

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

## Critical Time for Taking Forward the Struggle to Safeguard the Future of the Health Service

**T**he sentiment of health workers in health trusts up and down the country is that their hospital is their workplace, the hospital is their hospital and the health service

is their NHS. With this spirit of the conscious and collective participation of the workforce, the fight to safeguard the future of the health service is being taken up in a new way.

At the Unison health conference in Gateshead on April 24, health secretary Patricia Hewitt meted out disinformation that the hospitals in "deficit" were not in the poorest areas of the

country. Yet on Tyneside, even hospitals not subject to PFI have "shortfalls" of millions of pounds because of government reduction in funding due to so-

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May Day 2006

# THE ISSUE IS THAT WORKERS MUST THEMSELVES IDENTIFY AND FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS!

- Statement of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), May 1, 2006 -

**O**n this May Day, 2006, workers in all lands, together with all oppressed peoples fighting for

their national and social liberation, pledge their unity in struggle to resist oppression and exploitation, and to bring into

being a different world. Our Party salutes all the working and oppressed people, the

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At the Unison Health Conference:

## Brazen Remarks of Health Minister Get What They Deserve

**A** GOVERNMENT MINISTER WAS PRAISED FOR "BRAVING" A UNION CONFERENCE. This was reported when Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Health spoke at Unison's national health conference in Gateshead on April 24 where it was said she was met with stony silence and heckles from delegates. Actually, what happened was there was complete and utter disbelief on the faces of the delegates who were taken aback by the sheer suspension of reality in Patricia Hewitt's brazen remarks. This

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More than 1.5 million workers across Britain held a 24 hour strike in defense of their rights on March 28. The photo shows the rally held in Birmingham.

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# British Government Has No Right to Rule in Ireland



Irish volunteers marching in 1914

**S**inn Féin MEP Bairbre de Brún, speaking on April 15, at a Commemoration in Ireland of the 1916 Easter Rising, said, "The Irish patriots who we remember here today gave their all in pursuit of freedom. Their commitment, their dedication, their selflessness and their integrity inspire all of us who describe ourselves as Irish republicans. As we look back over generations of struggle we see that each phase in our long journey has been different from what went before. That is the nature of struggle. A freedom struggle cannot stand still. It always has to be advancing. Our basic republican principles remain

the same. There can be no compromise on Irish unity and independence. The British government has no right to rule in Ireland.

### Against war for empire

"The Easter Rising of 1916 was a watershed in Irish history. Historians now recognise the other major event we commemorate this year in similar terms, as a watershed whose impact on the politics of Ireland today has yet to be fully realised.

"Successive Irish governments have failed to deliver on the social and economic principles set out in the 1916 Proclamation. Natural

resources have been sold to multinationals. People continue to live in poverty. And just as Connolly stood against the war being waged by the British Empire in which tens of thousands of young Irishmen were used as cannon fodder in its army, we oppose Irish airports being used as a staging post by the US troops in the war in Iraq. We also oppose their use for the transfer of prisoners to centres where they may be subjected to illegal detention and torture.

### Advancing the struggle

"Now that the Irish government has decided once again to

commemorate 1916 they must move decisively to deliver on the promise of the Proclamation.

"Despite the current campaign by our political opponents the republican struggle will continue to grow. That is what the opponents of change fear most. Our struggle continues to grow because republican ideals continue to inspire one generation after another. The road to freedom was never going to be easy. Opponents of peace and democracy in Ireland have too much to lose for that to be the case. As a collective leadership we will not be deflected from our task. We will continue to lead the struggle forward."

# Sinn Féin Challenges Tony Blair to Come Clean on British Collusion

**A**s part of a speech to the annual Easter Commemoration in Portadown, Donegal Sinn Féin Councillor Padraig McLochlainn challenged Tony Blair to come clean on the British States role in

the murder of citizens in both jurisdictions on this island.

Cllr. McLochlainn said: "Here in North Armagh the nationalist and republican community know only too well the effects of the British sponsored loyalist death

squads who stalked this area for three decades.

