

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

No to the Hitlerite Incitement against Muslims! No to the Subversion of the Anti-War Movement!

The government is attempting, in a very sinister fashion, to use the issue of the controversy over the protests against the anti-Muslim car-

toons to re-ignite support for an offence of "glorifying terrorism". These proposals contained in a further "anti-terrorism" bill, which have been strongly

opposed, had been thrown out in the House of Lords. At the same time as the incitement over the publication of the cartoons, a storm has been deliberately

whipped up over the conviction of Abu Hamza, which itself shows every sign of being orchestrated to blacken the

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VIGILS TO MARK THE DEATH OF THE 100TH BRITISH SOLDIER TO DIE IN IRAQ



Vigils were held in Parliament Square and across the country in support of the Military Families against the War to condemn Britain's occupation of Iraq and to demand that the troops be brought home immediately.

Cpl Gordon Pritchard, 31, of the 7th Armoured Brigade, became the 100th British soldier to die when his Land Rover was hit by an explosion during a patrol in Basra. Vigils

were held in Parliament Square and across the country in support of the Military Families against the War to condemn Britain's occupation of Iraq and to demand that the troops be brought home

immediately. The names of the 100 dead were read out and speeches made by relatives of the dead soldiers and representatives of the anti-war movement.

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Commentary

Condemn Government Proposed Attack on Incapacity Benefit

DRACONIAN SANCTIONS ARE PLANNED AGAINST PEOPLE CLAIMING INCAPACITY BENEFIT unless

they take work. Work and Pensions Secretary John Hutton told the Work Foundation that the new system would take a "something for something" approach. He said the reforms would include an element of compulsion and said people who were able, but refused, to return to work would have their benefits cut.

This can be compared to the road of Nazi Germany who persecuted the mentally and physically disabled, eventually leading to a programme of extermination under its involuntary euthanasia and

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Youth & Students

Taking Control of Our Future!

Youth Must Reject the Government's So-Called "Respect" Plan

The government has launched its new white paper, the Respect Action Plan, which is aimed at the young people of Britain. In particular, it is intended to address the government-defined "anti-social behaviour" issue. The central thesis of the paper is that the causes of anti-social behaviour are cultural, and that "the challenge is to create and, where needed, enforce a modern culture of respect".

White Paper

The paper lists the main cultural causes of anti-social behaviour as:

* "Parenting – poor parenting skills, weak parent/child relationships and sometimes parental

involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour."

* "School – truancy and exclusion and schools where poor behaviour is not challenged enough."

* "Community factors – living in deprived areas where there is disorder and neglect, peer involvement in anti-social behaviour."

* "Individual factors – drug and alcohol misuse and early involvement in anti-social behaviour."

A reactionary offensive

On the other hand, the paper elaborates "respect" in saying, "The conditions for respect in society are not difficult to define. They depend ultimately on a shared commitment to a common

set of values, expressed through behaviour that is considerate of others." This is phrased in a very particular way. First, it does not define "respect", which is deliberately left vague throughout the paper, only the "conditions for respect". Second, these conditions are not considerate behaviour as such, but that the conditions depend on "commitment to a common set of values". This is the fundamental thing. The phrase "expressed through behaviour that is considerate of others" is a rhetorical device to lead the reader to the conclusion that "anti-social" behaviour is to be combated by people committing themselves to a set of national "values".

The white paper states that the Respect drive is about having a "broader" approach, going "deeper" and "further" than before. "Broader means addressing anti-social behaviour in every walk of life"; "deeper means tackling the causes of disrespectful behaviour", meaning the cultural causes listed above; and "further means introducing new powers and taking action". Such new powers include: further summary powers; raising the level of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) – for example, increasing the penalty fine for a range of PNDs from £80 to £100 – and piloting PNDs for under-16s, to be paid for by parents; introducing a house

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Youth Must Reject the Government's So-Called "Respect" Plan

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closure order; legislating to ensure parents "take responsibility for their child's behaviour in the classroom", and so on.

