago on March 16, 504 civilians, noncombatants, were mowed down by U.S. soldiers. It was horrific, but it was not an isolated incident. It was part of the culture of the war that had been created and fostered and was largely a product of the Pentagon's insistence on high body counts in order to justify their continued war effort and their continuing, escalating insistence that the U.S. Congress give them ever more money and ever more troops. The significance to me, however, is of people like Hugh Thompson, who, at great risk, landed his helicopter, had his crew train their guns on the soldiers who were committing this massacre, and telling them that they had to stop or they would be shot themselves.

And that is part of what has led to the development of this exhibit that will be held in Saigon — Ho Chi Minh City, today it is called. The exhibit is called "Waging Peace: The U.S. Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed America's War in Viet Nam." And it is to give credit and honor the folks who took great risks to oppose the war. Some of them went to jail in this country, like Dr. Howard Levy, who refused to train Green Beret troops in medical techniques. Honored are those who refused to deploy to Viet Nam, like JJ Johnson and the two others who made the Fort Hood Three; people who went to Viet Nam, like Paul Cox, but then, confronting the horror of what they were doing, stopped going out and engaging in combat. Some of them, like Bill Short, ended up being charged with conspiracy to mutiny, because he refused to engage in combat and was sent to the stockade in Viet Nam; others who deserted. And so, a lot of these folks will be on the tour in March, from Hanoi to My Lai and then to Ho Chi Minh City. And the exhibit will have photographs of them, information about what they said, and feature the underground papers that they produced, telling other soldiers about what was going on, exposing the horrors and the injustice of the Viet Nam War.

SUSAN SCHNALL: I went into the Navy to take care of the wounded, to help them heal and to get back to their families and to their communities. As a part of the Navy, I saw what was going on, and I heard stories from the guys who came back. I was stationed in Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, California, and took care of the casualties and heard their stories. I didn't hear them in quite the same detail that Paul has related, because at that time, I think,

the war was too fresh, and they didn't want to talk explicitly about what they had seen. But I heard their nightmares in the middle of the night. I heard them yelling and screaming and yelling out to their buddies.

I went in as a healer, and I felt at one point — and it was after about a year in the military — that I had become a part of the U.S. military and I had helped perpetuate the war in Viet Nam. And I just thought I had to live with myself and speak out against the war. I had heard about the U.S. dropping flyers on Viet Nam, on the Vietnamese, urging them to go to protective hamlets to get away from the spraying, which we now know was Agent Orange, and to get out of harm's way. And I thought we needed to post flyers. We were organizing a GI and Veterans March for Peace in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we had difficulty getting publicity out. We put posters up, and they were torn down on the base. We handed out flyers. So, I thought, "If the United States can drop these flyers on the people of another country, why couldn't we drop flyers on military bases publicizing the GI and Veterans March for Peace in the San Francisco Bay Area?"

I had a friend who was a pilot, and we rented a single-engine plane and loaded it with flyers announcing the demonstration. We dropped them on Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, where I was working; on Treasure Island; on Yerba Buena Island; on the Presidio, the Army base. And then we flew in to the Alameda Naval Air Station, because the USS Ranger was docked there, and we dropped the flyers on the deck of the aircraft carrier. I wore my uniform, and I had a press conference afterwards.

I was concerned about what the military would do to me. But I looked at that in proportion to what we were doing with young U.S. soldiers and how we were sending them in harm's way to hurt and to kill and destroy people from another country thousands of miles away, and I thought about the terrible destruction and damage being done to Viet Nam. And for me, it was an issue, as I said, of living with myself and just saying, "I'm in the military. I stand against the war. And there are many, many thousands of other soldiers, sailors and marines who will stand with me."

So we dropped the flyers and had the press conference. I was issued this order to not wear my uniform in a public demonstration, expressing my partisan views publicly. And I thought, "You know, General Westmoreland goes in uniform in front of Congress asking for more men and more armaments and more money to fight this war. Why can't I wear my uniform as a member of the military and stand up for peace?" So I wore my uniform in the antiwar demonstration and spoke out against the war.