"In my own home town of Buncrana we also know of that cost. My predecessor as a Sinn Féin councillor in the town, Eddie Fullerton, was gunned down by one of the same Brit surrogate gangs.

### The murder machine

"The Fullerton family in common with so many others in areas like this have had to rely upon their own strength and courage as they have sought to break down the barriers to the truth. Shamefully in the Fullerton case it is not just the British who have questions to answer. Elements of the 26 County system have still

many questions to answer about the events of that evening in 1991. But as with all of these cases brave and courageous families, supported by communities who know the truth, will not allow the lies to continue unchallenged.

"I would send out from this gathering today a clear challenge to the British Prime Minister Tony Blair as he approaches the end of his time in office. It is now time to come clean on Britain's dirty war in our country. If he fails to do so then a linkage to the murder machine which was planned, co-ordinated, funded and supported by previous British Labour and Tory governments will forever tarnish him and his legacy."

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# Workers' Weekly

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# The Rule of Law versus the "War on Terror"

Recently, the former judge Lord Steyn and the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson have both spoken on the need to re-assert the rule of law nationally and internationally in the face of the Anglo-American assertion that the rules of the game have changed.

On April 11, Lord Steyn, delivering a lecture at the Royal Over-Seas League in London, criticised the US concentration camp set up in Guantanamo Bay as "a stain on American justice" and said that Prime Minister Tony Blair's refusal to condemn it was "shaming our country".

Lord Steyn, who retired from Britain's highest court last year, said, "As a lawyer brought up to admire American democratic values, I feel compelled to say that Guantanamo Bay is a stain on American justice. Only the present administration of the United States tries to defend the utterly indefensible.

## Manifest illegality

"Unfortunately, our prime minister is not prepared to go further than to say that Guantanamo Bay is an understandable anomaly. In its feebleness this response to a flagrant breach of the rule of law, reminiscent of the worst actions of totalitarian states, is shaming for our country.

"While our government condones Guantanamo Bay the world is perplexed about our approach to the rule of law. But I hope the world also knows that if the matter was within the jurisdiction of British courts, our judges would unanimously condemn Guantanamo Bay.

"You may ask: how will it help in regard to the continuing outrage at Guantanamo Bay for our government now to condemn it? The answer is that it would at last be a powerful signal to the world that Britain supports the international rule of law."

Lord Steyn, who now chairs the

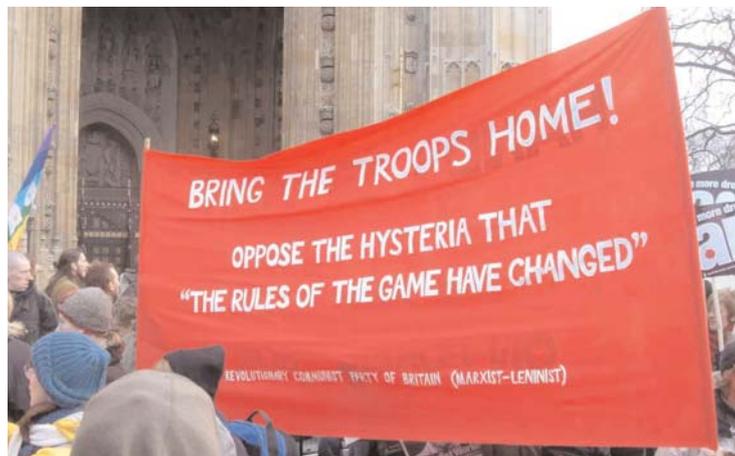
civil rights group Justice, made international headlines in 2003 when he described the indefinite detention of terror suspects without charge or trial at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba as "a legal black hole", was delivering the Attlee Foundation lecture, Democracy, the Rule of Law and the Role of Judges.

He said that in an era since 9/11, "international institutions and international law have been damaged, particularly by the actions of the United States and the United Kingdom". Lord Steyn accused Blair's government of being prone to authoritarianism, saying it had become a "creeping phenomenon" encouraged by absolute power. He said the government had introduced "wholly oppressive" legislation such as the 2004 Asylum and Immigration Act, seeking to oust the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts in all but limited cases. This was "an astonishing measure" which attempted to "immunise manifest illegality". He asked, "If such legislation is effective in this corner of the law – not even involving the endless war against terrorism – what are the portents for our democracy?"

