

**35th Central Convention
Communist Party of Canada
February 1-4, 2007
Toronto, Ontario**

discussion bulletin

November 29, 2006 - No. 2

Communist Internationalism

*By Nazir Rizvi, Lower Fraser Club
(British Columbia)*

It would seem, for instance, both useful and necessary for us to closely examine the positions of the Communist Parties in the world. While sharply critical of past deviations and errors, most of these parties have resisted calls to abandon a Marxist-Leninist outlook, especially in the Third World.

These parties, basing themselves on their own experience, have come out sharply against such concepts as “progressive capitalism” or “imperialism with a human face,” warning that imperialism has not changed its character. On the contrary, imperialism, led by the U.S., has become not only the brutal and inhuman, but also semi-fascist. It has occupied Iraq and Afghanistan, and threatens to conquer Lebanon, Syria, Iran and North Korea. It has new designs to destroy Cuba.

Communists in the Third World are quick to point out that the substantial pace of capitalist development over the last two decades has not only been due to its militaristic utilization but also to the tremendous exploitation of the people and resources of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Evolving ever newer forms of neo-colonialism, capitalism and imperialism on a global scale is able to temporarily overcome its contradiction and register advances.

The people of the Third World

have paid the price in terms of widening poverty and social deprivation resulting from back-breaking debt. In some countries, debt servicing alone amounts to over half of their annual national product.

Capitalism’s growth during the past two decades, therefore, has been at the expense of intensifying exploitation both at home and abroad. This growth is the sweat of the working class in the western world and the blood of the working people in the Third World.

The deepening crisis of the world capitalist order and the resultant cuts in social services is already leading to an intensification of the class struggle in the imperialist countries. On the other hand, capitalism is trying to blunt the class struggle through the spread of reformist illusions among sizable sections of the working class in developed countries, including Canada. It shares a small part of its profit to keep the rule of capital intact.

The most dangerous and devastating weapon imperialism, under the leadership of the USA, has unleashed is open war and invasion and occupation of the Third World for the control of resources, and destruction of people and property to the extent that these countries became disabled from building their economy for decades, as happened in Vietnam.

In these circumstances, Canadian Communists must continue to take a firm Marxist-Leninist stand,

linking up the vital interests of Canadian workers with active and revolutionary support to the struggle of oppressed peoples in Latin America, Africa and Asia, with the need to fully support revolutionary struggles. Revolutionary struggle in Latin America has to be the main focus. Palestine, Cuba and Afghanistan need special attention.

Concerning left unity, we Communists must never permit ourselves to forget that despite variations, social democratic parties by definition are essentially parties of reform within the capitalist system, and tend to advocate class collaboration. Ideologically they reject class struggle. This is not said to slander or to disparage their role, simply to state facts.

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In order to mobilize the fightback both in Canada and internationally, it is crucial for Communists to build unity in action with progressive and democratic forces. But this is a complicated political process and there are no short-cuts to real unity, not least the tendency to denigrate and ultimately abandon our

ideological position to grease the wheel of unity with others. The membership of the CPC has a choice - it can opt either for a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary path, for solidarity with the Third World and all oppressed people, or it can retreat from class struggle positions in favour of some gradualist variant of left democracy.

The final decision rests with the membership. Once it is decided, both membership and leadership must carry it out with discipline and honesty. Our task is enormous, and fascism is on the horizon. We cannot have the luxury of continuous debate because imperialism is destroying this globe with all its might. ■

On the International Communist Movement

*By Stephen Von Sychowski,
Vancouver East Club*

In recent years our party has been a continuous advocate of greater unity within the International Communist Movement (ICM). We have put forward a variety of distinct proposals towards this end. Our party must continue to promote the increased unity of the International Communist Movement and to seek solutions to the problems facing us in rebuilding the communist movement and reversing the offensive of capital.

I. Current forms of Cooperation

The ICM suffered a tremendous blow in the late 80's and early 90's with the counter-revolutions in several socialist countries and the attacks and attempted liquidations perpetrated against many communist parties and young communist organizations.

In recent years it must be noted that the ICM has begun to rebuild and recover. Many parties have played larger roles in the struggles of their countries. There have also been victories in attracting youth to the movement which has resulted in the re-formation and growth of Young Communist Leagues such as our own here in Canada.

