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Hysteria and Driving Down the Level of Politics and Political Culture

What was immediately evident in Gordon Brown's "bigot" outburst was the exposure of the

manipulation of the electorate by the present political system and culture, and the sheer contempt that the ruling elite has for the

people and their concerns. The exchange between Brown and the voter prior to his private remarks revealing his actual thoughts are

an epitome of how such political leaders set the tone in their refusal to engage in any serious

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**Call of RCPB(ML) on the Occasion of May Day 2010:
Day of the International Working Class**

**BREAK WITH THE OLD AND
BUILD THE NEW!
DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF ALL!**

On the occasion of May Day, 2010, our Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), in the name of the working class of England, Scotland and Wales, sends its mil-

itant internationalist greetings to the workers and oppressed people of all lands who are fighting for their rights and in particular their right to chart their own destiny without imperialist interference. RCPB(ML) greets the

working class and people in Britain who are fighting for their rights under the conditions of the anti-social offensive and the war-mongering and annexationist agenda of the rich. The people will not give up their struggle no

matter how the parties of the Westminster cartel block their empowerment, and the working class and people will win!

Only the working class can

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Interview

Occupying the Space for Change

**Interview with Roger Nettleship,
Fight For An Anti-War Government
Candidate, South Shields**

WW: Can you tell us why you decided to stand, and the reasons behind the official name of your candidature, "Fight for an Anti-War Government"?

RN: It was not one decision but of many thinking people in South Tyneside especially those in the Stop the War Coalition. Ever since 2003, the fact that the government ignored the will of the people and launched their attack on Iraq has meant that the focus has been on the necessity for an anti-war government in Britain. This has become even more the case today

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Hysteria and Driving Down the Level of Politics and Political Culture

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discussion, and instead to seek opportunities to exhibit their fast-talking "leadership" qualities. It is clear that Brown was outraged that his "meet the real public" moment was not as carefully stage-managed as it could have been.

In this sense, the incident highlighted how there is no serious discussion encouraged about the issues and what the stand in principle should be. Far from it, the opposite is the case. All kinds of hysteria is being whipped up by so-called politicians and the monopoly-controlled media alike over the issue of immigration, diverting from the principled starting-point that the issue is a matter of humanity and defence of the rights of all. Discussion on this principled basis should be encouraged; instead, the level is driven down to an unprincipled taking of sides over the "economic worth" of migrants and other divisive arguments based on the most backward pragmatic outlook.

Furthermore, the episode exposed the other side of "conviction politics", of government by "moral compass". In Gordon Brown's world, people are divided into those that are steering (or steered) by a moral compass and those that are bigoted. The world is essentially fine, but the electorate does not appreciate that Brown has been doing his best, that he has a moral purpose.

In the real world, on the other

hand, "conviction politics" is leading down a path presenting the electorate with the need to defend the rights of all, to fight for an anti-war government, to work for an informed vote, and to oppose the division of the polity. The hysteria in the monopoly media is to try to disorient people to the utmost, who in reality are confronted by a capital-centred political system and system of government.

Far from being labelled as "bigots" or otherwise, the working class should be encouraged in taking up politics. The role of political leadership is to organise amongst workers, beginning with the level that people are at and working to raise that level, so that they themselves are enabled to become leaders, to become politicians in their own right. This requires workers to set their own agenda, not succumb to having the agenda set for them by the political cartel and the media, based on their own independent politics and human-centred outlook.

The aftermath of the incident and the sheer crassness of its reporting and diverting away from anything substantive are revealing that far from the bourgeoisie finding a champion during this election, they are settling for finding a kind of anti-champion in Gordon Brown. The ruling elite appears to be switching to backing of the Tories and Lib Dems by default to pull their chestnuts out of the fire. This appears to be the result, and possibly the aim, of the massive exposure of Gordon Brown's "bigot" remarks.

May Day 2010

All Out to Participate in May Day Events, Day of the International Working Class, Day of Unity and Struggle, in Defence of the Rights of All!

Isle of Wight Prepares for its First May Day Celebration

Ryde and East Wight Trades Council

May First, International Workers' Day, will be celebrated on the Isle of Wight this year. It is the first of its kind. Workers, retirees, youth and the community are being invited to attend a major function taking place in Newport. The trades unions and trades councils of Ryde and Newport will sponsor the event. Other democratic organisations such as the Isle of Wight Palestine Friendship are supporting. Vestas workers are also in support of this memorable and historic event.

