

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

59th Anniversary of the Korean War:

Marking the Victory of the Korean People

June 25 marked the 59th anniversary of the launching of the Korean War, an illegal war of aggression organised by the

US imperialists under the flag of the United Nations. Today the US warmongers are once again following their method of promoting disinformation and

carrying false propaganda against the DPRK in order to create the justification for another war on the Korean peninsula. The US has been

using the DPRK's legal and legitimate measures to strengthen themselves militarily in order to threaten

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NO TO THE COUP IN HONDURAS! SUPPORT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE!

The coup d'état in Honduras carried out against the democratically elected government of President Manuel Zelaya, is a criminal and anti-democratic act of mutiny by the Honduran putschists against the civilian

authority. The British government stopped short of condemning the coup and calling for the restoration of the government of Manuel Zelaya as the sole representative of the Honduran people, preferring instead to focus on the

Right: Cuban President Raúl Castro, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at a Central meeting of the American Integration System, or SICA, in Managua, Nicaragua, June 29, 2009.; **Below:** Supporters of Honduras' President Manuel Zelaya block a street to prevent military trucks from passing near the presidential residency in Tegucigalpa June 28, 2009.



“expulsion” of President Zelaya and the “deployment” of military personnel. Though high-sounding words, the content is to show contempt for democracy, the will of the people and the rule of law.

The coup was carried out in

the early morning of June 28, the day a national referendum to convene a constituent assembly to reform the constitution had been

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Commentary

A Pro-Social Programme Is Needed in Charting the Way Out of the Economic and Financial Crisis

THE DIVISIONS AMONG THE RULING CIRCLES as to what is required to get society out of the economic and financial crisis was evident at the annual Mansion House dinner on June 16. It is a contention as to what will best serve the interests of the financial oligarchy and rescue the credibility of a monopoly capitalist system that has demonstrated its inhuman and anti-social character and is bringing devastation on a world scale. In essence, it is a contention as to how to define the limits and characteristics of state

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a nuclear war that endangers the very survival of the Korean people and the peoples of the world. These provocative methods of Anglo-US imperialism aimed at heightening tension are themselves a crime against peace. It is the direct experience of humanity that it is US imperialism which is armed to the teeth with nuclear and other weapons. The Anglo-US imperialists must not be permitted to justify another Korean war.

With this background, the Friends of Korea organised a meeting on June 27 to combat the disinformation against the DPRK, and to inform people and encourage discussion on the present situation in the DPRK and on the Korean peninsula. Such meetings are crucial in enabling the progressive forces to take a just stand on current developments. The meeting was held at the historic Marx House in London, with a panel made up of participating organisations in the Friends of Korea co-

ordinating committee, as well as a comrade from the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in London. It was held to mark the beginning of the month of solidarity with the Korean people, which begins and ends with the calendar dates of the Korean War, June 25 to July 27.

Korean people's example

The US imperialists and their allies including Britain under the UN flag committed untold crimes in the three years of the Korean War. The DPRK was literally razed to the ground. The US used chemical and biological weapons, and over 4 million mostly civilian lives were lost. However, the self-sacrificing resistance of the Korean people handed the aggressors an ignominious defeat and forced them to sign an armistice. The refusal of the US to date to sign a peace treaty with the DPRK to replace the Armistice Agreement shows that the US has not abandoned its aim of launching another war on the Korean peninsula for its own self-serving geopolitical aims.

It is actually the DPRK that has been the mainstay of the resistance against the aim of the US to take over the entire Korean peninsula as a launching pad for its takeover of Asia and to establish its dictate over the



Above: A mass demonstration declaring 'Invincible is the single-hearted unity of the Korean people rallying around the WPK'.

Below left: Prisoners of war in Yongdong during the Korean War.

whole world. The stationing of over 30,000 US troops on the Korean peninsula as well as its military bases, the ongoing attempts to sabotage the Korean people's movement for national reunification, and its engineering of various fascist puppet regimes in the south, including the present traitorous regime of Lee Myung Bak and its continuous disinformation and propaganda that the problem in Korea is an alleged threat from the DPRK have all failed to silence the 70 million Koreans who are demanding with one voice the peaceful and independent reunification of their homeland, free from US imperialist interference. The resolute struggle of the Korean people stands as a shining example for all the peoples of the world fighting against imperialist domination.

DPRK's right to exist

The hysteria of the Anglo-Americans has been directed at convincing people that the DPRK is violating its international obligations and starving its people by conducting nuclear tests. On the contrary, the DPRK is a country where the people are the masters of their own destiny, and to safeguard their very right

to exist in the face of the imperialist attempts to wipe out their social system and its socialist values, they have acted step by step to combat every violation by the US of its commitments and agreements.