There has also been a notable increase in international cooperation

and coordination of Communist Parties. Examples include an increase in regional and global meetings of parties. The eighth International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties took place last November with participation of an increased number of parties. The International Communist Seminars must also be noted especially since they include a large over-lap of parties which also have been invited and participated in the ICM meetings.

Perhaps the most exciting advance in international cooperation is the formation of the International Coordinating Committee, which has been tasked with organizing the ICM meetings and other duties with the aim of increasing inter-party cooperation.

These forms of cooperation are a positive advance and must be continued. We should expand the discussions beyond just reports on the activities of parties and vague proposals and towards debate on theoretical and ideological differences as well as concrete plans for united work and cooperation.

II. The Urgent Need for a Distinct, United Presence of the Communist Movement and its Ideology

Still, there is much yet to accomplish. The ICM and its parties remain ideologically fragmented be-

tween two poles. On the one hand, a pole of revolutionary communist ideology and on the other, one of reformist and opportunist ones. As a result a situation has developed in which various parties hold drastically differing views on a variety of questions and even carry out policies and strategies that are in direct contradiction with one another.

As long as we live in a society divided by classes we can not expect the complete and final elimination of such deviations, however we must not surrender the struggle for Marxism-Leninism. Ideological unity around Marxism-Leninism is the only path to lasting, principled communist unity.

The ICM must provide a clear socialist alternative to the horrors of imperialism and the false solutions of social democracy, anarchism and other petty-bourgeois ideologies. This means the establishment of a distinct communist presence in the international struggle against capital and the winning of a vanguard position in that struggle. Our party has its role to play in accomplishing these lofty goals. The convention should endorse the following proposals and charge the incoming Central Committee with the task of seeing that they are carried out and are brought forward to our international comrades;

A) Support the intensification of col-

lective international work towards coordinated and cooperative action of communist parties.

B) Increase co-operation amongst parties regionally and internationally on theoretical questions and research. This should include the central questions of the struggle against capital today as well as the causes of the set back in the world revolutionary process. This also means continuing to answer the imperialist revision of history by continuing to celebrate the various great historic events of the working class movement and disseminating the truth about the history of socialism and our movement.

C) Continued and increased solidarity with our comrades in the socialist countries who are bravely resisting imperialist interference and counter-revolution and also with our comrades who are forced by the ruling classes to operate in conditions of illegality.

D) Considering the conditions for the liquidation of the comintern no longer exist and, arguably, have not for several decades, re-state our support for the statement of our 32nd Convention that:

“... our party will continue to work to promote greater cohesion and unity of action within the communist movement as a central priority of our international work.

One way of promoting such a goal is through encouraging the convening of different levels and forms of meetings among workers' and Communist parties, leading towards wider and more comprehensive international coordination within the communist movement as a whole. In principle, our party supports calls to develop political and organizational linkages among sister parties leading to the re-establishment of a Com-

munist International.” - *Documents of the 32nd Convention of the Communist Party of Canada, “Main Political Resolution”, pg. 13.*

And work towards creating the conditions under which the ICC could be expanded and transformed into an organizing committee for such a purpose.

E) In doing so, continue to promote the position of our party that we must stand for:

“1) the complete equality of all parties; 2) strict non-interference in the internal affairs of parties; 3) mutual respect and tolerance of differing views; 4) and voluntary participation.” — *Athens Meeting 8-10 October 2004, Contribution of CP of Canada.*

The creation of such a higher form of cooperation can logically be carried out by parties which are close politically and ideologically and which defend Marxism-Leninism and the great history of the working class movement. At the same time, we must reject sectarianism and splittism. We must seek relations and cooperation with genuine communist and workers' parties without exclusion. This means seeking cooperation around our common anti-imperialist goals while always struggling against deviations from Marxism-Leninism.

