

Workers Weekly

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

Troop Withdrawal from Basra:

End the Occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan! No Troops on Foreign Soil!

The 550 soldiers stationed at the former palace of Saddam Hussein from which the occupying forces have been carrying out their war

were moved to the outskirts of Basra. The soldiers joined the rest of the 5,500 troops in the city's airport. This signifies a set-back for the Anglo-American

programme of occupation and aggression. The British troops have been moved because they were facing a catastrophe brought about by the unrelenting

resistance of the Iraqi people to the occupation of their country, which no amount of oppression, activities of agents provocateurs

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Brown's Speech to TUC:

ARROGANCE, CHAUVINISM AND CONTEMPT FOR THE WORKERS



Demonstration by public service delegates at TUC Congress

In an outrageous show of arrogance, false promises and chauvinism, Prime Minister Gordon Brown patronisingly lectured the delegates to TUC on September 10 about "working together", "raising our game" and

making this century a "British" one. He shamelessly set out the government's agenda to pursue the neo-liberal programme of privatisation and kow-towing to the monopolies and international financiers in saying "all of us must

prepare for the global era". His rhetoric about "our" obligations to the "international community" and to the new democracy in Iraq" was coupled with targeting "terrorist extremism", thus taking up where Tony Blair had left off,

as with his theme of intervention in Africa in the guise of condescending saviours. Through this whole manipulation of the

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Gordon Brown at the UN:

Reject the Call for a "New International Partnership"!

AT THE END OF JULY, THE PRIME MINISTER, GORDON BROWN, set out some of his thoughts on international

development in a major speech to the United Nations. The aim was to signal that Brown's government is taking the lead in reaffirming the need for international commitment to the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted in 2000 with the declared aim of reducing world poverty by 2015.

The main theme of Brown's speech was the need for what he called a "new international partnership" of governments, business and concerned individuals, a "coalition of conscience" of those who, he claimed, had the resources to rid the world of the

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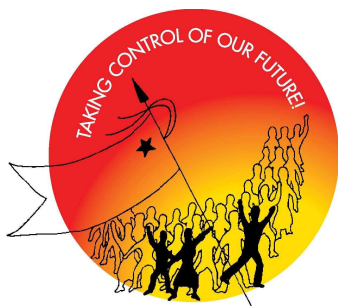
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YOUTH+ STUDENT

page of the
Workers'
Weekly
Youth Group

Heavy Police Presence at Oxford Animal Rights Protest: No to the Criminalisation of Dissent! Defend the Right to Conscience!

In Oxford city centre on September 1, a march and rally took place to campaign against the animal testing laboratory at Oxford University, called by the Speak animal rights group. The action was notable for the heavy police presence that surrounded it. Throughout the day before the action, riot vans of police were making themselves highly visible by circulating around, parking at prominent locations in groups, and moving off again. Horses were being ridden around the town centre; larger lorries were stationed on nearby university property; a military-style twin-rotored helicopter was seen overhead. Also notable was the involvement of the London metropolitan police.

Two demonstrations

This may be compared with what happened at an anti-war demonstration earlier in the year. At that action, the police presence was minimal, while the permitted route was kept almost entirely away from the town centre. In that case, the approach was to push the protest to the side, ignore it and ensure it received no major publicity and so marginalise the action.

In the case of the animal rights march, the approach was to bring it right into the centre of attention, surround it with police and so criminalise the whole protest in full view of everybody.

Right to conscience

These two tactics, marginalisation and criminalisation, are being used by the state to carry out a strategy of suppressing any kind of thought that dissents from the official ideology. The attack on the right to conscience begins by sidelining such thought, and when that fails or is not enough, labelling dissenting thought as extreme, even terrorist, a danger to security, and so on. When government ideologues claim that "security" is the basis of all rights and enact laws based on that conception, the criminalisation of conscience is completed: thought itself is made illegal.

It is on the basis of protests or protesters being acceptable versus unacceptable, non-violent versus violent, the state switches its tactics at will between marginalisation and criminalisation. People cannot allow themselves to be arbitrarily divided along these lines. The anti-war movement could be similarly attacked

at any particular time through a focus on "violent protesters", use of *agents provocateurs*, and so on.

