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Defend North Korea and its right to nuclear weapons

There is a world united front against North Korea at the moment. At the Security Council of the United Nations there was a unanimous resolution calling for North Korea to disarm and for sanctions if it doesn't. But it is clear that the talk is for sanctions and not a total embargo. The North Koreans consider this to be an act of war.

The US is talking tough. Japan is scared. It fears that that country and not the United States will be the victory of any nuclear blast should the Koreans react to any pressure with nuclear force. There has been talk in Japan of that country developing nuclear weapons to counter the North Korean threat. Condoleezza Rice is touring Japan and Korea to negotiate. She has assured Japan that it will be safe under the US nuclear umbrella.

China and Russia oppose the North Koreans but propose negotiations. Also opposed to North Korea is the Castro regime in Cuba and Chavez in Venezuela..

Kim Jong-Il and the North Koreans have every right to be scared. George Bush declared them to be, along with Iraq and Iran to be part of the “Axis of Evil” . North Korea has absolutely nothing to do with Iran or Iraq And in no way would there be any military bloc. In no way did North Korea pose any serious threat. But George Bush's message came over loud and clear. The US claims the right to invade “evil” nations with impunity. North Korea had every right to feel threatened and it responded with the development of nuclear weapons.

As is well known, North Korea is one of the last of the hardline Stalinist states There has been no concessions from this regime to the bourgeois democratic movements present in other post-capitalist states. Most of these “democratic” revolutions were counter-revolutions, which successfully established capitalism throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The lesson of all this is that you cannot compete with capitalism by arming yourself to the teeth. This attempt to ghettoise socialism led to massive suffering. In North Korea the people are suffering also.

In North Korea there have been reports of mass starvation. Essentially the regime there prefers to arm itself rather than feed its population.

Socialism can be defended not with bombs but with dialectical materialism. This means the spreading of the revolution internationally through a new communist international – a fifth communist international.

Kim Jong-Il is a victim of the collapse of communism and the selling out of China to the west. Before, in the United Nations, China was there to cover for him. It is still prepared to do so to a degree. But China will only go so far and will not defend them all the way. This is shown by its vote for the UN resolution.

The lesson Kim appears to have learned from all this is to stop the western advance you must arm yourself even more heavily than the Eastern bloc did before. This he is doing at the expense of ordinary North Koreans.

The revolutionary lesson to be learned from the collapse of the post-capitalist states is that you cannot build socialism in one country or even a group of countries. Of course this lesson will not be learned by Kim Jong-Il. Why? Because he fears the revolutionary mobilisation of the working class. Such a mobilisation would also threaten the power of his ruling elite.

Revolutionary communists, Trotskyists are no friend of this reactionary bureaucratic clique which rules North Korea. We want the regime overthrown. But the point is to overthrow it by revolutionary means to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat. We oppose the restoration of capitalism!

For this reason we are opposed to the imperialist campaign against North Korea. We defend North Korea militarily. We oppose any sanctions. The US and allies are not opposed to nuclear weapons. They support them in the hands of the imperialists and in the hands of countries they trust (to support them).

Israel has just almost destroyed the state of Lebanon. It did so because Hezbollah took as prisoners a couple of Israeli soldiers. So Israel destroys a country. This is justified with the claim that Hezbollah are everywhere so to defeat them "regretfully" civilian areas must be attacked also. In no way was Beirut airport used by Hezbollah! But is Israel declared a "rogue state"? No it isn't! Nor is there any resolution calling for it to disarm! These resolutions are only there to condemn US imperialism's enemies and not its friends!. The UN is a tool of US imperialism.

The only war North Korea should be disarmed is by proletarian revolution. Every attempt to oppose North Korea by imperialist military force or by economic sanctions must be actively opposed by working class action. We must oppose the US led war drive against North Korea. .