## No cosy relationship

Lord Steyn warned the government that Britain had arrived at the position where a fundamental "disturbance of the building blocks of our constitution" would not be permitted. The judges would be likely to step in if ministers tried to use the Parliament Act to "tamper with the fundamental principles of our constitutional democracy, such as five-year parliaments, the role of the ordinary courts, the rule of law, and other such fundamentals". He added, "In such exceptional cases the rule of law may trump parliamentary supremacy."

He said ministers did not always understand the principle of the separation of powers as it affected the judiciary. The home secretary,



Charles Clarke, had complained in a recent interview that he was "frustrated" that the law lords would not meet him for discussions "because of their sense of propriety".

Mr Clarke "apparently fails to understand that the law lords and cabinet ministers are not on the same side" said Lord Steyn. "A cosy relationship between ministers and law lords would be a worrying development."

## The standards have changed?

In her International Rule of Law Lecture 2006, "Five Years on from 9/11 – Time to Re-Assert the Rule of Law", Mary Robinson said that she feared that the authority of law has already been undermined in many important ways. Speaking at the Middle Temple Hall, London, in the lecture organised by Justice, Mary Robinson said that in the aftermath of 9/11, "Despite efforts to frame the response to terrorism within the framework of crimes under national and international law, an alternative language dominated. That language, which has shaped to a much larger extent the response at all levels, has spoken of a war on terrorism. As such, it has brought a subtle change in emphasis in many parts of the world; order and security have become the over-riding priorities. As in the past, the world has learned that emphasis on national order and security often involved curtailment of democracy and human rights. Misuse of language has also led to Orwellian euphemisms, so that 'coercive interrogation' is used instead of torture, or cruel and inhuman treatment; kidnapping becomes 'extraordinary rendition'..."

She continued, "New laws and detention practices were introduced in a significant number of countries, all broadly justified by the new inter-

national war on terrorism. The extension of security policies in many countries has been used to suppress political dissent and to stifle expression of opinion of many who have no link to terrorism and are not associated with political violence. I will never forget how one Ambassador put it to me bluntly in 2002: 'Don't you see High Commissioner? The standards have changed.'"

## Tasks of working class

Mary Robinson pointed out that political decisions which are taken by Britain about pre-trial detention or restrictions on demonstrations under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act will be scrutinised globally for their adherence to international law. She said that where Britain intervenes, as it has done in a case now before the European Court of Human Rights, "to challenge the absolute nature of the European Convention prohibition against return where there is a risk of torture, it sends a powerful and negative signal to other states".

These lectures underline how the British and US administrations are utilising the concept of a "war on terror" in a self-serving manner to undermine the rule of law. They confirm how such pretexts are being used to justify the unjustifiable and to target dissent and legitimate political activity that has absolutely nothing to do with terrorism. While the speeches emphasise the role of the judiciary in opposing the tearing up of the old arrangements by these administrations, it is also important to stress that the working class and people must work for a rule of law that serves their own peace and security in the face of the repression carried out under the signboard of the "war on terror".

## The struggle to safeguard the health service

# The Fight to Safeguard the Future of the Health Service is More Vital than Ever

**T**he Prime Minister is declaring that this is a crunch time for the NHS, while the Health Secretary is declaring that the NHS has just had its best year ever. What they are both speaking of is the unfolding in all its sordid implications of the programme of "investment with reform".

"Investment with reform" is the government's code for paying the rich, the privatisation of social programmes, and the pushing through of the neo-liberal agenda whereby everything is done for the benefit of the finance capitalists, and this is

presented in all its glory as progress. The absurdity is being pushed of a £700m "deficit" in the NHS, which demands that the Trusts become more "efficient" under the watchword of "payment by results". This term seemed laughable when it was first introduced, but its serious and sinister intent is becoming evident.