No to criminalisation

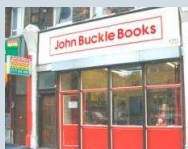
The prevailing mode of thought is dividing people over whether they agree or disagree with the animal right protesters. But, whatever one's view, the protesters raise an important issue. Whether or not one agrees that animals have rights, or agrees with how the issue is raised, the fact is that it is human beings who are able to conceptualise rights. By demanding respect for animal life and by questioning why animal testing occurs, the protesters are raising the issue of respect for life in general, including human life, which points towards humanising the natural and social environment. They are raising that life should not be subject to plunder by the drugs, cosmetics and other monopolies. It is precisely this thinking that is being suppressed through criminalisation.

Workers' Weekly Youth Group stands with all those who seek to create a world fit for human beings, and stands against the criminalisation of dissent.



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Interview with Woman Worker at Heathrow Airport

Workers' Weekly: What are the concerns of the BAA workers at this time after the take-over by Ferrovial?

Answer: I think that the main issue which concerns the workforce is that of job security. It is being said that 1,000-2,000 workers could lose their jobs at the airports which Ferrovial took over last year. In fact, some jobs have already gone, for example at the call centre, but we are being kept in the dark. There is talk about airside security being contracted out to some other company. Airside security is that which is not in the airport buildings, screening passengers, but in the restricted areas, on buses, and so on. However, they are saying they are bringing airside security into the buildings, so mystifying that they are going to contract part of it out. This is an example of the way that the rumours that their work could be contracted out to private companies is looming over people's heads. Look at Ferrovial's history;

they are well-known for that practice.

There is also the issue of the pension scheme, that it is at present based on final salary. It was announced last week that it was shutting down this scheme for new employees. Now people working alongside each other will have different pension deals if we do not take action so that the company reverses its decision. One can ask if this is not done, how long will it be before Ferrovial says that it will do the same for existing staff also. So you can see the way the company is going and what the concerns of BAA workers are at its agenda which harms their interests.

WW: What are the conditions of work like at present?

Answer: Slowly over the years any concern of BAA for its workforce and their wellbeing seems to have been done away with. There is a huge shortage of women, female security officers. This is putting immense pressure and stress on the existing women staff.



The company is saying, bring your friends and relatives. We will give you £250 for every person. But what are they offering to attract women workers? For example, when I first joined, BAA used to attract a lot of women, with young families; a "mom's roster" was organised where they could take kids to school and pick them up. Today this is non-existent. This is one example of the way that workers have been increasingly expected to comply with what the company dictates, while their conditions of work have deteriorated and their lives have been turned upside down.

It is frustrating that when the union meets with the BAA management, the seriousness of the way the workforce is being treated in a modern society does not seem to be taken into account. The fact that nothing has been organised so far in taking a stand against the job cuts and disdain for the workers' conditions is indicative of the situation. Instead, BAA have expected the union to damp down any discontent and threatened action in return for commitments which any company which is concerned with its workforce as people, not as mere instruments of generating profits, should be providing as a matter of course. For example, a recent joint statement of the management and union reported near the top of its list of improving working relations that good progress has been made in providing water for the workforce, as if this would conciliate the workers from taking industrial action.

This water issue is indicative, that in modern society the lack of provision of water should even be an issue! It gives you an insight

into the working conditions for the workers at Heathrow. There are many other examples in which BAA seems to have the attitude that it is granting the workers a favour in ensuring, for example, that toilets should be cleaned or that if an application for annual leave is refused the company will provide an explanation!

On the management structure, they have said they will streamline and help the business and improve things. But in fact it has destroyed whatever working relationship was in place between workers and local management. Now you do not know who your manager is; you just know a name you have read in the BAA materials, but you have to ask who is this person? This does not help to build any relationship between workers and managers and clearly this is a component of BAA's outlook, especially since Ferrovial's takeover. Workers are to be expected to jump to the company's tune.

