

Class Struggle 75 December 2007



Tuhoe fight back! against 'anti-terror' raids

- ***Auckland Maritime Workers strike***
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Labour Movement

Maritime Workers Strike on Auckland Waterfront

The recent waterfront strike was a union response to failed negotiations. The last employment agreement expired back in November 2006 and so negotiations have dragged on for a year. needless to say, this was rejected by the workers. Apart from seeking a "satisfactory wage increase" (4.5 to 4.9% with productivity bonuses), the 265 workers' want full back pay from November 06. Workers took 48hrs of strike action on 3rd and 4th October. We say what the union needs to do to win.

The Employer's offered a 3¼ % increase to wages and a 3yr contract and began paying the workers at this new rate, without agreement. Maritime Union NZ (Local 13 – Auckland Waterfront branch) held a 2 day strike and a number of 3¼ hr stoppages. MUNZ has picketed the entries to the wharves.

The strike has the capitalists as a class beginning a propaganda war against waterfront workers. This skirmish was all about justifying the different positions on wage rates for the workforce; never a challenge to capitalist class exploitation of workers. Denis Carlisle, President of MUNZ's Auckland Waterfront Branch Local 13 stated: "Our labour is the commodity we sell, and we will offer that labour at the value that we think it is worth." This is arguing on the capitalist's terms, Labour is not the same as any other commodity (see box). In this level of argument the capitalist can come back and replace the workforce from the unemployed workers (reserve army of labour). The capitalists enjoy unemployed workers for the impact they have holding down wages rates. Already the waterfront is part casualised, meaning an experienced pool of workers are in reserve.

The recent 2 day strike on the waterfront is a long way from the strength of the membership and supporters of the Waterfront Workers Union prior to the 1951 lockout. In those days it would have been an all out strike. In contrast to 1951 lockout leader, Jock Barnes legacy "never a white flag", the picketers were at pains to point out, "this is a peaceful picket". MUNZ need to build an effective picket line to stop all work, capable of holding indefinitely, and black any diverted ships.

MUNZ has not threatened the capitalist class seriously, For example, the Employers and Manufacturers Association said it had "no worries" about the 2 day strike, and "rolling strikes or a longer stoppage would be a concern". Although they could easily send things through another port, but that would increase their costs. Ship owners have sent ships to other ports, in order to avoid the

strike. So the capitalists have demonstrated that as a class they are prepared to work around short term or local (isolated) strike actions.

This means for workers to really hurt the capitalist class, when capital is so well organised against watersiders, we would need to generalise the strike action.



Firstly to have all other waterfront workers also prepared to "black" (refuse to unload) the diverted Auckland ships. That means all MUNZ workers need to prepare to take strike action to support the Auckland strike. Is the union in a strong enough position to do this? The union is tied down by the employment laws and could be bankrupted by the employers if it was seen to be involved in "illegal" strike action. This means union leaders could be more

interested in "keeping it legal" than the interests of waterfront workers and desire of workers to support each other.

Even if other MUNZ locals were to vote overwhelmingly to support the Auckland strike action and to 'black' diverted Auckland ships, the union officials would most likely argue against this vote. They would think the 'legal' risk to the union was too much, and try so to convince the unionised workers to work. This would be a sell out of the striking workers and undermine workers democracy. It exposes the lack of independence of the union from the capitalist state. It would show the impact of the labour law, as a capitalist tool against organised workers. It would show that union officials can be sucked in by capitalist law to defending the capitalists rather than their own members.

Rebuild a fighting democratic union.

The struggle of '51 was chosen by the capitalist class to resolve the question of power on the waterfront: Who runs the waterfront? Workers or capitalists? The McCarthyist US was on a mission around the world against organised workers (and against communists), on their hit list was the Waterfront Workers Union of NZ. So, the defeat of waterfront workers was a victory for the capitalist class, and capitalists built their victory on a scab union. They did

more than smash labour organisation on the waterfront, they replaced a relatively independent, fighting and democratic union with a scab union which was controlled for the benefit of the capitalists. MUNZ needs to face up to its historic origins as a scab union. Of course, that scab union has evolved from what was an openly capitalist class puppet into little more than a traditional union, and amalgamated into MUNZ.

A traditional union contains the struggles of workers to the confines of capitalism. Union leaders are often entwined with the capitalists and have no real interest in the overthrow of the capitalist class. This is since their position is secured by keeping their role as negotiators of the forces of production (capital and labour). They do this by proving to the capitalists they can contain workers struggles, and by selling pitiful deals as "gains" and "victories", when the real exploitation of workers continues unabated. If a union did begin to be a real threat to the continued exploitation of workers by the capitalist class, if a union fails to continue to be a capitalist class puppet, then the capitalist class may resort to violence or a lockout (as they did in '51) to smash that labour organisation.

MUNZ like any registered union in NZ is hog-tied. Union officials' role is restricted. The 'union' is officially tied into the rules of the capitalists by the ERA. An example; the union officials are quick to point out that the strike is a "legal" strike. Unions are tied into the negotiations. The state through the Labour department and the union officials through the CTU are all pulling the officials, and workers with them, back to negotiate with capitalist. (In this case the "Auckland Regional Council" is owner on behalf of the people of the Auckland Region, however behaves just like any capitalist owner would in spite of an elected board behind the managers.

The union leadership in this latest dispute has discouraged participation from 'outside the gates'. Compared with the Maritime Union Australia (MUA)'s defensive fight in 1998 Australia where the working class community supported locked out union workers in mass pickets. The mass support of workers on the pickets was important to be able to keep the workforce unionised at the

end of it all. The NZ waterfront workers have suffered from poor leadership that has meant a lack of preparation for the strike. One example is the low level of other workers as outside supporters on the picket line.

We need frontline militant workers to visit other worksites, to inform other union members about the issues in our struggles and to build support for strikes and pickets. NZ workers need to rebuild the culture of a working class community.

The capitalists have too much influence over NZ workers and frontline workers need to spread the message. This is the ground work for effective picket lines and spreading the strike action to the other ports

- *For independence of the unions from the capitalist state.*
- *Beware the labour laws and the union officials that are bound by them.*
- *For workers' democracy in the union.*
- *Prepare for indefinite strike action.*
- *Build a fighting fund (off the union records) to pay a strike wage: elect ordinary union members (or supporters) to run this.*

Labour has the unique ability (compared with other commodities) to add value, to produce something new. Capital exploits that by it's possession of the goods / products at the end of the working day. Capital collects the profit in money terms when it makes the sale of those goods. Transport workers are in the supply chain from the point of production to the point of sale. By striking and slowing down the time from production to sale they make the capitalist wait longer before they can collect on profits.

War on Terror

Operation US \$8 Billion Dollars!

In the aftermath of Operation 8, which cost around NZ\$8 million, we argue that it was designed to guarantee the security of around US\$8 billion in profits a year to US corporates. Anti-terror legislation is state repression of working class militants who are fighting back against US imperialism solving its crisis of falling profits by attacking the living standards and lives of NZ workers. Against the bosses' terror workers must organise and unite internationally to meet the bosses' offensive with our own workers' offensive.



Operation 8 million!

On October 15, under what they called 'Operation 8', the police and intelligence services raided a number of homes and arrested 17 political activists in an attempt to charge them under the Terrorism Suppression Act [TSA]. Police sources claimed that indigenous Maori activist Tame Iti and 16 others had been conducting 'military-style training camps' in the remote Ureweras (mountainous and heavily forested region on the East of the North Island of New Zealand). Most of those arrested were denied bail and kept in jail while the police collected evidence to press charges under the TSA.

The reformist and so-called socialist left in New Zealand blamed these arrests on police 'over-reaction' in using the anti-terrorist legislation enacted as part of the US-led 'war on terror'. They tried to pressure the Labour Coalition government to release the prisoners and repeal the TSA. The Communist Workers Group was the only organisation to state clearly that these arrests were a deliberate move by the NZ state to suppress the rise of working class resistance to US imperialist attacks on NZ workers to pay for the global economic crisis. It was no accident that the main target of these arrests was land rights activists who were fighting US, EU and Japanese corporate exploitation of the NZ economy to extract super-profits. The CWG called for workers to go on the offensive to oppose US imperialism and its Labour Government lackeys in NZ.

On Thursday, November 8, the Solicitor-General (top state legal officer) said that the evidence the police brought was insufficient to

prove that the 16 "intended" to commit terrorist acts, and suggested that the Labour Government "review" the TSA since it was not able to be used against New Zealand-based terrorist groups. The charges against them will now be under the Arms Act for possession of unlicensed firearms carrying less serious penalties. On Monday November the 12th the last of the 16 jailed political activists (one of the original 17 is on cannabis charges only) were released on bail.

Thus the first use of the TSA had for the moment ended with the failure to bring any charges under it. This did not stop the Government from rushing through the TSA Amendment Bill however. While the Government also agreed to send the TSA to the Law Commission for review, the amended law can continue to be used to counter 'terror' in NZ. The

TSA was first enacted in 2002 in response to the UN

resolution following 9-11. It is designed primarily to be used against terrorist groups designated by the UN such as Al Qeda, Taliban, Hamas, etc. It shares the same features as the US Patriot Act. Suspects can be arrested and held without bail for as long as it takes to present evidence. Accused may never see the evidence used against them for 'security' reasons. However, in response to the Solicitor-General's decision on the present case, the state will move quickly to close any loopholes in the TSA.

