

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

Cuba's Heroic Hurricane Relief

RCPB(ML) expresses its profound admiration for the efforts that the Cuban people and state are carrying out to overcome the severe damage caused to the

island by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. It expresses contempt for a US offer of "disaster relief" which came with strings attached. The government of Cuba does not need any

conditional "aid" from its greatest enemy. It just expects a civilised country to allow trade without restrictions.

Cuba has always organised to provide for its people on the basis

of its own efforts, and it has done so in the face of the present hurricanes, providing a telling example to its imperialist neighbour. In fact, as is well

Continued on page 2

RUSSIA-GEORGIA CONFLICT

CONDEMN THE HYPOCRISY AND BELLIGERENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT



Militant actions at US Democratic National Convention demand No to War!

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have both made belligerent statements and issued threats towards Russia in the recent period, following the military conflict between Russia and Georgia and leading up to last

week's extraordinary EU summit which was held to discuss that conflict.

Both Gordon Brown and David Miliband subsequently attended the EU summit where, according to news agency reports, Britain was

the country most determined to condemn and take further punitive measures against Russia, supported by Poland and some of the other countries of "new Europe", while the other big European powers favoured a more conciliatory

approach. The EU summit finally agreed to condemn Russia's recognition of the independence of the disputed regions of South Ossetia

Continued on page 4

Commentary

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the DPRK

THE FOUNDING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) on September 9, 1948, was an event

that was charged with historical significance. Its achievements over these 60 years have not only been a source of pride for the Korean people. It is the continued existence of the DPRK which has been a thorn in the side of world reaction, and a decisive factor for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia as a whole. Its steadfast stands throughout these 60 years against US hegemony have continued to be a significant contribution to the struggle of the world's people against US imperialism and the opposition of struggling peoples to big power dictate, aggression and interference. Not

Continued on page 2

[inside]

Cuba's heroic hurricane relief 2

On the Russia-Georgia conflict 4

Hail the 60th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK! 4

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Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the DPRK

Continued from page 1

only this, but the defence of the people of the DPRK of their sovereignty, and the building of the social system of their choice which has withstood all the attempts of the big powers and reaction to subvert it, is both an inspiration and an example to democratic people of all countries who take up the task themselves of becoming decision-makers.

It should not be forgotten that only three years before President Kim Il Sung led the Korean people in founding the DPRK, the Korean people under his leadership had won their liberation from Japanese colonialism, as part of the world's titanic struggle against fascism and against the most reactionary forces of the world who wanted to block social progress and wipe out communism and the cause of the working class. The progressive forces in every country were faced with the task of building a people-centred system in their own national conditions and in the context of the new international situation. The Korean people embarked on their own next step of nation-building in this context, freed from Japanese occupation, and set about building a socialist system which is characterised by independence in politics, self-reliance in the economy and self-reliance in national defence.

The fledgling DPRK faced very great difficulties. The US had installed its puppet government of Syngman Rhee in the "Republic of Korea" in the south on August 15, 1948, which divided the Korean

nation, in physical terms if not human terms. But the DPRK was then and remains a bulwark against the interference of the US imperialists in Korean affairs. Under the direction of the Workers' Party of Korea, led first by President Kim Il Sung and now by General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the DPRK has been able to overcome the great hardships which history has presented, especially the brutal war forced on it by US imperialism from 1950-1953.

After the war, the DPRK had to carry out the revolution and socialist construction through many stages, under the very difficult conditions of military threats and economic blockades imposed by the big powers under the aegis of the UN but led by US imperialism. With fidelity to their principles and profound conviction of the justness of their cause, the Korean people overcame all these difficulties and adversities and today are following their chosen socialist path putting the people at centre stage.

Korean reunification

The significance of the founding of the DPRK stands out in sharp relief on this 60th anniversary. The DPRK continues to be decisive as a factor for peace in the region as it works diligently for the emergence of a united, dignified and independent Korean nation. Its steadfast refusal to submit to US blackmail on the nuclear issue with the aim of expelling the US imperialists and their nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula is an affirmation of its sovereignty and a block to US hegemony.

Cuba's Heroic Hurricane Relief

Continued from page 1



known, Cuba self-sacrificingly provides tremendous support for the peoples of other countries in their time of need also.

Thanks to the resolve of the Cuban revolutionary project, the loss of lives in Ike was kept to an absolute minimum, no-one was killed by Gustav, and the Cuban people's needs are made a priority. Under all conditions and circumstances, the Cuban state puts its full weight behind organised efforts to provide the needs of the people with a guarantee.

Viva Cuba!

