As Blair and Straw round up lynch mob for Bush, we say STOP THE WAR!

The massive terror attack on the World Trade Centre, which has killed thousands of office and other workers, is indefensible in any terms, and should be condemned outright.

But the war that has been declared by the USA, and the carnage that will be unleashed by the world's only superpower in the quest for military vengeance has nothing to do with 'freedom' or 'democracy': they are a reactionary attempt to reassert the right of US and world imperialism to exploit and dominate the poor and oppressed throughout the globe.

The political conditions which probably caused the September 11 attacks are far from obscure. The perpetrators are not known at this time (despite all claims by the CIA), but the driving force behind them is most likely to be a deep hatred of US imperialism generated by US foreign policy - past and present.

We share the grief of the relatives of those who have lost their lives at the hands of their government's policies.

But for years the US government, and US multi-national companies, have been imposing their will on the world by military force and financial power. They have been destroying local economies, imposing structural adjustment programmes, overthrowing popular governments, and putting the Schumachers, the Pinochetts, the Marcoses, and the Mobutus in power - dictators subordinated to the US, who did not hesitate to slaughter their own people in the cause of US policy.

Now for the first time in recent times the USA is confronted with a huge attack on its own territory. Previously this has been the fate of the Koreans, the Vietnamese, the Cambodians, the Iraqis, the Yugoslavs, the Somalis, the Nicaraguans...you could name a dozen more.

Under today's globalised economy, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, and increased repression is used to keep the poor in their place.

The mass misery which US policy - backed by the major Western powers (particularly Britain) - has imposed on the majority of the world's population has created the conditions for the new feature in terrorism and resistance: the suicide bomber, and now the suicide pilot.

In occupied Palestine there is no shortage of young men willing to sacrifice their lives in order to strike a blow against the Israeli oppressor. Again, although such acts, particularly against civilians, cannot be supported, it is easy to see how they come about.

Palestinians are dying every day at the hands of an Israeli war machine - a machine supplied, backed, and bankrolled by the USA. The war criminal Sharon is totally backed by George Bush - who is also no longer even interested in the so-called 'peace process'.

In Iraq a million civilians have perished through US-sponsored sanctions and the destruction of the infrastructure of the country, including the water supply and treatment plants. Today US and British planes continue to bomb Iraq on a daily basis.

None of these crimes by US imperialism justifies the killing of thousands of US civilians: but they do help to explain the anger which is felt against the USA and its symbols of power.

The fact that whenever carried out the attacks in the USA, the result of all this will be a new period of reaction. New political conditions more conducive to global capital are being created on the back of the carnage on September 11.

But one thing is sure: the result of acts of war by US imperialism in the present circumstances will be to create the conditions for such acts of terror to be repeated.
No US bombing anywhere! Stop US intervention!

Extracts from statement by US Socialist Action The Government that spends trillions on war, that has sent more troops to police the world in the name of corporate profits than any other in human history, that has plun-

dered and ruined the economies of countless under-
developed of the wretches in the preparing for war. The inexorable horror of the war in New York and Washington, D.C. which took the lives of thousands of innocent people and brought uncivilized bloodlust to their loved ones, serves as the justi-
cation for the attack.

Congressional declara-
tions of war against, nations and indivi-
duals.

The whole world is involved with military interven-
tion, bombing and individual determina-
tions if nations refuse to bow to US demands to turn over unclaimed property or in the case of "suspects" who the U.S. proposals, in violation of intern-
able to obliterate without re-
ourse to democratic procedures.

A poisoned media and war-
mongering bipartisan Congress for the purpose of creating an at-

tempts to maintain US power and in-

Pakistan

I am writing this from Toba Tek Singh, my home town, 900 kilometers away from Lahore, in the central Punjab, a prin-

mainly a peasant dominated area, and main income comes from crops like wheat, sugarcane and maize.

In the Seventies, it was once a hub of a peasant movement led by the Stalinist Left. On 23 March 1970, over 500,000 attended a peasant conference in the town.

