

Workers Weekly

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Hail African Liberation Day!

May 25 is African Liberation Day, a day when the people of Africa and of African descent celebrate the victories won in their struggles against colonialism and for

independence, and pledge to strengthen their unity in the struggle against all exploitation and for the complete liberation of the African continent. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first African

Liberation Day held in 1958, at that time called African Freedom Day. It was held at a time when the majority of African countries were still languishing under savage colonial rule. Its aim was each

year to mark "the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolise the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign

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DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH: PROGRAMME FOR THE RICH AND THEIR INTERESTS

If Tony Blair's "Third Way" represented the road to fascism and war under the guise of renewing social democracy, Gordon Brown's "moral compass"

is the dedication of this road to the most repugnant chauvinism, under the guise of high ideals and so-called shared values. The draft Queen's Speech, set out by the



Prime Minister on May 14, exemplifies how far down the road of retrogression New Labour is intent on taking the country. It represents, in the face of an all-

round intensifying crisis, economic, political and of credibility, a

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Commentary

Utterly Shameful Stand of Gordon Brown on Israel

ON THE EVE OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAKBA, the catastrophe that befell the Palestinian people with the

creation of the Zionist state of Israel, Gordon Brown delivered a speech in which he spoke of how honoured and privileged he was to join with others "at the celebration of one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century".

The creation of the state of Israel was brought about by the dispossession of the Palestinian people of their homeland. Between 1947 and 1948 alone, over two thirds of the Palestinian people were brutally driven from their homes and more than 500 villages and neighbourhoods were totally destroyed in order to create the state of Israel. Today, as is well known, there

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Hail African Liberation Day!

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domination and exploitation".

It cannot be denied that in the last 50 years the peoples of Africa have made great strides in their struggles to liberate the continent and to counter the entire legacy of colonial rule and the enslavement of Africa's peoples and resources. European colonial rule of the old type has been defeated by the masses of the people taking their destiny in their own hands. The racist regimes of South Africa, Rhodesia and other countries, that like the hitlerites boasted that they would endure for a thousand years, and were backed by the governments of Britain and the other big powers, have been swept away. Great sacrifices have been made in this context, and so many have given their lives so that Africans themselves could be sovereign in their own land and determine their own future. In the course of these many struggles, the people of Africa have learned from experience that they are themselves the most decisive force in their own liberation, while at the same time recognising that their struggles are part of, and linked to, the struggle of all humanity for emancipation and empowerment.

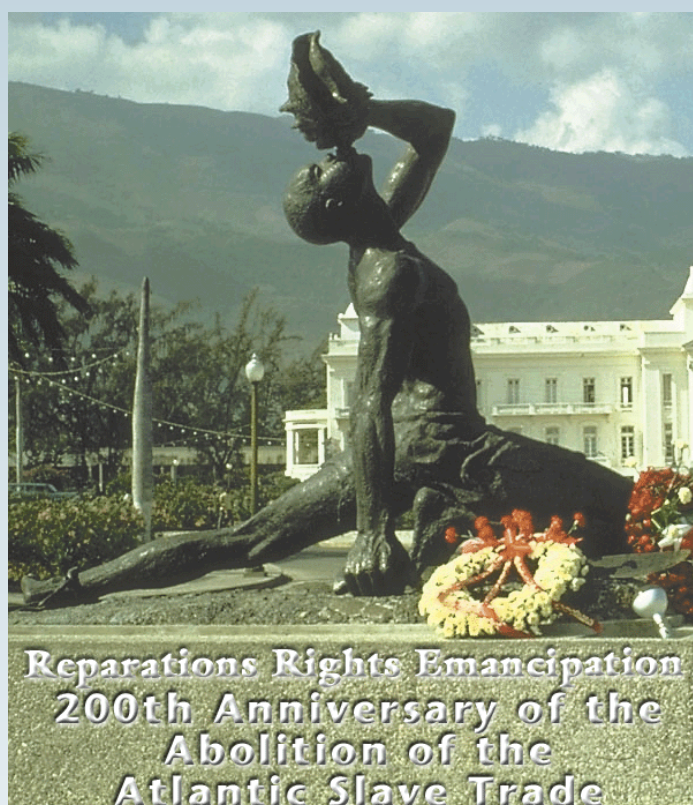
Obstacles in the path

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the first African Liberation Day, it is clear that there are still many obstacles in the path of the complete and total liberation of the African

