

STRUGGLE

A MARXIST APPROACH TO AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

No: 114 : \$1.50 : September 2004

Floods Caused by Ignoring Needs of Environment

The TV allowed a national audience to view the shocking personal and economic losses experienced by residents and farmers as a result of unprecedented rainfall. The offers of help from farmers outside of the affected areas was great to see.

Questions arise now - will the principal cause of the floods be identified? Will adequate adequate measures be taken to prevent further heavy losses?

All flooding would be difficult to avoid. But when there is excessive flooding, damage and losses, it is helpful to start at the beginning - in major high country watersheds. As a general rule, when grass replaces the bush cover on steep hill sides, the soil tends to slump and slip when saturated with continued rain. The soil and debris ends up in stream and river beds, raising their levels.

When the river beds are so raised, the excessive water floods the river flats and flood plains. In fact, the heavy sediment in the river water helps to erode river banks. Millions of tons of soil are lost.

In the immediate future, increasing the height of and strengthening stop-banks will play an important role. This leaves the problem of further deposits of soil



and debris into the river and stream beds still unresolved. The next link is the source of this soil and debris, which are the steep grassed hill-sides. From photos, some 10 to 15 percent of grassed area has been lost to slips. It is logical to conclude that these steep slopes will, sooner or later, contribute once more to raising the riverbeds, negating the work of raising the stopbanks.

Not only will production from the hills be affected, but production on the river flats will also suffer - again. Here, reme-

dial action is a longterm problem.

Creative legal, funding and environmental responses are required. To prevent further degradation of the environment, the re-forestation of country prone to slumping and slipping is a necessity. The difficult questions now emerge. Who pays? Who takes responsibility? How can the legal rights of property owners be protected?

What is clear is that capitalist farming technology has led to human suffering

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NZ Troops Should Not Help Build the American Empire

STOP PRESS:

To coincide with the Republican Party Convention, late August, in New York, USA, a War Crimes Tribunal was held. President Bush was charged with numerous war crimes, the charges having been prepared by former US Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, a prominent peace activist and opponent of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Numerous international and American witnesses testified in support of the charges. With a great sense of responsibility, the American Peace Movement demonstrated that their initiative was aimed at further isolating and defeating the Bush war agenda. (End)

US IMPERIALISM - THE GREATEST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE

The conduct of the US Government and its armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq are no different to the criminal actions of the German Nazi Army in occupied Europe. The killing of civilians - men, women and children - is a daily event. Torture of detainees has the approval of the US administration. Cancer-causing depleted uranium tipped shells are used without thought for soldiers or civilians. The US occupation has failed to ensure the supply of power and water.

In Iraq, the resistance movement controls many districts and city suburbs. The formation of an Iraqi Coalition Government still leaves the US army calling the shots.

Like third rate movie gangsters, Bush and his criminal gang place themselves above the law. They talk about 'freedom and democracy', but the reality is for growing numbers of US soldiers, and tens of thousands of civilians Iraqi, the only 'freedom' is the grave.

Because of the expected decline in oil supplies by 2010 the US imperialists aim to control the world's richest source of

oil - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Abu Dhabi. With control of oil reserves, the US aims to dominate the nations of the world. As a consequence, the US has developed a military strategy based on pre-emptive strikes and the first use of nuclear weapons to threaten all other nations.

All seventy-odd wars that the US has waged since WW2, including Iraq and Afghanistan have been unjust wars. It continues to threaten Cuba and Venezuela and support the murderous fascist-Zionist state of Israel. Armed with the greatest stockpile of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, and with an arms budget greater than all nations combined, the US presents the greatest danger to peace, to cooperation, to the environment and to life on planet earth.

History teaches that those countries that withdraw from international treaties do so to conduct aggression against other nations, as the fascist powers of Germany, Italy and Japan did prior to WW2. But the international support for peace and opposition to aggression can halt the US war criminals.

WITHDRAW NZ TROOPS

New Zealand refused to join the invasion and military occupation of Iraq. This was commendable. Yet, the Government has created a confused situation by sending troops to Afghanistan, to the Persian Gulf and a so-called construction team to Basra, Iraq, 80 per cent of whom are on security duty.

Facts show that the US Bush administration is using 'the war against terrorism' as a cover to increase corporate profits, first in line being Halliburton Services. Vice President Cheney was a former CEO of this corporation, which cannot account for \$1.9 billion in government funds spent in Iraq.

Reading - Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism - Lenin)

COVER CONT.

,economic losses and environmental destruction on a totally unacceptable scale. Priority has been to grow grass. In the process, bush cover has been removed. This has failed. Instead of respecting the needs of the environment, these needs have been ignored.

The question now is - can the capitalist economic system recognise the needs of the environment to prevent flooding? Can it organise the methods to stop the further slipping of grassed hillsides and the later flooding of the downstream river flats?

Monopoly capitalism is noted for its destruction of the environment and its failure to take remedial actions in good time. Respecting nature and the environment are also issues that motivate people to work for the removal of the monopoly capitalist system.

The sustained damage to farming as a result of excessive rain and repeated flooding has aroused much interest. Destructive capitalist farming methods with the emphasis on profits at the expense of protecting the land conditions appears to be confirmed by observations by Pippa Stevenson's in her column in the NZ Herald, 24.8.2004.

" We are losing our soil at the shocking pace of an estimated 200 million to 300 million tonnes each year - an erosion rate 10 times the world average. A tenth of our total land is classed as severely eroded, 26 per cent is at risk from soil slippage and 39 per cent is affected by water and wind erosion. In the most slip prone areas, erosion has increased 10-fold since human beings took up residence ."

From this assessment, one would expect some serious planning to introduce remedial counter-measures. In fact, this is a situation that needs to be treated as a national emergency.

How Tactics are Worked Out for Parliamentary Elections

The two major parliamentary parties are already preparing for the 2005 general elections. Among those active for social change, the question arises - how can the socialist cause be best advanced?

As with all questions, Marxism insists on seeking truth from facts and making a concrete analysis of concrete conditions. This is the opposite to relying on one's own personal views, likes and dislikes.

Marxism is guided by the historical truth that working people are the principal motive force of social change and that at any one time, the views within the working class must be taken into account as well as their actual level of organisation.

Currently, working people still support the Parliamentary Labour Party in significant numbers, although their level of active support has declined. In addition, their level of organisation has some features that cannot be ignored. The level of trade union membership and industrial action is at a low level. Revolutionary organisation is limited. These aspects indicate that working people have yet to achieve confidence in their own strength. Overall, there is still some illusions that parliament as an institution will promote their interest.

Although not as strong as in the past, the views of social democracy, trade union politics and class collaboration remain as the dominant ideologies within the Labour Movement.