The government is demanding that the health service be run by the rules of "corporate governance". The government has set a so-called statutory duty for the hospital trusts to "break even". This equation is

presented as though the health service were a producer of added value, manufacturing a commodity which is being sold on the market, a commodity which comes in a variety of flavours over which the health consumer can exercise

**The Prime Minister is declaring that this is a crunch time for the NHS, while the Health Secretary is declaring that the NHS has just had its best year ever. What they are both speaking of is the unfolding in all its sordid implications of the programme of "investment with reform"... government's code for paying the rich**

"choice". But it is the government which provides the trusts with their budget. For example, the Kensington and Chelsea Trust was set a budget of £270m to run its health services for the year ending March 2005. And it is the government which is now creating the hysteria that this is a crunch time for the NHS.

So the issue is not "crisis or no crisis" in the NHS. It is the government which is demanding that patient services be cut and nurses and other staff lose their jobs. It is the government which is demanding that to ensure its reforms go through that hospitals are being merged (i.e. dozens of hospitals closed) and hospital wards must be shut down. Then it has the temerity to claim that the problem is the wages bill of health workers.

Equally, the problem is not "mis-management", or that "costs" are hidden or not known, but it is the agenda of the government for the health service and other social programmes which is causing disaster.

This is the meaning of Tony Blair's declaration that this is the moment "to hold our nerve". Whose nerve is he holding? It is just nonsense when he declares that the reforms of "investment with reform" expose the deficits but do not create them, that his reforms are

closing the hiding places for "poor financial management". Billions of pounds are being spent to enrich the pharmaceutical and other health monopolies, as well as to bolster the health service as a "corporate" entity with an internal and external market, swarms of accountancy firms, and the like. How dare he tell the hospitals and trusts to "live within their means". On the contrary, he should end the scandal of handing over public funds to the monopolies, institute a moratorium on debt, and provide the health service with the means it requires to provide for the health care of the people.

Tony Blair is also demanding that hospitals and trusts enter into competition with each other, and the greater the number of patients treated, the greater the funding, called "payment by results". This is a formula for leaving the health care of the people out of account and ensuring that hospitals providing vital services are under-funded, as well as going against the requirement of society that preventive medicine be increased. Tony Blair has the effrontery to claim that this is placing "greater power in the hands of the patient".

It is evident that the fight to safe-

**This is a watershed moment for the future of the NHS. Cuts under whatever name are still cuts, and are striking at heart of the conception of a system in which health care is a right.**

guard the future of the health service is more vital than ever. This is a watershed moment for the future of the NHS. Cuts under whatever name are still cuts, and are striking at heart of the conception of a system in which health care is a right. The ugly face of the neo-liberal agenda and paying the rich is being exposed. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people to join the growing struggle to safeguard the future of the health service and to provide the right to health care with a guarantee.

# The struggle to safeguard the health service

## Critical Time for Taking Forward the Struggle to Safeguard the Future of the Health Service



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called “efficiency” saving. It is absurd to speak of “efficiency” when nurses are struggling to cope because of low staffing levels.

Instead of setting the aim of the health service to meet the claims of people on society for health care for all without discrimination at the highest level commensurate with the development of society, competition – as in all spheres of society – is being made a fetish by the government and the interests it represents. Hospitals are being defined in corporate terms and the health trusts are being urged to

compete with each other to attract patients as consumers of health care. The implication and the outcome is that those “successful” in this competition of “payment by results” attract funding, while the “unsuccessful” go to the wall. What has this got to do with health care as a right?

### Who decides?

But the question may also be posed, where is the “investment” of the “investment with reform” really going? The answer is, for example:

- £12 billion in setting up the internal market;
- £10 billion will have gone to private finance to service the PFI by

2007-8 and then will be costing £2 billion a year;

- £10.3 billion to the drug monopolies each year.

Viewed in this light, the figure given for the overall NHS deficit of £700 million is in any case not a determining factor. But the real question is: who decides the NHS budget? This issue of a “deficit” is a fraud. Any reasonable person would say sufficient resources must be made available to the NHS for it to respond to the health needs of everyone, and that all private profiteering from health care be outlawed. The country’s total social product and not just the revenue that the government has collected from taxes is the

resource. What is the economy for if it is not to provide for all who live and work in it and especially to meet the needs for health care?

