

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

Britain and Palestine: A Criminal History of Intervention

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The atrocity carried out by the Israeli Zionists in Gaza in November, which result-

ed in the deaths of at least 18 Palestinian men, women and children, led to worldwide condemnation. It is the most recent of many atrocities carried out by the Israeli Zionists over many years, with the

direct or indirect support of Britain, the US and the other big powers. Such was the enormity of the latest atrocity that Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, also felt moved to condemn the

actions of the Israeli government, although she was quick to also condemn the armed resistance of the Palestinian patriots too. Of course, Margaret Beckett said

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BLAIR'S RACIST PROMOTION OF "MULTICULTURALISM AND INTEGRATION"



"Our Nation's Future — multiculturalism and integration" was the title of the Prime Minister's speech at Downing Street on December 8,

the latest in his "Our Nation's Future" lectures. In it he demand that everyone should subscribe to what he referred to as "shared, common unifying British values". At the same time he spoke in an

openly racist manner regarding what he termed "ethnic minority people" in general, whilst he singled out Muslims, and especially those "originating from certain

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Commentary

Tony Blair and the Slave Trade: "Deep Sorrow" but No Justice

TONY BLAIR'S RECENT EXPRESSION OF "DEEP SORROW" OVER THE FACT "THAT THE SLAVE TRADE EVER HAPPENED", published by the *New Nation* at the end of November, has already provoked widespread protests amongst many in the African and Caribbean communities as well as more widely. Even the mainstream press felt compelled to point out that Blair's sentimental words of "deep sorrow" were more an expression of pragmatism than anything. As usual, the Prime Minister is

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Britain and Palestine: A Criminal History of Intervention

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nothing about the crimes committed by British governments in Palestine, nor the fact that Britain's support from Zionism and a "Jewish national home" has deprived the Palestinian people of their rights and homeland and created the current situation in the Middle East. Now, just as in the past, the British government attempts to present itself as an honest broker in Palestine, while as history shows it is an avowed enemy of the Palestinian people and the most zealous supporter of Zionism, which it has always seen as a tool to further its own strategic and economic interests in the region.

In 1923, after several years of military occupation, the British government assumed responsibility for Palestine under the terms of a League of Nations' Mandate. Although this was supposed to be in order to provide temporary support for the Palestinian people, the Mandate made provision for "placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home", and for recognising the Zionist Organisation as "a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home and the interests of the Jewish population in

Palestine". No public body and no direct provision were made for recognising the right of the Palestinian population to self-determination. Indeed the Palestinian people were not consulted about the Mandate at all, nor their desire to determine their own affairs, and therefore its creation ignored the provisions of the Covenant of League of Nations and could be said to be illegal under international law at the time. Neither the League of Nations nor the British government had the power to dispose of Palestine in order to create a "national home" for any other people.

From the start, British administration of Palestine was conducted as if the territory were a British colony. Official policy was expressed in the Churchill Memorandum of 1922 which made it clear that the government would encourage Jewish immigration in order to establish in Palestine a "Jewish national home". During the 1920s, over 100,000 Jewish migrants were officially encouraged to enter Palestine, so that by the end of the decade they comprised nearly 20% of the population and owned of 15% of the land. Increasingly Palestinians were prevented from even working on land owned by the settlers.

British policy met with increasing resistance from the Palestinian people who demanded a "national government" which would be "elected by the people of the country of the country - Moslems, Christians and Jews".

Throughout the 1920s, there were regular protests against the British government and its Zionist policies. Following the uprisings in 1920, 1921 and 1929 and official recognition that the Palestinian people "are today united in their demand for representative government", the British government publicly attempted to reconcile the conflicting interests of the Zionists and the Palestinian people. It even spoke of limiting the migration of Jewish settlers, but without recognising the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, or repudiating Zionism itself. In 1931, the Labour Prime Minister MacDonald wrote an infamous letter to the leading Zionist making it clear that the British government still supported both Jewish migration and establishing a "Jewish national home". MacDonald declared that "the undertaking of the Mandate is an undertaking to the Jewish people and not only to the Jewish population of Palestine". During the 1930s, Jewish migration to Palestine increased and reached over 200,000, totalling 30% of the entire population.