Stand of the people

It is important that the working class and people take a stand in defence of the right of the DPRK, as of nations everywhere, to defend its sovereignty and to safeguard its independence. The people need to keep themselves informed on the Korean situation, so as to further play their part to prevent a new war of aggression launched by US imperialism against the entire Korean people, as well as to support the movement of the Korean people to end the occupation by US troops of the south of their country, and to reunify their nation through their own efforts, peacefully and without outside interference.

This commitment of the participants of the meeting on June 27 was embodied in a resolution "Hands Off Korea!" which was carried unanimously. The Friends of Korea website is to be found at: <http://friendsofkorea.blogspot.com/>



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170 WANDSWORTH ROAD, LONDON SW8 2LA
Tel: 020 7627 0599

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London Pickets against Honduras Coup

Protesters in London called for an end to the coup and a return to democracy in Honduras at an emergency picket at the Honduras Embassy called by Co-ordinadora Latinoamericana (Hands Off Venezuela, Bolivia Solidarity Campaign, Colombia Solidarity Campaign, Ecuadorian Movement in the UK, Latin American Workers Association and Polo Democrático UK) and supported by Colectivo Acuerdo Humanitario. The demonstrators included many with Unite banners and campaigners from "Cleaners for

Justice".

A further protest was called by Co-ordinadora Latinoamericana against the military coup in Honduras on Friday July 3 outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square.



No to the Coup in Honduras! Support the Honduran People's Resistance!

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scheduled. The Honduran military flew the president on pain of death to Costa Rica. The ambassadors of the governments of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba to Honduras were also kidnapped.

The people's resistance

On June 30, a reported ten thousand demonstrators demanded the return of Zelaya near the presidential residence, battling with police armed with assault rifles and water cannons, and denouncing the detention of numerous supporters and officials of President Zelaya's administration by members of the Honduran military. Clashes took place in other parts of the capital where people opposed to the fascist government set up barricades to withstand the armed forces.

The Honduras Popular Resistance Front, made up of trade unions and youth, farmers, women and human rights groups, affirmed on July 1 that massive protests rejecting the military coup and demanding President Manuel Zelaya's return were continuing. A general strike has been called by those organisations to continue until democracy is restored in the country and President Zelaya resumes office.

The coup has been condemned internationally, including unani-

mously by the UN General Assembly on June 30.

Throughout Latin America, the profound desire of the peoples to be themselves in control of their destiny has been given the conditions to flourish through decades of sacrifice and dedication. This desire of the peoples has taken its inspiration from the examples of Bolívar, Martí, various national patriotic traditions and the internationalist spirit of the Cuban revolution. The reactionary and anti-national forces in Honduras and elsewhere in the Americas have taken their cue on the other hand from the doctrine of the end of history. The world is changing, the future is with the people and their cause. But such forces as carried out the coup in Honduras believe that this can simply be reversed by coups and assassinations so that the old arrangements of corruption and violence can be restored and the people's will and social organisation blocked.

Workers' Weekly completely condemns the coup. It must not and cannot be allowed to succeed. There must be an immediate return of President Manuel Zelaya and the exercise of the people's will restored.

Down with the Coup in Honduras!

Uphold the Sovereign Will of the Honduran People and Their Government!

Resolution: Hands Off Korea!

This meeting on the present situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Marx House, London, Saturday, June 27, 2009, resolves as follows:

1. We condemn the accusations being directed at the DPRK from Anglo-American imperialism over the recent nuclear test.

2. We affirm that Anglo-US imperialism constitutes the main threat to world peace and security with its nuclear blackmail and aggression.

3. We hail the 9th anniversary of the signing of the historic June 15, 2000, North-South Joint Declaration, which marked an historic turning point in the Korean people's long march toward the reunification of their divided country.

4. We resolve to further build support for the Korean movement for reunification, which is overcoming the threats of US imperialist aggression, including through the activities of the Lee Myung Bak regime of national traitors in the south.

5. We condemn the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1874 which introduces more unjust sanctions against the DPRK, and we condemn the role of the British government in passing this resolution and its hostile stand towards the DPRK. We say: Hands off Korea!

6. We pledge to step up the work to provide information about the DPRK and to build friendship and fraternal relations between the people of Britain and the Korean people.

A Pro-Social Programme Is Needed in Charting the Way Out of the Economic and Financial Crisis

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monopoly capitalism, and prevent the people's opposition to this system and keep the way blocked to the urgently required progress of society which objective developments demand. It conspicuously leaves out of the equation the needs of human beings and the necessity to put a pro-social programme at the centre of developments to chart a way out of the crisis.