We even advise them, that it is fundamental in having a successful business that there should be good relations between workers and managers. From what it seems, they are missing the point as to what managing people actually means! In my opinion, it means to know your workforce, as a team and as individuals, so you look after their interests and equip them with skills which are required to fulfil their potential and whatever they are asked to do. Managers should bring out the best in people, not just issue orders via some emails! But in today's world where the private monopolies such as Ferrovial are

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STANDING UP TO THE PLANS OF BAA/FERROVIAL

Standing Up to the Plans of BAA/Ferrovial

The airport owner BAA is planning to cut up to 2,000 jobs after its takeover by Spanish infrastructure and construction firm Ferrovial it was announced at the end of August. BAA owns seven British airports including Heathrow, Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is understood that the monopoly has ordered each of its seven British airports to conduct a thorough review of costs and staffing levels. So how will this affect the airport workers? The current cost cutting drive will cut jobs and is also having an effect on pay and conditions.

The Times quoted a source from BAA as saying, "Ferrovial have a huge debt burden, and they can't sustain that. They are really drilling down costs, and there is going to be a complete restructuring of the business, with a couple of thousand of jobs going. It cannot be the security

staff, but every other element of the business is up for review." So it is clear that BAA under the ownership of Ferrovial is going to unleash its debt crisis on the workers instead of cutting their profits.

The monopoly capitalist company Ferrovial has its interests which are to make huge profits, and these interests are directly conflicting with the airport workers' interests. Workers are simply dispensable to them and therefore they do not uphold the safeguarding of the workers' jobs, pay and conditions. Monopoly capitalism has no interest in the rights of workers; it is simply there to serve itself running an economy driven by profit for the few. Paying the rich has a direct impact on the workers who create the national social product. In this case, Ferrovial is said to be taking an "aggressive" stand to using the airports to siphon off huge

amounts of money from the social economy into its coffers. It is set to make "windfall" profits from the rise in value of its airports. And it is inextricably linked with finance capital in the way it raised loans to buy BAA and is part of the trend of what has been described as "private equity", whereby concerns which are vital to the social economy are made the target by private capital in order to break them up so that the holders of equity can make fabulous sums. It can be asked, how is it that concerns like airports which are so integral to the functioning of the economy are made the private playthings and milch-cows of individuals.

There can be no illusions about the intentions of Ferrovial. The security of the workers and their capacity to safeguard their jobs, pay and conditions will lie in their fight against the plans of big business and in their fight to uphold their rights. The workforce cannot accept that decisions are made behind closed doors and excluding them. It is their livelihoods which are at stake, and they are the ones who are taking day-to-day responsibility to ensure that the airports serve the needs of the people who use them. How dare Ferrovial treat them as less than human, as

The airport owner BAA is planning to cut up to 2,000 jobs after its takeover by Spanish infrastructure and construction firm Ferrovial it was announced at the end of August. BAA owns seven British airports including Heathrow, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

instruments to boost its profits and expendable! They should be involved in decision-making, just as working people in society as a whole should be able to have a decisive say in the direction of the economy and be in control of their own future. Nothing less is acceptable.

Since its take over BAA have also tried to take out injunction



on the people's right to protest at Heathrow Airport, signifying its stand in terms of the big business agenda to criminalise dissent on the issues the world faces at this time, like that of global warming. The airport workers and the climate camp protests against this corporation are both confronting the entity that is acting irresponsibly towards them, the workers' livelihoods and the environment which is precious to everyone. The common factor is the fight to end monopoly control and the monopolies' exclusive prerogative to make the decisions which affect people's lives.

So the airport workers must face the crisis of society and big business control head on in standing in opposition to these attacks. The airport workers have already voted 98% in favour of industrial action, but are now awaiting another ballot. The airport workers must be represented by their unions who have the task of standing up to BAA/Ferrovial. The attacks are part of the whole attacks being unleashed on the workers at this time, and so any opposition should be fully supported by the working class as a whole. There is a need to make the struggle of each workforce a common struggle and so organise a mass movement against big business control and for a society where the workers control the economy and are the decision makers and so solve the problems of society. *Workers' Weekly* wishes the airport workers every success in their actions!

STANDING UP TO THE PLANS OF BAA/FERROVIAL

Interview with Woman Worker at Heathrow Airport



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in control, the rights of the workers and their dignity seem to count for nothing. This is what is arousing the anger of the workforce who are ready to take a stand in defence of their interests.

