



*Central Committee
Communist Party of Canada
August 23-24, 2008*

Special Resolutions

SUPPORT WAR RESISTERS - STOP THE DEPORTATIONS!

Since the start of the illegal U.S.-led war against Iraq, growing numbers of U.S. military personnel have refused to participate in this war of aggression and occupation. Hundreds have crossed the border into Canada, many with their families, just as an earlier generation of soldiers did during U.S. imperialism's dirty war against Vietnam. These new war resisters base their position on the Nuremberg Tribunal, which established that under international law, soldiers have a moral duty to refuse to carry out illegal orders, such as the massive killings and torture of Iraqis. Yet in December 2004, the Canadian government (then led by Liberal PM Paul Martin) reversed Canada's former position by intervening in the first hearing of a war resister before the Immigration and Refugee Board to argue that the legality of the war had no relevance to his claim. From the beginning, the war resisters have been welcomed with open arms by Canadians, who have provided shelter, financial assistance, and solidarity. Opinion surveys indicate that most Canadians support the right of the war resisters to stay in Canada; a June 2007 poll conducted in Ontario, for example, found that 64.6% of respondents said that U.S. soldiers who oppose the war should be allowed to stay in Canada. Earlier this year, the House of Commons passed a resolution stating a similar position. But the Harper minority government continues to defy public opinion and the House of Commons on this issue, choosing instead to support efforts by the Bush administration and the Pentagon to punish the war resisters. This summer, after years of legal and political struggles, the first war resisters are nearing imminent deportation back to the U.S., where they face court martials, years in prison, and even the possibility of the death penalty for "desertion during wartime." The Communist Party of Canada reiterates our full solidarity with all military personnel (including Americans and Canadians) who oppose the imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and extends our unconditional support for the right of the U.S. war resisters and their families to seek sanctuary in Canada. We condemn the Harper Tories for refusing to reject U.S. demands for the return of the war resisters, yet another sell-out of Canadian sovereignty. We urge all Canadians to support the September 13th pan-Canadian Day of Action to support U.S. Iraq war resisters. The members and clubs of the Communist Party will mobilize to take part in the actions, demonstrations, and pickets which will take place in cities and towns across Canada on that day.

SALUTE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION!

January 1, 2009 will mark the 50th anniversary of the victory of the heroic Cuban Revolution, which swept out the corrupt US-backed Batista dictatorship. Within a few short years, led by comrades Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and many other heroes, Cuba had defeated all attempts by US imperialism to reverse the Revolution. Despite the enormous burden imposed by the US embargo, Cuba embarked on a fundamental, historic transformation of the island. The transition to socialism liberated Cuban workers and peasants from centuries of exploitation and foreign domination. Becoming the "first free territory of the Americas", Cubans achieved full employment, housing for all, free medical care and education, the lowest infant mortality rates in the hemisphere, and many other successes. The Revolution placed Cuba on the world stage, as a powerful voice for national liberation, freedom from imperialist rule, equality of

nations, and an end to wars and militarism. Cuba has offered its doctors to the world, providing urgently needed humanitarian solidarity to many countries, and has become the first country to successfully combine economic well-being for its people with the principles of environmental sustainability. For all these reasons and many more, the Cuban Revolution is a beacon of freedom in a world yearning for peace, equality, social justice, human rights, and national sovereignty. As the 50th anniversary approaches, the Central Committee of the Communist Party salutes the people of Cuba, and our fraternal comrades of the Communist Party of Cuba, led by President Raul Castro. We also send warm greetings to comrade Fidel Castro, who has given exemplary leadership over these five decades, not only to the Cuban Revolution, but to the entire international working class and communist movement. We reaffirm our historic links of solidarity with the Cuban working class, which go back many years before the Revolution, and we pledge to use celebrations of the 50th Anniversary to increase our efforts to build the maximum friendship of the peoples of Canada and Cuba, and to win wider support for the struggle for freedom of the heroic Cuban Five prisoners in U.S. jails.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF POLICE VIOLENCE AND RACISM

This meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada condemns the ongoing killing of civilians by police officers across Canada, and renews our demand for full civilian oversight of the RCMP, provincial and municipal police forces. On August 9, 18-year-old Freddy Villanueva and two of his companions were shot by Montreal police officers. This tragic killing is the latest in a long series. The Montreal Coalition Opposed to Police Brutality reports that over the past 22 years, 43 people have died at the hands of the city's police, most of them members of racialized and impoverished communities. But this blatant record of police violence and racism continues unchecked. Only two officers have ever been charged in these Montreal cases, and both were acquitted. In Winnipeg this summer, two young Aboriginal men have been killed by police - 17-year-old Michael Langan, who died after being Tasered, and 28-year-old Craig McDougall, the nephew of J.J. Harper, who also died at the hands of police. The investigations into all these killings are always conducted by other police forces, which routinely clear their colleagues of wrong-doing. We give full support to community demands for a full and independent public inquiry into these deaths, and for suspension of the officers involved pending such an inquiries. The shocking pattern of impunity for police racism and violence across Canada, most often committed against Aboriginal people and immigrants, must be broken. Instead of an occasional slap on the wrist, criminal charges must be laid against all police officers who abuse their authority by shooting, tasering and beating people. Investigations of all such cases should be carried out by independent bodies, not other police forces. Justice must be won, for Freddy Villanueva, Michael Langan, Craig McDougall, and for the countless other victims of police brutality across Canada!

END TORY CORRUPTION - HARPER MUST RESIGN

Ever since squeaking into office with a minority of MPs and the support of barely one-third of voters, the Harper Tories have governed with appalling arrogance. Repeatedly, this undemocratic government rejects public opinion on key issues such as the unpopular war in Afghanistan, and even ignores resolutions adopted by a majority of MPs, for example on protecting the Wheat Board or welcoming war resisters to Canada. But the corruption of the Harper Tories has reached new levels with the revelations of the so-called "in-out" scandal. Under this scheme, the Conservatives dumped excess funds into the campaign accounts of certain candidates to pay for national advertising purchases, and then bilked Canadian taxpayers out of millions of dollars by getting tax breaks for such spending. It is abundantly clear from the testimony of the few Conservatives who have braved their party's threats in order to speak about this

matter that the "in-out" practice was well understood to be a violation of Elections Canada regulations. Those who conducted this illegal scheme should face criminal charges, and the Harper government should resign, since this activity was carried out at the highest levels of the Conservative party. Furthermore, the massive war chest of the Conservative Party, filled with donations from the wealthy and powerful, should be frozen pending the report of a full inquiry into the extent of illegal financial practices by "the favoured party of big business." This episode is a warning that the entire electoral system is in urgent need of reform, to drastically reduce election spending limits, and to ensure equality for all political parties and candidates, including fair access to the mass media.

NO TO NATO EXPANSIONISM

The dangerous outbreak of armed conflict in the Caucasus, launched on Aug. 7 by the deadly Georgian military assault against schools, government buildings and residential areas in the South Ossetian capital city of Tskhinvali, is a stark illustration of the potential for such events to spark wider wars. This episode is also a disquieting reminder that during the last century, two world wars which took the lives of over sixty million people began on European soil, arising from the imperialist drive for redivision of the world. Far from receding, the danger of new wars is on the rise, fuelled by inter-imperialist rivalries and by the drive to seize control of oil and other vital resources.

