

Editorial

Two Scales of Justice in the Security Council

On October 28, 2005 the 15 members of the United Nations Security Council passed a unanimous resolution condemning the remarks about Israel made by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The UN press statement said: “The members of the Security Council support the Secretary-General’s statement of 27 October noting that, under the United Nations Charter, all Members have undertaken to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State.” The resolution refers to the October 26 statement, made by the President of Iran to a conference titled “World without Zionism”, that Israel should be “wiped off the map”.

Modern Communism is opposed to the remarks by Iran’s president and is also opposed to the UN

Security Council resolution. Ahmadinejad’s remarks concerning Israel are an attempt to appeal to the most backward and reactionary elements in Iran, while reducing the political problem of the Israel-Palestine conflict to a matter of simply “wiping Israel off the map”. It is no secret that the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to Zionism and supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for their rights. At the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, President Ahmadinejad stated: “In Palestine, a durable peace will be possible through justice, an end to discrimination and occupation of Palestinian lands, the return of all Palestinian refugees, and the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state with Al-Qods al-Sharif as its capital.” One may argue in favour of a “one-state” solution in Palestine, or a “two-state” solution,

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In a speech to the “National Endowment for Democracy” on October 6, 2005, U.S. President George W. Bush tried to rally support for the U.S.-led global “war on terrorism”, particularly for the continuation of the U.S.-British occupation of Iraq, and to intensify the ideological struggle against “Islamic radicalism”. In his speech Bush drew a parallel between the fight that U.S. imperialism led against “communism” in the last century and the fight it is waging against “Islamic radicalism” in this century. He said that the “ideology of the Islamic radicals is the great challenge of our new century” and “resembles the struggle against communism in the last century”.

Speaking about the role of the United States during the last century, Bush said: “We spoke for the rights of dissidents and the hopes of exiles. We aided

the rise of new democracies on the ruins of tyranny. And all the costs and sacrifices of that struggle have been worth it because from Latin America to Europe to Asia we’ve gained the peace that freedom brings.” The only problem from Bush’s perspective is that this “peace” was destroyed by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Now, “freedom is once again assaulted by enemies, determined to roll back generations of democratic progress”, according to Bush.

What was this so-called “freedom’s victory” in the last century from Latin America to Europe to Asia? U.S. imperialism murdered millions of people in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It installed the fascist dictatorships of the Shah in Iran, Marcos in

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but that is not the issue. Zionism is an ideology that combines racism with colonialism and expansionism; it was put into practice by the racist claim that Palestine was a land without a people.

The Zionists expelled the Palestinians from their homes. This injustice must be reversed. However, it is not the Jewish people that should be “wiped out”, nor the buildings and the houses and the schools that the settlers have built. It is the institutional framework that is represented by the Israeli state founded on Zionism that needs to be abolished. The issue is not the name of the “state” or the name of the country. The issue is to reverse the injustice in what was called Palestine and is now called Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, an issue which Ahmadinejad simply ignores in favour of whipping up hysteria. What is certain is that as long as Israel continues along the path of Zionism, and as long as Israel and other regimes in the Middle East continue to serve as proxies for the interests of the big powers in that region, all of the peoples in the Middle East, including the Palestinian and Israeli people, will go from crisis to crisis, and from war to war.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never committed aggression against any other country. Yet, the United States and Britain, as well as Israel, are building a case to justify a military attack against Iran, either with or without the approval of the UN Security Council. The U.S. and Britain are proceeding against Iran in the same manner that they did against Iraq. After the last American election, U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney openly threatened to attack Iran. Since the International Atomic Energy Agency passed its resolution against Iran on September 24, 2005, alleging non-compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States and Britain have been trying to get support to refer Iran to the Security Council over its nuclear activities. In a television interview last week, British Prime Minister Tony Blair warned that Iran will face “a much more difficult life” if it does not co-operate with the U.S. and the European Union (EU), and as far as military action against Iran is concerned, he said: “You don’t ever take any option off the table.” This was before President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made his remarks. In view of this situation, the other members of the UN Security

Council, if they were determined to censure the remarks of Iran’s president, could have insisted that the resolution include a disclaimer that it in no way constitutes a moral or legal ground for military action against Iran.

The UN Security Council is very selective in responding to the threat and the use of force against its members. The Security Council has ignored countless aggressions and threats against member states because one or another of the five permanent members threatened to use its veto. Only when the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China come to some prior arrangement does the UN Security Council act on these issues. However, no action is ever taken against the interests of the imperialist powers or their allies, no matter what the crimes. This double-standard in the Security Council puts into question the motives behind this particular resolution.

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The Philippines and Suharto in Indonesia, supported the fascist governments of Salazar in Portugal, Franco in Spain, and Papadopoulos in Greece. It established fascist dictatorships in almost every single country of Latin America including Batista in Cuba, Somoza in Nicaragua, Armas in Guatemala, Noriega in Panama and Pinochet in Chile. This was all done by U.S. imperialism to defend “freedom” and oppose “communism”.

This is still the American agenda for Latin America, Europe and Asia. In fact, this is the agenda of the “National Endowment for Democracy”, inaugurated by Ronald Reagan in 1983. Under the cover of being a “non-government organization” it carries out the same criminal activities as the CIA around the world. It meddles in the internal affairs of other countries by supplying funds, technical know-how, training, educational material, computers, fax machines, copiers, automobiles and so on, to selected political groups, civic organizations, labour unions, dissident movements, student groups, book publishers, newspapers and other media.