Unions NSW: unionists for "Fair Employers"

Fair Employer is the latest campaign of Unions NSW to reward those employers who do not use Australian Workplace Agreements. This campaign was supported unanimously within Unions NSW and has the support of Labor, the Greens and the Stalinists. The ACTU and other Labor Councils support the campaign in principle but have minor differences

. Since the reactionary "Workchoices" legislation has been on the political agenda, our noble union leaders have bent over backwards to show that they are reasonable people defending a reasonable and fair system (the previous one) and not extremists. Debra Conway has the honour of being the first person in living memory to have sung Advance Australia Fair at a union, radical or left wing meeting. The ACTU were keen to show the Australian public their patriotic zeal. In some ways they have succeeded with their flash advertising highlighting blatant injustice. A lot of the Australian public are now fearful concerning losing their rights at work and indeed their job. when Workchoices is fully implemented.. The problem is that Workchoices will only be defeated by force and this they consistently oppose.

The Fair Employer campaign is an all time low in terms of class collaboration. For decades the union bureaucracy has preached open class collaboration with the government, co-operating with business by refusing to fight for wage rises or defending jobs. The Fair Employer campaign they offer to actively promote some bosses as "fair" if they meet their broad criteria. This label will mean free advertising from unions who will encourage members to purchase their products.

Unions NSW define a boss as "fair" if they satisfy the following criteria .Bosses have to 1) to maintain fair employment conditions 2) abide by employment related laws 3) NOT introduce Australian Workplace Agreement's (AWA's) 4) respect the rights of workers to be members of the union 5) not convert employees into independent contractors 6) endeavour to treat employees fairly. The employer concerned will the be deemed "community friendly". Unions NSW assure us that any endorsement will be withdrawn if the bosses do not behave this way in practice.

All this doesn't amount to much. All that is really being demanded is that they act in the way they carried out industrial relations, prior to Workchoices. Bosses are not even asked to actively endorse the unions' campaign against Workchoices or donate money. There is no demand that they support improvements in pay or conditions. In fact theoretically, a boss could be recognised as "fair" but still even support Workchoices. She or he would argue that AWA's might be appropriate for other industries but the best way to improve productivity in theirs is to co-operate with a right wing union. BHP Newcastle had a very comfortable relationship with their local branch of the Federated Ironworkers Association led by Laurie Short. Wages were kept low for decades. But BHP Newcastle might have been eligible for Unions NSW endorsement as a "Fair Employer" had such an endorsement existed. But BHP was a reactionary company.

Bosses pursue different strategies. But they all have one common interest – their profitability. Workchoices is not introduced because there are some bad bosses and a bad Howard government who want to be unfair. It is introduced because it is in the interests of the capitalist class as a whole to maximise profit. This requires the physical destruction of the union movement. Whilst some bosses may have differences in tactics and strategy, their fundamental objective is the same. Unions NSW like the whole of the trade union bureaucracy, don't want workers to learn any revolutionary lessons from the campaign against the ruling class. So they spread the message that some bosses might be "fair" They are also promoting the bosses, giving them free advertising for virtually nothing.

There would be a conflict of interest if unions were doing their job. "Fair" employers lay off workers. "Fair" bosses oppose wage rises and a shorter working week for their employees. "Fair bosses have resisted improvements in conditions" We could go on. So whilst unions are promoting bosses as "community friendly" they would be fighting them against the attacks they consistently carry out! No doubt many unions will resolve this contradiction by simply not doing their job! Employers may also be community unfriendly in other ways such as polluting the environment, developing infrastructure which grossly inconveniences working class residents (roads for container trucks).

Never before have unions been so blatantly on their knees before the ruling class, begging the bosses to treat them nicely! This gross class collaboration is a reflection of the total degeneration of both reformism and Stalinism. It is a matter of urgency that communist leadership be built to replace the current lot of reformists, Greens and Stalinists – on their knees to the ruling class and selling us out! . .

CPA Stalinists for "fair Employers"

At an October 5 meeting of Inner West Rights at Work, Sydney a representative of Unions NSW addressed the meeting on the virtues of the Fair Employer campaign. Yes, it was important to hear what our leadership had to say. After explaining their case, the representative left the room and debate took place. The most enthusiastic promoters of this class collaborationist gimmick were the Stalinist Communist Party of Australia (CPA).