continent. The British, US and other governments are demanding even more "trade liberalisation" and today, as in the past, there is an openly acknowledged "scramble" for the resources of the African continent, especially for oil, gas and minerals, involving all the big powers. Foreign direct investment in Africa is at an all time high and over 50% of this is to secure oil supplies. Africa is also one of the world's most important suppliers of gold and diamonds. The DR of the Congo has over 22% of the world's industrial diamonds. Indeed it is rich in copper, cobalt and many other minerals and yet remains one of the world's poorest countries, ravaged by conflicts instigated by external forces. The demand for Africa's resources has been accompanied by attempts at increasing military intervention and interference too, such as the US imperialist's Africa Command (Africom), as well as continued attempts to keep the economies and political systems of Africa under the control of the big powers through demands that all bow down to the Eurocentric notion of so-called universal values.

Disinformation campaign

As in the past, when the imperialists of Britain declared that Africa had no history and did their utmost to mask both the history and achievements of Africa and its peoples, so today too an immense campaign of disinformation and propaganda has been unleashed to justify a new colonialism under the guise



of concern for "failed and failing states" and the "responsibility to protect" that allegedly lies with the big powers, just as the "white man's burden" did in the past. It is in this context that attempts are being made to denigrate the anti-colonial struggles of the African peoples, to whitewash the crimes of colonial rule and to mask the fact that the cause of the problems confronting the African continent today remains global capitalism and the machinations of the big powers.

Step up struggles

In the face of these growing attacks on their continent and its resources, the peoples of Africa are refusing to submit to monopoly dictate and, often in very difficult and complicated circumstances, are endeavouring to determine their own future,

strengthen their unity, and to march forward on their own path of development. It is the duty of the working class and people of Britain, and is in their interest, to step up their own struggles against the British government and monopolies which today just as in the past are guilty of great crimes against Africa and its peoples. There can be no illusions about the 'humanitarian concern' of the British government. Its colonial arrogance, for instance in regard to Zimbabwe and other African countries, must be totally condemned. What is required is the stepping up of the struggles of the workers and the peoples of Britain to empower themselves, as part of the worldwide struggle for the liberation of all.

**Salute to the African peoples!
Hail African Liberation Day!**

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DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH: PROGRAMME FOR THE RICH AND THEIR INTERESTS

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programme to safeguard the rich and their interests and to make the workers pay for this anti-social offensive. The working class and people have the obligation to respond by getting further organised to defeat this reactionary programme of New Labour. This obligation is inseparably linked with the task of rallying the whole of society around the political programme of the working class to stop paying the rich and increase investments in social programmes for the public good, and to organise to elect an anti-war government that puts a stop to the use of force and coercion internationally, which is presently being used to enforce globally the will of international monopoly capital. At the top of this agenda of the working class for society is the defence of

If Tony Blair's "Third Way" represented the road to fascism and war under the guise of renewing social democracy, Gordon Brown's "moral compass" is the dedication of this road to the most repugnant chauvinism, under the guise of high ideals and so-called shared values.

the rights of all, especially minorities who are scapegoated for the ills of society, and to affirm that all members of society have rights by virtue of being human, and to organise that these rights are guaranteed in law.

That this independent programme of the working class is very necessary for society to be free of its crisis and the intensified attacks on the rights of all is demonstrated by what Gordon Brown is proposing for the government's next legislative pro-

gramme. Under the guise of a "more prosperous Britain and a fairer Britain", the Prime Minister introduced proposals for 18 draft Bills on the economy, education and health, citizenship and law and order, and so-called "constitutional renewal" amongst others. The policy objective of a more prosperous and fairer country is at odds with the depths of the crisis, of the whole record of New Labour carried out under this signboard, and even more fundamentally with the content of the proposed legislation.

