

Workers Weekly

Volume 37 Number 15 October 13 2007 50p

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

Opposing US Hegemony and the Anglo-American Alliance

Gordon Brown's government is now four months old but, despite pronouncements on the international stage that it

is time for change, it is clear that in the matters of foreign policy it is business as usual and a continuation of the dangerous, warmongering and

interventionist strategy followed by Labour governments over the past ten years.

The cornerstone of the foreign

policy of Labour governments has been to acknowledge the hegemony of US imperialism in international affairs and to

Continued on page 2

Not One More Death Demo: A SPIRIT THAT CANNOT BE CURTAILED



Demonstrators on Monday 8 October outside Parliament

As Gordon Brown made his statement on Iraq in what is upheld by the monopolies, government and media, as the centre of representative democracy, the Houses of Parliament, the people marched on this centre with the spirit of a democracy in

which the people are the decision-makers.

5,000 people took to the streets and made a unified stand to bring the troops home now. Despite the pre-march ban of the gathering in Parliament Square, the people came prepared to demonstrate.

This show of defiance was a victory for the protesters as the ban was lifted in time for the march.

The voice of the march was one of opposing Brown's "representative democracy" that has ignored the people's will that these imperialist wars should be

stopped. And in representing this will, it could be said that democracy was taking shape in the movement against war, as the demonstrators' demands to bring

Continued on page 4

Commentary

Postal Strike: Pensions, Jobs and Privatisation

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, SAW THE START OF ANOTHER 48-HOUR STRIKE FOR BRITISH POSTAL WORKERS. Postal workers walked out on the basis of resisting cuts in jobs and pensions, and that due to privatisation the postal service for British people was degenerating. The part-public part-private Royal Mail is making changes that will cost 40,000 jobs, a third of Royal Mail's workforce. Royal Mail has told the government there is no need to get involved in the postal dispute. Workers believe this is because if the

Continued on page 3

[inside]

Opposing US hegemony and the Anglo-American alliance **2**

Message of congratulations to the DPRK **3**

Forthcoming anti-war events **4**

Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press

Opposing US Hegemony and the Anglo-American Alliance

Continued from page 1

calculate that its aspiration to make Britain "great again", what Miliband now refers to as "a global hub", can best be realised by being the closest ally of the US. As Miliband explained: "our relationship with the US is the single most important bilateral relationship ... I think that Britain and America have a great shared project really which is to build the institutions and rules that can govern a planet, that we have to share with people across regions and across religions and across races." The Foreign Secretary added that in order for Britain to fulfil this global role "we have to be connected to the global power, and the global power is the US, so I think it's out of reasons of deep values, but also reality, a realism of foreign policy that suggests that a close and enduring relationship with the US is important for us all".

The "great shared project" and "deep values" of the Anglo-

American alliance simply mean a championing of neo-liberal globalisation, of the dictate of the monopolies and the export of forms of representative democracy across the globe. It is this warmongering project which dictates the British government's military actions in Iraq and its stepped up intervention in Afghanistan, as well as its bullying and threats against sovereign countries and peoples, particularly Iran, Zimbabwe, the Palestinian people and others. It is a "project" which is being increasingly opposed throughout the world, as the speeches by the representatives of many countries at the recent UN General Assembly demonstrated and has been shown by the political struggles and demonstrations of people in Britain and many other countries have also shown.

Contesting US hegemony

Some of the other big powers, such as Russia and China, which have their own global ambitions, also contest the global hegemony of US imperialism and its demand that all accept this hegemony and a unipolar world. Russia and China, as well as three central Asian countries, have strengthened their alliance through the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) first formed in 2001 and widely seen as a counterbalance to the aggressive US-led NATO. Several other



countries, including Iran, India and Pakistan, now have observer status in the SCO. Both Russia and China have shown opposition to US-led bullying and threats against Iran, in which both the French and British governments have enthusiastically participated. Recent months have shown clear divisions between Russia, the Anglo-American alliance and some of the other big European powers over US hegemony and a range of other issues, including the independence of Kosovo which is being manipulated shamelessly. It is also clear that some other European powers, particularly France and Germany, are seeking a closer alliance with the US than existed in the immediate past, and that therefore there are shifting alliances and rivalries between the big powers.

