

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

The Work to Discuss the Programme for Political Renewal and an Anti-War Government

Party activists and democratic people are responding to the necessity to step up the work to discuss the programme for political renewal and for an

anti-war government by organising or participating in political forums. This crucial work, part of the work whereby people are empowered to give voice to their concerns and to

discuss the way forward, is a vital step in developing a programme to block the retrogression being imposed by the ruling elite in the service of monopoly capital and to open up society's path to progress.

The Party is working to spearhead the work to give consciousness and organisation to the working class and people, so that their concerns are turned

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VICTORY TO THE POSTAL WORKERS! DEFEND POSTAL SERVICES!



The latest three-day strikes by postal workers began on October 29, after the mail operator and the CWU failed to reach an agreement during resolution talks. More than 120,000 postal workers walked out across three days, just a week after the

initial two-day national strike that resulted in an estimated backlog of 30m letters. Although further strikes have been postponed, a resolution is still to be found. Workers' Weekly stands firmly with the postal workers against the dictate of Royal Mail and in

defence of their rights.

The first thing to be said about the postal workers' actions is that they are a stand against the anti-social agenda which is being imposed on the whole of society – imposed to serve the interests of the owners of capital against the

public good. The monopoly media and the government would like to keep hidden the issues at stake and make out that it is the postal workers and their union who are at fault

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Commentary

Zionist Crimes Must Be Punished!

On November 4, the UN General Assembly discussed the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the

Gaza Conflict headed by Justice Richard Goldstone. Known as the Goldstone Report, it is the product of a UN investigation into Israel's three-week military operation code-named "Cast Lead" that killed upwards of 1,400 Palestinians in Gaza between December 27, 2008, and January 18, 2009. The debate follows an October 16 vote by the UN Human Rights Council on a resolution to endorse the report, condemning Israel and calling on the UN Security Council to ensure action is taken to correct the crimes addressed in the Report.

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into a material force to resolve the serious problems facing the society and chart a way out of the crisis, of which war and economic meltdown are brutal manifestations. In so doing, RCPB(ML) is acutely aware of the necessity to raise the level of political culture as a priority, and empower the people to arm themselves with a perspective and programme to tackle the twin evils of pro-war government and so-called "representative democracy".

The forums in which Party activists are participating, and which they encourage fostering throughout society, are giving the working class and people the opportunity to discuss where to begin and how to occupy the space for change. The calls for the election of an anti-war government and for the democratic renewal of the political systems and institutions are taking root amongst the people by these and other means.

Opposite *Workers' Weekly* is printing a report of one of the forums which are geared to providing serious discussion amongst the people with a view to contributing to turning things around.

Major Victory at UN General Assembly for Cuba

On October 28, the nations comprising the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly denounced the US blockade of Cuba. In a resounding victory for the Cuban people and their leadership, 187 countries voted in favour of Cuba's Resolution on the necessity of ending the illegal blockade imposed by the US with only three votes against (the US, together with Israel and Palau – client state and dependency of the US respectively) and two abstentions (Marshall Islands and Micronesia – also US dependencies). This is

the 18th consecutive year that the UN General Assembly has voted in favour of a resolution condemning the US blockade of Cuba, in place for 47 years. This year Iraq and El Salvador also voted in favour of the resolution, leaving the US almost as isolated as it is possible for it to be.

The year's vote once again underlined the overwhelming international support for Cuba's position. It also reveals the depth of the hostile activities of US imperialism worldwide carried out under the signboard of human rights, freedom and democracy. In

spite of the brutal blockade imposed by the US, Cuba has been consolidating its socialist nation-building project on the basis of a profound internationalism, its people being at one with the peoples of the world in their struggles for national liberation and for a life fit for human beings. This small island nation has been able to isolate US imperialism, despite the latter's non-stop barrage of disinformation and its machinery of coercion and dictate.

Workers' Weekly sends to the Cuban people its warmest congratulations and its best wishes for

continued success in the defence and elaboration of their nation-building project. We call on the working class and people to step up their movement of support and solidarity with the Cuban people and their leadership, expressing full confidence that the people's forces will continue to overwhelm the blockade and hasten the day when it is completely dismantled.

Viva Cuba!



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Victory to the Postal Workers! Defend Postal Services!

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and holding the country to ransom.

The whole history of this dispute stretches back a number of years, and demonstrates that Royal Mail and the government have been the enemies of the public good throughout this time. The introduction by the government of Lord Mandelson as Business Secretary has served in fact to intensify the assault on the postal workers and the postal service as a whole. It has served to consolidate the stand of Royal Mail management that the issue is for the postal service to become an industry, to be competitive in a national and global market, compete with other carriers whose aim is to make the maximum return on capital, and "modernise" to this end. The postal workers know full well that this kind of "modernisation" means stepped up exploitation and that they become simply the slaves of Royal Mail management. This must not pass! It neither serves the public good nor the social economy as a whole that Royal Mail and the postal service go down this path. No worker in industry or services will agree to becoming a slave whose only role in life is to do the bidding of the overlords who accumulate capital, nor of a government which is supposed to serve the electorate.