As a scientific summary of working class experience, Marxism provides further assistance and guidelines. The first is that people, including the working class, learn from experience and learn from doing. The conclusion from this view is that when working people still have illusions about the Parliamentary Labour Party, then the proper response by activists is to respect their views. The Marxists will state - "that to prove to you that the PLP is a party of capitalism, we will ask workers to vote for the PLP next election -NOT because we think the PLP

is the next best thing since sliced bread but because we want to prove that the PLP will betray you, your family, your workmates and your class."

The second guideline is that the PLP will display its real nature when in office. While in opposition, the PLP will jazz-up its policies and make more promises to gain votes. But in office, the PLP has to administer the capitalist system so that international capital and its local collaborators can make bigger profits. It is impossible for the PLP to achieve this goal and safeguard the interests of workers and their families. History shows that Labour Governments suffer greater election setbacks when in office - not when out of office. The conclusion is that workers who have become convinced of the need for social change should help create the conditions for more workers to learn the real role of the PLP and parliament.

LEARNING FROM RECENT HISTORY

In recent times, the confidence of most Maori in the Labour Government has been destroyed because of its intention to confiscate customary rights over the foreshore and seabed. This action took place while the PLP held office. On other occasions, the PLP has short changed the industrial movement. Seafarers have not seen the return of cabotage on the Coast in spite of promises. Trade union rights do not yet measure up to international standards.

THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS - BUILDING ACTIVITIES INDEPENDENT OF PARLIAMENT

For workers to be convinced of the need to advance to socialism, they must be convinced through their own experience that the PLP is actually a party that defends the international corporations and their local collaborators at the expense of the majority. Along with that developing understanding, they must have confidence in the strength of their own organisations and trust in their own independent party.

It is relatively easy to criticise the Labour Government. It is more difficult to encourage workers to organise around their immediate needs so as to confront and challenge the Labour Government to make good on its election promises. With effort, activists can discover the increased profits being made by various corporations and contrast them with wage increases in the industry.

Increased power charges, transport fares, rents, lack of housing for low income earners, health issues, student loans, reduced special benefits come to mind. Through consultation and listening, activists will actually identify the immediate needs of workers and communities. The next step is how to involve people in organising around their needs.

KEEPING THE MAIN FOCUS IN VIEW

When deciding on election tactics, in the current situation, the main priority is on uniting workers and people to take action around issues that concern them; to help workers and people to have confidence in their unity of action; to promote understanding of the need to oppose the US drive for endless wars; the need for an Aotearoa/New Zealand free from US control and interference; the need to advance to a socialist society. Subordinated to these election tasks, is the question of how to most effectively deal with the influence of social democracy. Nothing is more certain than social democracy does what it is told. Big Business requires the PLP to be capable of deceiving working people. When the PLP loses this capacity to deceive, the PLP will be 'retired' for a spell.

So, do activists fall in with the plans of the big capitalists that back the PLP or do they accept the lessons of history - that the best way to convince working people that the PLP actually sides with Big Business is to have the PLP in office.

Olympic Games Tarnished by Capitalist Profit-seeking

In the sporting world, participation in the Olympic Games is real 'cool'. The endurance and skill of men and women athletes have fascinated the world audience, as they set ever-higher standards of achievement. There is an underlying theme of the Olympics setting an example of people from different countries and cultures competing in a peaceful environment.

However, there is another influential current that is undermining the Olympic spirit. This current or tendency threatens to overwhelm the Olympics. It is none other than the capitalist morality of self-interest and corporate profit-making. There is abundance evidence about the use of performance enhancing drugs by top athletes and the pressure on these athletes to maintain their sporting reputations. A weekly columnist of the Wairarapa Times-Age (14.8.2004), Mr Hugh Barlow observed that "the Los Angeles games in 1984 were a cheats' paradise".

While the athletes caught cheating receive extensive exposure in the news media, the same news media are major sponsors of the Games or recipients of excessive profits from TV rights. Manufacturers and distributors of sport wear sponsor-gifted athletes. Millions of dollars are involved. Other athletes see



the rewards of winning. Chemists and scientists are employed by laboratories to produce appropriate drugs that will escape detection.

The reputation of International Olympic Committee (IOC) is notorious. "Every city that has bid for the Olympics can vouch that you don't succeed unless you grease palms" (same source)

Within the Olympic movement there is actually an intense struggle between the corrupting, parasitic conduct of giant monopoly corporations, on the one hand, and the honesty of purpose of countless sports people, their coaches, committee members and supporters, on the other.

The strenuous efforts that are being made to keep sport free of drugs by identifying "cheats" are well intentioned. Actually, it is a limited response. The real culprits are the corporate parasites and their billionaire owners. These human leeches, with their morality of selfish profit-making and greed, befoul all human activity, including the Olympics.

Freeing the Olympic Movement from the influence of Imperialist culture and morality is part of the international struggle against Imperialism. Imperialism is hostile to the ideals of the Olympic Movement. Only with the defeat of imperialism, headed by the US, will sports people of the world be able to participate in a genuine Olympic Games free from corruption.

Chavez Launches Free Food Programme

By Chuck Anderson

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez recently announced the start of a new free food program to provide food for the poor over the next several months. This new program will render emergency assistance to homeless children and adults as well as pregnant women and seniors.

Chavez promised that one thousand centers to serve prepared food will be inaugurated during the last week in July. Each center will serve up to 100 adults and street children who Chavez calls "children of the fatherland."

Altogether, 4,000 food houses will be built to service 600,000 people in extreme poverty by November. Besides the 1,000 houses in July, the plan is to have 700 more houses open in

September, 1,000 in October and 500 in November.

Chavez said the program will draw from the existing Mercal food security program, which comprises government-run supermarkets with basic food supplies at fixed discount prices. All the food will be cooked and served by the workers in these supermarkets.

In a country dependent on an oil economy and undergoing what is being called a Bolivarian Revolution, President Chavez is making great strides to provide food, education and medical care for the oppressed. How many other presidents or prime ministers in other countries have acted in favor of the oppressed masses? Very few.

Chavez' popularly elected government is under constant threat and attack by

the U.S. government. U.S. imperialism and the rich Venezuelan oligarchy seek to undermine social and economic reform programs that are aimed at lifting up the majority of the Venezuelan population.

Just two years ago, the same reactionary forces backed by the United States kidnapped the democratically elected Chavez. Now they are now trying to use a referendum to oust him from the presidency. Some have called for his assassination if the referendum is defeated.

In an act of international solidarity, the revolutionary government of socialist Cuba has agreed to send 12,000 doctors and 17,000 teachers as volunteers to assist neighboring Venezuela. In return, the Venezuelan government agreed to sell oil at discount prices to Cuba.

'Bomber' Brash - US Recruiting Officer Downunder

According to a Christchurch journalist, former National Party leader, Bill English, was very concerned at the potential loss of public support for his party because of the readiness of his colleagues to support US aggressive conduct without question. Surprise, surprise, Bill English was dumped. In his place came the 'hope of the white race' and first choice of international finance, the pro-US Dr Don Brash. He was given definite tasks, the principal one being to manipulate New Zealand into supporting the nuclear-armed US drive for world domination.