In 1936, a general strike was called in support of the Palestinians' demand for independence, and a major rebellion broke out against Zionism and British rule throughout the country. This was part of a general anti-imperialist upsurge in the region and demands for an end to foreign rule in Egypt and Syria. The Palestinian people waged an heroic armed struggle

against the occupiers for over three years, and the British government was forced to call for troop reinforcements from Britain and other areas and to reconquer the country with an army of some 20,000. It also resorted to mass arrests, the destruction of people's homes and other collective punishments as well as the use of internment camps to quell the uprising. When the rebellion showed no signs of dying down the British government arrested and exiled its leaders. Military courts were established, 58 Palestinians were executed and a barbed-wire fence was set up along parts of the borders with the Syria, Transjordan and Lebanon to cut off support from the patriot fighters.

The British government, which had a League of Nations mandate to allegedly prepare Palestine for self-government, to render "administrative advice and assistance" and to look after the "well-being and development" of the Palestinian people, met their just demands with the most savage repression. Recognising that its support for Zionism and the creation of a "Jewish nation home" would never be accepted by the Palestinians, on the eve of World War Two the government unleashed another plan to deny the Palestinian people their rights and to establish a Jewish state in the region - it proposed a partition of Palestine.

(to be continued)

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Commentary**Tony Blair and the Slave Trade: "Deep Sorrow" but No Justice***Continued from page 1*

mindful to present himself as the great humanitarian, not only in Britain but on the world stage, finding this the best means to commit even more crimes against humanity in the context of making Britain "Great" again. *Workers' Weekly* condemns these words of Tony Blair for their refusal to settle scores with and take responsibility for these most heinous of crimes against humanity and thereby insulting the memory of the millions of victims of the slave trade and leaving in place the conditions for the present-day enslavement and deaths of millions of victims of imperialist plunder, exploitation, war and aggression.

The Prime Minister's statement is being made in advance of the commemorative events which are planned for March 2007, the bicentennial of the abolition by Parliament of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, a commemoration in which the government is playing a leading role. The 1807 Act made it illegal for British ships and citizens to be involved in the trafficking of human beings, millions of whom had been kidnapped from the shores of Africa during the previous three centuries. In the 18th cen-

tury Britain was the world's leading trafficker in human flesh. It is estimated that about half of all Africans who were kidnapped and taken across the Atlantic were transported in British ships, but Blair is not even able to honestly present the extent, nor enormity of this crime.

In his statement Blair suggests that Britain was the first country to abolish this trafficking in human flesh, although this was not the case. Denmark was the first by some four years. He obviously wishes to claim some glory for the "mother of all parliaments". But the Act of 1807 was only passed because the representatives of the rich who voted for it calculated that its was to Britain's economic and strategic advantage to do so, and at the same time that it might divert attention from the politically unpopular, reactionary and lengthy war which was being fought against France and its allies at the time. No doubt Blair and his government are hoping to create a similar diversion, from the war crimes committed in Iraq, Afghanistan, in Africa itself and elsewhere, while at the same time wishing to present themselves as the nature successors to those they claim were the great humanitarians of the 19th century.

It is no doubt with this in mind that Blair suggested that the bicen-

tenary not only allows the expression of "deep sorrow" but also the chance to "rejoice at the different and better times we live in today". For someone who is allegedly pre-occupied with the fact that Africa is a "scar on the conscience of humanity", it is difficult to understand how the Prime Minister can believe there is much occasion for rejoicing for the majority of Africans who live on less than \$1 a day. It is clear that he is unable to make any causal link between the exploitation of the African continent by Britain and others in the past and its impoverishment today. He is also wholly silent on the rape and plunder of that continent which occurred after 1807, in which Britain also played and continues to play a leading role. It is noteworthy that for Africa there is no mention by Blair of the necessary reparation for all the crimes that British governments have carried out. On the contrary he proudly champions the doubling of enslaving "aid" privatisation and other means to continue Britain's exploitation of the continent and interference in its affairs.