The CPA is the continuity of the old Socialist Party of Australia. The SPA broke away from the old CPA led by Laurie Aarons. The Aarons led CPA promoted militancy even when it inconvenienced sections of the trade union bureaucracy

Those who became the SPA attacked this as setting worker against worker. They called for unity meaning sucking up to the bureaucrats. Whereas the Aarons led CPA supported militant protest movements, the SPA supported the old strategy of Unity Against Monopoly. The SPA took up the name Communist when it was clear the CPA abandoned identifying itself with communism and became the New Left Party. So the SPA became the CPA

The CPA have, in the past argued for unity. This has meant do what the bureaucrats do, no matter what. However their rationalisation for supporting class collaboration "Fair Employer" is different. It fits in with their unity against monopoly strategy.

At Inner West Rights at Work, the CPA have failed to confront most of the criticism from their most vocal opponents. But their leading member Denis Doherty has made a strategic rationalisation. We quote him from an e-mail letter to IW_YRAW as follows (with minor corrections). We have also omitted the first paragraph which is not relevant.

"As a "CPA people" I would like to say that we analyse the powerhouse for 'workchoices' as big business and multinationals. They want the workers and small business to pay for any changes they have to make to keep up with Chinese and Indian competition. The Howard Government is simply acting on behalf of the business council of Australia and other horrible mobs. They will not stop at 'Workchoices' and have promised to have a second layer of attacks on unions. Unfortunately they have chosen to attack at a time when the unions are down in support. The % of union members in the work force is around 15% to 23%, anyway you look at it is not a good strong position. What do we do in such a situation? We look for allies! So far the unions have secured the support of the mainstream churches, and are extending their support

>networks to other community groups. Why shouldn't we include some small businesses and undermine a Howard strategy as the small business government? It makes sense.

The Fair Employers Scheme should be just be a sideline and not a major effort in itself. It is a tactic not a strategy. It is envisaged as far as I can remember that the discussion that followed the presentation that we do some work on this scheme but that it not take over from getting more union members, name and shame, extending the community support.

When Rochelle approached us with her idea on small business in the course of our effort on extending the support for IW-YRAW to the Greens we reported it to the group. They were objections raised and it seem it needed too much work by our small group. Unions NSW came along with the >same idea and with the resources to make it possible.

As a 'CPA people' we have always worked for the greatest possible unity and even at the 11th hour last meeting we offered a compromise which was summarily rejected. We are working for unity and getting the greatest possible force together to defeat 'workchoices'. Let's get on with making that force a reality! Let's be respectful of each others positions and focus on the main enemy - the Howard government and its mates.

Denis"

By e-mail October 6

No other letter or document in the history of the "orthodox" proMoscow Stalinist movement has illustrated the class collaborationist nature of the Unity Against Monopoly strategy. To get unity, we crawl to employers. Is what the CPA is making clear. Often there is confusion As this is the monopoly phase of capitalism it appears to many that the CPA is opposing capitalism. By supporting this campaign they are exposing the fact that their strategy is not to overthrow capitalism but to support non-monopoly capitalists against big monopoly ones. .

His letter explains a strategy. But Denis fails to confront some pretty basic criticisms.

Firstly Fair Employer neither draws a line against monopoly capital and nor does it draw a line against big business. You can be a monopoly capitalist and a big business person and still support and even be recognised as a "Fair employer" There are no lines drawn. CPA may be focusing on small business but the campaign is not small business exclusive. Big business is welcome if it obeys some pretty minimal criteria.

Secondly it is doubtful whether Fair Employer can actually be called an alliance. An employer recognised as "fair" does not have to support the campaign against Workchoices .or give us money or improve workers wages and conditions. Nor even do they even have to oppose Howard! They may not necessarily be carrying out industrial relations in the way Howard would approve. But this does not necessarily mean that he or she is on our side!

