

Socialist Worker

For Workers' Power and International Socialism

\$1

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**Quebec anti-
free trade
protests** *pages 8 & 9*

**Celebrate International Workers' Day
and Union Pride Week**



**REBUILD
FIGHTING
UNIONS**

● *See page 2 for more on May Day*

May 1st, International Workers' Day

Day of globalised resistance

by MICHELLE STELTER
& DAVID COLYER

MAY THE first 2001 will be the next global day of action against the domination of the corporate elite over our lives.

Anti-capitalists and other left wing activists the world over will take to the streets to voice their opposition to the environmental destruction and human rights violations that are at the heart of the

drive for greater profits by big business.

With the unfailing support of international leaders like George Bush and Tony Blair, the undemocratic institutions of global capitalism, such as the World Bank and World Trade Organisation, are leading the push for a globalised free market.

May Day is a chance for all people concerned about the impact of global capitalism's free-market agenda to have a collective voice.

Think globally act locally

IN AOTEAROA, workers know all too well the impact of free market reforms.

For the past 16 years we have seen commercialising/privatisation public services, attacks on wages and working conditions,

mass redundancies, chronic mass unemployment and many other horrible symptoms of the free market disease.

One of the most significant attacks was the Employment Contracts Act.

The new Employment Relations Act (ERA) is little better. In fact it increased the restrictions on workers freedom to strike—so we still have the harshest anti-strike laws in the Western world.

This means workers can't strike in support of political demands like paid parental leave

or four weeks paid holidays. Nor can we strike in solidarity with other workers, such as the South Island watersiders.

We need strong unions to fight for our rights. At the same time, winning increased rights, like the freedom to strike or 14 paid parental leave will strengthen our unions and give workers the confidence to fight on other issues.

That's why "Rebuild Fighting Unions" is *Socialist Worker's* message for May Day.

● **Join the Freedom to Strike Campaign. Contact Grant: phone (09) 634 3377 or email gcm@actrix.gen.nz**

Demands to rally around

MAY DAY is our chance to tell the Labour-Alliance government to stand up for the ordinary people who elected them, rather than pandering to the interests of big business.

Socialist Worker is raising five main demands for May Day demonstrations, under the heading of Re-build fighting unions:

- 14 Weeks paid parental leave, paid for by employers;
- The freedom to strike;
- Reinstate the Emergency Unemployment Benefit for all students; and
- "No Human Is Illegal", full amnesty for all overstayers and refugees. No deportations, no imprisonment;
- Support for the South Island watersiders fighting against casualisation

In Palmerston North the May Day 2001 Concert calling on unions to organise for:

- Secure employment;
- Better health & safety laws;
- Proper minimum code;
- Four weeks annual leave;
- 14 weeks paid parental leave;
- Pay equity/equal employment opportunities
- The "rate for the job" for young and old.

CTU says 'May the First be with you!'

HERE'S AN extract from a Council of Trade Unions' (CTU) May Day circular.

"This 1 May marks the start of the 'I'm Union' campaign. 'I'm Union' is a burst of union pride. The launch is the first nationally co-ordinated activity by Local Affiliates Councils since these bodies came into existence with the revised CTU constitution in 1999."

As well as the May Day events, Union Pride Week initiatives include:

- "I'm Union" stickers—in bright red of course—should be available from your union.
- The CTU has set up a new "0800 My Union" (0800 698 646) phone line you can call to find out about joining a union.
- "Red means go on May Day" the CTU is encouraging unionists to wear red on May Day.



MAY DAY 2000 in London.

Get involved in your area

Auckland:

There are two actions in Auckland on Tuesday 1 May:

(a) **IDENTIFY THE ENEMY. Protest outside the Chamber of Commerce**, a voice of corporate power. 4pm at corner of Mayoral Dve & Greys Av, City. (Called by the SWO.) Then join the...

(b) **MAY DAY MARCH**. 5pm at QE2 Square, Downtown. (Called by the May Day Committee.)

Wellington:

There's a host of activities being organised by both the Wellington Council of Trade Unions (phone 385 1334), and Peoples Global Action, who give details on the website: <http://www.mayday2001.org/wellington>

The events include:

12pm–1.30pm: **6TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM SHOP** (anarchist bookshop). Free food & drink!

1pm: **STUDENT MARCH** meets Quad, Victoria Uni. Departs 1.10pm

4.45pm: **FINAL RALLY OUTSIDE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE**, 40 The Terrace. Protest the upcoming Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement.

Conflicting thoughts on ANZAC day

AS THIS article was being written, the DJ on the radio played an ANZAC special of "War What is it Good For?" and "Give Peace A Chance", both classic anti-war songs written to help build the movement against the Vietnam War.

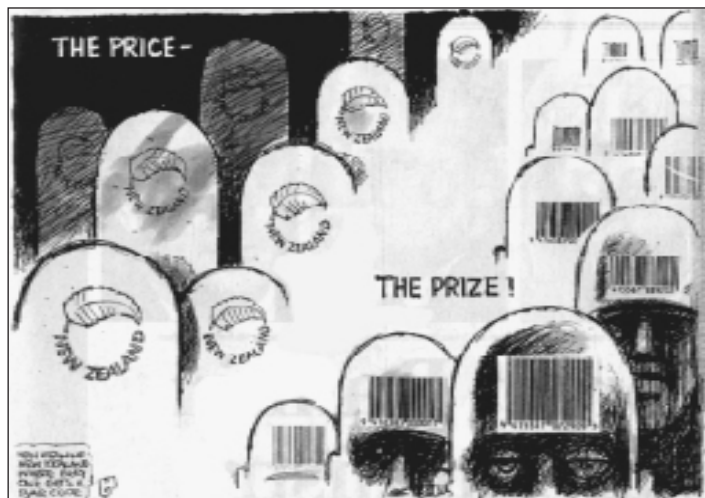
The DJ enthusiastically repeated the question: "War what is it good for?" and the answer: "Absolutely nothing!"

