

# Yes, We Have Global Warming

*By Ed Bil, Toronto*

Twenty thousand years ago most of Canada was covered in ice, as was much of the Northern Hemisphere. Today, scientists tell us the earth's atmosphere, oceans and land are warming up.

What accounts for this change in the environment? Are these claims true? Are these phenomena natural or are we humans contributing to the global warming? If so, can we prevent the predicted catastrophes of global warming?

Before the year 2000, Dr. Jerry Mahlman, now a senior researcher at the U.S. National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, studied how the earth's troposphere and stratosphere work, and developed models showing how natural force and chemicals interact in the atmosphere. These consistently showed that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions are likely to heat up the air, water and land.

It should be noted that the earth's atmosphere is naturally composed of various gases, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane. These absorb infrared radiation from the earth's surface and so contribute to the "greenhouse effect" which makes the planet around 30 degrees C warmer than it would otherwise be. It's the increase of these gases to the natural amount which further increases the global temperature, resulting in what is called "global warming."

Today, statistics indicate that the earth's temperature has risen; the question being, will it get worse, and are we humans a contributing factor? Recent evidence suggests that concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> started to rise about 8000 years ago with human agricultural activities. Rice paddies flooded by irrigation and animal husbandry generate greenhouse gases such as methane; deforestation increases CO<sub>2</sub> from burned or rotting trees, as does burning grasslands. Long before the industrial revolution, Europe and southern Asia had been heavily deforested contributing to the CO<sub>2</sub> increase.

With the industrial revolution, coal burning factories, power plants and the more recent advent of motor vehicles have all added more CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

Unquestionably humans have contributed to global warming, but are not the sole factor. Natural phenomena also cause global warming and cooling.

According to scientists, various natural cycles of the earth's orbit around the sun account for variations in the amount of sunlight received in the northern hemisphere. In the past million years, these variations have contributed to the ups and downs in atmosphere temperatures and concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, producing long sequences of ice ages separated by shorter warm inter-glacial periods. Recent climate model projec-

tions by the University of Wisconsin-Madison state: "current temperatures would be well on the way toward typical (lower) glacial temperatures had it not been for the greenhouse gas contributions from early farm practices and later industrialization". Current data confirm the earth has been warming up considerably instead of cooling.

These higher temperatures have raised considerable controversy. On April 15/06 sixty scientists (19 Canadian and 41 international) wrote to P.M. Harper to revisit the science of global warming, as no formal independent climate science review has been conducted in Canada. This letter amounts to denial of climate change and is suspect considering the back-

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ground of some of the signatories. For example: Dr. Sallie Baliunas is listed as an astrophysicist and a climate researcher in Boston, Mass., USA. She is also a senior scientist at the George C. Marshall Institute, which received \$310,000 from Exxon Mobil.

Another signatory is Canadian Tim Ball, a former professor of climatology at the University of Winnipeg and an environmental consultant. His views are supported by the National Center for Public Policy (which has received \$225,000 from Exxon Mobil) and he has given briefings to organizations such as the Fraser Institute. Ball and Baliunas were both a conference in Ottawa in Nov. 2002 just before our Parliament ratified the Kyoto Protocol. This conference paid for by Imperial Oil (the Canadian subsidiary of Exxon Mobil) and Talisman Energy, was promoted by P.R. firm APCO Worldwide, urged the Canadian government not to proceed with the ratification. APCO's specialty is supporting scientists financed by industries to challenge established scientific thinking. It also organized the Advancement of Sound Science Coalition which funded the Philip Morris Co. in the anti-smoking debate and currently was assigned a lead role in opposing "Kyoto".

In Feb. 2004 the (US) Union of Concerned Scientists issued a statement by over 10,000 leading US scientists, calling for the restoration of scientific integrity to US federal policy making. Signatures included 52 Nobel Laureates, 63 National Medal of Science recipients and about 200 members of the National Academies of Science. The scientists also released an "A to Z" guide that documents dozens of recent allegations of censorship and political interference in science.

In response to the anti-Kyoto letter of April 11th, 2006, ninety climate

science leaders from academic, public and private sectors across Canada wrote to P.M. Harper indicating the evidence is conclusive that global warming has occurred and most of it is attributable to human activity.