I was court-martialed six months later. I was tried for two charges. One was intent to destroy the morale of the U.S. troops and the other was disobeying a general Navy regulation and conduct unbecoming an officer to be confined. The trial counsel wanted five years' confinement and hard labor, and the court-martial board gave me six months' confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances,

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and dismissal from service.

I actually was sent back to full duty, because at that time the military also had a regulation that said if a woman received a sentence of under a year, she didn't necessarily have to serve it. And since I received a sentence of six months, which I think was deliberate — we had a lot of publicity about the case — I was sent back to the hospital to full duty and reported and was then assigned to the women's units and the children's unit. And we put out an underground newspaper, but handed it out from person to person on the base.

PAUL COX: I joined the military in 1968. I had gotten my draft notice for a 2-year draft enlistment in the Army, but I wound up — I had no consciousness about the war, against it or for it, but I thought I had a duty to my country, so I joined the Marine Corps for four years. Not a deep thinker, but that is what I did.

I spent 18 months in Viet Nam, a tour and a half. Most of that time, I was up on the DMZ in unpopulated areas fighting North Vietnamese regulars, but with no contact with the Vietnamese civilians. But the last six months of my tour, I was down in the rice paddies south and west of Da Nang and got a much, much different view of the war and saw how poorly, to put it mildly, we were treating our so-called allies, the South Vietnamese, whose hearts and minds we were supposed to be winning. And that's not what we were doing at all. We were operating in free-fire zones [meaning soldiers were "free" to fire on anyone as all were considered "unfriendly." — VOR Ed. Note]. I was involved in a small massacre of about 15 people in April of 1970. And that changed my entire view of the war.

We were running what the generals called "pacification programs." Essentially, we would go out from our base, and sometimes only for a few hours, and we would sweep into a village and round up everybody and put them on trucks or helicopters and evacuate them to the strategic hamlets. And we did that many times.

This particular incident, we had been out for four days in old, abandoned rice paddies that had been all overgrown in elephant grass. And we stomped down the elephant grass, created a company-size perimeter and just sat there for four days, running a cloverleaf of patrols — in each of the four directions, and the same patrol each day on the same route, which is not smart. Eventually, on the fourth day, the squad that was doing the northern loop, somebody sniped at them. Nobody got hit, but the squad, unwisely, decided to pursue the sniper. They had not gone far before they found a booby trap, located it. Somehow the thing went off, killed one man, wounded three others. And that was it. That was the only action we had in those four days.

The next day, we were going to pull up stakes, and we were going to hike to a bridge, Liberty Bridge, and be taken back to the base. But to get to Liberty Bridge, we had to go through a village. The rest of that afternoon, before we left, there was a Piper Cub flying over this village with loudspeakers, yelling at them in Vietnamese, presumably telling them they needed to evacuate, because this was, after all, a free-fire zone.

The company commander — this was in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines — did an unusual thing: He told our lieutenant he wanted the squad that had lost the men the day before

to walk point. And these guys were very angry. They should have been angry at themselves for finding a booby trap and then being so silly as to set it off, but they were angry at the Vietnamese. So they walked point. And when they got into the village, they passed the word back past my squad, "Are there any friendlies in this area?" The company commander responded, up the line, "No, this is a free-fire zone." Immediately afterwards, there was some firing.

As I got to the first hut, there was an old woman who had been shot, who was dying. The second hut we went to, there was a pile of six or eight people. These were children and women and an old man. In the third hut, there was another pile of people who had been shot dead. And then we just passed through the corner of the village. Everybody in the whole company walked past the same scene that I did. And when we got to the other side, the company commander asked for volunteers to go back in and search the rest of the village. None of the officers volunteered. He should have said, "Lieutenant, take a squad," or whatever. But he asked for volunteers. And so, a staff sergeant and some volunteers decided to go back in. There was a little bit more shooting. Most of us were kind of in shock. These people had been gunned down. This was not a battle. And none of us participated, in my squad, in that. So, the squad came back. We left. They called in airstrikes on the village, which is not the way you're supposed to use tactical air.