Tougher on Terrorism?

The enactment of the Amendment Bill makes the Prime Minister, currently Labour's Helen Clark, responsible for designating terrorist groups, including in New Zealand, and removes the necessity for the state to prove that any accused must 'intend' to commit a 'terrorist act'. Thus the Prime Minister will now become responsible for hearing appeals and not the Court of Appeal. This means that the Executive branch of government increases its powers to oversee state security, which makes the rights of citizens before the courts very much more limited. It is an indication that the New Zealand semi-colonial regime is under pressure from US imperialism and is prepared to abolish bourgeois democratic rights and concentrate power in the Executive.

Labour is intent on proving that it is tougher on terrorism than National. Its **populist** 'brand' differentiation requires that it brings the 'left' – the unions affiliated to it and the Centre-left Maori Party and Greens – along with the openly bourgeois parties of Peters and Dunne. Labour is letting its attack dogs, Peters and



Dunne, off the leash to mobilise the racist redneck constituency against the 'wreckers and haters', just as Muldoon fed an earlier generation of attack dogs on the meat of the anti-Springbok Tour protest movement.

This is what Labour has to do to "lock in" its cross-class majority and get the endorsement of the Bush government and the powerful imperialist ruling class in the United States. We can see how, in the US, the interests of the ruling class can govern with either the Democrats or the Republicans. However, in a period of crisis when the ruling class must go onto the attack and cut workers' living standards, it prefers a government that will tie the hands of the workers and contain their struggle within the bounds of bourgeois parliament. The Democratic Party is able to do this so long as it has the support of the union bureaucracy as one of the collection of lobby groups which go from the big unions all the way to the Southern Blue Democrats that

are more racist than NZ First. Thus the role of the Democrats is to keep the labour movement subordinated to the program of US imperialism by keeping alive the illusion of a 'democratic' imperialist alternative to the Republican neo-cons.

Popular Front to contain the workers

The NZ Labour Party performs a similar role. However, Labour Parties such as the British Labour Party under Blair and Brown, the NZ Labour Party under Clark, and European Social Democratic parties like the French Socialists and German SPD, were founded as parties of the trades unions for the specific purpose of tying the unions to parliament. With the end of the post-war boom Labour-type parties have moved to the right to stay in power and developed 'right' wings hostile to union influence. Today they are becoming more like the US Democratic Party and treat the unions as just another 'lobby' group.

In NZ, the Labour Party almost overnight jettisoned its union connections during 1984-1987 when it enacted its neo-liberal reforms. It had regained much of this union base by 1993 but much of its 'right' wing defected to other parties in the centre or the far right ACT party. While Labour had

rebuilt most of its links to the unions with the repeal of the anti-union ECA in 2000, this base does not guarantee a majority of votes to govern. That is why, under the MMP proportional representation system [modelled on that in Germany], Labour has had to compete with National to win the centre ground to prevent National from forming its own coalition government.

Under MMP, since 1999 the NZ Labour Party has led governments that depend on coalitions with parties to its right. In its first term it relied on the Greens in the centre and the Alliance on the left for a majority. In 2002 it made an agreement with Dunne's United Future centre-right party. In 2005 it made agreements with United Future, Winston Peters' New Zealand First and the Greens. In effect, these coalitions are shifting popular fronts between the labour movement, the Centre-left of the Greens and the Centre-right of Peters and Dunne.

The result is a 'populist' coalition government –i.e. a popular front –that tries to reconcile the class interests of the working class with the petty bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie. The pivot in this class collaboration is the labour bureaucracy in the unions and in the parliamentary party. The tradition of union officials becoming Labour MPs is a long one that goes right back to Labour's foundation in 1916. The leaders of the Labour Party have always come out of the union movement to facilitate the unions' subordination to the state. Today the recipients of this

latest award for treachery are EPMU national president Don Pryde who is lined up to take over Benson-Pope's Dunedin seat, and EPMU national secretary Andrew Little who is talking himself up to standing for Labour.

Trouble is that the EPMU is widely held to be a Labour Party stooge in the labour movement, being an early advocate of the 'partnership' of unions and the Labour Party, notoriously quiet on the Employment Contracts Act in 1991, drafter of the Employment Relations Act as the 'bureaucracy's charter', and a predator on smaller unions, whose policy is to always negotiate behind the backs of the membership to cut done deals.

If the Labour Government is to fulfil its mission as a popular front it has to have a more attractive bait than the EPMU to lure the new layers of militant workers who are beginning to stand up to the leg-iron of the ERA. This is the task of the 'left bureaucracy' of the ex-Stalinists, ex-Maoists and fake Trotskyists who now dominate the

leadership of the National Distribution Union, Unite and Service and Food Workers Union.

Left Bureaucracy

The Left Bureaucracy's existence is required to contain those workers who want to fight US imperialism and the Labour Government. On the one hand, the left bureaucracy claims to be hostile to the 'official' labour

bureaucracy and the Labour Government. But like the Alliance the Greens (many of whom came out of the Alliance) its strategy is always to **push Labour to the left by doing deals at the top between the CTU and the Government.**

Just as the Alliance proposed to push Labour to the left in parliament to counter the centrist agreements with the Greens, NZ First and United Future, today the remnants of the Alliance who are in control of the NDU, SFWU and Unite are proposing to use the revival of the unions to pressure Labour to the left. Here it follows the political strategy of the World Social Forum of 'globalisation from below'.

On economic issues, the Left Bureaucracy is anti-neoliberal. Its model is based on the populist regimes of Venezuela and Bolivia where leftwing populist governments are renegotiating terms of trade etc with imperialism to role back neo-liberalism and promote economic nationalism. This means that the majority can take over the state and use it as the instrument of popular power. Thus state power can be transformed by harnessing popular pressure from below to transform the capitalist state into a people's state.

This was the strategy of the Labour Left dominated Civil Rights Defence Committee in Auckland against the arrest of the Urewera 16. Marches, petitions, pressure on Labour from the union bureaucracy to drop the charges, repeal the



TSA etc. This led to an entirely unnecessary blow up at the Labour Party conference between Jill Ovens and Len Richards who have joined the Labour Party to pressure it to the left, and their former Alliance and Green allies who are pressuring the Government from the outside. The irony is that those outside relied on those inside who got the CTU to vote to repeal the TSA in October, to call on the unions to sign a petition asking the Government to drop the charges, stop the passage of the Amendment Bill and repeal the TSA.

The Left Bureaucracy, then, is the slightly wobbly left leg of the popular front carefully containing the militancy in the labour movement to put 'pressure' on the Labour Government. In this

the role of the SW-NZ and the Workers Party is to provide a splint to strengthen the wonky left leg. The SW-NZ has almost liquidated itself into what it hopes will become a 'new left' party in NZ i.e. a 'united front of a special kind' such as Respect in Britain or the PSUV in Venezuela.

But such a 'new left' party is inherently a popular front and the role of the SW-NZ is to camouflage this front with its supposed 'socialist' politics. The Workers Party performs a similar role to the SWP. It attracts militants pissed off with Labour but at the same time stops them from breaking with the left bureaucracy the ERA.

Break from the Left Bureaucracy!

In New Zealand, the CWG is the only party on the left that practices revolutionary Marxism. We are Trotskyist-Leninists! Our tradition and our program prepares us in the face of the popular front. We are part of an international grouping - the Leninist-Trotskyist Fraction (FLT - Fraccion Leninista-Trotskista) which has cadres fighting in most of the countries of Latin America against the gigantic popular front of the World Social Forum. For the FLT, populism in all its forms, is a life and death question since it ties the hands of workers while the fascists prepare to smash them as we see in Bolivia today (see Editorial). For that reason most of our energy is devoted to exposing the role of the Left Bureaucracy internationally in acting as a 'left cover' for the popular front in countries like Bolivia and Venezuela. Here we find the populist regimes of Morales and Chavez supported by a left leg of ex-Trotskyists, Maoists, Castroists and old Stalinists. In New Zealand, then, recognising the Labour Coalition as a popular front with its wobbly left leg strengthened with a fake Marxist splint comes easy to us. We have been kicked many times by that same left leg.

In New Zealand the Left Bureaucracy acts to perpetuate illusions in the Labour Government, not by operating inside the ERA and putting pressure on Labour

by itself, but by preventing the struggle from developing outside parliament. If the TSA is seen to be 'unnecessary' and not part of a global bosses' offensive against indigenous and workers rights, then it can be reformed. If the Labour Government has 'over-reacted' for some reason; or the police and/or SIS were 'out of control'; or the US was imposing its 'war on terror' in an 'excessive' manner; then a bit of pressure from the 'left' can correct for this.

Revolutionaries, however, don't share such illusions. US imperialism needs its anti-terrorist laws to smash working class resistance to its crisis-driven plundering of land, labour and resources around the world. Therefore the

purpose of a united front against 'Operation 8' is to mobilise workers to take up this struggle in the unions to prove that only rank and file control of the unions can defend workers against state terrorism and the imperialist crisis driving it. Class against class!

