

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

2,000 March to Safeguard Whipps Cross Hospital

2,000 people came out on Saturday, February 3, in Waltham Forest, East London, to demand that Whipps Cross Hospital stays as a district general hospital

which is fully functioning and fully funded. The mood was buoyant and determined as people from the local community marched from Whipps Cross to Walthamstow,

Save Whipps Cross Hospital banner and samba band at the head.

Whipps Cross Hospital is under threat of being downgraded to an emergency only centre, with

plans for a further £15 million of cuts at the hospital. This is taking place under the government's perspective for the future of the NHS which is

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21ST CENTURY SECURITY ENTAILS DEFENCE OF JUSTICE AND SOVEREIGNTY



Manchester Trades Council banner on march and strike rally on January 31. In the Fujitsu services dispute, workers are acting in defence of their rights and interests against attempts to worsen pay and conditions by dividing the workforce and attacking union recognition.

It is interesting to note that, according to Tony Blair, speaking to an audience onboard the HMS Albion in Plymouth last month, ten years into the New Labour government the Cabinet is conducting a review into every major aspect of

policy to set its direction for the future.

This is a task which belongs also to the whole polity, but one which the government provides no mechanism for. Tony Blair a few days later had something to say on New Labour being in step

with public opinion. But that is another story.

His subject on January 12 was 21st century security. What is mainly of concern is Tony Blair's justification for what he terms "hard" power. One of three defin-

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Commentary

Police Arrests of Muslims in Birmingham:

Stand As One to Defend the Rights of All!

THE ARREST OF NINE MUSLIM MEN IN BIRMINGHAM and the high profile and sensational manner of the arrests are to be condemned. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people to stand as one with the communities in Birmingham who have expressed anger, outrage and disbelief at the police arrests and tactics.

Abu Bakr, one of the two men released without charge on February 8 after a week in custody told the BBC that Britain is "a police state for Muslims" and that the "terror laws are designed specifically for Muslims".

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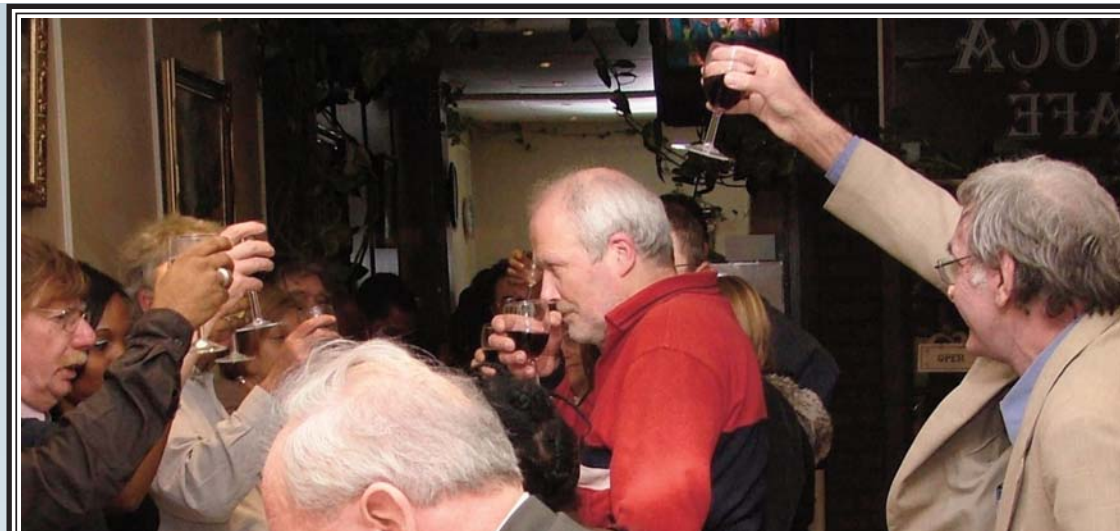
Police Arrests of Muslims in Birmingham: Stand As One to Defend the Rights of All!

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He went on, "That's quite an open fact because the people who have been arrested under terrorism laws, the groups that have been banned under the terrorism laws, the people that have been affected by terrorism legislation, have been Muslims. So we are feeling the brunt of it all. We are the ones that are being locked up, detained, and then told to go back to our lives."

