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Editorial

MRC to Celebrate 35th Anniversary of CPC(M-L)

This year the Manitoba Regional Committee of CPC(M-L) will mark the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party with a major conference to be held on the weekend of April 2-3. CPC(M-L) was founded on March 31, 1970 to address the problem of providing revolutionary leadership to the movement for socialism and communism in Canada. Under the leadership of Hardial Bains CPC(M-L) developed the strategy and tactics of socialist revolution in Canada, firmly convinced that only socialism and communism could fulfill the desire of the Canadian people for genuine democracy and sovereignty.

During the past 35 years the communist movement in Canada and internationally has faced many challenges and both high and low points. However, the necessity for revolutionary struggle

remains unchanged. Canadians, along with the peoples of every country, are demanding the democratic renewal of their society. They are demanding a society in which the people themselves are sovereign and control the economic, political and cultural life of the country. They are demanding protection of the natural and social environments, an end to poverty and misery of all sorts and a world in which contradictions between nations and peoples are dealt with through peaceful discussions and negotiations, rather than through wars of aggression.

There are many forces in the world which are attempting to manipulate these progressive sentiments of the people in ways which will ultimately frustrate the achievement of these demands. On the one hand there are the imperialists and their agencies which are

See page 2: 35th Anniversary

Analysis:

The World is Entering a Dangerous Period

The experiences of the past year confirm that the international system of imperialism is in the midst of a major realignment which greatly increases the danger of inter-imperialist war. This realignment is being fueled in general by the uneven development of capitalism and imperialism, but in particular by the declining economic and political power of U.S. imperialism.

With the collapse of the Soviet Bloc in 1989, U.S. imperialism embarked on a campaign to create a unipolar imperialist world under the hegemony of the United States. The regime of George Bush Senior launched the First Gulf War against Iraq and engineered the Bosnian civil war in order to extend U.S. military power into strategic areas. Both of these military adventures were conducted with the aim of controlling the flow of oil to Europe and the

Far East. Success in this regard would have reduced Europe to an American dependency, while putting the brakes on the rapid economic growth of Japan and China.

The American strategy was partially successful. It threw the Japanese economy into a tailspin from which it has not yet recovered. Even the stock market boom of the 1990s failed to raise Japan out of its economic recession. In Eastern Europe the Americans, with the help of the Europeans, systematically carved up the old Soviet sphere of influence, while the U.S. financed a series of "independence" movements in the Caucasus with the goal of separating Russia from the vast oil fields of the region. While these moves were undoubtedly aimed at weakening Russia and reducing it to an American

See page 2: Dangerous Period

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Dangerous Period...from page 1

vassal state, there was also a secondary aim of tightening the noose around Europe by gaining control of its last secure source of oil.

The decline of the American financial markets in 2000, coupled with the longer term decline in American manufacturing, has resulted in the U.S. amassing huge balance of payments and balance of trade deficits. This is a very strange position for the world's biggest imperialist power to find itself in. Imperial powers are usually creditor states with huge trade surpluses and the flow of capital outward in the form of investment capital is far more than offset by the flow of profits back to the imperial heartland. Instead, the United States has become the world's largest debtor state with the world's largest balance of trade deficit and the world's largest net outflow of capital. Alarm at the resulting rapid decline of the U.S. dollar has led to increasing pressure to replace the U.S. dollar as the international currency standard with the Euro or a basket of currencies. All of this is evidence of an imperialist power in serious decline.

While the economies of Europe, especially those of Germany and France, have also been quite sluggish since 2000, the European Union (EU) has steadily increased the size of its trading bloc with the admission (or pending admission) of several countries in Eastern Europe, as well as Turkey, making it the biggest trading bloc in the world, both in terms of population and in terms of economic output. Meanwhile, the sharp drop in U.S. and European financial markets in 2000 diverted enormous amounts of capital into China and, to a lesser extent, India. As a result, China has emerged as an economic powerhouse which, if present trends continue, will become the world's most powerful economy within 15 to 20 years. India is also determined to become a big economic power in Asia.

