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Occupy Wall Street movement rises- US imperialism declines

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The youth commemorate the birth of Acacia-Homs village

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The rise of the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the decline of American imperialism

As we now know, American imperialism invaded Iraq under false pretences in 2003; and was on the whole supported by most of the US working class. Came the banking bailout in 2008, accompanied by massive job and housing losses, this support has largely been withdrawn, as seen by the growth of the Occupy Wall Street movement. In the US there are today 3 million more unemployed since Obama came along; with 47 million qualifying as poor, and not everyone qualifies for unemployment pay. Millions are excluded from the National Health Insurance. It is said that American society today, has not been more unequal since the Great Depression. House prices in the US have increased by 160% over a 14 year period since 1997, having increased by 56% between 2007 and 2011, yet wages have either stagnated or been cut over this period. Many of the banks who were making huge profits from the artificially higher house prices, had to be bailed out when millions of workers and lower middle class defaulted on their mortgage repayments. Millions not only lost their homes, but still had to repay outstanding debts, as well as facing cuts in education and welfare benefits. The state seized part of workers' pensions to bail out the banks who had been overcharging the masses. At the same time millions of workers were tossed out into the streets.

The deeper stagnation of the US and world economy since 1997 meant that while there was no meaningful increase in wealth production, the only way the monopoly capitalists could continue to make profits was through increased parasitism, through artificially higher housing, food, transport and electricity prices, through greater exploitation, through reducing the amount that had served to reproduce labour power itself, that is, through massive attacks on the living standards that workers had won over centuries. This planned execution through hunger and starvation of millions in the US and around the world is a reflection of the barbarism of the current phase of monopoly capitalism and indeed is what is fuelling the flames of revolution in the US and on a global scale.

Bailing out of the big international banks has spread to all the major imperialist countries (Britain, France, Germany, Japan, etc); all these have been stabbing their native working classes in the back, by closing down factories of every description, and have moved them to China over the last decades. All this while hypocritically brainwashing us into believing that they are concerned by the lack of human [read: workers'] rights in China. The battering which workers are being subjected to internationally, gives rise to resentments which have been mostly neutralised, up to now, by various pro-capitalist-imperialist agencies, by brutal military dictatorships on the one hand and from within the workers' movement on the other, among which feature prominently so-called 'communist' parties eg in Syria there are 2 such parties. There are also those who pose as being on the



left of the stalinist parties, many of whom land up supporting either the puppet dictators of imperialism or on the other hand, supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces of imperialism. The working class has begun to cast aside the pro-capitalist agencies. To pose the uprisings of the masses as being an 'Arab Spring' is to deliberately fudge and confuse what is a world phenomenon. The rise of the Occupy Wall street movement is clear evidence of this and its existence means that the balance of forces for the working class has begun to shift in its favour. This is because this bastion of imperialist reaction has started to crack.

Universal suffrage (parliamentarianism) has been exposed as of no use to the working class internationally; the capitalist state in the eyes of workers are squarely on the side of the ruling class everywhere. The police, the army, professors at universities, labour union leaderships, NGO's bankrolled by capitalist funds, an assortment of pro-capitalist political parties, numerous capitalist funded think tanks of every description; all of these in tow to the capitalist-imperialist agenda.

The international significance of the Occupy Wall Street movement

The idea of the 1% as opposed to the 99% was born in North America where the working class has till very recently been duped into believing that the slaughtering that their ruling classes have visited on populations around the world, and in which they themselves have been maimed and slaughtered, was done in the name of 'democracy', whereas it was always benefiting mainly the 1%. With the bailing out of the biggest banks (which have a stranglehold over most of the world resources) and not of the working class; the blinkers have finally been removed from the eyes of the North American worker, on whom their ruling class depends. The financial muscle of these banks have given them controlling influence over governments and economies worldwide. The upper middle class have always been an intrinsic part of the 1%. They constitute the top echelons of the banks, the mining houses, the business corporations generally. They include the generals and top layers in the army.

Now there is a waning support for this behemoth of reaction from its working class, without which the 1%, with its insatiable appetite for accumulating wealth, cannot ride roughshod over whole populations like they have been up to now. At work in the North American psyche as a completely new phenomenon is a growing hostility towards its ruling classes, as a direct result of the bank bailout from public funds while millions more have been dumped in poverty. That the tentacles of the major international banks with its power to rape economies worldwide, has hit a massive crisis; with the direct consequence that puppet regimes have been forced to put populations under increased pressure to contribute to the bailout of these banks. These banks are the biggest shareholders in all energy sources, be it oil, coal, gas, nuclear; food in all forms, etc. They, therefore, as part of the strategy to maintain their domination



worldwide are ultimately behind the rise in prices, which are bankrupting the rest of us.

There exists today, a fundamentally changed world political situation and the ground is ripe for dumping the old Stalinist collaborators with imperialism and their puppet dictators, all over the world, but this time launching revolutionary working class-controlled parties. The American eagle, which has always represented the ruling classes only, has had its wings clipped and it now depends on the US workers to show their latent capacity to the world to build a revolutionary working class party, such as the world has not seen since October 1917. The power, and at once the possibilities for US workers and thus for workers the world over to create genuine revolutionary working class parties is shown in that the US 1% could not send troops on its own to Libya, or Egypt or Syria. Insofar as Syria is concerned, the world working classes should take note that the adjacent countries, namely, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, including all the members of the Arab League, whatever the public utterances by its political leaderships, are condoning the slaughter by the Assad regime; since, while the people are prepared to fight, proper armament to match what is being used against them, will not be forthcoming from these capitalist-imperialist puppets. Thus it follows that the working class in the region should be at the forefront of sending armed worker brigades to assist the Syrian masses to overthrow the Assad regime, while dispersing any imperialist attempt to hijack the struggle of the masses through the SNC or any other agency they may try to set up. This would mean a fight against their own regimes as well. There thus also exists in these countries the possibility of working class revolutions taking place- such possibilities for the working class taking power also exists in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and elsewhere.

In the US the American dream is built on the nightmare of those who have fought the wars of the 1%. Already those who have served in active combat are between 7% and 30% less likely to get employment than the rest of the US soldiers. At present out of every 3 homeless adults in that country, one is a war veteran, who has lost friends and colleagues on the battlefield and is probably himself/herself maimed, if not physically, then psychologically. Out of the 21 million war veterans 800 000 are unemployed and 1.4 million live below the poverty line. An even more stark statistic is that of war veterans between the ages of 18 to 24, 37.9% are unemployed. Most of the war vets have never been to college and thus are more prone to unemployment and are more likely to get the lower paid jobs. There needs to be the realization that the US military is the biggest terror apparatus in the world and that it is indeed under the control of the 1%. Such realization is starting and this is an important new factor in the world balance of forces.

By 2009 up to 20% of US companies were cutting wages and reducing working hours. Millions were sent home on 'furloughs' (unpaid leave). The average working week dropped from 34 hours in 2001 to about 33 hours by 2009. Under



these trying times, the very banks that were bailed out, made fantastic profits, the highest in history. Slowly, the realization of who the real enemy was (the capitalist class), dawned on the war veterans and the working class in general. Thus the Occupy Wall street movement was born, as an expression of class hatred to the US imperialist class and the capitalist system in general. It is this phenomenon that is still spreading around the globe.

