

## **US imperialism and the Fukushima nuclear disaster**

When looking at the hold of US capital over Japan we should remember that US imperialism won the second world war. There is no section of the Japanese economy that is free from direct and indirect control of some form by US imperialism. For example the electricity company Hitachi is really controlled by General Electric (GE). The Toshiba company has a cross ownership with US nuclear construction company, Westinghouse.

35 years ago Dale Bridenbaugh, Gregory Minor and Richard Hubbard resigned from GE because they thought that the design of the Mark 1 nuclear reactor was flawed and that a pending nuclear disaster could result from the flaws. Four of the nuclear reactors that are now exploding at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant are Mark1 's built jointly by Toshiba and GE. Most nuclear power stations and there are hundreds of them in at least 72 countries around the world, are built to withstand level 7 earthquakes. The earthquake in Japan was level 9. Over the past few years high ranking Japanese researchers resigned from the Japanese nuclear authority as they opposed the building of the power stations in areas which were earthquake prone (the entire Japan is prone to earthquakes). However the profit motive of the US banks was such that they went ahead regardless of the risk.

In 1979 when Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded over 75 million people were exposed to high levels of radiation. Today higher levels of radiation has been detected in Tokyo (some 134km from Fukushima). The advice of the Japanese government? Besides evacuating a 20 km radius they are telling people to shut their mouths! [for those who do not know, radiation goes through one, whether your mouth is open or shut- it is the basis of X-rays- US imperialism designed nuclear bombs precisely because it goes through everything and leaves infrastructure intact- when Einstein found out that imperialism was using his knowledge to build nuclear bombs he said he should rather have become a cobbler]. Already some nuclear analysts are advising a radius of 80km to be cleared around Fukushima. [Greater Tokyo has 35 million people living there].

Most, if not all of the 54 nuclear reactors in Japan have been built in partnership with US imperialism. Profit and plunder was the sole motive of US imperialism in their nuclear plan for Japan. The Japanese working class should expel the US military bases from Japan and they should rise up against the Japanese imperialist regime that has been the junior partner in the plunder of the entire region. It is high time to take 'Egyptian fever' to Japan. For a general strike in Japan against US-Japanese imperialism

Further, the country with the most nuclear reactors is the USA. The very GE has a hand in controlling the nuclear and arms industry. The majority shareholders of GE are the US banks and financial institutions. They are the ones responsible for the mass dismissal of workers and the cutting back of benefits in welfare and education. They are waging their own type of war of destruction against the working class in the USA. The working class in Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Tunisia and elsewhere are fighting against regimes backed by

the same US, French and German monopolies. The masses in Egypt, in Bolivia, in Bahrain, in the USA, in Southern Africa, face the same common enemy- imperialism. We cannot leave the Wisconsin workers isolated, or the Bahraini workers isolated, what is needed is the preparation for a general strike in the USA against our common enemy- imperialism. The time has come for the working class to rise up and defeat the imperialist beast at home and abroad.

In South Africa, the very Westinghouse (Toshiba) is in partnership with the government to build 6 more nuclear power stations- they are in a joint venture with the PBMR (pebble bed modular reactor). Hitachi (GE) , Areva and Westinghouse are the ones to get the lion's share of the trillion Rand plunder currently underway- the so-called electricity build programme. For a few billion Rand kickbacks (Chancellor House where the ANC billionaires receives payment from imperialism), the ANC government does not mind the massive plunder (through artificially high electricity prices) and at the same time exposing the million in the region to possible nuclear fallout. The DA support the electricity scam and are in partnership with the ANC on the electricity attacks on the working class. These attacks on the working class would not have been possible if the Cosatu and SACP leaders launched a real fight against imperialism. The Cosatu leaders have failed to call a general strike against the electricity attacks but have instead justified the fakebuild programme of imperialism. It is high time to kick out the treacherous Cosatu leaders and for the working class to break with the capitalist SACP and ANC. We need a revolutionary working class party in South Africa and around the world.

Forward to the refounding of the Fourth International!

Forward to Socialism!

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