The exploitation of the African continent and its peoples, as well as the exploitation of the people of Britain and other parts of the world has created the great wealth which the country has at its disposal. Yet even Blair is forced to admit that inequality is still a feature of modern life, not only in terms of the racism that is the legacy of colonial oppression but also for the working

people of Britain a whole, as a consequence of the fact that wealth is still in the hands of the few. Far from being able to rejoice at the "different and better times we live in today", it is a fact that life in Britain is still dominated by a political and economic system that is controlled by and benefits the rich, just as it did in 1807. Not only that, but the Blair government is intent on carrying forward Britain's so-called "civilising mission", the essence of which is of the superiority of a mythical "British way of life" and regards other civilisations, particularly of Africa as those of lesser human beings. Indeed, this is an outlook that these are not civilisations at all, that their history only began with colonialism, that they have no history and hence seeks to erase their humanity, and lauds the "aid" and "humanity" of the big powers and the universality of Anglo-American values, institutions and thought material.

It is not just an issue of condemning Tony Blair for his sanctimonious and hypocritical statement on the trafficking of human flesh but of condemning all the crimes of the British governments of the past and of the present. The people themselves must draw the appropriate lessons from history and organise themselves to become the decision makers so that they may settle scores with the old conscience and ensure that reparation is made for slavery, colonialism and all crimes against humanity.

Blair's Advocacy of a Foreign Policy Strategy Based on "Universal Values" Cannot Be Tolerated

On November 13, Tony Blair delivered a major foreign policy speech to the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Guildhall in London.

The speech reiterated many of

the key principles of the Labour government's foreign policy, stressing for example, that there cannot be a British foreign policy which separates Britain from its close alliances with the US and within

Europe. Blair also re-stated many of the key points he had presented in his speech in August to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles: his commitment to a global alliance and a global war for the defence of neo-liberal globalisation, representative democracy and the dictate of the big powers, and in particular to Anglo-American imperialism, a commitment which he refers to as a defence of "universal values". He also elaborated his view that Britain must champion a "whole Middle East strategy", centred on Palestine. Many of the key themes of the speech were subsequently repeated in a series of interviews given by the Prime Minister and were

reflected in the Queen's Speech to Parliament two days later.

According to Blair's presentation of reality, these so-called "universal values" are under attack by "global terrorism", which is "based on a thoroughly warped misinterpretation of Islam". This ideology, Blair argues, is completely irrational and one of its main objectives is to prevent "democracy flourishing in Arab and Moslem countries". Britain must therefore, the Prime Minister claims, work with and strengthen the role of those with a "moderate and modern" view of Islam, and continue its military activity and interference throughout

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Kewal Singh Purewal

First Anniversary Memorial Meeting Honours Kewal Singh Purewal

This report of the Memorial Meeting for Kewal Singh Purewal first appeared in *Workers' Daily Internet Edition*, No.84, October 25, 2006.

Well over 100 people attended a Memorial Meeting in Coventry on October 22 to honour the life and work of Kewal Singh Purewal, late president of Indian Workers Association (Great Britain), marking the first anniversary of his passing. The meeting was organised by IWA(GB) and hosted by the local Coventry branch.

The front of the hall was tastefully decorated with red cloths, beautiful flowers, and a fine portrait of a smiling Kewal Singh Purewal. The meeting was chaired by Ajmer Singh Bains, General Secretary of IWA(GB), a long time comrade and friend. Ajmer Singh spoke movingly of the admirable qualities of Kewal Singh, a man of great sincerity and integrity, Ajmer Singh said, highlighting how much he had learned from him.