But he then went on to give the usual ANZAC Day stuff about "Lest we forget" the soldiers who had fought so that we could live in democracy—in other words the wars commemorated on ANZAC Day, including Vietnam, were good for something after all.

Despite the contradiction between them, the DJ's comments sum up the sentiments that most people have around ANZAC Day.

There's a hatred of the death and destruction caused by war; a sympathy with or gratitude for the suffering of the soldiers who fought; and a relief (or hope) that they won't have to go to war.

Talk of "sacrifice" often



THE CARTOON from the *NZ Herald's* Malcolm Evens brilliantly illustrates the contradiction between the "free world" NZ troops supposedly died for and the reality of live under free market capitalism.

dominates ANZAC Day, the question we must ask is: Who was sacrificed for who's benefit?

The official answer is that soldiers sacrificed themselves so that we, the people of New Zealand, could live in a democracy.

The reason New Zealand troops fought in the two World

Wars had nothing to do with democracy.

British subjects in New Zealand or England may have had the right to vote, but the majority of Empire's subjects, in Africa, India, Asia and the Pacific did not.

The same was true in the colonies of other allies like France,

Holland and the USA.

Through out the 1930s, Japan's invasion of China, Fascist Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and Hitler's annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia were all tolerated. Members of the British ruling class from the former king Edward to Winston Churchill, praised the way Hitler and Mussolini had crushed the socialist and trade union movements in their countries.

Britain only declared war when Germany and her allies threatened its economic interests.

Over the past decade-and-a-half of free market extremism, it has become clear that ordinary people have very little control over what governments and corporations do.

The fact is our "democracy" is extremely limited.

The fight for democracy was not waged on the battle fields of Europe or Asia.

It is waged here, in our workplaces and on the street.

As the German revolutionary Karl Liebknecht said during World War One, the real enemy is at home.

Dying for somebody else's system

CASHING IN on ANZAC Day, official army historian lieutenant colonel Glyn Harper has just published a book revealing the not very surprising news that the German Navy considered raiding New Zealand and Australia during World War One.

The big point Harper hopes to make is that the war wasn't—as the peace movement argued at the time and every since—"somebody else's war", a war that NZ troops should never have been involved in.

More to the point is that if NZ (as part of the British Empire) hadn't declared war on the German Empire, the Germans wouldn't have considered an attack.

So why the fuss? Is Harper just whipping this story up to sell books? Or is he and other army leaders wanting to gain wider acceptance for NZ troops going to fight in overseas wars?

For our ruling class—whether

they're top army officers or company directors—it is natural to see NZ as a very junior partner in the empires of Britain and now the USA.

This is not because of lack of national pride, indeed the only way the New Zealand state can have any prestige or influence on the world stage is to ally itself slavishly to one empire or another.

New Zealand patriotism has always been tied to one these big powers and the highest expression patriotism is to help them invade another country.

From the thousands slaughtered at Gallipoli, to those poisoned by Dioxin in Vietnam or by nuclear radiation in the Pacific, our rulers' are committed to providing their allies with cannon fodder.

So next ANZAC Day, when you think of the victims of war, also remember what they died fighting for—Western imperialism.

Quantas redundancies

THE ECONOMY is growing, unemployment is lower that it has been for years, and so the government is keen to tell us that everything is running smoothly. Yet workers are still facing mass redundancies as major companies like Quantas NZ (formally Ansett NZ) and Deka go bust.

Because the capitalists who run these companies have failed to compete with their rivals, the market deems that their workers be thrown o to the scrap-heap.

The end result of "free market competition" is that the strongest companies become monopolies, which is what deregulation was supposed to prevent.

What can be done to protect workers from

this market madness?

Making paying workers the first priority when a company goes into receivership, as trade union leaders are calling for, would be a good start.

But the workers would still be out of a job.

To stop mass lay-offs we need to look beyond the profit controlled market system.

For example, firms that go bankrupt or threaten mass redundancies could be nationalised and put under the democratic control of their workers—after all the wealth was produced by them in the first place.

Until we challenge the right of the market to control our lives, we will be at its mercy.

80 years of revolutionary socialism

THE CPNZ was formed in the aftermath of World War One and the Russian Revolution.

World War One (1914-1918) highlighted the insanity of the capitalist system. All of the technological wonders of the modern age were being used to carry out mass murder as the imperialist powers fought over who should dominate the world.

In 1917 Russian workers and soldiers rebelled against the horrors of the war. Led by the Bolshevik Party, they took power in to their own hands, forming a government based on Soviets (workers' councils).

The revolution inspired workers around the world. The war itself was ended in 1919 by a revolution in Germany. Many other countries were rocked by

by DAVID COLYER

THIS EASTER marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of New Zealand (CPNZ), this country's first revolutionary party, and fore-runner of the Socialist Workers Organisation (SWO).

mass strikes, factory occupations and armed uprisings by workers.

In this climate, revolutionary Communist Parties were formed in many countries. They were linked to each other and the Soviet Union (as Russia was now called) through the Communist International (Comintern).

