

A Turning Point in the History of CPC(M-L)

On April 2, 2005 the Manitoba Regional Committee (MRC) of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) held the opening session of a conference to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). The opening session consisted of a meeting of the Regional Committee at which a report and resolutions were presented, discussed and adopted. The closing session of the conference will take place on April 10, 2005.

The report to the conference, entitled *The Defence of Our Party's Ideology, Political Line and Organizational Principles is of Utmost Importance*, re-affirmed that the objective conditions for revolution exist in Canada, but the subjective conditions are lagging behind. It also re-affirmed that the most important subjective factor for revolution is the Communist Party based on Marxism-Leninism

and proletarian internationalism, the most conscious and organized section of the working class. The report related the history of the struggle to build such a party in Canada, culminating in the founding of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) on March 31, 1970. It also described the history of CPC(M-L)'s efforts to end its marginalization so that the working class can fulfill its historic role as the gravedigger of capitalism and the builder of socialism.

The report pointed out that in the course of the work to establish, strengthen and develop itself, the Party has had to wage a continuous struggle against the bourgeois-revisionist pressure. This is not a struggle to rectify some individuals in the Party. It is a class struggle waged by the Party against alien class influences that, if ignored, would undermine the ideological, political and organizational integrity of the

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Commentary

The Legacy of Pope John Paul II

Now that Pope John Paul II has died, much is being said about his role as a “man of peace” and “a man of the people”. He is also being lavishly praised for his role in “destroying communism”. In fact, this being presented as one of his most important contributions to the cause of peace and the welfare of the people. In some circles, it is even being claimed that Pope John Paul II was an ardent opponent of neo-liberalism. Of course, there is a tradition that one should not speak ill of the dead and there is a tendency to exaggerate the positive and gloss over the negative when speaking of someone who has recently died. However, these claims being made regarding the legacy of Pope John Paul II go beyond politeness; they are an important part of the

imperialist ideological offensive against the working class and people.

Pope John Paul II was elected Pope in 1978, not because he was a “man of peace” and a “man of the people”, but because he was an ardent anti-communist who could play an important role in undermining the pseudo-socialist regime in Poland and thereby weaken the Warsaw Pact. His selection was a consequence of the inter-imperialist rivalry between U.S. imperialism and Western European imperialism on the one hand, and Soviet social-imperialism and the Eastern European pseudo-socialist states on the other. During the entire period of the 1980s, this Pope worked very closely with

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British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and U.S. President Ronald Reagan to impose the dictate of the Anglo-American imperialists over the entire world. His main activity in this regard was in helping to organize the Solidarity movement in Poland, which sought to openly restore capitalism in Poland and bring that country under the domination of U.S. imperialism. In addition, he also made numerous trips to Latin America to assist the U.S. in suppressing movements for national and social liberation in that region. There he condemned “liberation theology” as an instrument of communism, conducted a purge of the Latin American church and strengthened the reactionary church leaders who were allied to the military dictatorships and their death squads. Following his visits to Latin America, a large number of progressive priests in the region were murdered and the Vatican took no action to press for their killers to be brought to justice. In fact, the brazen manner in which the reactionary regimes carried out these murders, coupled with the lack of any serious protest from the Vatican, led to suggestions that these assassinations had the Pope’s blessing. Pope John Paul II’s anti-communism also led him to begin the process of beatification of Pope Pius XII, another fanatic anti-communist who blessed the Fascist and Nazi troops during the Second World War. So much for being a “man of peace”.

Pope John Paul II also defended the most backward traditions of the Catholic Church towards women. Not only was he adamantly against family planning and birth control, but he also opposed any concessions to women’s rights within the church. His stand against birth control is viewed as a major factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS, especially in Africa, where he actively undermined attempts by various African governments to promote effective measures to slow the spread of this epidemic. Furthermore, while fanatically opposing the recognition of any form of gay rights, he turned a blind eye to the rampant sexual abuse of young boys by priests. Even after the American church was forced to admit that this was a serious and widespread problem and after an American archbishop was convicted on sexual abuse charges, the Vatican and Pope John Paul II continued to deny that such crimes had ever occurred.