WW: What actions do the workers or their unions plan?

Answer: From what I can see, workers are frustrated and they want answers and clarification what is happening. They know what they should do, but they need somebody to guide them, to explain what the company is actually up to. In this respect, unions are failing in being open and providing information. Also they do not involve the workers in the discussions they are having with management.

WW: What is the mood of the workers right now?

Answer: Morale is really very low; people are genuinely worried about what is going to happen. The announcement of job cuts, although management has told them that it is not going to affect frontline staff, actually affects everyone. It also has a profound effect on their families, and on everyone's livelihood.

The workers are angry and frustrated as well, which you can see when you talk to people. They are asking: what should we do to challenge these things which are thrown at us?

WW: What is the distinction between "frontline" staff and "back office" positions?

Answer: "Frontline staff" are the workers in security and information desk people, who are dealing with members of the public. But one way or another, the other staff support you, so it will affect everyone, not just "back office".

WW: Are there contacts with workers at other airports?

Answer: There is certainly a desire that there should be such contacts. But it should be the union which is organising this, getting the workers involved from every airport. Don't forget that the workers have limitations on what can be done on an individual basis. When we hear that at Gatwick they are planning to contract out the information desk work, we contact them just for clarification, but we hope that the union will be very active in informing people what is happening and taking up the issue we should be supporting each other. This does not just mean that we commiserate with each other how bad things are, but that we should be organising as fellow workers struggling against the same attacks.

WW: Can you say anything about Ferrovial's attitude to the workers' unions?

Answer: They are not very union friendly. There is also the attitude of the unions to Ferrovial, which perhaps should be less friendly

than it is!

WW: Do you have any other comments about what the future holds?

Answer: The future from the way things are going does not look very promising from the point of view of what the company is planning. At the same time, if the union played their role, and were responsible, informing the workers, guiding them, involving them, the future could be promising, for then the workers would be actively involved in resisting what the company is doing and arming themselves with guidelines for action.

In my view, there is a need for a space where discussion can take place. We are all shift workers. It is very difficult to organise, but it is not impossible. Also, working conditions are such that even when you are at work, it is difficult to have a discussion, say what you think, share what your views are. As far as BAA goes, although you are told "we are listening", when it comes to decision-making, it is never taken into consideration. The effect is just the opposite. There is nothing to see or to show that workers' opinions or views are taken into consideration.

There is still a ballot going on. There was an earlier ballot of 98% for industrial action, and the unions were invited back to the table to talk to management. Now

we are having another ballot, but in between nothing has changed, except perhaps that now we have drinking water!!

WW: Finally, would you like to say anything about the recent protests at the Heathrow Climate Camp and also the way the police dealt with it?

Answer: This company does not represent anyone's interest but its own. So I think there is some sympathy when the protesters challenge it on its stands towards the environment. Equally there was a mood to oppose the police interference and clamp down. It is clear that this is not just an issue that this is our workplace and our livelihoods are at stake. Those concerned about the damage to the environment have a right to protest, and there is also the issue of protesting about communities being bulldozed where people have been living for generations.

On the police, it was quite a nasty experience, seeing the police on horses, and so on. It is also difficult to come to terms with heightened security, have the police walking around with big guns. You certainly don't feel safer. For example, I told my son when he took a temporary job at the airport not to run, because you don't know when they are going to shoot. This is the environment you are working in. Guns don't make you feel safe.

WW: Thank you very much.

Brown's Speech to TUC:

ARROGANCE, CHAUVINISM
AND CONTEMPT FOR THE
WORKERS*Continued from page 1*

objective situation, Brown was attempting to impose on the workers' and trade union movement also that Britain is the country with high ideals, a moral purpose, and which is on the side of liberty on a world scale. By putting this theme at the beginning of his speech, by pushing with different wording these so-called "universal values" much beloved by the previous prime minister, by emphasising that "there is nothing that those in the cause of justice cannot achieve if they stand together", Gordon Brown was seeking to prepare the ground for his main call. This was that the unions should work together with government, big business and the banks in the project of backing globalisation and making Britain competitive in the face of the growing economies of China and India. That is, the workers should engage in social partnership on a grand scale and lay aside any hint of their independent programme. But Gordon Brown in treating the workers with such contempt was insulting the delegates' intelligence. They were not fooled.