The family were very well represented, with Kewal Singh's widow and three generations of family members present. First the eldest son and later a great nephew spoke eloquently to the gathering on behalf of the family. Representatives of the local branches of IWA(GB) then came forward to give their tributes. They were followed by a succession of comrades and friends from Coventry itself. All spoke movingly of their respect and affection for Kewal Singh, some with stories of great humour. They painted a

vivid picture of a man who could never do too much to assist in even the smallest problem in the community, and at the same time concerned himself with the profound issues facing the community, the working class of which he was a fighting member, and the world's people at large.

Many spoke of the significance of his lifelong friendship stretching back to schooldays with Hardial Bains, the late founder and leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). Some, such as the former Lord Mayor of Coventry, Sucha Singh Bains, said they did not share all of Kewal Singh's views but treasured a lifelong friendship based on common goals and struggle to achieve them. Activists from other communities spoke of the unstinting support they always received for their various campaigns from Kewal Singh. Local comrades also presented poems and songs, some written especially for the occasion.

The presentation to the Memorial Meeting on behalf of RCPB(ML) by its National Spokesperson Chris Coleman was warmly received. Chris Coleman began by saying that he was proud to be there on behalf of the Party – along with the family, friends and comrades – to honour the life and work of Kewal Singh Purewal, late President of IWA(GB), who was a cherished activist of RCPB(ML) since its founding, and a dear personal friend and comrade from the first day he had met him in the spring of 1972.

When one looked at the figure of Kewal Singh, he said, one saw not only a person of great nobility to be admired, and of course remembered with the greatest and deepest affection, but a truly inspiring guide and model who rose to the occasion whenever a stand was required to resolve the problems which face the working people at every level of their lives – in Britain, in India and elsewhere. It is to this that Kewal Singh so selflessly dedicated his entire adult life, Chris Coleman said.

Addressing the challenges which today's world presents,



Kewal Singh Purewal

Many tributes to Kewal Singh Purewal were given. Right: Chris Coleman speaking on behalf of RCPB(ML) as its National Spokesperson; page 4: Ajmer Singh Bains, General secretary of IWA(GB).

Chris Coleman emphasised that Kewal Singh never wavered in his loyalty to the principles upheld and formulated by his childhood friend and lifelong comrade Hardial Bains. As a communist worker and fighting member of the British working class; as an activist of IWA(GB) implementing its programme of fighting for the rights of the entire working class and people, defending the interests of the Indian and other national minority communities against state organised racist attacks and discrimination and for their full participation in the political affairs of the country and the affirmation of their rights second to none; as an ardent Indian patriot and proletarian internationalist; he would never cease to inspire us all with his noble deed and great integrity, Chris Coleman said.

As personified in the figure of Kewal Singh, he went on, side by side with his constant comrade



Ajmer Singh Bains, IWA(GB) gained over decades a proud reputation for being in the forefront of political affairs not just in the Indian community, but among all the national minority communities and wider in the entire workers' movement. This followed in the great tradition of the Indian community in this country, playing a role in political affairs far in excess of its numbers, and typified in the entire Indian diaspora by such fig-

ures as Hardial Bains and the great martyr Udham Singh, both of whose links with Coventry are well known.

Speaking of today's problems, Chris Coleman pointed out, even just one year after Kewal's sad and untimely passing, we see a huge intensification of the offensive against the peoples and new and greater challenges facing the progressive forces. Recklessly, and with no care for the catastrophes

being caused, the Anglo-American imperialists press ahead with their agenda of war, violation of sovereignty and all international law, of long-outlawed torture and massacre, in attempting to impose the rule of the great corporations over the people of the entire world. At home they intensify their attacks on the rights of the people, particularly at this time attacking the Muslim community, especially

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Kewal Singh Purewal

Kewal Singh Purewal died in Stratford on Avon, not far from his home in Coventry, on September 21, 2005, at the age of 68.