It is the case that the state is singling out those of the Muslim faith and outlook for attack under the guise of waging war against "Islamic extremism". It is doing so in conjunction with the propaganda about the "threat" to "our" values and way of life, couched in such a way as to place Muslims beyond the pale, as intent on "separation" and *in extremis* going so far as to kill indiscriminately or wage a *jihad* against those that threaten their beliefs.

These attempts to ghettoise Muslims in the name of opposing "separation" must be rejected and are being rejected both by Muslims under attack and by the people as a whole. It has long been a tradition of the working class and people that an attack on one is an attack on all, and this is the sentiment that is being upheld in the case of the anger against these arrests.



Chris Coleman, National Spokesperson, gave the toast at the New Year Social of Party friends and activists.

Chris Coleman emphasised the importance of loyalty and fidelity to truth coming from the facts of real life, to the cause of enlightenment and progress, to the ultimate cause of socialism and communism. This, he said, is most important at

a time when reaction as represented by such persons as Bush and Blair have no fidelity to anything, to reality, to science, to international law, propagating some mockery of democracy and values coming from war and fascism.

Other toasts referred to the challenges in the year ahead and wished all the comrades and friends success in the advance of their work in 2007, stressing that the future lay with the working class and people and not the imperialists.

Workers' Weekly calls on everyone to oppose the criminalisation of Muslims and to unite in defence of the rights of all.

The issue that the "anti-terror" laws and racial profiling have been used against Muslims, particularly those of South Asian or Arab origin, and in a profoundly racist way, does not mean that it is an issue of concern only to Muslims. The issue of defence of "values" is being used precisely because the values in question are in severe crisis and are being broadly rejected by the people. It is not an issue of the "way of life" of the so-called "host" community needing to be defended. It is being posed in this way to create and incite sectarian divisions, in a feverish atmosphere of suspicion and prejudicial statements and reporting. The aim is to attempt to shatter the resistance and struggle to the aggression and attacks on rights and freedoms

carried out in the name of the "war on terror", as well as to the attacks on social programmes. In this context, the government and its propaganda machine is branding resistance as "extremism" and calling the "moderate" forces to defend "civilised" values and defend the status quo.

In this respect, it is asking the people to put their trust in the intelligence and security measures of a strong government, one that not only knows best but also is privy to information that the populace cannot be told about. However, the people are rejecting this claim. They have the experience of Forest Gate, of all those arrested with great fanfare who have then been released without charge or have been tried and acquitted. They have the experience of the deliberately arbitrary measures, such as the ban on carrying liquids onto planes, that have been implemented, relaxed or intensified.

The government is expressing concern for the young Muslims who are being "radicalised". But it is a fact that broad sections of the people of Britain have been politicised by the warmongering and repressive actions and policies of the government, as well as the barbarism and degeneracy of Anglo-US imperialism as a whole. And one aspect of the recent arrests that is of note and which has angered people is that they have been of respected Muslim members of the community.

Workers' Weekly reiterates its condemnation of the content and manner of these arrests. There is no justice evident in them. A police state is a police state for all who live in it. The watchword of the people is that an injury to one is an injury to all, and we are confident that, as is happening, the people will unite and take a stand in defence of the rights of all!

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For your information

Whipps Cross Hospital

Whipps is a 650-bedded District General Hospital with one of the busiest A&Es in the country. It serves a local population of 350,000 including areas with some of the highest deprivation and health needs in London.

The plan, which NHS London and Primary Care Trusts across outer north-east London have proposed, includes moving services from Whipps and King George Hospital in Goodmayes to the new Queen's Hospital in Romford. Proposals include moving some hospital services into the community, where existing nursing services are already overstretched and cut back. Already, this winter has seen massive pressure on A&E, and demand for beds at Whipps has reached the highest levels since 1999.

Whipps has also been hit by financial deficits because funding does not meet escalating work and costs. Staff are made the scapegoat with 400 jobs being cut, around 70 staff being made



redundant, and three wards closed this year in a drive to meet a "deficit" of £27 million.

Unions are now being told that the Trust is planning a new round of cost reductions to "save" a further £15 million to meet national

funding requirements in 2007/2008.

