

# TROOPS OUT! BLAIR OUT!

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

**THE IRAQI RESISTANCE is aggressively pursuing American forces throughout Iraq in waves of ambushes, bombings and street battles right across the country. Fierce fighting is raging between partisans and American Marines and puppet forces along the banks of the Tigris river, west of Balad. US forces are penned down in their bases outside most of the country's major towns.**

Back in Baghdad guerrillas shot dead two guards at the US prison holding Saddam Hussein in the west of the city and escaped unscathed. And the resistance greeted first meeting of the new puppet parliament with a barrage of mortar fire that shook the building inside the heavily-fortified US "Green Zone" military compound.

It's all been too much for the Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, who has confirmed that Italy will be withdrawing its troops from Iraq as soon as possible. Berlusconi had been one of the few European Union leaders left backing Bush and Blair's war. But the American "friendly fire" killing of a senior Italian secret serviceman as he brought an Italian journalist hostage to safety earlier in the month enraged Italian public opinion that had never supported the sending of their troops in the first place.

shattered

Imperialist hopes that the rigged election would give some legitimacy to their puppet regime have been shattered by the rising tempo of resistance attacks in recent weeks. Though the most spectacular suicide bombings cannot be ignored, the systematic sabotage of the oil industry is seldom reported in the West.

When the occupation began Anglo-American imperialism openly talked about doubling the country's oil production to make the Iraqi people pay for their own occupation.

But partisan units moved rapidly to stop the imperialists plundering their resources by hitting pipelines, pumping stations and even the wells themselves.

blasted

Iraq has the world's second-largest oil reserves but production is less than half of its pre-war level. The resistance chalked up its 219<sup>th</sup> attack against the oil infrastructure when a pipeline in Fatha in northern Iraq was blasted on Tuesday.

Though the bogus elections were held six weeks ago, the quisling politicians are still nowhere near agreement on the formation of a puppet government. Their "parliament" met for barely 90 minutes before closing without even setting a date for its recall. The rigged elections were designed to elevate sectarian and separatist collaborators willing to take part in the American charade and by its very nature it's doomed from the start.

That's not to say it has no use for imperialism. Kurdish feudal chieftain Jalal Talabani, widely tipped to eventually get the "presidency", is already mobilising his followers amongst the Kurdish minority in Syria to stage mass demonstrations against the Damascus government which is next on Bush's hit-list.

Meanwhile another leading Baathist, Tariq Aziz, has smuggled out an appeal asking the international community to ensure he gets a fair trial. The former Iraqi foreign min-

ister who gave himself up in April 2003 following the American capture of Baghdad has been in US custody ever since.

"To the world public opinion: We hope you will help us...we need fair treatment, a fair investigation and finally, a fair trial. Please help us," he wrote adding that he has not been allowed to see his family, contacts, or receive letters or parcels sent to him. His plea, written in English, was given to his lawyer when he was re-



• The resistance thrives.

## Gordon's 'turkey twizzler' budget

by Daphne Liddle

**GORDON Brown's tenth budget, as expected, is geared towards the coming general election. And like the appalling school dinners recently exposed by TV chef Jamie Oliver, it is superficially enticing but deeply unhealthy underneath.**

There are some apparent bribes in it for pensioners, for first-time home buyers and for families with growing children. But most are heavily larded with means testing, meaning that only the very poorest will get any benefit and if they start to climb out of poverty they will lose those benefits.

Gordon's sweeteners for pensioners include a £200 council tax rebate – bowing to pressure from campaigners. There will also be a 13 per cent rise in pension credits, bringing the minimum income guarantee for a single pensioner to £119 a week and this figure will be linked to average wages.

But the basic pension itself will not. Brown is still ignoring the main demand of the pensioners' movement. The poorest pensioners will ben-

efit but those whose income is just a little higher than the state pension will continue to lose out.

Even more important, this budget does nothing to address the huge gaps in pension funds for workers in both the public and private sectors. Thousands are facing an old age without the substantial occupational pensions they have paid into for decades but which have disappeared into a black hole.

Brown has raised the income tax threshold slightly but this will ultimately benefit the rich rather than the poor.

stamp duty

He has raised the threshold for payment of stamp duty on house buying from £60,000 to £120,000. This will help first-time buyers a little but could encourage house prices to rise yet further. House prices are already way above the level that most young workers could hope to meet.

He has deferred a rise in duty on petrol. What he should be doing is imposing a huge windfall tax on the oil companies who have profited so much from the steep rises in oil prices.

Brown is to increase child tax credits by £5 a

week. He says this is a better way to get money to those who need it than tax cuts. But again this works in a means tested way.

He is going to simplify many of the rules and regulations covering small businesses and merge five existing bodies into the Health and Safety Executive. This will help workers only if the HSE has enough resources to inspect thoroughly and enough powers to enforce health and safety laws.

Brown has allocated £150 million to set up a national community service for young people, aiming to recruit a million volunteers. This is not much money for such a large project.

Brown has yet again failed to impose the taxes on the rich that are necessary to solve the pension gaps. He has failed to significantly increase spending on education, health or public transport.

But he has found an extra £400 million for defence this year. However unpopular, the war in Iraq still has to be paid for.

He appears to have dished out a lot of sweeteners, but looked at closely they mostly turn out to be saccharine.

cently questioned by a UN panel investigating corruption in the oil-for-food programme that operated during the blockade after the first Gulf war.

The Italian withdrawal from the US "coalition of the willing" leaves Tony Blair even more isolated in Europe and the world. Berlusconi shifted because he knew his right-wing coalition would suffer at the next elections if Italian troops were still in Iraq.

Blair, whose personal standing in the opinion polls is rock-bottom, thinks he can get away with it. The millions demonstrating in London and across the country this weekend must prove him wrong.

## FUND

**Our fund this week has brought us £970.94, bringing our total so far this month to £1,505.74 – just over half way to our monthly target of £3,000.**

We thank our London Scot for £10, an East Anglia comrade for £13, a Midlands NUM supporter for £15, a Greater Manchester comrade for £20 and a Vauxhall comrade for £20.

We also raised £562.94 at our social last Saturday to commemorate the anniversary of Karl Marx's death.

That leaves us with £1,494.26 to raise in just a couple of weeks.

In the meantime we will be out on the streets of London this Saturday, along with many thousands of other protesters against the illegal invasion of Iraq.

We will be calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq along with all the rest. But we will still be campaigning for the withdrawal of British troops from the Balkans, from Afghanistan, from Ireland and many other places where British imperialism is making local lives a misery.

Please help us to continue this work by sending whatever you can to the *New Worker Fund*, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

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# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## Bring the troops home!

**Millions of people are taking to the streets in Britain and across the world this weekend to protest against Anglo-American imperialism's brutal occupation of Iraq.**

Two years after the invasion and Iraq is in ruins. Millions of Iraqis are unemployed. The health service, once the best in the Arab world, has collapsed. Thousands of Iraqis are now refugees in their own land; living in hovels after their homes were destroyed in collective punishment raids by the occupation army and their local lackeys. And over 100,000 Iraqi civilians – half of whom were women and children – are believed to have lost their lives since March 2003, according to a study published by the British medical journal, the *Lancet*.

The founding charter of the United Nations clearly affirms the right of an occupied people to resist by force of arms. The Iraqi people are fighting for freedom. They have an unconditional and absolute right to resist the Anglo-American occupation by whatever means possible.