Sadly, in every case they were unable to play the leading role that the Bolsheviks had in Russia.

The failure of the revolutions

outside of Russia was a disaster not just in those countries, but for the Russian revolution as well.

Because of its isolation, Russia was unable to overcome its economic backwardness and the revolution died from within.

Under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, the last remains of socialism were liquidated and a state capitalist regime—with bureaucrats carrying out the role of capitalists—was built.

The Comintern ceased to be an organisation for spreading

the world revolution and became a tool of Stalin's foreign policy.

The CPs outside Russia followed slavishly. The CPNZ was no exception.

What was exceptional about the CPNZ was that it was the only CP in the world to break with Stalinism and return to the revolutionary Marxist tradition on which it had been founded.

The key to why this happened was that, through its 74 year history, and despite its official commitment to Stalinism, the CPNZ remained a party of working class activists, committed to a socialist revolution that would transform society and put workers in control.

These articles look at a few key parts of the CPNZ's history.

1930's Unemployed Workers' Movement

THE CPNZ first gained a real degree of mass influence in the 1930s through its leadership of the Unemployed Workers Movement (UWM).

The Great Depression, beginning in 1929, threw millions out of work. In NZ unemployment climbed as high as 73,630 men (women were not counted).

This melt-down of global capitalism led to a world-wide political crisis. Millions of workers felt that there must be a better way to run society than the free market.

In New Zealand the right wing government tried to exploit the unemployed through forced labour schemes. The fight against this slavery became the major arena of the class struggle.

The UWM was mainly led by Communists, but it stretched far beyond the growing ranks of the CP.

This broad approach allowed revolutionaries to work along side all the militant workers, even though most of them supported the Labour Party.

The end result was a genuine mass movement, which forced the first Labour government, elected in 1935, to create jobs, scrap forced work and introduce the unemployed benefit.

But the success of the CPNZ in leading these vital struggles only increased the hold of Stalinism.

Through the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the CPNZ adapted to the political twists and turns demanded by Stalin.

The first turning point in the CPNZ's break from Stalinism came in the early 1960s.



THE Unemployed Workers Movement demonstration. The placards read "hands off Soviet Russia" and "workers of the world unite". A hammer & sickle flag flies overhead.



THE CPNZ Hamilton branch played a vital role in the pitch invasion that stopped the first test of the 1981 Springbok Tour.

Russia & China split

FROM 1960 there was a split between Russia and China. The real reason was that the Russians wanted to treat China as a colony, the way they did Eastern Europe.

In public the debate was pitched as one between the Russian calls for "peaceful coexistence" with the West, and the Chinese who still gave official support to the idea of revolution.

The Russian position suited those leaders of the Western Communist Parties who had become union officials or full time politicians, and who didn't want their positions upset by revolution.

In New Zealand there were a small number of such people in the CPNZ, but the majority rejected this idea and continued to put their faith in the grassroots struggles of ordinary workers.

The CPNZ was the only one in the West to side with the Chinese, the minority split and formed the Moscow-aligned Socialist Unity Party.

Of course, this was not the end of Stalinism, in reality, the Chinese were no more socialist than the Russians.

This experience, however, meant the CPNZ was not as easily pushed around by overseas parties and was critical of the Chinese, rejecting aspects of Mao's ideology. Eventually they broke from China too.

By the 1980s, the CPNZ had a tradition of mistrust of Labour Party and trade union officials; a tradition of breaking from overseas parties if they publicly stopped supporting revolution; and a tradition of ditching its own leaders if they defied majority decisions.



AUCKLAND STORES workers, belonging to the National Distribution Union, stream past a Communist Party banner into a union meeting where they voted overwhelmingly to reject the Compact.

LEFT—EARLY 1991, a monster rally in Auckland against the Employment Contracts Act (ECA), which is due to be introduced on May 1. The majority of the union movement know that a general strike is the only way to defeat the ECA. But right wing union officials were determined to stop any real opposition to National.

INSET—CP member Peter Hughes (left) tries to get onto the platform to put a general strike motion. He is attacked by a union official belonging to the SUP.

Rogernomics and the rejection of Stalinism

THE FREE market blitzkrieg, unleashed by the forth labour government after 1984, disoriented the left in New Zealand.

A major right wing offensive against the working class was being led by the main worker's Party.

What's more, the free market policies Labour was introducing hadn't been taken seriously in this country since the Great Depression.

For the Communist Party, understanding and fighting the free market policies of first Labour and then National meant re-examining their whole understanding of the nature of capitalism.

This included, for example, looking at the role that the state had played in regulating New Zealand capitalism in the past. This, in turn, opened the way to see that the state controlled econ-

omy of Stalinist Russia wasn't fundamentally different.

Along with the sell-out of the Labour Party, there was a sell-out by the trade union leaders, many of whom were in the Socialist Unity Party.

In 1988 the CTU, led by the SUP's Ken Douglas, began pushing the idea of a three way "compact" between the trade unions, the government and business.

The CPNZ was the first political group to take a stand. CP members set up TUAC (Trade Unionists Against the Compact).

At a time of theoretical debate and division, this campaign united CP's activists and put the idea of class struggle by workers up against class collaboration pushed by Labour and union bureaucrats.

It also allowed the CP to test

its own theories: Could they explain why the trade union leaders were selling out?

The CP built TUAC as a "united front of labour" that is, a grass roots alliance of workers and workers organisations who came together to fight around a single campaign, even through they differed on other issues.