A deep political crisis faces the political elite in the USA- it's base is fractured. The Occupy Wall Street movement represents a movement which includes many war veterans, that have identified the 1%, the imperialist capitalist class in the USA as their class enemy. At this time both Republicans and Democrats are rejected by most of the working class. The ground is more ripe than it has ever been for the working class in the US to overthrow its ruling class.

It is the mortal fear of the US working class that constrains US imperialism from directly intervening anywhere in the world. This is why imperialism uses its fascist jackboot, the Zionist state to threaten Iran, and is not able to directly threaten with military invasion. (*We think that imperialism's threats against Iran is to help prop up the Iranian regime internally from its own working class and to help isolate the support of the masses for the revolt against the Assad regime- but that is the subject of another article.*) Even in Israel, the recent occupation of open spaces by hundreds of thousands of the youth demanding cheap housing, shows that the base of the Zionist pillar of reaction is beginning to shatter, a fact denied by the fake left. The prospect of the Palestinian working class and broader masses uniting with the disaffected Jewish youth and working class in Israel who face increasing cuts in their standard of living, spells the death knell (mortal blow) that could mean the end of the Zionist state. The overthrow of the Zionist regime by the broader, united masses in the whole region would be a major blow against world-imperialism-capitalism- such are the prospects that flow from the new world balance of forces.

The weakness of US imperialism helps to open up possibilities for the working class all over the world in its struggle to topple capitalist regimes, as the unfolding revolutionary uprisings in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Bahrain, Yemen, Malawi, Bolivia, Chile, demonstrate. US imperialism has to depend on their allies in France and Britain- but even they are constrained by revolts on home soil. Imperialism is more dependent on co-opting forces like the Muslim Brotherhood, the various Stalinist parties and those who pose left but march right.

But as the crisis continues, even these vestiges of left and Stalinist and pro-imperialist forces, will become more exposed and thus less capable of playing their counter-revolutionary role.

Syria shows how the fake left, the Stalinists, the pro-imperialist forces, the imperialist forces work together to attempt to strangle the masses. It is not a sign of the strength of imperialism, but rather of their desperation.



The situation calls out for the refining of the transitional programme for the concrete conditions of today, the basis for the refounding of the Fourth International.

24.3.2012 Part 1.



Military veterans are part of the Occupy Wall Street movement

Grabouw- who is the real enemy?

With reference to the various articles in The Cape Argus Tuesday 20th March 2012, such as 'Cape's day of race shame':

The Cape Argus published a series of articles deliberately inflammatory and biased on the conflict in Grabouw. With emotive phrases like '**Ready to defend against the enemy**' and '**it's now coloured versus black**', the **real enemy is lost sight of**. Any amateur journalist would have posed the question as to why would 'blacks' have attacked schools, where their own children also go and who work side by side with 'coloured' workers in the same slave camps (the export apple farms in Grabouw). What we see is a Freudian slip by big capital who themselves see the black working class as their mortal enemy and would do anything to divide the working class, so that we fight and kill each other, instead



of focusing on the capitalist system and the 1% (the capitalist class) that is the main source of our common misery.

Was the closure by the DA of the schools in the 'coloured' area not a calculated move to incite the community against the very ones who were leading the fight against the state's failure to provide adequate schooling? For years the ANC and DA have been implementing the plans of the IMF and the World bank for cutting funds to public schools so that more of the wealth could be siphoned off by big capital. This is part of the world offensive by big capital to deliberately cut and privatize public services and resources- especially in a climate that the world economy has been stagnating. Big capital is artificially creating new areas for increasing profits, even if this means devastation for the working class, with overcrowded classes, lack of teachers and lack of adequate facilities. Trillions go to infrastructure that the vast majority of the working class will not benefit from.

The fight by the working class against the collapse of public schooling and the myth of the Mandela miracle, is what is at the heart of the real conflict between the community and the state. It is a fight against the capitalist system. The Cape Argus, the capitalist press in general and the DA deliberately create a red herring of the 'enemy' as being a section of the black working class.

Historically imperialism has always played the 'divide and rule' card, artificially creating conflict between Jews and Muslims in Palestine, Sunni and Shia in Iraq, Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda, etc. The theme is the same, create rumours among both sections that one group is about to attack the other. We should remember that imperialist researchers have long been posing the question as to why in a country where racism was so entrenched, was there no violence between the groups. The obvious aim was to find mechanisms to stoke conflict between different sections of the working class so that they fight each other and not the capitalist state. We should also recall that both the DA and ANC governments are using US advisors who have the backing of the imperialism with all its resources to maintain control by any means necessary, especially in the current world climate when every capitalist regime is under threat of being overthrown by the masses.

There is a coming by-election and the DA stands to gain if the community is divided on racial grounds. The DA knows that a perceived 'coloured' versus 'black' conflict in Grabouw will reverberate around the Cape, reinforcing the swart-gevaar fears they depend upon to maintain their seats in government. What had been happening is that the masses are integrating themselves, breaking down apartheid divisions, despite the deliberate policy of both the DA and ANC to build new 'housing' (brick shacks) along old apartheid group area lines. We should recall that fragments of the racist NP joined (mostly) the DA and the ANC.



What is needed is for the entire working class in Grabouw to unite across artificial colour lines, to march on central and provincial government to demand adequate, free schooling for all the masses in Grabouw, for an immediate plan to build sufficient classes, with enough staff in Grabouw and all areas that are under-resourced. In fact the entire working class should rally in support of the demands of the masses in Grabouw for free, adequate education for all. If the capitalist system cannot provide adequate housing, education and jobs for all, then let it perish.

Three trillion for capitalist infrastructure- what about us? The government is in the pocket of the 1%, of Anglo American. We need to expropriate Anglo American and other big capitalists to provide free, adequate education, health care and housing for all.

The working class has long been prepared to fight the system but the leadership within Cosatu are the main brake that prevents a united working class defence against the ongoing capitalist onslaught. We need to follow the lead of the workers at Implats who removed their entire leadership in their NUM region and replaced them with independent working class fighters. It is only by breaking with government and severing all links with capital, that the defence of the working class demands and aspirations can take any step forward. Let us advance to the Cosatu congress by sweeping clean the federation of all pro-capitalist leaders.

Workers of the world unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains!

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Workers on the march in the 1-day strike against labour brokers and privatization of main roads



The case for nationalization of Implats

The Impala Platinum mine in Rustenburg is built on land stolen from the masses under the 'apartheid' regime for Anglo American. Under the limited land 'restitution' process the land was supposed to be returned to the masses who had been forcibly removed. However a negotiation took place on the principle of 'willing buyer-willing seller'. US bank, JP Morgan Chase, the main bank that controls Anglo American (and which controls the SA Reserve Bank), retained control while an artificial tribal entity was created, the Royal Bafokeng nation, to act as a cover for this. The chiefs of this 'Royal Bafokeng nation' accepted a mere 13% stake in Implats as a bribe for leaving JP Morgan Chase in control. The masses were entitled to a 100% takeover but settling for crumbs is what is really the cornerstone of 'Black Economic Empowerment', whether so-called 'broad-based' or not. The facilitator in this betrayal was the ANC-SACP government.