Iraqi partisans are waging a ferocious struggle to drive the invaders out of their country. Nearly 1,700 imperialist troops have been killed and over 11,000 wounded in the war against the Iraqi resistance that controls large parts of the country. Most of the casualties are American but 86 British servicemen have died and a further 800 have been wounded doing Bush's dirty work in Iraq.

The Italian government is the latest to throw in the towel. Their 3,000-strong contingent will begin withdrawing from Iraq in September. Now all that's left of Bush's "coalition of the willing" are token forces from a handful of client states and the British expeditionary force that will probably be expanded to fill the gap the Italians have left.

The Blair government thinks it can ignore the millions in the peace movement. Blair and his cronies think they can dismiss the growing calls within the Labour Party and the trade union movement for an end to this senseless war.

The anti-war movement must mobilise again and again until these demands are met. All British troops must be immediately and unconditionally withdrawn from Iraq.

Blair and his cohorts are not fit to lead the Labour Party. They must be defeated and replaced with leaders ready to head the demands of the labour and peace movement.

Tony Blair told the Labour Party and the people that the war was about Saddam Hussein's alleged weapons of mass destruction. The Saddam government sent an immense report to the United Nations detailing how Iraq had complied with the disarmament regime imposed on them after the Gulf war ended in 1991. This was dismissed as lies by Bush and Blair. Now we know Saddam was telling the truth.

We were told that the invasion was in the name of the UN Security Council even though the Security Council had refused to endorse it. Now even the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, concedes that the war was illegal.

We were told that the Attorney-General had advised that the attack on Iraq complied with international law but the Government refuses to publish Lord Goldsmith's full legal opinion.

How much longer are we going to put up with Tony Blair's lies and broken promises?

### Straw OKs torture

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw last week claimed that, although torture was "completely unacceptable", the Government cannot ignore "evidence" obtained that way.

He said Britain faces a "moral hazard" over using US intelligence gained from prisoners who have been abused. Answering claims that British MI6 intelligence officers were involved in some of the interrogations, Straw claimed they had not been properly trained in their obligations under the Geneva Convention.

He was speaking to MPs on the Prime Minister's special Intelligence and Security Committee.

The ISC was told that Britain's anti-terrorist forces had prevented attacks by using intelligence gained from so-called "ghost prisoners" held by the US in breach of the Geneva Conventions at undisclosed locations, un-

der unknown conditions and with no access to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### Lesson in violence

A fundamentalist Christian school near Chicago recently told a parent that her six-year-old son would be expelled unless she hit him for misbehaviour. The boy, Chandler Fallaw, had been sent home with disciplinary notes for showing off, offering a teacher chewing gum, not finishing his work and bringing toys into the class.

When his mother, Michelle Fallaw-Gabrielson, arrived to pick him up, the assistant administrator told her: "Either he gets a spanking before he leaves today, or I'm suspending him."

### Communist heritage

The full entry of eastern European states into the European Union last May did

not lead to a massive wave of immigration into Britain by people wanting to sponge off our meagre benefits system – as papers like the *Daily Mail* predicted.

But there has been a steady flow of skilled artisans from Poland to fill great gaps in the supply of skilled plumbers, electricians, mechanics and so on.

One of them admitted: "Under communism there were really excellent colleges to train men and women in manual professions. So you have very good, well-prepared craftsmen."

### Money worries

A popular family doctor was driven to suicide after coming under pressure to cut the number of patients he referred to hospital, an inquest was told last week.

Dr Stephen Farley hanged himself after his local Primary Care Trust – which was running £2 million over

budget – began an investigation because he was referring too many patients to see hospital consultants.

The inquest heard that Dr Farley found the investigation "extremely stressful", causing him to take time off work and see a psychiatrist.

His widow, Marion Farley, said he was popular because he took more time with patients and was more likely to refer them. "Patients would wait to see him," she said.

### Cash barrier

Police in Louisiana found part of the \$700,000 loot stolen from a casino in Greensburg woven into the sticks and brush of a beavers' dam. They were tipped off that the money, stashed in bags, had been thrown into a creek near Baton Rouge. The beavers had incorporated the notes into their dam without tearing them.

## Say no more

## Public sector votes for pension strike

by Caroline Colebrook

**THE BIGGEST strike in Britain since 1926 could be coming soon after more than 1.5 million public sector workers – including local government workers, civil servants, health workers, education workers and many more – voted in favour of mass strike action to defend their pensions.**

The results of the ballots were announced last Thursday, overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed programme of 24-hour walkouts beginning on 23 March.

The Unions involved include Unison, Amicus, the building union Ucat, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the GMB and the PCS civil service union. The National Union of Teachers is yet to conduct its ballot.

The Government has proposed to increase the retirement age and raise the minimum age at which a pension can be paid. This change affects all public sector workers, but has been rushed through for local government workers where it will take effect from 1st April 2005.

Members of all the unions involved are angry about plans to make local government workers "work longer for less".

Members working in councils across the country fear that not only will their retirement age be affected, but that these changes will be the first in a line of reductions to pension benefits.

Unison general secretary Dave Prentis – recently re-elected in his post – said the members were not prepared to accept changes to their pensions by diktat. He said the average local government pension amounts to just £3,800 a year.

"Unison wants real negotiations for the first time on a sustainable good quality pension scheme which benefits all local government workers and which councils and staff can afford.

"Let's hope the employers see sense and abandon these changes so that real negotiations can take place," he said.

PCE general secretary Mark Serwotka said the "overwhelming" ballot result showed it is time for the Government to sit up and take notice.

"Tens of thousands of hard working civil and public servants won't sit idly by and let their pension rights be eroded," he said.

TGWU general secretary Tony Woodley called on the Government to increase taxes on the banks and oil companies – who have made record profits this year, to fund pension schemes.

"A one-off tax based on the windfall of higher oil prices would be justified and popular. A windfall tax on overcharging banks would be a vote winner."

Amicus national officer Gail Cartmail said: "Progress is being made but passions are running high. If the strike on 23 March goes ahead, public sector workers will make it a big day.

"We hope that in the coming week the Government will meet our demands and maintain a public sector pension that recognises the contribu-

tion these key workers make to the running of our public services."

Meanwhile the Government is trying to persuade people over 50 who have taken early retirement to come back into the workforce to try

to solve the pension black hole.

Work and Pensions Secretary Alan Johnson said that sixty-somethings needed to recognise that they are "not in their dotage" and "still capable of doing high-powered jobs".

## Protests at Fini visit

**ANTI-FASCISTS in London staged a protest last Tuesday against the state visit of Italian foreign minister Gianfranco Fini – leader of the extreme right wing National Alliance.**

The party claims to have abandoned its fascist heritage but earlier in the week members had offered their support to footballer Paolo Di Canio for giving a fascist salute.

The Italian football authority imposed a £7,000 fine of Di Canio's club, Lazio but two national Alliance MPs have set up a collection to pay the fine.

Fini's wife Daniella has supported the collection, saying it would be "an act of solidarity". She met the Queen at Buckingham Palace last Tuesday.

The National Alliance

counts the Fini meeting with the Queen as a valuable gain in their campaign to win international respectability.

The Alliance is a part of Silvio Berlusconi's right wing coalition government. It was founded after the Second World War to perpetuate the fascist ideology of Benito Mussolini.

Weyman Bennett, the joint secretary of United Against Fascism, said: "Gianfranco Fini is not welcome. He is a fascist and a bigot with a long history of association with fascist organisations.

"We think it a disgrace that the monarch should shake the hand of someone who previously supported the politics of Mussolini. We would expect higher standards."