Throughout this period the CPNZ was re-examining every aspect of its political theory and practice.

Members closely studied, often for the first time, the works of great socialist thinkers like Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and Vladimir Lenin.

Stalin was included too, but time and time again they found that Stalin's writings went against basic socialist ideas.

As well as looking at what

the great revolutionaries of the past had said, and making their own analysis of current events, the CPNZ looked at what other socialist groups around the world were doing and saying.

By 1993, the CPNZ had finally ditched Stalin and was increasingly in agreement with the parties of the International Socialist Tendency (IST).

The IST is set apart from all other revolutionary socialist groups because it rejects the idea that the Stalinist countries such as Russia, China and Cuba, are socialist, even a "deformed" kind of socialism. Instead it argued that they were state capitalist.

The CPNZ formally joined the IST in 1995, when it merged with a small IST group in Dunedin and became the Socialist Workers Organisation.

Committed to capitalism—committed to war

Bush's mad missile plan

IN HIS short time as president George W Bush has torn up the Kyoto agreement on climate control, provoked a crisis with China and is threatening a new Cold War with a plan to massively increase arms expenditure.

This new arms expenditure includes plans for a deadly National Missile Defence (NMD) project. The NMD will use satellites and radar to intercept any nuclear weapons heading for the US.

The aim is to expand US power across the world, giving the US military the ability to strike anywhere, and to use nuclear weapons, without fear of retaliation.

NMD is a continuation of the "Star Wars" programme launched by US president Ronald Reagan in the early 1980s. Reagan poured billions into developing a system to knock missiles out of the sky. But the plan was a failure.

Bush's "Son of Star Wars" is supposed to complete what Reagan began.

The NMD project will mean tens of billions of further dollars being wasted on arms spending, sparking a new arms race across the world as other states try to catch up with the US.

Thus making the chance of a terrifying and deadly nuclear war



US PRESIDENT George W Bush.

all the more likely.

But arms spending has another sick purpose for the rulers of the US. If they increase US arms spending, they know it will force other countries to do the same.

This can work to their advantage. Arms spending in competition with the US helped prompt the collapse of the Russian economy in the 1980s. So warmongers in the US government hope "Son of Star Wars" will hold back the economies of Russia and China today.

At the same time US corporations are lobbying for "Son of Star Wars" contracts with the US military because they know a bottomless pit of profit is up for

grabs. US based multinational Lockheed Martin—the biggest arms company in the world, who made over US\$1 billion profit in 1998—is hoping for a pay back after contributing to Bush's election campaign

NMD is part of what US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld calls "full spectrum dominance"—military superiority everywhere, including in space.

Such military dominance is a necessity part of the drive by US based multinationals to assert their economic superiority over the rest of the world and control all aspects of our lives.

Protest against US's war on Iraq

5-8pm on Friday 27 April at US Consulate, 23 Customs St East, Central Auckland.

This is part of a global "Day of Rage" against America's war on Iraq.

US sanctions are killing untold Iraqi grassroots people, including at least 500,000 children, while leaving Saddam's regime untouched.

Preparing for war: Labour's military spend-up

by VAUGHAN GUNSON

"DEFENCE PLAN puts nation at peril" was the headline of a NZ Herald editorial on the debate between 7 retired defence chiefs and Helen Clark on the government's defence policy.

The editorial sided with the old generals, who had written an open letter arguing that New Zealand was "drifting into a greatly reduced defence capability."

The debate was sparked by the government's decision not to spend \$568 million on equipping

the air force's six Orion aircraft with anti-submarine detection gear.

This decision is part of a wider shift in defence policy that has got the has-been generals riled and provided the opportunity for newspaper editors to bemoan the "threat to the realm".

Labour has cancelled the billion dollar purchase of the F-16s ordered from the US by the National government, and has stated that it no longer regards the air force's combat capability as essential.

The government is following

the recommendations of former ACT MP, Derek Quigley's Defence Beyond 2000 report.

The report argued that New Zealand can not afford a comprehensive defence force, so spending should be concentrated on areas where military engagement is most likely.

It concluded that a "well-equipped and combat trained land force", for use in so-called "peace keeping" operations or fighting alongside other powers in full scale wars, should be the priority.

So while the \$568 million upgrade of the Orions was scrapped, the government has gone ahead and spent \$611 million on 105 light armoured vehicles and \$124 million on 1853 hand held radios for the army.

And more spending is planned.

In a recent article published in the *National Business Review*, Helen Clark wrote that "what the defence plan [to be released in May] will show is that the government is not cutting defence spending. Spending will actually increase to make up for past neglect."

This is hardly the words of "peacenik" prime minister, as the old generals and the National Party have tried to claim.

Labour's commitment to military spending dovetails with their commitment to market capitalism.

The capitalist system is based on the exploitation of the majority of the world population by a small minority who own and control the world's resources.

Military force is used by the big powers to gain domination over resources and markets, and, as can be seen in Quebec, to keep rebellious subjects in line.

As Thomas Friedman, a US journalist close to the US State Department wrote:

"The hidden hand of the market will never work without the hidden fist.

"McDonalds's cannot flourish without [arms manufacturer] McDonnell Douglas. The hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley's technologies to flourish is called the US army, air force, navy and Marine corps."



AN IRAQI father cradles his daughter's body, she was killed along with her sister in a US air raid in January 1999.

