

# Bad News For Zelensky!

by our Eastern European Affairs correspondent

A new and possibly pro-Russian government in Slovakia, worsening relations with Poland, rows in the American Congress that threaten the continuing flow of arms to Kiev and more bad news from the front – it’s not been a good week for the Zelensky regime.

The failure of the US Congress to approve additional Ukraine spending in the 45-day stop-gap funding bill and the subsequent ousting of Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House reflects the growing strength of the Donald Trump come-back campaign. But whether it will seriously derail the deep state’s reckless war now depends on how the voting public responds in the forthcoming elections. Likewise with the Poles, once Ukraine’s best friend in NATO but now at loggerheads with Kiev over cheap grain exports that threaten the livelihood of Polish farmers.

But the worst news, as far as Kiev is concerned, was the victory of the Slovak social-democrats in last week’s election. The Direction-Social Democracy (SMER-SD) party came first in the general election last weekend, and they’re now poised to start talks about forming a government. The party is the



social-democratic heir to the old communist movement that ruled the country when it was part of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and its leader, Robert Fico, says he will not support further military aid for Ukraine. “Slovakia and the people of Slovakia have bigger problems than Ukraine,” he told the media following the announcement of the results that left SMER-SD with around 23 per cent of the vote, with the liberal Progressive Slovakia (PS) behind with some 18 per cent.

The old Slovak government, led by conservatives who loyally toed the imperialist line, supplied the Ukrainians with armoured personnel carriers, howitzers and its entire fleet of Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets.

This will all stop if Fico can build a working coalition in parliament. Humanitarian aid would continue but all military assistance to the puppet regime would cease. “We are prepared to help with the reconstruction of the state, but you know our opinion on arming Ukraine,” he said.

During the election campaign Fico said his party

would not “send a single round [of ammunition] to Ukraine” if it won. This week the social-democratic leader, who is a former prime minister, described the ongoing conflict as a great tragedy, adding that prolonging the conflict would only make things worse. “We will do everything we can to start peace negotiations as quickly as possible,” he said. “Further killing does not benefit anyone.”

Meanwhile back in the Kremlin Vladimir Putin has held talks with Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of the Chechen republic, on the war and the economic development of the Caucasian member of the Russian Federation. Chechnya has sent five regiments and three battalions to the front and their troops played a major part in the liberation of south Ukraine last year.

A Ukrainian commando raid on Crimea was foiled when Russian war-planes sank the commandos’ motorboat and jet skis in the sea off the western coast of the peninsula.

Driving the Russians out of Crimea was a major objective of the Ukrainian offensive that began in June. Supplied

with state-of-the-art NATO rockets and armour the puppet president, Vladimir Zelensky, and his masters in Washington had high hopes of victory in the summer. But those dreams were dashed as the Russians stubbornly held the line along the front that runs from the Donbas to the Black Sea.

Although Russian air defences have repeatedly foiled

rocket and drone attacks on Crimea’s road and rail links to the rest of Russia, Ukrainian missiles did manage to hit the HQ building of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol last month. The Ukrainians claimed a direct hit had killed or wounded over 100 Russian officers and men, including the fleet’s commander, Admiral Viktor Sokolov – but this was wishful thinking. Sokolov appeared alive and well on Russian TV a few days later and, in any case, the Russian naval command had evacuated the building, whose location was well known, a long time ago.

The Ukrainian naval presence in the Black Sea, which it inherited from the old Soviet Union, was significantly reduced after the Crimean republic returned to the Russian Federation in 2014. The Ukrainian navy and its marines were downgraded as most of their colleagues who served on the peninsula joined the Russian side.

## FUND

This week’s post brought in £1,007 thanks to supporters all over the country: £30 from a regular reader in Essex, £25 from St Helens, another £25 from Dagenham and three tenners from three friends in London. This gave us a grand total of £3,000 – a good effort although sadly still £500 short of our target.

The £3,500 October appeal starts now. Help kick it off with a contribution to the fighting fund that helps keep our suppliers sweet and our presses rolling – as they have done since 1977.

We rely entirely on our readers to keep us going. To keep the cost of the New Worker down. To get our communist voice heard in the factories, the offices and estates throughout the country. To produce the Electronic New Worker that goes all round the world.

All donations, big or small, help keep our presses rolling. Please send your donation to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here:

<http://newworker.org/ncpcentral/fightingfund.html>

## INSIDE

CANADA	.. P5
CORBYN	.. P10
CHINA	.. P10
PALESTINE	.. P11
SYRIA	.. P12



# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## Only one choice...

Some of the childish elements on the left would have us believe that nothing could be worse than a Labour government led by Sir Keir Starmer. But last week's Tory conference showed that no matter how bad the current Labour leadership is, the Tories are much, much worse.

There, in Manchester, nonsensical talk about raising the retirement age to 75 was taken seriously while the former UKIP leader, Nigel Farage, who was covering conference for GB News, virtually outshone everyone on Rishi Sunak's front bench.

Although Rishi Sunak had hinted that the former Brexit campaigner would be welcomed by the party he left in 1992 no-one seriously thinks it will ever happen, least of all Farage who says he's not even interested in returning to Sunak's "broad church".

But working till you drop could happen if former Brexit negotiator Lord Frost has his way. The Tory grandee told delegates that: "The honest truth is that the pension age is going to have to go up quite a long way to solve this problem [of reducing public expenditure]. That seems to me the best way of getting out of it in the medium term."

"The big blocks of spending are health, pension and benefits," says the noble lord. "If you don't tackle those, you're not really tackling anything. People are much healthier than they used to be, and I think [the pension age] does need to go up," he said. Asked whether it should be raised to 70, he replied "75, it's quite a lot higher".

Needless to say, this is too much for even the Blairites to swallow. And as we're in the run-up to the next general election there will, thankfully, be few takers in the Sunak camp for Frost's draconian plan. But this is what we're up against.