The Fit for the Future options, about which no formal announcement has yet been made, are expected to go to Trust Boards open meetings in March before

public consultation, which now looks unlikely to start until April or May.

For more details of the Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign, see www.savewhippscros.org.

2,000 March to Safeguard Whipps Cross Hospital

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supposedly based on patient choice and high ideals of patient care. This programme is ironically titled Fit for the Future. The government's national plan to reconfigure hospital services and primary care is being justified with reference to change and improvement, as well as greater local government and public involvement in decision-making.

Yet as is clear not only from the Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign but from the many campaigns of concerned people up and down the country opposing the closure and downgrading of hospitals, the government's programme is at odds with public opinion as regards the future of the NHS.

At the demonstration on February 3, every generation and section of the community was

there – children, health workers, students, older people. Those who could not walk that distance brought their own powered chairs. The bright February sun, balloons, array of banners and home made placards added something of a festive feel.

As people gathered at the start and at the rally in the town square, health workers, union reps, councillors, and the three local MPs who were all on the



march addressed the crowds. Whipps Cross Patients Panel and Pat Stannard, editor of the local paper, also sent messages to the rally.

The African Union and African renewal

African Union Discusses Africa's Problems and their Solution

From January 28-30, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, home to the headquarters of the African Union, hosted meetings of the NEPAD Heads of State Implementation Committee, the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government, and the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

One of the most pressing problems discussed at the African Union summit was the situation in Somalia, instability in the Horn of Africa and the ever present interference of the big powers that is the main factor creating the continent's problems and preventing their resolution. In recent weeks, the media has carried reports about continuing political instability in Somalia, the intervention of the government of the neighbouring country of Ethiopia and the bombing raids and other military activity carried out by US imperialism in Somalia. One feature of these reports has been the presentation of Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest countries, as the proxy of US imperialism in the Horn of Africa. According to this view, US imperialism has developed a new model of intervention to be used in Africa and elsewhere, and as a result the government of Ethiopia has been vilified.

But the situation in the Horn of Africa does not entirely lend itself to such an explanation which glosses over the problems in the region. For one thing, it has to be remembered that Somalia has essentially been stateless for the last 16 years, largely a result of the contention of the US and the Soviet Union in the region during the 1970s and 1980s. In recent years great efforts have been made by the Somali people and by neighbouring countries to re-establish a government in that country. Ethiopia has been one of the major supporters of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) established in 2004, which has been trying to exert its authority over the entire country, unite the people of Somalia and disarm the many

existing militias, many of which have been externally encouraged and financed. It has been a difficult task and one not aided by outside interference, both from neighbouring countries and from the US.

Nevertheless, the TFG is recognised by the UN, the African Union (AU), and IGAD (the Intergovernmental Authority on Development – comprising the East African states of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia,

It has to be remembered that Somalia has essentially been stateless for the last 16 years, largely a result of the contention of the US and the Soviet Union in the region during the 1970s and 1980s. In recent years great efforts have been made by the Somali people and by neighbouring countries to re-establish a government in that country. Ethiopia has been one of the major supporters of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) established in 2004

Sudan and Uganda) as the only legitimate government of the country. Not only has Ethiopia been the main supporter of the TFG, it has also become concerned at the "terrorist" activities of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), which had established itself as a rival centre of power in Somalia, declared a "jihad" against Ethiopia, made border incursions into Ethiopian territory, supported separatist organisations in the Ogaden and elsewhere in Ethiopia, and most importantly was believed both by the UN and Ethiopia to be backed by Eritrea, contrary to UN sanctions. Ethiopia considers Eritrea to have been a major force for instability in the region, having attacked all its neighbours and been to war with Ethiopia. The two govern-

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The African Union and African renewal

The AU Determined to Accelerate African Renewal

Extract from the article by South African President Thabo Mbeki, ANC Today, February 2-8, 2007

[...] Those of us who serve within the structures of the African Union, and daily bear the responsibility to respond to what the World Economic Forum described as the Promise of Africa, have a task to address Africa's actual and real challenges. To succeed in what we have to do, in the interest of the African masses, this means that we must separate prejudice and illusion from the hard and exciting reality of the actuality of the evolving African condition.