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Chinese Communist Party Approves Orientation for 11th Five-Year Plan

At its plenary session held from October 8 to 11, 2005 in Beijing, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) approved a draft proposal for the orientation of China's 11th Five-Year Plan for National Economy and Social Development (2006-2010). The proposal will be presented to China's National People's Congress for discussion and approval in March 2006. The draft plan reaffirmed that while "development is the absolute principle" the objective is to change the "pattern of development" from "an extensive to an intensive mode of economic growth".

The massive restructuring of the China's economy into a market economy since the late 1970s, and its rapid industrialization and growth, especially since its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, has created various challenges for China. The CPC has identified these problems as the economic disparity between the urban and rural areas, the uneven development among the regions, the polarization between rich and poor, the damage to the environment, the excessive dependence on foreign investment and import of natural resources, and the low productivity of labour. The CPC states that its objectives with the new five-year plan are to increase the productivity of labour through scientific and technological innovation, to reduce the reliance on foreign investment and resources, to reduce the damage to the environment and to avoid the polarization between rich and poor in the country.

According to the official Chinese news agencies, the new five-year plan will make an adjustment to the pattern of development by changing the approach to economic and social development from "getting rich first" to "common prosperity", and from "growth rate" to "sustainable development". *Xinhua News* stated: "After China decided to launch economic reforms in 1978, Deng Xiaoping proposed the principle of allowing some of the regions and some of the people to get rich first to achieve a final 'common prosperity'. The new idea departed from egalitarianism, yet managed to energize the country.

More than 20 years later, the average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita has risen above 1,000 US dollars and is expected to reach 3,000 US dollars in 2020. But China's rapid economic growth engendered new problems. The lowest income families, comprising the bottom 10 percent of all families, owns less than two percent of all the residents' assets in the society, while the highest-income families, or the top 10 percent of all the families, own over 40 percent of the total assets, government statistics show."

The article went on to say: "Blind pursuit of economic growth has led to blind investment, damage to the environment and false statistics... Government statistics show that foreign trade accounts for over 70 percent of China's economy. Frequent trade frictions have caused huge costs to the economy. China has become a major consumer of energy resources in the world. International energy institutions predict that from 2002 to 2030 around 21 percent of the world's new demand for energy resources will come from China. In 2004, nearly 50 percent of the petroleum used in China was imported."

It also pointed out: "China's top leaders stressed that it has become urgent to solve the problem of strong economic growth accompanied by weak social development. The problem of social security is particularly serious in the countryside, where the medical care system and welfare are extremely weak. During the period from 1993 to 2003, the number of people with no access to medical insurance in the country increased from 900 million to one billion, with the percentage rising from 67.8 percent to 80.7 percent. The number in the urban area rose from 96.53 million in 1993 to 300 million in 2003."

The challenges facing China that are identified by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China are a result of the direction taken by the CPC since the founding the People's Republic of China in 1949, but especially since the late 1970s. The new

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For example, between 1990 and 1992, the Endowment donated a quarter of a million dollars to the Cuban-American National Fund (CANF), the anti-Castro Miami group. The CANF, in turn, financed Luis Posada Carriles, one of the most pitiless terrorists of modern times, who was responsible for blowing up a Cuban airplane in 1976, killing 73 people. Without the support of these terrorist organizations in Florida, George Bush would have failed to win the presidency of the United States.

George Bush lashed out at what he calls the “vision of the radicals”, saying: “... these extremists want to end American and Western influence in the broader Middle East...” Would not any self-respecting people would want to end the foreign domination of their country? Furthermore, this “vision” of ending “American and Western influence” does not only belong to the Middle East. In fact, right off the mainland of the United States, the people of Puerto Rico are demanding, and have been doing so for decades, that the United States end its “influence” in

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five-year plan will either not resolve these problems at all, or it will not resolve them in a manner that will favour the interests of the vast majority of the Chinese people. The polarization between rich and poor, the uneven development among various regions, the disparity between urban and rural areas, and the damage to the environment are the inevitable result of a market economy, while the dependence of many countries on foreign capital and trade is a feature of globalization.

The solution to these problems lies in developing a planned and self-reliant economy which has as its motive to fulfill the increasing material and cultural needs of the Chinese people. The expansion of the market economy in China, and its further integration into the global market, even if it becomes less dependent on foreign investment and resources, will not open up a path towards “common prosperity” or “sustainable development” for China.

their country, observe the United Nations resolutions on de-colonization, and respect their right to self-determination. On the mainland of North America, the peoples of Canada and Mexico share this “vision” of ending U.S. imperialist domination.

Nor is this “vision” confined to a few “extremists” in the Middle East. It was not so long ago that many countries in that region overthrew European colonial rule and achieved their formal independence in the 1950’s and 1960’s. Since then the people of these countries have tried in many ways, including by the election of nationalist governments, to take a path of independence, including the taking back of the ownership and control of their oil and gas resources. The United States, however, has consistently opposed the aspirations of the peoples, using one or another reactionary regime to continue their exploitation and domination in the region.

The United States is the biggest enemy of peace, freedom, democracy, human rights and social progress in the world. Even though Bush claims that the biggest problem in the world is “Islamic radicalism”, it is not “Islamic radicalism” that lies at the root of poverty, illiteracy, famine, disease, terrorism and war. These ills of society have their source in the exploiting systems of capitalism and imperialism, which are part and parcel of the vision that George Bush has for the world’s future..

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