In Poland and the other countries of people’s democracy as well as the Soviet Union the issue is not whether the pseudo-socialist regimes were ripe for overthrow. Of course they were because they

refused to represent the interests of the working class and people of those countries. The issue was whether they would be overthrown and replaced by real socialist regimes representing the interests of the working class or they would be replaced by capitalist regimes representing the interests of the new bourgeoisie and the foreign finance capitalists. The Vatican has one of the most extensive intelligence agencies on the face of the earth. The Pope was well aware that the rulers of Poland had nothing in common with communism or socialism. Yet, from day one and right up until his death, Pope John Paul II launched his main ideological assaults against communism and socialism. This ideological service to capitalism and imperialism was crucial in blocking the Polish workers from taking the path towards genuine socialism. It also left them passive in the face of the massive economic assault on the Polish people which began in 1989 with the fall of the pseudo-socialist regime. Poland was stripped bare by the foreign finance capitalists and their Polish collaborators; Polish factories were shut down and the workers thrown into the streets; public property was literally stolen and the public treasury was robbed. Throughout it all, Pope John Paul II gave his blessing to the Polish and foreign gangsters, praising the impoverishment of the Polish people as a great advance over “godless communism”. So much for being a “man of the people”.

As for the claim that the Pope was an opponent of neo-liberalism, the Reaganite-Thatcherite offensive against communism and its ultimate victory in destroying the Soviet Union and the countries of people’s democracy in Eastern Europe were the basis of neo-liberalism. Neo-liberalism is nothing more than the naked dictate of international finance capital over the working people of the world. That is precisely what the Pope worked for in Poland and Eastern Europe. It is what he supported in Latin America and every other region of the world. Furthermore, his contribution towards ending the Cold War on the basis of the destruction of the Soviet Union led directly to the present period of perpetual war as U.S. imperialism strives to consolidate its military domination of the globe. It is true that the Pope spoke in opposition to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but if that makes him a “man of peace” and “man of the people”, then the same label must be applied to Jacques Chirac, the representative of French imperialism, Gerhardt Schroeder, the representative of German imperialism, Vladimir

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Liberals Embrace North American Deep Integration

The timing was uncanny – less than two weeks after the release of a special report by a former Liberal cabinet minister calling for accelerated North American integration, Prime Minister Paul Martin met with U.S. President George Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox and agreed to just such integration.

The special report, dubbed by some commentators the “NAFTA Plus” report, was produced by a task force that included business people and politicians from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico,; it was co-chaired by John Manley, well known for his views on the benefits of closer economic integration with the U.S. Other members of the task force included William Weld, former governor of Massachusetts, Pedro Aspe, former Mexican finance minister, former Canadian finance minister Michael Wilson and Nelson Cunningham of Henry Kissinger’s consulting firm, Kissinger McLarty Associates. The task force was the brain child of Paul Cellucci who, until very recently, was the U.S. ambassador to Canada. The group was charged with putting together a plan for a continent-wide, customs-free zone with common policies on trade, energy,

immigration, law enforcement and security.

The group’s report, released in March, included several specific proposals. These included:

- a tri-national security policy to include harmonized visa and refugee regulations and joint tracking of all entries and exists of foreign nationals in all three countries;
- a trilateral customs union, with all three countries charging the same tariffs on imports;
- a common energy policy, that would give both the U.S. and Mexico preferential access to Canada’s oil, natural gas and hydroelectric power.

According to Manley, the proposals are a matter of necessity. Echoing the proponents of first free trade and then NAFTA, Manley argued that only by furthering economic integration with the U.S. and Mexico will Canada be able to prosper. Referring to the beginning of NAFTA in 1994, Manley, in an interview with the diplomatic magazine *Embassy*, stated: “I think we’ve had 11 years of incrementalism, and during that time we’ve seen the EU expand its borders, eliminate borders among

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Putin, the representative of Russian imperialism and various others who, together with U.S. imperialism, represent the greatest danger to the people of the world and constitute the greatest threat of war.

