

mrcpcml

modern communism

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

Volume 7 Number 1

January 16, 2006

New Year's Statement of the MRC of CPC(M-L) - January 1, 2006

During the past year the crisis of imperialism and capitalism has continued to deepen and broaden, creating a situation favourable to the advance of the people's struggles for social progress and emancipation. In various countries, particularly in Latin America, the people have taken some initial steps towards freeing themselves from the yoke of international finance capital and liberating their countries from imperialist domination. The most recent example is that of Bolivia where the people elected a government which states that it is opposed to imperialism and is prepared to begin building socialism.

Whether the governments that have been elected during the past couple of years in Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela are revolutionary governments is really not the issue. The issue is that the struggles of the people of these countries have led to a situation in which the bourgeoisie can no longer rule in the old ways, which relied heavily on fascist military dictatorships and direct U.S. imperialist interference. Furthermore, the neo-liberal regimes that replaced the military dictatorships in these countries during the 1980s and 1990s are also no longer viable. So, although the election of various leftist governments may not signal the beginnings of social revolution throughout Latin America it does indicate that initiative and momentum are shifting in favour of the peoples.

There are many reasons for this shift, not the least of which is that the world's sole superpower – U.S. imperialism – is bogged down in Iraq and cannot muster the forces to launch a military adventure in Latin America. Furthermore, the continuing crisis of over-production which exists on a world scale has led to an escalation of trade wars and growing inter-

imperialist and inter-monopoly contradictions. As a result, the imperialist powers are having difficulties presenting a unified response to the struggles of the peoples. At the same time, events in Syria, Iran and Haiti show that there are still circumstances where the interests of the various imperialist powers coincide and in those cases the struggles of the people have been blocked and frustrated.

It is important to neither lose sight of the long-term perspective nor to get either euphoric or pessimistic about short-term developments. Developments in Latin America do not mean that the period of retreat of revolution has come to an end; various struggles being waged by the people against imperialism and neo-liberalism may still be blocked or diverted. Despite its current difficulties, imperialism may find ways to temporarily overcome its internal contradictions in order to crush the struggles of the people which threaten the existence of imperialism as an international system.

However, in a strategic sense, imperialism is facing a very serious challenge. The current crisis of over-production is reminiscent of the one in the late 1920s, except this crisis is not confined to a handful of industrialized nations. Rather, it encompasses the entire globe because many of the formerly agrarian countries are now industrialized and virtually every country has been incorporated into the international capitalist market and the imperialist system of states. Therefore, this crisis has the potential to be far more severe than the one which gave rise to the Great Depression of the 1930s. It is a crisis which can only be resolved through the destruction of massive amounts of productive capacity through a global

See page 2: MRC New Year's Statement

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

MRC Holds First Meeting of New Year

The Manitoba Regional Committee of CPC(M-L) met on an enlarged basis during the first week of the New Year to discuss its program of work during the first part of 2006. A report was presented on the national and international situation and the overall challenges facing the Canadian communist movement. The meeting set the dates for the First MRC Consultative Conference and for the Third Annual Revolutionary Chautauqua, which is hosted every year by the MRC.

The meeting summed up the all-sided ideological,

political and organizational advances accomplished by the MRC during the past year and assessed the weaknesses in the work which have been exposed by these advances. Various specific tasks were discussed to further strengthen the MRC, especially on the ideological front, in order to ensure that its work proceeds from victory to victory during the upcoming year, as well. The meeting was characterized by an extremely optimistic spirit and great enthusiasm to carry out the program of work which the MRC has set itself.

MRC New Year's Statement...from page 1

economic depression and war or through the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and imperialism on a global scale.