We must also defeat the notion that international communist unity, especially the resurrection of the Communist International, means forfeiting the independence of the individual parties. A distinction must be drawn between independence on questions of strategy and tactics in correlation with the specific conditions in each country, and ideological and theoretical independence i.e. independence from Marxism-Leninism. We must be aware of the fact that

no model can simply be transplanted into varying conditions and that differing methods of struggle and of building socialism must be used based on the specific conditions of each country. Each party must have the independence to carry out this work and assess what is to be done in their country. As such we must be sensitive to real concerns about the independence of parties. At the same time we must be aware of the fact that there may be opportunists and revisionists in our ranks who fear communist unity because they seek to preserve and expand the influence of their anti-Marxist-Leninist theories and ideologies within their own party and the movement as a whole. Such “comrades” fear unity because they know their real agenda will be revealed and defeated as a result.

III. Workers of the World Unite! - The Distinct Role of the Communist Movement in the Struggle Against Imperialism

In the recent years we have seen an increase in protest and resistance around such questions as joblessness, globalization, and especially war and occupation as well as, in some instances, political rights and civil liberties, and the environment. This increase can be seen in larger turnouts to demonstrations, in increased militancy, and in increased organization and in some cases even international co-operation. Growth in these areas is interconnected with growth in the mass movements.

Imperialism has failed in strangling and eliminating the resistance of the working class and the people. However, these movements still lack cohesion. They are often held in check by the forces of social democracy so that they will remain protest movement alone instead of part of a

movement for real fundamental change. Our task is to bring class consciousness to these movements, to unite them and lead them down the revolutionary path.

The building of communist unity, of a “communist pole” as some parties have called it, and eventually of a Communist International will naturally boost the various anti-imperialist movements around the world. We should continue to promote the idea of:

“the building of an international democratic and anti-imperialist front, bringing together the

democratic, working class and progressive forces around the world to confront the unfettered power of international finance capital.” — *Athens Meeting 8-10 October 2004, Contribution of CP of Canada*

In doing so we must assess how to most successfully achieve such a goal while building our party. We must obtain focus on key areas of work, giving the most energy to the labour movement and those movements which come into most direct conflict with the interests of capital.

Such tasks will be impossible without the distinct presence of the

communist movement in such movements. We must actively seek not only to recruit from such work but to increase class consciousness, bring about support for the communist viewpoint and win, by our actions, the leading role in the struggle against capitalism. This will mean ideologically defeating the forces of social democracy which have largely seized control of the mass movements. The consolidation of communist unity can create the basis for the formation of the kind of broad anti-imperialist front we speak of and bring us closer towards our socialist future. ■

Making Contributions to the *Discussion Bulletin*

The Communist Party of Canada is engaged in a 3-month period of oral and written party-wide discussion leading up to the convening of the 35th Central Convention, which is the highest decision-making body of our Party. All documents and resolutions coming up for consideration at the Convention should receive the widest attention and debate throughout the Party. Discussion and debate involving all Party members, as well as efforts to solicit the views and contributions of our friends and supporters, will deepen and enrich our preparations for a successful Central Convention.

It is the democratic right and political responsibility of members to participate in these discussions. The debate will continue in clubs, in this Bulletin, at provincial, regional and Quebec National committee meetings and conventions, and at the Central Convention itself. The Central Executive Committee will also arrange on-line moderated discussions, to allow for greater participation by members in areas

where there are no Party clubs.

This Bulletin includes the Main Political Resolution drafted by the Central Committee for party-wide consideration, including sections dealing with:

- The International Situation and the Fight for Peace
- The Situation in Canada and the Fightback; and
- Moving Into Action: the Party of Peace, Democracy and Socialism.

All members are encouraged to make submissions to the Discussion Bulletin. Submissions can be on topics relating to the political analysis and assessments contained in the draft Political Resolution, issues concerning Party organization, policy, program, tactics, leadership, and so on. Amendments to the Draft Resolution, and other special resolutions and motions proposed by Party Clubs and/or other Party bodies will also be published.

Get your submissions in early! This will raise key issues for discussion right away for the whole membership, so avoid the temptation to wait while others start writing.

Printed copies of the Bulletin will be distributed to all members. Electronic versions of the Bulletin will also be circulated in PDF format, and posted on the Party website, www.communist-party.ca.

Submissions should be sent to the Editor of the Discussion Bulletin, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1, or emailed to cpc35@telus.net.