Kewal Singh came to Coventry as a young man from Punjab, India. He was a cherished activist of RCPB(ML) from its founding in 1979 until his passing. A Coventry bus driver, he affirmed himself as a fighting member of the British working class and was widely respected as such. For nearly two decades he was President of the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain). He worked tirelessly for its programme, fighting for the

rights of the entire working class and people, defending the interests of the Indian and other national minority communities against state organised racist attacks and discrimination and for their full participation in the political affairs in Britain and the affirmation of their rights second to none.

An ardent Indian patriot and proletarian internationalist, he devoted his efforts to the liberation of his motherland and of all countries. A boyhood friend and classmate of the late Hardial Bains, founder and leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist Leninist), he upheld the principles Hardial had fought for until his own last days.



Kewal Singh Purewal

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young Muslim men and women, as part of the attack on the rights of all the communities and people. In trying to cause divisions among them, they attempt to criminalise the very concept of the right of conscience, belief and ideology.

Chris Coleman pointed to the succession of government Ministers, culminating in Blair himself, who in the past week were launching such attacks, mainly on the issue of Muslim women and the veil, which have nothing to do with having a civilised "debate" as they claim. They are an attack, even an incitement to violence, against the very right to be and to affirm one's cultural identity.

Another of the scandalous attacks, he said, was the call of Education Secretary Ruth Kelly for university staff to spy on Muslim students for the state. Such is the pressure of this incen-

sant offensive against the people and their interests, he said, so great the disinformation about all matters of concern spread by the bourgeois politicians and media, that people very often simply cannot think, cannot see a clear path ahead. It was against such things that Kewal Singh took a stand. In this regard, it must be emphasised, Chris Coleman said, that such retrogression which characterises the entire agenda of the bourgeoisie and its government, such throwing aside of all the progressive achievements of humankind, does not have to be accepted, even at a time of what we call retreat of revolution, when in the main the oppressors hold the advantage. In fact such retrogression cannot be accepted and is not accepted, as the huge anti-war demonstrations, the growing protests against government policy on all fronts in this country and throughout the world clearly show.

In this regard, he said, Kewal Singh joined us in solving the problems which face the progressive forces: how to politicise this growing movement, how to give it direction and coherence which will bring the just sentiments of its activists for another world into fruition. Kewal Singh knew that great work has to be done to take a bold step in defence of the rights of all, for the workers to take up politics which truly defend their interests and the rights of all by fighting for political renewal. Kewal Singh precisely took up the politics which do not conciliate with the aims of the bourgeoisie and their agencies, do not hand our destiny over to other forces, but empower the working class and people, lead to guarantees of peace and of the rights of all and contribute to the political renewal of the society to serve the interests of the working class and people at home and abroad.

The Party is very confident, Chris Coleman said, that IWA(GB) will continue to rise to the challenge presented by today's situation as Kewal Singh did. This will no doubt involve great political discussions and deliberations on the way forward and the step by step strengthening of the organisation in the course of developing the work. But the Party is sure that, with the spirit which imbued the life and work of Kewal Singh as guide and model, the work of IWA(GB) will meet with great success.

On behalf of RCPB(ML), Chris Coleman concluded by wishing IWA(GB) success in its work and pledged to stand shoulder to shoulder with IWA(GB) in all its endeavours. "We shall, like you and with you, continue to draw inspiration and strength from the example of our dear comrade Kewal Singh," Chris Coleman concluded.

Blair's Advocacy of a Foreign Policy Strategy Based on "Universal Values" Cannot Be Tolerated

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the Middle East, as if it were still the colonial power in the region.

And in conjunction it will continue its threats against Iran and Syria. Prior to the speech, there had been some speculation that due to recent political events in the US there might be some opportunity for the British government to develop a less belligerent approach to Iran and Syria. However, Tony Blair made it clear that this was not his intention and he once again issued threats against both countries, Iran in particular.