Crawling to the Americans isn't just about preserving British imperialism's interests around the world or upholding the 'special relationship' with what some Tory politicians still regard as our 'trans-Atlantic cousins'. It's about admiring the unfettered capitalist system that operates in the USA – a billionaires' playground that's hell on earth for the poor and the sick and the elderly who cannot afford to pay for treatment in the 'land of the free'. This is what they want here. Liz Truss leads the pack but there's plenty more who agree with her free-for-all neo-con economics that nearly brought Britain to its knees during her brief spell in office last year.

The social-democrats may not be much better. The slavish support of their leaders for what they think is the dominant section of the ruling class has led to betrayal after betrayal.

But the possibility of change remains as long as Labour retains its links with the trade unions and the cooperative movement.

We need to defeat the rightwing within the movement and strengthen the left within the Labour Party and the unions to create a democratic Labour Party that will carry out the demands of organised labour when in office.

Bourgeois democracy is a fraud. It is democracy for the exploiters and dictatorship in all but a formal sense of the exploited. Bourgeois elections, when they are held, are used so that the smallest number of people can manipulate the maximum number of votes.

Standing left candidates without mass support against Labour only divides the movement and ignores the obvious fact that, at the moment, the only realistic alternative to a Tory government is one led by Labour.

# Rumble may be banned over Russell Brand

**Observers are speculating whether the video sharing platform Rumble could become unavailable in the UK amidst regulations governing online content there. The new provisions are set to become law as the comedian and podcaster, Russell Brand, is under fire for alleged sexual assault.**

Rumble, an online video hosting platform featuring content from Russell Brand and other prominent commentators, may be blocked or forced to cease operations in the UK. That's according to analysts responding to recent tensions between the Canadian company and the Conservative government.

The comments were published in the *Times* last week and come amidst requests to various social media companies to de-monetise Brand's content by Dame Caroline Dineage, the chair of the Sunak government's culture, media and sport committee. A new bill set to become law soon would also give the government's television regulator Ofcom substantial new powers to control online content there.

"They [Rumble] don't get a free pass," said Lord Richard Allan, a former Facebook executive who advised the government in writing the regulations. "When they get a letter from Ofcom saying, 'Here are all the things you're going to have to do,' it seems to me the most likely reaction is going to be they're going to say, 'Well, we won't operate in the UK anymore'."

The Canadian-headquartered social media platform had previously voiced their opposition to requests to prevent Brand from receiving income from the site, calling them "extremely disturbing".

"We regard it as deeply inappropriate and danger-

ous that the UK parliament would attempt to control who is allowed to speak on our platform or to earn a living," said Rumble's chief executive Chris Pavlovski in a statement on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Rumble is already unavailable in neighbouring France after the company refused to agree to the country's demands to remove accounts for Russian state media, including Sputnik. French internet service providers have blocked the site there since November 2022.

The UK's new Online Safety Bill, recently passed in parliament, is set to become law after receiving royal assent, a usually perfunctory process under which legislation must receive official approval from the country's monarchy.

In order to continue operating in the UK, the law would compel platforms such as Rumble to remove content deemed illegal in the country, including material that incites violence or race hatred under the country's laws.

The bill also stipulates regulation of a new category of material that, while legal, is considered "harmful", a concept recently dubbed by X platform CEO Linda Yaccarino as moderation of "lawful but awful" content. Finally, the law would force platforms to make efforts to prevent minors from viewing certain material.

The law enforces criminal liability for senior managers of large online platforms, meaning executives of Rumble or other companies could be arrested for noncompliance if they visit the UK.

Comedian-turned-podcaster Russell Brand is currently under scrutiny after a joint investigation by UK media publicised claims from four anonymous women alleging sexual misconduct by the

British comedian between 2006 and 2013.

Among the claims was an accusation of rape by one of the women, corroborated by medical records discovered from a rape crisis centre. An additional woman came forward to police shortly after the report with an allegation of assault in 2003.

Brand has denied the claims and has yet to be charged with any criminal offences. A critic of mainstream media and the UK government, he's also condemned the new Online Safety Bill as "a piece of UK legislation that grants sweeping surveillance and censorship powers".

The comedian formerly identified himself as a "socialist" and a supporter of former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, although he's interviewed figures from across the political spectrum as part of his online podcasts. Controversy surrounding the media figure prompted the late English political and cultural theorist Mark Fisher to write an influential essay about online political culture in 2013.

Rumble, a video sharing website known for promoting free speech is sometimes criticised for controversial content although its terms and conditions forbid racism and anti-Semitism. The company also owns the Locals crowd-funding platform and the podcasting site CallIn.

Online content regulation and the phenomenon of 'fake news' have been prominent concerns in Western politics since the election of former US President Donald Trump and the UK's vote to leave the EU in 2016. Polling shows only 34 per cent of Americans have trust in the country's mass media institutions.

# Workers' Notes

## Eyewitness Donbas

by New Worker correspondent

**A video conference was held last week between Steve Sweeney, a reporter for *RT News* now based in Moscow, and members of International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity (IUAFS) in the UK. Steve was previously International Editor of the *Morning Star* and is also a member of IUAFS. He regularly reports from the Donbas and other regions of Ukraine that recently joined the Russian Federation.**

Steve visited polling stations in Donetsk during the recent elections for local and Duma representatives in the people's republics that recently joined the Russian Federation, and said they appeared to be open, free and fair. He said he had witnessed "a return to democratic life".

He spoke to an old man who was in tears and said that it was the first time in nine years he'd been able to vote.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces deliberately targeted polling stations, however, and in one strike two civilians were killed.

Steve also interviewed the miners' leader Georgy Yankov in the town of Makievka, who spoke of the leading role of the coal miners against Nazi Germany in the Second World War.

Yankov said people in the Donbas were shocked and saddened to hear that unions in Britain, including the National Union of Mineworkers, had supported the pro-Kiev Ukraine motion C21 at the TUC Congress in Liverpool, after miners in the then Soviet Union had sent money to British miners during the 1984-5 strike.

He said the fake, Western-financed yellow unions in Ukraine stage so-called strikes in which workers are ordered to stand outside their workplaces for an hour by

their bosses for the media to come and film 'striking workers'. Of course, all genuine trade unions in Ukraine were crushed by the post-2014 fascist regime long ago, and all trade union activists have been killed, imprisoned, or have gone underground or into exile.