A few days later, apparently, some of the survivors of this massacre had carried the body of a child and a woman to a nearby base and filed a formal complaint. There was an investigation. Nothing happened. The men who pulled the triggers on those folks were not relieved of duty. The company commander who set the whole thing up was not relieved of duty.

But that turned my head about the war. And I was not going to participate in that any longer. And I left Viet Nam in August of '70 very, very angry at myself, at the Marine Corps, at the U.S. government, and really determined that I was going to do what I could to help end the war. I still had two years left to do in the Marine Corps, and so I was a bit of a latecomer to the antiwar movement and the GI movement, but I tried to make up for it by working very hard. I was stationed at Camp Lejeune for the last two years of my tour. And we put out an underground newspaper called *Rage*. It was not an example of high journalism, but we were really working hard to tell the truth about the Viet Nam War and about militarism in this country.

We were underground as best we could be for a very long time. I don't even have a photograph of that period, because we were afraid to take photographs as evidence. I do have copies of the newspaper we put out. We used to distribute the newspaper in the middle of the night. We'd get 3,000 copies made, and bring them onto base in a couple of cars. And we would go through the barracks. Camp Lejeune is an infantry base. And we would just walk through the barracks at 3 a.m. in the morning and drop off these papers on people's racks. And after three or four or five barracks, suddenly we'd see MPs swarming towards where we had been earlier, and we decided, "OK, that's enough for tonight," and we would leave. It freaked them out. It was not something that they were willing to tolerate. But we never got caught on base.

I • Salute Vietnamese Victory

the human factor.

Many massacres, use of the chemical weapon Agent Orange, which impacts the Vietnamese to this day, and broad destruction of the country marked the U.S. war against Viet Nam. Criminal U.S. aggression left more than three million Vietnamese dead, millions more wounded and homeless and the entire country and its economy in ruin.

Despite its defeat in Korea, the U.S. attempted the same massive devastation in Viet Nam. Indeed it has yet to learn the lesson that Might Does Not Make Right and the most modern weaponry cannot defeat a people organized and fighting for their national and social liberation. Still today the U.S. has instigated civil war in Syria and Yemen so as to justify more criminal aggression. The Vietnamese would not permit the false division of their country imposed by the U.S and fought for its unification. On April 30, 1975, they won! Their example remains an inspiration to the Syrians, Yemenis and all those standing up against U.S. imperialism.

At the time of the U.S. war against Viet Nam, peoples of the world condemned it. Inside the U.S. a vigorous anti-war movement was built, including among the soldiers. At the time a draft existed, forcing 18 year-old males into the military. Actions at military bases, underground newspapers, draft resistance, organizing at high schools and universities, mass demonstrations, were all part of the resistance in the U.S. (see p.16). Everywhere, people appreciated the great courage of the people of Viet Nam as they persisted against massive U.S. force and successfully defended their nation. They fought without flinching for their national liberation, reunification and independence and they won. They defeated U.S. imperialism and greatly contributed to the cause of peace and progress.

The victorious people of Viet Nam, under the leadership of the



Communist Party of Viet Nam, not only defeated the U.S., but have shown their strength by building a modern country since the war, a country which seeks prosperity for its people.

Voice of Revolution extends its salute to the great victory of the people of Vietnam and their achievements and successes in their struggle since the war for peace, independence and prosperity. We condemn U.S. imperialism for its crimes and demand full reparations and funding to contend with the continuing impact of Agent Orange on the people and environment. Let the U.S. contribute to peace worldwide by bringing **All U.S. Troops Home Now** and taking full responsibility for all its crimes — war crimes, crimes against the peace, crimes against humanity.

Salute the Heroic Vietnamese and Their Victory Against U.S. Imperialism

Oppose All U.S. Wars and Demand Reparations

All U.S. Troops Home Now!