What Blair refers to as his "whole Middle East strategy" is centred on Palestine, although as might be expected he offered no concrete solutions. Unlike the "high-level group" responsible for the recent UN *Alliance of Civilizations* report, whatever might be thought of the remedy this

group proposes, he has not concluded that the cause of that problem lies rooted in the legacy of European and especially British imperialism in the region and its efforts to deny the Palestinian people their rights as a nation. Instead, Blair uses the tragedy of Palestine, caused by the criminal activity of Zionism backed by British and US imperialism, as a justification to commit more crimes not only against the Palestinian people but also against other countries in the Middle East, such as Iran. Blair claims that such countries have in Palestine, Iraq and elsewhere, "put obstacles in the path to peace", and "paint us, as they did over the Israeli/Lebanon conflict, as the aggressors"!

Blair's foreign policy strategy in general is based around the demand that all submit to the dictate of Anglo-US imperialism and its "universal values". Any state that

opposes these "universal values" is vilified, bullied and threatened with the prospect of military intervention. It is a foreign policy based on the principle that just as in the days of empire, might is right. Blair's Labour government seeks to turn truth on its head, to argue that others are responsible for instability in the Middle East, that it is others who are responsible for "terrorism" and for defending their ideologies by violence. He therefore draws the spurious conclusion that this situation requires a continuation and strengthening of the reactionary alliance with the US, which Blair refers to as "the leading representative of our values", as well as the other big powers. According to Blair what is required is a global war of state terrorism in order to impose "universal values", wherever the interests of the big monopolies so require.

But however many times Blair reiterates this view of the world it does not change the fact that what he refers to as "universal values" are in themselves "alien to progress". These values are being opposed by ever-increasing numbers of people in Britain and throughout the world, irrespective

of their beliefs or ideology, as the anachronistic and retrogressive nature of these values is increasingly exposed. Indeed, as Blair admitted in his Los Angeles speech, one of the major problems confronting the British government is how to persuade its own citizens to accept its distortion and misrepresentation of reality, as it struggles to overcome the crisis in these values and put in place arrangements more suitable to dictatorial rule. This increasingly is leading to the criminalisation of ideologies such as Islam and revolutionary communism and to the branding of resistance as "terrorist".

Blair's speech underlines the fact that the Labour government is unwilling and unable to change from its reactionary course and will continue on a path which poses great dangers for the people of Britain, the Middle East and throughout the world. It is up to the working class and people to strengthen the developing movement to block this reactionary course, make a break with the old British values of colonialism and superiority, and strengthen their own values of unity, defence of sovereignty and of the rights of all.

Viva Fidel! Viva Cuba!

Message from President Fidel Castro

NOVEMBER 29, 2006

On the occasion of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the life and work of Fidel Castro in Havana and the 50th anniversary of the landing of the Granma in Cuba on December 2, 1956, which marks the birth of the rebel army and the current Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, Workers' Weekly sends it warmest revolutionary greetings to Comrade Fidel and to all the Cuban people. The celebrations held in Cuba confirmed once again the strength of the Cuban revolution, the capacity of the people united as one around their communist party to use their organisation, discipline, enthusiasm and patriotism to build further on their achievements and undertake new victories. Herewith we reproduce Fidel Castro's message on the occasion of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of his birth.

Dear compatriots and dear friends from all over the world:

During this time, I have worked intensely to guarantee in our country the objectives of the Proclamation of the 31st of July.

Now we find ourselves facing an adversary who has led the United States into a disaster of such magnitude, that it is almost certain that the US people themselves will not allow him to conclude his presidential mandate.

In addressing you, intellectuals and prominent individuals of the world, I was in a dilemma: I could not bring you all together in a small venue. It was only within the Karl Marx Theatre that all of the visitors would fit and, according to my doctors, I was still not in a condition to face such a colossal

encounter.

I opted for the variant of speaking to all of you utilising this channel. My thinking is well known regarding José Martí's ideas of glories and honours, when he said that they can all fit on a grain of corn.

