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**Communist Party
of Great Britain
(Marxist-Leninist)**



**Break the
link with
Labour!**

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War abroad

In order to defend multinationals' profits, this government has waged unprovoked and illegal wars against Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Iraq. More than 100,000 Iraqis have been killed in the last two years alone. Iran may well be next.

Meanwhile, it continues to occupy Ireland, using loyalist murder gangs, the rebranded RUC and secret services against the nationalist population whilst hypocritically blaming republicans for its own refusal to implement the Good Friday Agreement.

Lies about 'freedom' and 'democracy' in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed by the reality of indiscriminate cluster bombing and depleted uranium, brutal occupation at gunpoint, torture, collective punishment, internment, criminalisation of POWs and bloody massacres of civilians - accompanied by a frenzied scramble for oil and 'reconstruction' contracts.

Tony Blair and the imperialist Labour government have blood on their hands. If unions continue to be affiliated to Labour and individuals continue to vote for Labour, then the blood is on their hands too. This can be denied only if we accept the racist assumption that Iraqi lives are worth less than British lives.

Attacks at home

Here in Britain, Labour is stepping up attacks on working people. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider and the numbers of people living in poverty is increasing every day.

In order to create profits for big business, our remaining public services are being run down in preparation for privatisation while wages in the public sector have gone down dramatically.

Public housing is being abolished and private rents are rocketing; the NHS is being slowly privatised and, like our schools, now operates under a two-tier, selection by postcode system.

While talking hypocritically about the need to eradicate racism from our society, Labour is doing everything to whip up racist hysteria by blaming 'asylum seekers' for the problems it has created, and using that hysteria as a cover for building concentration camps and passing 'anti-terror' laws that give the police powers to arrest anyone and detain them indefinitely without charge or evidence of any crime. Soon protest of any kind may be made a criminal act and curfews, tagging and house arrest incommunicado will be introduced.

In fact, Labour is actually putting into practice fascist policies far in excess of anything the BNP might dream of.

Support for the Labour Party means support for all the above, it means sacrificing the right of the many to jobs, housing, healthcare, education and pensions - all the things which make a decent life - at the altar of private profit.

Labour's imperialist history

Labour cannot be 'reclaimed' or 'realigned' - it is, and has always been, a party of capitalism and its history is a racist and imperialist one.

In 1924, the first ever Labour administration shot down and jailed demonstrators in India and bombed Iraqi villages. Ramsay MacDonald used the army, Emergency Powers Act and secret police to break strikes, evict the unemployed from their homes, arrest and spy on activists etc.

Since 1945, Labour's record has been no better. To pay off war debt and rebuild Britain's economy, Attlee's government intensified exploitation in Ghana, Kenya, Malaya and other colonies. Tens of thousands of people in Africa and Asia were killed in

ruthless suppression of revolts against British colonialism.

After WWII, Labour set up puppet regimes all over the Middle East, handed over Palestine to the Zionists, helped restore French imperialist control over Indo-China and sent 12,000 soldiers to Korea. Eight million people died in the ensuing wars in south east Asia (Vietnam, Korea, Cambodia, Laos). Not a single African country obtained independence from a Labour gov. In 1974-79, Labour presided over mass deportation of black workers and introduced virginity tests on Asian women arriving at Heathrow. In fact, in its drive to defend imperialism at all costs, there has never been any crime that the Labour Party, in or out of government, has not been prepared to commit.

Narrow union outlook

Many union leaders tell us that while we may of course 'disapprove' of the war and other actions of Labour in power, remaining affiliated is simply a pragmatic decision about getting 'representation' in Parliament, that we are paying to get the ear of the government on issues affecting our members.

But clearly all the wider issues affect us - we do not live or work in isolation. We are all affected by the poverty of others; by the general insecurity and spiralling costs of living; by pension fund collapses; by crashes on disintegrating rail and tube services; by ever-expanding wars for plunder and domination.

Why would we give funding and support to a party that is perpetrating all this? What is a small advantage in negotiations for this or that Act in Parliament compared to the prospect of unending war and economic crisis?

Growing unrest in Britain

1,323,000 working days were lost through strikes in 2002, the highest figure in twelve years and double the number in 2001.

This is not because the British workforce has suddenly become unreasonable, but because steady erosion of pay and conditions is forcing them to fight for what little they have left.

No one should disregard the possibility that after the firefighters, postal workers, health workers, transport workers and teachers, they could be next in the firing line.

Fighting for our rights

Workers gain rights only through the strength of their organisation and its ability to fight for their rights.

What defeated the FBU in 2002, and will continue to defeat other workers in struggle, is that the union was affiliated to, and the leadership were members of, the very party that was attacking them. The government they were supposed to be fighting was in control of the party machinery and was able, by a combination of bribery, cajolery and threats, to bring the union leadership into line, leaving the members high and dry.

Workers need to be able to act independently of the government and the capitalist class it represents if we are to defend ourselves when we are attacked. Is it not clear that as far as members' interests go, remaining affiliated to the Labour Party is like preparing for a fight by tying one hand behind our back?

The tide is turning. People are waking up to the necessity of breaking finally and completely with the stinking corpse that is the Labour Party. If one union blazes the trail we can be sure that others will take heart and follow its example.

Break the link with Labour
Fight for socialism!