As stated in the Call, contributions should be limited to 1,500 words, and there is a limit of one contribution per club or individual in each issue of the Bulletin.

Please note that the final deadline for receiving amendments to the Draft Political Resolution is Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 6 pm (Pacific Standard Time).

For help in sending your submissions, please contact the Central office (416-469-2446), the National Committee of the Parti communiste du Quebec, or one of the provincial party offices. The Editor of the Discussion Bulletin can be contacted at 604-255-2041.

Look forward, not backward or inward

By Kimball Cariou, Vancouver East Club

The last several years have been a bit of a roller-coaster ride for our Party. Gains and losses have been recorded across the country, without overall net growth.

We do have much to be proud of since the last central convention: our contributions in the anti-war and international solidarity movements, participation in struggles to win public support for the Six Nations land reclamation, court victories over undemocratic electoral laws, the re-emergence of the YCL, the publication of our first Labour Programme in many years, our efforts to fight Anglo chauvinism and to defend the national rights of the Aboriginal peoples and Quebec, and the role of Communists in the movements to defend Medicare and public education.

Not least, we have upheld our revolutionary vision at a time when socialist ideas are again seizing the imagination of millions thanks to the upsurge in Latin America. But we also know that without a much larger Communist Party and YCL, this vision will not become a powerful force within the working class movement. Nor do we have the luxury of centuries to defeat imperialism and build a society free from exploitation and oppression. The evidence of impending environmental collapse means that we may not even have decades to achieve this goal.

This is why Para. 6 of our Draft Resolution is so critical: “In order to achieve these aims and fulfill its historic responsibility, the Party must itself grow and develop in a qualitative way, asserting its role as the revolutionary party of the Canadian work-

ing class. It must commit itself to overcoming weaknesses, to strengthening its discipline and collectivity, and to reasserting its Marxist-Leninist character in both theory and in practice.”

Unfortunately, the past couple of years have seen certain other tendencies emerge. Perhaps the daunting gap between our present capabilities and the huge task before us has increased the temptation to find “easier” strategies. Sometimes these would weaken rather than strengthen our revolutionary character.

One example came in Québec, where the former PCQ leader, Andre Parizeau, began to recruit new members who were advocates of Québec independence rather than supporters of our Program’s call for a new and equal relationship among the nations within the Canadian state. Parizeau said he hoped to quickly build a much larger party with stronger influence in the progressive movements; he succeeded only in dividing the PCQ and temporarily weakening the united struggle of the working class for liberation.

There have been other diversions, such as the bitter debate on our listserv over Stalin’s role in the building of socialism. As a number of comrades pointed out, our Party has made overall assessments which are a matter of record, and our historic position has not changed. Our collective analysis is similar to that of comrade Fidel Castro, who was quoted extensively from a 1992 interview in which he pointed out that Stalin had committed grave errors and crimes, while also making some important contributions to defence of the Soviet Union, and that it would be simplistic to blame one man for ei-

ther the successes or failures of the USSR.

We might also recall the words of our own comrade Norman Bethune, following his 1935 trip to the USSR: “Creation is not and never has been a genteel gesture. It is rude, violent and revolutionary. But to those courageous hearts who believe in the unlimited future of man... Russia presents today the most exciting spectacle of the revolutionary, emergent and heroic spirit of man which has appeared on this earth since the Reformation. To deny this is to deny our faith in man - and that is the unforgiveable sin...”

During the Comparty discussion, some comrades (forgive me if I over-simplify) advocated “clearing our name” in the eyes of working people by emphasising criticism of socialism’s flawed record, rather than the historic achievements of workers in the socialist countries. Other interventions tended to reject as opportunist any criticism of the historic record of the Communist parties in building socialism.

Both tendencies reflect wrong estimations of the nature of the class struggle and our goals in this period of history. In my view, those who want to “prove” our democratic credentials by distancing ourselves from the experience of socialism underestimate the ability of workers to grasp the complexity of the struggle against imperialism. For example, the call to retroactively condemn the Berlin Wall as “undemocratic” in effect means that socialism should have surrendered post-war Germany to imperialism rather than take action to prevent destabilisation of the GDR. Similarly, joining the critics who condemned Cuba for the execution of

terrorist hijackers would objectively push us in the direction of those who aim to use “human rights” as ideological cover for the destruction of socialism.