We cannot predict how this crisis will develop or how long the international capitalist system can go on without a major collapse. However, we can state with certainty that an economic collapse will take place sooner or later and that such a collapse will further intensify the pressure on the working class and people to abandon their anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggles and line up behind one or another section of monopoly capital as a way of "saving" their own jobs. At the same time, people have gained a lot of experience over the past couple of decades of neo-liberalism and, as we are seeing in the case of Latin America, they are not so easily fooled by the promises of the rich and their agents. Therefore, a struggle of epic proportions between monopoly capitalism and imperialism, on the one hand, and the workers and toilers, on the other, is shaping up, and this struggle has the potential to radically transform human civilization.

The intensification of the global crisis of capitalism was also reflected in Canada last year. Takeover bids were launched against Stelco and Algoma Steel, and General Motors announced that it would be shutting down several plants, including some in Canada. The telecommunications industry, where the overcapacity crisis is extremely acute, saw a several month long strike in BC and Alberta. There was also a lot of pressure exerted on public sector workers,

particularly postal workers and CBC employees. Within the communist and revolutionary movement the bourgeois-revisionist pressure also intensified, particularly on the fronts of bourgeois nationalism and opposition to the struggle of the Canadian people for independence and sovereignty. While seemingly opposite, these two positions are fundamentally the same in that they equate the struggle for independence and sovereignty with defence of the Canadian monopoly capitalist class. Both reject the concrete reality that the struggle for socialism in Canada is necessarily a struggle to overthrow both U.S. imperialism and the Canadian monopoly capitalist class.

During the past year the Manitoba Regional Committee (MRC) of CPC(M-L) made further progress in its work to build the revolutionary communist movement in Canada. The past year marked significant advances on the front of developing revolutionary culture, as well as further consolidation on the political, ideological and organizational fronts. These advances have set the stage for further advances on various fronts of work during the upcoming year, as well.

On the occasion of New Year 2006, the MRC of CPC(M-L) sends its warmest revolutionary greetings to all the communists and all working people everywhere who are fighting to make the world a fit place for human beings. We wish them all further successes in their revolutionary work during the upcoming year and pledge that the MRC will remain a dependable ally in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism and for a new, socialist world.

The Communist Ghadar Party of India Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago, on December 25, 1980, our fraternal party, the Communist Ghadar Party of India (CGPI), was founded. To mark this occasion the CGPI held a celebration in Delhi at the end of last year.

Close to 500 participants from all over India and abroad joined in the celebration. As they arrived they were welcomed by a reception committee and then taken to see an exhibition on the history of the party which depicted the various stages in its life and work. Through the panels of the exhibition, comrades and supporters of the CGPI relived their past - their persistent struggle to create that force on Indian soil which would lead the workers, peasants, women and youth to victory in the revolution.

The celebration began with two columns of young boys and girls marching on to the stage from either side of the auditorium with red flags held aloft, to the

accompaniment of the song “Mehnatkash ko Laal Salaam, Mazdooron ko Lal Salaam, Shaheedon ko Lal Salaam, Ghadar Party Lal Salaam” (red salute to the toiling people, red salute to the working class, red salute to our martyrs, red salute to the Ghadar Party). The audience rose to their feet, clapping their hands to the beat of the song.

The hall was filled with applause as the CGPI spokesperson welcomed Comrade Lal Singh, General Secretary of the CGPI, to the stage. He greeted each of the young red guards. A young woman comrade presented 25 red flags with the party symbol to Comrade Lal Singh.

Comrade Lal Singh, in his keynote address, gave a call to all communists to unite firmly and lead the working class to forge a fighting political front with the

See page 4: 25th Anniversary of CGPI

NATO Decides to Formally Sanction Combat Troops for Southern Afghanistan

On December 8, 2005 NATO foreign ministers formally endorsed a plan to expand the organization’s military presence in Afghanistan under the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The plan is to immediately increase ISAF troop strength from the current 9,000 to 15,000. Britain, Canada and the Netherlands are earmarked to lead the expansion in the south of Afghanistan. Previously, Canadian and European troops were mostly deployed in the north and west of Afghanistan while American troops were concentrated in the south. The objective is to free U.S. forces to concentrate their counter-insurgency operations along Afghanistan’s southern and eastern frontier with Pakistan.

