

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

Warmonger Straw Lectures Iran on the Path Ahead!

Last Monday the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, delivered a keynote speech entitled "Iran: the Path Ahead" to the International Institute for Strategic Studies

in London. It might be thought that the Foreign Secretary of the British government should concern himself more with the path ahead for Britain and developing a foreign policy

based on respect and the pursuit of peace. But based on the chauvinist logic of the government the Foreign Secretary informed his audience that "sadly Iran is

going in the wrong direction", that since the election of President Ahmadinejad last year, the country has "squandered" its chances and

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HANDS OFF IRAN! NO TROOPS ON FOREIGN SOIL! NOT ONE MORE DEATH!

Statement of Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), March 18, 2006

On the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, our Party congratulates all the anti-war activists nationally and internationally who have persisted in developing the organ-

ised movement against war and aggression. We call on all democratic forces to take this struggle to a yet higher level, to consciously take up the task of consolidating the people's forces and plant the

alternative of fighting for an anti-war government.

It is crucial that the working class and people defend the sovereignty of nations and peoples. To

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Thousands and thousands of demonstrators against Anglo-US Imperialist war marched from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square on March 19 last year with slogans saying, 'No War on Iran', 'Troops out' and 'Free Palestine'.

PHOTO: WORKERS' WEEKLY

Commentary

The Costs of War!

The South Tyneside Forum Puts the Warmongers in the Dock

THE LATEST EDITION OF *SILENCE IS SHAME*, published by the South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition (STSWC), is based on the South Shields Forum *The Costs of War*. The Forum took place on the third anniversary of the 2-million-strong demonstration in London to oppose the invasion of Iraq as part of the international actions.

Workers' Weekly congratulates the STSWC in bringing out this journal, along with all others in the anti-war movement who are taking initiatives in

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The Need for Anti-War Government

by Roger Nettleship. Taken from *Silence Is Shame*, February 15 2006

I think it is very significant that we are holding this Forum on the *Costs of War* on the third anniversary of the massive demonstration prior to Bush and Blair's attack on Iraq.

In my view the history of the world's people will show that February 15, 2003 was a defining moment. It was a day when the world said "No to War", when millions of people demonstrated around the world against the impending invasion of Iraq.

Not only did the people say "No to War" and that this was "Not in Our Name", but it raised the whole issue of the necessity for change and to bring about anti-war government.

The possibility of anti-war government was also opened up after the Second World War and with the United Nations charter which demanded an end to resolving international conflicts through military means. As you know what we got instead, in spite of the high hopes of the people, was pro-war government. The US and Britain used the excuse of "containing communism" for pro-war government. Today that excuse is gone for the time being, so they have created another excuse for pro-war government the excuse of a "war on terrorism."

The consequences of this is that the US and Britain, far from

using the UN to maintain international peace and security, are attempting to use it to justify the crime of war. Far from renouncing the use of force and the threat of war as the bedrock to international relations, they are declaring that the "credible threat of force" must prevail, that no other solutions are to be permitted.

Far from respecting the territorial integrity and political independence of states, they are demanding the adoption of the Anglo-American model by everyone and intervening and committing aggression in the name of their own interests of globalisation and "universal values". They claim the right to send their armies anywhere in the world and to any country. This is the nature of pro-war government at the head of the most powerful states.

The need for anti-war government is what the anti-war movement has placed on the agenda:

Just to mention 5 features of anti-war government.

1. Outlaw any and all British involvement in wars of aggression and renounce the use of force in settling international affairs; The Ministry of Defence would be truly the Ministry of Defence and not what it really is a Ministry for War. This would also mean the removal of British troops from foreign soil. As Germany did after

the Second World War it would be necessary that this be enshrined in a modern constitution;

2. Recognise the sovereignty and equality of all nations even if they have differing social systems; it would respect the right of peoples to have the system of their choice. Accept the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries;

3. Adopt a foreign policy independent of the United States;

4. Stop producing weapons of mass destruction, Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and comply with the NPT a treaty which Britain hypocritically tries to impose on other countries but has never complied with itself;

5. Pay reparations for all the crimes of war, occupation and the colonial conquests of the past.

So those are five features of a modern foreign policy for anti-war government. But what does the need for anti-war government mean right now? What can we do to bring it about? For the anti-war movement, for all of the people involved in this broad movement it means to strengthen their unity and keep the initiative in their own hands. Literally it is embodied in the demand to bring the troops home now.