What are the consequences of global warming? According to James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, in New York in Sept 2006 stated that the earth has been warming at the rate of 0.2 degrees C per decade for the past 30 years is the warmest in the current inter-glacial period which began about 12,000 years ago. The warming has been stronger in far north, where melting ice and snow exposes darker land and rocks resulting in more absorption of the sun's heat. The 0.2 C degrees may appear minor, but scientific analysis has shown that very profound changes will result from this steady rise in temperature.

Environment Canada has projected global trends to the year 2100; if model projections are correct, the annual mean temperature in Canada could increase between 5 to 10 degrees C over the next century.

Rising average temperatures do not simply mean balmy winters. Some regions will experience more extreme heat, while others may cool slightly. Flooding, drought and intense heat could result. Violent storms and other extreme weather events could result from the increased energy stored in our warming atmosphere".

More specifically, "climate change will seriously affect water resources around the world, which will in turn affect food supply, industry, transportation and ecosystem integrity, the health of future generations through increased disease, fresh water shortages, worsened smog etc. Predictions also indicate major changes in the ice coverage in the northern hemisphere decreasing by 40% by 2050 and vir-

tually disappearing by 2100. Land-based ice sheets near the poles also appear to be vulnerable. Their collapse could cause the sea level to rise many meters in a matter of centuries, disrupting human habitats and ecological systems".

"Weather related disasters are increasing at an enormous rate. From the 1950's to the 1990's, the number of catastrophes world-wide increased fourfold, while economic losses, after adjusting for inflation, increased by an astonishing factor of 14. In Canada the rise in disaster losses mirrors the global trend, far outstripping the growth in the G.D.P. The amount lost in 1998 alone is more than the preceding five year period (due in large part to the expense of the ice storm)."

The recent British report "The Economics of Climate Change" says that if no action is taken, 200 million people could be displaced by the middle of the century; and that unabated climate change would eventually cost the world the equivalent of between 5 to 20 per cent of the global gross domestic product each year.

Can we do anything about the global warming? The Union of Concerned Scientists have stated that "we have the technology and ingenuity to reduce the threat of global warming today. Solutions are already available that will stimulate the (American) economy by creating jobs, saving consumers money ... by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency ... including the vehicles we drive, by taking essential steps towards reducing our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels that cause global warming". The British report also tries to persuade the world that environmentalism and economic growth can go hand in hand in the battle against global warming.

The world's 10 warmest years have occurred since 1994 in a temperature

record dating back to 1850, according to the United Nations weather agency, and there is no sign that the greenhouse gases are starting to level off. Under the Kyoto accord, which took effect in 2005, 141 countries have committed to reducing emissions averaging 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. The U.S., China and India did not sign. Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol, but since then both Liberal and the present Conservative government have been negligent; the Liberals dragging their feet in implementation and the Conservatives backing out of the Kyoto commitment with its inadequate Clean Air Act.

With their new leader S. Dion, the Liberals intend to make global warming a priority, which prompted the Conservative government to change tactics on this issue. One can bet that with the oil industry “calling the

shots”, the Conservatives will come up with a questionable program to fight global warming.

In his Jan 16/07 speech to the Toronto Board of Trade and The Economic Club of Toronto, Liberal leader Dion, if he becomes Prime Minister said: “Yes, Canada will cut megatonnes of emissions, but we will also make megatonnes of money” One can only wonder at what expense to workers in the various industries.

What is needed is leadership. Leadership not subservient to big business, but carrying out the wishes of most of the citizens who want strong action taken in carrying out our commitment to Kyoto. In the Environics poll of Nov 9/06, Canadians indicated that health care was most important followed by environmental issues including global warming, and that 71% felt that the current (Conservative)

government was not tough enough on the environment. This is an indication our citizens are in favour of collective action benefitting people rather than profit-hungry corporations.

The Kyoto issue in Canada epitomises the basic contradiction of “capital” (i.e. bourgeois ruling class) and “labour (i.e. working class). We should highlight this example of the class division and its consequence to the electorate, especially to the working-class; and that the democratic solution on this and many other issues is the will of working people who compose the overwhelming majority of the electorate.

As the CPC Program declares (in the last sentence of the section on the Environmental Crisis): “Humanity’s knowledge and energy must be used to safeguard the earth for future generations”.