The Respect Action Plan is bound to be criticised for its proposals, and hints at proposals, of extra police powers, new legislation, furthering the role of the "nanny state" and so on. But its significance is that all of these proposals are based upon a thoroughly reactionary cultural offensive, which inevitably leads to further encroachments over the collective and individual rights of all young people and their families.

Individuals made problem

What is this "modern culture of respect" that is to be enforced?

One thing that can be said is that society is left out of the question. The paper presents the issue as being that anti-social behaviour of young people comes from the family, themselves ("individual factors"), their schools and other young people ("community factors"). In other words, the paper makes individuals the problem, either the youth themselves or the people around them. For example, we are told that "constructive and purposeful activities have enormous benefits for young people. They can encourage and enable children and young people to contribute to their communities and help divert them from anti-social behaviour." Divert? In other words, youth have a natural tendency to anti-social behaviour.

Behaviour the issue?

By leaving out the question of society, the paper appears to stand above society, taking a classless position. Society is a given, static; it's the way it is and "we're in this

together", as the paper says.

How can behaviour be the issue? We live in a society where everyone stands in a definite relation to social production. This includes those youth who are thrown on the scrapheap and to whom the system offers no future, who constitute the reserve army of the unemployed, who are being deprived of exercising their right to an education. This reality is denied by the government, which It presents the situation as one where the class antagonism in society is not fundamental; the fundamental antagonism is between nations. If Britain succeeds in the global market, then we will all share in the prosperity, according to the government. The government therefore tells us that "children and young people are the future, our chance to make the country better, stronger and more able to meet the demands of the 21st century". By this they mean the role of the youth in meeting the demands that the monopolies put on the whole society to maximise their profits within the conditions of globalisation.

Pushing a culture

So, the culture is to be one where the people of Britain are behind the aims of British capital, and young people grow up with a sense of "responsibility" to that aim. In this context, the paper very strongly pushes volunteerism. "We will implement Britain's first national youth voluntary service," says the paper. Indeed: "There is no better example of respect than voluntary activity." They aim to "boost the numbers of young people volunteering by one million over the next five years". "We have already committed up to £100 million to make this happen, with a fundraising strategy in place to

Vigils were held in London and at many places throughout Britain both to mark the death of the 100th British soldier and to say "no" to the continued occupation of Iraq.



raise an additional £50 million from private sector supporters."

It also pushes the role of sport, the unashamedly condescending position being that sports champions provide role models for deprived youth. No doubt, competitiveness is part of the idea here. But it is also the idea that taking part in sports, arts and volunteering is what is going to release the "positive potential" of young people to "contribute to their communities". Again, the issue is de-classed. What about youth ending their marginalisation, taking control of their own futures and building a bright future for themselves? This is not discussed, since it conflicts with the concept of the "community" as an adjunct of the state programme, to continue the situation where the future of young people is in the hands of others.

Attempts to divert youth

Youth are on no account to become the vigorous social force necessary to open the path for the progress of society. When young people began to take up such a role in the 1960s, the media and establishment forces in the service of the ruling class concentrated its blow on culture, especially in ideological form. The ruling class is again organising its cultural-ideological offensive in today's conditions. Sexism, violence and self-destruction are promoted as the norms of a "civilised society". Now the issue for the monopolies is for the youth to take up the values that serve the monopolies' pursuit of maximum profit at this time. Young people are to become caught up in the culture of maximum profit, and this will divert them from taking control of their own futures. Young people are to aspire for a share in the enormous

profits that can be gained from speculation. The individual is promoted above all else; young people are to aspire to status ("respect") amongst their peers, individual success being measured by the extent to which the individual will dominate.