On the economy, Gordon Brown refers to "the global downturn, the credit crunch and international oil and food price rises". The measures do not address these issues in any serious way, particularly in terms of any analysis of why these crises are occurring and hence what should be done to resolve the situation in favour of the economy and for working people. Nor do they call a halt to monopoly dictate. Instead, the Prime Minister is concerned first and foremost to shore up "failing institutions", the banks and financial services sector. It is the rich which Gordon Brown sees as the lynchpin of the economy, not the workers and the wealth that they alone can create, and it is the rich and their future that the Prime Minister is at pains to safeguard.

His proposals on education, which fly in the face of the right of all to education, follow on with the same logic. "Reform" and "change" are the watchwords, but what this means for the Prime Minister is that "reform" in education has to create a high-skill economy that competes for Britain plc in this sphere globally, and that "reform" in the welfare system has to ensure not that a livelihood is guaranteed as a right but that the victims of the system have to grasp the "opportunities" for so-called "lifelong learning" or risk

Full list of bills:

Banking reform bill
Saving Gateway bill
Business rates supplement bill
Marine and coastal access bill
Heritage protection bill
Education and skills bill
Equality bill
Welfare reform bill
Policing and crime reduction bill
Transport security bill
Communications data bill
Law reform, victims and witnesses bill

Citizenship, immigration and borders bill
Coroners and death certification bill
National Health Service reform bill
Constitutional renewal bill
Community empowerment, housing and economic regeneration bill
Geneva Conventions and United Nations personnel bill

(source: e-Politix)

being forced into devastating destitution. This is the reality, and the whole emphasis on so-called "choice" is a fraud to deny the necessity for social programmes to serve the socialised economy. It is all couched in terms of benefiting those out of work, but such rationalisations have now been exposed for far too long to have the slightest credibility. It is reform to favour monopoly right and to entrench wage slavery.

Some of the most sinister of Brown's proposals relate to

The working class and people have the obligation to respond by getting further organised to defeat this reactionary programme of New Labour. This obligation is inseparably linked with the task of rallying the whole of society around the political programme of the working class to stop paying the rich and increase investments in social programmes for the public good, and to organise to elect an anti-war government that puts a stop to the use of force and coercion internationally, which is presently being used to enforce globally the will of international monopoly capital.

"earned British citizenship" and the necessity to securing Britain's "borders". It is framed in such a manner and tone that no one can

be in doubt of the chauvinism of the British government, which deems that immigrants are a threat to the so-called British

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way of life, that immigrants are a drain on the economy, and so on. In other words, the basic human premise that no human being can be considered illegal or illegitimate is trampled on, in a crude attempt to divide the working class and people, to create a hierarchy of rights and to promote the values and morality of monopoly capital.

The government's draft legislative proposals are a further development of its 2007/08 legislative programme. In addition, they are a quite desperate attempt to keep the people hoodwinked that this programme of paying the rich and privatising social programmes is in their interests. But people's experience is telling them the precise opposite. This opposition of the working class and people must not be diverted into something like renewing the programme of New Labour that had supposedly won support in 1997. Rather it is the necessity for working people to take matters into their own hands, to defeat the New Labour programme, to work for democratic renewal and to transform society on the basis of the fight to defend the rights of all.

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS SOLUTION

Discussion:

The Economic Crisis and Its Solution

The unfolding economic crisis is rooted in the basic contradiction between the socialised economy and its competing privately-owned parts. The economic problems and crisis are worsened by the neo-liberal agenda to pay the rich and supposedly have the excess of their wealth trickle down to the people. This neo-liberal line is often expressed as the necessity to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few to strengthen the fortunes of the monopolies and the moneyed elite to make them competitive in the global market. The neo-liberal agenda in essence strives to transfer wealth from the actual producers to those privileged class elements that have usurped power by force.

The neo-liberal agenda intensifies the contradiction of a socialised economy torn apart into competing centres of power and wealth. The socialised economy is based on mass industrial production, distribution and consumption. Private ownership of its parts tends to concentrate wealth at one pole of the economy in the hands of a moneyed elite and deprive wealth from the vast majority who make up the working class. The concentrated wealth in the hands of a moneyed elite is expended in large measure in luxuries, war and parasitic “get richer” schemes within the realm of circulation in stock markets, commodity exchanges and other financial institutions. This generally results in squandered wealth at one pole and a lack of material resources at the other. Mass distribution and consumption are interrupted for lack of material means of the majority to purchase the mass produced commodities. Mass industrial production cannot find enough buyers for its commodities. The result is the death of industrial and other worksites before their time, falling rates of industrial capacity utilisation, unemployment and a general crisis.