The price of platinum has doubled since 2004 and has tripled, if we consider just a few extra years. Workers wages have not followed the trend. In other words, JP Morgan Chase, through Implats, has made a killing, making massive profits while the world is in deep recession (if not depression). Workers still take home R3500 per month, while casualization, contract labour and labour broking is the cornerstone of the exploitative regime at Implats.

Mining is dangerous. More than 67 workers have already died this year on the SA mines. Yet the wages at Implats lag even the other exploiters in the same industry in SA.

Increasingly the Cosatu union leaders are becoming sweethearts of big capital. At Implats the trend is that shopstewards are coming from the more privileged layers of workers, in this case mine supervisors. In November 2011 NUM (National Union of Mineworkers) signed an agreement giving certain mine supervisors an 18% increase in wages and increase in housing allowance. Thus the privileged layer of NUM shopstewards signed an agreement to benefit themselves at the exclusion of the rest of the workers.

When the rockdrillers objected, Implats bosses tried to force workers to work through the same NUM shopstewards who were responsible for the sellout agreement in the first place. JP Morgan Chase formed a Berlin wall together with the NUM leaders against the workers. The workers all came out on strike and the bosses dismissed them.

Through interdicts and police, the imperialists of Implats tried to break the workers unity- they failed. Eventually imperialism sent their trusted ally in the workers movement, Vavi, to try and get the workers back to work. He could not break the workers unity. Eventually, management had to back down and agree to reinstate all workers but they still threatened not to take back 2000 workers (the



ringleaders). As of Friday 2nd March 2012, after most workers had gone back, workers came back out on strike as management went back on their agreement to reinstate all workers.

Workers may recall that Vavi was sent to VWSA in Uitenhage to get striking workers back to work. He came on the day before the ultimatum was due to expire in February 2000- he called on workers to go back and promised to come back the next day to address workers on their grievances. He did not come back. Most workers had gone back to work and management dismissed 1376 workers who remained outside and who are still waiting for Vavi until this day. The VWSA workers in 2000 were striking over a sellout agreement of Numsa shopstewards with the bosses.

Drawing the lessons and the way forward

Firstly, workers did the right thing by all going back by Wed 29th Feb. It was better to make a tactical retreat to be able to fight from the inside rather than outside. Thus workers are in a stronger position to fight the company now that they are refusing to take back some workers.

Workers should resist efforts by the NUM leaders to drive the fight against dismissals and victimization through the courts. The process will just drag on and the production will continue, while the leadership of the fight against the bosses will be starving and dying outside.

Workers should resist efforts to divide them from the so-called independent union, AMCU (Amalgamated Mining and Construction Union), irrespective of the good intentions of some of their leadership. Having 2 unions will divert the fight against the bosses to an infighting among workers over which union to belong to. Workers should mobilise to replace the NUM shopstewards with leaders of the strike. Further, workers should set up and strengthen shaft committees of rank and file workers. It is necessary to also set up committees of self-defence which are accountable to the broad shaft committees. A call should be made to all mine workers across the country to come out in solidarity with them, they should also set up committees of rank and file workers, to stand up against the pro-boss shopstewards and union leaders of the NUM and their pro-boss agreements.

The ANC empowerment companies and entities, such as the tribal chiefs of the 'Royal Bafokeng nation' are shareholders in the exploitation of workers, in fact they run the very labour brokers that are a new form of slavery on behalf of JP Morgan Chase and other capitalists.

Even further, thus, a call should be made for all workers across the country to come out in solidarity with the Implats workers in the 1-day strike on Wed 7th March 2012.



We need to realize that with the current leadership of Cosatu, which is allied to the ANC-SACP government, workers will forever remain poor, just as our mothers and fathers were kept poor by the system.

Forward to the total takeover of Implats by the workers- we are taking what is rightfully ours. When Malema says, when he calls for nationalization of the mines- all he wants is for the 13% stake to go up to 25%- he wants a share without paying his real bosses, Anglo American. Then he will do the same as the chiefs of the 'Royal Bafokeng nation', namely support the exploitation by the US imperialist bosses, while the workers still get peanuts and remain slaves.

We need to realize that real nationalization, real expropriation of the mines, will only occur when the workers take it themselves, rising up against the ANC-SACP regime, and their agents in the workers movement. But for this to happen we need to mobilise for rank and file committees of workers in all workplaces to challenge the Cosatu leaders. But above all we need to build an independent revolutionary working class party, uniting workers locally, regionally and internationally.

A working class united will never be defeated! 5 March 2012

Memorandum to parliament in defence of the Syrian revolutionary masses and the masses in the DRC

In the recent elections in the **DRC** the SA government sent troops to help control the masses. The SA government helped cover the election fraud that brought Kabila, a puppet of the US monopolies, back into Presidency. Under Kabila's regime, the **Anglo American** have plundered the DRC, backed by a genocide that has left over **6 million people dead**. The SA troops guard the Anglo American mines in the DRC.

The **Syrian** regime has long been trusted by the US regime- so much so that the **CIA** kidnaps activists from around the world and sends them to the **Assad** military dictatorship to be **tortured**. The masses in Syria, having suffered under the brutal Assad family dictatorship since about 1969, are finally rising up against it. The weapons Assad uses to slaughter the masses are supplied by the **US**, Russia and China. The diesel in their tanks and the jetfuel in the jets that are bombing the masses every day, comes from **Shell and Total**. The US regime says it wants Assad to step aside, but wants his deputy to step in. In other words, the US regime wants to maintain the brutal regime that slaughters the masses. The SA government sits on the UN Security Council (chairing it at the moment)- the SA government supports every step of the US regime, in other words they allow the slaughter of the masses. At the same time, the SA government supports sanctions against Iran. The SA government claims it will impose sanctions on Israel but has not even taken the slightest step in this matter. On the contrary, the SA government allows Anglo American to send all our diamonds and part of our coal to Israel. In reality the SA government is one of the strongest supporters of Israel.



We are not calling for Nato or UN, nor any imperialist intervention in Syria. In fact they are already intervening by supporting the Syrian regime. The 1%, the capitalist monopolies want to crush the Syrian uprising so that no-one in the world will ever challenge them again. They want to stop the wave of revolt against the capitalist regimes. This is why the UN and the capitalist regimes support the slaughter of the masses in Syria by the Assad regime.

If the masses rise in SA against the regime, this is what they will do to us. We say we are protesting against the complicity of the SA regime in the slaughter committed for the 1% by the Assad regime, by the Israeli regime, by the Kabila regime.

Down with the imperialist slaughter in Syria and the DRC! Down with fascist Israel!