The NATO plans give the ISAF a stronger self-defence mandate. This is a euphemism for a stronger combat role. Canadian Colonel S.J. Bowes described the plan for Canada to take responsibility for Kandahar as an expansion of the offensive nature of the operation. He stated: “It’s clear that this is not a peacekeeping mission.” In February 2002, Canada

sent troops to participate in the occupation of Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led “Operation Enduring Freedom”. In August 2003, some of these 900 Canadian troops were transferred to the command of the ISAF. In February, another 2,000 Canadian soldiers will leave for Afghanistan’s southern region. This month, Canada is sending 100 commandos from its Joint Task Force Two to southern Afghanistan in advance of this major deployment.

In order to justify Canada’s participation in the U.S. and NATO military action in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Paul Martin has stated that Canada must share in the “global burden of confronting terrorism” in one of its “prime breeding grounds”. In a speech on April 29, 2004 Paul Martin presented his rationale for sending Canadian armed forces overseas as follows: “Once protected by oceans, today’s front line stretches from the streets of Kabul, to cities in the United States, from the rail lines in Madrid, to cities

See page 4: Afghanistan

25th Anniversary of CGPI...from page 3

peasantry and all the discontented masses of people against the bourgeois offensive. The time is ripe, he pointed out, to build such a front for the democratic renewal of India, thereby beginning the revolutionary transition from capitalism to socialism.

Comrade Lal Singh's speech was followed by interventions by a large number of comrades, old and young, from different regions of India and different fronts of work of the party. This was followed by a multimedia presentation on the 25 years of life and work of the CGPI. As Comrade Lal Singh gave his concluding remarks, he welcomed to the stage those

comrades present in the gathering who had participated in the founding of the party in 1980. The celebrations concluded with all those gathered standing with their fists raised, singing the "The Internationale".

On December 28, 2005 the Central Committee of the CGPI held its Fifth Plenum. The plenum decided to immediately release the keynote address delivered by Comrade Lal Singh whose main message was that "Workers and Peasants want Revolution – Communists have to Lead the Way." The plenum also took important decisions in regard to developing the work amongst the peasantry, women and the youth during 2006.

Afghanistan...from page 3

across Canada. Our adversary could be operating in the mountains of Afghanistan, in the cities of Europe, or within our own borders. There is no home front. The conflict is not 'over there'. Our approach to security must reflect this reality." In other words, terrorism has no borders.

While it is true that terrorism is an international phenomenon, this is not a justification for violating the sovereignty of other countries, up to and including committing aggression against them. The U.S. "war against terrorism" is a cover for its pursuit of world domination. Its military action against Afghanistan and the overthrow of the Taliban government were acts of aggression and a violation of international law. This imperialist logic could be taken further. There is not a single high ideal of mankind such as the pursuit of democracy and human rights, nor a single societal ill such as disease, poverty and drug trafficking, that are not international in character. In this sense, there are no borders between countries. However, these are not justifications for aggression. It is one thing for countries and peoples to help each other on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, respect for the rights of all peoples, and non-interference in each other's affairs. It is another thing to "help" for the purpose of dominating, exploiting and oppressing other peoples and countries.

The NATO-led ISAF is officially a

"peacekeeping" force. A peacekeeper can only have one standard, that of creating the conditions for peace. He cannot at the same time be an interventionist and aggressor or defender of militarism and fascism. What the Canadian Forces are doing in Afghanistan is not peacekeeping. Furthermore, how can Canada, which is a member of NORAD and NATO, really be a peacekeeper when its interests have been placed on the side of the United States through these alliances. For a country to play its role as a peacekeeper it must have a foreign policy of positive neutrality, condemning all acts of aggression, intervention and unjust wars, and supporting all movements which open the path for social progress and lasting peace in the world.

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