

Hiroshima Day has a long history - the history of the "peace movement" and the politics of this movement date from the period of the explosion of the first atomic bombs and the beginning of the cold war. This history is a record of demonstration after demonstration, march after march to persuade the imperialist government of the United States that it was in its own interest to disarm and end its involvement in foreign wars. These marches and demonstrations failed. The United States remains armed to the teeth. It has talked peace and abandoned policies of aggression only when beaten decisively in revolutionary war by an enemy - in Vietnam.

Today United States imperialism and the other imperialist powers, continue their policies of contempt for the lives of working people both in "normal" business and in preparation for future war. With a nuclear arsenal that could blow up half the world and more, imperialism as an ordinary business auctions off the remaining reserves of uranium to the highest bidder, to use for either war or peace, even trying to make uranium the energy base of future capitalist development. CAPITALISM'S DEALING IN DEATH CANNOT BE STOPPED BY MARCHING - IT MUST BE FOUGHT BY REVOLUTION, AS VIETNAM FOUGHT IT.

The organisers of Hiroshima Day marches still have not learnt the lesson of Vietnam. They want to convince the Carters and Frasers that it would be more "enlightened" to abandon plans for a nuclear war and a nuclear peace - it is not, for them, a matter for class war but for "common sense". The petitions of the cold war period calling for a disarmament that was never achieved, like the 1955 Geneva Conference which led to the division of Vietnam and attempted to liquidate Kampuchean resistance and so prolonged the Indochina war - these continue today in appeals to the Labor Party to unite with the capitalist Democrat Party, not even to keep uranium in the ground, but to accept a "moratorium" on uranium mining. In 1955 there were "honest capitalists" in Britain and France with which Russia could not do the Geneva agreement to sell out Vietnam. Today in Australia the "honest capitalist" is Don Chipp. The pattern of betrayal is the same. Only two things are different. In the 'fifties the groupings now known as the Socialist Workers' Party and International Socialism, denounced the "peace campaigns" as Stalinist frauds. Today they support Hiroshima Day marches in vain to pretend uranium has nothing to do with war! In the 'fifties the Maoists denounced the Russian proposals for "peaceful co-existence" as sellouts to American imperialism. Now the Maoists march on Hiroshima Day with the pro-Russian Socialist Party under similar "peace" banners and are now selling out to American imperialism because a paper tiger fancifully called "Soviet social imperialism" is imagined to be more dangerous. It is not only the liberal fakers who lead the Movement Against Uranium Mining who grovel before American imperialism.

This Hiroshima Day march will fail as every previous "peace" march has failed. The hard truth is that this social system in its imperialist phase can only survive through war and preparation for war. The impossible dream of "reforming" imperialism into pacifism and ecological purity can never work because imperialism needs every weapon in its arsenal, no matter how poisonous, no matter how genocidal, to maintain its superprofits as its rate of profit declines. WAR CAN ONLY BE ENDED BY ENDING IMPERIALISM.

It is, of course, far less easy to overthrow imperialism than to extract empty promises from Don Chipp. The overthrow of imperialism involves the serious political organisation of workers in a revolutionary party to smash capitalism; an effort which the Stalinists have abandoned and only the Communist Left continues. The workers must be told that there is no prospect of a ban on uranium as long as it can be sold at a profit; that to keep uranium in the ground capitalism must give way to socialism; that the tremendous menace inherent in the ecological consequences of even the peaceful uses of uranium mean that a system where profits are made by the devastation of nature must cease before the drift to the poisoning of the earth is irreversible. The programme for socialist revolution in Australia must include the nationalisation of the land and the expropriation of the mining companies. These measures under a workers and small farmers government would make the mining of uranium impossible - but as they threaten property rights, the middle class tendencies who dominate MAUM dare not raise them. It is impossible to fight uranium mining without attacking the giant mining oligopolies from the "Australian" BHP, to the British-South African Conzinc Riotinto and the American Utah. Black bans on uranium can only be successful if they are part of a strategy for workers' control of mining industry, a strategy for the conquest of power by the working class and the international planning of energy resource utilisation on the basis of world socialism. Only the Communist Left has such a strategy.

A revolutionary strategy on the "peaceful" and "military" uses -- today increasingly interlinked - of uranium must come

to terms with the Sino-Soviet bloc's positions on this question. In the capitalist world, communists argue that imperialism can only be disarmed by proletarian revolution, using as their example the United States temporary conversion to "pacifism" after the partial revolutionary victory in Indochina. The bureaucracies dominating the Sino-Soviet bloc act fundamentally as lackeys of imperialism, in the Soviet Union through policies of peaceful co-existence, in China through active support of pro-American alliances like SEATO and ASEAN. They too must be disarmed by working class political revolution. The social revolution in the capitalist world and the political revolution in the Sino-Soviet bloc are linked. The bureaucracies which cannot be trusted to oversee nationalised property in the interests of the workers can still less be trusted to use nuclear weapons in the interests of the workers. In Trotsky's words: "If in domestic policy we correlate defence of the conquests of the October revolution with irreconcilable struggle against the bureaucracy, then we must do the same thing in foreign policy as well We are not a government party; we are a party of irreconcilable opposition, not only in the capitalist countries, but also in the U.S.S.R. Our tasks, among them the defence of the U.S.S.R., we realise not through the medium of bourgeois governments, and not even through the government of the U.S.S.R., but through the education of the masses through agitation, through explaining to the workers what they should defend and, what they should overthrow. Such a 'defence' cannot give immediate miraculous results. But we do not even pretend to be miracle workers. The defence of the U.S.S.R. coincides for us with the preparation of world revolution." What is said here about the U.S.S.R. applies equally to China. What we defend in the Sino-Soviet bloc are the nationalised property relations and these alone: we say the working class can defend nationalised property better than the bureaucracy. Communists do not see the defeat of the Sino-Soviet bloc in war as the lesser evil for this reason.

The fake lefts who "defend" the U.S.S.R. and China, not those elements which differ from the capitalist countries, but those elements which most closely resemble imperialism, naturally, in the name of "toughness" endorse the bureaucratic utilisation of nuclear weapons. This policy has always meant giving the Stalinist and Maoist mandarins a blank cheque

utilisation of nuclear weapons. Now, however, it means also giving a blank cheque to the Soviet Union and China to destroy each other's working classes in fratricidal nuclear war. And, like the Stalinists, the Healyite and Spartacist class traitors also must bear responsibility if such an eventuality develops. The conflict between the rival "socialisms in one country". In the current crisis of Stalinism the workers, however, do not cede to the United States, to imperialist peace talks, or to the middle class "anti-uranium movement" the task of disarming imperialism and the Sino-Soviet Stalinist bureaucracies; the disarmament of imperialism and its **Stalinist lackeys, proceeding side by side with the overthrow of those bureaucracies is the workers own task. For this task the workers have no will have no nuclear weapons and will not be provided with any. For**

revolutionaries “weapons of mass destruction” destroy only ones own allies; what are needed are weapons which selectively eliminate the ruling class and their lackeys

NATIONALISE THE LAND!

EXPROPRIATE THE MINING INDUSTRY!

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING OF THE MINING INDUSTRY THROUGH WORLD SOCIALISM!

A WORKERS AND FARMERS GOVERNMENT!