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Defend Iran and its right to nuclear weapons!

George Bush is once again on the warpath. Four years ago he was preparing to invade Iraq. Bush is preparing for war again. Once again the ostensible reason is “weapons of mass destruction”. In Iran’s case the issue is nuclear weapons. There are significant differences though.

In 2006, George Bush is talking diplomacy as the appropriate means of struggle “at the moment”. He hasn’t ruled out war though. In 2006, Bush is talking United Nations. In 2002 Bush considered the UN an albatross around his neck. He argued that it was historically redundant. Some of the most moderate of Bush’s hawkish clan such as Colin Powell considered that the process had to go through the process of UN resolutions basically for tactical reasons and for America’s good name in relation to the rest of the world, notably Europe. But effectively, for George Bush the United Nations had the choice of agreeing with America or being made redundant. Obey us, join us in invading Iraq, or else! George indicated that irrespective of whatever the UN decided, US and allies would go ahead anyway!

Some of Bush’s hawks regret this tactical dalliance with the UN because for them it simply meant that Saddam had more time to prepare.

In regards to Iran, Bush is playing softly softly. He is making sure that he has the world behind him. But the end-game will be the same. He wants to invade another innocent country. Iran has not invaded anyone and is making no territorial claims. Some would say that Iran having nuclear weapons makes it a threat to peace and security. Well America is not opposed to nuclear weapons. It is just opposed to countries not sympathetic to America having nuclear weapons. Iran has every right to believe that America is a threat. The US imperialist war drive pushes ahead. Iran is oil rich and a US friendly regime there will help the US controlling the whole of the region. The US also wants to wipe out El Quaida which they believe the Iranians are backing it. They also believe that Iran is backing sections of the resistance in Iraq. Conquering Iran will be no easy task. Overwhelmingly, the population backs the government and share their fanatical religious beliefs. This means fighting for their religion guns in hand. Even those who are opposed to the Mullahs regime are mainly anti-American. In short, America faces total opposition from a whole country of armed people. They will make Iraq seem like a picnic in comparison. The casualties on America and allies side will be immense. Revolutionary communists oppose the regime in Iran. We support its military overthrow by revolutionary means. But we give military support to those who fight the imperialists when they invade a semi-colony which Iran effectively is. Internationally there is a clear responsibility for the proletariat to defend Iran. In Australia and elsewhere we must start preparing now!

As in relation to Iraq, the US will cover its naked aggression through a military coalition.

There is only one force which can defeat the imperialist war drive — the working class

Once again, predictable as ever, the left will be building popular fronts aimed at persuading ruling class parties and sections of the ruling class itself the moral virtues of changing sides. This is an exercise in futility. Bourgeois forces will only join the action if the movement has no working class teeth.

The ruling class do not listen to morality. They listen when their interests are threatened. We must threaten their war effort with working class direct action.

USA. Mass rallies in defence of “illegal” immigrants.

They are now out of the closet. Throughout the USA, in every major city, mass rallies have occurred “illegal” workers have stood up and demanded their rights. They want the same rights as citizens.. There are ten million “illegals” in the USA. They point out their significance, doing unpleasant jobs that local labour refuses to do. They point out what this means to the US economy and that the consequence of them not being in the USA would mean a massive labour shortage. The authorities and the politicians are forced to agree. The ruling class faces a major dilemma.

There is a major division in that country over what to do about this embarrassing situation. The solution offered by the liberals such as Teddy Kennedy is to allow them to earn their citizenship. They reject any idea that citizenship should be handed to them on a platter. Basically after being in the country, earning a living and handing over to the government the appropriate money, citizenship would be theirs.

Of course if you are laid off for some reason, not the fault of your own and can't find work it will simply be your bad luck. You be removed back to your own country. Tough luck if it means your family starves. This “liberal” option is not as progressive as some try to tell us. Migrants work for capital without any rights and are then forced to pay to get the same basic rights as everyone else. All immigrants should have full citizenship rights. Guaranteed, without payment.

The extreme right oppose any rights at all. They argue that any concessions to “illegals” is a threat to the rule of law and the right of America to determine who should live in their country. They also argue that “illegal” workers undermine the wages and conditions of American workers.

Well on this issue, the liberals are more in tune with the interests of US capital than the conservatives. There is no way that the US state can effectively organise the deportation of more than ten million workers. The US bosses will suffer from the loss of labour. Being “illegal” the workers are forced to work with lower wages and conditions and are easier to super-exploit than local workers. Sensible bourgeois analysts know how essential these workers are. Of course, the US state must not lose face. They must not give the impression that getting into the country and becoming a citizen is easy. The liberal compromise seems to be sensible pragmatic politics.