At the centre of this year's May Day scenario is the current onslaught on public sector workers and public service programmes by all levels of government. It is also taking place in the context of a General Election. It is a chance for workers to again reiterate their programme that: more is put into the island economy than is taken out; the

rights of the monopolies, like Vestas, to up sticks and move out are curtailed and public right is upheld; an integrated, publicly owned transport system is developed; Isle of Wight citizens are looked after in their old age with a decent standard of living; and a fully funded care programme is installed with guaranteed care for all senior citizens. We call for investment in and support for a sustainable green economy and manufacture of wind-turbines to take place on the island.

On this particular Mayday, we want to emphasise our commitment on the island to social programmes and support our St Mary's hospital and invest in our education service to the highest degree. We stand side by side with students in their demands for grants instead of fees.

Workers are opposed to the council's plans to slash jobs and

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Occupying the Space for Change

Interview with Roger Nettleship, Fight For An Anti-War Government Candidate, South Shields

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with the refusal of the government to withdraw British troops from Afghanistan, the government's blatant support for Israeli war crimes and its continued threats to Iran and other countries. Of course, added to this is that there is a dangerous situation that all the big parties standing in the wings to take power are also supporting this same pro-war stand. So the issue for the electorate is to reject any new pro-war arrangement and fight for an anti-war government. This is the crucial issue in this election.

WW: Can you say something about the history of the struggle of the anti-war movement on Tyneside? We understand that you are forming an alliance with the Green Party candidate also in advancing this movement, which is clearly a significant development.

RN: Speaking of recent times, the anti-war movement has become more permanently organised on

Tyneside. The people of Tyneside opposed in their thousands the attack on Afghanistan in 2001 and on Iraq in 2003. In the last few days the ComRes survey for The Independent and ITV, shows that 72% of the electorate in Britain said that the war was unwinnable in Afghanistan and the troops should be brought home immediately. This is in part due to the fact that the anti-war movement has kept this issue central in the political life of the country. It is important that we carry this unity of the people against the war into the election not just so people can vote for the alternative to the pro-war bloc but significantly can develop the anti-war movement and its political alliance for an anti-war government within the old Parliamentary system. This is a system which tries to fool the people with the competition of the big parties when they essentially stand for the same pro-war and anti-people programme.

WW: How do you think that the character of your candidacy points the way forward nationally?

RN: It points the way forward because it shows how the anti-war movement can occupy the space for change over the war in the general election and keep the initiative in the hands of those forces that are part of the working-class and people's fight. It shows the importance of building confidence in worker politicians and other forces that are part of the people and isolates the Westminster cartel of the three main parties and the monopoly interests that back them. Without this fight, we cannot place the workers and people directly in the centre of the political life of the country and at the



same time keep the initiative in their own hands.

WW: What has been your experience in regard to the local and monopoly media so far? It seems, for example, very much the case that there is a conspiracy of silence against the war in Afghanistan being highlighted as a crucial issue.

RN: Yes, there is a conspiracy of silence on Afghanistan between all the big parties and the monopoly and local media so far in this election. Whereas before the local media would at least factually report the stand of the candidates, up till now my press release has been ignored for raising these issues whereas particularly the big parties have had large coverage. In fact, it goes further than this. In spite of declaring that I was a candidate weeks ago I am not reported on the BBC or other local newspapers as a candidate. So far only the Northern Echo has reported that I am a candidate but says that I am an independent when I have registered with the description Fight for an Anti-War Government.

WW: Do you have a view on what the ruling elite is attempting to achieve with this election? For example, there is much talk of its being a "three-horse race" at the moment, and it seems that the media is actually pushing for a hung parliament. What do you think they would achieve by this?

RN: I think this has to be seen in the context that the political, economic crisis is so deep in Britain. That no clear champion of the ruling elite has emerged means that they are backing all the horses to unleash them on the people and test them out and then have the

option to very quickly back a new arrangement when a clear champion emerges. Further, could this be the beginnings of a war coalition government, or "national" government, and if so then it is even more imperative for the people to break up these warmongering arrangements.

WW: It is early days, but how is the campaign going? The Westminster cartel always seem to try and steal a march on the electorate with their monopoly of power!

RN: Yes, but their campaign is a media campaign and in the media they are ignoring us and the anti-war movement at the moment. But the significant thing is that they are not able to occupy this space for change either other than saying they support "our boys". In terms of what we are doing, because we are participating in the election by presenting the electorate with an alternative and occupying the space for change, we have gone all out to mobilise people politically for an anti-war government. We have already prepared and had delivered 42,000 election communications to every household. We have also invited all the first-time voters, the youth, to our concert for an anti-war government which will be attended by myself and Shirley Ford, the Green Party candidate. Our supporters have been in the town on Saturdays canvassing support for the election campaign. So the issue is that we are there politically regardless of the outcome.