Culture of resistance

A threat to the culture of maximum profit is the development of the youth rejecting the status quo, and themselves taking up social responsibility. Wherever the culture of resistance arises, the government attempts to crush it. The white paper uses phrases such as: "Poor parenting, lack of parental supervision and weak parent/child relationships all increase the risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour". The idea of "failing" – failing schools, failing families and even failing youth themselves – is invoked to justify state intervention in all aspects of life including conscience, just as the notion of "failing states" is used to justify aggression against countries such as Iraq. The government is seeking to control what young people think, value, believe and hold as ideals, in order to prevent resistance to the anti-social culture of maximum profit.

Conscious rejection

One thing is certain: the young people of Britain will stand up and say no. Amongst the youth, there is a developing desire to acquire culture, particularly in its social and ideological forms. The reactive rejection to the promoted culture is becoming a conscious rejection, especially as youth become involved in action and demonstrate that they are political.

Britain's State Terrorism in Middle East

Britain's State Terrorism, Economic Blackmail and Double Standards in the Middle East

The government has continued its policy of interference in what it refers to as the "wider Middle East" in recent weeks. As well as maintaining the illegal military occupation of Iraq, it has continued to issue threats and bully the Iranian and Palestinian people, and announced increased military intervention and the provision of £455 million of enslaving "aid" in regard to Afghanistan. The Foreign

Secretary, Jack Straw, was forced to acknowledge that the military and other forms of intervention employed by Britain, the US and the other big powers have not brought any greater stability to this region, which is of crucial economic and strategic importance to all the big powers. But all the signs suggest that the British government intends to continue and even step up its policy of interference in this region.

In regard to Iran, the government, despite claiming that it is not considering a "military option", is maintaining its hostile and sabre-rattling approach and accusing the Iranian government of "developing a nuclear weapons capability", while admitting that it has no firm

In regard to Iran, the government, despite claiming that it is not considering a "military option", is maintaining its hostile and sabre-rattling approach and accusing the Iranian government of "developing a nuclear weapons capability", while admitting that it has no firm evidence and accepting that Iran has every right to develop nuclear power.

evidence and accepting that Iran has every right to develop nuclear power. The British government, along with the US and the other big powers, is demanding that it must have "objective guarantees" that Iran's nuclear power programme cannot lead to a nuclear weapons capability because of what it refers to as "the unquestionable record of deceit in the past". But history shows that that this is a phrase more applicable to Britain, the US and the other big powers, not just in regard to international affairs in general but particularly in relation to the support that has been given to Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

This week the government, alongside the governments of the US, Russia, China, France, Germany and representatives of the EU issued a statement indicating that they "shared serious concerns" about Iran's nuclear programme, ahead of Thursday's board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency. But as many commentators have pointed out, while Britain and the other big powers bully and threaten Iran and the DPR of Korea about their nuclear programmes, they are totally silent about and supportive

of the proliferation and possession of nuclear weapons by those states that they consider their military and economic allies.

In relation to the Middle East, Jack Straw and the British government like to present themselves as the greatest defenders of "democratic change". But the recent election victory of Hamas in Palestine, which Jack Straw even went so far as to refer to as a "terrorist organisation", was immediately greeted with demands and threats, even before a new government, likely to be dominated by Hamas, has taken office. Although in the case of Afghanistan, Britain and the other big powers were more than happy to pledge increased financial and military support for the so-called "Afghan Compact", in regard to Palestine they threatened the possibility of a halt to international "aid" if Hamas did not change its stance towards Israel and renounce its armed national liberation struggle.

The stance that the British government and the other big powers are taking in regard to what they refer to as the "wider Middle East" is based on the economic and

as many commentators have pointed out, while Britain and the other big powers bully and threaten Iran and the DPR of Korea about their nuclear programmes, they are totally silent about and supportive of the proliferation and possession of nuclear weapons by those states that they consider their military and economic allies.

strategic interests of the big monopolies and nothing else. The policy of the New Labour government remains one of state terrorism and economic blackmail, bullying, threats and double standards. It is an approach that now lies fully exposed and one that has led to increasing opposition both in Britain and throughout the Middle East.