The starting point is that sufficient resources be made available to the NHS for it to respond to the health needs of everyone. It is the working people, the health workers and the health professionals who have the right to participate in the budget-setting process for the NHS, and the struggle must be waged to exercise this right.

Let us take up a campaign to safeguard the future of the NHS and involve everyone in this crucial fight – the movement to safeguard the future of the NHS!

## Brazen Remarks of Health Minister Get What They Deserve

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**was like some bizarre parallel universe linking Patricia Hewitt in Gateshead and Tony Blair in Whitehall who also gave a press conference on the NHS making similar remarks.**

This parallel universe is apparently one where slashing hospital services and staffing levels by forcing NHS Trusts to “balance their books” leads to a “better service”. In fact it was so good that the NHS “had seen its best year so far” according to her remarks.

According to Patricia Hewitt the government had “written a very big cheque” for the NHS, but then wanted to point out there were no “blank cheques”. That

the government is really writing out “blank cheques” for the Independent Private Treatment Centres was pointed out to her later when she “answered questions”.

According to the divide and rule logic in the parallel universe, it was only the hospitals in what she called “rich areas” that were overspent. The ones in poor areas were in surplus and subsidising the rich areas, so what was all the fuss about. When delegates referred to cuts taking place in poor areas of the country by “overspent” hospitals this simply drew a repeated assertion that “any action that the NHS takes to reduce deficits should not lower the quality of care provided to patients”.

If this wasn’t enough, what beggared belief in the eyes of the delegates was that she said that the NHS building programme based on the private finance initiative “was not privatisation”. Conference could hardly be blamed for the derision that followed. However, this was nothing to when a few minutes later she suggested that health care assistants were not skilled. This incensed the conference so much that she quickly apologised.

Then the irony was not lost on the delegates when she stated that by the end of 2008, the government will effectively have abol-

ished... waiting lists – only to have someone interject *the NHS* instead of waiting lists.

It is not courage to spread disinformation and defend the indefensible. It is cowardice not to look reality in the eye. Courage of their convictions is what the health workers are demonstrating in fighting for the right of all to health care. In provoking the forthright opposition from the Unison delegates representing the mass of the health workers, the Health Secretary’s remarks got what they deserved.



# Blair and Straw Elaborate Britain's Retrogressive and Reactionary Foreign Policy

During the last few weeks, Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw have both made major speeches about Britain's foreign policy. The Prime Minister announced that he would outline the key features of New Labour's foreign policy in three major speeches but only two have been delivered to date. The final speech on the need for the reform of international institutions will be delivered in the US. These speeches also coincided with the launch on March 28 of the government's White Paper, *Active Diplomacy for a Changing World: The UK's International Priorities*.

## "Battle of values"

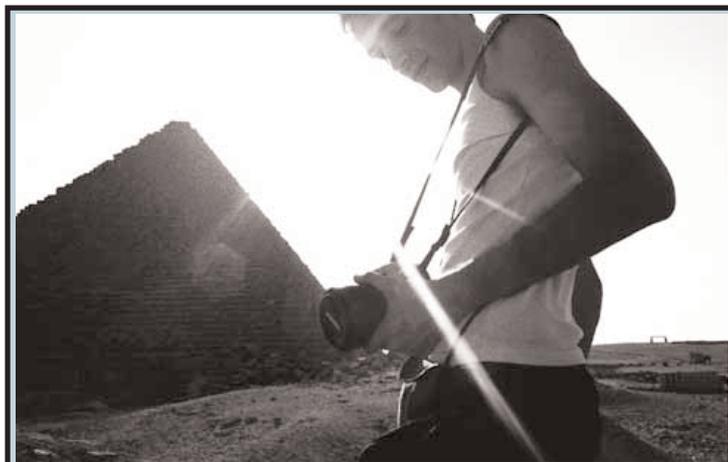
The key themes of the first two speeches were that Britain's foreign policy is based on the defence of values, which the Prime Minister referred to as "global values", rather than narrow national interest. Second, that these "global values" should form the basis of "a global alliance", based on a "common global policy"; and third, that the defence of these values requires a foreign policy of "engagement not isolation, one that is active not reactive". In short, these speeches presented an updating and further elaboration of Blair's "doctrine of international community", a defence and justification for global intervention and interference by Britain and the other big powers, that was first presented in a speech made in Chicago in 1999.