NATIONAL PARTY CONDUCT TELLS ALL.

Prior to US invasion of Iraq, the National Party bleated stridently for New Zealand armed forces to join the US invasion of Iraq despite the overwhelming opposition internationally. The Nats ignored the evidence of international public opinion, weapons inspectors and authorities on international law.

No one disputes the facts that have now clearly emerged = there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Iraq had no means of delivering such weapons in '45 minutes' on the UK and Iraq had no relations with the Al-Qaeda. The pretexts for attacking Iraq were based on shameless lies.

Have the Nats said – sorry, we made a mistake?. No, they have not. Have the Nats made any statement condemning the brutal Nazi-like occupation of Iraq, that has cost in excess of 11,000 civilian casualties? No, they have not. Has Dr Brash condemned the systematic torture regime carried out by the US in Iraq and elsewhere. No, he has not?

NZ'S NUCLEAR FREE LEGISLATION AND DR BRASH

There is not any doubt about the intention of the National Party MP's. They know who butters their bread. The NZ Anti-Nuclear Legislation has to be removed to please the US Whitehouse. Prior to making his recent trip to Washington, the Nats were toying with the idea of making it an election issue or holding a referendum. But after talks with 'advisers' in

Washington, Brash returns with another tactic - first get into office, then remove the legislation at an appropriate time, when the opposition has been softened up.

Removing the Anti-Nuclear legislation is only part of the exercise. Brash's task is to make New Zealand a willing supporter of the US nuclear expansion programme, of the US military strategy based on threatening the first use of nuclear weapons, and of the militarisation of space. Brash and his backers wants the New Zealand people to do a U-turn and 'embrace the bomb.'

US PLANS MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

In the 2004 US budget, the US Congress has authorised the spending of US\$34 million to prepare the Nevada test site for a new round of nuclear weapons testing. The Department of Energy has plans for underground testing in 18 months. Its budget of US\$6.5 billion provides for further nuclear weapon testing this year, and at President Bush's request, a further US\$6.8 billion next year.

These US plans perpetuates the ultimate in criminal lunacy. These weapons are being made to be used. The US has already the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction in the form of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The US has H-bombs a 1000 times greater in explosive power than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Both Russia with 8,200 warheads, and the US with 7000, still have their missiles aimed at each other.

Instead of leading the charge for nuclear disarmament, the US is actually continuing to develop nuclear weapons and expanding the sphere of its superiority to outer space.

BRASH'S NATIONAL PARTY IS COMMITTED TO VIOLENCE

Of all class attitudes, the influence of international finance thoroughly dominates the thinking of their local collaborators - the New Zealand class of comprador capitalists who specialise in surrendering local resources and low-

ering living standards to attract an inflow of foreign investment. From that inflow, this servile class hopes to be rewarded by sharing in the greater exploitation of the New Zealand people.

Brash's policies reflect the class interests of international capital and the most aggressive section of the local collaborators. They create divisions by playing the 'race' card, by benefit bashing the victims of a 'sick society', and by attacking workers rights. The essential nature of all this is class violence against working people here - and in Iraq.

PEOPLE UNITED WILL DEFEAT BRASH

Building unity of action around immediate needs and issues at the workplace and in the communities and by relying on their own strength, the people and workers can face any challenges.

Patea Community Success Relied on 'Peoples Power'

When faced with the threatened closure of their schools under the Government's cost-cutting plans for amalgamation, the community resolved to challenge the Government head-on. They went to parliament, Wellington. Maori and Pakeha united as one. The alternative was to accept the school closures and see their town "die". Following the Wellington visit, the Government has agreed to postpone closure for two years. This outcome is a significant achievement.

Some years before, the major employer, the British Vestey's owned freezing works closed. Clearly the proposed closure of the schools was another setback to all sections of the community.

The united action of the people of Patea has provided a powerful lesson.

Reformist Spin-doctoring Stoops to Blatant 'Misinformation'

On some issues, Mr Robson, MP plays a helpful role in some campaigns, the continued imprisonment of Mr Zaoui, for example. Mr Robson has a website, 'Robson on Politics', which understandably, publicises the alleged positive contribution of Mr Anderton and himself to Coalition Government performance.

As with all who believe that monopoly capitalism can be reformed and not replaced, Mr Robson breaks into an ecstatic outburst of enthusiasm when the economy appears to be delivering good news.

From "Robson on Politics" (June 4th) website, viewers were told := "a recruitment firm's latest survey of employers" – reported – "42 per cent will be hiring more staff before Xmas"

Mr Robson commented as follows = "That is the best possible news in the campaign against poverty and social injustice that any of us could dare hope for. There is no better tonic against poverty and inequality than the availability of secure jobs and the offer of steady adequate incomes." end quote.

First Issue : 'secure jobs'? The survey did not state that the hiring of more staff was for full time, permanent jobs. Nor did the survey state that more staff hiring before Xmas was to take account of extra Xmas activity in the retail sector or to fill in for staff taking holidays. Were the so-called 'secure' jobs - casual, part-time or on a fixed time contract.?

On the information provided by the survey, Mr Robson has no grounds for claiming that the hiring of more staff proves the "availability of secure jobs".

Second Issue : "offer of steady adequate incomes". There is no evidence provided by the survey or Mr Robson, that employers were offering 'steady adequate incomes'. What does Mr Robson mean by 'steady' incomes? An income that is there every week because the part-time or permanent job is supposed to be 'secure'? How does Mr Robson know that the employers are offering "adequate incomes" before Xmas, when the CTU President Ross Wilson quotes official figures that the 'labour cost index' has risen only 2.3 per cent in the year to June? At a time of rising rates and prices?

What income level does Mr Robson regard as "adequate", considering the fact that the low wage levels are the main feature of the economy? If wages offered are going to be adequate, does this mean the employers on their own initiative are going to increase wages above their present level? Does Mr Robson still believe in Santa Claus?

Or is it, perhaps, the arrogance of the middle class showing through, that any job provides an adequate living standard and that workers should be forever grateful by accepting any job and wage offered, especially before Xmas?

Third issue := "best news against poverty". There is a popular misconception among the middle class living in comfortable circumstances, including politicians, that a job and a wage automatically means that poverty has been left behind. In their world of wall-to-wall carpet, underfloor heating, protected by an electronic security system and sustained by access to an ample wine cellar, sections of the middle class live in an unreal environment. They ignore the fact that poverty embraces a significant section of working people – because wages are low, rents are high and costs of education, clothing, food, rates, and transport continue to rise.

To proclaim that a wage ends poverty is BS. Regrettably, Mr Robson shows how separated he is from the lives of working people.

Fourth issue : "best news against social injustice" What "social injustice"? In the view of "Struggle", the principal social injustice is the wages system, in which a wage earner produces values equivalent to his wages in the first part of the working week, from one to two days, and works for nothing for the rest of the working week. But the employer takes possession of the surplus values produced during the second, unpaid part.