At the Mansion House event, the governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, put forward that what is required to extricate society from the financial crisis and to regain the trust of the people in the discredited system are much tighter regulations of the banks and financial institutions. According to press reports, Mervyn King said that the crisis had caused a loss of trust in the financial sector because ordinary families and companies were bearing the brunt of the recession "and yet it is the banking system that has received financial support on an almost unimaginable scale". He warned, "We who work in the financial sector have much to do to regain the trust of those who work outside it."

The Bank of England governor called for greater responsibility in the City. He said, "We need instruments to prevent the size, leverage, fragility and risk of the financial system from becoming too great." Individual banks should be forced to shrink. "If some banks are thought to be too big to fail, then, ... they are too big." He continued, "It is not sensible to allow large banks to combine high street retail banking with risky investment banking or funding strategies, and then provide an implicit state guarantee against failure."

The significance of these remarks is that they run directly counter to the government's strategy with regard to the handling of the crisis of the banks. This has been one of giving state guarantees to the banks, beginning with Northern Rock, and progressing, as the crisis deepened and broadened,

to the likes of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds. The thesis of the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, is that it is too easy to blame the crisis on the size of the banks. He said, speaking earlier to the same Mansion House audience, "The solution is not as simple, as some have suggested, as restricting the size of banks."

What must be overturned

The positions of both the Chancellor and the Bank of England governor must be regarded as self-serving. They are fighting for vested interests. The motto "too big to fail" is being interpreted by the Chancellor that the too-big-to-fail banking groups must be further integrated into the state monopoly capitalist system to prevent it from crashing down about his ears. The Bank of England governor is pointing to the fact that if the banking groups are too big to fail, yet are failing, then they must become less big and that the Bank of England must be the one to intervene and regulate them. He had previously expressed his "regret" that the Banking Act did not give the Bank of England sufficient power to intervene in failing banks.

However, neither Alistair Darling nor Mervyn King is drawing the warranted conclusion that the anti-social programme pursued by the too-big-to-fail banks and financial institutions and by finance capital as a whole is what must be overturned in order to chart a way out of the financial and economic crisis. This anti-social programme is one based on stealing from the social economy the added-value produced by working people, as well as from the impoverished people of the world by means of the tentacles of finance capital which stretch across the globe, in order to pay the rich. It is based on personal wealth, privilege and the pursuit of empire, the expansion and consolidation of the "rights" of the monopolies to dictate and to negate the rights of human beings. It is capital-centred and hence anachronistic, increasingly utilising the state to enforce monopoly right rather than

the state taking up responsibility to meet the claims of human beings on society and be empowered to own and control what belongs to them. So much is increasingly evident as the finer points of the greed, corruption and criminality of the system and the finance capitalists who control it are being subject to ongoing elaboration and scrutiny of analysts and economic and political commentators.

What must be fought for

What is crucial for the working class and people is that the pro-social programme which favours them must be elaborated and fought for. In short, a pro-social programme calls for increased investments in social programmes and to stop paying the rich. The basis for this programme is that the needs of human beings must be put at the centre of all considerations and that human rights be made paramount and that the state must provide these rights with a guarantee that can and must be enforced against monopoly right. Specifically, everything must be done to oppose cuts in social programmes and the programmes of privatisation, by demanding and fighting for public enterprises serving the public good and ending the parasitism and wrecking of the banks and the monopolies. The necessary pro-social programme to chart a way out of the crisis involves the promotion of public enterprises providing not-for-profit social services and programmes to guarantee and meet the needs and rights of all members of society and society itself; it involves not-for-profit banking, credit and insurance concerns under direct public control; it involves public ownership of



Placard reads 'Organise to bring into being an Anti-War Government!'

industries fundamental to the social economy, as well as wholesale trade. As part of this line of march to chart a way out of the crisis, public inquiries must be held to determine the extent of the criminality of the monopolies and financial institutions, including the way they have channelled funding for social programmes into their own coffers, and to return plundered funds back to the state treasury, as well as to provide reparations for the countries and peoples plundered by the British colonialist state. Trading relations must be based on the principle of mutual benefit and equality, not of master and slave, exploiter and exploited, and there must be a ban on the export of capital.

Workers' Weekly calls on the working class and people to broaden and deepen the discussion on the elaboration and implementation of such a pro-social programme. This is not an up-in-the-air issue, not a list of unobtainable policy objectives, but a task taken up for solution, an independent programme of the working class which alone will provide a solution to the crisis and sweep away the blocks placed by the monopolies and their subservient political representatives to the progress of society into one where the material conditions for human beings to flourish are created. The claims of the people on the wealth of the socialised economy are paramount! Organise now for the implementation of the pro-social programme!

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