

Statement by the Committee of the Fill Up the Gulf Imperialists

In a series of moves and counter-moves, the U.S., Britain and France, aided by Italy and W. Germany, on the one side, and the USSR on the other, have crammed the already hot waters of the Gulf full to bursting with nuclear warships. They have marshalled the biggest concentration of naval firepower since World War 2.

In this situation, what stands out is both the rapid development of "the danger of a new, third world war as well as the real perspective for revolution in many countries of the world," to quote from the *Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement*.

The level of danger posed by the military buildup is matched only by the level of hypocrisy unleashed by the fleets of political mouthpieces serving both sides. Those four dozen aircraft carriers, battleships and submarines aren't there to protect Kuwait's 11 oil tankers. Nor are they there to take on Iran's speedboats and mine-laying sailboats. None of the imperialist powers has reason to fear the Khomeini regime. Least of all are these ships there to bring *peace* to a region where the war they've fomented for seven years has already killed over half a million people. Iran and Iraq have both been pumped full of weapons, money and military intelligence by East and West, which have both alternated between fueling the war and seeking to contain it, as it suited their interests.

The shooting of the U.S. warship that helped provide the excuse for all this was done by Iraq, with a French missile; the mines have been laid by both Iran and Iraq, and Iran's are supplied by Italy; Iran's Silkworm missiles were bought from China with American approval and Saudi dollars, while the USSR, so anxious to pose as Iran's big brother right now, has been the main supplier of Iraq and used the

excuse of protecting Kuwaiti shipping (presumably against Iran) to send its warships into the Gulf only a few weeks ago. The only consistency here and the only way to understand this madness is this: the various powers are each pursuing their particular imperialist interests, as members of two opposing blocs; the target has been control of the Gulf itself and the Gulf in turn could be key to who controls the world.

Both the Iranian and Iraqi regimes are dependent on imperialism. Both have turned their countries into a prison-house of nations and bombed and massacred the villages of the Kurdish people fighting a just war for their national liberation on both sides of the border. Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded Iran in the first place, at the West's behest, to make sure that the Khomeini regime would listen to Western reason. The Iranian regime's boast about being tied to "neither East nor West" has concealed ties to both, even though the regime has increasingly tried to sell itself to the West. It was this ruling class that on the behalf of world imperialism butchered the Iranian revolution that had toppled the Shah. Its usefulness to imperialism abroad as well was more than amply demonstrated when Khomeini & Co bought arms from Israel with U.S.-backed Saudi money, which in turn went to prop up the U.S.'s Contra army in Nicaragua. When the Irangate affair leaked out and the people of the world responded with disgust, Iranian head of parliament Rafsanjani declared, "Mr Reagan, we praise your courageous activities and we demand you continue."

The target of this piling up of imperialist vessels in the Gulf is neither the Iranian nor the Iraqi regime. Each of the two blocs has sent its ships to circle like sharks in the Gulf waters to resolve the Gulf

situation on terms most favourable to it and unfavourable to the other side — which may not be exactly the terms most favourable to the Iranian or Iraqi regimes. As Mao Tse-tung once remarked about the fate of another clique, being a running dog of the imperialists is no fun.

The possibility of World War 3 breaking out in this region is real. But in the same way the mounting strains of imperialist contention have made the existing order far more brittle and likely to shatter in the face of revolutionary blows. It is not Khomeini-style upheaval that the imperialists fear most here — they are afraid that the masses of people will find their way out of the stranglehold of the established regimes and send some crowns rolling down the Gulf maelstrom.

This extreme situation is the result of the intensification of the contradictions of the imperialist system; it shows, as Lenin said, how the imperialists are giants with feet of clay. Even as they strut their boats and bombers, the increased contention puts still more strain on them. This show of strength and military might can be turned into its opposite, as pointed to by their inability to deal with a few old mines dropped from small boats. Their efforts to mobilise their reactionary puppet states in the Gulf for their war efforts and the possibilities and perhaps reality of actually fighting a war could set their puppet states ablaze and reverberate in their own home countries with unforeseeable consequences.