It also means to organise ourselves to win the battle for the hearts and minds of the people

against the propaganda with which they are trying to poison the minds of the people and particularly the youth.

It is important to look at the evil and cunning nature of those big business interests behind Blair and Brown and the media barons that they represent. They didn't join in directly in anti-Muslim propaganda around the Danish cartoons but they made sure that it was conveyed in every detail to have exactly the same effect.

They make no comment on the fact that thousands of Muslims and the Muslim Association of Britain takes part in the anti-war movement and are demanding the same as us - a peaceful world without wars. But they publicise a tiny protest in London, made up of people who could have very well been compromised by the British state, to launch the most vicious attack on those of Muslim faith and dehumanise them.

Let us make no mistake this dehumanisation of Muslims is the prerequisite to genocide. This is what they are doing in the Middle East, with Iraq and Afghanistan and what they plan to do possibly with Iran and Syria and maybe even they are attempting to prepare us for nuclear strikes. It is also to try and derail the antiwar

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Warmonger Straw Lectures Iran on the Path Ahead!

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that in his view, "Iran and the Iranian people deserve better."

The government is attempting to present itself as the arbiter or what is good for the Iranian people. It arrogantly gives itself the right to criticise the government of Iran and the country's president and what is more directly criticises Iran's political system which it labels "theocratic" and not sufficiently "reconciled with the modern understandings of democracy and human rights". Where does the government of Britain get its "right" to criticise the government and political system of another sovereign country? Is it not the fact that the Prime Minister of Britain has recently announced that in his decision-making he is ultimately only answerable to his God, rather than the citizens of Britain?

Interfering in Iran's affairs

According to the Foreign Secretary, Iran is to be criticised because Britain does not agree with its foreign policy, and he even goes as far as to suggest that Iran might devote more of its

budget to domestic matters. But it might be more appropriate if Jack Straw offered that advice to his Cabinet colleagues rather than interfering in Iran's affairs. Should not the British government practice what it is preaching, rather than declaring that it has no funds for education, pensions and the NHS but unlimited resources for the invasion of Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries and the slaughter of thousands? Jack Straw even tries to suggest in his speech that Iran's political system compares unfavourably with that illegally established under the guns of the Anglo-American occupiers in Iraq.

Proving a negative

The attack that is being launched on Iran appears to be a two-pronged offensive. The US government pays more attention to making military threats against Iran and makes a big fuss about Iran's nuclear programme, while the Labour government in Britain concerns itself more with Iran's alleged lack of democracy and breaches of human rights, and tries to encourage "regime change" from within. However,

their wars, the upholding of the rights of nations to sovereignty and the need to affirm the rights of all humanity. They want us to believe that it is a clash of civilisations between Muslims and Christians and that there is only the military solution and the implementation of a policy of degradation of human rights and criminalisation of human beings in Britain and elsewhere.

Keeping the initiative

The people of all walks of life, from military families, workers,

Wherever Bush went during his recent trip to India and Pakistan, demonstrators gathered to show their complete abhorrence of the US and its continuing belligerent foreign policy.



the government has also been at the forefront of so-called diplomatic attempts to pressurise Iran over its nuclear programme, alongside France and Germany in particular, as well as the other big powers. In his speech Jack Straw did not fail to mention the nuclear issue and even quoted the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who recently declared that the IAEA "is not in a position to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran". Thus just as before the invasion of Iraq, Iran is being put in the medieval position of trying to prove that it is not doing something of which it has been accused.

Who is provoking whom?

The government is engaged in the flagrant bullying of Iran, alongside its allies threatening that country with all manner of UN Security Council sanctions and possible military attack and launching ever more blatant provocations. The government claims that if Iran did possess nuclear weapons it would be a destabilising influence in the

Middle East, although it takes a contrary view in regard to Israel. It was of course a former Labour government that provided Israel with the means to acquire nuclear capability and act as a cat's paw throughout the region. In any case, it is now well established that it is Britain, the US and the other big powers that historically have played the major destabilising role in this region, and of course Britain and the big powers that hold the largest nuclear arsenals.

Hands off Iran!