In the main centre of the town, which is the center of the rice growing region in the grip of religious fundamentalists. In the main centre of the town, we see the paintings of the martyrs (those youth who have been killed during the war of Kashmir during the last few years). Many religious weeds (sects) have found at every street corner. The street painter is not the hand of the religious funda-

mands that the youth have been recruited during the past years by the (Holy War) organizations in Afghanistan and Kashmir. The youth finds a way to pass the time and to get the basic necessities at the religious shrines around the fields.

I was told by Javed Hashmi, the central president of Muslim League, in an informal chat, during the meeting of the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) meeting on 15 September that he had been invited many times during the month to the homes of fields where sons have become martyrs in Kashmir.

Hashmi told me that when he arrines at a certain house, he

the hope that the agriculture income would improve – but disappointed at the time. These attempts to enhance his ever decreasing income went nowhere. After all, he remained loyal to the rival Loyal to the rival Pakistan League, a conservative bour-

Biden: he and Taliban see as challenging US poser has been asked not to conclude but to congratulate the family for this great achievement. Sweeps are brought to be taken as a gesture of the hand in holding the family. And the same goes for the whole village from which these youth nor-

It is sad and sad news of most of the youth from southern Punjab areas from where the bulk of the recruits come for these religious organizations.

In Lahore, the mood among young mothers and ordinary citizens was of joy and happi-

But it was also a sympathy for those who have been killed in the terrorist attack.

The ARD two day meeting on 14-15 September con-

then the Americans that they should not attack the innocent citizens of Afghanistan.

But in Toba Tek Singh, the mood was of fascism. As I arrived after a six hour drive from Lahore to see my ageing father, I was bombarded with questions by him.

A trader all his life, he is now fighting with the banks to give back the loans he once took in

Alternative Information Center

The Alternative Information Center, founded on values of internationalism, humanism and democracy, strongly re-

We recall that Arabs and Muslims were targeted and blamed for the Oklahoma City bombing that had noth-

In Israel, the government, the army and the media are using this catastrophe to oppress the frightful struggles of the Palestinian people for freedom and inde-

The attacks in the US threaten to mark a change in relations between

Western hegemony and the oppressed nations and rep-

The events in the USA will allow further aggressive actions by Ariel Sharon and his administra-

Israel policies of extra-justi-

tional and the besieging of the civil population are not part of a struggle for a safer world but acts state terror-

but they understand the legitimate right of all humanity to live in a safe and just world.

The attacks in the US threaten to mark a change in the world's relations between Western hegemony and the oppressed nations and rep-

The Alternative Information Center (AIC) is a beacon of hope for a world without war and for the just struggle for national liberation and a new world order.

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Playing into Bush's hands

T he attack on the World Trade Centre has the hands of US imperialism and reactionary forces all over the world – and they will play it for all it is worth.

At the time of writing the US's brutal military strike by US and British forces against Afghanistan

A huge task force of warships, up to thousands of troops, artillery, fighter aircraft, bombers and missiles have been mobilised in the Middle East and Central Asia – and few really believe that the US will not be used against one of the poorest countries in the world.

It can be said that the USA is at war, and that we will witness the destruction of the Islamic regime that Osama Bin Laden "dead or alive". Many more mistakes and crises could result from a military strike, however, it will trigger a humanitarian and anti-colonial movement.

Even before the first salvo of bombs and missiles, the conditions are already starving in Afghanistan as a result of the withdrawal of humanitarian aid. Colonial and imperial military forces are on the move as a result of the threat of war.

Yet plans are being actively considered to go beyond a straight military strike. The US and Britain are preparing to invade and take it over by military conquest and install some kind of regime (as yet undefined) in its place. As the British empire, and later the Soviet empire, vanished in the past, if this can be done at all, it can only be done by military force.

The UN General Assembly put the world warning they will be seen as back the "terrorists". War fever is being whipped up in the USA, and in other countries, like Britain, the media is preparing the population for war.