As a consequence of this, we celebrate the fact that for the first time ever, at the 2007 Addis Ababa AU Assembly, a united Africa had occasion to celebrate the fact that in 2010, our Continent would, for the first time, have the possibility to host the eminent global sports tournament, the FIFA Soccer World Cup. As a result, the assembled African Heads of State and Government had the possibility, for the first time, to listen to the Presidents of FIFA and CAF and, incidentally, a head of government from Trinidad and Tobago, who could speak for the African Diaspora in the Caribbean. They also launched the International Year of African Football.

We also celebrate the fact that the 2007 Addis Ababa AU Assembly took the positions it did, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the independence of Ghana. This will enable our Continent to engage in a critical assessment of what its independence from colonialism and apartheid has meant, and there-

fore what it should do to address the common aspirations that the African masses have shared for a long time, in favour of African unity and an African Renaissance.

We celebrate the fact that in Addis Ababa, Africa's political leaders took the decision to involve the African masses in deciding what needs to be done to achieve the purposes of the African Revolution, including the advance towards the realisation of the objective of African unity. We welcome the fact that in July, as decided in Addis Ababa, Africa's political leaders will meet in Ghana in a special two-day session solely to address this important issue.

We celebrate the fact that when it applauded President Obasanjo's valedictory address, the Assembly confirmed its determination to respect constitutional rule and the rule of law, as a result of which President Obasanjo would not seek to serve during a third term, which is prohibited by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Assembly also adopted the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, saying that it constituted "a major step towards the realisation of the democratic agenda of the Union."

We celebrate the fact that the 2007 Addis Ababa Assembly paid particular attention to the critical issue of Africa's involvement in the development of science and technology, resulting in the adoption of an African Indicative Plan focused on the development and application of science and tech-

nology to address our Continent's challenges, including mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change.

We celebrate the fact that, in Addis Ababa, Africa's political leaders reaffirmed their determination to mobilise all our resources successfully to accomplish the task to ensure security and stability in all our countries. This represents a binding commitment by all member states of the AU to contribute whatever they can towards the resolution of such conflicts as confront Sudan, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Guinean (Conakry), Chad and so on.

We celebrate the fact that the Assembly approved a budget that will provide substantial funds for the implementation of the programmes of the Union. In the past the Union depended on voluntary contributions by the member states and donations from the rest of the world to fund its programmes. This has seriously affected its capacity to advance the objectives spelt out in the Constitutive Act.

We celebrate the fact that the 2007 Addis Ababa Assembly attracted perhaps the largest number ever of representatives of important non-African countries and multilateral organisations, all of which sought to engage the AU in constructive dialogue. The presence and addresses of the UN SG, the SG of the Arab League, the President of the Palestine Authority, the Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Italy, the Presidents of FIFA and CAF, the CEOs of the ADB, FAO and UNESCO, senior representatives of the EU, the US, UK, French and Iranian governments, and so on, all confirmed that we have succeeded to place Africa among the leading items on the global agenda.

We celebrate the fact that during the few days of our presence in Addis Ababa, we witnessed the opening in the city the first ever campus outside our country of the University of South Africa (UNISA). This demonstrated Africa's commitment to put in

place the building blocks we need to achieve the objective of African solidarity, integration and unity, specifically focused on using our national strengths to accelerate balanced and mutually beneficial development among our countries.

In this regard the Assembly accepted the report of the NEPAD Heads of State & Government Implementation Committee, which include a decision to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of the programme ahead of the June G8 Summit Meeting in Germany, which will discuss its cooperation with Africa as one of its principal agenda items.

Significantly, the Assembly also accepted a proposal made by the African Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs for the elaboration of an African Charter on Statistics. The Charter will be considered by the AU Executive Council (the Foreign Ministers) at its meeting in July. The decision of the Assembly said the Charter "will provide a lasting solution to issues related to the production of statistics on our Continent."

(Clearly the Continent needs accurate statistics precisely to measure the progress we are making in addressing our challenges. However, the decision to elaborate the African Charter on Statistics emphasises the point that much of what is presented as fact, concerning our Continent, is little more than guess work. Of course, this gives the possibility to all and sundry to characterise our Continent in any way they wish.)

