

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



- Statement of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), March 15, 2008 -

Today, March 15, five years after the criminal aggression against Iraq by the US-led invasion and occupation force, the people are once more taking to the streets, taking a stand together for the end of war and in defence of the rights of all. Our Party, RCPB(ML), militantly salutes the anti-war movement on this occasion, and congratulates the countless numbers who have continued to build the anti-war movement from the grass roots throughout this period. This movement represents the militant forward march of the people to affirm themselves, to take a stand to condemn the Brown New Labour government for its part in imperialist wars of aggression and occupation and for the part it plays in the Israeli siege of Gaza, and to fight for and organise to bring into being an anti-war government of the people.

The Bush/Brown "global war on terror" has not only meant crimes against peace and the vio-

lation of the sovereignty of nations. It has meant attacks on the Muslim community in Britain, with vile accusations of "home-grown terror" and "Islamic extremism" directed against this community. Slanders such as accusing the people of Islamic faith in this country of being "un-British" and "separate" have been viciously used to create the impression of "the enemy within" in order to divide the polity and to undermine the just resistance to aggression and the "war on terror". Such a racist policy has led also to the stripping away of civil liberties, a raft of "anti-terror" legislation and "terror suspects" locked up indefinitely without charge. The movement against war has also embraced a strong unified movement in defence of the rights of all and to bring an end to the unjust treatment of the Muslim community, which is an affront to human dignity.

The movement which has been consolidated over the past five years is therefore a movement which says no to war and fascism,

the path down which New Labour has been leading the people, and to resist and block such a path. This is the here and now. The question arises as to how to develop such a movement, to put an end to war and fascism.

The political will of the people of Britain as expressed in the mass demonstrations against aggression and force has been consistently flouted by the ruling elite who have consolidated a pro-war government in their favour.

Today, under the banner of a "democratic imperative", the government has again signalled its flagrant disregard of the will of the majority in its intention to continue taking Britain down the path of global interference and empire-building.

Despite acknowledging that there is increasing opposition to imperialist wars, in the name of "exporting democracy" and imposing so-called "universal values" the government is attempting to justify the use of military might to occupy and dictate to other countries, particularly the devel-

oping nations.

The question of who has the political power to take decisions and implement them is crucial. An anti-war government can only be created by the working class and people themselves, and such a government vests sovereignty in the people. Such a government would respect the sovereignty of all countries big or small, having no truck with the imperialist

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No to a Foreign Office Acting to Impose "Universal Values" Globally!

The Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has delivered another keynote speech on foreign policy. In the wake of his recent pronouncements on the so-called "democratic imperative", the government's spurious justification for the global imposition of "universal values" and the system of representative democracy, the Foreign Secretary has now addressed the issue of restructuring his own department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, so as to enable it to be fit for purpose.

Miliband's speech to Britain's ambassadors was based on the same premise as his previous elaboration on the "democratic imperative" – that Britain is a great power that must continue to meddle in the affairs of other countries but that it must do so in the conditions of a rapidly changing world. In particular Miliband stressed that this century is likely to become what he refers to as "the Asian century", with the balance of power shifting towards China and India, but he also emphasised the fact that even if the world is not yet multi-polar, global institutions are becoming more important. In short, as a global player, Britain's foreign policy and Foreign Office must be adapted in order to continue to operate in the interests of the big monopolies in this changing world.

Government's foreign priorities

As set out by Miliband, the government's priorities become apparent. They can be characterised as, to maintain its warmongering activities under the guise of

combating "terrorism" and preventing those countries that do yet possess nuclear weapons from obtaining them; to intervene globally on the ground of "preventing and resolving conflict", and working with "weak and faltering states"; to interfere in the debate and actions relating to climate change; and to strengthen the hegemonic domination of its "universal values" and make sure that they form the basis for the activities of global organisations and institutions.