Mass distribution and consumption are disrupted as a result of the cumulative effects of the

concentration of wealth in certain countries and within small moneyed elites in all countries of the imperialist system of states. When mass distribution and consumption of commodities originating from mass industrial production are interrupted by the concentration of wealth within a privileged moneyed elite, economic crises are the inevitable result. No matter how hard the ruling moneyed elite try to manage or regulate the crisis they cannot escape the fact that their concentration of wealth in private hands comes into conflict with the necessity to circulate mass production among the masses of people who are being deprived of the means to purchase the available commodities. The only short-term solution to the crisis is to restrict monopoly right to concentrate wealth in fewer hands and deny the moneyed elite their anti-social privilege of using wealth for war, luxuries and parasitic “get richer” schemes. Social wealth has to be forcibly reinvested into the socialised economy and distributed as widely as possible as claims of the working class and through social programmes guaranteeing the rights of all to the highest possible standard from birth to passing away within the material and cultural level their society has attained. Of course, the moneyed elite will not agree to this programme even though it is the socially responsible thing to do. They will have to be forced to do so by a well-organised working class opposition.

Personification of the Contradiction

Personification of the basic contradiction between the socialised economy and its private ownership finds expression in the conflict between those who own monopoly capital in its many forms, live off claims from that ownership or directly serve monopoly capital as executive managers, politicians, government officials, warriors and publicists versus those who must work for a livelihood either as

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS SOLUTION

employees of companies or through self-employment or running small family businesses and who on the basis of their own efforts and as best they can organise to defend themselves and the rights of all.

This basic contradiction between the socialised economy and private ownership of its parts, between workers and owners of monopoly capital finds expression in the realm of material value with the concentration of wealth in the hands of an ever smaller group of owners of monopoly capital and their retinue compared to relatively less wealth and even growing indebtedness of those who must work for a living. In colloquial language this is called the growing gap between rich and poor, which exists nationally and globally among nations. This division of material blessings between rich and poor, between owners of monopoly capital and workers within the country and globally, along with greater spending on war and standing armies, negatively affect the functioning of the socialised economy creating disharmony and recurring crises. By constantly taking a greater proportion of value for war and themselves, the moneyed elite increase the gap between what can and is produced and what can be realised (bought) by the people, invested in social programmes and reinvested back into the economy. Economic crises, immiseration of the people, unresolved social problems, war and environmental degradation are constant reminders that the basic contradiction within the economy must be resolved for humanity to advance.

Economic Obscurantism

When the mass media explain the unfolding crisis as a result of sub-prime mortgages in the US, where certain people were given mortgages even though they could not afford them or suggest it was the creation of exotic schemes for big scores such as "securitised collaterals" or "asset-backed commercial

paper", they are obscuring the basic contradiction between those who own monopoly capital and those who do not, and all its disruptive consequences. They are obscuring the fact that international usury, militarisation, war, and parasitic and anti-social schemes to pay the rich and drain money and capital from the socialised economy and concentrate it in the pockets of legalised monopoly gangsters is normal for a socialised economy that languishes under the domination of private ownership of competing parts. These schemes and damaging consequences such as crises are naturally occurring festering sores oozing from a socialised economy that has not yet been able to move forward and cure itself of a lingering disease that originated in its feudal origins of petty private production. To defend itself and the socialised economy, the working class must directly attack these open wounds as best it can even as it prepares itself mentally and organisationally to deal with the basic cause and source of the problem, which is the political power, control and private ownership of the socialised economy by ever-larger concentrations of monopoly capital.

