

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

## Fight to Defend the Social Economy and the Rights of the Car Workers!

**T**he news that the US General Motors is to sue for bankruptcy protection has been closely followed by more than 5,000 car workers in Britain at

GM's Vauxhall's plants at Ellesmere Port and Luton. The unions have warned that since the sale of Vauxhall UK has been brokered by the German government, as it is part of the

German-based Opel group, British rather than German plants will bear the brunt of any redundancies and plant closures, despite Vauxhall having a greater domestic

market share than Opel. "The Germans have been central to this. We appear to have been on the sidelines," Derek Simpson, Unite joint general

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## FIGHT FOR GENUINE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL! EMPOWER THE PEOPLE! NO TO BIG GOVERNMENT!



**G**ordon Brown on June 10 announced his plan for "political renewal". The crisis that has engulfed the parliamentary system, a reflection of the contradiction between the popular will and the legislative will, as well

as between the executive and the legislature as a whole, has led to this announcement. This is not the first time a programme of political or constitutional reform has been announced by New Labour in power, or indeed by this Labour

government of Gordon Brown. These initiatives have been designed because the old arrangements are anachronistic and viciously against the will of the electorate. They are aimed at rescuing the credibility of the system,

attempting to institute new arrangements which will allay the people's opposition, and salvage and further bolster the sovereignty

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## Joint letter to Comrade Kim Jong Il

The following letter was sent to Kim Jong Il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on June 11, 2009.

Dear Comrade Kim Jong Il,

Our organisations participating in this seminar on the occasions of the ninth anniversary of the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and the 45th

anniversary of the start of your work at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, send you our warmest congratulations and heartfelt best wishes.

These occasions are a testament to your achievements in the field of Party-building, and in the historic task of re-unifying the Korean peninsula.

The Workers' Party of Korea is imbued with the humanity and concern for the whole society which you have embodied, and which serves to unite the people around the cause of independence and

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# Fight to Defend the Social Economy and the Rights of the Car Workers!

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secretary, has said. "With the German plants literally guaranteed security, thanks presumably to the German government's involvement and the billions of euros that they seem to be putting up, that causes a worry for everyone else. Thousands of jobs are at stake at Luton and Ellesmere Port. Once lost they won't return; our manufacturing capability and the UK's R&D base will be left hamstrung. It's no good providing billions to the banks but buttons for manufacturing."

At the same time, West Midlands van maker LDV at Washwood Heath has failed to find a buyer, filing for administration, and creating more uncertainty over the car industry in Britain. The workforce at LDV has been slashed from 850 to 40 by the administrators PricewaterhouseCoopers. It is reported that even if a buyer were found, production would be taken overseas, ending a history of car production at the former British Leyland plant in Birmingham. This will also cause devastation to associated industries, with a suggested further 5,000 jobs being put at risk. LDV is owned by the Russian car group Gaz. Joe Morgan, the regional secretary of the GMB union, has said, "Gaz's behaviour does not bode well for Vauxhall workers. Gaz

has decided not to put any more money into LDV and has just moved on to the next venture. That is a worrying track record for people at Vauxhall." He went on, "It appears as though the government has thrown the towel in as all they are saying is they are mobilising the job centre people to help." It is interesting to note that Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, removed himself from involvement in negotiations in the future of LDV, formerly called Leyland DAF, because of his associations with the Russian Oleg Deripaska, the billionaire who owns Gaz, on whose superyacht at Corfu he famously guested along with Shadow Chancellor George Osborne.

## Wrecking of industry

The trade unions have pointed out that the German government in contrast has offered a €1.5bn bridging loan to Opel and has won guarantees on four plants. This underlines that the priorities of the British government are set on meeting the claims of the financial oligarchy, and in particular attempting to shore up the status of the City as an international financial centre. No one is more enthusiastic for this project than the team of Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson.

This scenario is indicative of the wrecking of the car industry in Britain, together with the manufacturing base in general, in particular the coal and steel industries. Decisions affecting the national economy and the



lives of millions of working people are being made in Detroit, Washington, Mumbai, Moscow and elsewhere, with the Westminster government claiming that these are matters which are outside of their control. The burden of the crisis is being passed onto the working class and people, while the financial oligarchy are the ones who are benefiting from the handouts of the socially produced wealth of the country.

## Effective political force

The fact is that no solutions to the survival of a national socialised economy can emerge from a perspective which refuses to recognise the decisive central role played by the working people in the creation of social product and the delivery of services. What is needed for the car industry and the manufacturing base is a pro-social programme which recognises the demands of the times. It does not need bailouts to the banks and owners of capital, while the champions of the financial oligarchy passively oversee the complete destruction of the manufacturing base under whatever signboard, including that of the so-called "knowledge-based economy".