In this situation, the expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe and central Asia is an ominous development. Far from being a "defensive" alliance, NATO was formed in 1949 to threaten the socialist countries of Europe and the Soviet Union with a vast array of tactical and nuclear weaponry. NATO actively promoted military alliances in other regions to encircle the socialist countries and to restrict their ability to provide concrete assistance to global struggles for national liberation. While millions of people hoped that NATO would dissolve following the demise of the Soviet Union, the US-led alliance instead began a new stage of militarism, acting as a hammer to smash holdouts against western capitalist penetration of eastern Europe. This was the cause of the 1999 NATO bombing war against Yugoslavia, a war which had nothing to do with "democracy" or protecting small nations. Since that time, NATO has aggressively expanded its reach, taking formal control of the imperialist occupation forces in Afghanistan, and adding the Baltic countries, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Poland and the Czech Republic to its membership. More recently Croatia and Albania have been invited to join NATO, and Ukraine and Georgia were told that they would likely become members in future. The strategic calculation of the US is clearly to isolate Russia and China, which it sees as rising geopolitical rivals. For Russia, which suffered enormous losses during the Nazi invasion, the forging of a chain of imperialist military bases and armies along its western and southern borders clearly signals a US attempt to create a force with the abilities to attack and seize Russian territory. Given the hair-trigger tensions in Central Asia and the Middle East, fuelled by the bloody occupation of Iraq and the drumbeat of US and Israeli threats to bomb Iran, the events in Georgia and the proposal to install US missile systems in Poland can only increase the possibility of a military clash with catastrophic consequences.

Here in Canada, instead of working to reduce these tensions, the Harper Tories are accelerating the push begun under the former Liberal government for closer military integration with the US, i.e. to serve as the spear-carriers of an increasingly belligerent imperialist bully. The new "Canada First Defence Strategy" elaborated by the Harper government reflects the desire of the most chauvinistic and aggressive sections of Canadian finance capital to enormously increase profitable military spending and to bolster Canada's ability to send troops in support of US/NATO interventions across the planet. This undermines Canadian sovereignty even further, by subordinating our defence policy to the global military strategy of US imperialism and the NATO alliance.

From the very beginning, the Communist Party of Canada has called for Canadian withdrawal from this dangerous military alliance, and from the related NORAD agreement. Canadian foreign policy should be based on the goals of eliminating militarism and support for global nuclear disarmament. More than ever, it is necessary for Canadians to reject the drive for war, and to defeat the Conservatives in the impending federal election, as a first step towards withdrawing from NATO and adopting a foreign policy of peace and disarmament.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE WALK FOR JUSTICE

The historic "Walk for Justice" which left from the west coast on June 21, National Aboriginal Day, to demand a public inquiry into the cases of missing Aboriginal and other women, will soon reach Ottawa for a September 15 day of lobbying and other actions. As one of the walk's organizers said at the outset, "families are suffering because there has been no justice, closure, equality or accountability over the past four decades from our authorities. Our data-base has increased to over 3000 women and children still missing or categorized as unsolved murders across the country; there are over 200 in two areas of BC alone. This is not including those women who have died through acts of domestic violence or those who are still disappearing at an average of about three a week." The walkers have met with thousands of people on their journey, winning the support of a wide range of Aboriginal, labour and other organizations for their just demands, including a restructuring of the judicial system, law enforcement and all levels of government, and progress towards a society free of systemic racism, sexism, discrimination, poverty, homelessness and domestic violence. The Communist Party of Canada pledges to work in full cooperation with Aboriginal peoples to address the problems that plague their communities and often result in their exposure to higher levels of danger and violence than the rest of the country. This Central Committee meeting of the CPC calls upon Parliament and provincial governments to reverse the many years of cutbacks which have cruelly undermined the work of grassroots women's organizations, and to provide the funding which is so desperately needed to support a full network of community based shelters and women's centres. We demand an end to the systemic racist policies which condemn Aboriginal peoples to poverty and despair, forcing many into dangerous living and work situations. We demand that police and government officials who have for decades refused to conduct serious investigations of the murders and disappearances of Aboriginal women be held to account, and that urgent action be taken to end the violence which has taken so many lives. We send our warmest greetings to participants in the Walk For Justice, and our full support for their demands, which are crucial for the future of the life-givers and caretakers of society.