It stands to reason and common sense that a wage earner must produce a sum of values greater than those values equivalent to his wages. Otherwise, the capitalist would suffer losses.

Mr Robson sees more workers being involved in a socially unjust wage sys-

tem as "the best possible news". Obviously, Mr Robson has problems with what is socially unjust. What is more socially unjust than wage earners producing values and products in the unpaid part of the working week for a minority class to live in luxury?

REFORMISM AS A POLITICAL TREND

The idea that monopoly capitalism can be 'reformed' is a definite political trend within the worker's and trade union movement. It has a long history in New Zealand. The social basis of reformism is the upper stratum of the working class whose higher income and lifestyle is due to the need of the capitalist class to have a reliable skilled stratum to keep their plants operating. Many trade union officers come from or represent this stratum. Reformism also influences other stratum of the working class. This political trend seeks to subordinate the working class and the trade union movement to policies of class collaboration. The necessity of the working class engaging in class struggle and preparing for socialist revolution is denied and resisted. Both social democracy and reformism practice capitulation to the monopoly capitalist class. The capitulation of the 1991 CTU leadership to the National Government at the time of the introduction of the Employment Contracts Act is clear practical example of reformism.

Reformism insists on workers surrendering to the needs of the Parliamentary Labour Party and its MPs. Reformists claim that improvements come only come gradually.

The reality is that under the influence of reformist thinking and practice, workers rates of pay and conditions have suffered serious setbacks.

COMMUNIST VIEW TO REFORMS

The Communist view is that in the course of fighting for reforms, workers and others will learn who they can trust. They will learn of their own strength and the necessity of not tailing behind or relying on a parliamentary party.

US Presidential Elections – A Renewal of Billionaire Class Dictatorship

On the 4th of July 1776, 13 States of the American Union signed their Declaration of Independence that was acknowledged 6 years later by Great Britain. In September 1787, the US constitution was adopted and is the basis of the current form of government.

In its time, the American Constitution was regarded as an advanced form of 'democracy', being free from the feudal class-type systems prevalent in Europe. In fact, the US constitution expressed the class interests of the plantation owners and the rising capitalist class. Over the years, the constitution was amended, including the franchise. The 19th amendment in 1920 established woman suffrage.

Beginning in the latter half of the 19th century, the new economic formations – huge monopoly capitalist corporations developed in shipping, railroads, oil, coal, steel, banking. Their rise and influence followed the merging of industrial and banking capital into finance capital and the develop-

ment of capitalism into its highest stage, imperialism, as described by Lenin, the great Russian revolutionary.

At the end of the 19th century, the monopoly capitalist class now dominated the US economic and political system, creating a financial-industrial oligarchy. Naturally, this class strengthened its control of the US state apparatus, which included the US armed forces, the Presidency and Congress. From then on, the USA became more aggressive, commencing decades of armed violence, especially in South America, South East Asia and the Far East.

In the 20th century, technological changes have been further monopolised by a few giant US corporations. As a result, the election of presidential and congressional candidates requires the expenditures of scores of millions of dollars on TV advertising. Both current presidential candidates, Bush and Kerry are millionaires, with Bush having some US\$200 million available in campaign funds.

This is not democracy. The millionaires and billionaires have the democracy and the people actually live under a dictatorship of a minority class, which controls the state structures, state agencies and the Congress. Both Bush and Kerry have similar views on many questions, including the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Many people in the international community and the US will be pleased to see the war criminal G.W.Bush removed from office.

But this outcome will still see the US occupying Iraq, with the US still determined to complete the construction of 14 military bases in Iraq with the aim of controlling Middle East oil reserves.

Together with the courageous American people, the international community, including New Zealanders, will offer mutual support and intensify their efforts to remove the threat of US 'endless wars'.

(Recommended reading: "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" by V.Lenin.)

'Beneficiary Bashing' Shows Political Bias

Certain overpaid politicians specialise in 'beneficiary bashing' to justify their presence in parliament. The same politicians are silent about beneficiaries not being paid their correct entitlements. One advocacy group recovered over \$6000 for clients in one three week period.

When all the advocacy groups multiply that sum for a one-year period, plus unpaid entitlements, the extent of non-payment of entitlements runs in to many millions of dollars.

The same politicians are noted for the speed in which they vote for increases in their salaries and perks.

PENSIONERS HARD HIT BY PRICE INCREASES

Various charges, fees and prices are steadily increasing. Their impact on people on fixed incomes, such as pensioners, is serious. A major handicap experienced by pensioners is that there is no consumer price index (CPI) based on goods and services actually purchased by them. The official CPI covers too wide a range of items, many of which are not on pensioners shopping lists, so it does not reflect the changes in purchases peculiar to pensioners.

The Bay of Plenty Times (17.7.04) had a prominent headline "Bay's besieged elderly struggling to survive" which described many of the difficulties experienced by pensioners. "In the past year, three of their most basic costs – housing, electricity and petrol – have risen disproportionately to other out-goings. Other necessities such as telephone line rental and food items such as meat and canned goods have also risen."

" (BoP Times 17.7.04)

In recognising the plight of pensioners, Greypower is campaigning for the removal of the GST tax on food.

The Government should be called on to introduce a Consumer Price Index based on the goods and services bought by pensioners. It could help to adjust pensions to the actual costs incurred.

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Housing Needs of Working People Ignored

A great fuss is being made about how well the economy is doing. There is another side. Working people on low incomes have huge difficulties paying high rents and mortgages, even with supplementary assistance and still have adequate funds for food. Excessive housing costs are the principal cause of poverty. The social consequences are devastating. Families double up. Overcrowding leads to a higher incidence of sickness. More money is needed for treating ill health. School homework is affected. One child in five lives in overcrowded conditions. Families, the elderly and others are living in garages. Even cars and vans are used.

When viewing the construction industry, the supply of houses for people on low incomes is being ignored. Because funds, building supplies and labour are being used in the most profitable sectors. Construction firms are making record profits. Fletchers had a record year, with an increased profit of 40 per cent. Priority has been given to office, commercial, industrial buildings, multi-story apartment blocks, town houses and luxury homes. Affordable homes for families are on the back burner, especially in the Auckland region.

State housing construction is inadequate. The banks, developers and speculators have fanned the so-called housing boom. House prices have escalated beyond the reach of young couples, especially students burdened with student loans. As a measure of 'home ownership', the affordability of housing index has declined.

The cost of treating patients from overcrowded and sub standard living conditions must be enormous. The most important step in reducing sickness in the community and increasing educational achievement is to build and supply sufficient housing for low income families.

All who are homeless, all living in overcrowded and substandard conditions are the victims of the economic system that puts profits before people. The lack of adequate housing for working people is another symptom of the monopoly capitalist system. The housing shortage will continue as long as capitalism exists.