The revolutionary masses in this region have suffered far too much in their ceaseless efforts to liberate themselves to choose the solutions offered by the likes of Khomeini, or the feudal Islamic "freedom fighters" supported by the U.S. in Afghanistan, the patronage of the Saudi "moderate" kings, the Soviet-made "People's Republics" of Afghanis-

Revolutionary Internationalist Movement with the Crowns of and Tyrants!

tan and Yemen, the reactionary pro-Soviet Arab compradors like Kaddaffi and Assad, or the international brokers such as Arafat who have used the aspirations of the Palestinian people as an asset to be bargained away to the U.S., the USSR and the reactionary Arab states, and who together with other factions of the PLO have striven to make the revolutionary Palestinian masses abandon their aim of overthrowing the Zionist state of Israel. Who among the oppressed would want to repeat any of these experiences?

How many roads have been revealed to be dead ends by the developments in the Middle East? The "guardianship" of the Western or Eastern imperialists, Shi'ite and Sunni reaction, Islamic fundamentalism or pro-imperialist "hereticism," the strategy of seeking to pressure the imperialists into agreements by peaceful means or by terrorism. All have failed — imperialism's grip has not been loosened. Only through proletarian revolution, through genuine armed struggle of the masses led by a vanguard guided by the stand and science of communism, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, will the oppressed be able to truly move towards freeing themselves and all mankind. Two great victories have been won on this road already, in the October revolution led by Lenin in Russia and in China under the leadership of Mao Tsetung. History has shown us that the reversal of the rule of the proletariat in those countries have taken them back to imperialism and reaction. These setbacks do not prove our revolution impossible; on the contrary, the experiences of the exploited and oppressed through all their strivings for liberation show that proletarian revolution is the only possible way forward.

The great possibilities for revolu-

tion — and the dangers — point all the more to the weakness or non-existence of a proletarian vanguard as a problem which must be solved in many countries of this region as well as elsewhere. There is the danger of falling into despair and letting the reactionaries off the hook. And there is the danger of falling into the trap of reactionary ideologies and of allowing oneself to be drawn into serving as a soldier for the various contending reactionary armies and interests.

It is not just past history that proves that proletarian revolution is the only practical alternative to eternal slavery to imperialism. In Peru today there is the example of a genuine people's war, led by a proletarian vanguard, the Communist Party of Peru (PCP), which has escaped the clutches of all would-be imperialist predators and manipulators and taken aim squarely not only at the reactionary government currently in place in Peru but also at the imperialist system as a whole. What has been proven possible in Peru is possible elsewhere. As Mao Tsetung said, "the correctness or incorrectness of the political and ideological line determines everything." It is not aid, arms or foreign support that is key for advancing the revolution. Mao points out that even if one begins without a single soldier, if one has a correct line soldiers will come forward.

The masses of people in the region gave a tiny taste of their power when they knocked down the mighty Shah, and it is the masses of exploited and oppressed alone who can stop this mass slaughter and the even greater slaughter the imperialists are preparing for. Revolution in the Gulf region and the Middle East would be a major blow to the war preparations of the imperialists of the Eastern and Western blocs.

In the imperialist countries that have marshalled their naval forces

in the Gulf or whose armed forces are giving logistical support — the U.S., USSR, France, Britain, W. Germany, Italy, etc. — the revolutionaries, the exploited and oppressed, must expose and struggle against these moves by their imperialist ruling classes who have long fattened on the blood of the people of this region and the rest of the oppressed nations and who are pursuing their own bloodsucking interests as members of two war blocs lining up to contend for world domination. In opposing the danger of world war, it must never be forgotten that, as the *Declaration* puts it, "only revolution, the revolutionary war that the Marxist-Leninist forces are leading or preparing to lead, can prevent this crime." There is a tight cord connecting the revolutionary struggles of the masses in the Gulf and Middle East and in the imperialist countries, and indeed tightly connecting the worldwide struggle to overthrow the imperialist system which is the source of war and all the world's miseries.

The slogan of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is "Prevent world war, step up the struggle for revolution throughout the world." As our Movement's *Declaration* says, taking as its starting point the stand of Mao Tsetung: "Either revolution will prevent war, or war will give rise to revolution'...And so the revolutionary communists must get prepared, and prepare the class conscious workers and revolutionary sections of the people and step up their revolutionary struggle."

21 August 1987

Statement by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

A WORLD TO WIN 1988/10