## The Communist Party’s revolutionary perspective

*Darrell Rankin – Jacob Penner - Norman Bethune Club, Winnipeg*

Communists fight for the interests of workers, but we also have a dream. We have absolute confidence that capitalism will end, ushering in a socialist society where humanity’s most advanced thoughts of peace, equality and democracy will flourish and be fulfilled.

Capitalism’s nightmares will be left behind and humanity’s true history will begin. Only species-ending catastrophes such as nuclear war or environmental collapse stand in the way.

The Communist Party’s Leninist theory is that we are in the epoch of the transition from capitalism to socialism. That theory, already confirmed by the great socialist revolutions of the last century, is about to be proven again.

Considering the depth of capitalism’s crisis of capitalism and the

growing maturity and weight of the international working class, the next revolutionary impulses will probably be much larger and longer lasting.

The crisis permeates all aspects of life and calls forth increasing demands for social change (by both capitalists and workers), peace, the defence of Canadian sovereignty, and putting people and nature before profit.

Capitalism has brought humanity to the edge of catastrophe. As revolutionaries, we know that capitalism in its dying, imperialist stage will destroy much before it is overthrown. It is clear that one of our main tasks internationally must be to suppress the “death throes” of capitalism.

\* \* \* \*

Following the 1930’s Great Depression, the Second World War and the birth of new socialist societies, world capitalism entered a period of relative stabilization – experienced

mainly in the handful of advanced imperialist countries.

Led by the United States and using promises, bribes and brutal military force, imperialism struggled to continue its domination over the majority of humanity. Socialism was still on the upswing, forcing imperialism to concede formal control over its colonial possessions.

Global capitalism’s relative stability began to end by the late 1960’s. Among other setbacks, imperialist countries began to suffer more acute economic crises. Marxists explained that capitalism’s general crisis was becoming more profound, impoverishing billions of people and igniting stronger resistance worldwide. A temporarily shaken imperialism entered into a truce with socialist countries, a period of “détente.”

Imperialism counter-attacked in the late 1970’s with reactionary neo-liberal measures and a dangerous nuclear arms

build-up. Using crude pro-corporate and anti-Soviet ideological propaganda, imperialism imposed or provoked huge losses on the working class, including the very serious blow to socialism a decade later. The ruling communist parties in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe bear a large responsibility for deepening the setback, including serious errors in the ideological struggle for socialism.

The setbacks to socialism strengthened imperialism's arrogant offensive and forced the international working class and communist movements into a great retreat. Some triumphant bourgeois ideologists declared that humanity was at the "end of history." However, capitalism's general crisis continued to worsen, producing impasses, stagnation and new kinds of crises.

As the 1990s unfolded, it became increasingly clear to the masses of people that capitalism would not allow itself to be questioned, challenged or genuinely reformed. Imperialism's "New World Order" took on a different, reactionary meaning for millions of people even in imperialist countries, sparking renewed resistance.

Imperialism's War on Terror is clearly a reaction to the resistance of people globally to the New World Order. More and more imperialism is pursuing its political aims by non-peaceful means. The prime task of communists and all peace-loving people is to build an effective, massive global anti-war movement to block imperialism's growing military threat.

\* \* \* \*

Despite the CPC's failure in the 1980s to anticipate the setbacks and despite growing reactionary measures by imperialism, our Party weathered the worsening storm relatively well. Since our serious crisis in 1990-1992, we grew in size and our membership has become younger.

We built the *People's Voice* into a fighting, socialist newspaper, carried out several independent campaigns, approved a solid, new program, re-

established the Party in Quebec and our ties with communist parties internationally, re-registered under the *Canada Elections Act* by running 50 candidates, and fought a successful court challenge to overturn reactionary parts of the *Act*.

We are continuing to re-connect with Labour and other people's movements and have played a positive role in crucial struggles. Our success can be measured by vilification in the bourgeois press, such as during Ontario's Days of Action and the 2003 anti-war mobilizations on the eve of the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

One of the most important efforts we have made is helping to re-establish the YCL, which will be very important in strengthening the broader revolutionary youth movement. Equipped with a comprehensive and thoroughly democratic immediate program, the Communist Party is making relatively significant re-connections and recruitment among Aboriginal peoples and in immigrant communities.

All these are important areas for Party recruitment identified at our last convention.