## NUT opposes academies

**THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers last week declared was on plans announced by Prime Minister Tony Blair to establish a network of 200 privately sponsored academies to replace secondary schools that have been judged to be failing.**

NUT general secretary Steve Sinnott said the academies were "immoral" and turned their backs on less academic children.

The NUT is planning a nationwide campaign against the plan with campaign groups in every area where an academy is planned to persuade teachers and parents to stop it happening.

The Government's academy plan calls for private sponsors to put up £2 million towards the cost of the academy – which amounts to around one eighth of the average cost – and the taxpayers pay the rest.

The sponsor then has control over the school curriculum, even though they may not have any educational expertise at all. This has caused great concern in the north east where one sponsor of three academies – a car dealer – is a Christian fundamentalist who favours the teaching of creation theory rather than the science of evolution.

The sponsor also gains ownership of the land the academy is built on, making the sale of playing fields and so on a lucrative prospect.

A report commission by the Government from PriceWaterhouseCoopers has warned the Government that academies could create a two-tier education system.

"There are some children who are wanted by them," said Steve Sinnott, "and other children who are unwanted. That seems to us to be immoral."

The union warned that academies would be under no obligation to accept children with special needs.

## Maternity leave cuts infant death rate

**EXTENDED paid maternity leave for new mothers leads to a significant reduction in the number of babies dying in their first year according to the results of an international study, which published its findings last week.**

The researchers compared the maternity leave policies of 18 industrialised countries between 1969 and 2000 and the effects of those policies on child health outcomes.

It revealed that every 10 weeks of extra maternity leave reduced infant mortality by 2.6 per cent.

The current infant mortality rate in England and Wales was 5.2 for every 1,000 live births in 2002, according to the Office for National Statistics.

# Unison secures NHS equal pay deal

**THE PUBLIC sector union Unison last Monday reached an agreement with the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to pay 1,500 women employees between £35,000 and £200,000 each in compensation for unequal pay.**

This follows a ruling by an industrial tribunal last month and is the conclusion of an eight-year struggle to win equal pay for women workers, including cleaners, nurses, telephonists and supervisors.

Some of the women will be getting 14 years of back pay.

It has huge implications throughout the NHS and could lead to tens of thou-

sands of other women receiving similar awards. Unison has written to 450,000 members working in the NHS, informing them that they now have a right to back pay if they can prove they have been paid less than men in comparable jobs.

### biggest

Among the biggest beneficiaries are C-grade nurses, at the lower end of the pay scale. They have been paid £17,060 a year but the union successfully argued that the work they do is comparable to that of medical technical officers, who are paid £26,939 a year. If interest is added to the back pay, some women

could claim £200,000 each.

Unison general secretary Dave Prentis said: "We have always argued that there has been historic pay discrimination in the health service against women. It's dreadful though that it has taken so long to get justice for these hard-working women who are the backbone of the NHS."

### Agenda

The NHS and the unions last year reached a deal known as Agenda for Change, which was supposed to resolve equal pay issues. But the Cumbria claim deals with unequal pay endured for many years before the agreement was reached.

Health Minister John Hutton is trying to minimise the impact of the Cumbria agreement by claiming that it is a purely local issue.

Healthcare assistant Christine Wharrier, who is also a Unison convenor, said the deal was "a great victory". "Discrimination runs deep in the NHS, especially for part-timers, who are mainly women workers," she said.

Linda Weightman, employed by a Cumbria infirmary for 17 years, said: "It will mean a lot to members who have had to retire through ill health, who worked themselves to a frazzle for the NHS and have bad backs or other problems. It will be a real boost to their pensions."

## NHS failing stroke victims

**AROUND 5,000 victims of strokes in England and Wales are dying too early every year because they do not get the specialist care they need quickly enough, according to the Stroke Association.**

The comments follow an official audit by the Royal College of Physicians, funded by the NHS that examined progress at 246 sites in 203 NHS hospitals.

The Stroke Association described a "scandalous" lack of priority given to the third biggest cause of deaths after heart disease and cancer.

The audit revealed big discrepancies between hospitals and primary care services. It found that more than half of all suspected stroke patients had to wait more than 48 hours for brain scans and a third of those who might benefit from the blood-thinning properties of aspirin also did not get it for 48 hours.

It said that too many hospitals still did not regard a stroke as a medical emergency. And it expressed concern that not enough attention is given to the ability of stroke patients to swallow.

Swallowing problems affect about a third of stroke patients and increase the risk of choking, which can lead to chest infections and pneumonia.

Around 130,000 people in England and Wales suffer strokes every year. Around a third die within 10 days, another third are left disabled while a third recover.

For those who survive, prompt referral to specialist physiotherapy can make an enormous difference to their prospects of a complete recovery.

Most hospitals now have specialist stroke units but they are often not big enough to cope with demand, leaving stroke patients desperately in need of specialist care languishing in general wards, and waiting up to three weeks for a bed in the specialist unit.

## The wanton cruelty of Franco fascism



• Jack Jones looks on as the cake is cut.

by Rob Laurie

**EACH YEAR the International Brigade Memorial Trust organises an annual lecture named after Len Crome, a Latvian born doctor who saw distinguished service with the International Brigade who fought to against the fascists in the Spanish Civil War.**

This year the lecture was on "The Crimes of Franco" given by Paul Preston, Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and author of many important works about the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath.

After paying tribute to Len Crome, Preston began his lecture by contrasting the lavish memorials erected in Spain for General Franco and the fascist war dead with the way that Republican soldiers killed on the battlefield were dumped in mass graves.

Preston argued that Franco could have easily won the war much earlier had he concentrated on pressing home the enormous military advantage offered by manpower and hardware supplied by Hitler and Mussolini but he frequently delayed his advances in order to devote time and energy to massacring real and imaginary opponents.

There was no Geneva Convention for captured Re-

publican prisoners. Many were shot out of hand for the crime of not joining in Franco's military revolt. Garrotting was a favourite method of execution throughout the Franco years. Big business benefited from the slave labour of tens of thousands of prisoners.

It was not only active opponents of Franco who felt his wrath; other family members including infant children were executed whenever Franco seized control. Such punishments were imposed even in areas where opposition to Franco was weak.

### appalled

Even Count Ciano, Mussolini's Foreign Minister was appalled at Franco's brutal treatment of Republican prisoners in his efforts to rescue Catholic Spain from liberalism, Marxism and Freemasonry.

Franco's apologists then and now often cite the shooting of Catholic priests as examples of a widespread "Red Terror". Preston made clear that while such events did take place, they were not official government policy.

The Republican government tried to discourage them, but workers and peasants frequently had their own way of dealing with greedy clerics who allied themselves with most reactionary ele-

ments in Spain.

In the latter stages of the Franco regime the relevant archives were systematically destroyed. It is only recently that work has been done to establish the reality of the Franco regime.

Archaeological work is being carried out at 26 mass graves to discover the precise fate of Franco's victims, thought to number 130,000 in the immediate post war years alone. The Socialist government elected last year is slowly increasing support for this work.

After the lecture a new edition of *The Connolly Column* by IB veteran Michael O' Riordan was launched. First published in 1979 it has just been reprinted by the Welsh publisher Warren and Pell. The reprint has been edited by his son Manus O' Riordan who has the added much new material and refuted attempts by recent historians to slander the Irish Brigaders.

Of special interest to readers of *The New Worker* is an obituary of Maurice Levitas, one of the Irish volunteers and New Communist Party member.