Nevertheless, the demand for affordable

houses should be made loud and clear. It is an immediate and urgent issue should be made loud and clear

(Recommended reading: 'The Housing Question' – F. Engels)

CAPITALISM IS THE MAIN THREAT TO FAMILIES, NOT THE CIVIL UNION BILL

Thanks to the marches of the Destiny Church, as seen on TV, the public have been alerted to the American-style religious fundamentalism. The sight of marchers with their black clothing, repetitive chanting and violent gestures created the impression of intolerance and hate. The orchestrated march reminded many onlookers and viewers of the rise of Nazi Germany's storm troopers and Italian fascists.

In America, the fundamental churches are strong supporters of President Bush whose intolerance is well known. Defence of 'the family' is highlighted. Surprisingly, the economic condition that undermines and destroys family relations is not the priority of the religious fundamentalists. Continuing low wages, unemployment, over crowding, lack of affordable housing and persistent ill health that put many families under relentless stress are ignored.

In such conditions, it is impossible for all families to have a happy, harmonious family life. Key questions must be asked – Do people with different sexual preferences create unemployment, low wages and over crowding? If all families were housed in affordable homes rented or owned by people with jobs, would this situation strengthen family relations?

By relying on the working class principle of 'finding common ground and putting aside differences', an investigation may find that most members of the Destiny Church are not as well housed as their Pastor. They may well be supportive of requests for increasing the construction of state houses or low interest loans to first –homebuyers. Most Destiny Church members appear to be working people.

(Recommended reading: Lenin's "Leftwing Communism, An Infantile Disorder")

FASCISM IS AN EVER PRESENT DANGER

In class societies, there is one class that is dominant. In New Zealand, the dominant class is a section of the capitalist class that is linked to and collaborates with international capital. Although outwardly strong because it controls the state apparatus, it is essentially weak. As a minority, it must rule by deception by relying on parliament, and when deception fails, by force. Actually, it uses both.

Under pressure from the US, and a compliant government, the New Zealand parliament has introduced legislation that has reduced civil rights on the pretext of combating terrorism.

With the further development of the general crisis of capitalism in its highest stage, this minority class will increase its means of suppression. Simultaneously, disaffected sections of the people experiencing greater exploitation, insecurity and financial losses are attracted to cults and fascist-like activities, because of the assumed empowerment that they seem to provide. The ruling class will not hesitate to promote and fund fascist-like groups to create divisions and diversions.

While there is no rule preventing the growth of fascism, history does alert the working class that the exploiting minority class will promote fascism to maintain its rule. The other historical lesson is that revolutionary activists should not ignore opportunities to develop contacts with the rank and file of right wing movements. In general, the tendency towards fascism is a sign that the capitalist ruling class is in trouble, and becoming more aggressive. The great historical lesson is that to defeat the tendencies to fascism, capitalism must be replaced, the first step being to develop the anti-imperialist movement to take state power and then, continue the advance to socialism.

(Recommended reading: 'The United Front Against Fascism' Dimitrov)

Anti-Korea Bill Passes House: US on Track to Yet Another Aggression

By Deirdre Griswold

It is 51 years since the Korean War ended, not in a peace agreement but merely a truce. In all these years, the U.S. government has refused to sign a peace treaty, instead keeping tens of thousands of troops in South Korea and enforcing the division of the Korean peninsula that has torn apart millions of families.

Last year, the Pentagon announced it was going to spend \$11 billion on advanced weaponry for its Korean occupation, while downsizing the number of troops it stations there.

The U.S. is now shifting thousands of its soldiers from South Korea to Iraq. However, its threats against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north continue and are growing even louder. Massive military exercises are a frequent occurrence, and threats to launch a preemptive strike on the DPRK's nuclear power facilities are being voiced by politicians of both capitalist parties.

If anything, Democrats like John Kerry sound even more hawkish than the Republicans when it comes to Korea. They accuse Bush of being so focused on Iraq that he has neglected the "nuclear threat" from the DPRK. They are being rivaled in their rhetoric, however, by a coalition of Christian evangelicals and Cold War anti-communists loyal to the Bush regime who have been pushing a bill in Congress that would escalate the pressure on the DPRK in the name of "human rights."

That bill passed the House on July 21. The bipartisan vote was unanimous. If it passes the Senate, the U.S. will allocate \$24 million each year to stepped-up propaganda aimed at North Korea. The aim is to encourage an exodus from the country by promising a fast track to U.S. citizenship for Koreans who seek asylum in the U.S.

The bill even allocates funds for U.S. agents to seek out North Koreans living in China. This euphemistically named

"North Korea Human Rights Act" was sponsored by Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa, chair of the House Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific and a "born-again" Christian. Besides fitting their ideological bent, the bill opens the door to contracting out the work on "human rights" propaganda to right-wing Christian evangelicals who have been lobbying hard for it.

The bill's sponsors in Congress claim its aim is only to improve the "human rights" situation in North Korea. But its real intention can be read in an article on the Christian News Service website CNSNews.com headlined "Campaigners Strategize on Toppling North Korean Regime." It reports on a conference held in Seoul that featured Michael Horowitz, a long-time Cold Warrior from the Hudson Institute, infamous for its advocacy of "preemptive" nuclear war against the Soviet Union. Horowitz is now a champion of "human rights."

This offensive by the U.S. appears aimed at least in part at turning back the growing movement in South Korea for reunification of the divided country. Since the historic visit in 2000 of South Korea's last president, Kim Dae-jung, to Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, the government in the south has been pursuing a "sunshine policy" of increased contacts with the north. There is overwhelming support for reunification among the Koreans in the south, as well as in the north.

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union and its socialist partners, the DPRK has been struggling with economic problems, especially a shortage of energy. It turned to nuclear power and started building a reactor, only to run into stiff opposition from the U.S. In 1994, an "Agreed Framework" signed with the Clinton administration promised assistance from Washington and South Korea if the DPRK scrapped the work it had done and built a different kind of nuclear power plant that could not produce plutonium, an element in nuclear weapons production.

The promised assistance—oil and nuclear technology—didn't happen. Oil shipments were inadequate and arrived late, often after North Korea's severe winters. The new nuclear power plants were never built. Finally, the DPRK announced it would no longer abide by the broken agreement and resumed work on its original nuclear program.

This is now being used as a pretext for the heightened threats and hostility from the U.S., which of course is the world's largest nuclear superpower and has nothing to fear from the DPRK as long as the Pentagon doesn't launch an attack on that country.

But that's the rub. As long as there's only an armistice in place, it means the U.S. is still in a state of war with the DPRK. North Korea has been trying for years to get Washington to sit down and negotiate a peace treaty. It refuses to do so. That leaves the door wide open for whoever sits in the White House to embroil this country in another war in Korea at any time.

It's a horrible prospect. Millions of Koreans died in the 1950-53 war, and so did over 50,000 U.S. troops.