Vigils to mark the 100th Soldier's death

Protests at British Nuclear Bomb Plant



While the British government is playing a leading role in the ever-increasing threats against Iran over that country's nuclear programme, it is pushing ahead with its plans for a new generation of British nuclear weapons.

Britain is one of the world's five "officially" declared nuclear

weapons states and it opposes other countries, such as Iran, even having the technology which might let them develop nuclear weapons in the future.

At the heart of these plans is the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston in Southern England. A range of new facilities for developing and testing nuclear weapons

is being built there.

On Wednesday, January 25, the local Planning Committee accepted the government's latest proposed developments at the site despite the presence at the meeting of many objectors.

Before dawn on Monday, January 30, protestors gathered at two of the entrances to the site.

Some sat down in the road. Others hang banners on the fence and lined the side of the road carrying banners and placards opposing the new developments and Britain's whole weapons of mass destruction programme.

The protest ended after about four hours with a march through the local town.

VIGILS TO MARK THE DEATH OF THE 100TH BRITISH SOLDIER TO DIE IN IRAQ

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We are printing below the words spoken by Roger Nettlehip on behalf of South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition at the rally in Newcastle on February 4.

"To have your son, brother, husband, father killed in any war is a burden that must be hard to bear.

"However, when so many of the military families know as we do that the wars the British government is waging to annex and occupy counties like Afghanistan and Iraq, are unjust, when the war and occupation of Iraq is illegal how much more painful must that be.

"On this occasion it is right for us to come together to join with the military families in sharing

their grief and their condemnation of the illegal war against Iraq – and its occupation.

"To mark as well not only the dead, but the hundreds of British soldiers that have been maimed or injured, figures which the MOD seems to keep as a closely guarded secret.

"Neither, can we stand here and condemn the death and injury of British soldiers without also the condemning the deaths of 100,000s of Iraqi that have been killed – the whole scale demolition of their country and their homeland by this illegal war and occupation.

"Our message to ourselves and to every one is – let us step up our work to bring the troops home. Thousands of British troops are being redeployed to Afghanistan.

Let us organise to stop all these wars of occupation of other lands once and for all.

"As we speak, the propaganda continues to demonise Iran and other countries as they did Iraq. Let us be clear also about this. The propaganda to dehumanise Muslims with cartoons. It is a prerequisite for genocide. Just as Hitler started by demonising the

Jews with cartoons. How many thousands more will be killed in this state terror that has been justified in the name of fighting individual terror. Let us build on our most precious asset – our unity and our humanity, our self reliance on our own work to stop the wars and end the occupations and defend the rights of all the people."



THE EDUCATION WHITE PAPER: A Recipe for Educational Retrogression

Many have dubbed the education White Paper, *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All*, as controversial; in reality, it is a formula to turn back the clock. The proposals will take control of education's destiny further out of the hands of those it should serve, the people, and into the hands of the monopolies, whose interest first and foremost is profit, the amassing of the social product in private hands.

The White Paper published on October 25, 2005, by the Department for Education and Skills proclaims that it is for "Higher standards and better schools for all and with more choice for pupils and parents". This is a swindle. The aim is the creation of a system of independent non-fee paying state schools. It will be for schools to decide whether they wish to acquire a Trust similar to those that support Academies or become a Self-governing Foundation School. A Trust can be set up with outside assistance like a charity enabling private interest to move in if it is "desired". Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) can be

contacted and used to force implementation and it will be obligatory on local authorities to enable the new providers.

