

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

## The British Government and the Middle East

Last week William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, faced questions on September 14 regarding the government's stance on the

current Middle East peace talks, which took place last week in Egypt, Israel and the US brokered by the US imperialists. The talks were the

first to occur directly between the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and the Prime Minister of Zionist Israel for some two

years and were designed to focus on discussions on substantive issues, including the future borders of the

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## VOICING THE DEMAND FOR THE ALTERNATIVE



This year's TUC Congress in Manchester was characterised by the voicing of the demand for an alternative to the agenda of cuts and attacks on the working class and people being pursued by the Con-Dem government.

The delegates expressed a militancy not seen for some time at a TUC Congress. In opposition to the mantra of Cameron that "we are all in this together", Congress expressed the sentiment, "All together for public services." This reflected the movement across

the country to set up campaigns against the cuts, to form alliances that will fight to defend public services and to take action against all aspects of the anti-social offensive, including the destruction of the manufacturing base. The Congress drew attention to the

widening gap between rich and poor, and the need to defend the rights of all.

In his opening speech to Congress, TUC President Dougie Rooney said, "To the bankers and

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### Commentary

## Falsifications about Nazi Germany's Invasion of Poland

*Of late, there has been much in the media on the anniversaries of the Blitz and the Battle of Britain, taking place 70 years ago. What are the facts about the beginning of the Second World War?*

*Reactionary forces and governments are equating Nazism and communism as "totalitarian", and egging on fascist forces today. We are carrying the following article by Dougal MacDonald which combats the falsifications surrounding Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. It is reprinted from The Marxist-Leninist, Daily On-Line Newspaper of the*

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# The British Government and the Middle East

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proposed Palestinian and Israeli states. As always there are efforts to present these talks as a historic opportunity for a breakthrough.

However, at the present time the Israeli Zionist have refused to even extend the moratorium on the construction of illegal settlements on the occupied West Bank, which according to the Palestinian negotiators threatens to bring the talks to an end. Over the weekend, Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told William Hague that Israel would not extend the moratorium on settlement building past its late-September deadline, according to newspaper reports. Then, in advance of talks on September 15, the Zionist regime went as far as to launch an aerial bombardment of the Gaza tunnels, constructed in order to overcome the blockade which it has imposed and bring essential supplies to the Palestinian people.

The current talks, like those in the past, are completely unjust, do not recognise the need to right the historic wrong inflicted on the Palestinian people and make reparation for it, nor their inalienable right to self-determination. Indeed the talks continue to perpetrate the denial of the rights of the Palestinians to their homeland and are geared to satisfying the interests of US imperialism, and

its proxy Israel, in the region. The elected government of Gaza, Hamas, is entirely excluded from the talks, which speaks volumes as to their true nature.

## Attacks completely unjust

The Foreign Secretary, in his remarks in Parliament reiterated the view of successive governments, which is to label Hamas, a "terrorist" organisation, a term that is never applied to the Zionist state. He stressed that the government is continuing to support what he referred to as "moderate" Palestinians – in other words continuing to meddle in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people, and to create and exacerbate divisions in order to undermine the just struggle of the Palestinians.

In answer to another question, William Hague made it clear that the government will continue to impose sanctions and make threats against Iran, even refusing to rule out military action, in line with the strategy of the US imperialists, the other big powers and Zionist Israel. It is evident that the Anglo-American imperialists will continue to use Israel as a proxy against Iran and as a means to justify their continuing support for the Zionist regime. The agreement made earlier this year between Iran, Turkey and Brazil for the processing of uranium from Iran completely exposed the



machinations of the US and British governments and their allies and highlighted the fact that their attacks on Iran are completely unjust.

## Rights of Palestinians

The ConDem government is continuing the stance of successive Labour governments in regard to the Middle East. While posing as the friend of the Palestinian people it remains their greatest enemy, intent on fishing in troubled waters, maintaining insecurity in the region or securing a resolution which continues to favour the Anglo-American alliance and Zionist Israel. Not only does it continue to attack the rights of the Palestinian people but is intensifying its warmongering threats against the government and people of Iran.

The continuation of the crimes and injustices perpetuated by successive British governments and their allies in the Middle East point to the urgent need of an anti-war government. What must be demanded and fought for is that Britain ceases its threats warmongering and interference in the Middle East, fully recognises the rights of the Palestinian people and makes reparation for the crimes committed against them.

# Falsifications about Nazi Germany's Invasion of Poland

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*Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), September 1, 2010.*

**A**t 4:15 am on September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland in a massive assault. Hitler's Wehrmacht of 1,850,000 troops, 3,200 tanks, 2,000 combat aircrafts, and 11 warships, over two-thirds of Germany's entire combat force, destroyed the Polish state and massacred the people. The Polish people were greatly outnumbered but fought back bravely. The leaders of Poland fled to Rumania on September 17 but the Polish people's spirit of resistance remained strong. Many Poles fought courageously in the communist-led underground Resistance. They formed their own patriotic Polish divisions and fought against the Nazis alongside the Red Army all the way to Berlin.