To round off the day's proceedings Sam Russell, an International Brigade veteran and later a *Daily Worker* journalist, cut a cake to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday which takes place next week.

## Firefighters still resisting cuts

**FIREFIGHTERS in the London Borough of Camden last week suffered a setback in their efforts to secure the local council's support in their campaign against planned cuts to the service.**

Officers, who face losing one of their engines, last week addressed a full meeting of the council asking for help.

But the Labour council ignored them and voted to support a controversial reorganisation drawn up by the London Fire Brigade.

Under these proposals, fire engines will be redistributed to outer London boroughs to improve response times there.

### disastrous

The firefighters, based at Euston, say the changes could be disastrous. Speaking for the local Fire Brigades Union, Greg Edwards said: "We are asking Camden and Barnet to oppose the proposed cut to one of the fire engines. At present you get three fire engines arriving in eight minutes. Two of those come from Euston in five minutes.

"What you will get under the new plan is two fire engines and only one will get there in five minutes. That means five firefighters will have to deal with incidents until the other engine arrives.

"Our main argument is the time factor. You want the fire engines you have now turning up as quickly as possible. The cuts speak for themselves."

But in spite of considerable support from the public gallery, the firefighters failed to persuade the council.

## Refugee skills wasted

**BRITAIN'S economy could benefit from the skills of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are trained doctors, engineers, scientists and other professionals, according to the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics.**

But Government restrictions prevent them finding certain kinds of work or applying for education courses while they have refugee status.

### working

The council claims that the skills and experience of 5,000 foreign academics could be worth more than £100 million to the economy if they were working, supporting themselves and paying taxes.

Many of them have skills that are in very short supply in Britain but are forced to live on benefits or take low-paid manual jobs.

# Kenya's Land and Freedom Army Mau Mau against the British Empire

by Stephen Millies

**HAS ANY liberation movement been more slandered than Kenya's Land and Freedom Army, usually referred to as the Mau Mau? This term is still used by racists as a club to attack Black people.**

Right-wing columnist Ann Coulter, outraged that Halle Berry won an Oscar in 2002, complained that this Black artist had "successfully mau-maued her way to a Best Actress Award."

Former Vice President Daniel Quayle's chief of staff, William Kristol, said Carol Mosely Braun "mau-maued" the US Senate when, as the only African American woman member in the Senate's history, she stopped a charter renewal for the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Thousands of Mau Mau guerrillas wrote a heroic chapter in the book of liberation with their blood. As with the French in Algeria, it was the armed struggle in Kenya that compelled the British imperialists to grant independence to their African colonies.

At last, two new scholarly books expose the atrocities the colonial regime committed in suppressing this freedom struggle: *Imperial Reckoning* by Caroline Elkins and *Histories of the Hanged* by David Anderson.

Queen Victoria's British Empire declared a "protectorate" over Kenya and Uganda in 1895. What was being protected was the theft of the best farmland by a few British settlers. Among them was Lord Delamere, who stole 160,000 acres.

Machine guns and bayonets forced African people into "native reserves" modelled on Indian reservations in the United States. They weren't allowed to grow coffee or other commercial crops. As in South Africa under apartheid, Africans were forced to carry passes.

Kenya's Kikuyu people, who farmed some of the most fertile land in the country's central section, were particularly affected.

"We have stolen his land," confessed Colonel Ewart Grogan, a white settler. "Now it is time to steal his limbs."

Compulsory labour was required of African women and men.

Building a 582-mile railroad from the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa to Lake Victoria was key to the exploitation. Some 30,000 workers from British-occupied India were used. Some 10,000 died or were maimed in the process.

Occupation sparked resistance. On 14 March 1922, police gunfire crushed a rally of 8,000 Africans in Nairobi, called to protest the exiling of Kikuyu leader Harry Thuku.

White settlers standing on the Norfolk Hotel's porch joined in the shooting. Fifty-eight Africans were murdered.

Supporters of this movement formed the Kikuyu Central Association (KCA) in the mid-1920s. Jomo Kenyatta, later to be independent Kenya's first prime minister and president, became editor of the KCA's monthly newspaper, *Muigwathania*, in 1928.

Schools became a battleground. "Illiterates with the right attitude to manual employment are preferable to products of the schools," declared the official Beecher Report on Kenyan education in 1949. At the time, three high schools admitted a total of 100 African students annually.

An independent school movement blossomed in the late 1920s. By 1952, some 50,000 students attended 300 African-controlled schools. The KCA founded the Githunguri Teachers' Training College.

Kenyatta went abroad in 1929 to represent the KCA in London and didn't return to Kenya until 1946. Pan African leader George Padmore, then an organiser for the Communist International, influenced him. Kenyatta also studied briefly in Moscow.

"When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible," observed Kenyatta.

Catholic and Protestant missionaries were as indispensable as Maxim guns to British colonialism. An Anglican bishop wrote the racist Beecher Report.

However, Kenya's freedom fighters included Christians. Muslims also joined the liberation struggle. But the official churches lined up British-appointed "chiefs" and their followers to be informers against the Mau Mau.

## Army smashes general strike

Many Kikuyu people became sharecroppers or labourers on white farms, often on the same soil that had been stolen from their families. Others were forced off the land altogether.

The population of the capital city, Nairobi, doubled between 1938 and 1948.

As early as 1930 police shot down strikers at the Uplands Bacon factory and jailed their leaders. A Kenyan working class was being formed. By 1948 there were 385,000 African wage workers; their average annual income was \$73.

British imperialism press-ganged 75,000 Kenyans to fight in World War II. Among them was Waruhiu Itote, who was to become known as the Mau Mau's "General China."

Like Vietnam veteran Geronimo ji Jaga, who defended the Los Angeles Black Panther Party office against police attack, or American Indian Movement

leaders who liberated Wounded Knee, these Kenyan veterans put their military skills to good use.

While stationed in India, Itote learned from an African American GI about how Haitians had risen in a slave insurrection and defeated Napoleon's armies. He could see for himself that Britain was forced to depart India and Pakistan in 1947. After the war, the future "General China" worked as a locomotive fireman in Nairobi's railroad yards.

Kenyatta became president of the Kenyan African Union on 1 June 1947. Trade unionists were some of the KAU's most militant leaders.

Fred Kubai organised Nairobi's taxi drivers and became secretary of the Transport and Allied Workers' Union. Bildad Kaggia was a leader of the Clerks' and Commercial Workers' Union. The British would jail both Kubai and Kaggia together with Kenyatta.

Along with Makhan Singh, Kubai and Kaggia founded the East African Trade Union Congress on May Day, 1949. The next May Day the EATUC issued a call for independence and majority rule.

The British imperialist government, administered by the social-democratic Labor Party, immediately arrested these union leaders. In response 100,000 Kenyan workers joined a general strike.

