

Manitoba Regional Committee Meets to Discuss its Work

The Manitoba Regional Committee (MRC) of CPC(M-L) met recently to discuss its work. One of the main topics of discussion was an assessment of the significance of the First MRC Consultative Conference held on April 30, 2006 on the topic of the current state of the workers' movement. Among other decisions, the MRC authorized the release in pamphlet form of the report to the First Consultative Conference, entitled *Standing Up for Communism*. The report points out:

“So long as the working class is deprived of its own independent politics and its own programme to transform the situation, nothing is going to change in this country. Workers will continue to wage their day-to-day struggles, because they must do so to resist the downward pressure on their wages and working conditions and to retain their dignity as

human beings. The Canadian people will continue to wage various struggles in defence of their rights and for a better future. But without the working class playing its independent, leading role, nothing of great consequence will be achieved. Therefore, the challenge facing the communist movement in Canada today is to develop the independent politics of the working class and the independent programme of the working class.”

It concludes with the statement:

“The MRC is not interested in leading the trade unions or winning over the trade unions to revolutionary positions. Our concern is the working class itself. If we succeed in winning over the workers to revolutionary positions, we are quite confident that

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Iraq's "My Lai"

The truth is now coming out about another atrocity committed by U.S. troops in Iraq. According to U.S. Congressman John Murtha, 24 Iraqi civilians were murdered in the town of Haditha by U.S. Marines last November. One day after this mass murder, U.S. investigators were on the scene to cover up the crime with the lie that the deaths were a result of the “roadside bomb” set by Iraqi insurgents. This atrocity is being compared to the 1968 My Lai massacre in Vietnam, when U.S. soldiers slaughtered 500 Vietnamese villagers.

All the wheels are now in motion to pin the blame on a few “bad apples” among U.S. troops, as was done in the torture cases at the Abu Ghraib prison. There is talk of an investigation and a hearing to find out how far up the chain of command the

responsibility goes for this crime and cover up. It is no mystery that the crimes against the peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq started with U.S. imperialism unleashing armed aggressions against these countries. It is this original crime, ordered by U.S. president George Bush and his administration, that has given rise to all of the other atrocities that take place every day in these countries.

Right from the beginning, George Bush made it clear that all international laws governing the rights of countries, of their citizens, of combatants and non-combatants alike, could be sacrificed anywhere in the world in the name of fighting terrorism. The U.S. administration openly declared itself in favour of legalizing torture and assassination. It decided that the

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Non-Aligned Movement Adopts Resolution Supporting Iran

On May 29, 2006 the the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) gathered in Putrajaya, Malaysia for a two-day meeting on the theme “Towards a More Dynamic and Cohesive NAM: Challenges of the 21st Century”. The purpose of the meeting was to make preparations for the 14th Conference of the Heads of States of the NAM to be held in Havana in September this year. Approximately 90 of the 114 member countries, 74 of which were at the ministerial or deputy ministerial level, sent delegations to attend the meeting.

The meeting approved a 61-page final document

in which ministers of the NAM countries expressed their views on topics ranging from global, regional and sub-regional political issues to development and human rights. The meeting also approved the Putrajaya Declaration, a separate declaration on Palestine condemning Israel’s intensive colonization measures, and statements on the Iran nuclear issue and the devastating earthquake in Indonesia. The meeting admitted two new members, Dominica and Antigua, and Barbuda, bringing NAM’s membership to 116 countries. It also decided that Egypt will host the 15th NAM Summit in 2009. The following is the statement on Iran.

Non-Aligned Movement Statement on Iran

1. The ministers reiterated their principled positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation reflected in the final document of the ministerial meeting of the coordinating bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from May 27 to 30, 2006. They considered the developments regarding the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. The ministers reaffirmed the basic and inalienable right of all states, to develop research, production and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations. Therefore, nothing should be interpreted in a way as inhibiting or restricting this right of states to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes. They furthermore reaffirmed that states’ choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and its fuel cycle policies must be respected.

3. The ministers recognized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the sole, competent authority for verification of the respective safeguards obligations of member states and stressed that there should be no undue pressure or interference in the agency’s activities, specially its verification process, which would jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the agency.

4. The ministers welcomed the cooperation extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the IAEA including those voluntary confidence-building

measures undertaken, with a view to resolve the remaining issues. They noted the assessment of the IAEA director-general that all nuclear material declared by Iran had been accounted for. They noted, at the same time, that the process for drawing a conclusion with regard to the absence of undeclared material and activities in Iran is an ongoing and time-consuming process. In this regard, the ministers encouraged Iran to urgently continue to cooperate actively and fully with the IAEA within the agency’s mandate to resolve outstanding issues in order to promote confidence and a peaceful resolution of the issue.

5. The ministers emphasized the fundamental distinction between the legal obligations of states to their respective safeguards agreements and any confidence-building measures voluntarily undertaken to resolve difficult issues, and believed that such voluntary undertakings are not legal safeguards obligations.