The way to break workers

from trade union economism [a fixation on parliamentary solutions] is to rally the rank and file to take charge of their economic disputes and to break out of the leg-iron of the ERA.

Only strong, fighting, democratic unions run by the members can defeat the bosses' attacks on our living standards and our lives. Let us not forget that every day workers die in this country from the 'complications' of capitalism - poor health, old diseases like TB, rampant epidemics like Diabetes, poverty and homelessness, and young people's lives destroyed by alienation, and as the French say, 'precarite'.

The way to break workers from the populism of Labour and other reformist parties is to build fighting, democratic unions to strike against state terror and to occupy and expropriate capitalist property, through nationalisations under workers control without compensation to the capitalists.

Return stolen land to Maori!

Return Foreshore and Seabed resources to Maori control!

Nationalise Fonterra under working Farmers and Workers Control!

Re-nationalise privatised state assets like Air NZ, rail, forestry, fishing!

Re-nationalise state corporations like power companies and privatised assets like Airports and Ports!

Nationalise capitalist assets in land, forestry, industry, transport and finance, with no compensatio, and under workers control!



Statement of Bolivian workers

“Stop the State and Paramilitary repression in New Zealand!”



The Bolivian Workers affiliated to our central organisation, the Central Obrera Boliviana, and regionally belonging to the Central Obrera Departamental condemn the brutal deliberate repression of the state and Government of New Zealand against the workers and indigenous Maori people.

The repression unleashed on 15 October against fighters for liberation and sovereignty in this semicolony dominated by Australia and Britain, satellites of American imperialism, is intended to protect the economic interests of the privileged minority that exists in any capitalist country in the world, including Bolivia, who subject the majority of the people to the most miserable social and economic conditions .

The struggle of the brother and sister workers and people of New Zealand is not alone and has the backing and solidarity of the oppressed of the world. The epoch of the abuse and plunder that imperialist capitalism has enjoyed has led inexorably to the differences between this minority and the poor in the world to become more and more abysmal and inhuman.

We have no alternative but to replace the corrupt and degenerate world capitalist system with a system where the majorities have the right to decide their future by redistributing wealth among all the peoples who are its inhabitants – a system where human rights are fundamental and not for the profits of an irrational and unlimited capitalism. This system can not be anything less than socialism, inspired by the the most human and patriotic setniments. The dilemma facing humanity is Socialism or the reign of Barbarism “

Oruro, November 9, 2007

!Long live the struggle of the people of New Zealand against recolonialism!

!Long live the struggle of the peoples of the world against degenerate capitalist society!

!For the victory of the socialist revolution and construction of the new society and the new man!

For the Central Obrera Departamental In Oruro

C.O.D. Founded 1st May 1953. Affiliate of the C.O.B. Oruro – Bolivia

FSTMB, Oruro (Miners); FED FABRILES (factory workers); FUSTCO (office workers); FED. Constructores (construction workers); FED. SALUD (Health workers); FED. MAG. URB (Teachers city); FED MAG. RURAL (rural teachers); FESTRATEV (Transport workers); RED. RENT. JUB. (retired workers); FUL. (University students); FES (Secondary students); FED. EST. NOL (Teachers College Students); CASEGURAL (Local govt workers); SIND. OOPP (taxi drivers); SIND. MUNICIPALES; ENTEL (telephone); ECOBOL; SINTRAUTO; COTEOR (postal); DIM.ENASA; SELA; ASOC. RED. MIN (retired miners); PRENSA (media); DESOCUPADOS (unemployed) SEPCAM and ACMPD (campesinos).

Strike Against War

US striking dockers accused of “Terrorism”

Since the invasion of Iraq, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) has officially opposed the war and occupation of Iraq. On 19th May 2007, this was put to the test when an anti-war coalition (the Port Action Committee) called a picket of the Oakland (California) docks. This was not an informational picket but a picket to stop war cargo. They called on the ILWU to honour the picket lines, which the local branch did. In 2003 during U.S. invasion of Iraq, the same dock was picketed. Six picketers were injured defending the picket then (2003) after being shot at by police. Once more, in 2007, in the face of heavy police presence again, approx 200 union members stayed solid.

Other freight workers have also opposed the war with bans on moving war cargo, – railway workers in Britain, and Italy. This proves that it is worth building resistance against imperialist invasion, by using working class actions. The shut down of shipments to wars can defeat an imperialist state. What is needed to shut down a war is to turn “paper” opposition into action through bans on production and freight of war materials. These are the

capitalists have common interests. In this case, the ILWU officials may have believed that increased security would mean increased safety for workers.

A Marxist understanding of capitalism and class would have predicted the increased police and private security to result in harassment of workers. Marx saw the role of the state within capitalism has always been to protect the capitalists’ interests – and this at the expense of workers.

Oakland dockers shut down war cargo May 19 2007

working class methods of struggle that can defeat the capitalist class “at home”, and defend workers internationally against imperialist invasions.

Of course such industrial action by unions would put workers up against the state terror troops – including frontline police forces. In the U.S. the, Taft-Hartley Act has been used against workers whose actions may “harm the national interest”. Workers fighting as union members have been labelled terrorist. This capitalist state - legal pressure can mean union leaders / officials cave in to the demands of the state. However there are numerous examples where the working class wants to, we can tear up the boss’s paperwork and carry on defending pickets and taking strike action.

Increased security – for whom?

The U.S. has used “homeland security” as their excuse to increase security and surveillance on the ports. As well as the “Patriot Act” they now have a “Maritime Security Act”. Unfortunately the ILWU officials supported the maritime measures. The role of union officials means they regularly make the mistake of thinking that workers and

It has meant random searches of longshoremen’s cars and outright harassment, by putting a worker onto the “terrorist watch” list, to be stopped at the airport!

In August 2007 two longshoremen (Harrison and Ruffin) driving into work on their return from lunch were stopped by security. The guards demanded to search the car under the maritime security law and the workers called their union for advice. Before the union could respond the guards called the police. Local cops, who have a reputation as racist dragged the two black workers out of their car and threw them in jail, charged with trespass and obstructing a police officer. Since then the trespass charges have been dropped – but the obstruction charge remains.

- **For workers control of port “security” – no cops, no private security, full workers control. Workers know the cargo.**
- **For workers security under workers control! A workers council made up of representatives of the local unions can run security.**

Political Prisoners

Freedom for Basque independence fighters!

Batasuna is a Basque independence party that has been outlawed over alleged links to ETA (Basque independence fighters). Spain's government has taken a tough stance against ETA since the militant group ended its ceasefire after 15 months (on June 5th 2007). ETA is listed as a "terrorist organisation" by the European Union and the United States. ETA is blamed (by the capitalists) for the deaths of 819 people during almost four decades of fighting for Basque independence. Batasuna, has been banned as a party since 2003 for refusing to condemn violence and cut its links to ETA. 23 people were arrested attending a Batasuna meeting in the town of Segura, in the Spanish Basque Country. 19 are held in jail, without trial, while the police search for evidence on terrorism-related charges. They were arrested on suspicion of belonging to "a terrorist organisation". Two who are French Batasuna, where the party is not banned, were released on 10,000 Euros bail. The Spanish "Law of Political Parties" was passed in the reaction of the US "War on Terror" (and parallels the NZ Terrorism Suppression Act). The US state has used the Sept 11 / "war on terror" excuse to lobby the ruling parties to pass similar anti-democratic laws around the world. A "Socialist" party rules Spain on behalf of capitalism. Like the NZ "Labour" party, they are taking anti-working class action, on behalf of world imperialism. Below we print our translation of Spanish Trotskyists' "GRUPO GERMINAL" statement. We apologise for any misunderstanding of their political position due to inadequacies in our translation. You will find the programmatic position of the Germinal Group in relation to the Basque question on their Web page: <http://grup-germinal.org/>

For the immediate freedom of all members of Batasuna!

By the end of the night on 4th October, the national leadership of Batasuna were imprisoned. Judge Baltasar Garzón has ordered them to be jailed while the police gather evidence of "terrorism". The charges are of being members of a banned political organisation. Batasuna was outlawed in 2003.

A ban made possible under the rotten "Law of Political Parties". This was passed in the reaction of the US "War on Terror" and has been used to oppress by force, groups with policies for Basque independence. These arrests are a new step in the repressive actions of the State against the democratic rights in the Basque Country. This same repression is used all across Spain.

The continued policy of that government uses vilification by labelling of groups as "terrorist". This keeps the working class divided and submissive to the elected "socialist" government united with the Spanish Monarchy. They even made it a crime to publish cartoons of the royal family, or to burn their photos. The policies of most leaders of the working class (e.g. unions) are of criminal submission to the capitalist State.

- **Against the ban criminalising Batasuna!**
- **Overthrow and Repeal the Law of Political Parties!**
- **Freedom of the Basque political prisoners!**
- **For the right of the Basque people to freely decide their destiny and their relationship with other peoples!**
- **For rights of self-determination of the Basque people, including right to separation from both the Spanish State and France!**
- **Down with the Monarchy!**

The Germinal Group considers these democratic demands only and understands that they are the immediate objectives that (in relation to the Basque question) must unify the working class in fighting action to overthrow the capitalist Spanish state by socialist revolution.