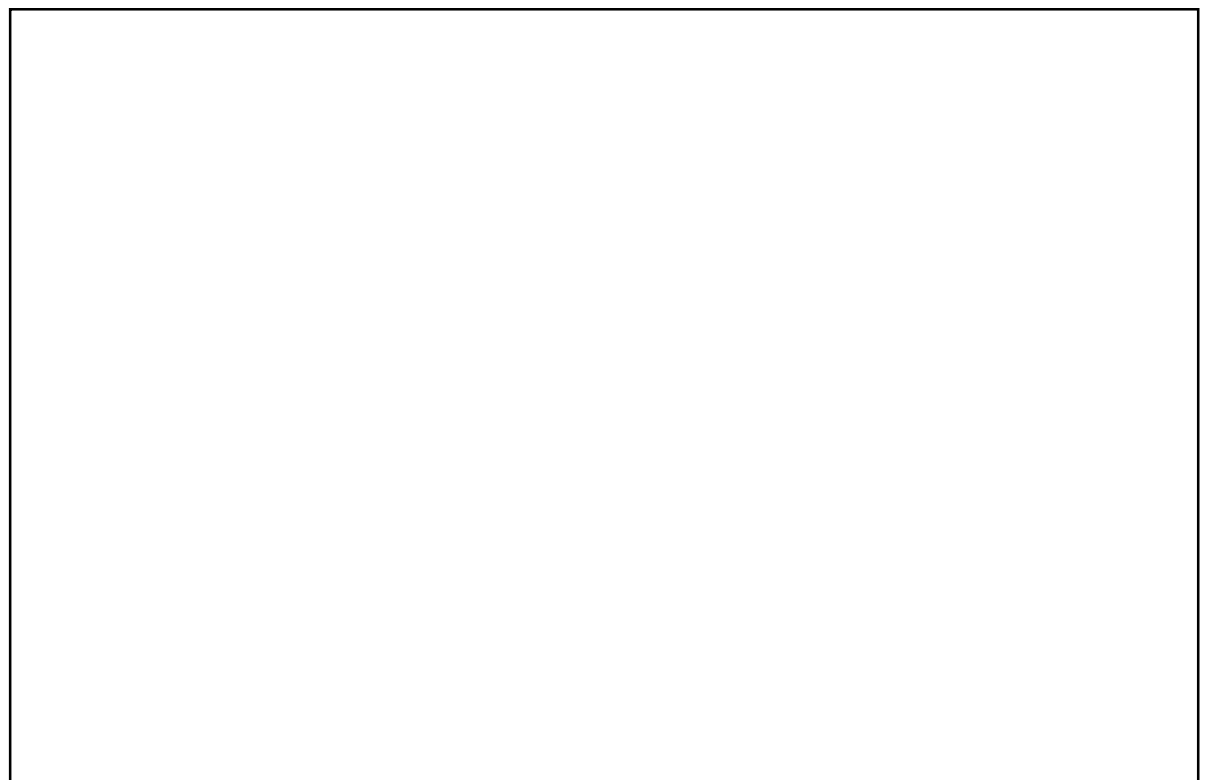
Nairobi was paralysed for nine days. Only a mobilisation of the army and police broke this strike.

EATUC president Fred Kubai was jailed for eight months. General Secretary Makhan Singh was detained without trial for 11 years.

Their jailing symbolised the unity of Kenyan workers of Asian and African origin against colonialism.

## Workers World (US)

• Above: a police agent fingers someone as Mau Mau. Below: Mau Mau suspects behind wire.



# It's a crazy old world

by Rob Gowland  
The Guardian

Australian communist weekly

**IT'S A CRAZY WORLD all right. Or have I said that before? I must have, I'm sure.**

Did you see where two sisters, both in their late 60s, flew from Perth to Sydney last week just to catch a glimpse of Prince Fredrick of Denmark and his Australian wife, Mary. The future king and queen of the smallest country in Scandinavia were indulging themselves (what else — they're royals, aren't they) in a spot of yachting on Sydney Harbour.

Mary raced Fred. Mary won. This, believe it or not, was front-page news.

It took up more of the *Sydney Morning Herald's* front page than Israel's threat to attack Syria.

One of the sisters mentioned above, Betty Bromfield, 68, is apparently so smitten with "Princess Mary" that she has already filled three scrapbooks with clippings about her.

An obliging capitalist media provide plenty of photos to stick in the scrapbook of course, but what a tribute to the power of the media to distort people's perceptions of what is good and worth while.

Mary and Fred have done nothing to make them noteworthy really. They have not discovered a cure for cancer or mapped a hitherto unexplored cave. Nor have they freed the Danish people from exploitation, or even made statements suggesting that the subject has ever crossed their minds.

No, they are just two young rich kids (yes, I know she wasn't, but she is now) enjoying the good life that wealth and privilege brings.

And yet Betty Bromfield says, "I adore them".

Betty and her sister Maureen have never met the Danish "Royals". All they know about Fred and Mary has come from press releases and public relations "spin" dutifully reported as fact by a manipulative mass media.

People like Betty and Maureen are the particular targets of that mass media manipulation. Their view of the world may be romantic and unreal, but it is deeply

rooted in their own good-hearted concept of how people deserve happiness.

However, the capitalist media make damn sure that ordinary people comprehend that the lifestyle of Fred and Mary is not for them. No, it's for the well-to-do, the "beautiful people", the ruling class.

The hoi polloi can expect to enjoy that lifestyle only vicariously, by keeping a scrapbook like Betty Bromfield or by watching shows like the voyeuristic *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*.

Or just occasionally, by marrying someone rich and famous — the special appeal and usefulness of the "Princess Mary" story.

The capitalist media need people like Mary and Fred to keep that vicarious lifestyle fresh and vibrant. They need Royals who are young and relatively attractive, smiling and enjoying life. They do not want Royals who raise difficult questions or criticise the system. Diana was everyone's favourite princess until she began to take up issues like land mines and refugees.

Then, while the people continued to like her, the bourgeois media became very hostile.

For landmines and refugees raise questions about war and conquest, about empire and profit. And that sort of thing makes people think about the system.

Ironically, Prince Charles

seems to have also shot his bolt with the capitalist media. His trenchant criticism of property developers for destroying the urban environment, for example, has apparently not endeared him to the moneyed classes.

The capitalist media certainly regard him as fair game, his comments fit only to be lampooned.

Now we have the unusual spectacle of the future King of England (but not, apparently, the Queen) — and hence, the future head of the Church of England — preparing to get married in a civil service.

Some monarchists have even questioned whether it will actually be legal. They must have been disappointed when the Palace said emphatically that it would.

Whether it's legal doesn't make it legitimate, of course, and regardless of how Charles and Camilla get

hitched, the monarchy should — and sooner or later will — go.

As will other medieval hangovers (however recently they have been created) like the Danish, Swedish, Belgian, Spanish and Saudi royal regimes.

Then, the Royals will be just like us. Hopefully, Betty and Maureen and others like them, will then find more worthwhile people to admire.

You may ask, if the capitalist class and its

subservient media want attractive royals and other "beautiful people" to distract the masses, why do they publicise their less attractive antics with such relish?

Because of a contradiction: although the capitalist media want to use an image of a sun-tanned smiling youthful ruling class to keep people vicariously thrilled and charmed, they also want to sell papers and TV time.

They know that whatever they say about some Royal,

no matter how much that particular Royal falls into public disfavour (and it is never very far), there are others who can be brought into play quickly enough.

The media have always covered up the more unattractive Royal pastimes (what they have concealed about Prince Phillip would make a best-seller). They balance what they need to disclose — to sell papers to the gullible audience they themselves have created — with what they need to conceal to keep that audience from turning on them in disgust.

As I write this, Mary and Fred have only been here a couple of days; Charles is also here and Princess Victoria, heir to the throne of Sweden, arrives next week. We are knee deep in Royals, you might say.

*The Sydney Morning Herald's* story about Mary and Fred's yacht race was very cutely headed "Now she's crowned Mary Queen of Yachts".

Perhaps ironically, or perhaps ominously, it's a play on the title of the cousin of Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots. The latter, of course, had her head chopped off.

• Top: It was OK for George V to play with his big guns, but it was not acceptable for Princess Diana to consider the results for ordinary people: above.

