

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

Mass Actions Denounce Finance Capital, War and Environmental Destruction

Actions and demonstrations took place throughout London on April 1 to denounce the G20 and its

agenda for further impoverishment of the peoples of the world, war and destruction of the environment. A 40,000-strong march to Put

People First had taken place on Saturday, March 28, from the Embankment to Hyde Park, as part of a global campaign to challenge the G20. Thousands of

copies of *Workers' Daily Internet Edition* were distributed to demonstrators, who ranged from the young to the old, from
Continued on page 2

May First 2009: Day of the International Working Class

THE WORKING CLASS MUST TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEADING THE WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS!

- May 1 Statement of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) -

On the occasion of May Day 2009, our Party, RCPB(ML), greets all the workers across England, Scotland and Wales who are fighting for their rights and fighting to defend the rights of all, and who are taking up

the struggle to lift society out of the crisis. Our Party also sends its greetings to the working and oppressed people of all countries who are fighting against imperialist interference and aggression and in defence of their right to sover-

eignty and to choose their own social system and chart their own course. On this May Day, RCPB(ML) hails the unity of the workers and oppressed people all over the world in struggle against the common enemy and for a dif-

ferent world.

In today's conditions of the depth of the financial crisis and of international neo-liberal

Continued on page 4

Commentary

British Hypocrisy and Reaction at UN Conference Against Racism

The Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has made public his opposition to the address made by President Ahmadinejad of Iran to the UN Conference Against Racism, known as the Durban Review Conference or Durban II, in Geneva last week. Miliband branded the remarks made in President Ahmadinejad's address "offensive, inflammatory and utterly unacceptable" and added that the fact that such remarks were made at an anti-racist conference was "all the more shocking and outrageous". Similar comments have also been made by the Prime

Continued on page 3

[inside]

Organising to defend our NHS 2

Workers memorial day: Remember the dead and fight for the living 2

British hypocrisy and reaction at UN Conference against Racism 3

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

Mass Actions Denounce Finance Capital, War and Environmental Destruction

Continued from page 1

the environmental protesters to contingents of militant trade unions, from communist parties to individuals who had pledged that they must come on the demonstration and take a stand against the dictate of finance capital and for an end to war and destruction.

The April 1 actions were centred at the US Embassy and in the City. Thousands gathered at the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square at a demonstration called by the Stop the War Coalition, CND, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the British Muslim Initiative, before militantly marching to Trafalgar Square for an Alternative Summit.

Actions in the City

In the City, around 5,000 people took part in actions, including a Climate Camp, and had to face vicious police repression, the denial of the right to peacefully protest and the outright criminalisation of dissent. The police tactics of overwhelming force and penning in and splitting up the demonstrators were evident right from the very beginning. Such were the brutal tactics of



the police, who indiscriminately attacked and baton-charged whom they pleased, that one man, Ian Tomlinson, died, attacked by police from behind. Two convergence spaces set up by activists had also been raided by police brandishing Taser stun guns, with several people beaten and arrested in brutal police attacks.

Protest marches and vigils against the police brutality against the G20 demonstrations were held at the Bank of England and elsewhere. They expressed compassion with the family of Ian Tomlinson and called for an independent public inquiry into his death and the instances of police violence that occurred through the week.

Demonstrations continued on April 2 at the Excel Centre, and at the NATO Summit which was held in Strasbourg on April 4-5 which was condemned by the peoples of the entire world in a No to NATO international demonstration on April 4.

No to Police Brutality and Impunity!

Another World Is Possible!



Organising to Defend Our NHS

The National Health Conference of Unison took place in Harrogate in April under the banner of "Organising to Defend our NHS".

Acute services have become like a factory which is on the brink of viability in market terms. The government is no longer taking up its responsibility to fund the health service and guarantee the provision of these services unless that provision is transferred to the private sector where there are more guarantees than in the NHS. In the community it is now a commission-led system which is eating up all the

resources of the NHS to marketise community health care and destroy acute care

It is of very great significance for the workers' movement that the demand to *Stop Paying the Rich and Invest in Social Programmes* becomes an immediate demand in the severe crisis in the NHS and throughout the whole economy. If all act on such a demand then there is a possibility to put the economy on a sound footing, changing the present direction of the economy that is wrecking society and threatens to destroy the NHS and other social programmes.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Remember the Dead and Fight for the Living

On April 28, workers marked Workers Memorial Day across the country and internationally. Figures show that the toll of workers killed in the course of work in Britain was as high as 1,500 last year, and another 50,000 workers die each year due to occupational illness. Workers are demanding an end to the outlook and practices according to which health and safety measures are a cost that must be reduced or else industries will fail.

Photo shows the Workers Memorial Day event in the Municipal Park in Portsmouth,

where flowers were laid on the pictured memorial and dignified speeches made remembering workers and upholding the motto on the memorial, "Remember the dead and fight for the living." In London, workers gathered at the Statue of the Unknown Worker at Tower Hill to lay wreaths.