Your generosity really overwhelms me. There are so many people that I would like to mention here that once again, I am opting not to do so, and I ask you to for-

On the occasion of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the life and work of Fidel Castro in Havana and the 50th anniversary of the landing of the Granma in Cuba on December 2, 1956, which marks the birth of the rebel army and the current Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, Workers' Weekly sends it warmest revolutionary greetings to Comrade Fidel and to all the Cuban people.

give me for mentioning just one name: that of Oswaldo Guayasamín, because he was able to synthesise many of the best virtues of those present here.

He made four portraits of me. The first one that he painted in 1961 was lost. I looked for it in every possible corner, and it never appeared. I suffered so much when I found out what an exceptional person Guayasamín was. The second was in 1981 and is kept at the Casa Guayasamín in Old Havana. The third, in 1986, is kept at the



Parade on the Armed Forces Day, December 2, which also served as a tribute to President Fidel Castro on his 80th birthday, with 300,000 participants representing the entire Cuban people, many waving Cuban flags and carrying handmade signs in tribute to Fidel and the Revolution

“Antonio Núñez Jiménez Foundation for Nature and Man”. How far we were, he and I, when we first met, from imagining that the fourth portrait would be his birthday gift in August 1996.

How inspired his words were when he said: “From Quito and in any corner of the Earth, leave a light burning, because I will be back later.”

About Oswaldo Guayasamín, I wrote one day, during the inauguration of the Capilla del Hombre, “He was the most noble, transparent and humane person I have ever known. He created at the speed of light, and his magnitude as a human being was limitless.”

As long as the planet exists and human beings breathe, the work of creators will exist.

Today, moreover, thanks to technology, the work and knowledge that humanity has created throughout thousands of years is within everyone's reach, even though it is not yet known how human beings are affected by the radiation from billions of computers and cell phones.

Recently, the prestigious World Wildlife Fund, based in Switzerland and considered internationally to be the most important NGO overseeing the global environment, stated that all of the measures taken by Cuba to protect the environment made it the only country on Earth that meets the minimum requirements for sustainable development. This is an encouraging honour for our country, but of little importance in the world, given the weight of its

economy. That is why, on this past 23rd, I sent a message to President Chávez saying:

“Dear Hugo:

“By adopting a Comprehensive Energy Savings Programme, you have become the most prestigious defender of the environment in the world.

“The fact that Venezuela is the country with the largest oil reserves is extremely important, and will make you an example that will draw along all other energy consumers to do the same, saving a countless amount of investment.

“Just as Cuba, a nickel producer, can mobilise resources worth billions of dollars for its development, Venezuela, with its exports of hydrocarbons, could mobilise trillions.

“If the rich industrialised nations were to achieve the miracle of reproducing throughout the planet – within several dozen years – solar fusion, having first destroyed the environment with hydrocarbon emissions, how will the poor nations, who constitute the immense majority of humanity, be able to live in that world?

“¡Hasta la victoria siempre!”

Finally, dear friends, who have done us the immense honour of visiting our country, I very sorrowfully take my leave of you, because I was not able to personally thank you and embrace each one of you. We have the duty to save our species.

Fidel Castro Ruz

November 28, 2006

(Translated by Granma International)

Blair's Racist Promotion of "Multiculturalism and Integration"

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countries", for particular attack.

The main aim of Blair's speech was precisely to attack particular sections of the population; to state that "multi-cultural Britain" had produced "British-born suicide bombers", and that consequently "there is an unease, an anxiety, even at points a resentment that our very openness, our willingness to welcome difference, our pride in being home to many cultures, is being used against us, abused indeed, in order to harm us". The argument presented is then that there must be the correct balance struck between diversity and integration. As in the similarly spurious argument that there must be a "balance" between rights and security, and that to redress an imbalance there must be more security and less rights, so Blair's argument is in effect that there must be less diversity and more integration, specifically integration around "British values". Specifically, Tony Blair defines "legitimate" diversity and identity in terms of religions and faiths, which he seems to equate with diversity of cultures. However, Blair's argument proceeds to define what he means by integration, which "is not about culture or lifestyle. It is about values. It is about integrating at the point of shared, common unifying British values."