For Blair, the "doctrine of international community" now presents a problem and its solutions. The problem, a "global ide-

ology" which must be defeated at all costs, is defined as what he referred to as "radical Islam" or "the extremist view of Islam". On the other hand, US imperialism, the military invasions and sabre-rattling of Britain and the other big powers, and globalisation are said to be the solutions. It is this "clash between extremism and progress", Blair argues, that is evident in Iraq, Iran, Palestine and elsewhere. According to Blair, there is a global "battle of values and progress" that must be won, in Britain as well as throughout the world.

## Eurocentric values

The Foreign Secretary made his major pronouncements on foreign policy in Blackburn during the visit of the US Secretary of State. His speech was entitled "Values we promote at home, guide us abroad". Jack Straw began his speech by attempting to present a contrast between foreign policy in the days of empire, in which he admitted foreign policy meant pursuing the very narrow interests of British imperialism, and foreign policy today, where he suggested that national interests were best advanced by "building a community of nations in which people can share in common values". Not for a moment did Jack Straw consider the possibility that these "global values" – the free market, the rule of law, representative democracy, a particularly narrow conception of human rights and "a helping hand for the poorest" – were in fact steeped in Eurocentrism. They are not unlike the values championed by those who claimed to have taken up the



The 3rd anniversaries of the killings of Rachel Corrie and Tom Hurndall were marked on March 16 and April 11 respectively. Tom, a British photographer, was shot in the head by an Israeli Defence Force sniper whilst trying to help a group of children, and Rachel, a young American woman working as an International Solidarity Movement volunteer, was crushed to death by an Israeli bulldozer whilst trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home in Rafah.



"white man's burden", and a "civilising mission" throughout the world in the 19th century. According to Jack Straw, it is these values that are the basis for a successful society and which guide the government at home, therefore they must also be promoted abroad, as part of "a progressive, internationalist agenda".

## Aim of foreign policy

It is on the basis of such logic that Blair and Straw justify what the Prime Minister now openly refers to as the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as military action in Africa and the Balkans. Intervention and interference in Iran, Palestine, Africa and elsewhere is presented as "activism", the export of Britain's economic and political system and all the values of neo-liberal globalisation are seen as one of the main aims of foreign policy, directed particularly at the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary make a big song and dance about these values. But although they argue about the need for Britain to lead by example in regard to international law, human rights and democracy

exactly the opposite has been the case both today and in the past, whether in regard to the breaking of UN sanctions in relation to Sierra Leone, or the invasions of Iraq and Yugoslavia. The government's policies in Britain, especially the so-called anti-terrorism laws, are notorious for breaching human rights legislation, while the people of Britain are still denied the right to determine their own destiny whether in regard to politics or the direction of the economy.

## Task for solution

The fact remains that Britain's foreign policy does not reflect the interests of the people of Britain but rather those of the big monopolies and financial institutions. It is a foreign policy based solidly on the reactionary principle that might is right, one that brazenly threatens the sovereignty of other countries, and one that is creating an ever more unstable and dangerous situation in the world. This foreign policy must be defeated by the working class and people themselves determining an independent and anti-war foreign policy. This is a task to be taken up for solution right now.

# No to Imperialist War and Occupation!

The demonstration on Saturday, March 18, was testimony to the persistence of the anti-war forces, and the determination to strengthen their unity and resistance and to plant the alternative of bringing into being an anti-war government on the soil of Britain. Since September 11, 2001, up to 13 major central demonstrations and activities have been organised, protesting against the aggression and war carried out by US imperialism and the British government. The mammoth 2 million strong demonstration in London on February 15, 2003, was unprecedented, and the sentiment of the people has not diminished despite the hysteria the government and monopoly-controlled media seek to create about terrorism, Islamic extremism and "our way of life".