9 of October of 2007

GERMINAL GROUP (In defense of Marxism)

Communist Workers Group understands that an oppressed group or nation is frustrated by the position they have in relation to the ruling class, and can resort to violence to express this.

"Terror" is not a working class tactic! The arrests triggered unrest in Spain's northern Basque region in the form of street protests and firebomb attacks on a post office, a courthouse, a municipal building and a bus. A Batasuna called the arrests "a declaration of war". In Bilbao, youths set fire to several rubbish bins and threw petrol bombs against cash machines. In Navarra, banks and a trade union office were also targeted by Molotov cocktails.

We do not consider this an effective means to struggle for change, or in this specific situation to achieve independence for the Basque people. Also a guerrilla war is not based in working class action, but in sabotage of economic targets and attacks on state forces. A risk is that workers may be harmed in the crossfire. We believe a strong / healthy revolution must be based in mass organised working class action.

We support the armed independence of the working class. We consider that the capitalist have been proven to attack organised workers by their historical record. For example, Sept 11 1973, Chile, Pinochet's military Coup overthrew the democratically elected 'socialist' government of Allende and 'disappeared' thousands of workers and leading socialists. Workers have the right to self-defense against the attacks of the capitalist class.

The Russian revolution of October 1917 was able to take power with barely a shot fired, by winning over sections of the military. However they had to fight a war to defend themselves against renegade Russian generals backed by British and French imperialism. Workers have a need for self-defense.

For the armed independence of the working class!

Reformism recycled

SW-NZ and the New, Old Left Party

The Socialist Worker-NZ in its search to form a New Left Party, or 'united front of a special kind' –such as the UK Respect, German Die Linke, or the Venezuelan United Socialist Party (PSUV) also have in mind building a NZ broad left party around their paper 'Unity'. Their idea is to unite revolutionaries with reformist workers in the same party to contest elections and win workers to socialist revolution. To unite in united fronts of action is necessary, but to unite in a party that subordinates a revolutionary program to a bourgeois reformist program is always fatal for workers. The cross-class basis of Respect, Die Linke and the PSUV, all show that 'revolutionaries' who become the left leg of the popular front betray the workers to the counter-revolution. Here is how.

German 'New Left'

The German Die Linke (The Left) is the model for such a party. It is what Leninists call a rotten bloc. The main party in it is the Left Party (coming out of the former East German Stalinist PDS). A smaller split, the WASG (Electoral Alternative for Employment and Social Justice), a sort of NZ Alliance formation, that broke from the German SPD (German Social Democratic Party) based in Berlin, buried their political differences in order to qualify for Federal seats. The WASG had opposed the Left Party/SPD welfare cuts in the state parliament of Berlin, but withdrew their criticism so as to get on the joint list at the national level.

The Socialist Workers make a

lot of Die Linke's positions against the war in Iraq and draw a parallel with the famous anti-imperialist Karl Liebknecht who voted against the war budget in the German parliament in 1914. These are admirable positions, but we should remember that Liebknecht was in a tiny minority of one to begin, and that the German SDP big majority voted to fund their own bosses' war.

This is what caused a split in the Second International and the founding of the Third International based on a Bolshevik program of workers refusing to fight workers and turning their guns on their own national bosses. Both Lenin and Trotsky said that revolution came from strikes not votes, and that this would be sparked off by soldiers turning their guns on their officers and their own ruling classes. The inability to win enough workers to this revolutionary anti-war position is what allowed the SDP leaders to betray Liebknecht and Luxemburg to the military.

Today, ignoring this history, the German Cliffites have liquidated into Die Linke alongside left SDPers. It remains to be seen whether the Cliffite fraction will act like the WASG before it, that is, criticise the bigger

partners, but bury their differences to win parliamentary seats like they tried to do in Respect.

To fuse with reformists in a parliamentary bloc is to give up your political independence to fight for a general strike against war for the sake of votes. It is a betrayal of the most advanced workers who are bursting to break out of the parliamentary leg-iron and may fatally delays the building of a revolutionary party.

Split in Respect

The British SWP found this out in their dealings with George Galloway in Respect [a bloc of SWP, Galloway's left-Labourite faction, and other small left tendencies]. They

buried their political differences until Galloway insisted on selecting Muslim businessmen to stand for Respect and then manoeuvred for the resignation of SWP leader John Rees as the Respect National Secretary. The SWP couldn't pretend that they were pushing Galloway left any more when a number of their leading cadre sided with Galloway, taking a number of members also.

The bitter split that followed reflects the breaking open of the class contradiction that has been suppressed inside Respect. Galloway from the start has wanted to include the conservative Muslim bourgeoisie of the bazaar (small businessmen). However, as is now clear, it was not the SWP that forced the split, it was prepared to continue as a minority in the popular front to try to pressure it to the left. It was Galloway, who recognised that to get more Muslim businessmen

elected it would be necessary to remove what he saw as the "extremists" - that is the SWP 'Leninists' and 'Trotskyists'.

The SWP had to quickly revise their view of Galloway as the British Chavez. But they will soon find that in their dealings with Chavez in Venezuela, they will have to swallow their differences to stay inside Chavez new party, the PSUV, and in the end, like Galloway, it will be Chavez who kicks



them out.

Trotsky's approach to revolutionaries joining reformist parties was to use the tactic of 'entrism' in periods of pre-revolutionary or revolutionary crises when the social democratic rank and file were moving left. But the whole point was to raise the revolutionary program to split the ranks from the reformist leaders and engage them in the militant strikes, workers councils and workers militias, and the struggle for workers power. This 'raiding' tactic was subordinated to the strategy of the general strike and insurrection, not to a parliamentary victory.

PSUV – to join or not?

These lessons are being forgotten in the light of the 'Bolivarian Revolution' which has become the new road to '21st century socialism'. Chavez has deliberately set about forming a cross-class New Left Party, the Socialist Unity Party of Venezuela –PSUV. The SWPNZ has openly disagreed with its international Cliffite tendency by calling on workers to join the PSUV to turn it into a workers or socialist party. (Latest statement is on the UNITYblog, November 24, 2007)

Workers are understandably enthusiastic about the PSUV as the party of the government that has brought about important changes in their lives. But its class character right now is being defined by Chavez who insists that other parties must liquidate to join it, and that the unions should also give up their autonomy, and that there can be no factions in the PSUV.

The reason that the PSUV has nearly 6 million wanting to join is precisely because it is a populist party of the Bolivarian regime. It is a cross-class party, strictly speaking a popular front party, in which the vast worker majority will be disciplined by the bourgeois minority to prevent a real socialist revolution from taking place.

To 'connect' with this party even in its formation period, without characterising it correctly as a popular front, and reinforcing the illusion that it will be possible to turn it into a workers or a socialist party is potentially an act of treachery against the working class.

Why? Because to talk of 'dual power' when the most advanced struggles, such as the workers occupation of Santarios de Macarey, have been sold out by the regime. To talk of the PSUV as 'potentially' if not already a workers party, when it is the party of the regime and its bureaucracy, is to sow illusions in bourgeois democracy.

The factory occupations have not created a basis for dual power i.e. workers power contesting bourgeois state power. Nor will the Chavista reformed constitution change the bourgeois character of the state as the defender of private property. The party of the state, the PSUV, will remain a bourgeois popular front unless the workers break from it.

While Unityblog makes much of the arguments of Stalin Perez that the CCURA will join the PSUV to

defeat the bureaucrats, the arguments of Oswaldo Chirino, main leader of CCURA are much more pertinent. You can read his critique of the PSUV ban on factions and Chavez proposed reforms of the constitution here:

<http://www.permanentrevolution.net/?view=entry&entry=1688>

While Perez wants the UNT to join the PSUV in a way that can only disarm workers, Chirino's call for a Peoples Assembly independently of the PSUV is not the answer either.

When around 5 million workers want to join the PSUV it is necessary to enter the pre-congress debate armed with the strategy and tactics of revolutionaries. The tactics must be to break workers out of a popular front party to form a mass workers party.

This process can only happen if the workers in the CCURA insist on forming factions and advancing the political struggle for occupations under genuine workers control, expropriations of imperialist and bourgeois property, land reform etc, which will bring the PSUV up against the limits of the bourgeois program of the regime.

The strategy is for socialism in the 21st century, but has to be in the form of a workers and peasants government, not a Bolivarian government that continues to try to please two masters, imperialism and the bourgeoisie on one side and the workers on the other.

The New Left suffers 'rightshift' in NZ?

The SW-NZ's plan to build a New Left Party in NZ appears to

have suffered a slight setback. In their Unityblog <http://unityaotearoa.blogspot.com/2007/10/auckland-ram-election-results-2007.html> the SW-NZ claims that the left lost out in the recent Auckland local body elections.

"Across the board, the right made gains in Greater Auckland's 2007 council elections at the expense of both the political centre (Labour-aligned tickets) and the grassroots left (notably Residents Action Movement –RAM).