South Koreans are alarmed that the new bill just passed by the House can further destabilize the situation on the Korean peninsula. Some lawmakers in the governing Uri Party have been pushing a resolution criticizing the U.S. bill as "a scheme aimed at suffocating North Korea." (Chosun Ilbo, July 23) Demonstrations continue almost every day against the U.S. occupation troops in the south and against the government's decision to send Korean troops to Iraq. Pilots, mechanics and other airline workers have refused to work on planes transporting troops.

In the north, the emphasis is on strengthening its military defenses as a deterrent to a possible U.S. attack.

War Crimes Tribunal Prepares to Hear Charges Against Pres. Bush

This Criminal Indictment Charges George W. Bush, Richard B. Cheney, Colin Powell, Donald H. Rumsfeld, John D. Ashcroft, Tommy Franks, and his successors as Commander of U.S. Forces in Iraq, George J. Tenet, L. Paul Bremer, III, John Negroponte and others to be named with Crimes Against Peace, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and other criminal acts in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law, the Constitution of the United States and Laws Made in Pursuance Thereof.

The Crimes Charged are:

1. Waging a War of Aggression against the sovereignty of Iraq and the rights of its people, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and injuries among the people of Iraq, most civilians, from military violence and thousands of U.S. G.I.'s. War of aggression is defined as "the Supreme international crime" in the Nuremberg Judgment.

2. Authorizing, encouraging and condoning the use of excessive force, in terrorism, tactics called "Shock and Awe", targeting defenseless civilians and, civilians facilities and indiscriminate bombing and assaults.

3. Authorizing and ordering the use of illegal weapons including super bombs, cluster bombs, depleted uranium enhanced bombs, missiles, shells and bullets and threatening the use of nuclear weapons.

4. Authorizing, ordering, concealing and condoning assassinations, summary executions, murders, disappearances, kidnappings and torture.

5. Authorizing, financing, utilizing and condoning illegal violence, use of force and torture by highly paid paramilitary civilian forces operating anonymously and not accountable to U.S. supervisors for their acts, who kill, coerce, control and contain the Iraqi population.

6. Authorizing, ordering and condoning the systematic destruction of economic, social, cultural, medical, educational, governmental and diplomatic resources, properties and facilities throughout Iraq.

7. Authorizing, ordering and condoning acts designed to divide the Iraqi popula-

tion to cause internal conflict and violence among major segments of the society, ethnic, religious, political and economic, in order to weaken and exhaust the population and bring all segments under the control of a new surrogate government submissive to U.S. command.

8. Authorizing, imposing and maintaining a violent, criminal military occupation over Iraq which kills defenseless Iraqi's daily and fans the flames of anti-U.S. anger worldwide.

9. Defying and incapacitating the peace making capacity and role of the United Nations by unilateral actions to undermine its potential effectiveness while continuing to coerce and use the U.N. to pursue U.S. policies in Iraq and elsewhere, and coercing and enticing other nations to support U.S. policies and actions in violation of international law in the U.N. Security Council and against Iraq and other nations.

10. Engaging in systematic acts to undermine and destroy international laws and treaties designed to prevent and control war, weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction; limit participants in military service; protect the environment; prevent the economic exploitation of poor nations; and engaging systematic acts to obstruct justice by the evisceration of the International Criminal Court and manipulation or defiance of other international judicial and regulatory bodies that might seek to hold the U.S. accountable to international law and the will of the majority of the people of the international community.

11. Manifesting their continuing commitment to world domination by ordering, directing and condoning violent regime change in Haiti in March 2004 to replace the independent, elected democratic President Jean Bertrand Aristide with a U.S. selected and controlled neo Duvalierist surrogate causing growing violence, hundreds of deaths and further impoverishment of the Haitian people.

12. Threatening the sovereignty and independence of nations, and acting to change regimes that refuse to yield to U.S. demands for economic subservience and political control for U.S. corporate and government interests, including most

prominently Cuba, Iran, a divided Korea, the Philippines, Syria, Sudan and Venezuela; and supporting Israel's illegal occupation, brutalization and expanding settlement of Palestine in defiance of the United Nations, international law and world opinion; all of which adds to international anger and violence against the United States and its citizens.

13. Destroying the sovereignty, right to self determination, cultural integrity and control of its own resources of Iraq and its peoples by imposing an interim government headed by a long time C.I.A. asset who directed violence against Iraqi civilians for the U.S. in the 1990's; and manipulating procedures for the imposition of a new Constitution drafted by and installation of a new government chosen through controlled electoral processes and subservient to the will and command of the U.S. government.

14. Usurping the war powers delegated in the constitution to the Congress to pursue wars of aggression and other unlawful military actions; and attempting to pack the federal courts with judges committed to ideologies in conflict with the Constitution of the United States to achieve judicial decisions supporting those ideologies.

15. Systematically weakening fundamental human rights globally and the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution within the U.S. enabling U.S. forces to unlawfully seize individuals in 100 countries, including U.S. citizens and arrest thousands of aliens in the U.S. and hold them, transport them, torture many, deny all access to courts to determine the legality of such seizures, arrest and treatment.

16. Making Guantanamo [U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay?] a symbol of U.S. power to imprison and abuse persons on the soil of a foreign sovereign nation, Cuba, against its will and to publicize U.S. contempt for human rights by displaying its power to arbitrarily seize, confine and abuse persons without revealing who they are, any charges against them, or what their future may be, placing U.S. power above all laws, international and national, and beyond the reach of all courts, including those of the U.S.

17. Giving economic preferences to

avored corporations and business interests to extract enormous profits in both war and peace sectors of the economy from impoverished Iraq and U.S. taxpayers.

18. Systematically utilizing, controlling, directing, manipulating, misinforming and restricting press and media coverage and deliberately presenting false and misleading reports to obtain support for U.S. military and political actions; and to deprive the American people of knowledge essential to develop an informed opinion, which is essential to democratic processes and elections.

19. All for the purpose of dominating, controlling, and exploiting Iraq and other non compliant nations by military force and economic coercion.

In addition to full accountability for the foregoing crimes and full reparation to victims, the offenses constitute high Crimes and Misdemeanors" under Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution of the United States requiring the removal from office of all the participating civil Officers of the United States upon impeachment for and conviction for their acts.

Dated: August 5, 2004 Ramsey Clark

Iraq War Crimes Tribunal Thursday, August 26
call 212-633-6646 for more information
<http://www.PeopleJudgeBush.org> for more information

Contribute to the War Crimes Tribunal:
<http://www.PeopleJudgeBush.org/donate.shtml>

The International Action Center
<http://www.iacenter.org> mail to: iacenter@iacenter.org

COMMENT:

These Charges warrant the widest distribution. All parliamentary parties and MPs and ordinary citizens should be asked for their views. ("Struggle")

War Crimes Tribunal on Iraq

THE CASE AGAINST BUSH

By Heather Cottin

Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. attorney general, has charged that President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Attorney General John David Ashcroft are guilty of "crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes."

Clark added that the U.S. government under George W. Bush was "assuming powers of an imperial executive unaccountable to law."