This situation is putting on the agenda the issue that it is the people who must decide, who must build their resistance and develop their consciousness and organisation to wage the struggle for an anti-war, pro-social and pro-worker government. It is putting on the agenda that it is time for the people to stop the cycle of history repeating, to end the headlong degeneration of parasitism and war carried out on behalf of finance capital, to counter the lies and disinformation that seek again and again to give justifications for such obscenities and for the working class and people to take up political affairs on their own behalf.

The London demonstration of March 18 was one of up to 200 organised globally on the third anniversary of the illegal aggression against Iraq. It was estimated by the organisers to comprise 100,000 participants. In the words of RCPB(ML)'s statement for the occasion: "In this week-end 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."

Despite bright sunshine, the freezing conditions could not quell the enthusiasm and vigour of the protestors who created a carnival like atmosphere with street theatre, samba bands, music, militant slogans for peace and against the occupation of Iraq and to stay the hands of the warmongers against Iran.

From 11:30 in the morning, overlooking the Houses of Parliament, Parliament Square in Central London was a sea of trestle tables where marchers and demonstrators added their names to veteran peace campaigner Tony Benn's letter to the UN and Attorney Generals calling for the warmongers Bush and Blair to be brought to account. For those with mobile phones there was also an opportunity to text their name to an electronic counter set



Thousands demonstrated on March 18 in London and across Britain. Some of the slogans taken up by the demonstrators included 'Bring the Troops Home! Hands Off Iran! No Troops On Foreign Soil! Not One More Death! For An Anti-War Government! Another World Is Possible - We will Create It!'

up at the rally. Winding its way from outside the now heavily fortified Houses of Parliament the march set off along Victoria Street and passed the Attorney General's office before making its way back through Piccadilly Circus to Trafalgar Square.

As the thousands of protesters arrived – over a two-hour period – in the Square, the London landmark was transformed into a colourful display of banners, placards, street theatre, and discussions as the assembled marchers heard speeches from amongst others MPs Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell, union leaders Mark Serwotka and Bill Hayes, Bruce Kent, London mayor Ken Livingstone, Stop the War speaker Salma Yacoub, representatives of military families whose relatives have been killed in Iraq, musician Brian Eno and others. Julie Felix sang the Bob Dylan protest song, "The Masters of War".

Lindsey German, Convenor of Stop the War Coalition, said: "We believe that a peaceful solution to the chaos caused by the illegal war in Iraq will only be possible when the occupying foreign armies have all been removed so that the Iraqi people will be free to decide on their own political future.

Kate Hudson, chairwoman of CND, said there is also "grave concern" about the threat of an attack against Iran. "The US is making charges about a covert nuclear weapons programme in Iran without presenting any credible evidence," she said. "These charges are strikingly similar to the false accusations raised to justify the invasion of Iraq three years ago." She continued, "The government must listen to the voices of the people, which are calling on them to bring the troops home from Iraq and to solve the Iranian issue peacefully and diplomatically."

## DAY OF ACTION MAY 6

### Don't Attack Iran!

MAY 6 is an international day of action against an attack on Iran. Lunchtime protests will take place at 2.00pm in towns and cities across the country.

The London protest will assemble at 1pm in the Peace Garden in Tavistock Square, WC1H 9XX. Nearest tubes Russell Square and Euston.

## May Day 2006

# The Issue Is that Workers Must Themselves Identify and Fight for their Rights!

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women, the youth and all sections of the people who are fighting to affirm their rights, defend their sovereignty, end the dictate of the monopolies and international finance capital, and, by fighting for their own liberation and strengthening their unity, to give birth to a world fit for human beings to exist and flourish in.

On May Day, the working class in Britain, in common cause with its class sisters and brothers across the world, pledges to build resistance to the dictate of the monopolies, and to begin to establish an alternative to this dictate. The issue for the workers is that, for their own sake and for the sake of the entire society, they cannot afford to conciliate with the programme demanded by the monopolies and its motive force of accumulation of riches by any means in the hands of an elite. This is a motive of production which is wrecking every aspect of society at home, and is enslaving and impoverishing nations and peoples abroad, and which is bringing with it the disasters of war, aggression, annexation and the tearing up of all the norms established through their blood by progressive humanity in the 20th century.