It is the working class which champions the well-being of the social economy, while the government is being shown only

to be intent on paying the rich and overseeing the wrecking of manufacturing and of the production of the means of production, as well as of agricultural production. Worker politicians are needed who will take up the championing of a human-centred society and economy in opposition to the political champions of the monopoly capital who rule the country. Worker politicians must champion a new direction for the economy under which the people decide, in opposition to the direction where a return for the owners of capital is what is deemed decisive. It is clear that this latter direction is sending the national economy in Britain deeper and deeper into crisis, with a monopoly capitalist system under which more is being taken out of the economy than is put into it. The workers must become organised as an effective independent political force in their own right to change the situation so that it favours the working class and people. It is the working class with its worker politicians who can and must save the day.

**Stop Paying the Rich! Increase Investments in Social Programmes!**

**No to the Wrecking of the Social Economy! There Is A Way Out of the Crisis!**

**For a Pro-Social Programme for the National Economy!**

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# Workers' Weekly

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# FIGHT FOR GENUINE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL! EMPOWER THE PEOPLE! NO TO BIG GOVERNMENT!

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of the monarch in parliament, concentrating authority further in the Cabinet system and in "big government".

This has been reflected, for example, in the statements of Lord Mandelson, three times disgraced, and brought back unelected as Business Secretary, who has emphasised the increased need for the government to push through its anti-social programme as the response to the political crisis. It is reflected in the calls during the European election to rally round Labour because otherwise the "extreme right" will gain advantage. These calls have ignored the reality that the racist, colonialist, programme of the government, its "war on terror", and its attacks on the rights of the people, are what has been giving the green light to those on the "extreme right" to peddle outright racism and anti-Muslim propaganda. It is the anti-social programme, the suggestion of an "enemy within", and the attacks on the rights of all which are the reactionary flagships around which the most backward have been gathering. It is the wrecking of the manufacturing base, the anti-worker stance, the destruction of communities carried out under this government which have fanned the flames of retrogression and given credence to backwardness and opposition to the public good.

## Who are the "extremists"?

Now Gordon Brown has discovered the need for constitutional and political renewal. This is as fraudulent as the former talk of the Labour Party as a party of socialism. The present political system is one in which parties come to power. The trend amongst the people is to put forward their peers for election, but the present political system is heavily stacked against their election. The ruling elite keeps the electorate away from political power. The rectification of this injustice, the recognition of the right of the electorate to elect their peers, is not the content of Gordon

Brown's "renewal".

Political crisis has followed and kept pace with the economic crisis. The people's opposition has been very fierce to the bailouts to the rich in the context of this economic crisis and to the wrecking of the manufacturing and agricultural base of the economy in the name of there being "no alternative" and that to save the banks has been essential to save the economy. Now when the electorate has been up in arms against the corruption and fraud which is synonymous with the system known as "representative democracy", voices are being raised that there is "no alternative" to the party system being strengthened, Gordon Brown supported, and his plan of "renewal" backed in order to save the political system from "extremists". But who are the "extremists"? The ruling elite and their backers would very much like the working people to believe that the parties in political power represent the "centre-left" and "centre-right", that the battleground of politics is this so-called "centre-ground", and that this centre-ground must be strengthened against the left and the right. The argument goes that this may not be a perfect system, but it is the best that it is possible, and its worst features can be curbed by some reforms of the "Westminster village". What could be more "extreme" than to claim that there is no alternative to this system and that the economic crisis is beyond the people's control! What could be more "extreme" than to invade and occupy other countries for geo-political reasons under the cloak of lies and deception!

## New mechanisms

The working class and people will not be and are not satisfied that there is no other alternative, that it merely needs the improvement of the checks and balances to parliamentary sovereignty, and that the country would have been in worse crisis were it not for Gordon Brown. What is demanded by this situation is that the working class and people be involved in setting

the agenda, in discussing their own demands for democratic renewal, so that the centuries-long struggle in this country to vest sovereignty in the people reaches a victory for the people, that a way out of the crisis is found, and that the working class constitutes itself the nation in England, Scotland and Wales. This solution also demands as integral to its programme that the sovereignty of Scotland and Wales, which have had their national rights suppressed from Westminster, be fully recognised, with the Scottish and Welsh peoples having full control of the running of their states according to modern conceptions of government. This would of course mean that an English parliament is also set up according to these modern conceptions, but would not preclude a voluntary union between these states, which is what the working class advocates, but only if the people's will is that this should come about. For this programme to succeed, genuine democratic renewal is required, new mechanisms to give the people decision-making power, no election without selection by the people and not by the parties, and with worker politicians and anti-war candidates taking the lead in the next election.

The people will not be fooled by Gordon Brown's programme of "renewal", which entrenches the idea that the people need condescending saviours from business and academia to rule their lives for them. The working class and people must demand a say in what this renewal is all about and demonstrate that there is a way out of the economic and political crises, and that it is not by strengthening big

party government, but by bringing the people to power. What is required is not "strong government", a "business state", based on the values of the rich and powerful, the so-called "Britain plc" of the Blair and Thatcher era, run by a cartel of business parties. What is required is certainly not a pro-war government issuing threats at will and intervening where it deems necessary and committing aggression under the signboard of humanitarianism and British values. What is required is not the trampling of the rights of all under the signboard of the "war on terror" or the "enemy within", the criminalising of dissent and the acceptance of police impunity.