Some of these trends were already apparent by the mid-1980s and it was precisely to counter them that U.S. imperialism decided to embark on a series of military campaigns aimed at solidifying its military superiority and achieving absolute control of all of the world's main energy supplies. It is now becoming apparent that this strategy of U.S. imperialism has been a strategic failure.

On the one hand, the obvious threat posed to Europe by the U.S. plan forced the German and French imperialists to put aside two centuries of distrust and antagonism and form a strategic partnership. The existence of this strategic

partnership became apparent during the months leading up to the February 2003 American-led invasion of Iraq. During the remainder of 2003 and 2004 this Franco-German partnership has remained intact despite repeated efforts by the U.S. to split it. Following the re-election of George W. Bush in November, French President Jacques Chirac publicly called for the further economic and military strengthening of the European Union as a major pole in a multipolar world. While he repeatedly averred that this was not an anti-American move, the content of what he was calling for made it abundantly clear that it was. At the very least it was a repudiation of the Bush Doctrine which envisages a unipolar world dominated by and dictated to by U.S. imperialism.

During the past year or so, various other poles have also begun to emerge in this new world order. China, obviously, constitutes one of those poles. With a quarter of the world's population, a rapidly growing economy and a formidable military capability, China is already a major world economic power and it is only a matter of time before it becomes a full-fledged superpower. China and Russia recently announced that they will be holding joint military exercises in the spring for the first time in half a century. India is also emerging as an economic power in Asia with a clear desire to dominate the Indian subcontinent. There are also indications that China and India may be negotiating an alliance which would constitute a serious challenge to U.S. interests in Asia.

Meanwhile, 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. Venezuela and Cuba have also launched an initiative to create an alternative to the U.S. Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) scheme which they are calling the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (BAA). This initiative would see the creation of a Latin American-Caribbean trading bloc based on principles of equality and mutual benefit.

There was a time when U.S. imperialism could have put an end to all of these maneuvers with a few back room meetings, the exchange of large sums of money and/or the intervention of the marines. However, those days are long gone. The back room pressure, bribery and military interventions are still going on, but they no longer achieve the desired

See page 4: Dangerous Period

For Your Information:

Imperialism and Terrorism Part VIII: American Terrorist Attacks Against Cuba (Continued)

This is the final in Modern Communism's series examining the link between imperialism and terrorism. The articles in this series have examined how so-called revolutionary or left-wing groups have been used by the imperialists to discredit progressive movements, as well as how the imperialists have also organized and sponsored terrorist groups around the world. Besides these covert means, the imperialist powers also have a long history of openly conducting or condoning terrorist attacks to undermine various states or movements. The previous article in this series was the first part of an examination of American-financed and organized terrorist attacks against Cuba, including a string of bombings at hotels, designed to destabilize Cuba's tourism industry. As well, people convicted in the U.S. for terrorist acts against Cuba and the Cuban people have been released from prison, despite openly declaring their intent to carry on more attacks. Orlando Bosch, for example, was convicted in the 1976 bombing of a Cubana airplane, in which all 73 passengers and crew were killed, but today lives in Miami and serves as an advisor to the Cuban American National Foundation. The Americans have also provided refuge to Luis Posada Carilles, a convicted terrorist.

In June of 1998, following several meetings between Cuban representatives and FBI agents about anti-Cuban terrorists operating within the U.S., an official American delegation traveled to Havana for bilateral meetings on the issue. The Cuban government provided detailed material evidence, including photographs, documents, film and voice recordings, about the activities of 40 terrorists, many naturalized U.S. citizens, operating mainly out of Miami. Cuba also provided evidence of plots to assassinate President Fidel Castro at international meetings. The American delegation reviewed all the evidence and returned to the U.S. Not a single arrest

was made.

In August of 1998, Cuba once again forwarded evidence to the FBI about a plot, led by Posada Carilles, to assassinate Castro at a summit of Central American and Caribbean leaders in the Dominican Republic scheduled for later that year.