On the other hand, some implied that those who agree that serious crimes were committed during the building of socialism are yielding to bourgeois ideology. What then to make of comrade Castro’s view that among Stalin’s many mistakes was “falling in the trap of German intrigue and conducting a terrible, bloody purge of the armed forces and practically beheading the Soviet Army on the eve of war.” Our own Program, without going into extensive details, makes it clear that difficult historic conditions did not justify “the serious violations of socialist legality, purges, and serious crimes against innocent people.”

These opposing arguments share a tendency to avoid the burning question of how to win support for radical transformation of society in today’s context. Frankly, most progressive-minded workers and young people are much less interested in re-dissecting the experience of the USSR than in the hard struggle to roll back the capitalist attack on the working class, defeat the warmongers, and save the global environment.

Fortunately, the conditions are maturing for a major step forward for our Party. The mid-term elections in the U.S. and the inability of the Harper Tories to win wider public support are signals that the political winds are shifting. The post-9/11 setbacks are being replaced by a sense of the need for urgent action on social and environmental problems.

At this moment, instead of looking inward and backwards, we need to be much bolder in strengthening our unique Communist approach and policies and presenting

them to the peoples of Canada.

Regarding the deepening environmental crisis, ours is the only party which goes beyond specific reforms, to advocate replacing the destructive system of global corporate rule with social ownership and planned policies to reverse climate change and the loss of biodiversity. In contrast to the market-oriented environmental platform

of the Green Party, ours is a view which wins an enthusiastic response from left-minded working people.

On war and peace, the Communist Party is deeply involved in the powerful mass movement to block the imperialist threat and reverse the arms race, freeing up vast resources for human needs and restoration of the natural environment.

Proposed Amendments to the Main Political Resolution

Submitted by the Vancouver East Club CPC

In Paragraph 10, add the words in bold lettering:

10) This deepening systemic crisis not only foreshadows more wars, more oppression, more poverty and misery for the mass of humanity. It also takes place in the context of an intensifying environment crisis that becomes over more critical and urgent. Soil depletion and desertification, over-harvesting, and toxic dumping on land and in our rivers, oceans and our atmosphere are degrading the biosphere as never before. **Alarming new reports indicate that corporate technologies designed to maximize fish catches will almost completely eliminate most ocean species within some forty years. Shortages of drinking and irrigation water are fuelling new armed conflicts.** The most serious threat of all is global warming. Scientists now project that average temperatures may soon reach an average not seen for the past million years, resulting in rising ocean levels and catastrophic climate changes. In the face of impending disaster, imperialism continues its wars and occupations, largely with the aim

of controlling vital energy resources, even though the emission of hydrocarbons is the key human factor in global warming.

In Paragraph 16: add the words in bold lettering.

16) The stunning defeat of Israel’s brutal bombardment and invasion of Lebanon is the most recent example of the deepening crisis in the imperialist agenda for world domination. Israel’s horrific military onslaught, undertaken with the full support and encouragement of US imperialism **and the Harper Tory government**, resulted in the catastrophic destruction of much of Lebanon’s infrastructure. It killed some 1200 innocent civilians and drove million from their homes. But the Lebanese national resistance held firm, dealing both a military and moral defeat to the Zionist Israeli aggressors. In the process, it also set back US imperialism’s plans to provoke war with Iran and possibly Syria - the next step in an overall strategy to impose a “new Middle East” which would secure US domination over this region and its vital oil resources.

On the issues of democracy, human rights, gender and sexual equality, etc., the Communist Party has far-reaching proposals to ensure meaningful participation of the working class and oppressed peoples of Canada in determining our country's future.

Our Party has a keen analysis of the growing class polarization, the sharp attacks on the working class and social equity, and the sellout of Canadian sovereignty. We have strategies and tactics which can help to unite working people in greater organized resistance against the corporate attack.

These tremendous advantages must be used to achieve the key objectives set out in the Draft Resolution: defeat the Harper Tories; end

Canada's occupation of Afghanistan; prevent complete subordination to US imperialism; defend the national rights of Aboriginal peoples and Québec; and block and reverse privatization of public programs and services.

