

mrcpcml

modern communism

manitoba regional committee communist party of canada (marxist-leninist)

Volume 6 Number 1

January 1, 2005

Only Revolutionary Struggle Against Capitalism and Imperialism Can Transform the Situation in Favour of the People

-Statement of the Manitoba Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), January 1, 2005

During the past year the concern of the Canadian working class and people about the direction of the economy, human and democratic rights, the environmental and social policy, the accountability and integrity of their elected representatives and electoral system, the U.S. domination of Canada, Canada's foreign policy, and the state of international relations has not abated and for good reason. On the one hand, the Canadian working class and people desire the all-sided development of the economy based on self-reliance and trade with other countries on the basis of equality, mutual assistance and respect among all countries. They want a society where human rights and democratic rights are not merely a phrase but a reality. They want a Canadian foreign policy which makes a genuine contribution to peace, security and social progress in all countries around the world.

On the other hand, what has occurred in the past year has been opposite to their wishes. Canada's economy has been seriously damaged by its one-sided dependency on American markets. But despite this fact Canadian business and political elites are pursuing even further integration of Canada's economy into that of the United States. The vast majority of Canadians have expressed their complete opposition to Canada's participation in U.S. military adventures, but Paul Martin's Liberal government is still seriously considering signing on to the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense program. Furthermore, Canada's continuing military operations in Afghanistan and its active participation in the regime

change and occupation in Haiti have further exposed the Canadian "peacekeeping" program as thinly disguised support for the agenda of U.S. imperialism. In terms of human and democratic rights, in an effort to curry favour with the Bush administration in the U.S., the Canadian state has implemented many of the draconian "security" measures adopted by the Americans in their Patriot Act. Individuals have been held for years in Canadian prisons without being charged and the Arab and Muslim communities have been targeted for surveillance and harassment. In addition Canada has permitted and facilitated the kidnapping and torture of its citizens at the hands of the Americans and others, as in the case of Maher Arar.

During 2004 several important struggles were waged by Canadian workers. In Quebec, Newfoundland and British Columbia, public sector workers fought against cutbacks in social services, government-imposed concessions and privatization. CN workers waged a strike struggle in defence of their wages and working conditions and in opposition to the Americanization of their railway. The steel workers at Stelco in Hamilton have been fighting a protracted struggle in defence of their jobs, wages and pensions. While all of these struggles were against great odds and had limited success, they demonstrated that Canadian workers have had enough of neo-liberal policies and are beginning to see the necessity for political as well as economic struggle.

See page 2: New Year's Statement

Visit our web site at <http://www.modern-communism.ca>

New Year's Statement...from page 1

In the past year, the imperialists continued to use the issue of terrorism to justify further attacks on the rights of the people, to threaten and attack countries that pursue a sovereign and independent course, and to increase their production and purchases of weapons and deployment of military forces. The imperialists continued to use the issue of terrorism to try to convince the working class and people that imperialism is “humanitarian”, “democratic”, and “civilized” and that only imperialism can protect the people from the danger of terrorism. On the one hand, the imperialist powers and their secret services have trained and financed all of the terrorist organizations, such as al Qaeda, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and others. On the other hand, they are presenting themselves as opponents of terrorism. The hypocritical, lying and self-serving propaganda of the U.S.-led “war on terror” was further exposed last year. The photographs and stories of the torture of Iraqi and other prisoners in the Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo prisons, the admissions about the falsification of information relating to weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the wholesale destruction of Fallujah and video tapes of murder of the wounded in that city by U.S. soldiers, and the disclosures of the war profiteering in Iraq, have all served to show that the imperialists are the real terrorists. They possess every kind of weapon of mass destruction; they manufacture and sell their armaments around the world for their own self-serving interests; and they are directly involved in the bloody suppression of the peoples of Iraq, Chechnya, Palestine, Haiti and other countries.