The be affects of all this on world politics will be obvious.

Unfortunately most of the affects will be to the direct advantage of US imperialism (which has been politically strengthened by the events of September 11) and to the detriment of the working class and its allies world-wide and all those fighting for national and other rights.

This is a direct result of the act of individual terrorism, which must be condemned. This is not only because we are totally opposed to the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, but because individual terrorism cannot advance the struggle of the working class and its allies one jot.

This and the new-found alliance are not just planning and preparing an attack on Afghanistan. It is doing it to force its own (essentially death squads) are to be sent in.

We have the ridiculous spectacle in the way Sharon has done in Palestine – a policy condemned up to now by the USA and Britain. The policy now of new: Clinton has revealed that he (illegally) ordered the assassination of Bin Laden when he was President. The scale of operations is being prepared by Bush, however, is of a different order. And the ban on assassinations is also a view to be lifted. Although the ban was never fully enforced, its lifting will lead to its greatly expanded use.

The lifting of the ban on CIA assassinations is one aspect of a huge attack on civil liberties are being prepared on the basis that such civil liberties have cramped the war against the terrorists. A string of measures are being prepared in the USA, while Home Secretary Blunkett is preparing a string of measures here.

More than two weeks after the attack on the WTC the FBI are no longer establishing financial, with anything approaching hard evidence, who they are. The FBI has not even established the identity of any of the hijackers – those of which some have now been linked and all.

Whoever did it, however, it is most likely to be connected US policy in the Middle East and its support for the murderous policies of the Israeli government.

This lack of proof has not stopped the US from declaring that they have conclusive proof, which they say that they unfortunately cannot make public – because they don't want the Taliban to know how they know! How proof of his demented "democracy" and "Freedom", but the old traditions of Lenin's law. The US will go to war first and produce the evidence (if any) for its actions later. They are building a coalition which is based largely on cynicism and convenience, and which may not survive the pressures of war.

Russian leader Putin likes it because it prevents his vincible war in Chechnya (where 200 Chechnya a week are still being killed, but which he claims is a "war against terrorism" and the Chinese bureaucratic line like it because it keeps more serious human costs down.

Terrorism and the Pakistanis have joined

in the USA has reciprocated by demanding sanctions imposed against their manufacture of nuclear weapons, and nodded through new loans to prop up Pakistan's collapsing economy. One has joined in the war of the consequences to them – in terms of US retaliation – if they don't.

This attack came at a time when US and Britain's anti-globalisation movement was beginning to challenge the march of globalisation and the US's imperial project.

US imperialism hopes and intends that this will be an opportunity to establish the war. In this sense the war drives in the military wing of the process of globalisation and the US's liberal offensive.

The anti-globalisation movement must ensure that this does not happen. But each of the big recent mobilisations has met increasing resistance as capital is locked in place and is likely to get much worse. The tactics have to be prepared.

The effects on refugees and asylum seekers in particular Afghans, Muslims and Arabs is already clear enough. Millions are already being driven away, while in Europe they are already facing increasing violence.

Wenstedt noises from Blair and "building a broad-based anti-war movement" go alongside a war drive which is already racist and in which Muslims are presented as synonymous with terrorists.

International pressure is now being put by Bush and the new enemy world-wide, a phenomenon which was largely created by US imperialist policy in the region, by the assault of national rights, accent social conditions and the absence of a strong and determined movement.

Remarkably Bush and Blair continue their war drive with little protest from the trade union leaders who have been in the war on the USA.

The war was already slipping towards success, making many other advanced economies down with it. Mass redundancies had begun and many were already on the way before September 11.

US consumer confidence has now collapsed, and the crisis of profitability has been exacerbated. The extreme uncertainty over the outcome of the war has caused a crisis which has begun spinning out of control.

The affects on the neo-liberal project and the process of globalisation look to be just like the war drive but economic developments.