We need to concentrate over the next three years on the painstaking task of reaching out to revolutionary-minded activists. Sitting back and waiting for people to respond to our efforts is not enough. Instead, we must consciously urge them to take part in our activities, to join the Party and the YCL, to subscribe to our press. Our approach must be that we have much to offer those who are looking for serious alternatives to capitalism - and that they can play a crucial role in strengthening our Party.

We face a critical choice at the 35th Convention. One option is to devote time and energy debating whether to endlessly apologize for mistakes and crimes committed in some socialist countries in the past - or to denying that such things ever happened. Another is to bring our communist qualities more effectively into the fight for the interests of the working class and the future of our planet today.

I urge delegates to unite around a positive, forward-looking plan to combine our mass political objectives with (to quote the Resolution) "efforts to build a larger, stronger and more influential Party, press and YCL, especially among workers, Aboriginal peoples, youth and students, women, and immigrant communities." ■

The Practical and Political Value of Irreconcilable Theoretical Polemics

By Sean Currie, Edmonton Club

"The fight for the Party was seen mainly as a fight for members. Certainly we failed to emphasize, or even to give formal recognition to, the fact that the vital element in the 'fight for the party' is the uninterrupted and undeviating struggle to strengthen and temper its revolutionary soul: Marxism-Leninism." - Tim Buck, Lenin and Canada (p. 35)

Buck describes the initial struggle at the February 1922 founding convention of the Party as one of "organization", of a struggle with "left communists". Today left "revolutionary" and right reactionary forces attempt to lead Canadian workers in an endless circle of political deception, manipulation and confusion. Communists must advance an innovative economic program of socialist construc-

tion for Canada!

The 35th Central Convention of the Communist Party of Canada is called at time when Canadian workers are locked in openly aggressive confrontation for control, distribution and management of all social wealth with the most reactionary and parasitical sections of the Canadian ruling class.

Faced with rapid erosions of working conditions and intensifications in labour extraction, Canadian workers are struggling to find alternatives to the crisis-ridden system of capitalism. Callous statements berating the "unproductive" capacity of Canadian workers by finance and industrial capitalists are used to discourage workers from fighting for wage increases and national development. Workers are under attack! Workers need Socialism!

The Polemic

The struggle for reforms is always a class struggle. Advancing a broad economic program of national industrial development, nationalization of major industry and greater labour power surfaces class contradictions, enemies and parasites of workers. It leads to the discussion of socialism on the national stage.

Confrontation with the ruling class, and their bourgeois apologists, engages and trains workers in class politics. A struggle for working class reforms is always uneven, requires tactics for the political and economic realities at hand and demands a leading vanguard - the Communist Party of Canada. The primary task of which is to hasten working class political and state power, leading to the total destruction of private ownership of

the means of production.

Political understanding and class identification of Canadian Workers is developing in openly hostile atmospheres of economic harassment. With state support, finance capital, war profiteers and Big Oil have pursued a relentless assault on Canadian Workers' ideological class-consciousness. Workers are nevertheless advancing politically in a caustic environment of bourgeois ideas. The Trotskyites, anarchists, "Marxists" and other "New Left" forms, are successfully operating in the absence of a popular revolutionary socialist vision for Canada. These anti-communist forces spit and spew that socialism cannot work that it is a "failed ideology" or some more "democratic" form of "new socialism" will emerge free of the "structural distortions" that lead to the collapse of the "old socialism" - we suspect in regards to the "failed Soviet Socialism".

This polemic removes the revolutionary potential and struggle by labour, for the overthrow, defeat and total suppression capitalist bosses and relations, and reduces it to an endless discussion of inching our way by degrees, towards a more humane socialism. Workers need Socialism now!

Ideological Facelessness, Organizational Confusion and Practical Work of Limited Forces

The Draft Resolution identifies, "The most urgent challenge facing our Party today is to help mobilize and strengthen resistance on the broadest possible basis, and to work consistently and tirelessly to help forge it into a united, combative movement of labour and other mass democratic forces capable of confronting and defeating the current offensive of the ruling class and its gov-

ernments, beginning with the defeat of the Harper Conservative government in Ottawa."