The January 2007 Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU confirmed that our Continent remains united in its determination to pursue the objectives fundamental to the African Renaissance. These include promoting African integration and unity, ensuring peace and stability, entrenching democracy and a culture of human rights, accelerating socio-economic development to address the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment,

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The African Union

African Union Decision on Somalia

The Assembly:

1. RECALLS its previous decisions and declarations concerning the situation in Somalia, particularly its decision adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, on 31 January 2005, and its declaration adopted in Banjul, the Gambia, on 2 July 2006;

2. RECALLS ALSO all the relevant decisions of the Peace and Security Council on Somalia and Resolution 1725 (2006) of the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted on 6 December 2006;

3. TAKES NOTE of the communiqué issued by the International Contact Group on Somalia which met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 January 2007;

4. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the recent positive developments in Somalia which have resulted from Ethiopia's intervention upon the invitation of the legitimate Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, and which has created an unprecedented opportunity for lasting peace in the country;

5. WELCOMES the decision of Ethiopia to withdraw its troops from Somalia, and **TAKES NOTE** of the fact that Ethiopia has already started withdrawing its troops;

6. CALLS for an immediate deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in accordance with the decision of the 69th meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), and

CALLS ON member States to contribute troops in order to avoid a security vacuum following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia;

7. URGES the international community to provide financial, logistical and technical support for the deployment of AMISOM;

8. EXPRESSES CONCERN that many of the pledges by the donor community have not been honoured and **CALLS ON** the international community to disburse the funds without delay and without political preconditions;

9. ALSO CALLS on the member States and the AU partners to support the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) of Somalia to enable them to establish their

authority in the country;

10. EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT to the initiative of the TFG for an inclusive inter-Somali dialogue involving all stakeholders including political leaders, clan leaders, religious leaders, and representatives of the women, youth, business community and the civil society, which would ensure national reconciliation in Somalia;

11. APPEALS TO the international community to provide all the necessary support for post-conflict reconstruction in Somalia, and **URGES** the United Nations to lead this endeavour which is critical for sustainable peace in the country.

African Union Discusses Africa's Problems and their Solution

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ments have not yet resolved their border and other differences. More recently, the President of Somalia, Abdullahi Yusuf, has accused the Eritrean government of sending its troops to destabilise the country and trying to organise a coup to overthrow the TFG.

Ethiopia has not only been the major backer of the TFG since 2004 but has also sent "military advisers" to train and support its forces, indeed Ethiopia also played a key role in the process which led to the formation of the TFG. Last year the TFG entered in to talks with the UIC in an attempt to resolve the political crisis in Somalia. The Ethiopian government also held talks with the UIC

in order to avert war, while the US, for its part, had backed local Somali militias, encouraging them to defeat the UIC by military means. The Ethiopian government declared that it has no opposition to the UIC as such but only to that part of its leadership which was engaged in hostile "terrorist" activities in league with Eritrea and others. Unfortunately, the UIC continued with its military attacks on the TFG and its threats of jihad against Ethiopia and actually infiltrated into Ethiopian territory. Because of this activity and after exhausting other avenues Ethiopia, together with the TFG and other Somalis took military action as a means of self-defence.

As is now clear, the military action taken by Ethiopia and the

TFG was swift, mainly took place outside major cities and was targeted at sections of the UIC leadership rather than the rank and file. As promised at the time, the Ethiopian army has started to leave the country, stressing that its security is a task for the Somalis themselves as well as an AU led "stabilisation force", IGASOM, to assist the TFG. The composition of this force was discussed at the AU summit but already Uganda, Malawi, Burundi and Nigeria have promised troops and other countries, including Libya, have promised other forms of support. Although it is planned that this force will be deployed in weeks, no firm date has been set and meanwhile Ethiopia continues with plans to evacuate its troops, despite pleas from some AU members that its forces should not do so. Ethiopia's role in Somalia was widely supported at the AU

summit.

As to the role of the US imperialism, it is clear that it gives itself the right to launch military attacks wherever it pleases in the world on the basis that "might makes right". Certainly it would be impossible for the TFG to order the US not to invade its territory.