At the same time, it is evident that the contention between the big powers in Europe, Africa, Asia and elsewhere, where there are important economic as well as strategic interests, is increasing. Some see their interests as best served at present by the maintenance of a unipolar world, although with each attempting to strengthen its own position against its rivals, while others refuse to accept such a situation

and are openly opposing US hegemony.

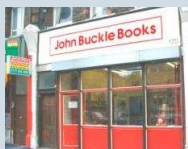
The people's opposition

The Labour government's foreign policy, which ties Britain to the war chariot of US imperialism, has already created great suffering and instability, a world in which "might is right" and in which the big powers, headed by the US, fulfil the dictate of the monopolies by acting as gangs of armed robbers which fight to divide the world's riches between themselves. In this situation, there is both growing contention between all the big powers but also increasing opposition to the hegemony of the US and the great danger of both regional and global war. But there is also the global movement of the people demanding and fighting for a new world, in opposition to the warmongers and exploiters, in which the people are the decision makers. It is therefore vital that the working class and people in Britain strengthen the opposition to the reactionary foreign policy of the Labour government, and organise to realise the necessity for people's empowerment and an anti-war government.



John Buckle Books

Centre for communism and communist and progressive literature from Britain and around the world



Opening Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm

E-mail: jbbooks@btconnect.com

170 WANDSWORTH ROAD, LONDON SW8 2LA
Tel: 020 7627 0599 or 0845 644 1979 (Local Rate)

Workers' Weekly

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

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

October 13, 2007 Volume 37, Number 15

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

Commentary

Postal Strike: Pensions, Jobs and Privatisation

Continued from page 1

government gets involved, Royal Mail will have to reveal its annual results, which would disclose that there is more than enough money available and the company is doing very well financially.

When the Postal Services Act was passed in 2000, the service was forced to compete with other communications companies. This has meant that instead of being there to provide a service Royal Mail is partly now another corporation aiming to make profit. This has had a severe effect not just on the service, but also on the postal workers' pay and conditions. Under these new conditions, postal workers receive £80 a week less than the average wage. Their current pension scheme will close, reducing their existing benefits and moving retirement age from 60 to 65. Instead of having a fixed job, postal workers often do not know what job they will be doing on a daily basis. This also includes the hours of the job which change day to day. To make their situation even worse it is the postal workers themselves who are being blamed for the destruction of Royal Mail. They are told by management that they are 40% under-efficient, even though mail deliveries have gone up.

Postal workers are also concerned about the service that is provided to the public. They say that proposed cuts would mean a less reliable service and later deliveries; 2,500 more post office closures; reduction in weekly post box collections, and no Sunday collections.

Postal workers resist

The postal workers do not accept the 2.5% pay rise offered to them by Royal Mail. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) has been in talks with Royal Mail bosses for eight days, but no agreement has emerged.

The union said a series of fresh strikes would start on Monday unless the deadlocked dispute – which has seen a previous 48-hour strike – is resolved.

Meanwhile the media, like with other recent strikes (such as the RMT strike) is creating hysteria about loss of profit and saying the strike is a public nuisance. Sensational headlines and outright attacks on the workers are aimed at distorting the strike's meaning to the rest of the British people.

Members of CWU also participated in Monday's anti-war march, affirming that they are mobilised on all fronts and oppose all attacks on the people, and so defend the interests of all.

The postal workers are resisting these cutbacks, while also defending the interests of the working class and people as a whole. In this vein the British working class and people should support the CWU strike action as part of their own struggle to resist the anti-social offensive that the ruling class has launched against the people. Workers must become unified, building their own forums, institutions and so on, where they can deliberate on their interests and the interests of society, and come to their own conclusions.

Organised to fight

Furthermore, the silence and disinformation about the postal workers and their stands by the government and media must be smashed. And the Prime Minister has no business making provocative and anti-worker statements about the workers and their actions.

The postal workers are showing true solidarity with their fellow human beings and are organised to fight for their and everyone's interests. *Workers' Weekly* fully supports the postal workers and their demands, and is fully behind their opposition to these attacks to the British people's postal service.