Nikita Khrushchov, Mikhail Gorbachov and various others posing as communists tried to convince the world’s people that there is a convergence of interests between socialism and the Roman Catholic Church. While it is true that many Catholic priests, especially in Latin America, have sided with the poor and oppressed in opposition to the rich and powerful, the same cannot be said of the Vatican. From its very inception, the Vatican has been an agency of imperialism. It has never failed to ally itself to the most backward and reactionary forces. It was the Vatican that organized the Inquisition, a centuries-long reign of terror against scientists and women, attempting to block the movement for

enlightenment and science. It is the Vatican and its emissaries who have blessed one war-mongering butcher after another in the name of Christianity and “peace”.

In 1848, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels began their historic *Manifesto of the Communist Party* with the following words: “A spectre is haunting Europe – the spectre of Communism. All the Powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre: Pope and Czar, Metternich and Guizot, French Radicals and German police spies.” In the succeeding century and a half, that holy alliance between the Pope and imperialism has never ceased to exist for a single minute. The life of Pope John Paul II is testament to that fact. History will not judge him as a “man of peace” and “man of the people”, but as an imperialist agent, an architect of neo-liberalism and one of the greatest reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries of the twentieth century.

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countries and launch a common currency. We're going to have to provide a vision that is more bold than incrementalism. What's the choice? Europe has made enormous steps in the years since NAFTA was signed. China has been going through a transformative process. In Canada, our only leverage is access to the U.S. market. If we're not going to develop and pursue how we use our advantage of location to be the foundation for future prosperity, then we are going to have to figure out another vision."

While the Martin government did not comment publicly on the proposals in the report, last week the prime minister signed a pact with Bush and Fox that is quite similar. The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America agreement calls for the establishment of a "common approach to security to protect North America from external threats, prevent and respond to threats within North America and further streamline the secure and efficient movement of legitimate, low-risk traffic across our shared borders." The agreement commits the three countries to:

- implement common border security and bioprotection strategies;
- enhance critical infrastructure protection, and implement a common approach to emergency response;
- implement improvements in aviation and maritime security, combat transnational threats, and enhance intelligence partnerships;
- implement a border facilitation strategy to build capacity and improve the legitimate flow of people and cargo;
- improve productivity through regulatory cooperation to generate growth, while maintaining high standards for health and safety;
- promote collaboration in energy, transportation, financial services, technology, and other areas to facilitate business; and
- reduce the costs of trade through the efficient movement of goods and people.

A ministerial task force was established to implement the agreement and is due to report to the leaders within three months on what measures need to be taken to achieve further integration.

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Party and transform it from a proletarian revolutionary party into a bourgeois reformist party. The Party combats the bourgeois-revisionist pressure by waging an ideological struggle against alien class influences and by ensuring that the tasks it sets for itself are accomplished, that its words are turned into deeds.

Under the leadership of Hardial Bains, the struggle against the bourgeois-revisionist pressure was waged relentlessly. During the course of his life and work in the Party, the manifestation of the bourgeois-revisionist pressure changed with the circumstances, but its essence remained the same. Since his death the struggle against the bourgeois-revisionist pressure has become more complicated. The report summed up the experience of this struggle against the bourgeois-revisionist pressure over the past seven years, including the practical measures to combat it.

The MRC declared in its report: "On this occasion of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), the Manitoba Regional Committee wishes the communists all across Canada and around the world success in their work. We want them to know that they can always rely on the MRC. We are clear on our loyalties – to the working class, to the glorious history of CPC(M-L), to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism."

The session concluded with the shouting of the slogans: Glory to Marxism-Leninism! Long Live the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)!

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