Warmongering hypocrisy

The government clearly does not consider its own possession of weapons of mass destruction, or indeed the other big powers' WMDs, as acts of state terrorism, but it nevertheless hypocritically attacks even those states that attempt to develop peaceful nuclear power. Only last week the government, along with the other big powers, sponsored the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution which imposed further sanctions on Iran for daring to establish a nuclear programme. It was also noticeable that Miliband even found time to launch his own attacks on Iran for its continued opposition to Israeli Zionism, while at the same time, he has condemned as "terrorism" the military actions of the Palestinians in Gaza and supported the infamous state terrorism of Israel, which he presents merely as its "right to security and self-defence". It is difficult to understand how such activity can be in any way presented as "preventing and resolving conflict". Indeed the government's warmongering activity in Iraq, Afghanistan,

Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and elsewhere has exacerbated conflict and created the conditions for even more instability in the future.

Making Britain "great" again

For the Labour government the issue remains how to make Britain "great" again. In the present conditions Miliband argued that Britain must become more of a "global hub" developing stronger relations with rising powers such as India, China and Brazil and re-positioning itself not just diplomatically but also in terms of the global role it plays in the academic, financial and other sectors. This was a theme that was also elaborated during his recent visit to China. For the government, what must underpin all such activity is the hegemony of what it refers to as "shared" or "universal" values. In this vein, he lectured the Chinese in a speech at Peking University, Beijing, on the exercise of "responsible sovereignty", as he coined it. He specifically took issue of what he called the "Chinese doctrine" of non-interference, in order to justify Britain's intervention throughout the world to "fetter" sovereign states with "a set of universal values".

Miliband has stressed the continuing importance of the Anglo-American alliance and placed almost equal emphasis on the EU, the reactionary institution that is also firmly based on "universal values", and which, he envisaged could assist so that global intervention was presented as multilateral rather than unilateral activity. But what was most evident from his speech was the requirement that the

Foreign Office becomes even better prepared and suited to interfere globally, particularly in the "developing world", in those "parts of the world where others find it difficult of impossible to operate". In particular it must be better prepared for the battle for "hearts and minds" and the struggle over values. To illustrate this issue in relation to Afghanistan Miliband pointed to the need for more Pashtun speakers and more anthropologists as well as greater expertise to develop new economic and political structures – in short it was a call for specialists who can assist in new forms of colonialism throughout the world.

An anti-war government

It is clear that the government is preparing its departments to continue to intervene throughout the world on behalf of the monopolies in the changing condition of the 21st century. Under the guise of promoting "universal values and democracy" and presenting and resolving conflict, it is continuing along the dangerous and warmongering path that places the global interests of the big monopolies in first place. It is the task of all democratic people to oppose and resist such a path, and to take a stand in defence of the sovereignty of countries and peoples. In order to guarantee a foreign policy that represents the interests of the majority, and that favours the masses of the people throughout the world, it is necessary for the working class and people to work to create the conditions for their own empowerment in the form of a genuine anti-war government.

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Confronting the Crisis of Climate Change

A formal warning was issued by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) that the "window of opportunity" to tackle the world's global warming problem will not be open for long. In a blatant show of lack of concern, transport secretary Ruth Kelly announced that the government has no plans to hold the airline monopolies to account over their continued expansion and their growing contribution to climate change. Meanwhile people who feel they have not been listened to and have had their concerns over carbon emissions shunned, are becoming more and more active on the issue of the environment.

John Sauvan, executive director of Greenpeace, stated, "The Government is simply failing to take the decisive decisions necessary to secure a safe future for our children in the coming decades."

It is clear that the government will not tackle the issue of carbon emissions from the perspective of the people who value the earth and environment in which they live. With this failure by the government to address one of the most pressing issues that faces humanity today, people go unrepresented and so are taking action that they see as their social responsibility.

As well as the Heathrow climate camp, among recent events in the movement was the court case of 10 activists who in April 2007 took action walking into the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station and locked on to the coal conveyor and assorted plant there. They presented their case as one of necessity, which means that they acted out of necessity as the power industry is responsible for 30% of Britain's carbon emissions and therefore has

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International Women's Day celebrations around the world on March 8, 2008



Protest Highlights Ongoing State-Sponsored Violence in Colombia, Calls for End to UK Military Aid

See www.justiceforcolombia.org

Over 200 people attended a vigil on March 6 in front of Parliament to commemorate the victims of state-sponsored violence in Colombia and call on the British government to end its policy of providing military aid to the Colombian regime. The vigil, organised by Justice for Colombia and the trade union Unite amongst others, formed part of an international day of protest against the ongoing human rights crisis in Colombia. Participants included Members of

Parliament from both the Labour and Conservative parties, as well as a visiting delegation of nine Colombian trade union leaders.