The whole anti-democratic and racist tenor of the argument is borne out by the fact that, even if this argument held any water, Tony Blair does not proceed to investigate or to put forward a procedure for investigating or have an enlightened conception of ascertaining what can be the "shared, common unifying" values arising from the collective of the residents, or even the citizens, of Britain, or even whether it can be said that there are any values which are common to them all. The assertion is that integration around common values (values which he then goes on to stipulate

and to define as specifically "British") is about what "defines us" as "citizens, the rights and duties that go with being a member of our society".

This argument betrays not only a contempt for the rule of law, but a contempt for culture and cultures and for the rights of minorities within a society. It is the old colonialist, Eurocentric conception, specifically of the superiority of everything "British", elevated to the level of a government policy and programme which attempts to make it respectable. As such, it is part of the attempts at providing justifications for the imposition of a political agenda and political culture which legitimises certain values and ideologies and de-legitimises others, to the extent that even to express these values or ideologies is being criminalised or branded as a disorder of thought content or the cause of anti-social behaviour.

New Labour values

In a global context, Tony Blair often refers to "universal values". Unsurprisingly, it appears that for the Prime Minister these are indistinguishable from what he is championing as so-called "British values" – that is "belief in democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, equal treatment for all". However, the context of the argument is such that the crisis of attempting to promote and impose such values on public opinion is clear. Glaringly, Blair's arguments hopelessly mix up the notions of nationality and citizenship, and conflate the reality of national minorities within society with cultures identified with various religions. The crisis of values is such that many are acutely aware of the irony of the 19th century conception of "tolerance", itself predicated on the chauvinist notion of the superiority of Britain and its "civilising mission" while tolerating inferior peoples, being used to deny even the right of cultures to express their values, to trample on the rights of minorities and to wipe

out civilisations and promote anarchy, violence and aggression. In fact, Tony Blair is attempting to identify the values of New Labour, whatever one may think of them, with the values of the "nation", and make the issue one of law and order, the necessity to "integrate", when these values are opposed. In fact, it is not hard to demonstrate that these New Labour values are those of a particular form of "representative democracy", inequality based on safeguarding the dictate of the monopolies and the imposition on the whole world of the "global market" and so on. As for "the rule of law", it is another irony that Blair wishes to champion that which his government and his allies breach with impunity throughout the world on the basis that might is right.

It must not pass!

Blair's aim is not only to demand that everyone accepts such values but also to argue that these values are threatened by an ideology that is alien, anti-British, Muslim and propagated by people "particularly originating from certain countries". A clearer expression of Islamophobic racism it would be difficult to find and yet Blair wishes to go even further by using the state to intervene in the affairs of mosques, to withhold government funding from community groups that do not promote these "British values", and by launching other attacks specifically aimed at Muslims, "ethnic minority people" and migrants.

These are sinister developments, involving the most racist attacks on entire communities and



attempts to set people at loggerheads. They show that Blair and his government are being forced to resort to the most desperate acts not only abroad but at home too. It is a fact that far from subscribing to so-called "British values" most of those in Britain and throughout the world are resolutely opposed to the values of Anglo-American imperialism; warmongering, the doctrine that might is right and that society must be organised according to the needs of the big monopolies.

In Britain, as elsewhere, the workers and democratic people have fought for and are establishing their own values which include the principle of fighting in defence of the rights of all. It is evident that the question of values has become a battlefield at the centre stage of political developments. It is being used by the government and the establishment to justify its authority, to impose retrogression on society, and to deny the rights of all as human beings. Tony Blair's conception of "integration" and "multiculturalism" is racist and against the very right of an individual or collective, class or national minority within England, Scotland or Wales to affirm their identity and themselves decide their own future and the future of the polity within which they exist. It hardly merits the description of a political agenda but is crudely based on notions of "Britishness" and all that is alien to "Britishness" which closes the door to all enlightenment and gives the green light to a fascist society. Such retrogression must not be allowed to pass!

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