Thirdly if we get sucked into crawling to employers who prefer class collaboration to confrontation we are digging our own grave. Bosses have one principle – profit. Workers Participation schemes are just as much part of capitalism's arsenal as the direct confrontation approach of Howard. By crawling to apparently progressive capitalists were are exposing ourselves as weak and this could be fatal.

Fourthly there is a conflict of interest for unionists who on one hand praise a boss for playing fairly under the old rules and having to fight that boss for better wages and conditions etc.

Alliances have to be principled. Yes it is important to win over sections of the middle class, unemployed, indigenous Australia, community groups etc. Both on the political and trade union level, unity with the class enemy compromises us.

The CPA, when called SPA played a progressive and principled role when it opposed the Prices and Incomes Accord. They did this even though it cost them a considerable proportion of their membership, including influential union leaders. Their support for Fair Employer shows that their opposition to the Accord did not mean a methodological break from the Stalinist tradition of class collaboration

Palm Island. The death of Doomadgee. We say its murder!

Mulrunji Doomadgee was a young man in perfect health He was arrested .supposedly for public drunkenness. He never left the police station alive! Amongst the serious injuries he received whilst in custody was a broken liver, This is not likely to happen by accident or by an attempt at suicide. It takes a

hell of a lot of force to break a healthy person's liver. Only the cops on duty had access to his cell. They are therefore responsible for his death. We call it murder.

The Coroner's Report was a damning indictment of police practices in relation to Doomadgee. For a start, according to the royal Commission into Black Deaths in custody, Black people are not supposed to be taken into custody merely for being drunk. Yet Doomadgee was! The Police Association is crying foul! They claim that the coroner is politically correct and biased, out to get the police force. They don't have any other explanations though for her findings. The only explanation for a healthy person such as Doomadgee suffering from a broken liver is serious physical violence. The only force capable of doing this with access were the police on duty.

We consider that the Palm Island Murri's were totally justified in rioting and burning down that police station. They should have the full support of the workers movement also. We do not believe in Royal Commissions. There can be no justice under this racist capitalist system. We certainly have no faith in the Beattie Government which has sided totally with the racist police force.

The workers movement in Queensland has remained silent and this is bad. Working class submission to the system has led to massive attacks from the government and the bosses such as the Accord from Labor and Workchoices from the Liberals.. Silence means consent and consenting to the ruling class agenda when it attacks Murris means accepting a system which attacks working people and oppressed. We must not be party to their system. We must defend the Palm Island Murris.

The only way forward is force. We respect the militancy of the Palm Island Murris. We think that they have a right to fight the racist system anyway but the findings of the coroner prove that their insurrection was well and truly justified. But to win they need active solidarity from the organised working class. To galvanise this solidarity. All racism must be fought..

**SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE PALM ISLAND INSURRECTION! BUILD SOLIARITY
THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA!**

BUILD WORKERS DEFENSE AGAINST RACIST POLICE ATTACKS!

Oaxaca Mexico: The Paris Commune of the twenty first century faces state repression.

If anyone has any doubts that working people have the capacity or the desire for revolutionary struggle, the Oaxaca Commune certainly shows otherwise. The organisation and heroism in the face of state repression has been magnificent.

The Paris Commune lasted only fifty one days. The Oaxaca Commune lasted much longer. Never the less the hard right Federal Mexican Government of Vincente Fox is putting the boot in and it looks like the commune will be defeated. . .

This Commune is not led by the indigenous of Mexico but the proletariat. Although initiated by the teachers the struggle has embraced the proletariat and poor small farmers of Oaxaca, as well as the indigenous population. Oaxaca is one of the poorest cities in Mexico so there were many proletarians willing to struggle as well as the teachers.

The struggle began on National Teachers Day in May this year, On that day teachers in Oaxaca set up tents. The reactionary Oaxaca state government responded by pepper bombs from the air and armed police with clubs. The unionists responded not by surrender but by forming a soviet, the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (OPPA) Since June there has been a situation of dual power .in that city of Mexico. Their demo's have been massive. One million of the four million residents of Oaxaca participated Their demand was to get rid of the state governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. It was Ortiz who authorised the military attacks on the teachers' camps.