More people are coming to see that terrorism is a tool of imperialism to attack the working class and people and to disrupt their struggle for emancipation from all forms of exploitation and oppression. During this past year, Canadians have demonstrated against the U.S.-British war against Iraq, opposed the U.S. missile defence program, supported the just struggle of the Cuban people against the U.S. blockade, and condemned the draconian anti-terrorist laws that the Canadian government passed under pressure from the Bush regime following September 11, 2001.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the leaders in the “West” promised that the collapse of

pseudo-socialism and the establishment of “market economies” and “Western-style democracy” would bring about peace, democracy and prosperity for the working class and people of the former Soviet Union and the countries of the former Warsaw Pact. Fourteen years later, anarchy, corruption, violence, and poverty are the order of the day in these countries. Russia, the United States and the European Union pay lip service to the sovereignty and independence of the former republics of the Soviet Union and members of the Warsaw Pact, but all of them are brutally interfering in the internal affairs of these countries. The struggle between “reformers” and “conservatives” in these countries has become a permanent method to deceive the people and block any renewal of these societies. Time and again the “reformers” of today become the “conservatives” of tomorrow and vice versa. They do the bidding of one or another set of financial oligarchs, one or another foreign power, while the demands of the people for the economic, political or social renewal of their countries are ignored. While the imperialists were ecstatic that the people rose up against the pseudo-socialist regimes in the late 1980s and early 1990s, they are concerned that the working class and people are persisting in their struggle to achieve a genuine renewal of their countries. They only pretend to support these struggles insofar as they advance their own interests.

Even though the victory of capitalism over socialism was declared in 1991, and even though they have the entire world in their grip, the spectre of communism still haunts the imperialists and they do not miss a single opportunity to attack socialism, the name of J.V. Stalin and Marxism-Leninism. The war in the Russian republic of Chechnya, the “rose revolution” in Georgia, and the “orange revolution” in Ukraine have all been occasions for the imperialists and their news media to remind the working class and people that socialism did not work and to convince them it cannot work. Yet imperialism, with all the resources of the world at its disposal, has not been able to meet the needs of the people or solve any of the problems facing humankind. J.V. Stalin, most vilified by imperialism, said over fifty years ago that the basic economic law of modern capitalism could

See page 4: New Year's Statement

A Victory for Democracy in Ukraine?

It appears from the initial vote count in Ukraine that Viktor Yushchenko has emerged the winner of the December 26 presidential election. Yushchenko, along with his American and European financial backers and various Ukrainian nationalist organizations around the world, has declared the results to be a great victory for democracy in Ukraine. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

In 1991 when the Soviet Union was dissolved, Ukrainians were told that communism was responsible for the anti-democratic activities of their leaders. Tens of millions of dollars poured into the country to convince them that their desire for genuine democracy, as well as economic and social renewal, could be achieved only under capitalism. Instead, Ukraine, like other former Soviet Republics and countries of Eastern Europe, was devastated by the introduction of market capitalism. Millions of workers were thrown out of their jobs, factories were closed down and the top bureaucrats, managers and “communists” not only consolidated and legalized the power they had previously exercised illegally, but they also “privatized” the public wealth and property belonging to the Ukrainian people into their own pockets and the pockets of various foreign financiers. Instead of democracy, the Ukrainian people got rule by a gang of billionaire oligarchs many of whom previously ruled as bureaucrats and “communist” officials.

When Ukrainian workers fought back against these attacks on their livelihoods and demanded real democracy, the Ukrainian oligarchs and their Western backers brought to the fore a new group of “democrats” and “reformers”. The old “democrats” and “reformers”, those who had actually brought in the capitalist reforms, now became “Stalinists” and “conservatives”. In this way, the new capitalist rulers of Ukraine hope to divert the struggle of the people for freedom and democracy into a dead end.

Viktor Yushchenko is an example of the “new reformers”. Victor Yanukovich is an example of the “old reformers” who have now become “conservatives”. However, not very long ago, Viktor Yushchenko was also one of those “old reformers”, a Soviet bureaucrat who got rich quick by expropriating public property. Prior to 1991, Yushchenko was a very loyal “communist” and a top bureaucrat in the agricultural division of the Soviet Gosbank. He, along with other top managers of the bank, took advantage of the chaos between 1989 and 1991 to effectively seize control of the Ukrainian branch of the bank,

eventually converting it into Bank Ukraina. Through a series of shady deals Yushchenko and his cohorts transferred virtually the entire assets of the bank — the savings of millions of Ukrainian working people — into their private bank accounts. When Bank Ukraina collapsed, charges were brought against Yushchenko and other bank officials. While some of his colleagues were convicted and sent to jail, the charges against Yushchenko were quietly dropped and Yushchenko remains one of the wealthiest men in Ukraine. One of Yushchenko’s main supporters within Ukraine is Julia Timoshenko, who similarly used her position within the Soviet state apparatus to seize control of the state energy company, and is now worth over \$5 billion.