Hollow promises

As the bourgeoisie's present

champion, Brown spoke to TUC Congress 2007 hailing the free market economy and the benefits of globalisation, as solutions that could provide every worker with a job, higher British living standards, and better public services. While claiming to hold the workers' interests at heart, Brown was promoting that the very system that in reality has failed the workers time and time again only offering the exploitation of persons by persons, could be yet again the saviour of the British people. If it has not been possible in the previous ten years of New Labour, not to mention the previous century and before, how could it be conceivably possible now?

Brown spoke of the "biggest transformation in employment our economy has seen for 100 years"! His hollow promises are simply there to make out that the Labour Party is on the side of the workers and attempts to combat the growing dissatisfaction that the workers have with the government, even though there has been a change of who is in the saddle.

Brown had audacity enough to speak of "a new role for new trade unionism in Britain", stating "our workers given the power to acquire the skills that give us the



bargaining power, the higher wages and then the prosperity". In other words, the workers should negate their interests in favour of doing business with the very people who live off their labour and keep them from power.

Ugly chauvinism

Brown's chauvinism and contempt towards other countries was unveiled in his aggressive statements that China and India pose a threat to Britain as developing economies. He caricatured the argument that Britain should not be engaged in a "race to the bottom". Workers and their unions are forcefully arguing against the destruction of the manufacturing base and the driving down of workers' wages and attacking their conditions of work. Their argument is that following the agenda of neo-liberal globalisation is a "race to the bottom" in the global market. Gordon Brown caricatures the argument that Britain should develop its manufacturing base and that workers' rights and interests must be defended as one of "sheltering from change". It is a caricature because not only does it not take account of the internationalism of the workers in fighting for the rights of all at home and supporting all those engaged in that struggle throughout the world, but it dismisses the necessity for a self-reliant economy serving the needs of its population. Rather it promotes the neo-liberal agenda of the monopolies competing and enforcing their dictate globally, which in Britain's case, according to Gordon Brown, must be

through a hi-tech, high-skill economy. His chauvinism continued: "Some people think that the twenty first century will be China's century....But I think that we have the skills, the inventiveness, the creativity, and the spirit of enterprise to make it a British century." This is ludicrous as it stands, but by a British century Brown means precisely the primacy of the values that New Labour has been promoting under the guise of "our way of life". Let us tell the Prime Minister that the empire on which the sun never set was dealt a death blow by the people's struggles some time ago, and in its death throes, in the project to "make Britain great again", can only be seen the ugliest chauvinism and injustice, with aggression, occupation, sabotage and subversion abroad, and in its service the escalating anti-social offensive against the people at home.

With industrial action taking place like that of the POA and RMT unions, the workers are not under any illusion that Brown and the class he represents are going to provide any answers to their problems. Brown's speech did not tackle anything that might show any recognition of the interests of the working class. The working class and trade union movement must condemn the agenda which Brown represents which is the agenda of big business, and their attempts to get the unions on side. The unions must be representative of the working class, developing the trend of acting in a new way with workers being fully involved

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Brown's Speech to TUC: Arrogance, Chauvinism and Contempt for the Workers

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in the decision making so that their interests and the interests of the whole society are gaining ground on the interests of the monopoly class. The unions must not be answerable to the government; they are not its economic wing.

Workers in struggle

The workers and their unions must reject with the contempt it deserves Gordon Brown's invitation to "work side by side in a national effort" so that "Britain can succeed and lead in the new world economy". They must expose and condemn the chauvinism with which Gordon Brown calls for Britain to be the "first country" (!) which can "genuinely say we liberate not just some of the talents of some of the people but all of the talents of all of the people". Brown's government of "all the talents" is one that deliberately excludes any role for the workers and their representatives but to be fodder for the monopolies' reactionary programme to take the world further down the road of fascism and war. This cannot and will not be accepted. The mood of the workers is to respond to the call to take up responsibility for the fate of society, to identify and fight for their interests, to refuse to conciliate with the reactionary programme of neo-liberal globalisation. *Workers' Weekly* salutes all those workers and unions in struggle to develop the workers' resistance and establish a Workers' Opposition to compel the monopolies and their political representatives to answer to the public good. The watchword of the trade union movement that an injury to one is an injury to all is one that must be fought for throughout society.