Home News

# Threat to cut Woodcraft Folk

**CHILDREN'S minister Margaret Hodge last week announced a decision to cut funding to the Woodcraft Folk, claiming that she and her officials had decided the children's organisation had not provided evidence that it was doing enough for the "disadvantaged".**

The Woodcraft Folk was founded 80 years ago by progressive people including Labour Party supporters, Co-operators, peace campaigners, environmentalists, communists and others.

**alternative**

It aimed to provide an alternative to scouts and guides that did not involve swearing allegiance to the Queen or to God.

Over the decades it has provided holidays in the countryside and trips abroad for thousands of working class children, many of whom could afford no other holidays.

It has always opposed racism and pioneered activities where boys and girls from all backgrounds were equal. It has taught them to love and respect nature, to care for each other and the planet.

During the miners' strike, the Woodcraft Folk provided free holidays for miners' children, away from the strife and stress that engulfed their communities.

Its stated aim is to "create a world built on equality, friendship, peace and co-operation".

The Woodcraft Folk do receive some funding from the political committee of the Co-operative Society but to lose Government funding would be a severe blow.

The organisation currently has 9,000 children enrolled and only five paid staff. Traditionally the Woodcraft Folk have involved parents in all activities.

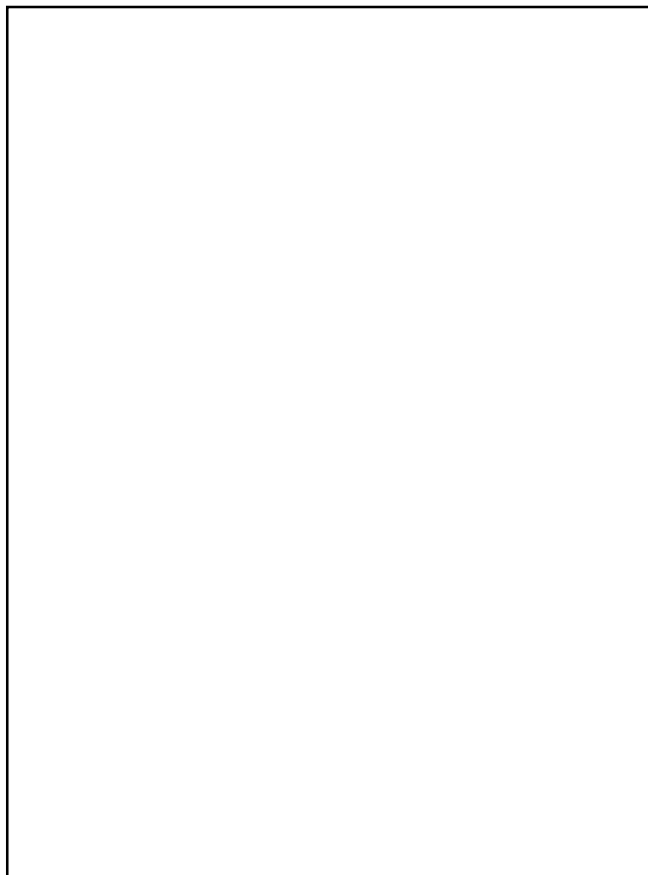
A letter from Hodge's department to the Woodcraft Folk spoke of the lack of "sufficiently robust outcome indicators" and that it "did not represent "good value for money". Those who know the organisation are appalled at this description.

Deputy general secretary Chris Pyke said: "To hear that from a Labour government, after surviving the Thatcher years, is perplexing, to say the least. We are still seeking a meeting with officials to find out why we were thought to be deficient. We are disappointed and furious."

He added: "We provide an experience of the outside world and the countryside for children who often do not know where their milk comes from."

He said that the Government's new agenda for children, focussing on "inclusiveness" was trailing many decades behind the Woodcraft Folk.

Labour MP for Islington North Jeremy Corbyn - who is an active helper at Woodcraft Folk camps - says he has the



• Many have fond memories.

support of 52 MPs for an early day motion calling for a reversal of Hodge's decision.

But some longstanding

Woodcraft Folk supporters are calling for a broader campaign to defend the organisation. Watch this space.

## Army recruits 'treated like animals'

**THE COMMONS Defence Select Committee report last week accused the army of serious failings in its duty of care to new**

**recruits, which led to the death of four young recruits at the Deepcut barracks in Sussex between 1995 and 2002.**

treatment meted out to soldiers and to their families.

In one case a young woman soldier who had been sexually assaulted by a superior officer was warned that if she pushed her complaint she could herself be disciplined for going to his quarters.

In another incident at the Catterick training camp in Yorkshire, a young recruit was literally worked to death by an officer who then prevented him being taken to hospital until he had been changed into a clean uniform.

The report said that the decision to send Leslie Skinner, a physical trainer with convictions for indecent assault of young soldiers to Deepcut, where he committed further offences, showed "a disturbing level of indifference or incompetence".

They said that soldiers were "treated like animals" and that an independent commission should be set up to investigate any complaints by members of the armed forces against their superior officers.

The committee's investigations revealed that army officers were personally involved in the bullying and a culture within the army that ignored its official policy of zero tolerance of bullying.

The report said: "We find it difficult to discount the evidence that members of the chain of command are responsible for some bullying."

The MPs said they were "appalled" by some of the

**The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make, please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday. You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@ncp.clara.net**

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## Paying tribute to the life of Karl Marx

**MEMBERS and friends of the New Communist Party gathered last Saturday evening for their own celebration of the life and works of Karl Marx at a reception at the Party Centre in London.**

They were joined by Ha Sin Guk from the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Jorge Trujillo from the Cuban Embassy and Explo Nani Kofi of the African Liberation Support Campaign (ALISC).

NCP chairperson Alex Kempshall introduced these guest speakers, along with NCP general secretary Andy Brooks; pointing out that between them they represent four different continents.

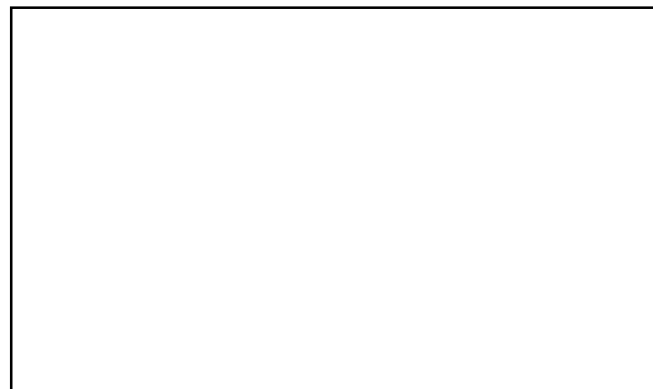
Explo Nani Kofi told the gathering of how the works of Marx were an inspiration to the whole world that had guided the struggles of the people of Africa to shake off the burdens of imperialist exploitation – a struggle that continues today.

Jorge Trujillo spoke of Cuba's long struggle against the efforts of the United States to strangle Cuba's socialism.

Ha Sin Guk also spoke of his country's battle against American imperialism. He also spoke of the inspiration the works of Karl Marx had provided to Kim Il Sung who led the Korean people in freeing themselves from Japanese occupation, from capitalist oppression and then fought the invading Americans to a standstill.

Kim Il Sung then went on to develop the guiding principles of Juche, the socialist philosophy of self reliance.