Clark's statement was read to thousands who gathered to protest the Democratic National Convention on Boston Common July 25.

Ramsey Clark's charges will form the basis for the Iraq War Crimes Tribunal set for August 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, located at 65th St. and Amsterdam Ave. in New York City.

Dozens of leading anti-war activists from India, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Italy and other countries, as well as from the U.S., will be traveling to the tribunal to give testimony against the Bush administration.

"It is important," said John Catalinotto, an organizer for the tribunal, "that people coming to protest the Republican National Convention understand the international character of the anti-war movement and hear the findings of the international war crimes tribunals on Iraq."

The event will be a first in the series of protests against the Republican National Convention in the city.

The two big-business parties both promise to expand the number of U.S. troops occupying Iraq. But opposition to this brutal occupation is growing too.

CHECK OUT PEOPLEJUDGE-BUSH.ORG

Ramsey Clark is writing the indictment that will charge the Bush administration with causing the death and maiming of tens of thousands of Iraqis and hundreds of U.S. GIs, and providing false and deceptive rationales for war.

The gravest charge is that the U.S. government is guilty of crimes against peace—a crime prohibited by the United Nations Charter, the Nuremberg Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Clark states that the U.S. is responsible for "authorizing, ordering and condoning assassinations, summary executions, kidnappings, secret and other illegal detentions of individuals, torture and physical and psychological coercion of prisoners."

The tribunal will investigate the "ordering and condoning [of] direct attacks on civilians, [and] civilian facilities." They will charge that the U.S. has threatened "the independence and sovereignty of Iraq by belligerently changing its government by force and assaulting Iraq in a war of aggression."

The International Action Center, organizing for the tribunal, has created a new web site. [PeopleJudgeBush.org](http://www.PeopleJudgeBush.org) will collect history, statistics, testimony and pictures, and give people a concrete way to vote against the illegal war in Iraq. The website will provide information and photographs of the depredations of the war censored by the

U.S. media.

The web site solicits testimony by e-mail of "photos, eyewitness accounts, research and ideas that can be used as evidence to build a case against the perpetrators of U.S. war crimes against Iraq."

It lists the crimes that expert witnesses with testify about—including war profiteering and privatizing of national resources, cultural genocide and the systematic looting of Iraq's art, archives and cultural institutions.

Testimonies will describe the use of prohibited weapons, including cluster bombs and depleted uranium. The tribunal will expose and oppose the theft of trillions of dollars from domestic social services so that the U.S. can pursue its policy of "Endless War" that has already targeted Haiti, Iran, Palestine, the Philippines, North Korea and Cuba.

The [PeopleJudgeBush.org](http://www.PeopleJudgeBush.org) website concludes, "We have a responsibility to hold this administration accountable for the past and continuing horrors of the war and occupation... The people of the world know that it is those in the highest echelons of the U.S. government who are responsible for the atrocities, torture, deaths and war crimes in Iraq."

FOOTNOTE:

The enormous significance of the War Crimes Tribunal Case Against Bush will be appreciated by the international peace movement. The "Charges" will be widely circulated.

All parliamentary parties in NZ should be asked to study and comment on them, especially the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Goff.

Iraqi Footballers Warn Bush

Iraq's team delivered shocking defeats to Costa Rica and Portugal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

According to the monthly Sports Illustrated, Iraqi football players, who have performed exceptionally well at the Olympics, are warning US President George Bush not to use their success in his re-election campaign.

US media has touted the success of Iraq's under-23 team as it beat Portugal 4-2 and Costa Rica 2-0 and sailed through to the quarterfinals.

However, the sudden interest in the team - particularly from the US Republican re-election campaign platform - has irked some of its members.

"Iraq as a team does not want Mr. Bush to use us for the presidential campaign," Iraqi player Salih Sadir told SI.com.

"He can find another way to advertise himself."

Sadir has so far scored two goals for the team.

But some players went further: substitute Ahmad Manajid, who played as a midfielder in Wednesday's match against Morocco (1-2) told the monthly sports magazine "How will he meet his god having slaughtered so many men and women?"

"He has committed so many crimes."

Manajid went on to say "I want to defend my home. If a stranger invades America and the people resist, does that mean they are terrorists?"

"Everyone [in Falluja] has been labeled a terrorist. These are all lies. Falluja people are some of the best people in Iraq."

According to Sports Illustrated, one of Manajid's cousin was a resistance fighter who was killed by US occupation forces. He allegedly told SI.com that he would have become a resistance fighter had he not been on the Olympic team.

The Iraqi team is to meet Australia in the quarterfinals.

Iraq's second coach, who filled the gap left behind when German manager Bernd Stange left the team due to security concerns, told SI.com that he believes US occupation forces destroyed everything in his country.

"My problems are not with the American people," Adnan Hamad told the sports monthly.

"They are with what America has done in Iraq: destroy everything. The American army has killed so many people in Iraq. What is freedom when I go to the [national] stadium and there are shootings on the road?"

Welcome to the Maori Party

Following the introduction of the openly confiscatory Foreshore and Seabed Bill, Maori had few options left but to form their own party, independent of other parliamentary parties. All members of the Maori Party, including their leaders, Turiana Turia especially, are congratulated for taking a firm stand in defence of Maori Rights.

Any collective action in defence of political, economic, civil and ethnic rights, it should be noted, helps to inspire others to stand tall. With the formation of the Maori Party, the possibility exists for the

needs of all working people to receive greater attention in parliament.

Regarding the Parliamentary Labour Party, the F&S Bill has been a watershed not only for Maori-PLP relations. The true nature of the theory and practice of Social democracy was exposed as an ideology of class collaboration and surrender to overseas and local developers and investors. The PLP action also confirmed the assessment of "Struggle", that the PLP shows its true nature more effectively when in office.

Sooner or later, decisive sections of the working class will have similar experience to Maori. Providing a Communist Party has developed sufficiently, real advances will be made on the basis of Maori-working class unity of action.

Of course, it is early days yet. Parliamentary forms of activity will be new to many. There will be a sharp learning curve. Pakeha are also welcomed. Policies have to be worked out. The firm intention of Maori Party organisers to empower their members to control and supervise the organisation is a great start.

Politicians Silent about the Real Welfare Fraud

In the capitalist economic system, wage earners actually provide a welfare system for the capitalist employers. The greater the number of wage earners employed the greater the amount of welfare.

It goes like this. For the capitalist to make a profit, his workers must produce values in excess of the values equivalent to the wages paid. Take a manufacturing firm that pays \$15 per hour for 40 hours per week, a total of \$600 gross. In this factory, the worker produces products (values) equivalent to his wages in two days. But the worker works another three days

at the same rate of output, during which the values produced are \$900. The capitalist takes possession of these values, having concealed this 'welfare system' by paying wages for all hours worked. Karl Marx called these values, 'surplus values', the source of capitalist profits.

Had the wage earner not produced values in excess of his wages, the capitalist would not have made a profit. The worker would be sacked.