The resolution places squarely in front of the membership the critical question; what role should the Party play in the current conditions within peace, labour and economic politics? The resolution does not call for socialism in Canada or the suppression of monopoly capital through achievement of state power by workers.

Canadian politics are determined by contradictions within Canadian and international capital relations, the expanding and sharpening inter-imperialist rivalries and the relationship between labour and capital within the re-division of the world between imperial powers.

"Left" think tanks and "progressive" journalists are leading the exposure of the deepening capitalist crisis in Canada and its relationship to the global crisis and hegemony of imperialism. CCPA Monitor, The Parkland Institute, Canadian Dimensions and others all admonish the evils of capitalism; none call for the abolishment of capitalism and replacing it with a workers state. None are communists!

The "New Left", The Old Right

Currently there is an explosion of "exposure politics" by sections of the "New Left". This is a new and profitable business for the "liberal" class. Typically this material is characterised by fervent anti-communism. Lenin wrote "... the new 'critical' trend in Socialism is nothing more nor less than a new variety of *opportunism*." V.I. Lenin - (What Is To Be Done, p. 14). There is a drive to confuse the left.

Anti-Communism is still the rule of the day. Noam Chomsky, the

"poster boy" and high priest for the new left, is an Anarchist and ardent anti-communist. Chomsky states, "*At the same time, 'factionalism' - i.e., any modicum of free expression and organization - was destroyed in the interests of socialism, as the term was redefined for their purposes by Lenin and Trotsky, who proceeded to create the basic proto-fascist structures converted by Stalin into one of the horrors of the modern age.*" - Noam Chomsky, (The Soviet Union Versus Socialism, Our Generation, Spring/Summer 1986)

The International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties held in Lisbon on November 11-12, 2006 addressed urgent issues facing the international working class. The meeting was historic and identified the sharpening and contradictory nature of inter-imperialist rivalries as the basis for openly hostile growth of anti-communism and the rise of fascism. The conference warned of the growing danger of right reactionary agitation and the expansion of NATO.

"But unless there is a strong and distinct [my italics] communist movement capable of leading a strategic counter-attack, the emerging popular movements and radical forces will be more vulnerable to confusion, disorientation and assimilation. This is why we believe in the vital importance of the ideological counter-attack by Communist Parties who believe in the necessity and realism of the struggle to overthrow the capitalist system." - A. Pappariga, General Secretary of the CC of KKE, International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties, November, 2006.

The conference called for an international campaign against anti-communist ideological theories by celebrating and publicizing the historic significance, victories and con-

tribution to the international working class by the Soviet Union on the 90th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. To Lenin and the 1st Workers State!

Confusion in Labour Development

Comrade Figueroa said, “...it would be a fatal error for the communists to concede any ideological ground to the pessimistic arguments and defeatist conclusions of this reformist ‘school’ of analysis - arguments and conclusions rooted in an exaggerated assessment of the power of finance capital, and a gross underestimation of, and disdain for the capacity of the working class...” - International Ideological Seminar, Caracas, July 2006

Organized labour is fundamentally bourgeois economic organization of workers in reform of working conditions. The “break” with Canada’s bourgeois labour party (the NDP) by the Hargrove forces in the last federal election was a correct assessment of the political forces at the time, correct identification of the main danger (the Harper Conservatives) facing the membership of the CAW and Canadian Workers and a forward step in more independent political activity of

labour. The membership of the CAW strongly endorsed this approach. This illustrated the power and capacity of the labour movement for independent action, even if it was “misguided”.

The draft resolution on several occasions makes reference to “mass democratic organizations” without ever defining what or who these organizations are and what political line is to be carried by party cadre. One brief example of the “confusion” is in paragraph 95 where one of the “most important political objectives” is stated as, “prevent Canada’s complete [my italics] subordination to US imperialism and to defend our sovereignty.” Are we as Communists to develop political positions for the acceptance of partial subordination? And within incomplete and partial elimination of US subordination and control of Canadian capital how are we to exercise our sovereignty?