During the past few years Yushchenko became a protégé of George Soros, a multi-billionaire financier who has been instrumental in financing regime changes in numerous Eastern European countries. Soros financed and groomed Yushchenko to become a leading figure in Ukrainian politics and Yushchenko also quickly became a favored recipient of tens of millions of dollars from various U.S. state agencies. It is estimated that Yushchenko and his political organization have received in excess of \$65 million from the U.S. alone in recent years. In addition he has received huge sums of money from various European capitalists eager to get their hands on the wealth and resources of Ukraine.

During a two-year stint as prime minister between 1999 and 2001, Yushchenko launched an attack on the wages and pensions of Ukrainian working people. Later, while in “opposition” he continued to advocate cutbacks to pensions and opposed the repayment of wages and pension benefits owed to workers from the period in the mid-1990s when the Ukrainian government ran out of money due to the looting of the treasury by people like Yushchenko. With his European backers openly calling for “shock therapy” for Ukraine, it appears that, as president, Yushchenko will likely escalate both the attacks on Ukrainian workers and the looting of the public treasury. When he becomes thoroughly discredited, he will in turn earn the label “conservative” and some new “reformer” will arrive on the scene to hoodwink the people. This has become the *modus operandi* of the Eastern European oligarchs and their Western allies. Only by overthrowing all of the oligarchs and building a new, socialist society will the Ukrainian people achieve the democratic renewal of their society that they so deeply desire.

New Year's Statement...from page 2

be formulated roughly in this way: “the securing of the maximum capitalist profit through the exploitation, ruin and impoverishment of the majority of the population of the given country, through the enslavement and systematic robbery of the peoples of other countries, especially backward countries, and, lastly, through wars and militarization of the national economy, which are utilized for the obtaining of the highest profits.” These words could have been written yesterday to describe neo-liberalism and capitalist globalization.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the U.S. declared its intention to create a unipolar world under its dictate – the “New World Order” of George Bush Sr. Developments of the past year confirmed that this dream is in shambles. Taking advantage of the U.S. predicament in Iraq, the German and French imperialists have put aside two centuries of distrust and antagonism to form a strategic partnership to challenge U.S. imperialism. Following the re-election of George W. Bush as U.S. president in November, French President Jacques Chirac called on Britain to join this alliance, pointing out that British support for the Bush regime has gained it nothing. Russian imperialism, seriously weakened and witnessing its former zone of influence being carved up by the European and American imperialists, is seeking allies in order to save itself. It was recently reported that Russia and China are planning joint military maneuvers in 2005, the first time in almost half a century. Meanwhile, China and India are also attempting to establish regional trading blocs and possible military alliances to defend their interests against the U.S. and European imperialists. Latin America is also beginning to assert itself. Brazil, in particular, is attempting to establish a Latin American pole in the emerging multipolar world in the form of a strengthened Mercosur trading bloc. In this regard, it is supported by Venezuela and Argentina and the Caricom countries may also join such a bloc as a counter-balance to the economic power of the U.S. and its proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Thus, far from a unipolar world dominated by U.S. imperialism, a new, multi-polar world is emerging which increases both the danger of inter-

imperialist war, as well as the prospects for anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist revolutions.

On this occasion of the ushering in of the New Year, the Manitoba Regional Committee of CPC(M-L) re-affirms its commitment to the economic, political and social renewal of Canada, to the strategic aim of transforming Canada from capitalism to socialism, and to the ultimate aim of a communist society. We re-affirm our commitment to building the subjective conditions for these revolutionary transformations in Canada by strengthening our basic organization, by elaborating and popularizing the Marxist-Leninist positions on all important questions, by defending and elaborating the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism as they pertain to the contemporary situation, by striving to unite all the communist, revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces, by building together with like-minded people anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist institutions and journals, and by supporting the just struggles of the peoples of other countries for national and social liberation.

On this occasion we wish the Canadian working class and people, the workers and oppressed people of all countries, and all those fighting against imperialism, capitalism and injustice victory in their struggles in 2005.

Modern Communism

**Bulletin of the Manitoba Regional Committee
of the Communist Party of Canada
(Marxist-Leninist)**

Editor: Ken Kaltornyk

To contact the Manitoba Branch of CPC(M-L):

Fax: 477-6741

Email: mrc-cpcml@mts.net

Internet: www.modern-communism.ca

Produced by volunteer labour