In one case, Steve said, Ukrainian workers donned helmets and pretended to be in Donetsk – all to feed the Western media 'journalists' who collaborate with Ukrainian nazis to dress up the repulsive puppet Kiev regime as legitimate and democratic.

He says that everyone he has spoken to in the Donbas regards the Russian forces as liberators who are defending them against Ukrainian genocide.

Steve said that coal production in the Donbas has fallen after so many miners joined the Donetsk and Lugansk militias, that Gonzalo Lira, a US journalist arrested in Kiev for allegedly spreading "Russian propaganda", is expected to face trial soon, and that some foreign mercenaries fighting for Ukraine have been turning their guns on one another.

Steve Sweeney is amongst hundreds of journalists on the infamous Ukrainian Mitroverets 'kill list'. Many opponents of the Kiev regime on the list have already been assassinated whilst the Western human rights crusaders turn a blind eye. Only days ago, a Russian journalist – a communist – was killed in Zaporozhye. He added that the Mitroverets website is hosted in Langley, Virginia, which is also the home of the CIA.

Steve spoke about the lies now being peddled by the British mercenaries Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, who were

pardoned and repatriated by the Donetsk authorities after being sentenced to death.

"They've been doing the rounds of the television stations, Aslin was at the United Nations and the international committee for the Red Cross, and recently Pinner was on the BBC and appearing on the Piers Morgan show, and both have book deals lined up.

"Pinner in particular was talking about a 'genocide of Ukrainians'. Now this is simply absurd I have to say, because even the United Nations disagrees with him on that, they've said that there's not enough evidence for this, but here in Donetsk we can safely say that's exactly what awaits people here if the Ukrainian counter-offensive were to prove successful."

Steve recently visited the site of the alleged Russian bombing of the Mariupol Theatre last year, which is mired in controversy.

"Even the Western media and the Western human rights organisations can't agree on what happened there. The *Washington Post* initially said no people died, then Amnesty International reported 12 people killed, and the Associated Press as many as 600.

"But we spoke to people who were held hostage at the theatre by Azov fighters, and they told a very different story from the narrative played out by the West.

"We spoke to around 10 people in a new park at the back of the Mariupol Drama Theatre – also currently being reconstructed – who were people we walked up to randomly and were sitting on benches or walking through the park.

I would say maybe eight out of 10 of them said that the Azov were a terrorist organ-

isation, and they were very clear on what they thought should happen to them. They said the Azov Battalion moved local civilians into the theatre and then blew it up, in order to frame the Russian side for their own crime.

"This is in the context of the ongoing trials now taking place in Rostov-on-Don, where the first sentences have been handed down. The people we spoke to – all quite respectable people, people with families – said that all the Azov members should be executed. I was really quite shocked, but they didn't have a kind word to say about either the mercenaries or the Azov fighters who were holed up in the Azovstal steel plant.

"Again, this is something of a myth that has been created by the West – 'the heroes of Mariupol' or the 'defenders of Azovstal', to whitewash what really happened there. These were largely Nazis or neo-Nazis from the Azov Battalion, and they were holed up there alongside the British mercenaries, but they had held civilians from Mariupol hostage in the steel plant and mined the plant as well, so they aren't quite the heroes that they're being made out to be."

Pinner now claims that he and others were held hostage by the Azov Battalion at the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, while in fact he and Aslin fought alongside the Azov fighters.

Steve also said a Ukrainian oligarch has announced plans to rebuild Mariupol with US support, but on condition that all traces of Russian culture would be removed.

He often does reports for *RT News* from buildings where civilians have been killed in attacks, and about the constant bombing and shelling of the Donbas deliberately targeting civilian areas.

"Last night for example I heard them all throughout the night, and I dread to think what would happen if the air defences weren't here, the death toll would be much higher...and they do support Russian troops being here to defend them against a potential genocide."

## Sunak pledges brighter future

**Prime Minister Rishi Sunak vowed on Wednesday to build a "brighter future" for the country as he scrapped the northern leg of the flagship HS2 high-speed rail project and introduced a raft of new measures to shore-up support for the Conservatives as the next general election nears.**

Announcing the decision in a keynote speech at the Conservative Party's annual conference in Manchester, Sunak said that "every single penny" of the £36 billion saved by scrapping phase two of HS2 will instead be spent on "hundreds and hundreds" of rail, road and transport schemes across the north, Midlands and other parts of the UK.

What had been billed as the country's biggest ever infrastructure project, originally at an estimated total cost of £100 billion, HS2 will now only run between London and Birmingham, the country's second-largest city, and the planned leg between West Midlands and Manchester will be cancelled.

In advance of the highly expected confirmation, politicians representing the northern constituencies, as well as northern business leaders, had pleaded with Sunak not to axe phase 2.

Sunak said: "To those who backed the project in the first place, the facts have changed and the right thing to do when the facts change is to have the courage to change direction. And so, I am ending this long-running saga. I am cancelling the rest of the HS2 project."

"Those who wish to disagree with me, I respect that, but they should have the honesty to admit that they would now be cancelling the hundreds of alternative projects right across the country," he said, challenging his political opponents.

"Our plan will drive far more growth and opportunity here in the north than a faster train to London ever would,"

*continued on page 4...*



• Donbas video-conference: Steve Sweeney, third from left at the top.



...continued from page 3

he said.

Reacting to the decision, John Bryson, professor of enterprise and economic geography at the University of Birmingham, said that the decision will come to haunt future politicians.

“The problem with major infrastructure investments is that they are costly and time-consuming. The added complication is that the economic returns occur over many decades. Politicians should have the confidence of making what are often eye-watering investments in critical national infrastructure,” Prof Bryson said.

“The problem for Sunak is with managing expectations. Too many people are expecting HS2 to unlock regional economies as part of a process that releases waves of levelling up processes that could transform lives.

“Any decision to curtail this investment at Birmingham and to upgrade lines between Birmingham and the north-west, rather than add additional capacity, reflects a poor political compromise. It would also be a compromise that will come to haunt future politicians.”