There are even speculation that the major economies and the imperialist banks cannot escape into some form of neo-liberalism for a period in order to restructure – as was the case with some of the South East Asian countries in the 1990s.

Generally, however, the answer to each turn in the economic situation is that it has produced a more liberal economic situation, less and this may well be the case.

For the left the task is clear enough.

The anti-globalisation movement must not be allowed to falter, rather it must be given new energy and new impetus.

It may be that tactics will have to change – with more emphasis on mass mobilisations which are not so vulnerable to state repression.

The conditions which created the anti-globalisation movement – the increasing gap between rich and poor and the growing ranks of the disillusioned – are still there, and getting worse.

At the same time the left has to build a broad-based anti-war movement against the litigious which is being whipped up, and which will get worse once the shooting starts.

This needs to be combined with the anti-globalisation movement and built at every level, including in the labour movement and the trade unions.

This is crucial, since acts of individual terrorism and their effects distort the class struggle.

Already we have seen the TUC conference called off early, and with it whatever fight there was by the trade union leaders against the privatisation proposals of Blair's second term.

Now the Labour Party conference is being cut to a half of its usual length, ensuring that the same battle over privatisation and other highly controversial politics for New Labour's second term is suppressed or outflanked.

The trade union leaders and some politicians argue that it is "inapropos" to debate party and political issues while there is a war on.

It is seen as impolite and unpatriotic even to question the wisdom of backing Bush's "lynch-mob" offensive.

But behind the façade of warmongering rhetoric and the offensive to reassure imperialist dominance over the world's oppressed, Blair's government is not pausing, but pressuring ahead with all of its most repressive policies – including a new, and even more draconian suppression of civil rights in the name of "defending democracy".

The left must rally the unions and the labour movement to a political light that must continue and intensify the more Blair wraps himself in the union jack, resorting to patriotism – "the last refuge of the scoundrel" as a pretext for further attacks on working people, at home and abroad.

Grim toll of west's terror

IT IS SAID that the September 11 attacks were the biggest act of terror at all time. But this would only be the case if we only include one-state terror.

- Many acts and campaigns of state terror surpass it, for example the nuclear annihilation of Japanese cities by the US in 1945, and the carpet-bombing of Dresden in World War 2.
- Suharto's CIA-backed and organised coup in 1964 slaughtered a million people in Indonesia.
- The massacre of thousands of Muslims was murdered in B Jia in bombing in Korea and Vietnam. The US dropped more bombs on Laos and Cambodia than it did in Vietnam. The Viet Cong and its allies who did not have a war.
- US-sponsored "contra" terror squads killed 30,000 civilians in their campaign against Sandinista government.
- At least a million civilians, half of them children, have died in Afghanistan and Iraq as a result of the embargo imposed by the US and Britain.
- The "war on terrorism" – even if it has done nothing the US accuses him of doing. The irony, in any case, is that Bin Laden was a creation of the CIA during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda was an American-accused of harbouring him – was brought to power by the US and its allies.
- In fact the proxy war between the USA and the US in Afghanistan facilitated the development of well-trained, anti-American, Islamic militia network across the Middle East and further afield.
Fighting to stop the war machine

Stop the War Coalition formed

Ann Thorndick
Three hundred people came together in London on Tuesday, September 25th to form and anti-war campaign which was founded the Stop The War Coalition.

It followed a highly successful rally in London last Friday which attracted 3,000 people and ran to three overflow meetings, and the launch of media workers against the war which was held on Monday with 70 people.

Tarla Ali gave the opening address pointing out that whilst the new war coalition was mobilising for a war with aircraft, and war ships, the soldiers in the South Atlantic were actually still signing a general agreement amongst the coalition as the war aims of the United Nations are strapped and how.

He was asked for the biggest and broadest anti-war movement possible and advocated the already existing, which, as "war.

He pointed to the hundreds of protests which have taken place against the war in particular 500,000 people pulled Downing Street last Saturday. There was also sizeable demonstration in a number of other cities including Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow.