Eventually, the local authorities will change from providers to "commissioners" for the new private sector in the making. The same will be for those that want to

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short cut, move straight towards "outside providers", and bring in the business interest immediately. The "flexibility" has been likened to the Grant Maintained System,

**MAY DAY
MARCH AND
RALLY FOR
WORKERS'
RIGHTS**

**1st may
may day
2006**

It has now been confirmed that the May 1 March and Rally for Employment Rights will assemble at Clerkenwell Green in London N1 at 12noon with the rally in Trafalgar Square starting at 2.30pm

which moved away from the state sector.

The method of switching over is also dubious. The government states that a quarter of all schools are no good and so the system must change. "Failing" schools are to be closed.

The government is proud to show that multinational corporations are intended to play a role. The White Paper highlights companies like the *Mercer's Company* and *Tarmac PLC* as major sponsors, who have in turn sponsored two Academies in the West Midlands. It openly declares: "A group of sixteen schools and colleges (independent, maintained, Academies and sixth form colleges) are closely associated with the Mercers' Company. At some of the schools the company appoints the whole governing body, and at others it has a right to representation, or is invited to appoint governors. Governors are able to draw on a wide range of

reforms. Spending on education in England has risen from £35 billion in 1997/98 to £51 billion in

In the final analysis, there is no choice at all for the human beings whom education should serve, be they teachers, pupils or parents. The choice rests with those whose interests it really serves, the monopolies who want to compete in the global market.
The whole programme of the Labour government for education must be condemned and opposed.

2004/05, allowing a real-terms increase in funding of 29% per pupil and significant investment in the workforce, in books and technology and in the fabric of the school estate. By 2007/08, at the end of the current spending review period, this figure will have risen to £60 billion in today's prices."

In the final analysis, there is no choice at all for the human beings whom education should serve, be they teachers, pupils or parents. The choice rests with those whose interests it really serves, the monopolies who want to compete in the global market.

The whole programme of the Labour government for education must be condemned and opposed. It is an urgent responsibility of society to call a halt and affirm in no uncertain terms that education must serve the needs of the people and society, not the dictate of the monopolies.

The method of switching over is also dubious. The government states that a quarter of all schools are no good and so the system must change. "Failing" schools are to be closed.

expertise and experience of those in different education sectors; they shape the ethos and promote the success of the schools they support and bring ideas, energy and commitment to them."

The White Paper emphasises: "Substantial and sustained investment has underpinned all these

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Illusion of Concessions on the Education Bill

In recent days, a furore has been promoted over “concessions” and “compromises” over the government’s forthcoming education bill. Descriptions like “climbdown over education plan to buy off rebel MPs”, “cooling the Labour rebellion over education” and “dismay over concessions” have been bandied about. The impression is created that some kind of showdown is in the offing, that rebel MPs have power to change the government’s direction or that the New Labour project is in jeopardy. On not a few occasions in the last parliament, notably over the war against Iraq, a rebellion by the “rebel MPs” was promoted, only for it to melt away, or be defeated in so-called knife-edge votes. This parliament was flagged up as being different with Labour’s reduced majority, and that the Conservative support would be needed for the more controversial legislation. Perhaps the defeat of the government by one vote on the “religious hatred” bill with the Prime Minister’s absence was meant to reinforce this scenario?

The reality is that the aim of the “compromises” is to ensure the end of the “rebellion”, ensure that

the Education Bill goes through with its main proposals unscathed, while the “extreme” proposals are withdrawn, more likely than not to be reinstated at some later date. Meanwhile, the people’s anger and opposition to these scandalous proposals to place education in the hands of private vested interests under the guise of “standards” is subverted and defused, or so the government hopes.

Education and retrogression

The “reforms” in education and health provision are of a piece, to introduce the market, with public bodies reduced to “commissioning” bodies, and to integrate social programmes lock, stock and barrel into the strategy of the monopolies for “making Britain great again” and becoming competitive in the global market. As far as education goes, this strategy is to “educate” the population generally to adopt the values of which Tony Blair is such a champion, the values of paying the rich and lining up behind their dictate and being happy to bow down to monopoly right. Specifically, it is geared to the vision of a Britain whose role in the world is on the one hand as the ideologue and justifier of “uni-

versal values”, to be imposed without question on those less enlightened, and on the other to find its place as a purveyor of a “hi-tech, high-skill” economy, and a centre of finance capital.