In addition to the politicians and members of the Colombian community in London, around 100 British trade union activists were present. Gail Cartmail, Assistant General Secretary of Unite, Britain's largest union, told the vigil: "Colombian President Uribe personally, and with great force, promotes an anti-trade union climate. His government is not only assassinating trade

unionists but through a plethora of anti-union laws is assassinating the very existence of trade unions themselves."

Nine Colombian trade union leaders, including the head of the CUT federation, Carlos Rodriguez, attended the vigil. Mr Rodriguez thanked participants for their support and solidarity and reiterated the opposition of the Colombian trade union movement to British military aid.

Britain currently provides secret military assistance to the Colombian security forces, including to units, such as the High



Above: Over 200 people attend a vigil on March 6 in London commemorating the victims of state-sponsored violence in Colombia and calling for the British government to end its military aid to Colombia. Credit: Justice for Colombia

Mountain Battalions, that have been repeatedly condemned for human rights atrocities. Justice for Colombia's campaign to end military aid currently has the support of more than half of all Labour MPs, the entire British trade union movement and every Labour Member of the European Parliament.

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responsibility in risking lives due to climate change. They were found guilty, for while it was admitted that their case was well put, the court could not find in their favour because it was held that it was not *their* responsibility to take action. One of the 10 activists stated after the case that he was disappointed that although the court found that there is a causal link between CO₂ emissions from Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station and deaths and serious injury due to climate change, it felt that it was the responsibility solely of governments. It is this pushed notion that the working class and people are simply there to vote every five years and that the important decisions on the future of their world are left in the hands of a select few who do not represent anyone or anything except the narrow interests of the monopolies, that poses the question of who should decide. It is the working class and people who should decide.

The monopolies that are responsible for major carbon emissions should be held to account, and it must be through renewing the democratic process that the working class and people assert their solutions to climate change. Unlike the monopolies, the working class and people are confronting the crisis of climate change, and they must empower themselves as the decision makers.

BUILD THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT! FIGHT FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT!

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conception of "failed" or "rogue" states.

The experience of the movement against imperialist war and occupation since the instigation of the "war on terror" has shown that there is a quality which can bring the anti-war opposition of the people into power, and solve this crisis of representation of the majority will in favour of the people. The unity in action of the anti-war movement has demonstrated the strength of the movement for change that has brought people together from different political backgrounds, in which workers, women, youth and national minorities have all participated to the full. The movement has developed its collectives, and the individuals within those collectives are becoming leaders, rejecting the passive role of following without thinking for one's self, but fully participating in the decision-making process.

The bloody torturous wars that have killed over 1 million people and left Afghanistan and Iraq with their resources plundered and revenge inflicted on the people, have exposed how anachronistic are the political arrangements of big-party governance. The clear task of the working class and people is to defeat the pro-war programme

of New Labour and the entire government, and to organise to elect an anti-war government. This requires the working class and people to take up the task of democratic renewal, standing their own candidates in elections, organising resistance, discussing with peers and mobilising collectives to take up the necessary work.

RCPB(ML) calls on everyone to take up this work, summing up the experience of building the movement, so as to create that political force which will settle scores once and for all with the warmongering of those that have usurped power by force and privilege. The working class and people of Britain, in unity with peoples around the world, are demanding an end to bloody wars.

The principles for which they are fighting are to uphold the sovereignty and equality of all nations; renounce the use of force in settling international affairs; uphold the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of others; remove all troops from foreign soil; adopt a foreign policy independent of the United States; end the militarisation of the economy; pay reparations for all of Britain's crimes of warmongering and imperialism; and to build fraternity between peoples.

This is the way forward for the anti-war movement!

Defeat the programme of pro-war government!

Forward in the work of building the anti-war movement!

Organise to elect an anti-war government!



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