Underpinning this shift to the right was the declining minority of the grassroots who voted. The statistics from electoral officials indicate that the non-vote was far greater in modest-income suburbs as compared to wealthier 'green leaf' suburbs."

But RAM is hardly 'Left'. The 'left' wasn't involved in this election! Voters are disinterested in local body elections because they don't see any point in voting for local bodies in a country where central government is responsible for taxing and spending. Thus the RAM slogan asking the corporates to "pay their way" is not something that local bodies can do. Begging the bosses to make 'fair profits' and pay 'fair wages' and taxes is something that not even central governments can do, let alone local government. What sort of "Resident Action" is going to achieve any significant redistribution at local body level? The 'direct action' of Water Pressure Group got some good results against water privatisation, but then turned into just another local body pressure group.

The **Workers Party** and **Communist League** mayoral candidates stood on social democratic platforms of popular



welfarism. This is not anti-capitalism; it is open reformism sowing illusions in redistribution of wealth from rich to poor. But when parliament doesn't even tax the rich enough to pay for decent welfare, what chance local government?

As for the **Alliance**, it spent fifteen years diverting struggle into parliament in the futile hope of stopping Labour's drift to the right. It failed, so the lesson drawn by McCarten, Harre and Co. from the collapse of the Alliance, is to build a new reformist Labour-type party based on rebuilding the unions. But first time round the Labour Party was formed to subordinate workers to the bosses' state and the second time round it will be no different.

A real 'left' under capitalism is revolutionary, not

reformist, and uses elections to propagandise against capitalism as a system that must be overthrown, not to get elected so as to beg the bosses to give back some tiny fraction of the profits they expropriate from workers.

At the very least, election propaganda has to be directed against privatisation of local and national public assets. But there is no point doing it unless you demand the (re) nationalisation without compensation and under workers control of all the key resources workers need to live, and rebuild the unions to fight for this independently of the state. Because this question will not be decided by the numbers of votes, but the numbers of organised workers taking control of their unions, their workplaces and organising to take power.

Leon Trotsky (1940). The manuscript of the following article was found in Trotsky's desk. Not a completed article, but rather the rough notes for an article on the subject indicated by his title. He had been writing them shortly before his death. We printed the first half in Class Struggle 74, now Trotsky sketches out the role of the trade unions in the semi-colonial countries...

Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay: Part [2]

The chief role in colonised countries is not played by national but by foreign capitalism. So the national bourgeoisie occupies, in the sense of its social position, a much more minor position than corresponds with the development of industry. Inasmuch as foreign capital does not import workers but separates the native population from their means of production, to become the working class. The national working class soon begins playing the most important role in the life of the colonised country. In these conditions the national government, to the extent that it tries to show resistance to foreign capital, is compelled to a greater or lesser degree to lean on the proletariat.

On the other hand, the governments of those countries that consider inescapable or more profitable for them to march shoulder to shoulder with foreign capital destroy the labour organisations and institute a more or less totalitarian regime. Thus, the feebleness of the national bourgeoisie, the absence of traditions of municipal self-government, the pressure of foreign capitalism and the relatively rapid growth of the proletariat, cut the ground from under any kind of stable democratic regime. The governments of backward, i.e., colonial and semi-colonial countries, by and large assume a Bonapartist or semi-Bonapartist character; and differ from one another in this, that some try to orient in a democratic direction, seeking support among workers and peasants, while others install a form close to military-police dictatorship. This likewise determines the fate of the trade unions. They either stand under the special patronage of the state or they are subjected to cruel persecution. Patronage on the part of the state is dictated by two tasks which confront it: First, to draw the

Either the trade unions serve as the obedient recruiting sergeants for the imperialist army and imperialist war or they train workers for self-defense and revolution

working class closer thus gaining a support for resistance against excessive pretensions on the part of imperialism; and, at the same time, to discipline the workers themselves by placing them under the control of a bureaucracy.

Monopoly Capitalism and the Unions

Monopoly capitalism is less and less willing to reconcile itself to the independence of trade unions. It demands of the reformist bureaucracy and the labour aristocracy who pick the crumbs from its banquet table, that they become transformed into its political police before the eyes of the working class. If that is not achieved, the labour bureaucracy is driven away and replaced by the fascists. Incidentally, all the efforts of the labour aristocracy in the service of imperialism cannot in the long run save them from destruction.

The intensification of class contradictions within each country, the intensification of antagonisms between one country and another, produce a situation in which imperialist capitalism can tolerate (i.e., up to a certain time) a reformist bureaucracy only if the latter serves directly as a petty but active stockholder of its imperialist enterprises, of its plans and programs within the country as well as on the world arena. Social-reformism must become transformed into social-imperialism in order to prolong its existence, but only prolong it, and nothing more. Because along the parliamentary road there is generally no way out.

Does this mean that in the epoch of imperialism independent trade unions are generally impossible? It would be fundamentally incorrect to pose the question this way. Impossible are the independent or semi-independent reformist trade unions. Wholly possible are revolutionary trade unions which not only are not stockholders of imperialist policy but which set as their task the direct

overthrow of the rule of capitalism. In the epoch of imperialist decay the trade unions can be really independent only to the extent that they are conscious of being, in action, the organs of proletarian revolution. In this sense, the program of transitional demands adopted by the last congress of the Fourth International is not only the program for the activity of the party but in its fundamental features it is the program for the activity of the trade unions.

(Translator's note: *At this point Trotsky left room on the page, to expound further the connection between trade union activity and the Transitional Program of the Fourth International. It is obvious that implied here is a very powerful argument in favour of military training under trade union control. The following idea is implied: Either the trade unions serve as the obedient recruiting sergeants for the imperialist army and imperialist war or they train workers for self-defense and revolution.*)

The development of backward countries is characterised by its combined character. In other words, the last word of imperialist technology, economics, and politics is combined in these countries with traditional backwardness and primitiveness. This law can be observed in the most diverse spheres of the development of colonial and semi-colonial countries, including the sphere of the trade union movement. Imperialist capitalism operates here in its most cynical and naked form. It transports to virgin soil the most perfected methods of its tyrannical rule.

In the trade union movement throughout the world there is to be observed in the last period a swing to the right and the suppression of internal democracy. In England, the Minority Movement in the trade unions has been crushed (not without the assistance of Moscow); the leaders of the trade union movement are today, especially in the field of foreign policy, the obedient agents of the Conservative party. In France there was no room for an independent existence for Stalinist trade unions; they united with the so-called anarcho-syndicalist trade unions under the leadership of Jouhaux and as a result of this unification there was a general shift of the trade union movement not to the left but to the right. The leadership of the CGT is the most direct and open agency of French imperialist capitalism.

In the United States the trade union movement has passed through its most stormy history in recent years. The rise of the CIO is incontrovertible evidence of the revolutionary tendencies within the working masses. Indicative and noteworthy in the highest degree, however, is the fact that the new "leftist" trade union organisation was no sooner founded than it fell into the steel embrace of the imperialist state. The struggle among the tops between the old federation and the new is reducible in large measure to the struggle for the sympathy and support of Roosevelt and his cabinet.

No less graphic, although in a different sense, is the picture of the development or the degeneration of the trade union movement in Spain. In the socialist trade unions all those leading elements that to any degree represented the independence of the trade union

movement, were pushed out. As regards the anarcho-syndicalist unions, they were transformed into the instrument of the bourgeois republicans; the anarcho-syndicalist leaders became conservative bourgeois ministers.

The fact that this metamorphosis took place in conditions of civil war does not weaken its significance. War is the continuation of the self-same policies. It speeds up processes, exposes their basic features, destroys all that is rotten, false, equivocal and lays bare all that is essential. The shift of the trade unions to the right was due to the sharpening of class and international contradictions. The leaders of the trade union movement sensed or understood, or were given to understand, that now was no time to play the game of opposition. Every oppositional movement within the trade union movement, especially among the tops, threatens to provoke a stormy movement of the masses and to create difficulties for national imperialism. Hence flows the swing of the trade unions to the right, and the suppression of workers' democracy within the unions. The basic feature, the swing towards the totalitarian regime, passes through the labor movement of the whole world.

We should also recall Holland, where the reformist and the trade union movement was not only a reliable prop of imperialist capitalism, but where the so-called anarcho-syndicalist organisation also was actually under the control of the imperialist government. The secretary of this organisation, Sneevliet, in spite of his Platonic sympathies for the Fourth International was as deputy in the Dutch Parliament most concerned lest the wrath of the government descend upon his trade union organisation.

In the United States the Department of Labor with its

leftist bureaucracy has as its task the subordination of the trade union movement to the democratic state and it must be said that this task has up to now been solved with some success.

The nationalisation of railways and oil fields in Mexico has of course nothing in common with socialism. It is a measure of state capitalism in a backward country that

in this way seeks to defend itself on the one hand against foreign imperialism and on the other against its own proletariat. The management of railways, oil fields, etc, through labour organisations has nothing in common with workers' control over industry, for in the essence of the matter, the management is effected through the labour bureaucracy which is independent of the workers, but in return, completely dependent on the bourgeois state. This measure on the part of the ruling class pursues the aim of disciplining the working class, making it more industrious in the service of the common interests of the state, which appear on the surface to merge with the interests of the working class itself. As a matter of fact, the whole task of the bourgeoisie consists in liquidating the trade unions as organs of the class struggle and substituting in their place the trade union bureaucracy as the organ of the leadership over the workers by the bourgeois state. In these conditions, the task of the revolutionary vanguard is to conduct a struggle for the complete independence of the trade unions and for the introduction of actual workers' control over the present union bureaucracy, which has been

The shift of the trade unions to the right was due to the sharpening of class and international contradictions.

turned into the administration of railways, oil enterprises and so on.