BUILDING A VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS NATION

Joyous Celebrations of Reunification Day

Viet Nam's National Reunification Day is the joyful occasion celebrated on April 30, marking the day in 1975 when the U.S. imperialists were defeated and the north and south of the country were finally reunited. Major celebrations are taking place in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and elsewhere. Amidst this celebratory atmosphere, several major cultural festivals, fairs and other events are being held.

Halong Carnival 2018

The Halong Carnival 2018 kicked off on April 28 at the Sun World Halong Park in Halong City in the northern province of Quang Ninh. The theme this year is "HaLong: Heritage Wonder, Friendly Destination." It is one of the first activities to start the National Tourism Year 2018 in the province and will feature a host of activities including music, art performances, a street parade and fireworks exhibitions.

Pham Ngoc Thuy, director of the provincial tourism department, was quoted by local media as saying that the province

ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAMESE VICTORY OVER U.S.

will promote tangible and intangible cultural heritage events and unique tourism attractions to spur tourism growth this year. It hopes to attract 15 to 16 million tourists, including seven million from abroad, and make total tourism revenue worth 30-40 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) by 2020 (U.S. \$1.3-1.7 billion), the Viet Nam News Agency reported.

The annual Top City Destinations Ranking report released in November of last year at the World Travel Market event in London listed Halong City, home to the World Heritage-listed Halong Bay, 56th in the world's 100 leading cities in terms of international tourist destinations.

Hue Festival

The 10th edition of the biennial Hue Festival is being held from April 28 to May 2 in the former imperial capital of Hue. It is expected to give a significant boost to the province's tourism growth this year. It will feature a street carnival, an international food festival and a hot air balloon show, plus traditional court music and dragon boat races.

Danang Fireworks Exhibition

The central city of Danang is hosting the Danang International Fireworks Festival 2018 over a period of two months from April 29 to June 30 with its biggest shows ever. Two years ago, the festival was named "the Leading Festival and Event Destination 2016" by the World Travel Awards.

This year's festival, titled "The Legends of Bridges," will feature stories about well-known bridges by teams from Poland, France, the United States, Italy, Hong Kong, Sweden, Portugal and host Viet Nam.

The total number of visitors to Danang City last year was estimated at 6.6 million, jumping 19 per cent year-on-year, with international tourists accounting for 2.3 million of the visitors. The city expects 7.47 million tourists in 2018, including three million foreigners.

Hung King Festival

In the northern Viet Nam province of Phu Tho, the Hung King

Festival recalls a period in Viet Nam's history going back millennia. It is where the Hung Kings founded the country of Van Lang, the predecessor to the modern Viet Nam. This festival was held from April 21 to 25. It featured a multitude of traditional and cultural activities evoking long-held customs and ceremonies kept intact for centuries. Participants learned about the history of the Vietnamese nation through art performances, cooking contests, a book fair, and dragon and lion dances. One of the highlights of the festival is hat xoan, the traditional folk music of Phu Tho province performed during the first two months of the lunar calendar. In 2017, UNESCO inscribed hat xoan on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Events in Ho Chi Minh City

A trade and culture exchange program among member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) took place in Ho Chi Minh City's September 23 Park from April 18-24 to mark Reunification Day and the third anniversary of the founding of the ASEAN Economic Community. Its purpose was to intensify friendship and cooperation between ASEAN countries and international partners and boost Viet Nam's trade, investment, tourism and cultural ties with other nations, especially those from South East Asia.

The program included a fair with more than 110 trade pavilions and more than 40 cuisine pavilions. Art, martial arts and sport performances are also expected during the event, together with videos promoting tourism and outstanding products in participating countries. Visitors are offered a chance to read books, play folk games and watch Central Highlands gong performances.

Meanwhile, the Ho Chi Minh City Television Cycling Tournament takes place from March 29 and April 30. It is celebrating reunification with a record 30 stages for a total length of 3,267 km. Each stage marks a year since the race began 30 years ago. By comparison, the Tour de France has 21 stages.