\* \* \* \*

The Communist Party had to retreat after the setbacks to socialism and since then we have renewed the Party in many ways; but we have never retreated in one sense. We have never lost our revolutionary perspective. We all need to dedicate ourselves to continue the process of Party renewal on a Leninist basis.

As prospects and the need for change grow ever more prominent, the need for the revolutionary perspective of the Communist Party is becoming ever more apparent. Equally, the situation demands more that the Communist Party be ideologically and politically united.

The main draft political document recognizes this reality. In the last three years, we have gone through some serious ideological difficulties that caused us harm, especially in Quebec. The potential for damage in other parts

of the Party was also high, but it seems to have been averted.

We need to take our Party's message to the broad masses of people. But the main question from the experience in the last three years is how to consolidate the Party ideologically and politically. We need correct theory for correct practice. We need to oppose any bourgeois influences in our ranks – opportunism, sectarianism, racism, sexism, national chauvinism, a lack of justified self-criticism.

We need to carry out more thorough educational work on the program, political line and ideology of the Party. It will take a fair amount of work, but we do not need to repeat what Lenin called the "unprecedented torment and sacrifice" experienced by Russia's revolutionaries to arrive at the correct revolutionary theory.

The pre-convention discussion highlighted a number of issues, including: how to approach divisions in the ruling class (and how this relates to our electoral tactic), knowledge of our immediate People's Alternative policies, the role and place of the internet in Party building, and becoming better connected and helping to lead the fightback in critical areas.

We need to encourage greater involvement of comrades in mass and independent Party work. We need to foster better study and education. The importance of the fight we are in leaves no other option.

Most immediately, the unity of Labour and other people's movements is essential to mobilize people and defeat the dangerous forces behind the Conservative party.

We have much work to do to unite and strengthen the struggles we are in. We must be united to overcome all the obstacles. The Communist Party can and should play a crucial role in creating a united people's movement and winning working class unity.

Moving the Party into action around the main tasks identified in the political resolution is the next and perhaps most important measure of Party renewal. ■

# The Struggle to Articulate a People's Alternative

By Kathy Koulas, Toronto

How can anyone, no matter their political perspective not agree that we live in times of great upheaval and change with “unprecedented dangers” facing all humanity? How can it not be clear that inaction today on a number of social fronts, many interrelated will lead to catastrophic outcomes for us all? Even since the writing of the convention documents US Imperialism's threat to world peace has sharpened even more, the noose around the environment has tightened, as has been the trend for several decades the conditions of working people has declined at a rapid rate and poverty the world over is so devastating it is incomprehensible - yet in contradiction the capacity and ability for humanity to tackle and solve many of the planet's problems is within reach.

The documents illustrate clearly - the objective conditions internationally and certainly in Canada are more than conducive for a sharper and more militant class struggle. Yet this is not the case, at least not in Canada. This, then is our task at this convention and at every meeting we have hence, to consider and discuss, maybe not the fine detail of the documents, but the greater task - how to help bring to life the struggle befitting the current conditions - to place on the table at every opportunity we have the idea that now is the time for a People's Agenda, now is the time for the working class to raise up from its slumber, to lead the democratic struggle from the defensive to the offensive.

We need to be clear as never before that the struggle today cannot only be about a fightback. We must start engaging the notion that the struggle today is to articulate the Peo-

ple's Alternative Agenda (or whatever we want to call it) and for the working class and trade union movement to take the lead in shaping and uniting the forces for a People's Alternative Agenda - not only because as stated in the fightback section of the documents “its mass membership base, its organizational capacity and its resources, the union movement has a special responsibility to build the fightback and help bring all of the other democratic forces together in united action” but especially because of the central role and motivation the working class has as a force for revolutionary social change, regardless of its organizational state. This I think is the main weakness of the documents in that it is not stated sharply and obviously enough - that is, our day to day work, our struggle to defeat the conservatives at the next elections, our work in the trade unions, to safe guard social programs, to work in the peace and environmental movements and so on should be considered in the context of popularizing the notion of a People's Alternative Agenda. This should be the main emphasis of discussions at this convention.