Our demands are as follows:

1. Immediate closure of the Syrian embassy and withdrawal of SA diplomatic mission in Syria;
2. Immediate and total blockade of Syrian regime- no arms or fuel for the Syrian regime;
3. SA troops out of the DRC and other African states
4. Africom and all US and French military bases should be kicked out of Africa
5. SA regime to step off the UN Security Council as its presence give legitimacy to the murderous actions of imperialism, such as the slaughter of the Syrian revolutionary masses; The UN just misinforms and misguides;
6. There should be a Pan African Parliament based on the direct control by the grassroots organizations of the masses outside of parliament, not comprised of puppet regimes;
7. The residents of Zillerraine ** were just dumped by Zille in Parkwood 6 years ago, having promised them decent housing within 18 months- they and other squatter communities demand to know when they will get electricity and decent housing.
8. We are opposed to human dumping sites like Happy Valley and Blikkiesdorp, etc- we want decent housing for all;
9. A state that is really based on the masses' will should not be promoting the imperialist agenda across Africa, the way the SA government does;
10. Stop the police brutality and the militarization of the state crackdown on protestors- we fought against such practices under the apartheid regime- they do not belong here.
11. We demand adequate water for all;
12. There should be a national investigation into the R1 million tender awarded by Zille in Mitchell's Plain
13. the politicians are just cheque collectors- they should just receive the wage of an average skilled worker
14. Day Hospitals are wait-hospitals- we want decent, free health care for all
15. Zuma and Zille should come and live in Zillerraine or Blikkiesdorp for 1 week to get insight into the conditions of the masses.
16. There should be immediate breaking of all political and economic ties, especially diamonds, gold and coal with Israel.

by the **Defend the Syrian Revolutionary masses** campaign 10.3.2012

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The end of Zilleraine Heights and the birth of Acacia-Homs village**

The workers and unemployed and their families of 'Zilleraine Heights' will be holding a rally today to mark 6 years having being dumped on an open field in Parkwood by the Zille regime. They have no electricity, they still have the bucket system. They had been promised by Zille that they would be housed within 18 months. Now they are a third of the way to 18 years of waiting.

The rally is raising the theme of 'No forced removals- decent housing for all'. They are every day under threat of eviction by the City of Cape Town, who wants to throw them more than 30 km from the city centre in the human dumping site in Blackheath (a so-called TRA- Temporary residence area- where homeless people are dumped and forgotten). The rally will unite a number of communities that are also facing problems of mass homelessness, inadequate housing, many of whom also face forced removals from where they are. Communities from Lavender Hill, Tafelsig, Newfields Village, Blikkiesdorp, Delft and other areas will also be present. The rally will also have on its agenda a protest against the ongoing slaughter in Syria by the agents of the 1%, namely the butcher Assad regime. The rally is also in support of the Palestinians who have faced forced removals and attacks by the 1% and their agents since before 1948. The ongoing slaughter by the forces of the 1% who are plundering the DRC with the help of the SA government will also be highlighted.

The community will also be renaming their area after one of the places in the world that is also under attack by the agents of the 1%. The starting time is 10am and will continue up until about 14h00.



Picket in defence of the Syrian masses outside parliament 10th March 2012



Hayi uqhankqalazo losuku olunye kuphela oluchasene nee labour brokers kodwa amalungiselelo oQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke olungenasiphelo

Sifuna uQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke lokwenyani oluchasene nentlupheko, umbane ophezulu, amaxabiso aphezulu okutya nawepetrol, ilabour brokers, ukunqongophala kwezindlu, ukungaphangeli, njalo njalo.

Intshayelelo

Abasebenzi bafuna ukulwa kodwa inkokheli ezingabathengisi zikaCosatu, SACP, zifaka iziqhoboshi, inkohliso, nokutyhafisa abasebenzi.

UCosatu unezicwangciso zoqhankqalazo losuku olunye ngomhla 7th kaMatshi oluchasene ne labour brokers ne toll roads. Kodwa okuyinyani oku kukuba nje qha abasebenzi behle umsindo. UQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke linoku yaye kufanele libekwe njengento yemihla ngemihla njengendlela yokuzabalaza echasene norhulumente. Ngo 2010 xa abasebenzi bakarhulumente bebekuqhankqalazo inkokheli zikaCosatu nezeSACP zazile ukuba ukuba abasebenzi bemizi mveliso (industrial workers) namajoni aphumile ukuzokuxhasa uqhankqalazo, ekugqibeleni luyakuphelela ekubeni luqhankqalazo oluchasene norhulumente wonke wongxowankulu. Inkokheli zikaCosatu nezeSACP zaluphelisa uqhankqalazo ukusindisi urhulumente. Kusuku olunye inkxaso yoqhankqalazo nguwonkewonke eyayizakuqalisa ngalo, izihlewe zaseMozambique zaphakama ngokuchaseneyo nokunyuka okungathethekiyo kwixabiso lombane, lokutya namanzi. Ngokuphelisa uqhankqalazo, iinkokheli zikaCosatu zashiya izihlewe zaseMozambique zingenabani.

Intsingiselo yosuku olunye loqhankqalazo lukaCosatu, okanye ukuhlala ezindlini (stayaway) kukubonisa mhlophe yaye nekhwelo kubasebenzi ukuba babophe ibhanti. I-ANC ibeselulawulweni iminyaka elishumi elinesibhozo. Umgangatho wentlupheko wenyukile; ukwanda kwabamnyama abakumgangatho ophakathi kubephezu kwamagxa abasebenzi. I-ANC iphume phandle ngokucacileyo ngokuchaseneyo nabasebenzi ngokusayina i labour brokers. I-ANC izama ukugudisa ubukhali bokusebenzela ii agents kodwa kusala iyenye indlela yobukhoboka belixesha (morden slavery). Ukuvotela iANC kukuvotela ubukhoboka belixesha. Inkokheli zikaCosatu sele zihleli norhulumente zithengisa umlo ochasene ne labour brokers ngokuvuma imithetho emitsha, 'ukuyiqinisa' kodwa ngokwenyani bezinzisa iimeko zobukhoboka. Ii-labour brokers zidalwe ngama impiyali (inkampani ezinkulu) ukunyusa iingeniso zazo ezinkulu yaye zahlulahlule abasebenzi. Iinkokheli zikaCosatu zikhusela ama impiyali emsindweni wabantu ngokwenza umlo ochasene ne labour brokers endaweni yentsusa ye labour brokers, inkampani zama impiyali kanye. Inkokheli zikaCosatu ziyawohlula umlo ochasene ne labour brokers kumlo ochasene



nenkampani ezinkulu, odla bodwa abahlanu, abo ulawulo lwesambuku sobutyebi boMzantsi Africa, lukubo. Ezinkampani zintlanu zezi: Anglo American, Old Mutual, Liberty Life, Sanlam, Rembrandt. Ezinkampani zintlanu zama impiyali zezona ntloko zibange ii labour brokers zakhiwe apha. Ngolo hlobo nawuphina umlo ozimiseleyo ochaseneyo ne labour brokers kufuneka woyise ezinkampani zama impiyali

Ingxaki yobungxowankulu behlabathi nendima yamaStalin neyenkokheli zikaCosatu

Inkokheli zikaCosatu zishiya abasebenzi bezilwela ngokwabo, icandelo necandelo yaye ngolo hlobo zisohlulahlula umlo wabasebenzi. Indima yokuthengisa yenkokheli zeSACP nezikaCosatu ibonakale ekunyanzeliseni umyalelo wabasebenzi bahlele phantsi ku 8,6% nangona ixabiso lemali ekutyeni labasebenzi (workers inflation) limi kwi 30%, ekubeni kananjalo bawubekele emva kwendebe yehlabathi ka 2010 umlo wabasebenzi. Inkokheli kananjalo zalile ukwenza umyalelo wabasebenzi woqhankqalazo likawonkewonke oluchasene namaxabiso aphezulu okonyuka kombane. Ngo 1980's xa uMzantsi Africa wawukwimeko ephambi kwemeko yotshintsho olululo (pre-revolutionary situation), inkokheli zeSACP nezikaCosatu zazinganda izihlwele zabantu ngokubetha ikhwelo lokuhlala ezindlini (stayaway) endaweni yamaqhankqalazo kuhlalwe kwimizi-mveliso.