The government and its backers and apologists are trying to insult the workers by suggesting to them that a "level playing field" of justice for the workers and for the capitalists is just around the corner, a matter of removing some legal anomalies. But the workers know that the issue is that they must themselves identify their rights and, in fighting for these rights, provide the problems of society with a solution. The laws of the land have been put place, or removed, to safeguard the interests of the monopolies and their neo-liberal agenda. The working class and people must fight to oppose and restrict monopoly right, the

right to decide the fate of billions and attempt to dehumanise them, utilising states and governments to act as their representatives, promote their values and rape society.

In getting together in their collectives to discuss, identify their rights and organise for their interests, workers are taking a stand in defending their industries and social well-being, as well as those of the communities in which they live, the national economy and a world in which the concerns of the people are placed at the centre. They are exposing all the scams, frauds and disinformation which are carried out in the service of the neo-liberal agenda and the programme of privatisation, wrecking social programmes, and taking out everything from the economy and putting nothing back. They are declaring their values of *an injury to one is an injury to all, unity is strength, and taking a bold step together in defence of the rights of all* are the values of a modern and humane society, in opposition to those who declare that "dog eat dog" and "devil take the hindmost" will benefit the "consumer".

The working class must oppose as unjust those laws which attempt to erase and violate their rights, and must fight with a clear conscience that their collective rights be given a guarantee in law. This is a battle along the line of march for bringing into being a government in which the workers themselves can defend their interests and place the decision-making of society in the hands of its citizens and residents of all national backgrounds; a government which is against war, is pro-social and upholds the interests of the working class, the producers of the national wealth, and celebrates the dignity of labour. These battles and this line of march require for their victory new methods of mass participation and mass mobilisation, for workers themselves to become political and select their best fighters as their

## Cornelius Cardew

### 70th Birthday Anniversary Festival

Sunday, May 7, 2006  
Events begin 1pm and end 10.30pm

**Cecil Sharp House**  
2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY  
£10.00 / £8.00 Concs.



Includes live music from all phases of Cardew's career and a Symposium on Cardew's music investigating his importance in bringing the new into being and as a composer at the forefront of a music for humanity.

**Contributors include:** Michael Parsons, Laurie Scott Baker, Michael Chant, Howard Skempton, Stuart Monro

**Performers include:** Alex Kolkowski, Haydn Dickenson, John Tilbury, Tania Chen, Tom Chant, Chris Hobbs, Dave Smith, Eddie Prevost, Hugh Shrapnel, John White, Angharad Davies, Ben Drew, John Lely, Bob Coleridge, The Scratch Orchestra, Strawberry Thieves, Velvet Fist

Also: exhibition, video, discussion

For further information email [mhchant@hotmail.com](mailto:mhchant@hotmail.com)

representatives.

The working class of England, Scotland and Wales on this May Day 2006 stands shoulder to shoulder with the peoples of the world against fascism, war, exploitation and oppression. It stands with them in fighting for a world of peace, democracy and the well-being of the people. It stands against the chauvinism and colonialist values of the British ruling elite and it stands for strengthening the bonds unity in struggle of the world's people with its own spirit of proletarian internationalism. Above all, it stands for the new, for a way out of the crisis by implementing its own independent

programme, for moving forward in this 21st century by fighting for the rights of all and against the retrogression that reaction is imposing on society, by having as its vision a socialist Britain.

**Only the Working Class Can Save the Day!**  
**For the Rights of All Guaranteed in Law!**  
**For An Anti-War Government!**  
**Stop Paying the Rich – Increase Investments in Social Programmes!**  
**Long Live May Day – Day of Unity in Struggle of the Working and Oppressed People of All Lands!**

## Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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Web site: [www.rcpbml.org.uk](http://www.rcpbml.org.uk)

e-mail: [office@rcpbml.org.uk](mailto:office@rcpbml.org.uk)

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Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

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