Gordon Brown at the UN:

Reject the Call for a "New International Partnership"!

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scourge of poverty, economic dependence, disease and other ills. He did not analyse that these ills are essentially a product or consequence of the global capitalist system. Not surprisingly, Brown, who made most of his comments in relation to the African continent, did not refer to the nature of the exploitative economic and political relations which characterise the modern world, nor did he mention Britain's historical colonial and neo-colonial role in Africa. Rather, he sought to present Africa's predicament as a matter that could be solved simply by the agreement of the "coalition of conscience". He argued that it was in everyone's interest, and particularly in the interests of big business, to solve Africa's problems, in order that that the continent could be more fully integrated within the global economy. It can be said that Brown like his predecessor continues to present the interests of the big monopolies in international affairs as the "humanitarian concern" of all.

Of course Brown had to acknowledge that agreements that had been made in the past, even after the adoption of the UN Millennium Goals, which Britain, the G8 and other countries agreed to in 2000, and which also intended to "develop a global partnership for development", had not been kept. The UN Millennium Goals were also based on the premise that agreement at the UN and pious declarations would solve the problems faced by the world's poorest countries. However, as Brown admitted in his speech, although these goals were set with the aim that they should be reached by 2015, in many areas very little progress has

been made. He therefore concluded that there is now "a development emergency which needs emergency action", and he called for an emergency meeting to be held next year which could report to the UN.

Brown called for "an international system that is truly fit for the 21st century agenda", but it is clear that he had in mind the agenda of big business and neo-liberal globalisation. The government is both unwilling and unable to recognise that the problems facing the world are an inevitable consequence of the very system that it champions. The acknowledgement that the world possesses both the wealth and the expertise to tackle these problems but is unable to do so is the greatest indictment of this system and the criminal zeal with which Brown and his government defend it.

In his speech, Brown made a big deal about the lack infrastructural development and the problem of environmental change in the world's poorest countries, as if his government was in no way responsible. But while weeping crocodile tears over the fate of the world's poorest countries, Brown has, for example, been one of the architects of the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), created in 1999 by the Labour government and the World Bank. The PPIAF, of which the British government is the largest donor, promotes the privatisation of water and other utilities throughout Africa, and in many of the other poorest regions of the world, to the detriment of the impoverished inhabitants and the environment but very much the interests of the big monopolies.

Brown's recipe for tackling the world's economic problems is largely based on the demand for "public-private partnership". He

arrogantly lectures the world on the need for adequate health services even though he is unable to provide such a service free and at the highest level in Britain, where the NHS is increasingly run in the interest of the big monopolies. But while demanding that more health service professionals should be trained in Africa and quoting statistics to show how few doctors and nurses exist in African countries, Brown was unable to acknowledge that the nature of the NHS is a major factor creating the conditions for the "brain drain" of health professionals from Africa and elsewhere.

It can be said that that his lecturing the world is as insulting and patronising as his lecturing the working class and people in Britain on "working together". The people are not fooled and can see that working together to implement the agenda of the monopolies can never be a solution when the neo-liberal agenda of privatisation, monopoly dictate and domination of world markets is itself the problem. Brown presents his demand for a "genuine partnership between governments and markets" as part of a moral crusade to rid the world of poverty. But this partnership, which is in fact the dictate of the monopolies, is the source of the world's problems and can never be their solution. Rather the world's peoples must empower themselves to become the decision-makers, remove the dictate of the monopolies and their governments and place themselves at centre stage. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people of this country to take up this agenda of empowerment, not hold back and to organise on the basis of their interests in unity with all those struggling for an end to exploitation around the globe.



Troop Withdrawal from Basra: End the Occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan! No Troops on Foreign Soil!

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or attempts to create sectarian divisions and civil war have succeeded in quelling. The demand of the anti-war movement is now that all troops should be brought home immediately, not sent from one war zone to another, and that Britain sever itself from the aggressive and hegemonic designs of empire of the United States.