Regarding conventions in general and their format - could a different dynamic element be brought to them if the format was modified somewhat? Could we consider a convention (maybe every second or third year) that is not focused on the very detailed work of amending etc. a main document, where discussion is rushed so that several amendments can be discussed, approved, referred, defended, defeated etc. - a process which often generates very lively debate indeed, but can be quite daunting as it motors along at lightening speed. Could we consider a convention that has a brief position pa-

per and a theme to be deliberated in workshops and plenary sessions with a more dynamic and interactive feel (maybe with invited guests) - example topics (in line with our programmatic strategies and tactics) “social change in this hemisphere - lessens and opportunities for social change, the democratic stage of the struggle in Canada, bringing to life a People's Alternative Agenda”. Or a mixed convention style could be useful as well. The main point is to try to change it up occasionally so that we spend more time on the general discussion of how to implement/bring to life our strategies and tactics and a little less time on the detailed work of discussing/amending a main document.

I did want to make a final comment about our Party. While we are a small Party, it would be dangerous for us to underestimate the power of our words and ideas. I believe that our documents and our paper are read by the leaders/members of many mass organizations (we know that the computer/internet age has helped in this regard). And while, bringing to life a more militant, focused movement for social change in Canada is not going to be up to us only, our ideas have a much greater reach than our small size might suggest. So let's not succumb to defeatism and dismay at what we can or cannot accomplish. We should be energized at the advances towards progress and social change in our hemisphere and know that once the struggle moves from the defensive to the offensive, the working class becomes engaged with growing consciousness of its role in that struggle, and we continue to lead with our ideas/actions illustrating the course and nature of that struggle - I am confident the Party's size and influence will grow. ■

# Proposed amendments to and comments on the Main Political Resolution

*Submitted by Parkdale Club, Toronto*

## *General comments:*

The language does not always reflect the reality of the party's current weak association with, and weak influence in, the mass movements which are active on anti-globalization, anti-poverty, oppressive "anti-terrorism" laws, women's issues, anti-racism, and police issues.

E.g. Para 2: "The task of the left forces and particularly the Communists is to help build these mass struggles and infuse them with revolutionary perspective and content, opening the door to the socialist alternative."

The Party cannot grow by setting itself unrealistic goals in every major document. We have had huge setbacks in the last 15 years. We must work in solidarity with people's struggles and over time will win trust and respect and then our voice will be heard.

Perhaps the formulation of the Main Political Resolution would be more efficiently and democratically accomplished if the first step was to start at the club level? A club survey would allow the clubs to define issues and questions they see as important and this could be part of the starting point for the CC.

## *Omissions*

We have not formulated amendments on the following topics but feel they should be included in the document.

1. the Maoist Party gains in Nepal,
2. the situation in Sri Lanka,

3. a proposal on an national energy policy including nationalization,

(4 and 5 are action oriented)

4. We should strengthen and utilize the relationship with fraternal parties, building links in order to inform ourselves regarding situations globally; in particular the Party should build links with the CPUSA and Communist parties in Mexico and the rest of Latin America to fight the attempt by capital to control the hemisphere. The CPC should organize public meetings with speakers from the international parties.

5. comrades active in the labour movement should initiate and support international union connections.

## *Amendments:*

**1. Paragraph 39:** after "over one million Canadians are officially counted as jobless" insert:

"Despite the claims of an economic boom in the mainstream media, even for workers finding jobs in Alberta in the oil industry there are social and economic costs. Faced with longstanding unemployment rates in the Maritimes, many have been forced

to migrate across the country to find work, leaving their homes and families behind. In Fort McMurray in northern Alberta many are housed in barracks and work in unsafe conditions. In Calgary migrating Canadians and other workers are housed in shelters due to an acute housing shortage."

**2. Paragraphs 74-81** on the labour movement, add a paragraph as follows and renumber as required:

"In addition to our continuing work in the unions which must still be regarded as a major instrument of class struggle and one of the forces with the power to bring about social revolution, we must extend our activity and support to the non-organized sectors of the working class. This includes joining the struggles of not only the non-unionized worker but also the unemployed and the marginalized homeless people. Some progressive unions (CUPE, CAW, CUPW) also support the principle of social unionism. The reality is that many people forced to the lowest social level by the capitalist system have a greater awareness of the necessity of change than the current reactionary leadership in most unions." ■

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# Proposed Amendments to the Main Political Resolution

*From J. Boyden, University of Toronto Club*

## 1) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 33, by adding to the end:

“Deep Integration, involving the ‘harmonization’ of US-Canadian policies and regulations (including foreign policy and ‘interoperability’ of Canadian and US forces), advanced with the March 2006 formation in Cancun of the North American Competitiveness Council, which formalizes the involvement of monopoly capital in Canada-US relations. A ‘North American energy strategy’ is being developed for Athabasca tar sands development, to fuel Fortress America. Another regional example is ‘Atlantica,’ an attack on the livelihoods and social policies of Maritimers that will scorch a de-unionized, privatized economic zone across the boarder, and allow cheap Asian goods coming via the an expanded Panama canal to be rapidly trucked from Halifax’s deep harbours into eastern US markets.”