The aim of education is being made to integrate the whole of the citizenship of Britain into this retrogressive vision. This offensive is being carried out in concert with the ideological offensive on “Britishness”, which is at the same time an apology for the crimes of colonialism and imperialism as well as an attack on the people’s traditions and national identities, a most disgusting chauvinism under an attempted rehash of 19th century liberal values, totally hypocritical and anachronistic in the 21st century. In other words, the all round anti-social offensive, of which the proposed Education Bill is part, is being backed up with an ideological offensive to justify the “one-nation” policies of Tony Blair and New Labour, which is part of the whole “Third Way” programme with which the bourgeoisie brought its champion to power.

But this “one-nation” programme is far from being the traditional conception of the public

good with which the old Tories sought to ameliorate and bury the class struggle, which was superseded in time by social democracy with its social contracts, social compacts and so forth. In New Labour garb, the conception is that no competing interests in society are even to be recognised, that no one has the right to even think that they exist in definite relations within social production, but that all should serve the monopolies and that this is the shining new future for society. That the monopolies do not even have any interest in the nation or the public good, but only amassing capital in their hands, putting the state at their disposal in this quest and wrecking society in the process is the reality that the people are up in arms about, but which Tony Blair and his cohorts give every indication of being blind to (at the very least). It is this that the charade of compromises with rebel MPs obscures. Illusions are held out that compromises will still preserve the essence of a pro-social programme, while the actual situation is that the anti-social programme of New Labour has the creating of these illusions as a component part.

Trust Schools and Human Rights

Reform of the education system could see children and parents lose protection under human rights law, a committee of MPs and peers has warned.

Parliament’s human rights joint committee has said the move to the proposed trust schools may undermine the effectiveness of human rights protection for children and parents, according to agency reports. There is “consid-

erable doubt” amongst committee members over whether trust schools will be treated by the courts as “public authorities”. This would mean that they are not subject to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Committee chairman Andrew Dismore said he was “extremely worried” about the consequences of the education white paper for the rights of parents and children.

“We hope the government will consider our concerns and ensure that when the Education Bill is published these problems are clearly addressed on the face of the Bill,” he said.

According to the news agencies, the MPs said they were concerned about “specific fundamental rights” that could be denied to children under the proposed new arrangements.

They argue that local educational authorities would no longer have the control over admissions that enables them to ensure a place for every child, thus ensuring the right of access to education.

Independent trust schools might not be obliged to admit a child with special educational

needs and excluded children may have no guaranteed access to an independent appeal tribunal.

The committee is also concerned that, under the white paper proposals, children might not have a directly enforceable right to practice their religion and their parents might not have the right to withdraw them from religious assembly and instruction.

There is also a risk that trust schools’ freedom over their curricula could conflict with the right not to be indoctrinated, the committee says. And if security cameras or email screening are used in such schools to monitor pupils the child would not be able to rely on their right to privacy against the school.

No to the Hitlerite Incitement against Muslims! No to the Subversion of the Anti-War Movement!

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legitimate expression of anger against oppression, with a demand of "why didn't the police act sooner?"

Expressions of incredulity that the government and media can act in such an irrational fashion, or debates about the limits of "freedom of speech", are missing the essential point. The right to conscience is being attacked, profound racism is being fostered, and a hysterical atmosphere created in which every kind of diversion can take root. And in this atmosphere, the news media and government are acting to undermine the opposition to the occupation of Iraq, the plans to commit aggression against Iran, and the stepping up of their genocidal campaign against billions of Muslims as the evil-doers in this world.