Kusukela kwi 1900's ihlabathi belahlukahlukene ngokugcweleyo phakathi kwama impiyali yaye isigaba sexesha sokonakala saqalisa. Indlela kuphela ama impiyali angandisa ifuthe lawo yabangokokulwa namanye ama impiyali. Kumashumi eminyaka asandukudlula khange kubekho ukwanda jikelele kwizinto zokusebenza. Ngo 2009 kuphela ongxowankulu bagxotha emisebenzini ngaphezulu kwamashumi amahlanu ezigidi zabasebenzi kwihlabathi liphela (over 50 million). E-Yurophu naseMelika, abasebenzi abaninzi sele bethotyelwe imivuzo nemeko zabo zokuphila, ngelilixa abanye banyanzeleke ukuba bathathe umhlala phantsi kwilixa elizayo. Kumazwe azizithanga (semi-colonies) njengo Mzantsi Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, njalo njalo, ongxowankulu nama impiyali anyusa iingeniso zawo ngokunyanzelisa ukuthotywa kwemivuzo yaye kwangaxesha linye, anyuse amaxabiso okutya, ezindlu, umbane kakhulu nexabiso lezothutho. Kubekho intshukumo ezininzi zabasebenzi ehlabathini. Siphila kwisigaba sexesha apha imizabalazo nje wesininzi wokuphila ujika ube ngowezopolitiko. Bonke orhulumente bongxowankulu baphantsi kwengozi yokuthathwa ulawulo sisininzi sabasebenzi.

Amalungiselelo oQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke olungenasiphelo

Ongxowankulu-ama impiyali ngabo abasilambisayo. Kungunobangela wokuba sibeth' ikhwelo yaye sigqale kubo nakwii agents zabo kurhulumente. Kungunobangela wokuba sifuna uQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke olungenasiphelo. UQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke lungakhula lubeyindlela



yabasebenzi bathabathele ulawulo ezandleni zabo. Umbuzo otshisayo ngowokuba: lungenziwa njani oluQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke luphumelele? Kuqala kuyimfuneko kwakhiwe inkqubo yamabango (programme of demands), eqokelela bonke abasebenzi ngokuchaseneyo notyakatyo lwama impiyali kunye nee agent zawo kurhulumente. Siyabona ngokucacileyo ukuba iinkokheli zeSACP nezikaCosatu zifuna intshukumo yosuku olunye abasebenzi behle umsindo, ngelilixa zifihla (disguise) ezintshukumo njenge ngo'qhankqalazo lukawonkewonke'.

Imfuneko yokwakhiwa kweekomiti zoqhankqalazo kumzi mveliso ngamnye, migodini, ezifama, kwindawo zonke zokusebenza, kwindawo zonke zokuhlala amajoni, kwingingqi zonke zabasebenzi, kungakhathali nokuba abasebenzi bangamalungu okanye hayi emanyano, okanye ukuba ahambiselana noCosatu okanye hayi. Ezikomiti zoqhankqalazo kufuneka zithumele abameli kumabhunga oqhankqalazo endawo, wommandla nakuzwelonke, ukwenza amabango abasebenzi abemanye yaye kuqhutywe uQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke nenkqubo yokwenyani yokuzabalaza echasene nongxowankulu nama impiyali, hayi kuphela kuzwelonke, kodwa igqithiselwe kummandla nakwihlabathi. Imfuneko yeekomiti zoqhankqalazo kwingingqi zabasebenzi yaye kananjalo sibandakanye abameli babangaphangeliyo. Kufuneka sibeth' ikhwelo lentlanganiso zesininzi zabazali, abafundi kunye nootitshala kwandiswe iikomiti zoqhankqalazo. Kufuneka silungise iikomiti zokuzikhusela eziphantsi kweekomiti zoqhankqalazo. Iintlanganiso zamabhunga babameli babasebenzi ezidibeneyo zazo zonke imanyano kufuneka zimiswe - ezi kufuneka zibeth' ikhwelo leekomithi zoqhankqalazo zisekwe zizise inkxaso ngakumbi kumanywe abasebenzi ukusukela kwisigaba somgangatho (shopfloor level). Kula maqela ngamaqela kulemizabalazo ikhoyo ngakwiChapman's Peak, eHangberg, Tafelsig, Blikkiesdorp, Boiketlong, eyabancedisi benesi ezibhedlele inikwe indawo esisigxina, eyezindlu eziphucukileyo kufutshane nendawo zokusebenza, eyokunciphisa iveki lokusebenza, eyomsebenzi kumntu wonke, kufuneka ibesentloko. Kufuneka sifune inkxaso yabasebenzi basemigodini abagxothwe kwi Impala Platinum - ukuba babuyiselwe emisebenzini ngaphandle kwemiqathango, njalo njalo. Kufuneka sixhase isininzi sabantu baseSiriya ngokuchaseneyo notshabalaliso lwabo ngurhulumente kaAssad onguvumakonke wama impiyali. Masijike wonke umzimveliso, umgodi, ifama zorhwebo, zibe yiTahrir square! Masiphakamise ibanner yePalestina ekhululekileyo ngorhulumente wabasebenzi nokuthabatha ulawulo lorhulumente wakwaSirayeli kunye nabo bonke orhulumente abaxhaphazayo ehlabathini. Masimanyane njengabasebenzi sixhothe ama impiyali eDRC, Egypt, Libya, Tunisa, kwiAfrika yonke!

Amabango esiwaphakamisayo

Umvuzo olingana nomsebenzi

Ukupheliswa kwamsinyane kokukhesela ne labour brokers



Makuxuthwe zonke izinto zokuphila zama impiyali, ngaphandle kokuzihlawula, zibekwe phantsi kolawulo lwabasebenzi

Phantsi ngezivumelwano zeminyaka emininzi- imivuzo kufuneka inyuke xa amaxabiso enyuka

Yahlulahlula umsebenzi phakathi kwabo bonke abo bakwaziyo ukusebenza, ngaphandle kokuphulukana nemivuzo

Phelisa iTRA's (njenge Blikkiesdorp) - ezi aziyonto kuphela zinkampu zengcinezelo- sibeth' ikhwelo lezindlu eziphucukileyo, irenti ephantsi, kumntu wonke, kufutshane nendawo zokusebenza kuxolelwe abangaphangeliyo, abemivuzo ephantsi nabarhola umhlala phantsi

Imfundo yasimahla, ekhululayo ukuyakufikelela kumabanga aphezulu kumntu wonke

Unakekelo lwezempilo lwasimahla, olusemgangathweni kumntu wonke

Xhatha inkokheli zeSACP nezikaCosatu ezenza izivumelwano nongxowankulu kunye norhulumente weANC ukuba ubukhoboka belixesha buhlale (labour brokers)

Hlanganisela uQhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke, hayi ukuhlala ezindlini (stayaway)

Kufuneka sihlanganisele iikomiti zoqhankqalazo lukaWonkewonke silungiselele ukuhlala phakathi kwindawo zokusebenza. Oku kamsinya kuzamisa umbuzo wokuba ngubani ophethe olona lawulo. Kufuneka sibeth' ikhwelo kubasebenzi kummandla kunye nabakumazwe ama impiyali anjengeMelika, iBrithane, France, Jamani, Greece, Portugal, eSpain bazibandakanye nathi. Abasebenzi kufuneka baqhawule umanyano lwabo neANC neSACP yongxowankulu. Ngaphandle ngenkokheli ezihambisana nongxowankulu!