The pain and outrage of workers and their families killed and injured in the course of work is being channelled into a struggle to enforce the right to healthy and safe working conditions, and to demand that the government and the monopolies fulfil their responsibilities in this respect.



Workers Memorial Day event at Municipal Park in Portsmouth, showing memorial

BRITISH HYPOCRISY AT UN CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

British Hypocrisy and Reaction at UN Conference Against Racism

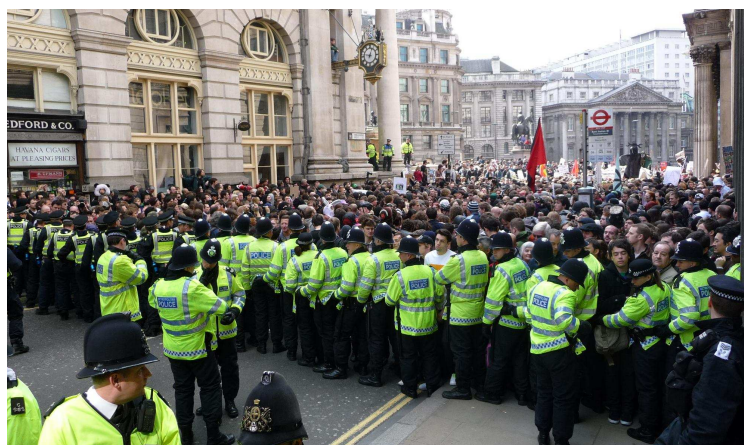
Continued from page 1

Minister, whose spokesman said that President Ahmadinejad's remarks were "unreservedly condemned" by the government.

In his address, the President of Iran amongst other things criticised those countries such as the United States and Canada that have refused to participate in the conference on the grounds that the state of Israel might be criticised. President Ahmadinejad expressed the view that the big powers negate the rights of others countries "by the imposition of oppressive laws and international relations" and as a result of their domination of the UN Security Council. He specifically referred to the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan as examples of

racism and "discrimination or infringement upon the dignity and independence of nations". His comments were also concerned with Zionist Israel, which he said had been created by the big powers with settlers from Europe and elsewhere, at the expense of the Palestinian people who had been rendered homeless. He condemned the governments of Western Europe and the US, who support and defend the Zionist regime and its attempted genocide against the people of Gaza. He equated Zionism with racism and stressed that efforts must be made to oppose Zionism and its defenders. In conclusion, the President also condemned neo-liberal globalisation and called for "a common global system that will be run with the participation of all nations of the world in all major decision making processes". In response to these remarks, the British delegate and other EU delegates staged a pre-planned walkout from the conference, while supporters of Zionism heckled President Ahmadinejad. The majority of delegates remained to hear the address and many applauded the President's remarks.

The Durban Review Conference which has been convened to review progress made on the programme of action agreed in Durban in 2001 has been beset by controversy and disputes even before it commenced, just as the previous UN



British state against the people, April 1, 2009

conference was. In 2001 the US and Israel withdrew from the conference in protest against criticisms of the Zionist regime. Britain, the US and the other big powers opposed attempts by African countries and others to condemn the trans-Atlantic slave trade as a crime against humanity and to demand an apology from those countries that had been the main traffickers of human flesh. In Geneva the disputes over the condemnation of Israel have continued, resulting in a boycott of the conference by the US and other countries and the organised walkout during President Ahmadinejad's presentation.

While condemning the presentation of the President of Iran the British delegate delivered a hypocritical speech in which he claimed that Britain had "some of the toughest and most progressive equality and anti-discrimination laws in the world" and that the government was committed "to the elimination of all forms of racism and intolerance". This from a government that has institutionalised racism in immigration and asylum legislation and has been the main promoter of

Islamophobia, a government that maintains a divided polity and a society in which all the social indicators show that minority communities are disadvantaged, marginalised and discriminated against. It can be said that the government's entire foreign policy is largely based on colonialist and racist logic, the imposition of Eurocentric values, and includes the defence of Zionism and the denial of the rights of the Palestinian people. The leaders of the Labour Party have publicly boasted of the alleged achievements of the British Empire and vowed to make Britain great again and refused to make any reparation for the crimes of colonialism and enslavement.

The events at Geneva have highlighted the fact that Britain, the US and their allies have adopted the most reactionary and hypocritical positions just as they did at the UN Conference in 2001. They are the defenders of all that is most backward in the world and the most zealous supporters of Zionist Israel. It is they who stand exposed and condemned by world opinion and by all democratic people.



Put People First, March 28, 2009

John Buckle Centre



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

Please contact us by phone or email before visiting.

E-mail: jbbooks@btconnect.com

170 WANDSWORTH ROAD, LONDON SW8 2LA

Tel: 020 7627 0599

Workers' Weekly

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

Website: www.rcpbl.org.uk

May 1, 2009 Volume 39, Number 5

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £3.15, 26 issues - £19.95, Yearly - £36.95. 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.