In his speech, Sunak also announced that MPs will be given a vote on raising the smoking age by one year, every year. It would mean that a 14-year-old today will never legally be allowed to smoke, and that they and their generation can grow up “smoke-free”.

Touting the party’s success in controlling illegal immigration, Sunak said small boats crossing the English Channel are for the first time down 20 per cent this year. “I will do whatever is necessary to stop the boats,” he told conference.

The prime minister finished his speech by saying: “We will give the country what it so sorely needs, and yet too often has been denied: A government prepared to make long-term decisions so that we can build a brighter future for everyone.”

Despite Sunak’s upbeat messages, the future for the Conservative Party that has been in power for over 13 years is uncertain as the country is mired in a prolonged cost-of-living crisis and its economic recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic has lagged behind most other advanced economies.

The UK has to hold its next general election by the



end of January 2025 at the latest. In 2019, when Boris Johnson was the occupant of 10 Downing Street, the Conservatives won a formidable 80-seat majority in the House of Commons.

Opinion polls have all but ruled out a repeat of the landslide of 2019, with Labour predicted to grab the keys to Downing Street under its leader, Sir Keir Starmer.

*Xinhua*

A major rail union denounced the scrapping of the northern leg of the new high-speed train network this week. RMT General Secretary Mick Lynch said: “The incompetence of successive Tory governments has now cost the taxpayer billions and led to this disastrous

decision for Britain’s economy, environment and our ailing transport infrastructure.

“High Speed rail together with a modern expanding public transport network is key to the future of linking every part of our country together, from north to south and East to West.

“Public transport investment is not an either-or question. The fact is we will not be able to tackle the climate emergency without encouraging people to use modern, cheap and efficient high-speed rail and hugely expanded local bus services.

“The key to thriving economies of the future is to be environmentally sustainable and to interconnect cities, towns and villages to promote

economic activity.

“The Conservative government is playing political games ahead of an election and instead of investing properly in Britain’s public transport and high speed future, Rishi Sunak risks putting the country in the slow lane.”

## Republic protest inside Buckingham Palace

by New Worker correspondent

**Members of a British republican campaign sneaked into Buckingham Palace last month to hold a symbolic protest against the monarchy.**

Just after midday on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September members of the Republic movement staged a protest inside Buckingham Palace. A group of local activists from different parts of the UK entered the palace posing as tourists, before standing in the Grand Hall wearing t-shirts that spelled out “Not My King”. Six of them were briefly detained by Palace security before being escorted out through the main gate.

“This is a first, an anti-monarchy protest inside Buckingham Palace. A fantastic statement of intent, citizens standing up in the home of the monarchy to declare their opposition to hereditary power,” the head of Republic, Graham Smith, said.

“Charles is not an untouchable monarch, he is not immune to criticism and doesn’t enjoy the deference that protected the monarchy while his mother was on the throne,” he added. Smith said that the movement would continue to protest against the monarchy throughout the country, with the next protest scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> November.

The Republic movement is a pressure group that calls for the abolition of the monarchy and its replacement with an elected, democratic head of state. It campaigns around bringing the case for a republic to a wider audience whilst scrutinising the actions of the royal household.

**20 years ago  
this week  
in the New Worker**

### 10<sup>th</sup> October 2003

*JUST OVER a week ago, Prime Minister Tony Blair survived the Labour Party conference in Bournemouth – albeit not unscathed.*

*But before he could relax, former Cabinet Minister Robin Cook launched new devastating revelation: that Blair was well aware last March, just before the attack of on Iraq, that it had no weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) that would pose a threat to any western power – or even its neighbours.*

*At Bournemouth, Blair suffered a serious defeat by the unions over his flagship policy*

*of foundation hospitals. But, with the help of the conference arrangements committee, he escaped a vote on the Iraq war.*

*Helped by a team of carefully positioned Blair sycophants throughout the conference hall, he ensured a standing ovation for his emotional keynote speech.*

*As conference drew to a close, the Iraq Survey Group, which has been searching in vain for evidence of Iraq’s arsenal of WMDs in order to justify the war, published its progress report.*

*This had already been leaked last month and contained no surprises. Nothing had been found except a small tube of botulin. It emerged this had been concealed in a scientist’s fridge in his home since 1993. It was not clear whether it contained the germs or the toxin derived from them. Either way, it was well past its ‘use-by’ date.*

*Then on Friday Robin Cook published his diaries, throwing yet more light on the behind-the-scenes amongst Government*

*ministers in the run-up to the war.*

*His crucial revelation was a conversation with Blair two weeks before the invasion of Iraq began.*

*John Scarlett, who chaired the joint intelligence committee, had just given Cook an intelligence briefing. In his diary Cook said the meeting left him convinced that “Saddam probably does not have weapons of mass destruction in the sense that weapons could be used against large scale civilian targets.”*

*On this basis, he told Blair that he did not believe that Iraq had weapons that could strike strategic cities.*

*Cook then asked Blair if he was convinced that the Iraqis could fire battlefield weapons at British troops, if they invaded.*

*Cook reports that Blair replied: “Yes, but all the effort he has put into concealment makes it difficult for him to assemble them quickly for use.”*



# An ovation for a Nazi

Last month Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and Canada's parliament gave a standing ovation to a former member of the Ukrainian Waffen SS.

During the Canadian parliament's welcome ceremony to Zelensky, House of Commons Speaker Anthony Rota introduced an elderly man in the visitors' gallery whom he described as a "veteran from the Second World War who fought for Ukrainian independence against the Russians and continues to support the troops today even at his age of 98".

Yaroslav Hunka, Rota said, "is a Ukrainian hero, a Canadian hero, and we thank him for all his service". In unison, Zelensky, Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, the leaders of the opposition parties, all the assembled MPs and Senators and the top brass of Canada's military, rose to their feet to give Hunka a standing ovation. He in turn



• 1941: Western Ukrainian collaborators welcome the Wehrmacht.

stood up and pumped his fists. But who is this "Ukrainian and Canadian hero"?