Against Poland, the Nazis perpetuated one of the worst crimes history has ever known. Poland suffered the largest number of casualties per population of any European country. Direct extermination by mass murder, death camps, slave labour, starvation and other means took some 6 million people's lives, including 2,700,000 Polish Jews, 2,000,000 children and youth, more than 50,000 Roma, some 12,000 people deemed mentally handicapped and thousands of Polish prisoners of war, soldiers and officers, as well as national

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# Workers' Weekly

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**Warsaw, Poland,  
razed to the  
ground in 1939 by  
Nazi bombing**



minorities who were systematically eliminated.

Some 40,000 Polish intellectuals, political personalities and other leaders were shot by the SS within the first six weeks of the Nazi occupation. Beginning in May 1939, Operation Tannenberg, which was part of Hitler's *Generalplan Ost* (Masterplan East), had already identified more than 61,000 Polish activists, intelligentsia, scholars, former officers and others who were to be interned or shot. The bodies of the 4,143 Polish officers who were found buried in Katyn Forest is just one example of the many executions the SS and the Wehrmacht carried out.

The Soviet Union marched into the territory of Poland on September 17, only after the Polish state had collapsed, the Polish army had disintegrated, the government had ceased to function and its leaders had fled. Further, the Soviet Union marched into the territories of the Ukraine and Byelorussia that Poland had forcibly annexed from the Soviet Union during the Polish-Russian War of 1919-20 when Poland was one of the 14 invading imperialist countries that attempted to strangle the newborn Soviet socialist republic. Only about 8 percent of the people in the Ukraine and Byelorussia were of Polish origin. Due to Stalin's timely entry into those territories, Hitler was forced to accept a line of demarcation between his troops and the Red Army. The Red Army saved millions of people inhabiting the Ukraine and Byelorussia from the fate which Hitler reserved for the rest of the Polish people. Even British Prime Minister Winston Churchill publicly justified the Soviet march into eastern Poland.

Today, the modern-day Hitlerites continue to spread the lies that "both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland" and that the two countries had secretly conspired "to divide Poland" between them. These lies were first put forth by Hitler himself who referred to "secret protocols" in a speech where he declared war on the Soviet Union. The "secret protocols" were resur-

rected again by the Nazi defendants at Nuremburg where the Presidium threw them out as a forgery. It was only when the US took up the mantle of Hitlerism after WWII and became the modern day master of Goebbels' big lie technique that Hitler's concoction about "secret protocols" became a so-called historical fact.

### **Historical facts**

The real historical facts clarify why Hitler attacked Poland. In 1939, Poland was an imperialist country created by Britain and France through the 1918 Versailles Treaty. One of Poland's aims was to annex the rich agricultural regions of the Ukraine and extend its territory from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. The Polish landlords and bourgeoisie dreamed of restoring the medieval Polish empire. Financed and armed by Britain and France, they attacked the Soviet Union in 1918, occupying large parts of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and Lithuania. During the following 18 years of semi-fascist Polish rule, the workers and peasants in those regions were viciously exploited.

The Polish government considered Britain and France to be its allies and the Soviet Union its avowed enemy. The Anglo-American and French imperialists wanted to ensure their own world domination so they followed the policy of appeasing Hitler and egging him on toward the East to attack the Soviet Union, rather than organising collective security with the Soviet Union. Poland also hoped that Hitler would go east and attack the Soviet Union, and that Poland could seize Soviet territory itself. Thus Poland refused to settle outstanding border questions so as to make the Soviet defence line as deep as possible within Soviet territory and refused the Soviets permission to enter Poland to stop the Nazi advance. Instead of taking all measures nec-

essary to defend against the impending Nazi invasion, Poland was manoeuvring with the aim of gaining advantages for itself.

In attacking Poland, Hitler was taking up the Anglo-American policy of going East and implementing his own plan, outlined in *Mein Kampf*, to increase Germany's "living space" (*lebensraum*) by taking over the Ukraine as part of his overall plan to enslave the entire world. Only ten days before the attack, Hitler in his Obersalzberg speech instructed his generals to "send to death mercilessly and without compassion men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space (*lebensraum*) which we need."\* In the end, Poland paid very dearly for its own imperialist ambitions and rejection of Soviet assistance.

### **People must organise**

The lies about the Soviet Union, Stalin, Poland, and World War II aim to put the people to sleep and lull them into a false sense of security by making people think that today there is no danger of fascism. But right in front of everyone's eyes, the fascists are being organised to attack the struggle for freedom and progress of all the peoples on a world scale. [...] The people should not leave their fate in the hands of someone else but should take measures to actively organise to oppose the activities of the anti-people forces on all fronts.

\* Woodward, E. L. & Rifelep, Rohan (eds.) (1954). *Documents on British Foreign Policy. 1919-1939*. 3rd series. London: HMSO. 7:258-260.