Events of the last period (before the war) have revealed with especial clarity that anarchism, which in point of theory is always only liberalism drawn to its extremes, was, in practice, peaceful propaganda within the democratic republic, the protection of which it required. If we leave aside individual terrorist acts, etcetera, anarchism, as a system of mass movement and politics, presented only propaganda material under the peaceful protection of the laws. In conditions of crisis the anarchists always did just the opposite of what they taught in peace times. Marx pointed this out in the Paris Commune. And it was repeated on a far more colossal scale in the experience of the Spanish revolution.

Democratic unions in the old sense of the term, bodies where in the framework of one and the same mass organisation different tendencies struggled more or less freely, can no longer exist. Just as it is impossible to bring back the bourgeois-democratic state, so it is impossible to bring back the old workers' democracy. The fate of the one reflects the fate of the other. The class independence of trade unions, in their relations to the bourgeois state can be assured only by a completely revolutionary leadership, that is, the leadership of the Fourth International. This leadership, naturally, must and can be rational and assure the unions the maximum of democracy conceivable under the present concrete conditions. But without the political leadership of the Fourth International the independence of the trade unions is impossible.

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1940/xx/tu.htm>

Leninist Trotskyist Fraction

Editorial: International Workers' Organiser No 6

- *We announce the publication of latest edition of "The International Labor Organizer," the voice of the Leninist Trotskyist Fraction. [This is available only in Spanish at the moment on our website. <http://www.geocities.com/communistworker>. We also apologise for the hasty and no doubt inadequate translation of this editorial.]*
- *Our international newspaper was produced by the huge collective effort of all groups, activists and leaders who make up this revolutionary internationalist fraction, which since it was founded two years ago, has made it's central task that of organising an International Conference of the healthy forces of Trotskyism and revolutionary workers' organisations.*
- *We are fighting against the clock. Our struggle to revive the program, the theory and strategy of the Fourth International founded in 1938, and to create the revolutionary leadership that the world proletariat deserves, is faced today by the rapid development of international events that have shaken the entire planet.*
- *We believe that today, more than ever, that the crisis facing humanity can only be resolved by building a revolutionary leadership of the proletariat. The first signs of the crisis that began in early 2007 in Shanghai, and which then where amplified in the United States and Europe, signal the onset of a serious crisis in the imperialist capitalist economy. Once more this crisis proves the validity of Marxism in claiming that the conditions for revolution are ripe in our epoch, and more than this, that they are over-ripe, and that capitalism is decomposing.*
- *The gigantic parasitism of capital in the imperialist epoch, the endless looting of the oppressed nations, has led to a massive overproduction of finance capital that is facing destruction. An amount equivalent to six Marshall Plans –more than 500 billion dollars –liquidity had to be injected by central banks during July, August and September, to support banks and corporations facing bankruptcy.*
- *But the imperialist powers and the capitalists of the world will try to avoid paying for the current crisis: they are already imposing the costs of their crisis onto the world's exploited masses.*

The Crisis has Begun

The crisis is already here, and already begins to destabilise the fragile economic, political and military balance that imperialism has imposed from 2001 by means of the war and counter-revolution, to defeat and contain the mass uprisings that heralded the start of the 21st century.

The short cycle of expansion that the world economy experienced since 1989, thanks to the restoration of capitalism in the former degenerated workers states, is coming to an end. Today, the capitalist market has conquered the whole of the planet and turned it into a miserable and filthy prison house of the exploited and oppressed.

The onset of the current crisis has consigned to the rubbish bin of history all talk of reform by the treacherous leaders of the workers. Just as they did in the 1990s, since 2003 they have predicted a "long wave long expansion" of the capitalist economy that would last several decades, allowing workers to benefit from new reforms, and which would transform the 'emerging nations' into 'developed nations' in a "multipolar" world.

But it is not new opportunities for the oppressed peoples and workers to emerge from slavery that is being promised by the global conquest of the world by imperialism and the multinationals. What is promised is not only more plundering and looting of the oppressed nations, but a new offensive by imperialists as they try to redivide the world

economy to grab resources to overcome their crisis of falling profits.

Every attempt will be made to shift the crisis onto rival imperialist powers, and then onto the backs of the masses. The US as the dominant imperialist power, by devaluing the dollar and inflation, throws the crisis onto Japan and the European powers. France and Germany, are collaborating to challenge the US over control of oil reserves and pipelines. Against this inter-imperialist offensive, the new Russian and Chinese capitalists, along with the Iranian capitalists of Ahmadinejad and the "ayatollahs", have formed a defensive bloc against to try to retain control of their oil and gas resources.

At the same time, Japan, which is the number one investor in China, has launched a fierce offensive to conquer its commercial markets, and drive out its imperialist competitors to dominant China's enormous production of consumer goods.

In those imperialist states where the ruling class is composed of different nationalities, like the Spanish state or the Netherlands, nationalities fight among themselves to make everyone else pay for the crisis. In Belgium, the Flemish bourgeoisie is fighting with the Walloon bourgeoisie to set who can be made to pay the costs of the crisis, and threatening to split the country in two.

For China and Russia, the onset of the crisis means that the short period in which they became capitalist semi-colonies of imperialism has ended. They now face a transformation into direct colonies or protectorates of imperialism, and even partition by rival imperialist powers.

Ahead, then, are ferocious disputes and wars over areas of influence, markets, raw materials and labor. If the proletarian revolution does not intervene, we will be plunged into new wars with a level of carnage undoubtedly much higher than the wars we saw in the twentieth century. These are the inexorable laws of this imperialist capitalist system that survives only thanks to the betrayal of the leadership of the proletariat.

We are at the moment of greatest bankruptcy of bourgeois imperialist forces globally. This is the time when the bourgeoisie will make the working class and the exploited of the world pay the US\$500 billion dollars that the central banks paid to rescue the private banks and companies hit by the crisis.

The devaluation of the dollar and rising inflation—along with costly credit will impact cruelly on the masses of the colonial and semicolonial nations – this is how the imperialist gangsters make the working class pay the full cost of the new crisis.

So the crisis is here, and must be met by the strongest resistance by the masses against the capitalists. For the world proletariat, it is time to sound the alarm to prepare for a proletarian internationalist

offensive against the exploiters.

The Masses Respond

The response from the masses has been almost immediate. US imperialism is bogged down in Iraq and the Middle East by a rising resistance, where the masses of occupied nations like Iraq and Afghanistan are being subjected to the worst tortures and massacres.

New uprisings have taken place in South Asia. In Pakistan, millions of exploited people have taken up the fight for the most basic demands for their daily bread. The masses have entered into a struggle that threatens Musharraf, the US imperialist policeman in South Asia, and to disrupt the balance of imperialist counter-revolution in the whole region.

The struggle of the Pakistani masses for bread, comes shortly after the uprising in Burma (Myanmar) where the military dictatorship is heavily influenced by the new Chinese bourgeoisie who benefit from the extraction of Burmese oil and gas.

However, in Pakistan, the leaders of the World Social Forum have quickly stepped to the front of the uprising to prepare to subordinate the masses to the social democratic lawyers and the reactionary supreme court. In Burma, the Buddhist monks, and the pro-US democracy movement, have taken the leadership of the revolt of the

masses to control and contain it.

These revolts for food in South Asia also threaten to spread to Bangladesh, where the masses are suffering the devastation of a disastrous flood, and where already the railway workers have launched a general strike.

These strong and determined mass offensives for bread and against dictatorial and Bonapartist regimes, join the heroic anti-imperialist resistance of the Afghan masses against the imperialist occupation under the command of NATO.

The cowardly Pashtun Taliban bourgeoisie, which did not put up a serious fight against the imperialists, now acts as arms and opium smugglers on behalf of German imperialism. In Pakistan, the Taliban is the agent of imperialism in allowing the oppression of millions of children enslaved in the maquiladora textile factories of the transnationals. It prevents the resistance in Afghanistan from uniting and coordinating with the heroic struggle of the people Iraq in the face of the US imperialist troops commanded by the 'centurions' Negroponte and Petraeus.

These uprisings by the South Asia masses lead the fightback against the brutal imperialist offensive of the imperialist powers and its national bourgeois partners to make the working class pay the costs of the crisis.

But they are not alone. The struggle for bread in Asia is the same struggle as the struggle against attacks on the most basic historic gains of European workers, who, from Britain to Georgia, are striking back against the new offensives of their bourgeois governments.

A huge wave of workers' struggles has paralyzed

Musharraf



transport and public services in France. The postal workers are in the vanguard of strike action in England. In Italy, the fight against the rising price of flour – the staple food for the workers – brought the country to a halt. In Germany, a transport strike has paralyzed freight movements.