Hunka fought for the Third Reich in the "1st Ukrainian division" – as the 14th Waffen SS Grenadier Division (Galicia), a largely Ukrainian Nazi collaborator unit, was known

after it was renamed in March 1945 – during the last days of the Nazi regime that collapsed when Berlin fell to the Red Army in May 1945.

Canada's Parliament and Prime Minister Trudeau had given a standing ovation to a Nazi collaborator.

Jewish organisations have demanded Canada's parliament apologise for celebrating an SS veteran. "An apology is owed to every Holocaust survivor and veteran of the Second World War who fought the Nazis," declared the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Cen-

tre. "And an explanation must be provided as to how this individual entered the hallowed halls of Canadian Parliament and received recognition from the Speaker of the House and a standing ovation."

House Speaker Rota later issued a brief apology in which he personally accepted all responsibility for parliament's recognition of Hunka and tendered his resignation. But the Canadian government has been irreversibly exposed.

While the imperialists are using the war in order to rewrite history by slandering the Soviet Union and rehabilitate Nazi collaborators, while Soviet-era monuments are torn down in Ukraine and throughout East Europe, Canada's governments bear immense responsibility for honouring Nazi war criminals.

Justin Trudeau and his government must be held accountable by the Canadian working people for this shame.

IDOC

## Canada: A Safe Haven for Ukrainian Nazis

by Ilya Tsukanov

**The scandal over the Canadian parliament's move to honour Ukrainian Waffen SS veteran Yaroslav Hunka continues to swirl, with Canada's opposition leader, Poland, Jewish groups, Russia and the United Nations demanding accountability.**

Before the Second World War Ukrainian Canadians were among the most tightly knit, pro-labour, pro-Moscow, and anti-fascist migrant communities living in the True North Strong and Free. That began to change after the war and the arrival of thousands of Ukrainian Nazi collaborators wanted for war crimes across

Eastern Europe. This is their story.

Hunka, 98, was in attendance during Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's address to the Canadian House of Commons last Friday and was introduced to MPs as a veteran of the "struggle for Ukrainian independence against the Russians during the Second World War". He received a standing ovation from the legislature.

It soon emerged that the former soldier carried out his "struggle for Ukrainian independence" as a member of the infamous 14th Waffen Grenadier Division of the Nazi SS, also known as 14th SS-Volunteer Division Galicia.

Formed in 1943 and made

up mostly of ethnic Ukrainians, the Wehrmacht-subordinated fighting formation was recruited from among fascist radicals and was responsible for the mass murder of anti-fascist and communist Ukrainians, Red Army troops, anti-fascist partisans, and Polish, Jewish, Russian and Slovak civilians.

Between 1943 and its surrender to the Western allies in May 1945, 14th SS-Volunteer Division Galicia rampaged through Eastern Europe. It was used for 'police actions' against Polish and Soviet partisans in western Ukraine and eastern Poland, deployed to wipe out up to hundreds of civilians at a time in the Polish settlements such as Huta

Pieniacka, Podkamien, Chodackowo Wielkie, Prehoryle, Smogligow, and Borow, and thrown into meat grinders against the Red Army (where it took heavy losses approaching 75 per cent during brutal fighting at Brody, Lvov region in July 1944).

The remnants of the division were evacuated and deployed in Slovakia in the late summer of 1944 to put down the Slovak National Uprising, and then sent to suppress partisan operations in Yugoslavia in January 1945. In March 1945, the formation retreated to Austria, taking heavy losses while trying to hold back Soviet forces in and around Graz during the desperate closing months of

the war. Ukrainian fascist forces later incorporated into the division also took part in the suppression of the Warsaw Uprising between August and September of 1944, although the division itself did not take part.

### Nest for Nazis

Russian Ambassador to Canada Oleg Stepanov said that he would ask for explanations from Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office over the Hunka incident but said that he has "no illusions" about the possibility of working "with the current Trudeau cabinet, which is the personification of neo-liberal fascism". Ste-



panov pointed out that former Nazi criminals and their descendants have enjoyed “impunity” in Canada, with the country itself unfortunately becoming “a nest for Nazi criminals” after the Second World War, despite its status as a prominent member of the wartime anti-Hitler Grand Alliance.

The scandal surrounding Hunka is not the first of its kind. In 2017, independent media outlet Consortium News was attacked by the Canadian authorities after revealing that Chrystia Freeland, the senior Trudeau cabinet member then serving as Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, had attempted to cover up her grandfather Mykhailo Khomiak’s past as an editor of a Nazi newspaper in occupied Poland during the Second World War.

The Canadian media later followed up on the allegations, confirming the information and revealing that Freeland not only knew of her grandfather’s dark past, but helped edit an academic article in the *Journal of Ukrainian Studies* by her uncle, John-Paul Kimka, professor emeritus at the University of Alberta, in the 1990s in a bid to whitewash the Nazi propagandist’s activities. When the news of her relative’s true past leaked out, Ottawa immediately characterised it as a “Russian disinformation” campaign aimed at “destabilis[ing] Western democracies” with Freeland claiming her grandparents fled the war in 1939 as “political exiles with a responsibility to keep alive the idea of an independent Ukraine”.

After the escalation of the Ukrainian crisis in early 2022, Freeland, now deputy prime minister, got into more trouble after tweeting (and after



• Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler inspects a unit of the Waffen SS Galicia.

public outrage deleting) a photo of herself holding a banner sporting the colours of the notorious fascist militant formation known as the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrainian acronym UPA), along with the UPA’s slogan “Slava Ukraini” (Glory to Ukraine).

Created in the 1930s as the para-military wing of the fascist Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), the UPA was responsible for the killings of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Nazi-occupied western Ukraine during the Second World War, among them ethnic Poles, Jews, Russians, anti-fascist Ukrainians, and later, as the Red Army advanced, Soviet soldiers.

The formations, some of whose volunteers ultimately ended up joining Waffen SS Galicia, remained active until well after the war’s end. With the help of the US Office of Strategic Services, precursor to the CIA, these extremists waged a campaign of terror across western Ukraine until the early 1950s, killing some

25,000 Soviet troops, intelligence personnel and policemen, plus over 32,000 civilians, including many government administrators. Like SS Galicia veterans, some UPA collaborators ended up in Canada and other Western countries after the war.