Andy Brooks recalled Marx and Engels' days in Brit-



• Chatting at the social: top: Andy Brooks and Alex Kempshall.

ain and paid tribute to the military successes of both the Cuban and the Korean people against US efforts to invade and subdue them and the inspiration they have given to other countries around the world. "They have proved the

Americans can be defeated," he said, adding that this would certainly be repeated in Iraq.

A collection taken at the event raised £562.94 for the *New Worker* fighting fund.

**COMMUNISTS from Britain and overseas, and members of the Marx Memorial Library, laid flowers at the tomb of Karl Marx at Highgate Cemetery last Monday to mark the 122nd anniversary of the death of the great revolutionary and thinker.**

Mary Rosser, the chair of the Marx Memorial Library began the ceremony exactly at 2.30 pm, the time of Marx's death, and the graveside address was given by Len Aldis on behalf of the Library.

Len said that Marx's life had "enriched the lives of millions throughout the world. One of the most powerful publications he and his colleague Frederick Engels left us was the Communist Manifesto. This small publication has been translated into many languages, and in my opinion, when read, opens up the mind of the reader to what could be the future for working people".

Delegations included one led by NCP leader Andy Brooks, the Democratic Korean ambassador in London and diplomats from People's China, Cuba and Vietnam.

Marx died in London at 2.30 pm on 14 March 1883 and the Marx Memorial Library has organised a graveside commemoration at the exact time and date since 1933.

• Top: Len Aldis gives his address at the tomb of Karl Marx. Left: The DPRK ambassador and family.

## The Historical Destiny of the Doctrine of Karl Marx

by Lenin  
1<sup>st</sup> March 1913

**THE CHIEF THING in the doctrine of Marx is that it brings out the historic role of the proletariat as the builder of socialist society. Has the course of events all over the world confirmed this doctrine since it was expounded by Marx?**

Marx first advanced it in 1844. The Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engels, published in 1848, gave an integral and systematic exposition of this doctrine, an exposition which has remained the best to this day. Since then world history has clearly been divided into three main periods: (1) from the revolution of 1848 to the Paris Commune (1871); (2) from the Paris Commune to the Russian revolution (1905); (3) since the Russian revolution.

Let us see what has been the destiny of Marx's doctrine in each of these periods.

At the beginning of the first period Marx's doctrine by no means dominated. It was only one of the very numerous groups or trends of socialism. The forms of socialism that did dominate were

in the main akin to our Narodism: in comprehension of the materialist basis of historical movement, inability to single out the role and significance of each class in capitalist society, concealment of the bourgeois nature of democratic reforms under diverse, quasi-socialist phrases about the "people", "justice", "right", and so on.

The revolution of 1848 struck a deadly blow at all these vociferous, motley and ostentatious forms of pre-Marxian socialism. In all countries, the revolution revealed the various classes of society in action. The shooting of the workers by the republican bourgeoisie in Paris in the June days of 1848 finally revealed that the proletariat *alone* was socialist by nature. The liberal bourgeoisie dreaded the independence of this class a hundred times more than it did any kind of reaction. The craven liberals grovelled before reaction. The peasantry were content with the abolition of the survivals of feudalism and joined the supporters of order, wavering but occasionally between *workers' democracy and bourgeois liberalism*. All doctrines of non-class socialism and non-class politics proved to be sheer nonsense.

The Paris Commune (1871) completed this devel-

opment of bourgeois changes; the republic, i.e., the form of political organisation in which class relations appear in their most unconcealed form, owed its consolidation solely to the heroism of the proletariat.

In all the other European countries, a more tangled and less complete development led to the same result—a bourgeois society that had taken definite shape. Towards the end of the first period (1848–71), a period of storms and revolutions, pre-Marxian socialism was *dead*. Independent *proletarian* parties came into being: the First International (1864–72) and the German Social-Democratic Party.

The second period (1872–1904) was distinguished from the first by its "peaceful" character, by the absence of revolutions. The West had finished with bourgeois revolutions. The East had not yet risen to them.

The West entered a phase of "peaceful" preparations for the changes to come. Socialist parties, basically proletarian, were formed everywhere, and learned to use bourgeois parliamentarism and to found their own daily press, their educational institutions,

their trade unions and their co-operative societies. Marx's doctrine gained a complete victory and *began to spread*. The selection and mustering of the forces of the proletariat and its preparation for the coming battles made slow but steady progress.

The dialectics of history were such that the theoretical victory of Marxism compelled its enemies to *disguise themselves* as Marxists. Liberalism, rotten within, tried to revive itself in the form of socialist *opportunism*. They interpreted the period of preparing the forces for great battles as renunciation of these battles. Improvement of the conditions of the slaves to fight against wage slavery they took to mean the sale by the slaves of their right to liberty for a few pence. They cravenly preached "social peace" (i.e., peace with the slave-owners), renunciation of the class struggle, etc. They had very many adherents among socialist members of parliament, various officials of the working-class movement, and the "sympathising" intelligentsia.

However, the opportunists had scarcely congratulated themselves on "social peace" and on the non-necessity of storms under "democracy" when a new source

of great world storms opened up in Asia. The Russian revolution was followed by revolutions in Turkey, Persia and China. It is in this era of storms and their "repercussions" in Europe that we are now living. No matter what the fate of the great Chinese republic, against which various "civilised" hyenas are now whetting their teeth, no power on earth can restore the old serfdom in Asia or wipe out the heroic democracy of the masses in the Asiatic and semi-Asiatic countries.

Certain people who were inattentive to the conditions for preparing and developing the mass struggle were driven to despair and to anarchism by the lengthy delays in the decisive struggle against capitalism in Europe. We can now see how shortsighted and faint-hearted this anarchist despair is.

The fact that Asia, with its population of eight hundred million, has been drawn into the struggle for these same European ideals should inspire us with optimism and not despair.

The Asiatic revolutions have again shown us the spinelessness and baseness of liberalism, the exceptional importance of the independence of the democratic masses, and the pronounced demarcation between the proletariat and the

bourgeoisie of all kinds. After the experience both of Europe and Asia, anyone who speaks of non-class politics and non-class socialism, ought simply to be put in a cage and exhibited alongside the Australian kangaroo or something like that.

After Asia, Europe has also begun to stir, although not in the Asiatic way. The "peaceful" period of 1872–1904 has passed, never to return. The high cost of living and the tyranny of the trusts are leading to an unprecedented sharpening of the economic struggle, which has set into movement even the British workers who have been most corrupted by liberalism. We, see a political crisis brewing even in the most "diehard", bourgeois-Junker country, Germany. The frenzied arming and the policy of imperialism are turning modern Europe into a "social peace" which is more like a gunpowder barrel. Meanwhile the decay of *all* the bourgeois parties and the maturing of the proletariat are making steady progress.

Since the appearance of Marxism, each of the three great periods of world history has brought Marxism new confirmation and new triumphs. But a still greater triumph awaits Marxism, as the doctrine of the proletariat, in the coming period of history.

International News

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## US court rejects Agent Orange suit

**A US FEDERAL court has dismissed legal action by Vietnamese plaintiffs who alleged that Agent Orange caused birth defects and illnesses. The judge in the case ruled that allegations of physical damage were not proven and rejected their arguments.**

Nguyen Trong Nhan, a leader of the Vietnamese Agent Orange Association, said that Judge Jack B Weinstein's decision was "wrong, unfair and irresponsible." He said that his group was thinking of filing an appeal.

Judge Weinstein ruled that there was "no basis for any of the claims of plaintiffs under the domestic law of any nation or state or under any form of international law" — dismissing the case outright.

