

## Editorial

### The U.S.-Israeli War Against Lebanon Enters a New Phase

On Friday, August 12, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1701 (2006) calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah. The Israeli and Lebanese governments both voted to accept the terms of the resolution. Hezbollah announced that it would also respect the ceasefire and terminate its bombardment of Israel but would continue to fight against Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon. The final resolution is widely seen as a partial defeat for U.S.-Israeli interests as it represents a significant retreat from an earlier draft which would have authorized a *de facto* permanent Israeli occupation of all Lebanese territories south of the Litani River.

The final resolution which was adopted calls for “the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks

and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations”. It further calls for Israel to gradually withdraw its troops from Lebanese territory as the Lebanese army and up to 15,000 UN forces take up positions in the southern part of Lebanon. The resolution also calls for the disarming of Hezbollah’s militia forces.

Following the adoption of the UNSC resolution and prior to the official ceasefire taking effect, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) escalated its bombing attacks against the suburbs of Beirut and other residential areas. In response, Hezbollah intensified its rocket attacks against northern Israel. The Israeli government has also announced that it considers “defensive operations” to include preventing

**See page 4: Lebanon**

### B’nai Brith Attempts to Criminalize Dissent

The vice-president of B’nai Brith Canada, which purports to be an organization committed to the defence of human rights, has called on the Canadian state to crack down on those protesting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, claiming these are “pro-Hezbollah” protests.

“The streets of Canada will not be taken over by radical Islamic forces supporting terrorist activities,” Frank Dimant told a reporter on August 9. “B’nai Brith Canada will do its utmost to ensure that Canadians will not be intimidated by these terrorist sympathizers.” Dimant said that B’nai Brith has been involved in discussions with different police forces and government officials on the question.

Tens of thousands of Canadians have participated in demonstrations opposing the Israeli aggression against Lebanon over the past month,

including three major protests and a daily peace vigil here in Winnipeg. Despite attempts by supporters of Israeli aggression to provoke participants in these protests, they have remained peaceful. Besides condemning Israel’s crimes, demonstrators have also opposed the Harper government’s position that the more than 1,000 Lebanese civilian casualties represent a “measured response” on the part of Israel to the capture of two Israeli soldiers.

The barrage of media propaganda in Canada has been that Israel is acting in self-defence. However, even the mainstream media in the U.S. is reporting that the Israeli attack was planned long ago and was approved by U.S. president George W. Bush several months before Hezbollah’s July 12 incursion into

**See page 4: Criminalizing Dissent**

# The Security Council Resolution Against Iran is Illegal

On July 31, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution making it mandatory that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities including research and development by August 31 or face the possibility of economic and other sanctions. The resolution was passed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter which relates to threats to peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. All five permanent members of the council - United States, Britain, France, Russia and China - voted in favour of the resolution along with nine of the temporary members. Only Qatar voted against the resolution on the grounds that it would be wrong for the Security Council to further inflame the situation in this region in view of the Israeli war against Lebanon, and that there was no urgency to deal with this matter before August 22 when Iran had promised to reply to the June 6 proposal from the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany (Group of 5 + 1).

The resolution to make the suspension of uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities mandatory is against the fundamental principles of international law, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board resolutions. Iran extended full co-operation to the IAEA and went beyond its international obligations and adopted extensive and costly confidence-building measures, including a voluntary suspension of its rightful enrichment activities for more than two years. It also allowed the Agency to repeatedly visit military sites and allowed inspectors to take environmental samples. The IAEA in its November 2004 resolution declared that suspension "is a voluntary, non-legally binding, confidence-building measure." This was repeated as recently as June 15, 2006 in the IAEA Board Chairman's conclusions.