Working Class Opposition

The basic contradiction, the root cause or disease within the system and its expression in recurring crises is aggravated and made more ferocious by the many anti-social practices of the ruling moneyed elite. Those anti-social practices can and must be directly opposed by a well-organised working class opposition. Those practices include the anti-social offensive; using the state machine to attack workers' claims for wages, benefits and pensions and even their employment and work places; state-organised and other pay the rich schemes; corruption and parasitism caused by the concentration of wealth and the merging of banking with all sectors of big business and its global monopolies; the de-industrialisation and

annexation of the economy into the US Empire; military spending and war.

These anti-social phenomena deepen the recurring economic crises, leave unresolved society's many social problems and open sores afflicting the economy. Strong medicine to deal with the economic crisis and its symptoms is found in the negation of the anti-social offensive through increased spending on social programmes and firm opposition to privatisation; state guarantees to all people to the highest possible standard of living from birth to passing away; cancellation and prohibition of all state-organised and other pay the rich schemes to a privileged moneyed elite and alternatively investing money into publicly owned and controlled projects to serve the public good; the creation of a public banking system under the control of elected representatives, and the restriction of monopoly control of the circulation of money and capital both within the country and internationally; reversing de-industrialisation by building a self-reliant pro-social economy through investments in public projects in distressed sectors and communities and public control of the wholesale sector and imports and exports; and defeating the war government and electing an anti-war government.

Defeating the Anti-Social Offensive

The anti-social offensive of attacking social programmes, privatising public health, education and electric power production and distribution, and reducing corporate taxes while increasing individual taxes aggravates the economic crisis and makes it even more ferocious. An antidote is to increase spending on social programmes and guarantee the well-being of all. It means to ensure the highest possible standard of living for all and free public healthcare, education and other public services such as public transport, parks and culture. The antidote also includes opposition to all private monopoly

capital in healthcare, education and electric power production and distribution. The alternative entails government spending on public works under the ownership and control of governments especially in those regions hard hit by an economic downturn. All government claims on realised added-value (taxes) must come from corporations at the point of production and distribution and not from individuals.

Attacking Workers' Claims to What They Produce

The use of the state to reduce workers' claims on what they produce and distribute must be stopped. The claims of all workers must at least reach a decent and liveable standard for wages, benefits and pensions. This requires independent worker organisations at every workplace to defend the rights of their members and the restriction of monopoly right to use the state to deny the right of workers to defend their basic interests including their basic right to such a claim to a livelihood and to employment.

Stop Paying the Rich

State-organised and other pay the rich schemes are examples of class privilege wrecking the socialised economy. Paying the rich through state grants, interest free loans, tax concessions or guaranteed contracts, Bank of England and government bailouts of big banks, attacking the most vulnerable, privatising the public commons and turning the country's resources into private opportunities to build empires are all examples of class privilege ruining the socialised economy, negating the public good and exacerbating economic problems. Class privilege of the moneyed elite should be banned from modern life. The working class is responsible for taking action against privilege, as it is the only force with the numbers and determination to enforce a prohibition against individual privilege and corruption in all walks of life.

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Private Monopoly-Controlled Circulation of Money and Capital

A public banking system controlled by elected representatives of the people and bank employees must be created to restrict private control of banks. People should discuss the issue of public and co-operative banks for investment within the socialised economy which would sever links with the international imperialist banking system and international banking renewed only as part of publicly-controlled trading relations on a bilateral basis with trading partners.

Military Spending and War

The war government should be defeated and an anti-war government elected to power. The anti-war government would immediately bring all troops home and sever relations with NATO, and develop a foreign policy independent of the US and European Empires. The anti-war government would campaign internationally and within the United Nations for an end to war and violence as methods to resolve disagreements and conflicts among nations and countries. All the militarisation of the economy must be stopped and the principles of an anti-war government implemented. The obsolete line that Britain has the obligation to use hard and soft power to impose universal values and protect its way of life must be replaced with the modern view that our security lies in the fight for the rights of all and the mass mobilisation of the people to defend themselves and their rights consciously holding high the human factor/social consciousness.

