**A revolutionary challenge to Socialist Alternative!**

Socialist Alternative has big ambitions. Having fused with the Revolutionary socialist Party on Socialist Alternatives terms, they aim to be **the** party of the far left in Australia. Certainly they give the radical left what they want. They present a strong cohesive organisation. There is plenty of rah rah and red flags. They are active around many progressive campaigns such as refugees, Palestine and Gay marriage. Yes Socialist Alternative put out propaganda for revolution and probably believe it. But does this make them revolutionary? Unfortunately no! To be revolutionary you must do more than advocate revolution as a great idea. A revolution corresponds to the essential needs of the working class. There is no guaranteed right to work with a living wage under capitalism. There is no guaranteed right to housing. There is no right to decent free health care. Revolutionaries link these basic essentials and the need for revolution through our programme. This unfortunately Socialist Alternative does not have. For a start Socialist Alternative were initial endorsers of the Socialist Alliance programme, as were their fusion partners RSP. The Socialist Alliance started off as a united front to build a left alternative to Labor for the 2001 Federal elections. They founding key demands were: **End the GST! Tax the rich! Public need not corporate greed! Full union rights! Fight corporate globalisation! Freedom and democracy! End discrimination! For Ecology and sustainability! Social Justice for indigenous Australians! Jobs not profits!** Well if you think “not corporate greed” meant the expropriation of those nasty corporations, you’d be wrong. They clarified this as “End Medicare not public health funds”. Their fight against globalisation did not mean expropriation either! In short The Socialist Alliance, then and now, stand for a more humanised capitalism. To endorse their founding programme as Socialist Alternative did was thoroughly unprincipled...and unrevolutionary! Socialist Alternative identifies with the tradition of the British Socialist Workers Party previously International Socialists. They have a political record of minimum programmes and trade union economism. One list of demands is as follows “Defend The Unions, Victory To The Miners, Kick Out The Tories, Vote Labour” is likewise unrevolutionary. In his writings against the Liquidators Lenin makes it crystal clear that relegating demands which could not be theoretically achieved under capitalism, to the background of ones agitation, that is reformism. But what about Socialist Alternative today? Well an article in their January issue of the magazine makes the key demand “Tax the Rich!” The massive injustice in the taxation system is pointed out. Yes the poor pay a disproportionate amount in tax. The solution, apparently is “a government with guts”. Well the point should be to expropriate the rich! Our major issue is not how much they pay to the government but that their wealth is ripped off from the exploitation of the working class. The point is to overthrow them! We have to say it loud and clear: if Socialist Alternative do not have a programme which puts revolution on the political agenda for Australia today than it is not a revolutionary organisation! There are other issues such as “state capitalism” which amounted to a refusal to defend those states which have broken from capitalism from imperialist attack. The economist method “socialism from below” which adapts to shop floor trade union militancy and means a refusal to fight politically on the shop floor. The popular front Anti Nazi League established by your comrades in Britain to unite with Liberals to protest against fascism. These we have analysed in RED and we suggest you read our Marxist critique. You urge you to confront our revolutionary communist programme! The left often complains that the working class today is not revolutionary. Well part of the problem lies in the fact that supposed revolutionary organisation have not linked their revolutionary desire to basic needs facing the working class such as inflation unemployment or antiunion legislation. Or alternatively, they have not put forward a revolutionary programme at all.

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