

The April 4 protests across Canada and the world marking the NATO military alliance's 60th anniversary are welcome.

Ending the war in Afghanistan remains the pivotal, burning issue in Canada and world politics. This campaign is directly tied to the demand for Canada to leave NATO and to cut Canada's rapidly escalating military spending – now higher than at any time since the Second World War.

War and the crisis

The present economic crisis is leading to greater rivalry among states, more imperialist aggression and less democracy in world affairs, and the aggravation of every great problem and injustice confronting humanity today. Each country is shoring up the positions of "their" banks and giant corporations with billions and trillions of dollars, even as workers in their millions lose their jobs and are left to rot.

Another road leads to an early economic recovery with full employment. It leads to a better society where people no longer starve to death, where nations live in equality and peace, where people's basic needs are met, and where nature is protected from selfish private interests.

Moving Canada toward a different future requires building a broad alliance of all the peoples' movements for peace and social justice, for the strengthening of our combined voice outside of Parliament, a place where the Harper Conservatives have dominated a weak parliamentary opposition for too long.



Afghanistan, the killing field of Obama and Harper

The U.S. decision to send more troops will only escalate death and destruction in Afghanistan. NATO's occupation is turning into a catastrophe for imperialism and especially for millions of Afghan people. Twice in 2008 Canada sent food aid to prevent mass starvation, an indictment of eight years of NATO "progress."

Thousands of Afghan civilians have already been killed by NATO forces, while schools and hospitals are still lacking for millions of people. The occupation is an unjust, imperialist war that must end immediately.

Stephen Harper has finally come to the realization of what millions of Canadians already knew: that NATO will never "win" in Afghanistan. Harper could have asked the people of

NATO: Armed and Dangerous after Sixty Years

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is one of imperialism's most dangerous weapons against peace and national sovereignty.

The leading capitalist states formed the aggressive military alliance in 1949 as a leading tool of imperialism to roll back the democratic advances created by the defeat of fascism in World War Two – not just the United Nations Charter, which it violated by its formation as a global military alliance, but as an alliance set up to preserve and regain colonial rule and oppose a new, progressive international economic order.

Since the beginning, NATO has been dominated by the United States' aggressive military doctrines, compelling NATO countries to maintain massive, well equipped armies and the most dangerous nuclear weapons in Europe, aimed at the Soviet Union and Eastern European socialist countries.

Following the overthrow of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe nearly twenty years ago, NATO has continued to serve as an instrument for the leading imperialist countries to dominate the global economy.

NATO's aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999 was a savage,

unilateral and criminal blow to the sovereignty of Europe's last country with a declared goal of socialism. In the middle of its bombing campaign, NATO held a gala 50th anniversary celebration in Washington. The member states changed NATO's mandate, allowing it unilaterally to start "preventive" wars anywhere in the world, well beyond its original "North Atlantic" territory.

The new mandate reflects the most aggressive, criminal military doctrines of the U.S. administration; it is a mandate that totally violates the most basic international laws.

Since 2001 in support of U.S. imperialism, NATO has been carrying out a war of plunder and domination in Afghanistan. Successive Liberal and Conservative governments made Canada into one of George Bush's keenest bootlickers in this blood-soaked occupation.

NATO is expanding its membership eastward, recruiting countries surrounding Russia, and coordinating with countries that surround China – both countries with rich resources and which at times resist the hegemony of the core countries of NATO.

As seen by the U.S.'s "green light" for Georgia's aggression in 2008, NATO is seeking to provoke a war with Russia, a country that now has a low threshold for the "first use" of its own nuclear weapons.

China is being provoked by the growing number of encircling U.S. military bases and targeted military exercises.



The Communist Party of Canada believes it is more important than ever to build an effective, broadly based campaign against NATO, focusing on Canada's immediate and total withdrawal. Pulling Canada out of NATO is an essential step in winning an independent foreign policy of peace and disarmament for Canada.

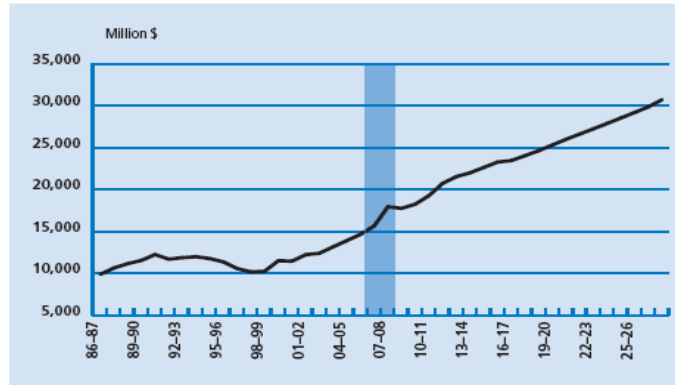
The 60th anniversary this April will be timely for mass actions against NATO across Canada. The Communist Party of Canada will work for the success of such efforts already being planned in the peace movement and on initiating more activities right across Canada.

– *Abridged version; to read the full text, visit www.comunist-party.ca - Meeting of the Central Committee, CPC - Toronto, Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2009*

Vietnam or Aboriginal peoples here in Canada – unjust occupations never succeed.

But the Harper government is plowing ahead with this unjust occupation, placing its loyal service to the military-industrial complex and U.S. empire ahead of the anti-war majority in this country.

Defence program, fiscal years 1986/87 to 2027/28



The Harper Conservative government's *Canada First Defence Strategy* would boost military spending past \$30 billion per year by 2027.

Build the campaign to end the war and withdraw from NATO

A substantial majority of Canadians are now convinced that the 'mission' in Afghanistan is an utter failure and want our troops brought home NOW! Our anti-war efforts are made stronger – not weaker – by linking this demand with the call to exit Canada from NATO and other aggressive military alliances. It has been decades since Canadians have engaged in a serious debate over NATO. Numerous organizations like the Canadian Peace Congress, the NDP, the Communist Party and other groups have long called for Canada to leave NATO.

Now is the time to sharpen that debate, and fight for a truly independent 'made-in-Canada' foreign policy based on peace and disarmament, not on aggression, militarization and war.

Join the Communist Party of Canada!

Join the party that puts people before profit, the party that fights for a socialist Canada! Contact us for information or to apply for membership:

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End the War in Afghanistan

Canada out of NATO

Cut military spending



April 4, 2009 Day of Action
a statement from the
Communist Party of Canada