Phambili kwintlango yotshintsho olululo yabasebenzi, njengexalenye yokuseka kwakhona kweFourth International!

Phambili kulawulo lwabasebenzi! Phambili kwiSocialism!

Ngabasebenzi abaselulawulweni kuphela abanokufezekisa amabango ethu! Basebenzi behlabathi manyanani, akukho nto kufuneka siphulukane nayo ngaphandle kwamatyathanga ethu!

19.2.2012



Open letter to the workers in South Africa on the case of Khader Adnan, Hana al Shalabi and all other thousands of Palestinians held in detention in the zionist gulags

We appeal to you because you and your mothers and fathers were the ones who spearheaded the fight against the apartheid regime- we rose up, even though most of us were not ANC or PAC members, to defend the many thousands who were brutalised by the system through detention without trial and other harsh and inhuman methods.

In those days the church leaders used to rush to be seen at the head of marches to demand the freedom of those held in the gulags of the old regime. Today when Khader Adnan, a Palestinian, is on 66 days of hunger strike, and could die at any moment, is being detained without trial, just like the ANC and PAC was in those days. Yet, the religious leaders are silent- they promote Table Mountain while millions who live at the foot of it are dying of starvation; they count their millions gained from halaal certificates while the masses do not have even a cent to buy anything. The ANC leaders, many long held in the apartheid gulag, and many held without trial, are today silent. The ANC even chairs the UN Security Council but are more concerned with disarming the Libyan militias than disarming the real threat to humanity in the Middle East, the Zionist regime. The diesel that Assad uses to run his tanks and army comes from the US and other imperialists who control the UN Security Council. [Syria imports most of its refined oil products from imperialist companies like Shell, Total, etc] The very weapons that Assad uses for his massacres come not only from Russia but also the USA. Yet the ANC, sitting at the head of the Security Council says nothing- is a puppet of US imperialism. South African Navi Pillay heads the UN Human Rights Council, but says the Libyan militias are a threat to peace, but nuclear-armed Israel is apparently not- the UN have done nothing, not even a slap on the wrists, let alone sanctions against Israel for their inhumane and barbaric practice of detention without trial. The Russell Tribunal on Palestine came and went- the leaders of Cosatu cried crocodile tears and even today are silent on the case of Khader Adnan.

This why we call on you the workers, who work on the docks in Durban that allows coal for Israel from Anglo American mines; you are the ones who mine the diamonds and coal on Anglo American mines that keep Israel artificially alive. We appeal to you to take action, do not let Khader Adnan die. His heart and brain is already irreparably damaged from the hunger strike, but you as the workers, you have the power- stop the lifeblood of fascist Israel because they are stopping the lifeblood of the Palestinians.

Let us all take to the streets in protest. Let us besiege the offices of the churches and the trade unions expressing our outrage at their silence and complicity.

[Khader Adnan has since been released but now Hana al Shalabi has gone on hunger strike to protest against detention without trial and is now in serious danger of dying].

We are all Khader Adnan! We are all Hana al Shalabi! We are all Palestinian!
21 .2.2012 updated 25.3.2012



Zimbabwe- municipal workers in Mutare stage a sit-in

Mutare municipality workers has resumed work, today tuesday 13th March 2012, after the employer was forced to give in to their demands for protective clothes for the Health section workers. The government asked other sections to resume work, promising to address their demands before end of this week. The sit-in strike started last Monday where workers were complaining about the lack of protective clothes as well demanding a raise in their salaries.

There was a lack of co-ordination within the Union who represented the city of Mutare workers- there were some of the committee members who work hand in hand with the employers, betraying the workers and forcing them to resume work without many of their demands being met.

What it means is that we as WIL, have to organize get into every section of municipality to talk to workers ,exposing how their union has been betraying them for the decades now. We have to call on workers to try every means to open committees within every section to push the struggle forward against the government of Zanu-pf and MDC councilors.

Gwisai and 5 other activists get sentenced

The courts sentences Gwisai and 5 others to 240 hours community service, giving them a suspended sentence of 2 years. What was amazing was that the very organizations that Gwisai and others belonged to, did not mobilize protests on a wide scale.

By WIL

Editorial Comment:

With the holding of a 5 day strike for the public sector workers and now the week-long sit-in, it is clear that the Zimbabwean working class is breaking from both the Zanu-PF and MDC and they are taking the path of revolution once again. It is this factor that US imperialism, the real rulers of Zimbabwe fear most. We need to develop a transitional programme to take our fight to its conclusion. We need to call for 100% nationalization of the commanding heights and the total nationalization of the land. This should be counter-posed to the 50% indigenization policy which is just a section of the local middle class being bought off to keep the working class in chains. The demand should be raised to expropriate Anglo American, without compensation, and for it to be placed under workers control. The call to unite the 99% against the 1% means the uniting of workers in the subregion, up to the DRC, and at the same time uniting with the working class in the imperialist centres, for the expropriation of the 1%- something only a workers' government based on councils of workers and unemployed can carry out. This is the way to take forward the Occupy Wall street movement.



I) General Considerations on the United Front by Leon Trotsky

1) The task of the Communist Party is to lead the proletarian revolution. In order to summon the proletariat for the direct conquest of power and to achieve it the Communist Party must base itself on the overwhelming majority of the working class.

So long as it does not hold this majority, the party must fight to win it.

The party can achieve this only by remaining an absolutely independent organization with a clear program and strict internal discipline. That is the reason why the party was bound to break ideologically and organizationally with the reformists and the centrists who do not strive for the proletarian revolution, who possess neither the capacity nor the desire to prepare the masses for revolution, and who by their entire conduct thwart this work.

Any members of the Communist Party who bemoan the split with the centrists in the name of “unity of forces” or “unity of front” thereby demonstrate that they do not understand the ABC of Communism and that they themselves happen to be in the Communist Party only by accident.

2) After assuring itself of the complete independence and ideological homogeneity of its ranks, the Communist Party fights for influence over the majority of the working class. This struggle can be accelerated or retarded depending upon objective circumstances and the expediency of the tactics employed.

But it is perfectly self-evident that the class life of the proletariat is not suspended during this period preparatory to the revolution. Clashes with industrialists, with the bourgeoisie, with the state power, on the initiative of one side or the other, run their due course.

In these clashes – insofar as they involve the vital interests of the entire working class, or its majority, or this or that section – the working masses sense the need of unity in action, of unity in resisting the onslaught of capitalism or unity in taking the offensive against it. Any party which mechanically counterposes itself to this need of the working class for unity in action will unfailingly be condemned in the minds of the workers.

Consequently the question of the united front is not at all, either in point of origin or substance, a question of the reciprocal relations between the Communist parliamentary fraction and that of the Socialists, or between the Central Committee of the two parties, or between *l'Humanité* and *Le Populaire*. [2] The problem of the united front – despite the fact *that a split is inevitable in this epoch between the various political organizations basing themselves on the working class* – grows out of the urgent need to secure for the working class the possibility of a united front in the struggle against capitalism.