In September 1998, Cuba sent five people to the U.S. on a fact-finding mission to monitor the movements of the different terrorist groups plotting attacks against the Cuban people. In the first month in Miami, the group gathered ample evidence on the activities of different anti-Castro groups, which the Cuban government then turned over to the FBI. The FBI responded by arresting the five on charges of espionage. All were convicted and are currently being held in U.S. prisons, despite the fact that all of their actions were directed at averting human casualties by preventing terrorist attacks in Cuba and in other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

While U.S. agents were busy arresting and imprisoning anti-terrorists, Pedro Carilles emerged in Panama, leading a group plotting to blow up the main hall of a university during a ceremony Castro was scheduled to speak at. Had they been successful, the casualties would undoubtedly have been high, as hundreds of Panamanian youth and students were on hand to hear Castro. However, Carriles and his group were arrested in November 2000 and convicted on a number of charges, including plotting terrorist acts, entering Panama with false documents and arms smuggling. The group's defence was funded by the Cuban American National Foundation (CNAF). In 2004, one week before completing her term, Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso pardoned Carriles and three of his accomplices. Shortly after their release, three of the four returned to Miami, entering the U.S. with no problems despite their terrorism-related convictions.

Dangerous Period...from page 2

results. Part of this is simply that the U.S. is financially and politically bankrupt and does not have the same clout that it once had. However, a bigger part is that the U.S. is stretched to the breaking point militarily. It has military bases in almost every country in the world. It now has 150,000 troops occupying Iraq, many of which are from the reserves. Those troops are being forced to stay in Iraq for up to three years because there are no reserves left to replace them. The U.S. has even been forced to begin withdrawing troops from its outposts in other countries to shore up its occupation force in Iraq. Despite this, the Iraq campaign continues to go very badly for the Americans and it is becoming clear that even with twice the number of troops the U.S. would not be able to defeat the Iraqi resistance. The bogging down of the U.S. armed forces in Iraq has created a situation in which U.S. imperialism can no longer, at the present time, pose a serious military threat to any other country. Syria and Iran, the next countries on the U.S. list for invasion and regime change know that they are safe so long as the resistance continues in Iraq. Similarly, the U.S. cannot launch military actions against Cuba, Venezuela or North Korea so long as it is tied down in Iraq.

The U.S. is thus faced with a quandary. To defeat the Iraqi resistance, even temporarily, it would have to commit several hundred thousand more troops to the fight, troops that it does not have and cannot afford even if it did have them. If it leaves Iraq without crushing the resistance it will shatter the myth of American invincibility and encourage others to also resist U.S. domination. However, if it stays in Iraq the U.S. empire could rapidly crumble due to encroachment by imperialist rivals and a resurgence of national liberation struggles. Regardless of how it eventually decides to solve this problem, the U.S. risks ending up like Russia, with grand imperialist ambitions but little ability to do anything to achieve them.

While the prospect of a humbled U.S. imperialism would no doubt be universally welcomed everywhere except in the United States and Israel, it is not without its dangers. In decline, U.S. imperialism will become increasingly aggressive and fascist, desperately trying to stave off the inevitable. Even a catastrophic collapse of the American economy would not end the danger, as Nazi Germany demonstrated. The U.S. economy is already on a war footing and the U.S. has

the greatest stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction on the face of the earth, while the Bush Doctrine pledges to use that military power to launch pre-emptive strikes against any country which dares to challenge U.S. hegemony. Therefore, as this situation develops the danger of imperialist wars of aggression and even inter-imperialist war will increase, not decrease.

35th Anniversary...from page 1

suggesting that democracy can be attained by relying on the benevolence of the imperialists themselves. On the other hand are various forces which suggest that these demands can be achieved through peaceful and parliamentary means or that the implementation of various democratic reforms will somehow create conditions for a revolutionary transformation of society.

The MRC of CPC(M-L) rejects both of these claims. It firmly believes not only that imperialism and democracy are mutually exclusive, but that revolution and socialism are prerequisites for the democratic renewal of Canada and not the reverse. Democratic renewal is the content of socialist revolution during this period and cannot be considered a separate stage of the struggle. The MRC will use the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Party to reiterate and elaborate the revolutionary principle of CPC(M-L) that only socialism and communism can create conditions for genuine democracy to flourish and that the most urgent necessity in developing the struggle for revolution and socialism is the existence of a vigorous Marxist-Leninist communist party.

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