But he urged that this response reflects millions of people in Britain who do not endorse the war aims of Bush and Blair, and whilst totally condemning the terrorist attack and wanting to see something done about it, think that what is being proposed will only make things worse. There is, he said, the basis for a substantial anti-war movement in Britain and it is our obligation to build it.

The meeting decided to launch a big campaign against the war in another arena possible. After setting up the campaign the meeting broke up into working groups dealing with various areas of the campaign: trade unions, students, media, anti-racism and asylum seekers, and on Iceberlogs.

It was reported that a campaign in the colleges and at the fresher's fair had already produced thousands of signatures against the war.

It emerged that the key good trade union working group that ASLEF has already passed a resolution opposing the war as an emergency resolution for LPP, which represents the RMT, and that the RMT is discussing a similar resolution on Thursday.

The meeting discussed a new campaign in the unions against the war including the demand for an emergency TUC conference to discuss it.

This was given a boost by the news that the trade union's union ASLEF has already passed a resolution opposing the war as an emergency resolution against the war, to be held at the coming Labour Party conference in October.

Plans were made to campaign in the next few weeks and also to ensure that the campaign committee and the public platform workers have good union representation.

The Stop The War Coalition will be holding weekly open meetings in which will include meetings of the working groups.

England

Big rallies, vigils and meetings against the war drive have been taking place all over the country, and meetings are being organised to form local campaigns. 180 people in Peterborough, 200 joined a protest in Oxford on September 21.

The Socialist Alliance is giving full support to all anti-war events, and a updated listing on planned events across the country can be found on its website: www.socialistalliance.net.

Scotland

Immediately after 11th September, the Scottish Socialist Party discussed anti-war initiatives. A paper was produced by the weekend and meetings called for the following week.

On Thursday 20th a meeting of 250 was held in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. The Glasgow meeting was called by the SSP and had Tommy Sheridan, Alan McConachie and Linda Germain on the platform.

On Saturday 22nd over 1,000 attended a CND-organised rally in the centre of Glasgow and similar action took place across Scotland. The latest issue of Scottish Socialist Voice takes the line "No More Cages!" Anti-war groups are being set up in many localities in Scotland, although at this point there is no co-ordinating committee.

USA

STUDENTS have been among the leading elements mobilising against the war to show the USA, as thousands of reserves have been called up, Black's war machine.

1,500 rallied against the war in the University of Berkeley, as part of a nationwide effort involving 156 universities in 36 states. In New York University, a meeting of 250 students cheered a socialist speaker who insisted that "We have every right to ask questions of this government!"

As the anti-war movement develops, a former US Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, has put his head firmly above the parapet of patriotic hysteria, and called a protest demonstration outside the White House for September 29, warning that: "A new and widespread war by the USA in the Middle East could only lead to a spiral of violence!"

In Brazil, anti-war campaigns are being organised by a series of mass rallies in Sao Paulo against the beginning on September 28.

A new war on civil rights!

New technology would allow the US government to gather a range of options in terms of the information it could contain from fingerprints to DNA.

How such measures would stop a suicide bomber is not clear: the evidence so far suggests that the hi-jacked planes were legally resident in the USA prior to September 11 in New York and Washington, and that they had valid documents.

But there are real and obvious objections to civil rights and data what would stop "suspects" and identity cards, which is used almost invariably against black people and ethnic minorities, and perhaps yet another strand to the web of state racism.

Thank you comrades - from Charlie

As many readers will know, Charlie Wilson has been ill in hospital in Charlie is now home. Following the stress of this illness, and he has asked us to think again about his campaigning plans. He says he will be back over the country who have sent him cards and best wishes, and will be in touch to reply individually. He will not be able to continue with his colleagues' work at this time but he is keen to keep in touch with everyone.

Issuu.com - Issuu.com - Socialist Outlook
ISSN 0951-6657 Published by Socialist Outlook PO Box 1109 London N4 2UJ. All rights reserved. Printed by Eastway Offset (TU 3d)