For those who do not understand this task, the party is only a propaganda society and not an organization for mass action.

3) In cases where the Communist Party still remains an organization of a numerically insignificant minority, the question of its conduct on the mass-struggle front does not assume a decisive practical and organizational significance. In such conditions, mass actions remain under the leadership of the old organizations which by reason of their still powerful traditions continue to play the decisive role.

Similarly the problem of the united front does not arise in countries where – as in Bulgaria, for example – the Communist Party is the sole leading organization of the toiling masses.

But wherever the Communist Party already constitutes a big, organized, political force, but not the decisive magnitude: wherever the party embraces organizationally, let us say, one-fourth, one-third, or even a larger proportion of the organized proletarian vanguard, it is confronted with the question of the united front in all its acuteness.

If the party embraces one-third or one-half of the proletarian vanguard, then the remaining half or two-thirds are organized by the reformists or centrists. It is perfectly obvious, however, that even those workers who still support the reformists and the centrists are vitally interested in maintaining the highest material standards of living and the greatest possible freedom for struggle. We must consequently so devise our tactic as to prevent the Communist Party, which will on the morrow embrace the entire three-thirds of the working class, from turning into – and all the more so, from actually being – an organizational obstacle in the way of the current struggle of the proletariat.

Still more, the party must assume the initiative in securing unity in these current struggles. Only in this way will the party draw closer to those two-thirds who do not as yet follow its leadership, who do not as yet trust the party because they do not understand it. Only in this way can the party win them over.

4) If the Communist Party had not broken drastically and irrevocably with the Social Democrats, it would not have become the party of the proletarian revolution. It could not have taken the first serious steps on the road to revolution. It would have for ever remained a parliamentary safety-valve attached to the bourgeois state.

Whoever does not understand this, does not know the first letter of the ABC of Communism.

If the Communist Party did not seek for organizational avenues to the end that at every given moment joint, co-ordinated action between the Communist and the non-Communist (including the Social-Democratic) working masses were made possible, it would have thereby laid bare its own incapacity to win over – on the basis of mass action – the majority of the working class. It would degenerate into



a Communist propaganda society but never develop into a party for the conquest of power.

It is not enough to possess the sword, one must give it an edge it is not enough to give the sword an edge, one must know how to wield it.

After separating the Communists from the reformists it is not enough to fuse the Communists together by means of organizational discipline, it is necessary that this organization should learn how to guide all the collective activities of the proletariat in all spheres of its living struggle.

This is the second letter of the alphabet of Communism.

5) Does the united front extend only to the working masses or does it also include the opportunist leaders?

The very posing of this question is a product of misunderstanding.

If we were able simply to unite the working masses around our own banner or around our practical immediate slogans, and skip over reformist organizations, whether party or trade union, that would of course be the best thing in the world. But then the very question of the united front would not exist in its present form.

The question arises from this, that certain very important sections of the working class belong to reformist organizations or support them. Their present experience is still insufficient to enable them to break with the reformist organizations and join us. It may be precisely after engaging in those mass activities, which are on the order of the day, that a major change will take place in this connection. That is just what we are striving for. But that is not how matters stand at present. Today the organized portion of the working class is broken up into three formations.

One of them, the Communist, strives toward the social revolution and precisely *because of this* supports concurrently every movement, however partial, of the toilers against the exploiters and against the bourgeois state.

Another grouping, the reformist, strives toward conciliation with the bourgeoisie. But in order not to lose their influence over the workers reformists are compelled, against the innermost desires of their own leaders, to support the partial movements of the exploited against the exploiters.

Finally, there is a third grouping, the centrist, which constantly vacillates between the other two, and which has no independent significance.

The circumstances thus make wholly possible joint action on a whole number of vital issues between the workers united in these three respective organizations and the unorganized masses adhering to them.

The Communists, as has been said, must not oppose such actions but on the contrary must also assume the initiative for them, precisely for the reason that the



greater is the mass drawn into the movement, the higher its self-confidence rises, all the more self-confident will that mass movement be and all the more resolutely will it be capable of marching forward, however modest may be the initial slogans of struggle. And this means that the growth of the mass aspects of the movement tends to radicalize it, and creates much more favourable conditions for the slogans, methods of struggle, and, in general, the leading role of the Communist Party.

The reformists dread the revolutionary potential of the mass movement; their beloved arena is the parliamentary tribune, the trade-union bureaux, the arbitration boards, the ministerial antechambers.

On the contrary, we are, apart from all other considerations, interested in dragging the reformists from their asylums and placing them alongside ourselves before the eyes of the struggling masses. With a correct tactic we stand only to gain from this. A Communist who doubts or fears this resembles a swimmer who has approved the theses on the best method of swimming but dares not plunge into the water.

6) Unity of front consequently presupposes our readiness, within certain limits and on specific issues, to correlate in practice our actions with those of reformist organizations, to the extent to which the latter still express today the will of important sections of the embattled proletariat.

But, after all, didn't we split with them? Yes, because we disagree with them on fundamental questions of the working-class movement.

And yet we seek agreement with them? Yes, in all those cases where the masses that follow them are ready to engage in joint struggle together with the masses that follow us and when they, the reformists, are to a lesser or greater degree compelled to become an instrument of this struggle.

But won't they say that after splitting with them we still need them? Yes, their blabbermouths may say this. Here and there somebody in our own ranks may take fright at it. But as regards the broad working masses – even those who do not follow us and who do not as yet understand our goals but who do see two or three labour organizations leading a parallel existence – these masses will draw from our conduct this conclusion, that despite the split we are doing everything in our power to facilitate unity in action for the masses.

7) A policy aimed to secure the united front does not of course contain automatic guarantees that unity in action will actually be attained in all instances. On the contrary, in many cases and perhaps even the majority of cases, organizational agreements will be only half-attained or perhaps not at all. But it is necessary that the struggling masses should always be given the opportunity of convincing themselves that the non-achievement of unity in action was not due to our formalistic irreconcilability but to the lack of real will to struggle on the part of the reformists.



In entering into agreements with other organizations, we naturally obligate ourselves to a certain discipline in action. But this discipline cannot be absolute in character. In the event that the reformists begin putting brakes on the struggle to the obvious detriment of the movement and act counter to the situation and the moods of the masses, we as an independent organization always reserve the right to lead the struggle to the end, and this without our temporary semi-allies.

This, may give rise to a new sharpening of the struggle between us and the reformists. But it will no longer involve a simple repetition of one and the same set of ideas within a shut-in circle but will signify – provided our tactic is correct – the extension of our influence over new, fresh groups of the proletariat.

8) It is possible to see in this policy a rapprochement with the reformists only from the standpoint of a journalist who believes that he rids himself of reformism by ritualistically criticizing it without ever leaving his editorial office but who is fearful of clashing with the reformists before the eyes of the working masses and giving the latter an opportunity to appraise the Communist and the reformist on the equal plane of the mass struggle. Behind this seeming revolutionary fear of “rapprochement” there really lurks a political passivity which seeks to perpetuate an order of things wherein the Communists and reformists each retain their own rigidly demarcated spheres of influence, their own audiences at meetings, their own press, and all this together creates an illusion of serious political struggle.