6. The ministers considered the establishment of nuclear- weapons-free zones (NWFZs) as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and reiterated the support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear weapons free zone in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Pending the establishment of such a zone, they demanded Israel to accede to the NPT without delay and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive

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Forty-five Years of U.S. Blockade Against Cuba

The U.S. Blockade against Cuba was signed into law on February 7, 1962 by President J.F. Kennedy. Kennedy was also responsible for the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Prior to that, during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, threats and economic sanctions against Cuba were also carried out. It was Eisenhower who broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba on January 3, 1961, two years after the Cuban Revolution and two weeks before the end of his term in office.

Since 1962 every American president has maintained or stepped up the Cuban blockade. During Jimmy Carter's presidency from 1977 to 1981, some noise was made about relaxing the blockade, but nothing materialized and in the final months of his term Carter launched serious attacks against Cuba in the media.

The blockade worsened under the first President Bush with the 1992 passing of the Cuban Democracy Act, known as the Torricelli Act after the Congressman who introduced it. This act came into being soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union and it was the openly-stated plan of the U.S. government to bring about Cuba's demise at this critical time in its history. The Torricelli Act banned all trade with Cuba by subsidiaries of American companies and refused entry to American ports to those vessels which had previously stopped in Cuban ports. This legislation violated international law and treaties, including the Letter of the United Nations, the GATT of 1947 and 1994 and the WTO Charter.

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they will know what to do with their trade unions as well. Therefore, over the coming period it is the intention of the MRC to use all of the resources at its disposal to accomplish this goal of opening up a space for communism in the working class. It is our view that standing up for Canada and standing up for the working class necessitates standing up for communism. There is no other way forward."

The MRC also discussed various measures to be taken in the immediate future, including preparations for the Third Annual Revolutionary Chautauqua to be held at Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park from July 16 to 23.

As a result of this act, many countries passed legislation to protect their own citizens from the extraterritorial reach of U.S. laws. Canada, for example, passed the Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act (FEMA) in October, 1992 for this precise purpose.

These attacks on the economic front were coupled with assaults on other fronts as well, including well-documented terrorist attacks and attempts to undermine Cuba politically on the world stage, including at the United Nations. When all of this failed to defeat Cuba, the U.S. stepped up its efforts once again with the passing of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act in March 1996, known after its sponsors as the Helms-Burton Act. This was brought in under President Bill Clinton, who had been a strong force behind the Torricelli Act previously.

Helms-Burton attempts to strengthen international sanctions against Cuba, including Cuba's exclusion from international financial institutions and the Organization of American States (OAS), further threats and sanctions against countries and companies investing in Cuba, increased restrictions against Cubans resident in the U.S. from sending money and goods to their families in Cuba and restrictions on their right to travel to Cuba. It also openly supports the organization and financing of anti-Cuban government elements inside Cuba. The current Bush administration has tightened the provisions of Helms-Burton further, with more restrictions announced last year and new ones expected shortly.

In spite of all these actions of successive American governments, U.S. companies and many state and local governments continue to pursue trade and other relations with Cuba. In addition, an important movement amongst the American people has developed opposing the attempts to strangle Cuba and to harm relations between the American and Cuban people. One of these efforts is the Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan to Cuba, which for 17 years has travelled throughout the country each summer, picking up passengers and medical and other supplies, in open violation of the blockade. This summer's Caravan will stop in 120 American and five Canadian cities, including Winnipeg on June 20th.

Two New Pamphlets from the MRC

Standing Up for Communism - On the Workers' Movement
Report to the First MRC Consultative Conference - April 30, 2006

The Defence of Our Party's Ideology, Political line and
Organizational Principles is of the Utmost Importance

Report to the 2005 Conference of the MRC
marking the 35th Anniversary
of the founding of CPC(M-L)
April 2-10, 2005

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IAEA safeguards.

7. The ministers reaffirmed the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities, operational or under construction, poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and regulations of the IAEA. They recognized the need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument, prohibiting attacks, or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

8. The ministers strongly believed that all issues on safeguards and verification, including those of Iran, should be resolved within the IAEA framework, and

be based on technical and legal grounds. They further emphasized that the agency should continue its work to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue within its mandate under the statute of the IAEA.

9. The ministers also strongly believed that diplomacy and dialogue through peaceful means must continue to find a long term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. They expressed their conviction that the only way to resolve the issue is to resume negotiations without any preconditions and to enhance cooperation with the involvement of all necessary parties to promote international confidence with the view to facilitating agency's work on resolving the outstanding issues.

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Geneva Conventions would not apply in Afghanistan or Iraq. Total lawlessness would be the law. These were the marching orders for U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that a 20-year old U.S. Marine from Milwaukee told a Los Angeles newspaper a few days ago that "The Geneva Convention doesn't really exist over there. We're dealing with terrorists, not an army".

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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

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