Bush's deputies in the Pacific

SINCE WORLD War Two—especially since the end of the Cold War—the US has been the biggest imperialist power. It uses its economic and military might to get its own way on trade and to obtain access to resources.

Despite the break-up of ANZUS alliance (as a result of New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance), successive NZ governments have continued to back the US in its many military "interventions" around the world.

For example, the 1991 Gulf War against Iraq was about controlling the US's access to oil in the region.

The NZ army's elite killing squad, the SAS, fought alongside British and American troops. Today NZ frigates help enforce the sanctions that have killed over one million Iraqis.

The Labour Party continues to back the US, for example, in February Labour refused to condemn the continued bombing of Iraq by the US and Britain.

Labour wishes to maintain a cosy relationship with the US so that New Zealand companies can gain access to the huge US market. This is one reason the government wants to be seen to be

maintaining its "defence commitments" in the eyes of the US and Australia.

New Zealand businesses also benefit directly from the US's and Australia's strategic goal of maintaining "stability" in the region, so that trade routes remain open and Western investments are not jeopardised.

Australia is the biggest economic and military power south of China. When "ANZAC" troops occupied East Timor, Australia proclaimed itself the US's "deputy" in the Asia-Pacific region.

New Zealand is a junior partner to Australia, and therefore the US.

In the case of East Timor our rulers claimed to be motivated by humanitarian concern for the East Timorese.

But for 25 years New Zealand and Australian governments actively supported the Indonesian occupation, helping train and arm the troops which carried out genocide against the East Timorese.

Asserting Western dominance and guaranteeing control of the substantial oil reserves in the Timor Sea are the true motivation for the presence of Australian and New Zealand troops in East Timor.

what do socialists say?

What's Behind the US-China conflict?

THE SPY plane crisis may be over, but tensions between the US and China are likely to grow.

NATO's bombing campaign against Serbia was a turning point. The rulers of Russia and China got the message that the US administration would pursue its interests around the world without taking their views into account.

For China the message was brutally pressed home when a US missile destroyed its embassy in Belgrade. Despite mass protests in China, the Beijing regime found itself, in the face of US global military superiority, unable to retaliate.

The spy plane crisis gave China's rulers the opportunity to wipe away some of this humiliation.

After some belligerent language at the start of the crisis, the Bush administration had little choice but to cut a deal with China that involved the US offering an ambiguous apology.

"Superpower"

However, this does not mean that China is a "superpower" on equal footing with the US. In economic and military capabilities China is far behind the US (the US economy is 12 times bigger than China's and the US military spends 20 times as much as China).

Nevertheless China's rulers do want to establish themselves as the dominant power in Asia. This creates the potential for conflict with the US, which maintains substantial forces in the region and is the protector of the island state of Taiwan, which China claims as its territory.

Yet US multinationals also see China as a huge potential market for their goods. So they want closer ties with China to encourage economic investment.

A recent survey by the Chinese government found that only 26 percent of the country's

industrial stock is competitive on a world scale. US multinationals could penetrate deep into the Chinese economy if trade barriers came down.

But the fears of the US ruling class that China could become a competing power on a global scale remain. So US policy towards China wobbles between economic cooperation and military competition.

Sharpen

The fact that the global economy appears to be lurching towards recession will sharpen the tensions between China and the US.

The capitalist system is based on competition between individual businesses who are each trying to maximise profits.

Multinationals, whose business stretch beyond their home markets, rely on the political and military structure of the state to pursue their interests on the world stage.

Faced with economic crisis each nation state will attempt to exert all the pressure it can to get an advantage over its foreign rivals.

Influence

So as each nation state encroaches on the "spheres of influence" of its rivals, on the behalf of its own multinationals, the risk of war increases.

The rulers of China and the US are not currently prepared to risk an all out war. But if economy worsens then the economic pressures leading to war will intensify.

Rosa Luxemburg, the Polish-German revolutionary, argued that it is during periods of extreme crisis in the system that the alternative facing humanity is either socialism or barbarism.

Only a socialist revolution can rid the world of the capitalist system and the barbarity of war.

40,000 rage against market capitalism

Capitalism's 'Wall of Shame'

by JOE CAROLAN

IN 1989, the leaders of Western capitalism heralded the collapse of the Berlin Wall as the triumph of freedom and democracy over Stalinist dictatorship.

They talked of "the End of History" and a "New World Order", in which the free market would reign unchallenged.

A decade later, in the Canadian city of Quebec, they cower behind a three metre high, four kilometre long, wall of concrete and wire, using storm-trooper riot cops to club, teargas and plastic bullet the forces of democracy.

The wall is there to protect George W Bush and his fellow governmental cronies from North and South America, while they finalise the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement.

The people they are hiding from, the 40,000 (at least) anti-capitalist protesters, have dubbed it the "Wall of Shame".

The FTAA is nothing short of the enlargement of the US economic empire, which will put all American economies, from the Arctic to Argentina, under the control of US multinational corporations.

Democracy

Protesters directed their anger against the Wall of Shame, succeeding several times in tearing it down. In scenes reminiscent of the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, it was covered with banners, graffiti—and people demanding democracy.

Every time the wall was breached, protesters suffered the blows of night sticks and water cannon.

Despite this they succeeded in disrupting the meeting.

Activists from across the Americas travelled to Quebec, but there were also protests held across the continent.

This illustrates how resistance to corporate power is globalising, as environmentalists, human rights campaigners, trade unionists and other activists identify the common enemy—the global free market that exploits workers, pollutes our planet and condemns millions of people to hunger, sickness and poverty.