The bright future of a united and sovereign Korea free from outside interference in its affairs is being realised in spite of all the difficulties. The long-standing struggle of the Korean people to achieve national reconciliation and reunification of the country consolidated at the historic north-south agreement of June 2000 continues to flourish through the sincere efforts of Korean patriots from the north and south and abroad and all justice-seeking peoples. Great strides have been made through joint actions on the fronts of the economy, transport, culture and sports, including travel of dignitaries and family members separated by the division of Korea. These successes have been inseparably linked with the efforts of the DPRK in defending its sovereignty, protecting the reunification movement from US imperialist interference, and allow-

ing the Korean people to undertake the historic task in a manner which serves their own national interest. By their efforts to keep the US in check on the Korean peninsula, the Korean people have contributed also to the cause of world peace. The Koreans will never step back from the principle that human rights precisely mean sovereignty. They remain strong in their determination to defend Korean-style socialism, their life and soul, at the cost of their lives.

There is a great tradition of national unity of the Korean people, which has remained a counter to the designs of imperialism for physical and ideological domination, which today goes under the signboard of globalisation and the upholding of so-called universal values. In the period leading up to the founding of the DPRK, Kim Il Sung himself initiated a conference

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Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the DPRK

to further the national reunification movement at a time when the US was attempting to impose colonial enslavement on the Korean people and had installed Syngman Rhee in the south of Korea. So today, the steps to achieve overall national unity are countering the big powers' attempts to keep the Korean nation divided and impose foreign domination. The US cannot countenance having a unified Korean nation of close to 85 million people which is based on self-reliance. What a factor for progress and against imperialism such a unified nation would be! The struggle to reunify Korea can thus be said to be at the heart of the struggle for peace on a world scale.

Weathering difficulties

The history of the Six-Party Talks has also been an example of the contribution of the DPRK to peace and security, opposing for example the listing of the DPRK as a terrorism sponsor and working out ways forward to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. It is, of course, the United States that has used nuclear blackmail, while spreading disinformation about the DPRK as a "nuclear terrorist state". Through these talks and its stands in defence of sovereignty and security, the DPRK has played an immense role in frustrating the geopolitical ambitions of the US in East Asia. The US has recently engineered the coming to power in the south of the Lee Myung Bak group which has been doing everything it can to sabotage the advances toward reunification which have been made since the signing of the Joint Declaration. Despite these setbacks, the DPRK is focusing on the ultimate goal of the independent reunification of the Korean nation. The Korean people, through their own conviction and

practice, are determined to secure the peaceful and independent reunification of their homeland under the banner of "By the Nation Itself".

The DPRK has weathered difficult challenges in its sixty-year history. In recent years, the country has experienced unprecedented difficulties, especially in its economic life. The main cause has been the further tightening of the economic blockade and military threat against it imposed by the US imperialists and their allies. There was also the disappearance of the socialist market at the time of the end of the bipolar division of the world, as well as many natural disasters. However, the Korean people have emerged firm in their conviction that final victory lies with them and that the economic difficulties caused by external factors are only temporary and will be overcome.

In recent times, we read that fresh progress has been made in agricultural production to provide food for the people, as well as in economic construction, especially the consolidation of basic industries, which are the lifeline of socialist economic construction. At the same time, priority has been given to military affairs in order to safeguard the socialist system and defend it in the spirit of self-reliance against the determination of US imperialism to wipe it off the map. In this, as in other areas of life, the mobilisation of the people themselves is made the key. They see the principles of revolution and socialism as their own, because their socialist system places the concerns and well-being of the people at the centre.

In control of own destiny

In the 60-year history of the DPRK, what stands out is precisely that the Korean people have been

placed in control of their own destiny. The will of the people is at one with the governance of the country. This is an important tenet of modern democracy, which is a task taken up by all democratic forces for implementation. The Korean people, under the leadership of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and the Workers' Party of Korea, have forged their own way forward, as is the right and duty of any and every nation and people. As the Pyongyang Times explains, referring to the leadership of Kim Il Sung in realising the tradition of people's government in practice in the DPRK, "He saw the people's revolutionary government as the most ideal government that conformed to the character of the Korean revolution aimed at anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democracy and the needs of the people." This system of socialist democracy has been built step by step by the Korean people, taking account of the concrete objective and subjective conditions, and it began with opposing the dogmatism which the Pyongyang Times describes Kim Il Sung likening to "sending kids to university without giving them primary and secondary education". This continued and continuing tradition has ensured that today the DPRK stands proud and second to none in its democratic institutions, while providing the example that a people must themselves resolve the problems of democracy step by step, in a revolutionary manner, and grounded in the real world. It emphasises, as they point out, that the primary issue in the revolution is the matter of political power. It was this innovative utilisation of fundamental principles that itself laid the foundation for the establishment of the DPRK sixty years ago, for instance by the setting up of the Supreme People's Assembly after the ignominious failure of the

Korean People's Army who defeated the US imperialists in the Korean War (1950-1953)



Soldiers pledge themselves to defend the socialist motherland to the last

separate elections in the south organised by the US.