Ethiopia's position, as stated by Prime Minister Zenawi, is that it did not act in concert with the US. Zenawi distanced himself from the US after the first air strike, stating that such actions pose dangers to civilians. However, he acknowledged that the US army had provided Ethiopia with some military intelligence. It now seems to be well established that the US initially opposed Ethiopia's military involvement in Somalia, but was forced to adjust its position when Ethiopia maintained its right to act in self-defence.

Workers and Politics

How PFI is Draining the NHS – And Distorting Health Planning



Workers' News

40,000 Sign Petitions to Save Whipps

Newsletter of the Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign, February 3, 2007

The new Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Queens Hospital in Romford cost £238 million. Owned by a private consortium it is being rented back to Barking Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust for £36 million per annum, index linked, for the next 30 years.

But that Trust already has an underlying cumulative deficit of £43 million this year.

This financial crisis is the driving force behind the whole Fit for

the Future review that threatens Whipps Cross and King Georges – sucking in surrounding health resources to pay the inflated costs of PFI.

It mirrors experience across the country.

We can't allow it!

Research published by Edinburgh University into the Private Finance Initiative in Scotland's NHS has found that for a total building value of £602 mil-

lion, PFI has created a debt of £2.4 billion.

This comes out of the money allocated day to day for staff, medicines and equipment.

PFI provides one of the highest rates of return for shareholders, and this is our money, drained out of the NHS.

We are witnessing locally the distorting influence these interests exert on the decisions that will shape health provision for generations to come. We can't allow it.

Chingford and Woodford Green MP Ian Duncan Smith presented the parliamentary petition signed by 21,000 residents to the House of Commons on January 18, bringing the total – including some 19,000 who signed the Waltham Forest Guardian petition – to 40,000.

People from all over the area have been out collecting signatures. One member of Whipps Cross staff personally collected 2,000. Schools, surgeries and churches have circulated the petition, showing the strength of feeling in the community.

The US is certainly fishing in troubled waters and taking advantage of the unstable situation in Somalia and other parts of the Horn of Africa. Its forces are stationed in Djibouti and it attempts to exercise hegemony over the whole region both by military, economic and other means and using the so called “war on terror”, as well as instability in the region as a pretext. It is clearly trying to re-establish itself in Somalia, following the debacle of 1994 when it was forced to leave the country. Recently it has claimed that so-called “Islamist militants” displaced from Somalia are regrouping in Eritrea and Yemen and has started to threaten the Eritrean government.

Since the defeat of the UIC, both the US and the EU have put pressure on the TFG to enter into negotiations with the UIC. The

EU even threatened to withhold aid promised for the AU stabilisation force if its demands were not met. Although the TFG has protested strongly against such interference in its affairs, at the present time it appears that it has had to acquiesce. The Ethiopian government on the other hand has made no secret of its opposition to such interference and to the fact that the representatives of the big powers are withholding resources required to support the stabilisation of Somalia. It has encouraged the TFG to pursue its own strategy, relying on the Somali people. The President of the AU Commission, Alpha Konare, commenting on the proposed stabilisation force, stressed the need for African countries to rely on their own resources to solve Africa's problems.

This is the conclusion which the peoples on the African conti-

nent have been drawing. They are striving to overcome not only the intractable problems which are the legacy of colonial rule, not least that of Britain, but the continuing material and cultural devastation which is the result of big power attempts to impose west-

ern-centred “solutions” on African peoples and governments. The fact is that it is indeed the continued interference of the big powers is the main factor creating Africa's problems and preventing their resolution.

The AU Determined to Accelerate African Renewal

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and ensuring that Africa takes its rightful place within the world community of nations.

As an expression of its commitment to achieve these objectives, the Assembly took important decisions to assess the effectiveness of the institutions of the African Union precisely to

ensure that Africa realises the faster progress that it needs to achieve. The AU must ensure that it has the capacity to attain the important goals it has set itself. This is what the January 2007 Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly decided. With that, it conveyed an unequivocal message of hope to all the peoples of Africa.