The industrial muscles of the proletariat of central Europe are flexing to resist the ruthless bourgeois and imperialist schemes that seek to recover their bad debts of banks and businesses at the expense of the masses.

Bourgeois bankruptcy

The crisis has begun, and so has the response of the masses. The world situation is destabilised. The class struggle simmering at low heat is now becoming red hot again under the imperialists' new counter-offensive. The crises, wars and revolutions that are the longterm tendency of the epoch of imperialism, are now once again re-appearing on the battlefield of the class struggle internationally.

Where the masses respond to the crisis in the face of dictatorship, as we see in Pakistan, this opens up the prospect of the divisions in the bourgeoisie and the collapse of regimes and governments. Where the masses are slow to respond, the tendency is toward the Bonapartisation of regimes such as we see in Spain, where Zapatero is using anti-terrorist laws to arrest the leaders of the oppressed Basque people. In France, we see Sarkozy try to wave the big stick like Thatcher in the UK in the 1980s. In New Zealand, the state is using "terrorist suppression laws" to imprison political activists.

In the imperialist powers the tendency is towards Bonapartisation and repressive regimes, because every imperialist bourgeoisie needs to impose, sooner rather than later, decisive defeats of their own working classes to free their hands for new military adventures and major disputes with their imperialist rivals.

If the crisis deepens into a global recession, the imperialist bourgeoisies will use both the popular front and fascism to defeat the working class. The popular front acts to deceive the masses and paralyze their ability to fight. We can see how this has succeeded in containing the revolution in Bolivia.

In Pakistan Musharraf promises democratic elections in January for a popular front with the opposition to prevent the workers movement from taking the revolutionary road. Imperialism uses the time it buys with popular front governments to prepare fascist gangs, as we see in Bolivia where the bourgeoisie and imperialist transnationals collaborate in the 'media luna', and in Spain with the open re-emergence of the fascist Falange.

The lack of a revolutionary leadership of the proletariat allows the traitors to keep all these struggles isolated between countries as well as within them. Without a revolutionary leadership the rotten capitalist system can stagger on its destructive course. All the traitors of the working class are united in an international popular front called the World Social Forum to stop a new revolutionary leadership from uniting and coordinating the struggles into an international mass offensive of the working class able to smash world imperialism.

Treacherous World Social Forum

US imperialism is the headquarters of the WSF general staff. The AFL-CIO trade union and other labor bureaucrats guarantees that the workers stay subservient to the Democratic Party to prevent them from developing class independence. In this way the fight of immigrant workers, and the workers of General Motors and Ford, have been sold out by the union bureaucracy. The anti-imperialist struggle of the masses against the US-led wars has been sold out to the Democratic Party of Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama, who guarantee the Bush regime in crisis, funding it to continue the war and occupation of Iraq, and allowing Congress to vote more anti-worker laws.

The role played by the World Social Forum from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, has been to steal the workers revolutions in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Oaxaca in Mexico, and Chile, isolating and containing them. Their role has been to divert the anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggle of



the masses into popular fronts with the national bourgeoisies of Kirchner, Chavez, Morales, Correa and other and other anti-worker, oppressive governments such as Lula and Bachelet, to restore the and the imperialists.

The World Social Forum is a veritable legion of traitors stretching from the bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO to trade union bureaucracies all over the continent, from the old recycled Stalinists to the fake Trotskyists who form the "left" leg of the so-called "Bolivarian revolution". This is the biggest fraud committed against the revolution and the exploited masses in the Americas.

They try to rebuild "social peace" to allow time for US imperialism to recover from its defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan, to attack its own working class and launch new colonising wars to try to solve its crisis of falling profits by plundering more of the world's resources.

For example, today US imperialism is launching new offensives in Southeast Asia using the South Korean bourgeoisie to make agreements with the Stalinist bureaucracy in North Korea, to invite it to join the Korean bourgeoisie and deliver its working class as wage slaves at lower pay than in China. In its backyard, Latin America, US imperialism is moving rapidly, with the connivance of the

Castroite bureaucracy, to finish the restoration of capitalism in Cuba. Thus the WSF which is modeled on the Castroite bureaucracy and its restorationist model of 'market socialism', must inevitably betray and strangle the life out of the revolutionary processes of the continent.

New Issue in Three Parts

- *In this issue of "International Labor Organizer," there is a Special Dossier on the outbreak of the crisis in the imperialist capitalist world economy and the international situation, along with the statement on this question, made by the Secretariat for Coordination and Action International (SCAI) of the FLT in mid-September.*
- *In Part II of this edition are accounts of the struggles of the revolutionary internationalist groups that make up our Fraction against the betrayals of the revolutionary struggles in Latin America by the "Bolivarian revolution". First, we deal with the tragedy of the Bolivian revolution, second, the incorporation of the struggle of the Peruvian proletariat to combat the exploitation of the Southern Cone, and third, the betrayal suffered by the Brazilian working class by the reformist left of the World Social Forum.*
- *So there is an urgent need to settle accounts, decisively, with all the currents that make up the World Social Forum who subordinated the working class to the pro-imperialist national bourgeoisies of Latin America. We dedicate the first part of this issue to that task.*

Our fights against the World Social Forum

Today, all the main founders of the World Social Forum are leading bourgeois regimes and governments in Latin America. Lula is leading a popular front government in Brazil. Morales is killing workers and peasants and in Bolivia. Chavez is buying popular support with petrodollars paid for with the blood of the Iraqi masses. Behind them, Castro is restoring capitalism in Cuba.

Chavez and the Castro brothers support the governments of Lula and Kirchner and greet their electoral victories. At the same time they applaud Bachelet of Chile and Ortega of Nicaragua who now head regimes tied by Free Trade Agreements to US imperialism.

In Part 1 we have articles on:

- The protests and revolutionary uprisings of the masses in South Asia where imperialism supports military dictatorships and popular fronts designed to isolate and suppress the masses resistance to imperialism's offensives.
- We publish several articles of the comrades of the POI (CI) of Chile on the situation in that country,

where at this time, the traitors in the working class have blocked the road to a general strike.

- There is a statement of the International Secretariat of the FLT [SCAI] on the pre-imperialist 'summit' and the so-called alternative "People's Summit", and an article about the verbal disagreement between the King of Spain and his 'junior partner' Chavez.
- We publish several articles of the LOI (CI) -on Argentina, a country where, thanks to the support of Chavez, Castro and the World Social Forum, the regime of the Kirchners is now entering its second term under Cristina Kirchner, deepening the attack on the working class and the exploited.

Fighting the Castro 'left' wing of the WSF

Our current intervenes in the controversy that has developed between the Cuban bureaucracy restoring capitalism along the "Chinese Road", and James Petras, the ideologue of the fake Trotskyists who warns that the "Chinese Road" will intensify the inequality in Cuba and provoke a revolt of the masses. Thus, Petras advises Castro to add some "glasnost" (democracy) to the "perestroika" (restoration of the market) process.

The FLT says that to defend the achievements of the Cuban revolution from capitalist restoration, it is necessary to the overthrow the Castroite bureaucracy and all of its cadres that are spread around Latin America, as in Bolivia where they help Morales to contain the revolution that the working class and poor peasants began in 2003.

But the new crisis, and the ruthless offensive of the imperialist capitalist system to survive, will not allow reformism to live in peace. It's ability to negotiate concessions, to conciliate and regulate the relations between labour and capital, is virtually exhausted. This fact makes it clear that for the working class to live, imperialism must die.

In this critical moment when the reformists are visibly bankrupt, the Stalinists and renegades of Trotskyism

grouped in the "left wing" of the World Social Forum, rush in to act as the strike-breakers. This is exactly the time, in Pakistan and in Europe, Latin America and the United States, that the bourgeoisie needs them as firefighters to douse the revolutionary sparks and prevent them spreading to create new fire zones all over the planet.

This is the special role of the "left wing" of the World Social Forum, supporting from the outside, the bourgeois regimes and governments suppressing revolution in Latin America, or pushing a policy of class collaboration to prevent the revolution from developing further, as they are doing in Pakistan.

When in France the militant workers revolt against the new agreements between the bureaucracy of the CGT trade union led by the Communist Party, and Sarkozy, they need the fake Trotskyists, who long ago abandoned the fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat, to contain the revolt, just as their Latin American equivalents are doing in Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil.

The agenda of this "left wing" of the World Social Forum is clear: just say to the workers to put pressure on



Petras

bourgeois governments to make them more "friendly" to workers and then to "push them to socialism" as with Chavez. This is the "democratic front" between workers and the "progressive" bourgeoisie to promote "market socialism" which fraudulently claims that the proletariat allied with the national bourgeoisie, can "regulate" the brutal exploitation of the working class and plundering of oppressed nations.

This "left wing" of the World Social Forum is composed of Stalinists and fake Trotskyists, organised and coordinated ideologically by Celia Hart Santamaria, the agent of the Castroite bureaucracy, and the fake Trotskyists of the PSTU and P-SOL that showed in Brazil how they could use the discipline of popular front to contain more than 10 million workers who broke with the government of Lula, the PT and the CUT trade union bureaucracy.