As the British government decided to pull the troops out of their Basra headquarters, the US army commanders said they were "surprised" at the move. Meanwhile Major Tim Cross, the deputy head of the coalition's "Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance", denounced Washington's post-invasion policy as "fatally flawed". While Gordon Brown refuses to set a timetable for full withdrawal, the US and Britain have come into discord about the matter.

The MoD has stated, "The Iraqi security forces want to take full responsibility for their own security and the handover is a step towards that goal." The number of troops around Basra is to remain roughly the same, so is Britain actually planning to withdraw from Iraq or is the agenda of the Brown led occupation to focus efforts of imperialist war elsewhere?

Britain has announced no plans to withdraw from Afghanistan and so is this where they plan to continue their plans for occupation and domination? While the US have not been seen to be moving on the question of withdrawal, seeking to wreak revenge on the Iraqi people for daring not to welcome the aggressive occupation forces with open arms, and establish themselves permanently, Britain's generals have criticised this and are seen to be wanting to move on this question. So what does the question of withdrawal mean to

Brown and his government?

Firstly, they would not let go of their interests in Iraq, but do they expect that the instated Iraqi government will look after those interests?

It can be said that the Iraqi government was a product of the occupation by Anglo-American forces. In this sense, the Iraqi government is directly linked to the agenda of Anglo-US policy and its interests. So leaving the country in ruins and with its identity erased, they will leave the Iraqis with their resources shattered and a country to rebuild. But the issue is not that the Anglo-American forces should stay in order to rebuild Iraq, but reparations must be paid to the Iraqi people, for an unjust trespass on their soil and a de facto annexation.

So the sovereignty of Iraq and the right of Iraqi people to govern themselves are being trampled on, while the British government pays lip-service to these ideals. The big powers are still engaging in interference and domination, whilst advocating a so-called handover of power to the Iraqi authorities. The issue of bringing the troops home and ending the occupation completely is not something they are even beginning to touch on. The withdrawal they talk of is simply a façade of shifting troops and bringing into play the trained Iraqi authorities, in what they term as spreading democracy.

No foreign troops should be in Iraq as part of an illegal occupation. And no British troops should set foot on foreign soil. The working class and people have called time and again to bring the troops home. This is a call that must be continued with the full vigour of support for the anti-war movement, and in conjunction with the whole movement to change society and bring about an anti-war government created and decided on by the people themselves.
End the Occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan!
For an Anti-War Government!

Forthcoming Anti-War Events

Demonstration: Not One More Death - Bring the Troops Home

Monday 8 October

**Assemble Trafalgar Square for Lunchtime Rally 1pm
Demonstrate to Demand: Not One More Death – Bring All the Troops Home Now**

The Stop the War demonstration on Monday, October 8, the day Parliament re-assembles, will begin with a lunchtime rally in Trafalgar Square, at which the speakers will include Tony Benn, Mark Steel, ex SAS soldier Ben Griffin, NUS President Jemma Tumelty, Stop the War's National Convenor Lindsey German and Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union.

To get copies of the new postcard and stickers publicising the demonstration, call the Stop the War office on 020 7278 6694.

For more details, see: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

Stop the War Coalition Annual National Conference

Saturday 27 October

The StWC National Conference will be held on **Saturday 27 October at Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ**. The conference, at which perspectives and policies for the coming year will be discussed and voted on, is open to all current Stop the War individual members and to delegations from all affiliated organisations. Details on the submission of resolutions, the agenda and the fee will be available soon on the Stop the War website: www.stopwar.org.uk

All affiliated organisations are reminded that in order to send delegates they need to have renewed their affiliation for 2007/2008.

World Against War Conference

Saturday 1 December

Stop the War is proud to host the World Against War conference in **London on December 1**, which aims to bring together all those fighting for peace, self-determination and social justice around the world today. Speakers already lined up include former UN officials in Iraq, Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck. Peace and anti-war groups from South America, the Middle East, USA, South Asia, Africa, Canada and across Europe have been invited to send representatives. The World Against War conference will take place at Westminster Central Hall, adjacent to the Houses of Parliament. *Booking forms will be available soon but you can reserve your place by calling the Stop the War national office on 020 7278 6694.*

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