For revolutionary communists, there is only one policy: Smash all immigration controls! Citizenship rights for all irrespective of nationality!. This policy applies to all nations and not just the USA. It is

the message that the labour movement must be making in Australia, loud and clear. Australian workers must defend the rights of immigrants in this country — illegal or otherwise.

Capitalism wants immigrants when there is profit to be made. But when the crisis hits, they demand immigrants go home. Immigrants should be welcome in any country which they choose to live irrespective of capitalist profitability.

French insurrection defeats reactionary industrial legislation

It was inspiring, it was heroic,. Throughout France, millions of workers and students took to the streets to tell the authorities what they thought of First Job Contract This contract effectively gives employers the right to sack young people as they see fit. Of course, the rioters and strikers were well aware that this legislation was not something in isolation. In France, as elsewhere, the ruling class have an agenda. They want to smash unions, destroy working conditions, and attack the public sector especially the welfare sector. France has a rightwing government. The Gaulists are enthusiastic supporters of the economic rationalist agenda. Their enthusiasm hasn't weakened. But now they realise , that they will have to be more subtle and tactical if they wish to achieve their objective.

The legislation has been repealed. This is good But this is but a minor victory. The fact remains that the Gaulists remain in power. As long as they remain in power the right wing offensive will continue. Of course no faith can be placed in the Socialists or "Communists" who are also committed to administer capitalism albeit in a more humane manner. The fact remains that it is only a revolutionary workers and small farmers government which can serve our interests. The French revolution must go all the way!

Of course, from this heroic struggle there are some important lessons for Australian workers. Our leaders have a totally different philosophy from the fighters of France. Combet and Burrow believe in respectability. They believe in persuading governments to behave reasonably. They believe in appealing to what's known as the "aspirational voter" They believe in being reasonable and in fair play. This means fair play for the bosses

Well in France, the reactionary legislation has been repealed. Not so for Australia! Whilst there is plenty of opposition to work place reform and "Workchoices" the fact remains that the legislation is on the books and Howard faces no serious threat.

The lesson from the French experience is this: force works. It is only when the ruling class feel seriously threatened that they feel inclined to make concessions. The ACTU wants to appeal to the aspirational voter and the middle class. But the middle classes take the working class seriously only when they are threatening power. This the ACTU leaders have no intention in doing.

Whilst the French workers struggle was inspiring, in no way should we glorify. There are still many obstacles to overcome before the French workers achieve their revolutionary objective. For a start most of them vote Socialist or Communist. There is also the contending labour bureaucracies who are hell bent on compromise

In France it is a matter of urgency that a revolutionary party be forged . This is the only real guarantee of victory. The French revolution must go all the way!

Once again, Australia invades the Solomon Islands.

We agree that the Solomon Islands constitutes a “failed state”. We blame for this failure on their former colonial masters, Great Britain. The British essentially cobbled together a state forcing together various tribal groupings. The result has been ethnic conflict. When Australia invaded last time the purpose was to sort out such a conflict between the Maleta and Guadalcanal tribes. Of course, the Solomons became totally under Australia’s control.

Australia thought its efforts were successful when an election was held. But then the riots occurred. The rioters demanded that the president resign. This time the riots were not an intertribal conflict. This time rioters targeted the Chinese community, especially Chinese business interests.

Whilst Australia occupied, imposing imperialist interests, Taiwanese business interests saw their opportunity. to exploit the labour and recourses of the Solomon’s. They moved in and establish their community to do precisely that. They had Australia’s full backing.

The rioters saw the Taiwanese as exploiters which indeed they were. For this they were targeted by the rioters. Now the Chinese quarter of Honiara is in tatters. Australia was proud of their achievement of getting their democratic elections off the ground. But it is clear that the result was tainted by bribery. The Taiwanese bourgeoisie bribed democratically elected MP’s to get their man successfully elected as Prime Minister. It is only after the riots that their lackey resigned.

So Australia whilst succeeding in overcoming the tribal contradiction, effectively created another. This riot was well and truly, the fruit of Australia’s occupation. Australia is not motivated by democracy. It is motivated with the desire to establish stable nations to facilitate imperialist control and exploitation. All Australian military intervention in the South Pacific must be unconditionally opposed. The nations of the South Pacific face many problems. But imperialism is the problem and not the solution.