# **Tony Blair: US Peace Medal for War Criminal**

**T**ony Blair, the war criminal of Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East, was awarded on September 13 the "Liberty Medal" at the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia by former President Bill Clinton. The previous week, Blair had been pelted with shoes, eggs, and beer bottles during the signing of his memoirs in Ireland, and was then forced to cancel signings in Britain. Far from getting a medal, Tony Blair should be prosecuted for war crimes.

Estimates put the civilian death-toll in Iraq at one million people, since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. After stepping down as Prime Minister, Tony Blair has toured the world as a public speaker, reportedly charging up to £250,000 for a 90 minute speech. Since leaving 10 Downing Street, it is believed Blair has made between £20 and £30 million. He received an obscene amount as advance for his new book, donated to a charity that helps military veterans, which has been condemned as "blood money".

In Palestine, Blair used his position as envoy of the "Middle East Quartet" (UN, US, EU and Russia) to help the so-called "Wataniya projects", which have benefited his personal commercial sponsors. It was reported that the Wataniya project was faced with problems by the Israeli occupation, which threatened to the end the project, which were solved by Tony Blair through his intervention with Israel.

Blair was never welcomed in Palestine, and was denounced during a tour of Hebron. "You are a terrorist, a war criminal, you are not welcome in the land of Palestine, get out of our holy land", a Palestinian from the Hamdan family shouted in Blair's face.



# Voicing the Demand for the Alternative

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speculators who caused this mess, let us say: we will not pay for your crisis. There must be no going back to business as usual or bonuses as usual. We need to build a new and very different kind of economy. An economy where our manufacturing and engineering industries regain their rightful place as engines of growth, prosperity and jobs. Because it's time this country rediscovered the virtues of designing and making things and selling them to the rest of the world. That is the best way to rebalance our economy, and the best way to build a stable, sustainable recovery. But we can't just leave this huge task to the whims of the market, because the industries of tomorrow need support to flourish." He spoke of developing the labour movement as a "great coalition of workers, trade unions and politicians. A coalition that urgently needs rebuilding."

## A political programme

TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said of the General Council statement on the economy that it was "the union case for an alternative and sets out how we will win the argument for change". He said that the depth of the recession demonstrated "the complete failure of the neoliberal economic model". Brendan Barber condemned the government for saying that the "deficit is the big economic problem" and that "reducing it is the only political priority". The TUC general secretary took issue with the argument that in taking action, the workers and their unions are "just pursuing narrow self-interest". He countered, "We are at the heart of our communities, passionately

concerned to defend the integrity and the quality of the services we provide. But we are entitled to be clear. Although the government is pursuing a political programme that we will only defeat politically, where members – faced with attacks on jobs, pay or pensions – take a democratic decision for industrial action, they will have the support of their unions and the TUC stands ready to co-ordinate that."

## Leadership of working class

The theme which was emphasised is that the choice is not between reducing the deficit or to experience national bankruptcy. The TUC delegates voiced the demand for an alternative to the programme of cuts and the destruction of society. Their spirit was to organise the workers themselves to take up the responsibility for the fate of society. As Brendan Barber concluded his speech by saying, "This is a heavy responsibility. The weeks and months ahead will test us as never before. And at all times we must and will speak up for everyone in Britain today. Not just public servants. Not just private sector workers. Not just the poor. Not just the vulnerable. Not just those in the middle struggling to make ends meet – but everyone. Let us show there is a genuine alternative to cuts. Let us win this battle for hearts and minds. And together let us shape a more hopeful future for all."

There is a well-defined mood to oppose the programme of "freedom, fairness and responsibility" of the ruling elite, and instead for the workers themselves to set the agenda with their own definitions of the alternative. The workers will not side with the government's definition of everyone



# Seminar

## Celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea!

Friends of Korea is organising a seminar and political forum to mark the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea which falls on October 10. Short papers will be presented, followed by discussion. The seminar aims to present a short account of the history and significance of the WPK, and to show its role as the leader and organiser of the victories of the Korean people and the defence of the sovereignty and independence of the DPRK. The seminar aims to put this information into the context of the present situation, and to strengthen the conviction of the progressive forces in their defence of Korea against the aggression and threats of US imperialism. Everyone is encouraged to come and celebrate this significant anniversary.

## Tuesday, October 5, 7.00 pm

*For further details, contact Friends of Korea, c/o John Buckle Centre, 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.*

being in this together, which targets not only the workers and the vulnerable in society but seeks to block the movement for the alternative itself. They are putting forward their own perspective for uniting all sections of society under the leadership of the working class to defend the general interests of society and to refuse to come under the dictate of the

monopolies and the financial oligarchy. The speech by Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, which tried to soft-soap Congress into lining up behind the aims of the rich, was treated with the contempt which it deserved.

The TUC is organising a rally on October 19, as well as planning a national demonstration next March.

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