Our task in Britain on this 60th anniversary remains to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and friendship between the peoples of Korea and Britain through opposing the attempts of our own state machine and that of the US imperialists to attempt to isolate the DPRK internationally and to gain domination of the Korean Peninsula which would be of incalculable harm to the people's cause. Our task is to defend the sovereignty of all nations, including the DPRK, and their right to determine their own affairs and choose and control their own social system without outside interference. This is also a cardinal principle for all justice-loving people. It is to combat and refute the slanders and disinformation about the DPRK which make use of the so-called "nuclear issue", the "human rights issue", or any other pretext, to make out that the country is a "rogue state" and should adopt Eurocentric or Anglo-American values so as to come within the fold of the so-called "international community" that espouses and seeks to impose these values.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Co-ordinating Committee of Friends of Korea, and of all friends of Korea in Britain, I would like to echo the sentiments of all of us and congratulate the Korean people and their great leadership on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. We wish them every success in their sacred cause of building a great, prosperous and powerful country under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Il and the Workers' Party of Korea, and we wish them continued success in their striving to unify the Korean nation.

(Presentation of Michael Chant, Secretary of Friends of Korea)



CONDEMN THE HYPOCRISY AND BELLIGERENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Continued from page 1

and Abkhazia and put on hold various consultations with Russia but could not agree to any stronger measures as the British government had demanded.

According to the British government, it is acting to protect what it refers to as "shared European values", in the face of Russian "aggression" and it hypocritically presents itself as the guardian of international law and the sovereignty of nations, while smugly claiming that Russia has breached international norms and broken the rules "established for the conduct of international relations". In this regard, the Foreign Secretary hypocritically brushed aside claims that Russia's actions could in any way be compared to NATO's invasion of Yugoslavia. The recent conflict has provided the British government, the invader of Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere with an opportunity to attempt to take the high moral ground. David Miliband even provocatively travelled to Ukraine, another of Russia's neighbours, where he not only condemned Russia's "aggression" against Georgia but also brazenly encouraged Ukraine to join the EU and the warmongering NATO, the military alliance which is mainly designed to threaten Russia.

Anglo-American imperialism is attempting to present Russia as the aggressor and Georgia as the victim in the recent conflict, without revealing its own hand in creating the conditions for the conflict in the first place, including the arming and training of the Georgian army. At the same time, it tries to present the settling of political affairs by force as unreasonable "unilateralism". In fact, as is well known all the big powers operate on the principle that might is right, in regard to weaker powers, while they attempt, where possible, to negotiate their own contention or contend by proxy.

The British government wishes once again to take the opportunity to be the arbiter of what is accept-

able in the world, hypocritically condemning others for following the warmongering precedent that it has taken the lead in establishing.

It is also clear that the British government has used the conflict to attempt to advance its own interests within the EU and the interests of Anglo-American imperialism in its contention with Russia in general and in particular with regard to Georgia and Ukraine. Amongst other things, Gordon Brown also took the opportunity to demand that Europe should not be so dependent on Russia's oil and gas supplies and specifically that he would be pressing EU leaders for funds for a project to extract energy supplies from the Caspian Sea, a strategy that will increase contention with Russia and also with China. Indeed the Russian government has recently made overtures to the Caspian Basin states to develop gas supply routes through Russia. There appears to be particular contention over the gas supplies of Azerbaijan, with the Russian government pledging its support for Azerbaijan's claim to the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Miliband announced that this was another unresolved conflict that should be investigated.

What must be opposed and condemned is the growing contention between all the big powers operating either directly or through proxy, which makes the world such an unstable and dangerous place. What must also be condemned is the hypocrisy and belligerence of the British government, which far from being a force for peace and moderation in the world is one of the leading warmongers. The people cannot afford to side with any of the big powers, nor be fooled by the big powers' lofty-sounding words about the self-determination of small countries. It is the independent politics of the working class which must be developed along the path of organising to elect an anti-war government, which will be a force to end big-power aggression and contention.

Hail the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the DPRK!



Tuesday, September 9, marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). *Workers' Weekly* sends its warmest congratulations on this occasion to the Korean people, and their Party, the Workers' Party of Korea, and its General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The Friends of Korea organised a meeting to celebrate the 60th anniversary on Sunday, September 7, in central London. The meeting was chaired by Harpal Brar, Chair of the Coordinating Committee, and was addressed by John McLeod and Michael Chant, of Friends of Korea. John McLeod spoke from the heart of the achievements of the Korean people and of the hatred of US imperialism of democratic people everywhere. The presentation of Michael Chant begins on page 1. Jang Song Chol, Third Secretary at the Embassy of the DPRK in London also spoke. He warmly



thanked everyone for marking the important occasion, and gave up-to-date information about the stands of the DPRK. His short presentation struck a chord with the audience and was very much appreciated. After a message of greetings was adopted by the meeting, an intense period of contributions and discussion followed.

A lively and moving cultural programme was presented, which consisted of British, Irish and Korean instrumental music and songs, appropriate to the occasion, and elucidated by programme notes. Personnel from the DPRK Embassy participated, including youth, and the whole audience joined in the chorus of the song, "We Only Want the Earth!". The programme concluded with the Patriotic Song of the DPRK, with everyone standing.

The successful meeting was rounded off with a buffet and social, and informal discussion continued for some time.



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