Canada’s Ukrainian community is a powerful political and voting bloc, with the 1.3 million ethnic Ukrainians recorded in the 2016 census, making up over eight per cent the population of the provinces of Western Canada and up to four per cent of Canada’s population as a whole.

The politically active portion of the community has fervently supported attempts to turn their ancestral homeland into an anti-Russian stronghold for decades, supporting the 2004–2005 colour revolution in Ukraine, and even more resolutely backing the Euromaidan coup in 2014, with the Conservative government of Stephen Harper going so far as to offer shelter to anti-government protesters at the Canadian

Embassy in Kiev during the 2014 violence.

Things weren’t always this way, however. In the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, Canada’s 225,000–300,000-person-strong ethnic Ukrainian community was at the forefront of efforts to maintain close ties with their homeland, which was part of the USSR at the time, swelling the ranks of Canada’s Communist Party, creating the Soviet-friendly Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, and playing a major role in the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) – the precursor to Canada’s modern-day social democratic party – the New Democratic Party.

It was partly thanks to the efforts of hard-working Ukrainian Canadians that Canada became one of the Western world’s first socially-oriented nations, with CCF-run Saskatchewan becoming the first region in North America to elect a socialist government in 1944, and introducing universal medicine in the province in the

early 1960s (with the idea quickly spreading across Canada shortly thereafter).

During the Spanish Civil War of 1936–1939, hundreds of Ukrainian-Canadians volunteered to join the 1,200 troop-strong Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion to fight Francisco Franco’s Nazi-backed fascist forces. After the Second World War broke out, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress was formed to encourage Ukrainian Canadians to enlist in the Armed Forces to fight Hitler, with over 35,000 joining, constituting the second-largest group of non-British, non-French origin Canadian citizens to do so.

Things began to change after the Second World War, with the gradual arrival of thousands of battle-hardened fascists, including former fighters from the UPA and 14<sup>th</sup> SS-Volunteer Division Galicia, along with nationalist ideologues such as like Mrs Freeland’s grandfather, slowly transforming Canada’s Ukrainian community from a Rus-

sia-friendly, socially progressive anti-fascist stronghold into a nationalist, anti-communist, anti-Russia base of operations seeking to break Ukraine off from its centuries-old union with its eastern neighbour.

The Ukrainian nationalists’ entry to Canada became possible largely thanks to the Western Allies, with Britain interning thousands of SS Galicia fighters, first in Italy and then in the UK proper, and preventing their deportation back to the Soviet Union to face war crimes trials.

After surrendering to US and British forces in May 1945, SS Galicia troops were placed in a concentration camp near Rimini, northeastern Italy, where, thanks to intervention from the Vatican, which dubbed them “good Catholics and devoted anti-communists”, London changed their status from “prisoners of war” to “surrendered enemy personnel”.

Wladyslaw Anders, a prominent Polish general and member of the Polish government-in-exile, also lobbied on the Ukrainian Waffen SS men’s behalf, calling them citizens of the Polish Second Republic, and not Soviets, because the volunteers came largely from territories that belonged to Poland during the interwar period. British authorities ignored a complaint filed by the Polish government to the United Nations against SS-Galicia in 1947 over the murder of 800 civilians at Huta Pieniacka, and also overlooked the Nuremberg Trials’ classification of all SS formations as criminal organisations.

A late 1940s report from Britain’s under-secretary of state declassified in 2015 privately admitted that Galicia “was an SS di-



vision and technically all of its officers and senior NCOs are liable for trial as war criminals". Beryl Hughes, a Home Office official working to ship some of the 8,000 Ukrainian Nazi recruits held in Britain to Canada, admitted in correspondence in the mid-to-late 1940s that "what little we know of their war record is bad" and that the UK was nevertheless "hoping to get rid of the less desirable Ukrainian PoWs either to Germany or Canada" instead of prosecuting them or sending them home.

The anti-fascist Association of United Ukrainians in Canada appeared to have seen through British authorities collusion with Ottawa early on, urging Canadian immigration authorities not to let the Galicia fighters in, saying that the "Ukrainian Division (Galicia) was part and parcel of the Hitler Army" and that it "was against them that our Canadian boys fought on the battlefields of Italy".

The Liberal government of Prime Minister Mackenzie King ignored these warnings, trusting assurances from the British Foreign Office that background checks were done to assure that these particular Waffen SS men did not engage in crimes against humanity, and that there was no evidence to show "in any way that they are infected with any trace of Nazi ideology".

In the mid-1980s, the government of Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney formed a Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in Canada to conduct amidst a spate of media allegations that the country had unwittingly become a safe harbour for Second World War war criminals.

The commission concluded that the SS Galicia Division as a whole could not be held collectively responsible for the war crimes perpetrated by individual members, and controversially refused to accept evidence of said crimes from Eastern European countries and the USSR. "The Galicia Division... should not be indicted as a group," and "charges of war crimes against members of the Galicia Division have never been substantiated, either in 1950 when they were first preferred, or in 1984 when they were renewed, or before this Commission," the commission's final report read.

SS Galicia veterans, UPA fighters, other collaborators and their descendants eagerly welcomed the collapse of the USSR in 1991, working both independently and alongside powerful Western institutions of soft power to start rebuilding their influence in post-Soviet Ukraine, penning and donating civil society initiatives to transform societal consciousness and re-imagine history, and lobbying

to build monuments and memorial cemeteries dedicated to SS Galicia troops and other collaborators. Over the decades, their influence in Ukrainian political life and society steadily grew, with the 2005 colour revolution and the 2014 coup cementing ultra-right nationalists' grip on the country, leading to parades dedicated to SS Galicia's creation, streets re-named and monuments erected to Nazi fighters and UPA militants, and Second World War-era fascist forces and collaborators rebranded as 'fighters for Ukraine's freedom'.

Across the Atlantic, in Canada, efforts have also been made to whitewash wartime Ukrainian Nazis' crimes. On Remembrance Day in November 2010, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) praised SS Galicia veterans as fighters for "freedom of their ancestral Ukrainian homeland". The same year, commemorating the late president of the Canadian society of SS Galicia veterans, the UCC assured that he would "be remembered as a hero of Ukraine who fought for her indepen-

dence".