## Genuine democratic renewal

Instead, what is required is a programme to elect an anti-war, pro-worker and pro-social government, with worker politicians taking the lead and discussion amongst the people as to how to take up the independent political programme of the working class to stop paying the rich, increase investments in social programmes, to bring to power an anti-war government, respect the sovereignty of nations and peoples, and vest decision-making power in the electorate and empower the people. To participate in the governing of society is an inalienable right of the people. The fight is to put in place the mechanisms that will guarantee that right, as well as enshrining it in a modern constitution.

This is the fight for genuine democratic renewal. *Workers' Weekly* calls on the working class and people to take up this fight in real earnest in the conditions of the present political crisis.

## Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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# Joint Letter to Comrade Kim Jong Il

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socialism, in contrast to the bestiality and brutality of imperialism which stands for war and reaction, and which is arousing the opposition of the whole of progressive humanity. Those who take up responsibility for revolutionary leadership are greatly to be cherished, and it is an immense testament to your qualities that you have taken up this responsibility within the Central Committee of the WPK for these 45 years.

We express our firm solidarity with the entire Korean people, who desire above all else the reunification of their homeland and the end of tension and the danger of war on the Korean

peninsula. The Joint Declaration of June 15, 2000, remains the way forward for the Korean people themselves to reunify their country, being a tremendous blow to the schemes of Anglo-US imperialism to keep the Korean nation divided. It was a vindication of your far-sighted stand on the reunification of the one Korea, advancing further along the road laid down by President Kim Il Sung. Despite the set-backs which have been caused by the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors to the Korean nation, the reunification movement has been striving to open the way for independent, peaceful reunification under the principle of: "By our nation itself". We in Britain will do all we can to contribute to

building the movement for the peaceful reunification of Korea also.

These are very dangerous times for the DPRK and the peoples of the entire world. US imperialism, closely supported by the British government, has shown itself to be the worst violator of human rights in its quest for global hegemony and would even like to deny the Korean nation its right to exist. We wish to emphasise that it is US imperialism which is the threat to world peace and security with its nuclear monopoly and aggressive policies.

Our organisations express once again our admiration for your work and leadership, which inspires us to greater heights and to work harder. We regard the

Korean people's victories as our victories, as we struggle for the same ideals and against the same enemies. We assure our comrades in the DPRK and the Korean people that we fight shoulder to shoulder with them in their struggles now and in the future also.

With warmest fraternal regards,  
*Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist),  
 European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea,  
 UK Korean Friendship Association,  
 New Communist Party of Britain,  
 Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist),  
 Socialist Labour Party.*

## Text of June 15, 2000, North-South Joint Declaration

**T** rue to the noble will of all the fellow countrymen for the peaceful reunification of the country, Chairman Kim Jong Il of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and President Kim Dae Jung of the Republic of Korea had a historic meeting and summit in Pyongyang from June 13 to 15, 2000.

The heads of the North and the South, considering that the recent meeting and summit, the first of their kind in history of division, are events of weighty importance in promoting mutual understanding, developing inter-Korean relations and achieving peaceful reunification, declare as follows:

1. The North and the South agreed to solve the question of the country's reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation responsible for it.

2. The North and the South, recognising that a proposal for federation of lower stage advanced by the North side and a proposal for confederation put forth by the South side for the reunification of the country have elements in com-

mon, agreed to work for the reunification in this direction in the future.

3. The North and the South agreed to settle humanitarian issues, including exchange of visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the issue of unconverted long-term prisoners, as early as possible on the occasion of August 15 this year.

4. The North and the South agreed to promote the balanced development of the national economy through economic cooperation and build mutual confidence by activating cooperation and exchanges in all fields, social, cultural, sports, public health, environmental and so on.

5. The North and the South agreed to hold dialogues between the authorities as soon as possible to implement the above-mentioned agreed points in the near future.

President Kim Dae Jung cordially invited Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defence Commission to visit Seoul and Chairman Kim Jong Il agreed to visit Seoul at an appropriate time in the future.

## Public Meeting The Present Situation in the DPRK

The peoples of the world, including the Korean people and their leadership, desire a nuclear-free world and an end to all nuclear threats. However, the US is the main threat to world peace and security with its nuclear monopoly and aggression. This meeting is being held to oppose the disinformation about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and support the movement for the peaceful reunification of Korea. We invite everyone who is interested in the reality of the DPRK to come along and participate.

**Marx House, 37a Clerkenwell Green,  
London EC1R 0DU**

**Access by public transport: Underground - Farringdon on Circle, Hammersmith & Metropolitan lines; British Rail - Thameslink, Farringdon; Buses - 55, 63, 243, 259**

**Saturday, June  
27, 2009,  
3.00pm**

With a panel from Friends of Korea who will lead discussion on and answer questions about the DPRK.

*All welcome! Hands Off Korea! Part of the month of solidarity with the DPRK marked internationally.*

**Organised by Friends of Korea (tel: 07764288678 or 07899974525)**