WW: Thank you very much. We sincerely wish you every success with your campaign.



Call of RCPB(ML) on the Occasion of May Day 2010: Day of the International Working Class

Break with the Old and Build the New! Defend the Rights of All!

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lead society out of the crisis of economic meltdown and war towards a pro-social and anti-war alternative. The working class must firmly put on the agenda the necessity to bring into being the alternative, to break with the old world and begin to establish the new. The working class must declare that the programme of paying the rich and the pro-war consensus at the heart of the rule of the owners of capital must not be allowed to succeed. This determination must be transformed into action in order to plant and nurture the alternative, the new society, a socialist Britain and the International of all working peoples, the poor, the oppressed and exploited, the minorities and the billions of humanity who are striving to uphold their dignity as working people and as human beings, in which they and they alone control the direction of the socialised economy and outlaw war and aggression.

It is particularly important to emphasise on this May Day 2010 that the working class must bring into being an anti-war government that is pledged to settle any international disputes without resorting to force and threats of war. The troops must be brought home immediately! No troops on foreign soil! Britain out of NATO! For a foreign policy independent of the US! Uphold the sovereignty of all nations! End the militarisation of the economy!

In preparing to bring about the alternative to the old world, the working class and people of Britain must right at this time engage in political life with the perspective of ending their marginalisation from political affairs and from decision-making. The working class must take the lead in building the Workers'

Opposition. A new direction for the economy based on the working class taking hold of what belongs to it! Reject monopoly right, exploitation and competition! No to the class privilege of the rich! Mobilise to uphold the public good!

The working class must organise itself as a class in itself and for itself. To build a powerful Workers' Opposition, the working class must have its own thinking, perspective and programme. By establishing a powerful Workers' Opposition and advancing its own independent movement and programme, the working class will be rallying round itself all those opposed to the reactionary anti-social, anti-worker, pro-war offensive of the monopolies and their political representatives, and advancing along the line of march to a new socialist society. It must strengthen its vision of this new socialist Britain, in which the rights of every person are recognised by virtue of their being human, in which the working class controls what belongs to it, and in which the broad masses of the people are empowered. The working class must reaffirm its leadership in politics, the economy and society, and assert its determination to defend the rights of all!

RCPB(ML) calls on the working class and people to take up for solution right now the issue of electing an anti-war government. Not a single youth for imperialist war, not a single worker or intellectual for war production! Build the Workers' Opposition to fight in defence of the rights of all and to nurture the pro-social alternative on the soil of Britain! Working class, take up responsibility for leading the way out of the crisis and building a new society!

Workers and Oppressed Peoples of All Countries, Unite!

May Day 2010

All Out to Participate in May Day Events, Day of the International Working Class, Day of Unity and Struggle, in Defence of the Rights of All!



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privatisation schemes like PFI. The closure of the tax office also threatens many jobs.

Both national and local budgets after the election will move against the people with cuts. At the same time, banks are still being supported.

Recruitment for war in Afghanistan is taking place with other wars being planned. We want to stop this and install an anti-war government. We call for the end of occupations of other countries including Iraq and Palestine. The working class is opposed to racism in any shape or form. We call for an end to the Europe of the monopolies and we demand withdrawal from the capitalist EU. May Day celebrates the democracy aspirations of the working class and wants to resolve the problem of labour representation by calling for democratic renewal of the political system.

May Day is an ideal occasion for workers, the labour movement and all the people to give another resounding rejection to this

national escalation of aggression against public sector workers, collective agreements and pension funds, and to stand for public services that serve the needs of the people.

We will demand an end to unemployment and low pay, and fight for guarantees for better working conditions and the social well-being and rights of all citizens, without any kind of exclusion. The worsening situation facing working people is aggravated by the world social and economic situation, marked by the expansion of multiple crises generated by neo-liberal globalisation which affect all of society's sectors and in particular the families of poor workers.

May Day will also be dedicated to international solidarity with all those fighting against foreign intervention, war and violence, plunder and exploitation, with the demand to end the occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. We will fight to demand the end of the blockade of Cuba, oppose aggression against the DPRK and demand, "Hands Off Venezuela!"

All Out for May Day!

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