In 2020, Ukrainian groups in Canada honoured Bohdan Panchuk, an activist behind the Ukrainian Canadian Servicemen's Association, who helped bring upwards of 30,000 Ukrainian refugees to Canada after the Second World War, among them some 2,000 Galicia SS division fighters. According to Ukrainian historian Olesya Khromeychuk, Panchuk was able to do this by pushing a "positive narrative portraying the former Galicians as an anti-Soviet German Army unit, and as victims who were forced into the fighting formation against their will, rather than fanatical nationalists eager to fight for Hitler.

"The [Galicia] volunteers committed themselves to German victory, the New European Order, and to Adolf Hitler personally," Anders Rudling, a professor specialising in Eastern European history from Sweden's Lund University, told a Canadian military magazine in 2020.

But don't take a historian's word for it. Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's right-hand man

and the chief architect of the 'Final Solution', once gave the SS Galicia's fighters the 'highest praise' he could muster.

"Your homeland has become so much more beautiful since you have lost – on our initiative, I must say – those residents who were so often a dirty blemish on Galicia's good name, namely the Jews...I know that if I ordered you to liquidate the Poles...I would be giving you permission to do what you are eager to do anyway," Himmler said in an address to members of the division.

## World reaction

In Canada and around the world, the outcry over Yaroslav Hunka's appearance in parliament was swift and unexpectedly massive.

Pierre Poilievre, leader of Canada's Conservative opposition, demanded a personal apology from Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"No parliamentarians (other than Justin Trudeau) had the opportunity to vet this individual's past before he was

introduced and honoured on the floor of the House of Commons," Poilievre wrote in a social media post Sunday. "Without warning or context, it was impossible for any parliamentarian in the room (other than Mr Trudeau) to know of [Hunka's] dark past. Mr Trudeau must personally apologise and avoid passing the blame to others as he always does," he added.

House Speaker Anthony Rota expressed "regret" and "remorse" over the decision to recognise Hunka, and offered his "deepest apologies" to Jews in Canada and around the world for hosting the Ukrainian Waffen SS veteran, who expressed outrage over the display.

NDP House Leader Peter Julian said Rota made an "unforgivable error which puts the entire House in disrepute" and called on the Speaker to resign on Monday. [which he subsequently did].

Poland also demanded an apology from its Canadian ally Monday, with Polish Ambassador to Canada Witold Dzielski stressing that Warsaw would "never agree on whitewashing such villains".

Finally, United Nations spokesperson Stephane Dujarric took note of Rota's apology, but reiterated that the UN "stands against any honouring of people who actively took part in Nazi activities during the Second World War".

Even the mainstream Western media, which normally remains silent about NATO's support for and whitewashing of Ukrainian neo-Nazi groups amidst the conflict with Russia, has published article after article on the scandal, recognising it as a "PR disaster" for Trudeau and Zelensky.



• 1944: Soviet Marshal Georgy Zhukov in liberated Kiev.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

It was recently announced that Yoon Suk-yeol, the puppet fascist ruler of south Korea, has been invited to visit Britain in November. Yoon is not welcome in Britain. Yoon is a new Hitler and a war maniac. The visit will be at the expense of the British taxpayer and is a complete waste of money!

South Korea is not an independent country but a fake country, a colony of the USA. It is also becoming increasingly dependent on Japan.

Of all of the puppet rulers of south Korea, Yoon is the worst ever. He is an extreme, Yankee-loving sycophant who sang the song *American Pie* in front of the Yankee imperialist war boss Biden. Yoon is also kowtowing and grovelling to the Japanese imperialists, the sworn enemy of the Korean nation.

Yoon is a millionaire several times over and is exploiting the south Korea people.

Yoon has declared the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its Korean People's Army (KPA) as the principal enemies of south Korea. He is scheming to carry out an attack on People's Korea in co-operation with the US and Japanese imperialists. Yoon has formed the so-called 'Nuclear Consultative Group' with the USA and is planning to have US nuclear submarines permanently deployed in south Korea.

Yoon has reduced inter-Korean relations to nothing and is bringing

the outbreak of a second Korean war and a nuclear war ever closer.

Domestically Yoon is reducing living standards and is also repressing the trade unions as well as pro-reunification patriots and followers of the Juche idea.

By inviting Yoon, the British authorities are dragging Britain into a possible conflict on the Korean peninsula. In the interests of peace, the visit should be cancelled!

The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) of the UK plans to organise protests against Yoon's visit. We hope that the broader labour and peace movement will support these demonstrations. Instead of the old 'good luck with that' or 'oh that's KFA, don't go there' attitude the British left and all progressives should give active support to KFA UK's campaigning against the south Korean puppet fascist regime!

**Dermot Hudson**  
south London

Dear Comrades

US imperialism's long-planned war by proxy against Russia over the Ukraine issue, undertaken simultaneously with its economic war against People's China in the form of sanctions and trade embargos, has had the result of bringing two great nations closer together. Russia and China are forming a strategic partnership to defend their interests and combat Imperialist aggression. An alliance that can act as a linchpin for all those opposing US hegemony. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov recently met in Moscow and indicated that they share a commitment to a "multipolar world" and a "more just world order".

Trade between the two neighbouring countries is expanding rapidly. Figures

issued by Chinese customs show an increase of over 50 per cent for the first half of the year compared with the same period last year. Russia supplies China with oil, gas, raw materials and an increasing number of high-tech products as its economy expands. China exports consumer goods, electronic equipment and cars to fill the gap left as western companies withdraw from the Russian market. Russia has been able to sustain a steady trade balance enabling it to maintain its economic growth while fighting a war. China has been able to find new markets for its products as western sanctions take effect.

China and Russia have no formal military alliance but co-operate closely on defence matters. If attacked they would be in a good position to support each other. The two partners hold regular military exercises involving land, air and seaborne forces. This should hopefully deter the most aggressive neo-cons in Washington who are eager to start yet another war; this time with China.