(With files from Saigon Times, Viet Nam News, Viet Nam Ministry of Tourism)



I • Anti-war Demonstrations

end now, not tomorrow, and that the U.S. close all foreign bases. Participants included those demanding that the U.S. get out of the Philippines and Korea. Everywhere demonstrators called to *Stop Funding War and Fund Our Rights!* Attention was also given to the crimes of violence at home, including police killings and the connection between government use of force abroad and its use of force and violence at home. Signs included *Demilitarize the Police* and *All U.S. Troops Home Now*.

Dozens of actions took place in cities south to north and east to west. They reflected the growing antiwar stand of the majority and their rejection of a war government and war economy that provides no security at home or abroad. In many places the students engaged in walkouts and organizing against gun violence joined the actions, as did the many undocumented youth opposing immigrant raids and deportations. Consciousness is growing, as signs brought out, that security lies not in more use of force and violence but in defending the rights of all, abroad and at home.

Voice of Revolution joins all those denouncing U.S. aggression against Syria and in demanding that the U.S. *End All Wars Now* by closing foreign bases and bringing all troops home. We also urge all to focus attention on the people's agenda for an anti-war government. The disinformation being spread about Syria and chemical weapons is meant to cause doubt in the legitimacy of the anti-war protests while diverting from the growing consciousness that a new direction is needed, one that serves the interests of the people.

It is clear U.S. rulers have no solutions and there is constant crisis and battling within their own ranks. Defense Secretary General Mattis said there was no evidence of a chemical attack,

as was widely asserted by U.S. intelligence agencies, but then submitted. The media then echoed the president, promoting the disinformation of the Pentagon and intelligence agencies and refusing to stand against the unjust and illegal bombing of Syria. Of editorials in 26 major newspapers,

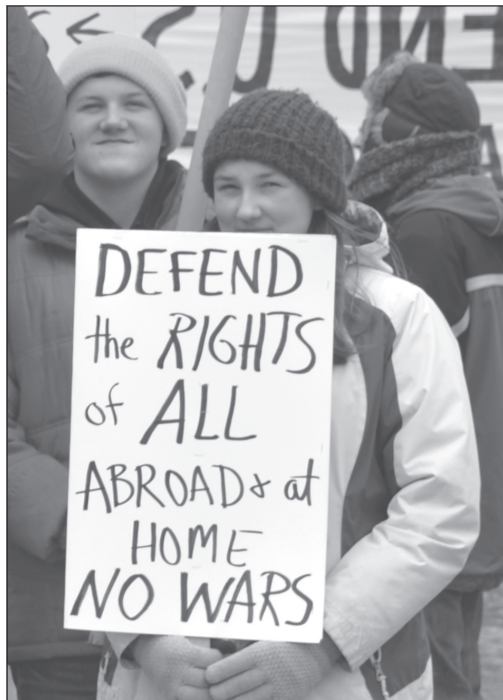


including the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, none opposed the attack while having no difficulty spreading the disinformation that Syria is the threat and problem to human rights. The humanitarian situation in Syria has been made far worse by U.S. intervention and bombing but government accountability for this reality is not to be discussed.

Significant efforts are being made by the rulers and their monopoly media to now engage everyone in *their* agenda, which is to try and justify their crimes of aggression in the name of human rights and protecting the people of Syria, and before that of Libya and Iraq. Diversions of various kinds, such as about use of chemical weapons or the need for Congressional approval, are being promoted to block discussion of the people's agenda — which is an anti-war, pro-social agenda.

Faced with a war government, the people need an anti-war government. This is especially clear in the face of the brutal and unjust attacks on Syria, Palestine and Yemen currently taking place and given that tax time underlines the massive funding for war while social programs are cut. Hundreds of billions are given to the Pentagon every year, while *guaranteeing* the rights to education, housing, healthcare and jobs is not even considered. These are human rights and laying claim to these rights and to a budget that meets them is needed. The biggest problems with the current taxes are that we the people do not decide how they are utilized.