It is in this context that the President of the CWU, Jane Loftus, has declared, "We are fighting to defend a vital public service from the circling vultures of privatisation. We are fighting to stop thousands being forced on to the dole and full-time workers being replaced by casual part-timers. And we are fighting to stop management breaking the strength of the union and making our already pitiful pay and long hours worse." This embodies the spirit of resistance of the postal workers. They will not stand by and see negotiated and agreed contracts together with agreements with the union torn up by the management.

The proposal of Royal Mail to take on 30,000 casual workers in a thinly veiled defiance of long-established employment legislation is designed to be a provocation and an arrogant show of strength.

The workers are right to reject the capital-centred outlook of Royal Mail management. What gives the management the right to decide against the wishes and the interests of the workers who themselves make up Royal Mail? The workers have been battling against this outlook for the past two years, since the last postal strike, and for the seven years before that when the Postal Services Act was passed. This Act followed the proposals of the White Paper of 1999, and it was none other than Peter Mandelson when he was Trade Secretary who formulated this "new dawn" for the Post Office. Now he is concerned that "Royal Mail's finances will be plunged into the red," as he said in his statement on the dispute, made to the House of Lords, since in 2008 Royal Mail "made less than 1 per cent profit". This is the nub of Mandelson's "concern"!

Workers' Weekly denounces the provocative and bullying tactics of Royal Mail, and calls on the working class and people to condemn them and get further organised, alongside the postal workers, against the anti-social offensive and the fetish of competition which is being upheld as the norm. We call on everyone to condemn the tearing up of the terms of national and local agreements by Royal Mail under the signboard of "executive action". We call on everyone to reject with contempt the disinformation spread by the government and Royal Mail management, and to condemn the reckless disregard of the public good by government and management who are prepared in going to war with the postal workers to cause serious damage to the socialised economy and to inconvenience the public as a whole.

Successful Beginning to Series of Political Forums on Democratic Renewal

With the aim of raising the level of discourse on the alternative to the party-dominated system of government that keeps people from political power, RCPB(ML) is organising a new series of political forums in Oxford on the necessity for democratic renewal. The series was initiated on October 22 with a discussion on: "The expenses scandal: Privilege and the prestige of politics".

As the publicity for the first forum explained, the recent scandal over MPs' fraudulent expenses claims has thrown the archaic nature of parliamentary democracy into sharp relief and has contributed to the crisis of a system where MPs in general are being seen to have failed to represent the electorate. At the same time, the media whipped up a kind of feeding frenzy in order to denigrate politics as a whole and raise the spectre of "extremist parties", to consolidate the par-

ties in power.

The lively forum discussed how to change the situation in a way that favours the people. The position presented for discussion was that the system of representative democracy as it exists is the essence of fraud and corruption and that the system which brings establishment parties to power has had its day and must go.

The next meeting, entitled "The need for an anti-war government", will take place on November 13, to be followed a week later by a discussion on "The archaic nature of Westminster democracy". Future forums will cover: the role of political parties; rights and a modern constitution, and democratic renewal of the political process. Invited speakers will share their experiences and all are welcome to participate in the discussion. Contact the National Office of RCPB(ML) for further details.



Seminar held by RCPB(ML) on March 15, 2009, "There Is A Way Out of the Crisis!" where the call was put to "Fight for an Anti-War Government!"

Zionist Crimes Must Be Punished!

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The General Assembly debate has come in spite of massive obstruction by the US and Israel. The people's outrage put the Report back on the agenda.

"What the Goldstone report essentially constitutes is another damning record of the Israeli crimes committed against our people under occupation," the Palestinian representative told the Assembly.

Four UNHRC members, including Britain, did not vote on October 16. Britain had asked for a delay saying that it was involved with substantive discussions with Israel and the Palestinians about potential improvements on the situation on the ground. True to its role as "honest broker", Britain used this pretext to get Israel off the hook and cover over Zionist crimes. Britain's representative, saying that Israel did not co-operate with the fact-finding Mission, did not condemn Israel but alleged that the Report had flaws because it lacked "an authoritative Israeli perspective"!

In detailing Israeli violations before, during and after the 2008-2009 US-backed Israeli war on Gaza, the Goldstone Report confirms what had already been documented in terms of US-Zionist atrocities against Palestinians throughout the long history of occupation.

Zionist Crimes Must Be Punished!

No to Anglo-American and Zionist Impunity!



Troops Out of Afghanistan! For An Anti-War Government!

Ten thousand people or more marched in the national demonstration on Saturday, October 24, demanding an end to the occupation of Afghanistan. They came from the length and breadth of the country to march from Hyde Park through central London to a rally in Trafalgar Square. The demonstration was marked by a broad representation of the people from the young to the old, from the organised communist and workers' movement to individuals who seek to make a

difference and put an end to war and occupation. It was also marked by the warmth, comradeship and militancy of the participants, as well as by the participation of the military families. Hundreds upon hundreds of the special issue of *Workers' Weekly* were disseminated by activists of RCPB(ML), who in discussions elaborated on the Party's call to *Bring the Troops Home Now! End the Occupation of Afghanistan! Organise Now for an Anti-War Government in*



Britain! This call struck a chord with the sentiment of all who were militantly demonstrating.



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