Fake Trotskyists take over the Stalinists role

Today, facing the emerging crisis of the capitalist world economy, the fake Trotskyists are collaborating to contain every attempt by the masses to revolt against the servile regimes and governments led by the founders of the World Social Forum. Thus, the POR Lora in the leadership of the Bolivian COB not only supports the regime of Morales, but joins forces with the with the PSTU and the PSOL –founders of the 'left bureaucratic' CONLUTAS in Brazil to contain the masses who broke with Lula – to call for the "Congress of militant labor organisations of Latin America" in 2008.

This "Congress" proves that the fake Trotskyists today have taken over the role of Stalinism on the left of the Popular Front. This "Congress" is undoubtedly a copy of the Latin American Association Congress in the mid-'30s,

organized in Mexico by the Stalinists to discipline the working class in the Americas behind the popular front policy of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR and "democratic" imperialism represented by the Stalin-Laval (Chancellor of France) Pact of May 1935.

At that Congress in Mexico, the Stalinists banned Matthew Fossa, a Trotskyist, despite the fact that he was mandated by the rank and file members of several workers unions in Argentina. We have no doubt that the Trotskyists will be banned from the new Congress in 2008 by the fake Trotskyists who keep the bourgeois regimes on the Continent in power. Of course for us to be banned by those who have dishonored the flag of Trotskyism would be a great honor.

This is the critical moment when the bourgeoisie,

exposed by crisis to revolution, must draw on its most "leftwing" agents, the fake Trotskyists, in order to prop up the left leg of the popular front, divert the masses from the road to revolution, so that it can draw breath and prepare a new violent counter-offensive.

Today, the policy of the "democratic front" and "market socialism" of this "left wing" of the World Social Forum, coordinated by Celia Hart, the PSOL and PSTU of Brazil, and in the US 'left' by Chávez, is a repetition of the Stalinist betrayals of "socialism in one country" and the popular fronts of the 1930s. It is also a recycling of the "revolution by stages" and "peaceful coexistence" promoted by Stalinism during the Second World War. Today, these policies are now repeated by the fake Trotskyists who have usurped the Fourth International and the name of Trotskyism to serve the bourgeois regimes and collaborate with imperialism.

Against these latest betrayals of false Trotskyism, the healthy forces of Trotskyism internationally, though few in number, now face the objective conditions in which enormous forces will be released breaking the base from the treacherous leaderships and developing the revolutionary consciousness of the most advanced layers of the workers and youth worldwide.

Our program is based on the solid foundation of scientific socialism – the theory-program of permanent revolution is confirmed every day by life itself. Because to have bread, to cut the high cost of living, to end imperialist oppression for the the working class, and let the exploited and oppressed peoples live, the immediate task is the struggle for proletarian revolution and the seizure of power.

To move forward on this path, the key task today is to unite and organise the international forces of the revolutionary proletariat by defeating before the eyes of the masses the treacherous left wing of the WSF

in every country that holds back the masses struggles by isolating, containing and repressing them.

An International Workers Offensive

In this issue of the International Labor Organizer the FLT raises our fight to unite the healthy forces of the international proletariat. We fight to refound a new international party of socialist revolution based on the legacy and program of the Fourth International 1938. With this program the international proletariat will have a banner to hold up in their daily struggles.

- All our efforts go into this task because we must tell the truth to the international proletariat: there can be no bread or rice without uprisings and insurrections!
- Workers and poor peasant rebels in Pakistan, retake



the road of the Iranian revolution of 1979; surround the barracks, split the army and bring down the the military murderer Musharraf; form a united military front with those resisting the imperialist invaders of Afghanistan!

- Break with the bourgeois ayatollahs of Iran and the opium smuggling Taliban and their businesses that exploit wage workers as slaves!
- Unite the class fighters in Iraq and Egypt and raise the banner of the Palestinian national resistance!
- Unite the migrant workers of the Middle East striking against the rich Arab sheikhs of Dubai who keep them locked up in concentration camps!
- Unite the class struggles of Europe against cuts in living standards with class the struggles for bread and rice in South Asia!
- Unite with the workers of Georgia rising up against social disaster of capitalist restoration introduced by the former Stalinist bureaucracy!
- Workers of the imperialist powers of Europe you have the key to reverse this massive defeat of the proletariat of the former degenerate workers republics of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Georgia, Russia etc to overthrow the restored capitalism with workers dictatorships as part of the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Millions of immigrant workers from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America do the worst jobs in imperialist Europe and the United States. They are capable of bringing the militancy of the working classes of the semi-colonial and colonial world to the very heart of the imperialist powers.

- Down the labor aristocracy and labor bureaucracy!
- Unite with migrant workers to defend the the historic victories of the working class such as equal rights and equal pay and conditions for migrant workers!
- Down with Sarkozy and the butchers of the imperialist Fifth Republic!
- Down with the imperialist Spanish monarchy and its lackeys Zapatero and Aznar, oppressors of the Basque people and partners with the butcher Bush in the looting of Latin America!
- Workers and peasants in Bolivia: we have to recover the revolution that began in 2003-2005, breaking with the popular front class collaborationist government of Morales!

"The 'red pacos' are dangerous," [Communist Party thugs/police] is the battle cry of the Chilean proletariat. It must be raised all over the continent against the Castroite bureaucracy preparing to complete capitalist restoration in Cuba, and against the Sandinista "commanders", and the FMLN in El Salvador, today no more than puppies of Wall Street, all traitors to the Central American revolution.

The FLT will not tire in the effort to complete the urgent task of this moment: to win the independence at the vanguard of the proletariat and of revolutionary youth

in the Americas from the World Social Forum and its "left wing" that is strangling the revolutionary and anti-imperialist struggle of the Latin American working class.

The global situation has changed. The crisis is already here. The first skirmishes of the class battles have begun on the world stage. The traitors, paid by big business out of its immense wealth, play their treacherous role. The ruling class oppressor feels the water reach its neck, and instinctively employs every counterrevolutionary move to keep their property, their wealth and their power. Under these circumstances, the only way for the proletariat to free itself from exploitation and oppression is to take the revolutionary road.

For an International Conference of Revolutionaries

The revolutionary internationalists have no time to lose. Now is the time to put out the call for an International Conference of the healthy forces of Trotskyism and of revolutionary labor organizations.

An international conference that makes no agreements with any sector of the bourgeoisie, whether big or small, "democratic" or fascist, with no part of the popular front, and which fights to unite and coordinate the struggles of the working class and oppressed peoples of the semi-colonies with proletariat of the imperialist countries that hold the key to their freedom.

An international conference that continues to raise the banner of political revolution against the bureaucratic restoration of capitalism in Cuba, to prevent the betrayal of the victories of the workers that took place in the 1980s in Latin America and the historic defeats of the workers states after 1989 in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and in Asia.

An international conference to set up a revolutionary centre that is capable of leading the forces to expose and destroy the influence of the betrayers who tie the proletariat to the popular front in each country, such as the "Bolivarian revolution",

and at the international level, the World Social Forum, and which can then open the road to the socialist revolution in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa.

There is no time to lose. It is time to raise the party and program of the Fourth International Congress of 1938 and regroup our ranks. This is our historic task.

The material presented in this issue contributes to that urgent task by demonstrating in real life the superiority of the theory and strategic program of Leninism and Trotskyism against the lies and distortions of revisionism and vulgar Marxism.

Regrouping revolutionary internationalist cadres is the task of the moment. Achieving a new international regroupment, is the need of the hour. The world situation hangs in the balance, as huge historic contradictions build up and prepare inevitable future eruptions. We must acknowledge the late hour and intervene to make the conditions for revolutionary Marxism to once more unite in the struggles of the world proletariat.

International Secretariat for Coordination and Action of the FLT

We know that the demands for "Out with the MNCs" and "Gas for Bolivians" will rise again in combat in Latin America. We know that to resist the attacks of their own imperialist ruling class, French, German, British, and US workers must cry out "Every night in Paris, New York, London and Berlin, a Baghdad" to mobilise the masses as the heroic youth workers did in the Cités of France.

What We Fight For

We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

We fight for Socialism.

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism –a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialism.

We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and

barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

For a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a *transitional programme*, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism, to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionise every barrier put in the path to the victorious revolution.

We fight for Communism.

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all; that nature can be "conserved"; that socialism and communism are "dead"; we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution; the Third Communist International until 1924, the revolutionary Fourth International up to 1940 before its collapse into centrism. We fight to build a new, Fifth, Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

Class Struggle is the Bi-Monthly paper of the Communist Workers' Group of New Zealand/Aotearoa, a member of the Leninist Trotskyist Fraction.

The other members are the International Workers League (LOI-CI) Argentina, International Workers Party (POI) Chile, Revolutionary Trotskyist League (RTL) Peru, Red October International (ORI) Bolivia, and the Trotskyist Fraction (FT) Brazil. PO Box 6595, Auckland, NZ.

Mail address: PO Box 6595, Auckland, New Zealand.

Email cwganz@yahoo.com

Class Struggle is also on our website

<http://www.geocities.com/communistworker/>

CWG blog at <http://redrave.blogspot.com/>