## 2) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 38, lines 12-16, by deleting “ultra-right” and replacing it with “neo-conservative.”

## 3) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 38, line 7:

“Oppression of Aboriginal youth is especially nasty. Seventy percent of aboriginal students fail to graduate high school in Manitoba. Nunavut has the highest teen suicide rate in the country.”

## 4) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, second sentence of Paragraph 45, by adding the words highlighted in bold:

“Instead of creating jobs and training for youth, the Harper Tories are stepping up military recruitment drives, re-branding the Canadian military with **US-style Operation Connection**, seeking to turn young people into cannon fodder for imperialist wars and occupations (**convictions for going AWOL in the Canadian military also increased over 100% between 2001 and 2005**).”

## 5) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 46, by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with the following:

“The attack on public Health care, Canada’s largest federal transfer payment, is two-pronged aiming at public delivery as well as insurance (Medicare). Public pressure has won victories, stopping the two-tiering Copeman clinics in Ontario and halting the ‘Third Way’ in Alberta. But with numerous P3 privatization hospital projects in BC and Ontario, Bill-33 in Quebec (legalizing private insurance), the election of a two-tier advocate as head of the Canadian Medical Association, and the deliberate non-enforcement of the Canada

Health Act federally, Canada’s publicly delivered and funded, not-for-profit, single-tier Health care system is facing its most deadly threat ever.”

## 6) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 60, by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with the following:

“And while the Greens (like the NDP and BQ) are politically heterogeneous and some ‘red’ Greens are worthy of individual support, that party’s recent leadership is pushing towards ‘green neo-liberalism’, with leader Elizabeth May courting Conservative senators, commending Brian Mulroney’s green record, making public anti-choice statements on abortion, suggesting the Party’s platform be ‘costed by the CD Howe Institute or Fraser Institute,’ and entrenching their regressive approach to taxation.”

## 7) Proposal to amend the Main Political Resolution, Paragraph 132, by adding to the last sentence:

“including hiring a part-time or quarter-time staff person for YCL-LJC organizing and the production of Rebel Youth magazine.” ■

## Building Left-Centre Unity

**Amendment to the Draft Document of the 35th Convention, submitted by the Public Sector Workers’ Club (Toronto)**

*In Para. 73, after “mobilize its own ranks around a clear, militant plan of action”, add the following:*

A first step towards this mobilization is to build left-centre caucuses at all levels of the labour movement - within locals, labour councils, provincial federations, union centrals in Quebec, affiliates and the Canadian Labour Congress. These Action Caucuses should play a leading role in building local and regional caucuses that work at and between labour conventions to build support for a militant action plan for labour. Action Caucus organizing has the potential to bring a class analysis to many interested workers. ■

# Change the United Nations

*Submitted by Catherine Holliday,  
Parkdale Club, Toronto*

**In Paragraph 12: delete or edit to include:**

“We recognize the problematic origins of the UN in the League of Nations, an anti-soviet formation arising out of WW2 and specifically constituted to oppose the spread of global socialism. Recent manipulation of the UN decision-making and power by the powerful

capitalist nations in the `North` and `West` have demonstrated that the UN is controlled by the current power centres of capitalism. (e.g. UN actions in Haiti, Serbia, Iraq, Congo, Somalia). The capitalist Canadian state is part of this travesty of international cooperation. While recognizing these are long term goals attainable only with a predominance of socialist states globally, we call for; full membership and equal voice for all nations; abolition of the security council

and veto powers upholding of the sovereignty of nations by the UN; non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign nations: recognition of the sovereign rights of indigenous nations. We believe the power of the working class globally through its unions and other organizations can achieve implementation of these changes. The rising resistance to capitalism, now evident in the South and among indigenous people is raising the possibility of such demands becoming reality.” ■