May First 2009: Day of the International Working Class

THE WORKING CLASS MUST TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEADING THE WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS!

Continued from page 1

globalisation, it is necessary for the working class to affirm that the retrogression and utter havoc that the monopolies and their political representatives are imposing on society can and must be fought by putting the well-being of the working class and people at the centre of all considerations, and not the interests of the rich and the financial oligarchy. It is a vicious trick of the government to claim that to save owners of capital from their own crisis is necessary for the good of society. The exact opposite is the case. The workers must force the owners of capital to serve the public good, or move over and let the working class take power and enable the people to take control over their own lives. This is the challenge that the working class must confront on this May Day, and take up responsibility for leading the way out of the crisis. Today, more than ever, the way out of the crisis lies in putting the well-being of the people at home and abroad at the centre of all economic, political, social and cultural activities.

It is a very big ideological offensive which is being carried out by the political parties in power that there is no alternative to their programme of paying the rich and denying the claims of the people on society. In a modern society, a livelihood is a right, pensions are a right, health care and education are rights. All members of society have these inalienable rights by virtue of being human. For any government to deny this and refuse to guarantee these rights in practice means that they have lost the authority to gov-

ern. The task then for the working class is to build the Workers' Opposition to such a government and assume that authority.

The facts are demonstrating that the rich and their political representatives are neither interested in nor capable of finding a way out of the crisis, but are carrying out a programme of shoring up the system of state monopoly capitalism. The cuts in social programmes, the wrecking of the manufacturing base, the absurd and feverish printing of money, the programme of stepped up militarisation and aggression abroad – these are all unconscionable and criminal acts against the people's wellbeing, at home and abroad. The denial of the rights of the working class and people, their exclusion from decision-making, signal that the political parties in power are taking society back to medievalism. In this respect, the absolutism of the royal prerogative, the monarch in parliament, is being wielded to serve monopoly right and class privilege.

On this May Day, it is appropriate to declare that the might of the organised workers' movement must itself be wielded to put a stop to this retrogression and reaction, to turn things around with a renewal of the political processes and institutions, so that the working class can take hold of what belongs to it and use the state to build a powerful socialised economy in the interests of all human beings. It is the right of the workers to appropriate the products of their own labour, and it is the right of the people as a whole to decide on the direction of the economy. The immediate aim of the workers' movement is to bring the

absolutist authority of the monopolies to heel and to block the government from unloading the capitalist crisis onto the shoulders of the people.

In this connection, we call on the working class movement to give rise to its own worker politicians, political representatives of the class and of the workers in the various sections of the economy, in the health and education services, and among pensioners, so that the anti-worker, anti-social offensive of the monopolies can be halted and the working class can begin to take centre stage in political affairs. Such worker politicians represent the spirit that it is our economy, and that we decide. They represent the values of the working class of One for All and All for One, and that An Injury to One Is an Injury to All. They represent the aspirations of the people for an anti-war government.

We further call on all class conscious workers to become worker members of RCPB(ML) and build the Workers' Opposition and build and strengthen the modern communist party, a mass party which is also the vanguard of the working class.

On the occasion of May Day 2009, a day of unity in struggle, RCPB(ML) reiterates its call to the workers to take up their historic mission to lift society out of its crisis, and end the blocks to progress placed in its path by the rich and powerful whose only concern is with their own enrichment out of the human and material resources of the working people and of Mother Earth. Uphold the unity and co-operation of the workers and

oppressed people of all lands on this day!

On behalf of the working class of England, Scotland and Wales, our Party sends its militant and heartfelt revolutionary greetings to the working and oppressed people throughout the globe fighting for their national and social liberation and an end to their impoverishment and enslavement at the hands of Anglo-US imperialism and other big neo-liberal powers. It sends those greetings also to peoples who are continuing their struggle for the independence of their countries, including the peoples of the Republic of Cuba, who are celebrating this year the 50th anniversary of their revolution, and of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who are engaged in a revolutionary upsurge and are defending their sovereignty against all attempts to compromise and sabotage it.

The Working Class Has to Save the Day!

There Is No Middle Way!

For National and Public Control over the Mainsprings of the Economy!

For an End to Paying the Rich! No Bailouts for the Bankers! For Stepped Up Public Funds to Social Programmes and the Manufacturing Base under Public Control!

Defend the Dignity of the Working Class!

Unite in Defence of the Rights of All! Down with the Chauvinism of the Ruling Elite!

Break with the Old and Establish the New!

Working and Oppressed Peoples of All Countries, Unite!



Steel workers demonstrate in Canada

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

Workers' Daily Internet Edition Freely available online

Workers' Daily Email Edition Subscribe by e-mail daily

Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

Phone: 020 7627 0599