Directly restricting monopoly right and taking action in these areas would ease the suffering of the people and mitigate some of the worst symptoms emerging from a socialised economy under the domination of owners of private capital. These pro-people actions and measures would reverse the trend of the rich get-

ting richer and poor poorer and the ever-increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of private monopolies and owners of monopoly capital. These measures restricting monopoly right would generate enthusiasm among the workers and their allies to adopt the thinking of the human factor/social consciousness and to solve the basic contradiction of private monopoly control and ownership of the socialised economy. Upholding a revolutionary alternative to resolve the economic crisis would help prepare the subjective conditions to cure the disease and rid the economy once and for all of its festering open sores and recurring crises through the harmonisation of social production with social ownership and the creation of a self-reliant pro-social economy without private ownership of the basic means of production and distribution and without recurring crises. The actual producers could then put their minds and bodies to the task of planning and building an harmonious socialised economy that serves the aim to humanise the social and natural environments and create the conditions for the emancipation of the working class not only in Britain but for the working class to accomplish its proletarian internationalist duty.

Such are some of the tasks facing the working class in this period of a worsening economic crisis and the domination of the neo-liberal agenda. Let us together smash through that capital-centred agenda and put at centre-stage the agenda to build a modern polity in the image of the working class, the most numerous, forward-looking and modern class. Let us together organise for democratic renewal and to bring into being a modern socialist Britain where sovereignty resides in the people, and the rights of all who are resident are guaranteed by virtue of being human.

(adapted from an article by KC Adams)

Utterly Shameful Stand of Gordon Brown on Israel

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are some 6-7 million Palestinian refugees, still denied a homeland, while many others are oppressed and discriminated against within Israel's borders, or subject to military attack and occupation. Today the denial of the right of the Palestinian people to their own homeland and to self-determination ranks as one of the key problems for solution in the world. Yet the Prime Minister of Britain is prepared to make a speech which totally ignores these rights and this reality, preferring to celebrate the creation of one of the most oppressive states in the world, which today continues to brazenly breach UN resolutions and international law and which remains one of the main causes for instability not just in the Middle East but throughout the world.

In making such comments, the Prime Minister was restating what has long been the policy of British governments, which have supported Israel, economically, politically and militarily since its creation in 1948. The conclusion must be drawn that he has deliberately and shamefully chosen to do so at this crucial juncture when the clash between what is just and what is unjust is coming to a head, and the democratic forces are taking a stand to uphold the right to be of the Palestinian people. Britain, the US and the other big powers have long viewed Israel as a cat's paw in the Middle East, a means to destabilise and dominate that region, to wage

war against its neighbours and to create the pretext for continuing interference and intervention by the big powers themselves. By their actions in continued support of Israel, the governments of Britain, the US and other countries are guilty of great crimes against the Palestinian people and are themselves in breach of international law.

In his speech Gordon Brown also made much of the fact that in 1995 he willingly accepted an invitation to visit Israel and deliver a lecture celebrating the infamous Balfour Declaration, the letter issued in 1917 by the then Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, on behalf of the British government, which declared its support for "Zionist aspirations" and the establishment of "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Once again it speaks volumes that today the Prime Minister can talk of celebrating such an event, an announcement by a British government that it would take up the banner of Zionism and renege on agreements previously made to the Arab people with a lack of principle typical of its colonialist outlook. Between 1917 and 1947 Palestine was governed by British governments that illegally and systematically dispossessed the Palestinian people of their lands and pursued the policy of "establishing a national home for the Jewish people" through violence and terror. As the Division for Palestinian Rights, established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, has put it, the Balfour Declaration,

which was adhered to by successive British governments after 1917, "can be considered the root of the problem of Palestine...It ultimately led to partition and to the



Nablus,
May 15, 2008



15,000 people demonstrated in London on May 10, 2008

Cuba Proves Links: US Diplomats-Terrorists



problem as it exists today."

Brown's sycophantic comments about Israel's creation and history, his praise for the crimes that it has carried out and his promise that Britain will remain its "true and constant friend in good times and bad" should be resolutely condemned. They merely serve to expose once again the hypocrisy of a government which claims that it is also concerned to create a "peaceful Middle East" and what is referred to as a "viable Palestinian state". They also place the British government, as US President Bush sojournd with the Israeli regime and affirmed that the US imperialist project is at one with the Zionist project, firmly as part of the Anglo-US alliance.