9) We broke with the reformists and centrists in order to obtain complete freedom in criticizing perfidy, betrayal, indecision and the half-way spirit in the labour movement. For this reason any sort of organizational agreement which restricts our freedom of criticism and agitation is absolutely unacceptable to us. We participate in a united front but do not for a single moment become dissolved in it. We function in the united front as an independent detachment. It is precisely in the course of struggle that broad masses must learn from experience that we fight better than the others, that we see more clearly than the others, that we are more audacious and resolute. In this way, we shall bring closer the hour of the united revolutionary front under the undisputed Communist leadership.

(both articles by Trotsky are from the Marxist Internet Archive)

The Ten Commandments of the Spanish Communists

(April 1931)

1. The monarchy has lost the power, but hopes to win it back. The possessing classes are still firm in the saddle. The republican and socialist bloc has based itself upon the republican upheaval, in order to keep the masses from the road of the socialist revolution. No faith in speeches! Let us have action! In the first place:



the arrest of the most prominent leaders and supporters of the old regime! Confiscation of the property of the royal family and its most compromised henchmen! The arming of the workers!

2. The government, with the support of the republicans and socialists, will try by all possible means to enlarge its base towards the right, in the direction of the big bourgeoisie and will try some capitulations in order to neutralize the church. The government is an exploiters' government created to protect the exploiters against the exploited. The proletariat is in irreconcilable opposition to the government of "socialist" republican agents of the bourgeoisie.

3. The participation in power of the socialists means that violent clashes will increase between the workers and the socialist leaders. This fact opens up great possibilities for the revolutionary policy of the united front. Every strike, every demonstration, every approach of the workers towards the soldiers, every step of the masses towards the real democratization of the country from now on will clash with the resistance of the socialist leaders as men of "law and order." So it is all the more important for the Communist workers to take part in the united front with the socialist, syndicalist, and non-partisan workers and to draw the latter under their own leadership.

4. The Communist workers today comprise a small minority in the country. They cannot in an immediate way aspire to power. They cannot at this very moment set themselves the practical task of the violent overthrow of the republican-socialist government. Any attempt in this direction would be a catastrophic adventure. The masses of workers, soldiers and peasants must go through the stage of socialist republic illusions, in order to get rid of these illusions all the more radically and definitely. Not to be fooled by phrases, to look facts straight in the face, obstinately to prepare for the second revolution, the proletarian revolution.

5. The task of the Communists in the present period is to win the majority of the workers, of the soldiers, of the peasants. How can this be done? By carrying on agitation, by training cadres, by "patiently explaining" (Lenin), by organizing. All this on the basis of the masses' experience and the active participation of the Communists in this experience: a broad and bold united front policy.

6. The Communists do not take any step, with the republican-socialist bloc or any part of it, which either directly or indirectly could restrict or weaken the Communist freedom of criticism and agitation. Everywhere, the Communists will tirelessly explain to the masses of people that they shall be in the front ranks in



the struggle against all kinds of monarchical counter-revolution, but that no alliance is necessary for such a struggle with the republicans and socialists, whose policy will inevitably be founded upon concession to reaction and will tend to cover up its intrigues.

7. The Communists put forward the most radical democratic slogans; complete freedom for proletarian organizations, freedom of local self-government, eligibility of the people to all posts, admission to suffrage of men and women from the age of 18, etc.; creation of a workers' militia and later of a peasant militia. Confiscation of all property of the Royal family and church property for the benefit of the people, in the first place for the unemployed, for poor peasants, and for improving the conditions of the soldiers. Complete separation of church and state.

All civic rights and political advantages to be granted to soldiers. Eligibility to be officers in the army. The soldier is not an executioner of the people, nor an armed mercenary of the rich, nor a proletarian, but a revolutionary citizen, a blood brother of the worker and peasant. (* See translator's note at end.)

8. The central slogan of the proletariat is that of workers' soviets. This slogan must be tirelessly and constantly put forward and popularized and at the first opportunity we must move to its realization. Workers' soviets do not mean the immediate struggle for power. That is certainly the aim but it is one which the masses can attain only by the road of their own experience and with the help of the Communists work of enlightenment. Workers' soviets today mean the bringing together of the scattered forces of the proletariat, the struggle for the unity of the working class, for its autonomy. The workers' soviets take up questions of strike funds, of feeding the unemployed, of connections with the soldiers, in order to head off bloody encounters among them, of connections between city and country, in order to insure the alliance of the workers with the poor peasants. The workers' soviets include representatives of the army corps. It is in this way and only in this way that the soviet will become the organ of proletarian insurrection and later the organ of power.

9. The Communists must immediately work out a revolutionary agrarian program. The basis of this must be the confiscation of the land of the rich and privileged classes, of the exploiters beginning with the royal family and the church, for the benefit of the poor peasants and the soldiers. This program must be concretely adapted to different parts of the country. In every province, each with its own economic and historical peculiarities, there must be created a commission to



work out a concrete agrarian program, in close cooperation with the revolutionary peasants of the region. We must know how to hear the peasants' voice, in order to formulate it in a clear, accurate manner.

10. The so-called left socialists (among whom there are some good workers) will invite the Communists to make a bloc and even to unite their organizations. To this the Communists will answer: "We are ready, in the interests of the working class, and for the solution of concrete determined tasks, to work hand in hand with any group and any proletarian organization. To this very end we propose to create soviets. In these soviets, workers' representatives, belonging to different parties, will discuss all present day questions and all immediate tasks. The workers' soviet is the most natural, the most open, the most honest and healthy form of this alliance, considering the common work. In the worker soviet, we, Communists, will propose our slogans and our solutions of problems, and we will try to convince the workers of the correctness of our course. Each group within the workers' soviet must enjoy complete freedom of criticism. In the struggle for the practical tasks proposed by the soviet, we, Communists, will always be in the first rank. That is the form of collaboration which the Communists fraternally propose to the socialist syndicalist, and non-partisan workers.

By insuring unity in their own ranks, the Communists will win the confidence of the proletariat and of the great majority of the poor peasants; they will take the power into their armed hands and will open up the era of the socialist revolution.

Kadikoy

April 5, 1931

*** Translator's note:** This explanation is especially necessary because of the great hatred of the military in Spain, who appear everywhere as a great burden upon the people.

Joke of the day: The Ackerman family is concerned about the Trump boys lording it over wildlife kills in Zimbabwe. Her advice: Please Trump, give a large donation to the endangered species in SA. Now here's the thing- The Ackerman family are fronting for the US banks through the Ackerman family trust (which controls Pick 'n Pay)- they, together with the other food mafia (Spar, WW, Shoprite) are in collusion, keeping food prices high- not a word for the farmworkers who are brutally exploited, many still on the dop system, how many thousands have died because they could not afford the necessary nutrition. It may well be argued that the unemployed are an 'endangered species' in SA and across the world. Pick 'n Pay gives 'large' donations from what they steal from the poor, back to the poor. Ackerman giving advice to Trump is rather like Al Capone launching a campaign to make gangsterism more respectable. We still remember in 2001 when the Rand devalued massively, Pnp and other food gangsters raised their prices. When the currency corrected itself, the prices did not come down. Pick 'n Pay owes the working class. They should be nationalised and a state food distributor set up. Now that would be a great contribution to helping the 'endangered species' in SA (ie the poor).



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