Iran's peaceful nuclear program poses no threat to international peace and security. Therefore, dealing with this issue by the Security Council was unwarranted and had no legal basis. The IAEA has

concluded time and again that there is no evidence of an Iran nuclear weapons program. In November 2003, for example, the IAEA confirmed that "to date, there is no evidence that the previously undeclared nuclear material and activities...were related to a nuclear weapons program." A year later, and last September, it concluded again that "all the declared nuclear material in Iran has been accounted for, and therefore such material is not diverted to prohibited activities." The same conclusion can be found in the IAEA February 2006 report which states that: "As indicated to the Board in November 2004, and again in September 2005, all the declared nuclear material in Iran has been accounted for." The Agency reaffirmed once again in paragraph 53 of the same report that it "has not seen any diversion of nuclear material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive device."

The major powers are not serious about reaching a negotiated settlement with Iran over the nuclear issue. As the saying goes, they are negotiating in bad faith. They do not want to recognize Iran as a sovereign state, nor do they want to treat Iran on an equal footing, nor do they want to find a compromise that respects the rights of Iran under international law while ensuring to everyone's satisfaction that Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. Their *modus operandi* is to put forward proposals, pre-conditions and timeframes that no self-respecting sovereign state could possibly accept and then denounce Iran for being against negotiations for rejecting their demeaning and degrading proposals, pre-conditions and timeframes. In this way they are hoping to strengthen their case for political, economic and military sanctions against Iran, which the United States has been demanding all along.

A case in point is the package of proposals presented to Iran by the Group of 5+1 on June 6, 2006. Despite the fact that the Group of 5+1 attached a pre-condition to this proposal - that Iran suspend its uranium enrichment activities - this

**See page 3: Resolution Against Iran**

# Third Winnipeg Rally Protests Israeli Aggression Against Lebanon

Another protest was held on a busy downtown street corner in Winnipeg on Saturday, August 12 to protest the continuing Israeli aggression in Lebanon. Organized by the Peace Alliance of Winnipeg, the demonstration stretched down a block on Main Street. Two banners, one calling for an end to Israeli aggression and the other condemning the Harper government's support of this aggression drew extensive support from passing cars and trucks.

Those gathered waved Lebanese and Palestinian flags while speakers described the terrible situation facing refugees from southern Lebanon, who literally

have nowhere to flee as Israel has intensified its bombing campaign, resulting in even more casualties despite the ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire.

A speaker from the city's Lebanese community described the terror being experienced by their families and friends living throughout Lebanon, while another speaker stressed the plight of the Palestinian people living under occupation. All speakers at the rally condemned the shameful stand of the Harper government, which has turned a blind eye to the crimes being committed against the Lebanese people.

---

## ***Resolution Against Iran...from page 2***

initiative was welcomed by Iran. The first round of preliminary negotiations had already taken place with a representative of the EU in Brussels. However, the United States, Britain, France and Germany demanded that Iran reply to the proposal by June 29. It would be normal in such circumstances to find a mutually acceptable timeframe. It would also be normal that a thorough consideration of such a proposal would require a reasonable time. For example, the EU-3 took nearly five months to respond to a very serious proposal made by Iran in March 2005. Iran stated that it would require until August 22 to conclude its evaluation of the proposed package and come up with a response, but the Group of 5+1 could not wait for Iran's response. On July 12 they decided to return the issue to the Security Council because Iran had failed to comply to their pre-condition for negotiations by June 29.

Iran has been and continues to be ready for negotiations. Since October 2003, Iran has done its utmost to sustain and even resuscitate negotiations with Britain, France and Germany. Since August 2004, Iran has made at least eight far-reaching proposals. In a statement to the Security Council on July 31, before the vote was taken on the resolution, Dr. M. Javad Zarif, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, characterized the resolution as

pressure and coercion. He stated: "I would suggest to you that this approach will not lead to any productive outcome, and in fact it can only exacerbate the situation. The people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are not seeking confrontation and have always shown their readiness to engage in serious and result-oriented negotiations based on mutual respect and equal footing. They have also shown, time and again, their resilience in the face of pressure, threat, injustice and imposition."