There is still more 'welfare' for the capitalist employer. To avoid paying suffi-

cient wages to meet the costs of housing, the state pays an accommodation supplement to help low paid workers keep a roof over the family.

If the politicians want to debate welfare, let all "welfare payments" be put on the table. The Wages system would win hands down every time as the principal 'welfare system..

(Recommended reading = "Wage, Prices and Profit" by Karl Marx)

Two Governments Exist in the Philippines

PRESS STATEMENT
AUGUST 21, 2004

By Prof. Jose Maria Sison
Chief Political Consultant
National Democratic Front of the Philippines

Two governments exist in the Philippines. One is the nationwide revolutionary government of workers and peasants based in the countryside. The other is the counter-revolutionary government of big compradors and landlords centered in Manila.

The revolutionary government or the people's democratic government (PDG), consisting of organs of democratic power, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as the leading party, the New People's Army (NPA), the mass organizations and the Filipino people in general are represented by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP).

The GRP is the counterrevolutionary government of big compradors and landlords. Periodically it holds elections. But these elections merely seek to conjure the illusion of democratic choice and at the same time to reinforce the rule of the big compradors and landlords. The GRP is the political instrument of these classes for oppressing and exploiting the people.

Candidates and parties that try to represent the rights and interests of the exploited classes of workers and peasants may be allowed to run for elective offices. But in so many ways (including political, military, economic and financial constraints), the ruling classes do not allow them to get more than a few token elective positions.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is absolutely wrong in presuming that the revolutionary forces and people under the governance of the PDG would rather seek a share of power in the GRP through elections controlled by the exploiting classes than build the PDG further in the course of the new democratic revolution through protracted people's war.

There is a fundamental difference between the PDG and the GRP. The PDG fights for national liberation and democracy against US imperialism and the local exploiting classes. The GRP is a puppet government that is servile to the US. It works for the collaboration of the foreign monopoly capitalists, the landlords and the corrupt bureaucracy and military.

Currently, the US and other imperialist governments are sabotaging the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations by maligning and listing the CPP, NPA and the NDFP chief political

consultant as "terrorists". They attack and violate the solemn GRP-NDFP agreements, such as The Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

1. They interfere in the internal affairs of the Philippines and violate the principle of national sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Filipino people over events in the Philippines, as upheld by The Hague Joint Declaration.

2. They violate the safety and immunity guarantees provided for by the JASIG to all duly-authorized persons in the peace negotiations.

3. They transgress the fundamental rights of the people and the Hernandez political offense doctrine upheld in the CARHRIHL.

True to its character as a puppet of US imperialism, the GRP has welcomed and endorsed the renewed "terrorist" listing of the CPP, NPA and NDFP chief political consultant. It has shamelessly allowed the US to interfere in Philippine affairs and violate the national sovereignty and jurisdiction of the Filipino people over events, entities and circumstances in the Philippines.

The US and GRP are engaged in a malicious scheme to put the NDFP under duress in the peace negotiations. The objective of the imperialist master and the puppet government is to intimidate and pressure the NDFP towards capitulation. But the US and GRP can only succeed in torpedoing and sabotaging the peace negotiations. The NDFP's resolute and militant adherence to the line of revolutionary struggle for national liberation and democracy frustrates the US and GRP.

At any rate, the NDFP has taken the just and reasonable position of postponing the formal talks in Oslo, previously scheduled for August 24 to August 30, in order to give the GRP a chance to fulfill its obligations under the Oslo I and Oslo II Joint Statements of February 14 and April 3, 2004, which are as follows:

1. Adopt and implement measures effective enough to invalidate and do away with the "terrorist" listing of the CPP, NPA and the NDFP chief political consultant,

2. Release all political prisoners who have been detained in violation of the Hernandez political offense doctrine, and

3. Expedite the indemnification of the victims of human rights violations under the Marcos regime.

As it fails to fulfill the above obligations, the GRP becomes responsible for the indefinite postponement of the formal talks of the GRP and NDFP negotiating panels and for the probable suspension or even termination of the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations.

The GRP is vainly hoping that with the military and psywar aid of the US it can force the capitulation or destruction of the PDG and the revolutionary movement of the people. The US-directed and US-propped Marcos fascist dictatorship failed to destroy the revolutionary movement and unwittingly succeeded in inciting the people to join the revolutionary movement. There is no reason why the Macapagal-Arroyo regime stricken by an exceedingly severe crisis can fare better against a much stronger armed revolutionary movement of the Filipino people.

It is futile for the GRP to expect that the revolutionary forces and people represented by the NDFP would allow the PDG to be dissolved in favor of the GRP and the ruling system of big compradors and landlords.

Certain possibilities exist:

1. Negotiated truce and alliance between two governments against a common enemy like US imperialism or for a common objective like national liberation,

2. Continued civil war between the two governments until the PDG defeats the GRP over a protracted period of time, and

3. US military intervention escalates into a US war of aggression and the broad masses of the Filipino people respond with a war of national liberation against the foreign aggressors.

The US has enjoyed the status of sole superpower as a consequence of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the prior long-drawn betrayal of socialism by the revisionists and the neocolonial cooptation of third world and other retrogressive countries. But in so short a time, the all-round crisis of the US and world capitalist system has become so grave and so deep that it is driving the people to take the road of anti-imperialist struggle and revolution.

Following the total bankruptcy of "free market" globalization, the escalation of imperialist plunder, terror and war is generating people's resistance on an unprecedented scale against the overstretched No. 1 imperialist and terrorist power. Once again in the history of humanity, it is clear that intense oppression and exploitation drive the proletariat and people to fight for national liberation, democracy, socialism and world peace and progress.

Strive to Unite!

Ka Kohi Te Toe Ka Whai Te Marama Tanga

(through the sharing of knowledge, enlightenment will follow)

Struggle is published quarterly representing the viewpoint of the Organisation for Marxist Unity. Struggle aims to provide a Marxist analysis of class struggle, politics and economy of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The immediate task is to encourage working people and all possible forces to unite in a Patriotic and Democratic United Front led by the working class to remove the stranglehold of foreign monopoly capitalists and their local agents, by establishing a People's Democratic State System. This stage of the advance to Socialism is determined by the

objectively existing class contradictions, classes and laws of social development. The more comprehensive the competition of this stage, the more favourable will be the situation for the further advance to a socialist society.

Struggle emphasises the necessity of studying the history of class struggle in Aotearoa/New Zealand from the stand-point of the revolutionary working class science of Marxism-Leninism, in which the writing of Mao Zedong have made a major contribution. Struggle works for the building of a Communist Party based on the

ideology of Marxism-Leninism, a party that develops its strategy, tactics and methods corresponding to the needs of the situation in Aotearoa/New Zealand by concrete analysis: a party free from doctrinaire Marxism, sectarianism and the influence of social democracy, a party whose members are committed to serving the people.

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Published by Struggle Publications, ISSN 07 10-7623.

Subscriptions:

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