Capitalism's walls of economic shame will fall as surely as the Stalinists' wall did in Berlin.

Around the world on May 1, activists inspired by the events at Quebec and Seattle will take to the streets. Join in and help globalise resistance!

See page 2 for details on May Day actions in Aotearoa.



Independent media centres

THE REPORTS and images on this page come from the internet sites of the Independent Media Centres (IMC) from Quebec and other American cities.

The IMCs describe themselves as "a decentralised network of independent media makers, organisers, and activists working to increase democracy and social justice by reporting events and producing information as acts of autonomy, resistance, and liberation from corporate

control."

Another report shows how close to the action they are.

"News continues to pour in to the Quebec Independent Media Centre (CMAQ) on a minute-by-minute basis as the CMAQ staffers barricade our head quarters with clothing and blankets to prevent tear gas from drifting into our newsroom."

Check them out at: www.indymedia.org/ftaa & <http://quebec.indymedia.org>

Indymedia's report on protests

30,000 to 50,000 demonstrators have already filled the streets of Quebec, and thousands more have staged solidarity demonstrations this weekend in what has become an uprising of opposition to closed and elite international trade negotiations.

Demonstrators charge that these global trade agreements only serve the interests and privileges of capital, while the most basic rights and interests of citizens, consumers, workers and the environment are perpetually recast as "trade barriers."

As anti-globalisation protests continue to grow around the world, the use of police-

state enforcement tactics has also stepped up, increasingly denying the basic democratic rights of those who speak out.

Hundreds have been injured, many seriously, as the police use teargas, fire hoses, and brutality to silence the demonstrators.

Injuries in Quebec include a 7 month old baby who is suffering from teargas exposure, and a demonstrator who was shot in the neck with a rubber bullet and remains in serious condition.

Rather than thwarting the grassroots movement against corporate globalisation, police repression has resulted in more widespread and defiant demonstrations.

Cops attack medical centre

CAITLIN, AN eyewitness at the CMAQ (cmaq.net) [Independent Media] centre has given a description of riot cops shutting down the medical centre down the street from the CMAQ centre.

They forced everyone out at gunpoint, guns level and with red beams [of their laser sights] affixed, stripping them of their supplies. The police only commanded, "Get out, get out".

They ripped gas masks off of those who had them. The police, with no visible identification, had their own riot gear on with helmets down.

The building has now been cut off from service.



THE PICTURES on this page come from various anti-FTAA web-sites.

On the left, activists have pulled down the Wall of Shame and now face a line of riot police.

Above, well equipped protesters clash with cops.

Below, shows the 30,000 strong "legal" march headed by the trade unions.

Bottom, is the final panel of a cartoon-leaflet used by activists in the USA to build for the protest.

Borders blocked

ACROSS THE Americas, thousands of activists rallied at, and in some cases blocked, border crossings to protest the FTAA and the fact that immigration controls remain.

Four to five thousand demonstrators shut down the border crossing between the US and Canada at Blaine (Washington State, US) and Douglas (British Columbia, Canada) for two hours.

This comment from the Los Angeles/San Diego Inymedia shows that the NZ government isn't the only one to have double standards on the movement of goods and people:

HERE IN California, we have

chosen the San Diego/Tijuana border as the site of our protest. Thousands will gather for a peaceful rally and cultural festival of solidarity and resistance on both sides of the border.

To us, the border is a symbol of hatred, dehumanisation, exclusion, and exploitation.

Why is capital, why is trade, why are products free to move across the border, but human beings are not free to do so, are in fact considered criminals and harassed, jailed, sometimes even shot if they cross the border in an effort to find work to feed their families?



US wharfies oppose FTAA

EXTRACTS FROM an anti-Free Trade Area of the Americas resolution passed by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, (American watersiders) on December 12-13, 2000

THE GLOBALISING policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have already extended the harm of the free market to some of the farthest corners of the world. But instead of satisfying international capital's greed, it has only whetted its appetite for more.

Like NAFTA [The North American Trade deal] the FTAA will go beyond legitimate trade issues.

It will regulate and override the democratically decided environmental, public health and food safety laws of sovereign nations. The process itself is so undemocratic that just months before the Quebec meeting the draft agreement the trade representatives will be ratifying is still secret.

Six years of NAFTA has shown it to be an unmitigated disaster. Nearly 400,000 US jobs have been lost since NAFTA as companies relocated to Mexico.

While Mexico has enjoyed dramatic industrial growth, average workers have seen a decline in their standard of living. While the border areas have seen intensified industrial activity, Mexican workers there often make less than the minimum wage of \$3.40 per day.

Under the FTAA exploited workers in Mexico could be leveraged against even more desperate workers in Haiti, Guatemala or Brazil by companies seeking tariff-free access back into US markets.



WE ARE GOING NORTH TO PROTEST THIS DEAL, WHETHER G.W.BUSH WANTS US THERE OR NOT. COME WITH US. THIS DEAL WILL EFFECT YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT.

WWW.A20.ORG

Save Onehunga community services

Onehunga Community House is a community centre housed in a 100 year old (built 1901) school house.

It is run by an incorporated society, The Friends of Onehunga Community House, but the land and building are owned by the Ministry of Education, and the Auckland City Council provide important funding and support.

The Community House is under threat because the council wants to shift the groups based there into a new building which they plan to build on the sight of an existing council owned building that, until recently housed the library and a range of other community groups.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Education plans to sell the Community House.