Gordon Brown's speech celebrating the creation of the Zionist state of Israel and the criminal actions of British governments over the past 90 years, demonstrates that this government remains the enemy of the Palestinians and all the peoples living in the Middle East and that it continues to pursue the same reactionary path as its predecessors. It demonstrates the necessity for the working class and people to find the means of empowering themselves, so as to take Britain in a different direction. What it required is a foreign policy based on the interests of the majority, which prohibits criminal intervention and interference in the affairs of others; one that recognises and supports the inalienable rights of all peoples to live within their own homeland and determine their own future.

Cuba on May 19 denounced the scandalous links between US diplomats based in Havana and terrorists resident in the United States, by means of which Cuban counter-revolutionaries receive financial and material support.

Over a dozen e-mails and a video recording were presented as proof by the Director of the State Security Historic Investigations Department, Manuel Hevia, in a news conference at the International Press Centre (CPI) in Havana.

The evidence shows the brazen connections between Cuban-born terrorist Santiago Alvarez Fernandez Magriñat and Michael E Parmly, head of the US Interests Section in Havana, in supplying sums of money to a female counter-revolutionary in Cuba.

For this illegal operation they used an alleged foundation called Rescate Juridico, apparently a non-profit organisation devoted to providing help, including food, clothes, and money.

Josefina Vidal, head of the North American branch of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, said at the news conference that for several years Cuba has repeatedly denounced the subversive actions organised, promoted and sponsored by the US government and by enemy organisation based in that country.

According to Vidal, a recent investigation by local authorities showed irrefutable evidence on a new qualitative fact, something she called "unusual and scandalous": US diplomats with the Interests Section have served as emissaries in the remittance of money from US based terrorists to counter-revolutionaries in Cuba.

The Cuban diplomat stressed that for the first time her government has evidence that US repre-

sentatives have served as vulgar go-betweens at the service of a notorious terrorist, currently jailed in the United States on weapons charges, which he intended to use in violent actions against Cuba.

"We are talking of no other than notorious terrorist than Santiago Alvarez Fernandez Magriñat, who manages to send money and material help from prison to mercenaries in Cuba, with the support of Michael E Parmly," said Vidal.

The Cuban government, she noted, has always condemned as illegal the use of federal funds to promote counter-revolution within the country, and the direct role of the US diplomats in Havana in their distribution to local mercenary groups.

The investigation, said Vidal, has proved that heads of counter-revolutionary groups in Cuba influenced the reduction of the penalty on Santiago Alvarez by presenting him as a benefactor of mercenary groups in Cuba, which is in tune up with Washington's policy, and not as the terrorist and benefactor of terrorists he truly is.

The Cuban diplomat raised the question of whether the Bush administration, which advertises the war against terrorism as the cornerstone of their foreign policy, knows that their top diplomat in Havana is collaborating with a notorious terrorist.

Vidal also considered it worthy to wonder if this collaboration between US government officials and terrorists is a new policy and a part of the infamous secret annex of the Bush Plan against Cuba.

By doing this, said Josefina Vidal, Washington is not only violating Cuban laws and sovereignty but also international conventions on diplomacy and the fight against terrorism.

For his part, Dr Manuel Hevia

explained about the investigation and presented some evidence of the new US interference in Cuba's internal affairs. The research, he said, abides by national and international laws on the war against terrorism, and the evidence has been properly legalised by Cuban authorities.

The terrorist Santiago Alvarez, said Hevia, is well known for his participation in mercenary attacks on Cuba in the 1960s and 1970s, and for his direct links to the assassination attempt on Cuban former President Fidel Castro in Panama on 2000.

Alvarez was also responsible for armed infiltrations into Cuban territory in 2001, said Hevia, who went on to mention phone conversations with fellow terrorist Yosvani Suris, where he instructed the latter to go inside the Tropicana Night Club in Havana to throw two cans of C-4 explosives.

According to the Cuban official, Alvarez also led the operation to smuggle terrorist Luis Posada Carriles into US territory.

The ongoing investigation process has gathered considerable evidence, and proved the ways and modus operandi used by Alvarez to introduce money into Cuba by means of emissaries who deliver it within the country to internal mercenaries, Hevia added.