The parallels with the coming

to power of Hitler and the "final solution" cannot be dismissed. As one commentator elaborates: "Julius Streicher [publisher of *Der Stürmer*, the Nazis' official anti-Semitic rag], was the only journalist to be convicted at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity and hanged. During the 1930s, amid widespread public disquiet about the ongoing economic and political problems occasioned by Nazi rule and its termination of social and political rights, *Der Stürmer* blamed all difficulties on 'the Jews'. It popularised a line of cartoons that repeatedly portrayed hook-nosed stereotypical representations of mediaeval Jewish moneylenders, conspiring together in a counting house and cackling over the misfortunes befalling the German people."

These cartoons, and especially the controversy whipped up around them, prepare an atmosphere in which further such geno-



Demonstrators at last year's anti-war demonstration on March 19, 2005 held up effigies of President George W Bush and Priminister Blair alongside banners saying 'End the Occupation of Palestine', 'No War in Iran'.

PHOTO: WORKERS' WEEKLY

cidal assaults throughout the Muslim world can be rationalised. As part of this attempted creation of hysteria, the Anglo-American elites are attempting to diffuse the anti-war movement. In particular, at this moment, they are trying to create public opinion against Iran in particular to prepare the ground for a military strike, and to criminalise Muslims as fanatics, extremists and depict Islam as an evil ideology unless it conforms to the Anglo-American values embodied in neo-liberalism and

representative democracy. This creation of hysteria also includes attempts to isolate the Muslim community from the rest of the polity throughout Britain and Europe and the "West".

This is what the "war against terror" has come to, the chilling preparation for a new holocaust. But these plans must not be allowed to succeed. Our Party calls on the working class and people to constitute themselves as a bulwark against fascism and war. Never again!

Condemn Government Proposed Attack on Incapacity Benefit

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eugenics programme. The "welfare with reform" programme of New Labour is exposing itself more clearly in its Pay the Rich programme.

Incapacity benefit, for sick and disabled people, is paid to about 1.8m people. The number of people receiving incapacity benefit and related benefits is around 2.67m according to the Department of Work and Pensions.

The government has said that sanctions would be used against existing claimants of the benefit, not just new claimants. When the New Labour government of Tony Blair was first elected, it immedi-

ately attempted to bring in reforms aimed against the disabled but the collectives organised mass protests and the government backed down only to return with similar proposals nearly a decade later. The recent proposals are to cut benefits immediately by £10.98 for those who do not co-operate with the plans but consciously resist and demand their rights. Benefit reduction will double from this figure if the disabled claimant continues to be uncooperative. Incapacity benefit rates are quite low that start at a short-term lower (four days+) rate at £57.65 then a short-term higher (28-52 weeks) rate at £68.20 and then a long term (52 weeks+) rate

at £76.45. The Figures are applicable to those under state pension age. GP's are asked to complete a form detailing how the individual's condition affects their patient's ability to work.

Hutton is speaking on behalf of the monopolies with his rabid remarks that "The 'something for something' approach demands that state help is matched by increased responsibility on the part of claimants to take advantage of that support programme that governments can provide." Demands for more surplus product for the capitalist are made irrespective of the amounts accumulated from the National Insurance contributions made over long periods of time taken from the surplus product created by generations of workers. The rabid nature of the complaint goes even further where Hutton states,

"After two years on the benefit, someone is more likely to die or retire than to ever find a new job.

Now that is just not good enough."

Hutton demands immediacy in having new laws passed in the current session of Parliament and in operation by 2008. He added: "The increased support we offer to people seeking to get back into the workplace must, I think, now be matched by increased obligations."

The measures proposed by Hutton and the government are part of the programme of cuts in public expenditure and the dismantling of the welfare state. The situation for the working class is that the provocations and actions of the government are designed to serve the profits of the rich. WDIE calls on the working class to fight to bring a halt to the programme of following the dictate of the monopolies, and to turn things around in fighting for a society which fulfils the claims of its members and guarantees their right to take hold of what belongs to them.