An anti-war government would reflect the demands of the people and ensure that the budget puts guaranteeing rights at home and abroad at the center. This would provide a path forward to peace and security.



FIGHT FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT



FIGHT FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



PHOENIX, ARIZONA



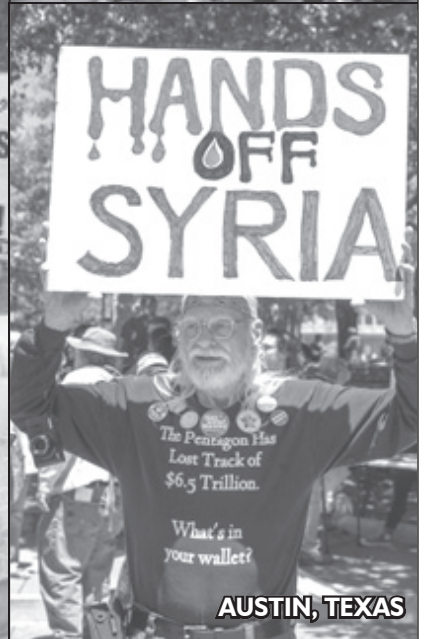
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



PORTLAND, OREGON



LOS ANGELES



AUSTIN, TEXAS

NATIONAL STUDENT WALKOUT A SUCCESS

I • National Student Walk Out



WASHINGTON, DC



GREAT BARRINGTON, VERMONT



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



ATLANTA, GEORGIA

out, students are putting forward solutions such as *Arm Teachers with Resources*, *Not Guns* and *Demilitarize Police to Bring Peace in Our Streets*.

As with the March 14 student walkouts, actions are planned for 10am, with many walking out for the day. April 20 marks the anniversary of the Columbine shooting where 13 people were killed, one teacher and twelve students. Student organizers encouraged students to walk out and rally, taking 13 seconds of silence for each of the 13 victims and then having an open mic, where students were invited to voice their thoughts and solutions. Building on the March 14 walkouts, which were mainly actions at individual schools, April 20 saw many schools converge at city halls and similar locations, taking their demands to government and ensuring a broader public presence.

Students are also strengthening the organized character of their resistance by building National School Walkout Chapters, organized by and for students, to carry forward their efforts after April 20. Many are investigating the current electoral process and looking into ways to give expression to their demands in the elections while also holding politicians accountable.

Statement of the National Student Walkout

The National Student Walkout is a movement powered and led by students across the country. We're protesting congressional, state, and local failures to take action to prevent gun violence. America is the only country in the world where so many people are killed by guns, and yet our leaders do nothing about it. In many states it's more difficult to register to vote than it is to buy a rifle. Apparently to some politicians, a vote is scarier than a gun.

We are changing that.

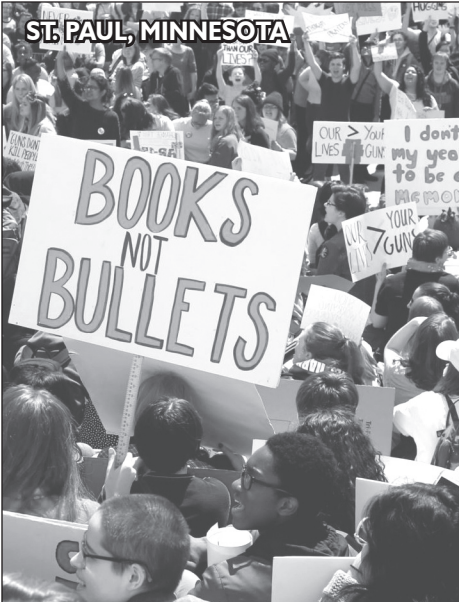
On Friday, April 20, students will walk out of their classrooms at 10 am. There are currently 2487 walkouts planned, at least one in every state. We are walking out for those who lost their lives to gun violence, to talk about the real problems our country is facing, and to find solutions to the problems that our leaders have failed to address.