21st Century Security Entails Defence of Justice and Sovereignty

Continued from page 1

ing aspects of Britain's foreign policy, he declares, is the combining of "hard" and "soft" power. "Hard" power is his euphemism for military force.

Tony Blair's argument, though he goes into it at length, is very stark. The issue is that "Britain has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism", in alliance "with America on the one hand and Europe on the other". This fight, this foreign policy, "has been governed as much by values as interests" and "it is by furthering our values that we further our interests in the modern era of globalisation and interdependence". The thread of the argument here then relies on the sleight of hand that "our values" are the only legitimate ones: "Global interdependence requires global values commonly or evenly applied."

The argument continues that, for Tony Blair, "the setting aside of 'hard' power leads inexorably to the weakening of 'soft' power". In other words, armed might and military force are justifiable to enforce the values which "we", the western world, the big powers, the upholders of the values of the European nation-state and neo-liberal democracy, espouse. Using some horror story about the Taliban, and bringing in also the Anglo-American doctrine of pre-emption, Blair makes this explicit. "Using force against them to prevent such an act is not 'defence' in the traditional territorial sense of that word, but 'security' in the broadest sense, *an assertion of our values against theirs.*" [our emphasis]

What is then necessary, when public opinion is so against this use of force, is, Blair argues, domestically and internationally to engage in a battle for "hearts and minds". Along with military alliances, nation-building alliances are critical to military success. But it is "military might" which is primary in this equation.

This argument can only be put forward when the values and the nation-building projects put forward by the Anglo-Americans are themselves in profound crisis, and the struggle in the world has to be defined, as Tony Blair does, in terms of the "war on terror", the "fight against terrorism". He sketches an apolitical, a-historical, account of Britain's post-war and colonial wars, to give credence to the imposition of Eurocentric values by force around the world.

The reality, which Tony Blair tries to deny time and again until he is blue in the face, is that it is this project to impose an Anglo-US dictate, to assert by force values which serve the interests of the Anglo-Americans, the colonisers, the proponents of hegemony in the global market, which is causing such unprecedented disasters for the world's people. This is a project which is a manifestation of the failure of the Anglo-Americans to dictate their way of life to the peoples of the world. When this dictate is resisted by the people, the imperialists scream that this "way of life" is under threat, and the spectre of terrorism, a terrorism for which they are responsible, is invoked to justify their wreaking revenge against what Blair calls a "world-wide movement". This movement, Tony Blair, acting as theologian, describes as having an ideology "based on a misreading of Islam". This is an assertion that those that have fidelity to their conscience and beliefs are the "radicals", are the "extremists", who must be wiped out globally with the use of "hard" power.

Peoples or nations opposing this dictate are labelled as constituting "failed or failing states", where this term is not used to refer to the assassinations, strife, divisions and violence instigated by the imperialists themselves causing chaos and anarchy. In fact, in a telling repetition of his remarks after the July 7 bombings, Tony Blair says that what "we" face is not some "fringe terrorist organisation", but: "We face something

No Trident - Troops Out Of Iraq

National Demonstration Saturday 24 February 12 noon

Hyde Park : March to Trafalgar Square

<http://tinyurl.com/y9c7z5>



Called by CND and Stop the War Coalition

The timing for this demonstration has been determined by the parliamentary agenda that Blair has set. The vote on Trident is reported to be taking place in early March

more akin to revolutionary Communism in its early and most militant phase."

Tony Blair's "hard power" is state terrorism and aggression, a project for the imposition of retrogressive values where the end justifies the means.

Security in the 21st century, it need hardly be said, cannot be safeguarded in such a way. Security in the 21st century has to be a project of the people taking up principles of justice, defence of sovereignty and the demand that the use of force to try and settle international, or national, issues be outlawed. Tony Blair's project, which he is trying to justify and

impose on the working class and people as Britain's foreign policy in the 21st century, is one based on outmoded and crisis-ridden conceptions which entail wrecking all international and civilised norms in the name of "civilisation" and "civilised values". It is a project which is doomed to failure and defeat. But the working class and people cannot afford to reconcile themselves to this failure and defeat but must demand that this retrogression is ended forthwith. They must themselves work to safeguard security by taking up the fight for an anti-war government and in defence of the rights of all, nationally and internationally.

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