Calls for broad political action are urgent and absolutely necessary for defeat of the Harper Conservatives. How does the Party work within peoples’ organizations and where does the Party concentrate its work? Subordination of Party work and development of Marxism-Leninism to faceless work in “mass democratic organizations” and with-

out agitating for the broadest possible support and leadership of Party work in the struggle for workers state power, itself raises the question - what is the relevance then of the Communist Part of Canada?

Practical Tasks of Limited Resources

Anti-communism is on the rise, bourgeois propaganda is in deep crisis, while labour is moving towards more independent political positions. Theoretical work must keep pace with the working class.

Commentary on the political “state of the union” cannot be substituted for a serious working class program of economic development for Canada. Internet politics and email committees will never take the place of a clearly articulated and publicly stated socialist vision of Canada. Put Corporate Power Under Control!

Strengthening Canadian Workers and Party cadre to a deeper Leninist understanding of the role of the CPC and the path to socialism is achieved through the development of a broad national agenda of peace, nationalization of industry and labour policy - For a program of socialist development in Canada! ■

Education is a top priority

By Zella Taylor, Prince George, BC

The Draft Resolution for the 35th Convention of the CPC reports on plans for the expansion and improvement of the work of the Education Commission in instructing party members in the understanding of Marxism-Leninism. This must be a top priority as there is nothing more important than that we fully understand what we are working to achieve.

Marxism is a scientific plan, a “blueprint” for a better society. A wise and dedicated leadership can establish a Socialist movement or even a Socialist state, but neither can survive without ongoing, intelligent support and guidance from the grassroots up.

Mistakes can be made even by leaders. Corruption can creep in wherever there is power. It is an almost universal human failing and

must be guarded against always.

Perhaps it was the undereducation of the masses or even of the party members of the Soviet Union that contributed to its collapse. Whatever the causes of the worst disaster in the history of Socialism, they must not be ignored, but studied and fully understood. Otherwise what is there to prevent history being repeated with even more disastrous results? ■

Proposed amendments to the Draft Resolution, from the British Columbia Committee CPC

1) Following Paragraph 20:

Amendment to add this new paragraph, to follow current Paragraph 20:

There have been major political developments in India and Nepal since our last convention. In India, the secular and democratic forces succeeded in dealing an electoral defeat to the reactionary, communalist Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Communists and other Left forces made significant gains in parliament. However, India is also in the process of rapid capitalist growth, which is generating a sharper struggle over economic and social policies, and over the current government's shift towards better relations with U.S. imperialism. In Nepal, widespread strike actions and protests in Kathmandu and other cities, and the anti-feudal

armed struggle in the countryside, have forced the reactionary regime of King Gyanendra to restore parliamentary democracy. The stage is now set for a constituent assembly which can open the door to broader democratic and social reforms of a more fundamental character.

2) Paragraph 21: Proposed amendment to the final sentence, to read as follows:

“Similarly, the recent electoral victories of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua and Rafael Correa in Ecuador seem to be promising for the poor and oppressed of that country. Left forces in Mexico, El Salvador and a number of other South American countries are also making significant gains.”

3) Paragraph 24: Proposed amend-

ment to the 4th sentence of the paragraph, to delete the phrase “on destroying the Cuban Revolution” and replace with the words **in bold:**

“... That is why the U.S. Administration and the ruling class interests it represents are so intent on ~~destroying the Cuban Revolution~~ **implementing the so-called 'Bush Plan' in order to destroy the Cuban Revolution. This Plan sanctions the U.S. government financing of groups and individuals for the purposes of overthrowing the legitimate government of Cuba.**”

4) Paragraph 95: amendment to change the phrase which currently reads “end Canada's occupation of Afghanistan,” to read:

“End Canada's involvement in the military occupation of Afghanistan.”

Some comments on the main political resolution

By Romeo Platschick, Jacob Penner-Norman Bethune Club, Winnipeg

The main resolution's political and ideological analysis of the present national and international situation aims to advance the Party's socialist

oriented program in Canada.

The question arises, how to implement the party program by each party member, to adopt a scientific world outlook, achieve greater ability by practical participation in mass organizations where ever possible, and be accepted by the working class

as one of their own to help to build the CPC?

The struggle for peace - against war and aggression by U.S.-NATO-Israel imperialism - requires all-out unity of communist and worker parties world-wide, to help humanity to advance towards scientific socialism. ■