The government is attempting to present itself as the concerned friend of Iran and Iranians, while preparing all the conditions to violate that country's sovereignty by any means. It is also trying to prepare public opinion for this violation by presenting Iran as undemocratic, a "pre-modern" state that has not yet adopted the Anglo-American "universal values". But the government of Britain has no right to demand that any country adopt its values or its political and economic system. The demand of all democratic people must be – **Hands off Iran!**

The Need for Anti-War Government

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movement because this is a significant block to their plans.

How does it attempt to derail us? We are saying that the issue is bring the troops home, peaceful resolution of conflicts to stop

students, doctors, nurses and so on are part of the anti-war movement. The movement itself has entered the political arena to further its work. The *Respect Coalition* stood on that basis in the last election and ourselves stood our own anti-war candidate in South Shields in Nader Naderi. Reg Keys from the Military Families Against the War stood against Blair in Sedgefield. This was a significant step in the direction of anti-war government and one which we need to continue to discuss, and organise for.

I would like to conclude by saying that the need for anti-war government is expressed by keeping the initiative in our own hands in deciding what is to be done to bring the troops home and end the wars and occupations.

It is also, to continue to elaborate and develop the anti-war alternative foreign policy as the only foreign policy for a modern world and to directly intervene in the political process which we are doing and should continue to develop.

Hands Off Iran! No Troops on Foreign Soil! Not One More Death!

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do this, they must rely on their own forces, their own initiative, step by step strengthening their unity and spirit of resistance to imperialism, neo-liberal globalisation and the subjection of peoples abroad and at home.

Right to self-determination

Tony Blair and George Bush have no legal and moral right to dictate to anyone. They are war criminals who ride roughshod over international norms and legality, declaring that they are not answerable to the people. This is an outrage. These criminals have their hands stained in the blood of the Iraqi, Afghani, Palestinian and other peoples. They are the ones who threaten the globe with nuclear catastrophe and blackmail the world with their immoral and

illegal doctrine of "pre-emptive strike". But the peoples of the world have the right to determine their own affairs and social systems, to take measures to defend themselves against aggression. Our Party joins with all democratic people throughout the world in denouncing the criminal blackmail of the Anglo-US imperialists. We declare together that the demonisation of everything that goes against the interests of the imperialists will not wash. The people also have the right to determine their own ideologies. They cannot and will not accept the retrogressive outlook of the Anglo-Americans as universal!

One Humanity, One Struggle!

No issue of international relations must be settled by force. There can be no British or US troops on foreign soil dictating



People all over the world gathered on March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day with slogans of 'No War, No Violence! Justice and equality for all!'

and occupying on behalf of unjust and criminal interests. There must not be even one more death of troops or of the occupied peoples as a result of aggression or the attempts to stir up civil war. The aim of annexation and plunder is completely obscene, and is only justifiable through lies and disinformation. The Anglo-Americans declare that they represent the "international community", but it is they who must be brought to account. The imperialists must not be allowed to fashion international institutions in their own image. They must be brought to justice

for their crimes against peace.

On this weekend of global protest, humanity stands as one against war and aggression. It stands as one with all those resisting occupation, blackmail and threats. It demands an end to all aggression and interference. It is the people, mobilised and organised for justice, who constitute the power to end war and militarism and establish an anti-war government.

**Hands Off Iran!
Bring the Troops Home!
For An Anti-War Government!**

The Costs of War!

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building the resistance to the war and aggression pursued by the US and Britain, and planting the alternative to this pro-war programme.

Throwing the world back

The Preface of *Silence is Shame* points out: "The costs of this and other wars were incalculable and have profound and the most serious consequences for the world and to what makes us human. The forum exposed not only the huge cost in human life, the most terrible injuries which have occurred but the consequences that are throwing the world back into a medieval anarchy."

"This was a world in which a minority of big power governments and the transnational corpo-

ration they represent were destroying human rights, destroying conflict-resolving international institutions and tearing up international law and replacing it with the law of force, imprisonment without trial and the torture chamber of medieval times. This was a world where the big powers manipulate the UN and other bodies fabricating any excuse to exert control and make war against whichever country they wish to annex. In this way, the US is threatening Iran, Syria, DPRK, Venezuela and many other countries, whilst Britain also had its eyes fixed on Africa."

Another World Is Possible!

We Will Create It!

To Contact South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition,

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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

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