Finally, Josefina Vidal reiterated the seriousness of the facts denounced by Cuba on Monday, which reveal that the US Interests Office promotes and meticulously monitors activities aimed at provoking and causing public disorder.

The Cuban government will continue investigating and denouncing these deeds, for their illegal nature and because they pose a threat to internal peace and stability, concluded Vidal.

ACN, Cuba, May 19, 2008

Denounce the Latest Attack on Cuba Promoted by the Bush Regime!

- Statement of Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), May 20, 2008 -

RCPB(ML) vigorously condemns yet another anti-Cuban action promoted by Washington in the form of the first so-called "Cuba Solidarity Day", May 21.

This day rests on the lie, promoted by the US State Department, that hundreds of so-called "prisoners of conscience", political prisoners, are held in Cuban jails. It is a lie echoed by the British government, as in a statement by Geoff Hoon in the House of Commons last year, and embodied in the "human rights" page of the Foreign Office website. Thus the British government once again acts as an ideologue, using the "human rights issue", to justify US imperialist mendacity and aggression.

Our Party salutes the revolutionary path which has been chosen by the Cuban people themselves. It is since January 1, 1959, with the victory of the Cuban revolution, that one can genuinely count the independence of Cuba from the clutches of the US, not the formal date of May 20, which the US administration is now promoting. The US always retained its option to interfere and commit aggression against Cuba, and it is the revolution which has guaranteed that this will not succeed. The situation remains dangerous for the Cuban people in the face of the viciousness and revenge-seeking of US imperialism. But the defence by the Cuban people of their revolution is not only a contribution to their own sovereignty and independence, but is a mighty blow for the liberation of humanity on a world-scale.

Anglo-US imperialism is attempting to step up its provocations in the face of the revolutionary achievements of the Cuban people. They have set into motion paid elements to demand the release of counter-revolutionaries sentenced for criminal activities against the Cuban people. The Cuban people vigorously reject and oppose these provocations. It is the United States which holds true "prisoners of conscience", as with the "Cuban Five" patriots, unjustly imprisoned in the US for nearly ten years. It is the United States which is the sponsor and instigator of terrorism, especially state terrorism, not only against the Cuban people but throughout the globe.

Our Party calls on the British working class and people to uphold the right of the Cuban people to self-determination and self-defence. RCPB(ML) calls on all democratic people in this country to add their voices to those of all true friends of Cuba worldwide in their condemnation of the attacks, provocations and blockade by the US regime against the Cuban people. It further calls on all justice-loving people in Britain to demand of the British government that it dissociate itself unequivocally with the attacks, fabrications and slanders against the Cuban revolution.

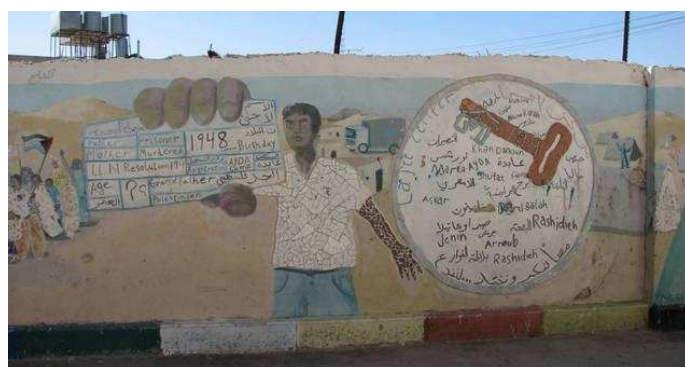
We take this opportunity once again to express the profound confidence of our Party in the Cuban revolution, its processes and institutions and its leadership, which is dedicated to fighting injustice and oppression of every kind, and which has the love and respect of progressive people around the world.

Long Live the Cuban Revolution!

Photos marking the 60th anniversary of the Naqba of the Palestinian people



Photos clockwise from above:
Nablus, May 15, 2008; Key symbolising determination of refugees to return to their homes; demonstrator at Toronto rally on May 10 affirming Free Palestine; Painting on the wall of the Aida refugee camp in Palestine; Possibly world's largest key, symbolising right of return.



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