Over the last 20 years many local people have fought long and hard to save the building and develop a genuine community centre, which is one of only three in Auckland city that is independent of



Fifty people joined a march through Onehunga on Saturday April 21.

the council.

An estimated 1,000 people use the centre every week.

The council has presented their plan as a "redevelopment" that will provide better facilities for the community groups and people of Onehunga.

The reality is that their expensive proposed building will have less room than either the current council building or the Onehunga Community House, And it will cost more for groups to use.

Those campaigning to save the House say: "The Ministry of Education and the City Council

are both public bodies who should be serving the interests of our community—not trying to push us around!"

A demonstration, where further action will be discussed, has been called for Thursday 26 April.

For more details, contact: Michelle 636 9900.

'No Human Is Illegal' campaign launched

by LEN PARKER

HUMAN RIGHTS activists met last Thursday evening to discuss their concerns at the end of the government's partial amnesty for "overstayers" and the beginning of deportations.

The discussion focused on the need to build a broad-based community response, across ethnic and racial groups.

Considered paramount was the question of basic human rights and opposing the way "overstayers" and those seeking status as refugees are treated as criminals, subjected to detention, imprisonment and deportation.

There was clear consensus that human labour (workers) should have the freedom to move around the world just as capital had the power to do.

This right should be applied equally to working class migrants and economic refugees, as well as those suffering political, religious and ethnic persecution.

It was agreed that religious groups should be encouraged to give sanctuary to "overstayers". And that trade unions had a major role to play.

It was considered important to get a campaign under-way, under the banner of "No Human is Illegal" and to adopt the slogans, No Deportations; No Imprisonment; Amnesty For All Overstayers.

Endorsement for these principles would be sought by those present from their own groups and support and sponsorship from the widest section of other religious, political, trade union and human rights groups.

May Day—International Workers' Day—was chosen as an appropriate day to launch the campaign.

Community organisations will be approached for the opportunity to speak to their members and posters and leaflets produced and circulated to encourage widest public support.

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- ★ Is the future Green? – Marxism & the environment
- ★ No human is illegal – unionising Latino 'illegals' in LA
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talking union

DEPORTEES

by DON FRANKS

*"Some of us are illegal; and some are not wanted
our work contracts up and we
have to move on
more than six hundred miles
from the Mexico border
they chase us like outlaws, like
rustlers, like thieves."*

WOODY GUTHRIE sang that protest about deportation of Mexican workers from the USA back in the '40s, and its bittersweet chorus is still sometimes heard at folk music concerts.

Unfortunately for many workers, "Deportees" is not just a bit of American history; its the grim reality of their own lives today.

At the end of March this year, the Immigration Amendment Act came into full effect. It reduces immigrants' right to appeal their deportation or return to New Zealand if deported.

In the last month police have arrested nearly fifty "illegal" immigrant workers. Most of those have already been deported; most, on a one way ticket back to poverty or political persecution.

But there is also resistance to Labour's harsh new law.

One Auckland pastor has opened his church as a sanctuary. And *Socialist Worker* has been part of setting up a "No Human is Illegal" campaign.

These initiatives urgently need help from the "big battalions". The friend immigrant workers need right now is the full support of this country's unions.

That essential support hasn't yet been evident.

When asked, some union officials have indicated "We'll do what we can for immigrant workers, as long as they haven't broken the law."

Such a response doesn't deal with reality.

Bosses have the absolute right to move their products, factories and finance around the globe—its called free trade.

There's no law against moving a plant to a country with cheaper labour, despite the disasters that shift brings to workers.

So unions must defend workers who move to a new country in search of better wages—not defend the rotten law that says they can't.

Back in 1824 unions first came into legal existence when the British Parliament repealed the "Anti combination laws" banning them.

The laws were withdrawn because too many workers had defied them, and from that day to this, every real step of union progress has been made by workers breaking bad laws.

A May Day organising circular from the Council of Trade unions says the CTU is currently "seeking interesting ways to illustrate the universal nature of unionism".

One such way would be for unions to campaign for the repeal of the anti worker Immigration Amendment Act, and to defend all victims of that act until its dirty stain is finally scrubbed from the statute books.

No human is illegal

DO YOU AGREE ?

- Targeting 'overstayers' increases the racism faced by ALL Polynesians, Asians and other ethnic minorities.
- Helen Clark's government should stop the arrests and deportations of 'overstayers'.
- A full amnesty should be offered to all (not just some) 'overstayers'.

✓ I want to join the NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL campaign

NAME

EMAIL

ADDRESS

PHONE

• Post to PO Box 13-685 Auckland. Or email Grant at gcm@actrix.gen.nz

Socialist Workers Organisation



SOCIALISM

Capitalism is a system of exploitation which generates inequality, crisis and war. Although workers create society's wealth, it is controlled by the ruling class for its own selfish ends.

Socialism can only be built when the working class takes control of social wealth and democratically plans its production and distribution to meet human needs, not private profits. This will eliminate all class divisions in society.

Stalinist countries such as China and Cuba, just like the former Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, have nothing to do with socialism. They are state capitalist. We support the struggles of workers against every dictatorial stalinist ruling class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

The present system cannot be reformed to end exploitation and oppression, contrary to what Alliance, Labour and union leaders claim. It must be overthrown by the working class.

Capitalism's parliament, army, police and judiciary protect the ruling class. These institutions cannot be taken over and used by the working class.

To pave the way to socialism the working class needs a new kind of state – a democratic workers state based on workers councils and workers militia.