A new prime minister has been appointed. So for now, Australia has decided to withdraw troops. But make no mistake! Australia reserves the right to invade, when she sees fit. That is, when capitalist interests are inconvenienced by an elected government or otherwise. It would certainly intervene if there was the possibility of revolution.

Australia is itself dominated by imperialism, especially US imperialism. But in exchange for this domination it has been given a sphere of influence in the South Pacific and South East Asia. George Bush is quite correct when he calls John Howard his deputy sheriff.

Another military intervention by Australia means the workers movement must take action. In no way must we be party to Australia’s war drive. We need resolutions. We need demonstrations. But we also need action to smash the war effort.

Freedom for West Papua! Free the West Papuan refugees!

This century, relations between Australia and Indonesia have been closer than for decades. Australia appeared to be generous in its support for the Indonesian victims of the tsunami. And this was warmly appreciated in Indonesia. This facilitated co-operation on all sorts of issues including

trade ,fighting terror, dealing with refugees. .Australia warmly praised Indonesia's efforts to develop democracy. Relations were becoming warm and cosy

It took twenty six refugees from West Timor to spoil the party. Indonesia was strongly offended. Howard, Vanstone and other ministers have made strong statements proclaiming West Papua as part of Indonesia and the futility of Independence. Vanstone even proclaimed supporters of the West Papuan movement to be "racist". But all this is not good enough. Jakarta withdrew its ambassador until it has received an apology.

So why is Jakarta so strongly offended? Well they consider the West Papuan independence struggle to be an attack on Indonesia. By accepting West Papuan refugees, Australia is party to the attack on its sovereignty. They are understandably fearful that the refugees will use Australia as a platform to expose Indonesian atrocities to a world audience. Indeed this is what they might well do. Indonesia noted Australian rhetoric supporting their occupation. But with the refugees accepted, and agencies supporting West Papua based in this country and tolerated (not actively opposed) Indonesia perceives Howard's actions run contrary to the rhetoric.

The Howard Government behaved in its normal way in relation to the refugees.

They were detained. Their refugee credentials examined and were accepted when they were found to be "real" refugees. This offended Indonesia.

The Howard government is now panicking. The situation must not occur again. But if they were returned to the re prospect of murder or torture, Howard would be extremely embarrassed in Australia. His compromise formula is military boats to prevent them from coming here and the Pacific solution if they do. If you are running for your life from West Papua, there certainly won't I any sympathy from Howard and his cronies. You will suffer state repression and barbaric detention.

Kim Beazley was dead right. It is now Indonesia who is now determining who should migrate to this country.

The workers movement should support t independence of West Papua and give military support to the Free Papua Movement (OPM).

Howard differentiates East Timor and W Papua on the grounds that West Papua also a Dutch colony and was incorporate due to a referendum in which the people voted to be part of Indonesia. East Timor was a Portuguese colony which was incorporated by invasion, Thus, they rationalise their support for Timorese independence and not Papuan.

This is, of course an analysis of political expedience. The referendum which gave incorporation into Indonesia a fig-leaf of legitimacy was a farce! Only a minority the population were consulted. The people have been fighting for their liberation ever since.

In Australia sections of the left (notably the Communist Party) supported incorporation of West Papua into Indonesia because they believed in a strong Indonesia. Gough Whitlam for example believed in strong states so third world countries could develop properly. Others believed strong states could defy imperialism. Both were wrong. Shotgun unity of nations is a sure recipe for civil war.

Communists want international unity. But international unity is only viable when both nations totally agree. This requires a real referendum and not the shot-gun affair which legitimised Indonesian invasion.

It is the responsibility of the left and workers movement in this country to stand up for the West Papuans and their right to form a separate nation. There must be no capitulation to Howard and the Indonesian ruling class.

Communist Left stands for

The shortening of the working week until

everyone is employed

Revolutionary expropriation of the means of

production (as opposed to bourgeois nationalisation)

Socialisation of housework and childcare

Support for Women's and Gay rights

Self-determination for Kooris Murrri all indigenous groupings and Torres Strait Islanders

Opposition to Australia's participation in the imperialist war drive including the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, the war on terror and the imperialist attempt to undermine nationalised property relationships in the remaining post-capitalist states.

Opposition to Australian intervention in the

South East Asian region or the Pacific. This includes Papua, New Guinea, Solomon Islands or elsewhere

Smash all immigration controls! Free the

Refugees! No detention Centres!

A new revolutionary communist international

A revolutionary and small farmers

government based on working class organisation and not on parliament!

Communist Left

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