The National Student Walkout is the launch of a forward looking youth movement that has a strategy, a plan for action, and is not going away.

We have a three-part goal:

- Hold elected officials accountable
- Promote solutions to gun violence
- Demystify and engage students in the political system

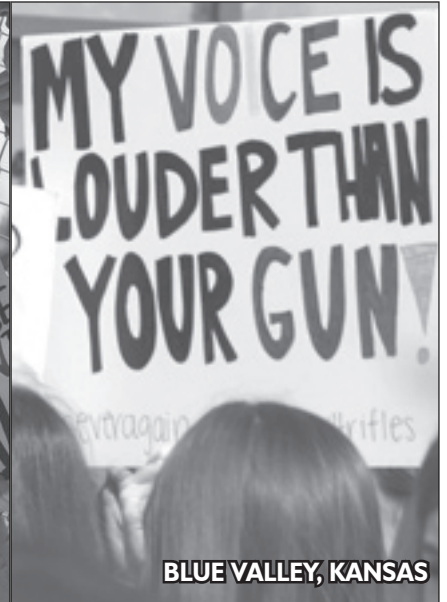
NATIONAL STUDENT WALKOUT A SUCCESS



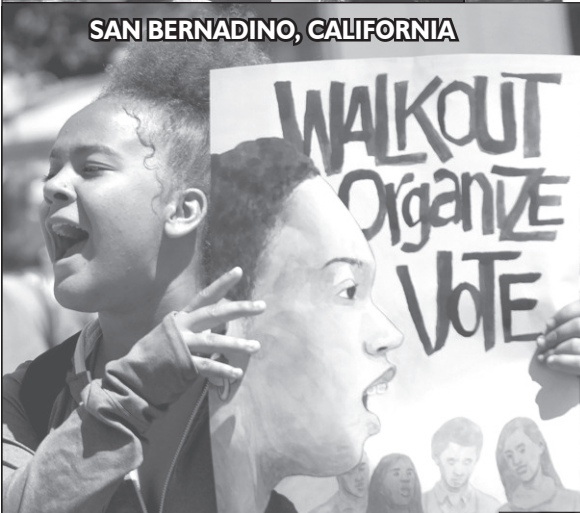
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



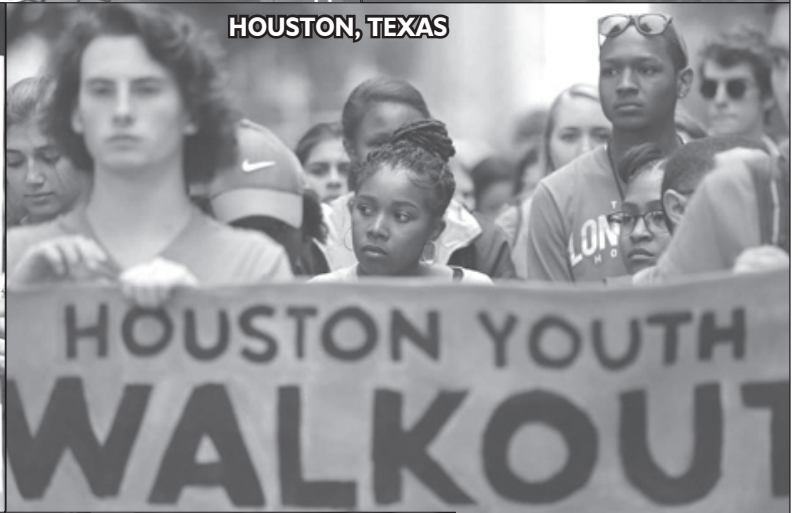
RENO, NEVADA



BLUE VALLEY, KANSAS



SAN BERNADINO, CALIFORNIA



HOUSTON, TEXAS



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



MOSCOW, IDAHO



ANCHORAGE, ALASKA