In September 5 a proclamation from the OPPA soviet declared the state government null and void, not recognised in Oaxaca and not representing the people of Oaxaca.

This popular assembly has more than just assembled. They have set up picket lines and barricades. They have occupied the main centre of town, the Zolola. 2,000 barricades have been assembled .throughout the city. Coca Cola truck drivers have used their trucks to physically become part of the barricades.

Within the OPPA Commune there is a strong women's organisation. .This organisation took over the main commercial tv channel, channel Nine. Radio and tv stations are now under the control of OPPA.

The level of consciousness has been high. The Oaxaca Communards believe in international solidarity with the worlds' oppressed. But this is not revolutionary internationalism. They also see the need to go beyond their own city and state. But this is not a revolutionary programme. What is needed is a political programme which unites the proletariat and the oppressed around a programme of state power – a revolutionary workers and small farmers government. This the Oaxaca Communards do not have.

On October 27, OPPA organised a massive rally calling for the resignation of Oaxaca Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz President Fox responded by sending in the "preventative police – the PFP .Detentions, deaths and violations of human rights. In short, the movement has been bathed in blood.

Of course, historically this is nothing new. Marx and Engels recognised the Paris Commune as an heroic attempt by proletarians to take control of their own lives. They saw this commune as a foretaste of the new society , based on soviet power But they recognised that success of such a commune required the extension of the revolution and a programme for political power. The Oxaca Communards, the OPPA have failed to learn this fundamental lesson and history has been repeated – at the bloody expense of the Mexican proletariat.

It is urgent that the Mexican proletariat mobilise around a revolution to bring down Vincente Fox and to smash the Mexican state. International action is required also. The smashing of Oaxaca will be a defeat for the revolution not just there but for the whole of the Mexican proletariat. Revolutionary action from the Mexican proletariat would see the Oaxaca Commune rise again.

Julian Moti. Australia bullies the Solomon Islands.

Julian Moti is supposed to be Attorney General of the Solomon Islands. He is though controversial. In Vanuatu, where he was recognised as a permanent resident, he was charged with having sex with a girl aged thirteen, below the recognised age of consent. He says this was a set-up. We don't know. Anyhow, he was acquitted. But it appears that the Australian authorities don't want to accept the verdict. Moti is technically an Australian citizen. Australian Federal Police claim to have more evidence and they want to deport him to Australia to face more charges. Solomon Islands consider this to be bullying. We agree. If we consider Solomon Islands to be independent, to have self-determination, we must respect the right for them to appoint the Attorney General of their choice. Australia has no right to dictate terms.

Moti claims that all this is political persecution. Indeed it could be. Australia considers itself to be George Bush's deputy sheriff in the south Pacific. It believes it has a divine right to control countries, in order to make the safe for super-exploitation. It believes it has a right to control their governments. This must be stopped.

It could be that Moti is not a desirable person to have as Solomon Islands' Attorney General. But that is a decision for them to make. Attempts by Australia to impose political hegemony must be strongly opposed.

Communist Left stands for

- building a revolutionary alternative to Labor
 - political power to poor and exploited through a revolutionary workers' and small farmers' government
 - revolutionary expropriation of capitalist industry (as opposed to bourgeois nationalisation)
 - a Sliding Scale of hours and wages
 - women's and gay rights, free abortion on demand, socialisation of housework & child care.
 - opposition to all immigration controls
 - self-determination for all indigenous peoples of Australasia
 - class unity with workers of Asia, the Pacific and elsewhere.
- NO tariffs and protection! Defend jobs everywhere!
NO import controls!
- total opposition to Australian intervention in PNG, Bougainville, Indonesia, Timor, the Pacific, in the Middle East and elsewhere.

 - workers' action against Australia's participation in the US imperialist "war against terror".

 - a new revolutionary communist international

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