Message of Congratulations

This message was adopted at the Friends of Korea Meeting, October 7, 2007 (Juche 96) at the Marchmont Centre, London, UK

**To Kim Jong Il
General Secretary, Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman of the National Defence Commission
Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Dear Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il,

This meeting convened to mark the 62nd anniversary of the foundation of the Workers' Party of Korea conveys to you its warmest congratulations and through you sends its warmest best wishes to the Korean people.

This meeting applauds with great joy the signing on October 4 of the Declaration for the Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity. This Declaration represents a victory for the policy for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula formulated by President Kim Il Sung and carried forward and creatively developed by yourself and the Workers' Party of Korea. It truly reflects the aspirations and the united will of the Korean people for reunification. Korea Is One!

Furthermore, your far-sighted leadership and the implacable stand of the Workers' Party of Korea was also evident in the outcome of the Six-party Talks in which the US agreed to take such political measures as delisting the DPRK as a sponsor of terrorism and putting an end to the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act according to the

principle of "action for action".

The DPRK has the inviolable right to defend its sovereignty and independence, and develop the human and material resources to do so. It is the US military presence which has been a threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula for more than 60 years, since the division of the nation following the Second World War. It is the US that introduced nuclear weapons into the Korean Peninsula, in violation of the Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean War in 1953.

The development of Songun politics under your leadership and that of the Workers' Party of Korea is the sure weapon to defend the achievements of the Korean people and to thwart all the plans of Anglo-US imperialism to stifle and wipe out the DPRK and to achieve world domination. This meeting particularly draws attention to the ever-escalating offensive against the DPRK using the fraudulent issue of "human rights". This offensive is designed in essence to impose by force the Anglo-American values of "human rights" based on neo-liberal globalisation, the sanctity of private property and the so-called "universal" validity of social systems based on that model.

May we wish you on this occasion good health and long life, and assure you that we stand shoulder to shoulder with you in our common cause of building a new and different world.

Correction to last week's edition of *Workers' Weekly*

**Gordon Brown on Zimbabwe:
Britain's Hypocrisy and Hidden Agenda**

Page 6, Col.1, line 45 should read, 'political parties such as the Zimbabwean African People's

Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) were born.'

The address referred to at the bottom of Col.3 is to be found online in *Workers' Daily Internet Edition*, Year 2007 No.59, October 1.

Not One More Death Demo: A SPIRIT THAT CANNOT BE CURTAILED

Continued from page 1

all troops home now, and to put an end to the use of force, reflected the programme of the people for an anti-war government.

This democratic spirit was evident in that participants were

which Brown was making his statement, the pro-active slogans of the people were, "We are not criminals. You are the criminals", and also, "Whose Right to Protest? Our Right to Protest".

This affirmation of who is the legitimate power was an important

factor in the strength of the march: "Whose Streets? Our Streets!"

As well as a big youth presence, the workers took part with representatives of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) and also education workers' unions. Emanating from all was a militancy that made the march a serious force.

This force was not going

to be curtailed by any attempts by the ruling class or their authorities, and as such showed the mainstream of power does in fact lie with the people. The question is how to channel that power, a force for true democracy to take the steps to overthrow "those who have usurped power by force" and create a new society based on this democracy and in the defence of the rights of all.

This kind of march shows that the creation of an anti-war government is not only of the highest necessity for humankind, but that those on the march were representative of a force that could achieve such a goal.



exchanging literature and information. All wanted to listen to each other as to what form the march would take and what the aim of the march was and not to decide on the basis of which organisation one belonged to.

This spirit created a unity of thought and action, and so a heavy police presence did not faze the marchers even when the police split the march in three, trying to stop sections of the protest from carrying on. The protesters simply stayed unified in thought and action with one section upholding the other section demanding "let them march".

Confronting parliament, in



Forthcoming Anti-War Events

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.*



Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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

Web site: www.rcpbml.org.uk

e-mail: office@rcpbml.org.uk

WDIE sent by e-mail daily (Text e-mail): 1 issue free, 6 months £5, Yearly £10
Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

Phone: **0845 644 1979** (Local rate from outside London)
or **020 7627 0599**