INTERNATIONALISM

Workers in every country are exploited by capitalism, so the struggle for socialism is global.

We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We fight racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls. We support all genuine national liberation struggles.

We are internationalists because socialism depends on spreading working class revolutions around the world.

LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION

We fight for democratic rights. We oppose the oppression of women, Maori, Pacific Islanders, lesbians and gays.

All forms of oppression are used to divide the working class.

We support the right of all oppressed groups to organise for their own defence. Their liberation is essential to socialist revolution and impossible without it.

TINO RANGATIRATANGA

We support the struggle for Maori self determination.

The government's approach to Treaty claims has benefited a Maori elite while doing little for working class Maori.

Tino rangatiratanga cannot be achieved within capitalism. It will only become a reality with the establishment of a workers state.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a mass revolutionary socialist party.

We are in the early stages of building such a party through involvement in the day-to-day struggles of workers and the oppressed.

The Socialist Workers Organisation must grow in size and influence to provide leadership in the struggle for working class self-emancipation.

We need to revitalise the unions with a rank-and-file movement.

If you like our ideas and want to fight for socialism, then join us.

Get involved with the SWO

★ NORTHLAND

Phone Vaughan: (09) 433 8897

★ AUCKLAND

● City Branch meets 7.30pm every Tuesday at the Methodist Mission, Queen St (opp. Town Hall).

Phone Kane: 629 5401

● South Branch meets 7.30pm every Wednesday at the Socialist Centre, 86 Princes St, Onehunga. Phone David: 634 3984

★ ROTORUA

Phone Bernie: 345 9853

★ WELLINGTON

Meets 7.30pm every Wednesday
Venue not yet arranged.

Phone Gordon: 972 2296 for details.

★ CHRISTCHURCH

Meets 7.30pm every Wednesday in the International Room, University of Canterbury Students Association.

Phone Don: 385 5268

★ DUNEDIN

Phone Jonah: 453 6434

★ NATIONAL OFFICE

SWO members elsewhere in NZ and our sister organisations overseas can be contacted through the SWO's national office.

Phone: (09) 634 3984.

Fax: (09) 634 3936.

Write: Box 13-685 Auckland.
Email: socialist-worker@pl.net

SWO Web-site <http://www.crosswinds.net/~swonz>

Kaimahi Whakahuihui

May 5, International J-Day LEGALISE MARIJUANA

by HEATHER LYALL

MAY 5th is International J-Day. In 130 cities around the world people will be using civil disobedience—in the form of publicly smoking marijuana—to highlight opposition to marijuana prohibition.

Action has been planned in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Dunedin and Christchurch.

One of the main points they will be raising is: Why should people be criminalised for using a drug that is much safer than those already legal?

New Zealand Health Ministry figures show that approximately 4,500 people die from alcohol each year and 231 people die from tobacco. The death rate for marijuana use is zero.

A 1998 Health Select Committee stated that the health risks were "less than the public health risk of tobacco and alcohol use".

Prohibition doesn't work

ANOTHER WAY prohibition is being used to attack working class people is drug testing in the workplace.

Mike Ward, Health and Safety Officer for the Engineers Union noted that "New Zealand Employers are using drug testing in a punitive way".

"Cheap urine testing was a trendy way [for employers] to be seen to be concerned about health and safety", he said.

It is also a way for bosses to dodge responsibility for workplace accidents.

One worker from the AFCO meatworks in Hamilton told *Socialist Worker* that their bosses now want to drug test them.

"I've worked in this job 20 years and I've seen more people have accidents who aren't smokers than who are".

"What the bosses really want is no financial responsibility if

they stuff up.

"What if I have a smoke at a party and two weeks later have accident at work? They drug test me and all of a sudden they don't have to pay up and I'm out of a job."

A recent report by Labour Department medical Practitioner Doctor Chris Walls backed up this workers' concerns and questioned the usefulness of workplace drug testing.

Dr Walls said that urine testing in particular has "no practical use in accessing impairment caused by marijuana use".

He also stated that when traces could be found it didn't necessarily mean that workers had been smoking on the job, as the test could show results weeks after the drug had been used.

Drug testing must be opposed by all trade unions.



Excessive police power

PROHIBITION IS also gives the police excessive powers.

The Misuse of Drugs Act, 1975, allows police to search your body, car, bag or home—all they need to do is claim to suspect that you possess illegal drugs.

Our racist police force use these powers to harass working class people, particularly Maori, Pacific Islanders and young people.

These people are only tolerated because of the hysteria whipped up around drug use.

Stop workplace drug testing

PEOPLE USE illegal drugs for much the same reason that they use legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco, to help them relax and escape from the dreary problems of everyday life under capitalism.

The simple fact is that prohibition, does not stop people from using marijuana, or other illegal drugs.

What it does do is undermine effective drug education and makes criminals of the innocent.

For those that do have serious drug-related problems, particularly users of "hard drugs" like heroin, prohibition makes it much more difficult to organise proper treatment.

In New Zealand thousands of people are turned into criminals every year, simply because some of the drugs they use to help themselves relax are prohibited.

New Zealand has the highest rate of marijuana arrests in the world with 25,293 arrest in the 1998/99 year alone.

More than one in ten of all arrests are for prohibited drugs. 80% of these are for marijuana, around 85% of these are people who had the drug for personal use not dealing.

Anyone who seriously wants to reduce the use of legal or illegal drugs would do better if they fought against the capitalist system which disempowers ordinary people, while filling our lives with stress.



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