### compensation

The plaintiffs had sought compensation from pharmaceutical firms including Monsanto, Dow Chemical and Hercules Incorporated, for the effects of Agent Orange, a toxic defoliant used to deprive guerrilla forces of food and forest cover. They argued that the chemical caused birth defects, miscarriages and cancer and was the first civil action by Vietnamese plaintiffs to claim compensation for the effects of Agent Orange.

Attorneys said that a legal precedent was set in the action when several chemical companies paid \$180 million in 1984 to settle a lawsuit with US war veterans who claimed their health had been affected by exposure to the substance.

### fuelled

Ngo Thanh Nhan, a professor who participated in a campaign to drum up support for the case, said this fuelled the Vietnamese plaintiffs' argument. He said that if the medical files of the Vietnamese victims are not convincing enough for the court, then they will use the ones of US soldiers — arguing that there is no reason why those who sprayed chemical products received compensation for their contamination and the direct victims' lawsuit was rejected.

Agent Orange, which was named after the colour of its containers, contained dioxin that stripped trees bare — but also entered the food chain and caused a proliferation of birth defects. Some babies were born without eyes or arms, or were missing internal organs. Activists say three million people were exposed to the chemical during the war, and at least one million suffer serious health problems today.

Radio Havana Cuba

**SINN FÉIN Chief Negotiator Martin McGuinness has challenged the northern Ireland police (PSNI) Chief Constable to explain publicly the handling by his detectives of the investigation into the killing of Belfast man Robert McCartney.**

He was speaking in Belfast on Tuesday after it was revealed that both a key witness and a key suspect in the case were earlier this week turned away and prevented from making additional statements to the police.

McGuinness says there is growing evidence that the police are holding back on charging suspects in an attempt to damage Sinn Féin.

Robert McCartney was killed on 30 January after a row in Magennis's Bar spilled out into a nearby street. Another man, Brendan Devine, was also stabbed.

Now it is being reported that Devine, who gave a taped statement to the PSNI shortly after the incident in which he identified by name a number of those involved, went to the police on Monday 14 March to make a written statement.

But the police sent him away, saying that the senior

detective in charge of the case was not available.

This would have allowed immediate arrests and charges to be brought.

Also on Monday, the solicitor of one of the main suspects in the case contacted the PSNI at Antrim Barracks twice over the course of several hours to say his client was available for interview, but the PSNI did not respond.

### away

The second time he was told that the senior investigating detective was away at a conference and police did not have the manpower to deal with his client.

The spokesperson then suggested that he should "call back in a couple of days".

An *Phoblacht* has also been told that the PSNI already have detailed statements from two other men who

were in the bar on 30 January, and that both identified by name some of those said to be involved in the events that occurred inside and outside the bar.

"We have very grave concerns around the way Hugh Orde and the PSNI have dragged out the investigation into Mr McCartney's death," Martin McGuinness told reporters on Tuesday.

"Republicans have suspected that the PSNI are tailoring their investigation to cause maximum damage to Sinn Féin. The revelation that the PSNI turned away a key witness and a key suspect adds further weight to this suspicion.

"In such a high-profile murder investigation it beggars belief that the PSNI would reject the offer of an eyewitness statement from a key witness, and the opportunity to interview a key sus-

pect who they claim to have been searching for — but this is what has happened.

"It is also clear that eyewitness testimony, which identifies some of those involved in the attack on Robert McCartney, has been ignored and that a decision has been made not to arrest and charge those identified by the eyewitness.

### no parade

"The normal police practice of quickly putting suspects into an identity parade has not happened, despite the fact that the PSNI know who was involved and have eyewitness evidence about this.

"This underlines the fact that politics rather than justice is driving the PSNI investigation, and raises serious questions about the PSNI's handling of the case.

"We need to be asking

why a chief suspect was turned away. That's incredible. It's unprecedented. Never in the history of the Troubles has a chief suspect been turned away and told to come back in three days time."

Meanwhile, refuting recent Press Association reports that he had "warned" the McCartney family against entering the political arena, McGuinness told the attending media that the reports were a "malicious interpretation" of his remarks.

"I didn't issue any such warning," said McGuinness, pointedly.

"Media reports being supplied by the Press Association Wire service which were attributed to me are inaccurate and misleading. This report attributes words to me that I did not use.

"I at no time warned the family about entering the political arena. What I was cautioning against was them being manipulated by others for ulterior and political purposes and I intend to take this matter up with the Press Complaints Commission.

### fully support

"I am fully in support of the McCartney family, and I believe that bringing those responsible for their brother's death to justice is their sole motivation - but I also believe that they are surrounded by some people who have a very different agenda.

"We have people like Anthony MacIntyre — who is against the Peace Process and very hostile to our party — describing himself as 'an advisor to the McCartney family'. That is the kind of thing I was cautioning against.

"My position is quite clear. My support for the McCartney family in their demand for truth and justice is 100 per cent."

The Sinn Féin politician also responded to the media scapegoating of three party members who were in Magennis's on 30 January, former Sinn Féin Councillor Sean Hayes, Assembly election candidate Cora Groogan and a candidate for the upcoming council elections, Deirdre Hargan.

### full and frank

McGuinness told the media that the call by Gerry Adams for party members to give a full and frank account of what they knew of the incident on 30 January also applied to those three.

But he pointed out that both Hargan and Hayes had given their names and contact numbers to the PSNI on the night and had yet to hear from them, while Groogan had given a statement to her solicitor and was expecting it to be forwarded to the Police Ombudsman.

AP/RN

# Sinn Féin challenges police over killing

## China: Taiwan step is a move for peace

by Bao Daozu  
in Beijing

**PEOPLE'S CHINA has passed a law sanctioning "non-peaceful means and other necessary measures" as a last resort to stop Taiwan's secession should all efforts for a peaceful reunification prove futile.**

The Anti-Secession Law was given unanimous backing on the last day of the annual session of China's parliament this week.

It was carried by 2,896 votes to zero, with two abstentions by the third session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC). China's president, NPC chairman and the premier all said the bill seeks a peaceful reunification with Taiwan. Deputies broke into spontaneous applause when the law, which came into immediate effect, was passed.

NPC Chairman Wu Bangguo said the huge support for the law reflected the consistent and sincere stance of the Chinese mainland for peaceful reunification.

Premier Wen Jiabao strongly warned against any foreign interference on the Taiwan question at a news conference after the session. "Solving the Taiwan question is entirely an internal Chinese affair and brooks no interference by any outside forces," he said.

• Delegates applaud the Anti-Secession Law.

"We do not wish to see any foreign interference, but we do not fear foreign interference should it occur," he added.

But Wen assured the world the law is not a "war bill" nor does it seek to change the cross-Straits status quo.

### framework

"The legislation sets a legal framework to prevent Taiwan's secession from China and to promote a peaceful national reunification," Wen said. "It will strengthen and promote cross-Straits relations."

He then expressed his concern over the potential involvement of the United States and Japan over the Taiwan question. The two countries jointly issued a statement last month describing Taiwan as a common security issue.

"The security alliance between Japan and the United States is a bilateral matter between those two countries. Yet we are concerned in China because it is related to the question of Taiwan," Wen said.

He stressed: "That question is China's internal affair and it brooks no direct or indirect interference by

any foreign forces."

The premier said the 10-article law was not targeted at Taiwan compatriots and he appealed to them as well as the international community to understand and support the bill.

### not for war

"It is not a law for war but one for the peaceful reunification of the motherland," he said. "So long as there is a glimmer of hope for peaceful reunification, we will exert our utmost to make it happen rather than give up."

China Daily