On August 6, Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, held a press conference at which he announced that Iran will reject both the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council and the suspension of uranium enrichment. He stated that the resolution was illegal because Iran has not violated the NPT. Stressing that Iran is always ready for talks, Larijani said: "The double-standard policy practiced by the Western countries towards Iran's nuclear program has led to a position where they have complicated the issue with their own hands. On the one hand, they offered the package and on the other, issued the resolution. By doing this, they changed the procedure of solving the problem. They should understand that they cannot talk to Iran by the language of force. They have to change their approach if they want the package to survive."

### ***Lebanon...from page 1***

Hezbollah from rearming and clearing guerilla positions out of southern Lebanon. In other words, Israel intends to continue most of the offensive operations it was carrying out prior to the ceasefire, including the bombing of roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. There have also been reports that the IDF was continuing to attack Hezbollah militia positions after the ceasefire went into effect. Israel has also declared that it will “retaliate” against any attacks by Hezbollah, which could mean renewed Israeli bombing of Lebanese civilians if Hezbollah launches rockets against Israeli military or civilian targets. Therefore, it is unclear whether any ceasefire actually exists or how long even a state of reduced hostilities will continue.

There are reports in the American media that the Israeli offensive against Lebanon was approved by U.S. president George W. Bush at least three months ago and that the Israeli government was merely waiting for a convenient excuse to launch it. Since both the IDF and Hezbollah militia have been making regular forays across the border ever since the 2000 withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, it was just a matter of time before such an opportunity presented itself. It has also been reported that the Bush regime was pushing for an early Israeli offensive because it thought that a defeat of Hezbollah would weaken Iran’s military position and reduce the number of rocket attacks on Israel in the wake of possible U.S.-Israeli air strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities. Hezbollah is considered a close ally of Iran and Syria and would be expected to escalate its attacks against Israel if either of those countries were to be attacked.

There are also reports that the U.S. and Israel wanted to use the attack against dug-in Hezbollah rocket installations as a trial run to assess the best ways to strike at Iranian missile defences and nuclear research facilities which are buried deep underground. The abysmal failure of the IDF to significantly affect Hezbollah’s ability to launch rockets against Israeli military and civilian targets, has reportedly led to a difference of opinion within the Bush administration on the wisdom of proceeding with plans to attack Iran. However, the experience of the past several years indicates that wisdom is a scarce commodity within the Bush regime and it appears that it is determined to broaden the conflict in the Middle East to include Iran and Syria. Israel has

openly threatened to launch nuclear missiles in response to any Iranian use of conventional missiles against Israeli cities, so it would appear that the U.S.-Israeli strategy is a scorched earth policy – any country in the region which does not submit to their dictate will be destroyed. Therefore, no illusions should be maintained that the current “ceasefire” has anything to do with bringing peace the Lebanon. It merely represents a new phase in the U.S.-Israeli war against the Lebanese people and the peoples of the entire Middle East.

---

### ***Criminalizing Dissent...from page 1***

Israel. Furthermore, Israel and its supporters claim that Israel only targets military installations while Hezbollah targets civilians. However, most of Hezbollah’s victims have been Israeli soldiers, while most of Israel’s victims have been civilians. In addition, the UN has reported that Israel deliberately shelled one of its observation posts for several hours before dropping bombs on it and killing four UN observers, including a Canadian. It is, therefore, clear that Israel’s aim was to terrorize the inhabitants of southern Lebanon into fleeing the region, while preventing UN observers from witnessing Israeli war crimes.

This has created something of a crisis for those lobbying for Israel, who are trying desperately to portray those calling for peace and an immediate ceasefire as terrorist supporters. If they cannot win the war for the hearts and minds of Canadians, it seems they feel their only alternative is to prevent those they oppose from exercising their democratic right to protest.

## **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](mailto:mrc-cpcml@mts.net)**

**Internet: [www.modern-communism.ca](http://www.modern-communism.ca)**

**Produced by volunteer labour**