Imperialist powers believed that when they provoked the Ukraine war it would rapidly weaken and undermine Russia with a quick military defeat

and bankruptcy through sanctions. They have come unstuck as the much-vaunted Ukraine offensive has failed. They also believed that they could cripple China's technical progress with a ban on high-end microchips. Huawei have responded by developing their own 7 nm chip, free of US components and production technology. The USA has once again come unstuck big-time and must be starting to panic.

Another result of the increased aggression and outrageous demands of Imperialism has been the very important meetings that have taken place between China, Russia and The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). High-level delegations from its two great neighbours attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations held in Pyongyang. President Kim Jong Un has just paid a five-day visit to Russia and Sergey Lavrov is due to visit the DPRK. All three countries have been on the receiving end of harsh US-inspired sanctions. Industrial development expanded trade and measures to strengthen the prospects for peace in the region are under review.

**John Maryon**  
Suffolk

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

4 weeks: £6; 3 months: £20;  
6 months: £30; annual: £50

Name.....

Address.....

Post code.....

Cheque/P.O.s, made out to  
New Worker, to: NW Subs, PO Box 73,  
London SW11 2PQ.

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday. You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

Diary

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
Committee to Defend Julian Assange: Protests: 12:00–14:00, HMP Belmarsh, Western Way, London SE28 and 16:00–18:00 at Eros statue, Piccadilly Circus, London SW1.

**UNTIL 30 OCT**  
*The Mistake*. Anti-nuclear touring play by Michael Mears. See michaelmears.org for 28 venues.

**UNTIL 14 DEC**  
Townsend Theatre Productions: *The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists*. Neil Gore's one person adaptation. Nationwide tour, see TTP website for venues.

**UNTIL 30 DEC**  
Working Class Movement Library: *That Impudent Little Party: The Independent Labour Party 1893–1975*. Exhibition, Wed–Fri afternoons, WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

**SAT 7 OCT**  
Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Latin America Day School. 10:00, Sheffield Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW.

**SAT 7 OCT**  
International Brigade Memorial Trust: AGM weekend, Georgian Theatre, Green Dragon Yard, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1AT.

**SAT 7 OCT**  
Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Defend the Right to Boycott! See PSC website for details of nationwide events.

**WED 11 OCT**  
Marx Memorial Library

Michael Roberts: The Current Stage of the Capitalist Crisis. 19:00 hybrid lecture.

**THUR 12 OCT**  
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Crowded space: why the increasing militarisation of space could risk nuclear war. Webinar 19:00–20:00. Register on CND website.

**SAT 14 OCT**  
Marx Memorial Library: Book Sale 11:00, MML.

**SUN 22 OCT**  
Working Class Movement Library: Radical Readings: Revolt, Revolution and Revenge 14:00–15:30. Maxwell Hall, University of Salford, Crescent, Salford M5 4WT.

**SAT 28 OCT**  
Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Latin America Solidarity Day – Resurgence of the Left! 10:00–16:00, Unison Regional Office, 24 Livery St, Birmingham B3 2PA.

**SAT 4 NOV**  
Newport Chartist Convention. 9:30–16:00 St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Gwent. Tickets from Newport Rising website.

**SAT 4 NOV**  
Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Acknowledging Israel's Apartheid. Conference. 9:30–15:30, Temple of Peace, Edward VII Ave, Cardiff, CF10 3AP.

**SAT 4 NOV**  
Join Scottish CND: Festival for Survival, Renfield Centre & Adelaide Baptist Church, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JP.



JOIN US!  
For peace!  
justice!  
socialism!


I would like to join  
the New Communist  
Party....  
I would like more  
info about the NCP....

Name.....  
.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

postcode.....

phone.....  
Send to NCP, PO Box  
73, London SW11  
2PQ.



# Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political  
affairs correspondent

Labour and SNP canvassers pound the streets in the Rutherglen & Hamilton West constituency as the nationalists battle to hold the seat that was once a Labour stronghold. But behind the scenes a less than covert struggle is going on between the rival factions that are undermining the current leadership in their bid to fill the vacuum left following the abrupt departure of Mr & Mrs Sturgeon.

The former Finance Secretary and leadership candidate Kate Forbes laid into the Humza Yousaf leadership by saying that they are completely ignorant of anything beyond the Central belt. The MSP for Skye, Badenoch &

Lochaber said her colleagues were clueless about “the specific and diverse needs of people who live in the Highlands”. She compounded her criticism by saying former Energy Secretary Fergus Ewing, of the illustrious Ewing clan, was a “living legend” – just after he had been suspended for the heinous crime of voting against an unpopular measure. The decision to suspend Ewing saw no fewer than nine MSPs vote against the leadership’s desire to punish him for supporting measures beneficial for his constituents.

Other signs of rebellion come from Opposition leader Douglas Ross, who claims that “a number” of SNP parliamentarians had privately spoken to him about the “direction of their government” and are seeking “ways that parliament can” hold the SNP Government to account. Although this has naturally been denied, because talks with the leader of the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party are anathema to most Scottish nationalists, there may be more than a grain of truth in the Tory claim – which to their delight has seriously embarrassed the Yousaf crowd.

The main cause for complaint is the influence of the Greens on the SNP Government across a whole range of issues, such as energy. The SNP’s hitherto iron discipline received its first shock with the gender recognition reforms debate. No less than seven MSP broke the party whip, including a minister’s resignation. This is still an ongoing issue, with a court case about the right of Holyrood to legislate on such matters. Some SNP politicians have noticed that this is not the best Scots versus evil English Tories issue to pick a fight about. The First Minister has ploughed on regardless.

The traditional SNP slogan “It’s Scotland’s Oil” was casually dumped by

the former First Minister, but many party members are still attached to it. The news that the huge Rosebank oil field off the Shetlands will be exploited after the Westminster Government gave the go-ahead angered the Greens and the SNP leadership, but again it has plenty of support in Scotland.

The GMB trade union openly welcomed Sunak’s decision and Unite will be pleased, although they did not actually say so. Many SNP members at all levels will agree that preventing further development of North Sea oil and gas is not the way to save the planet. Tellingly even the SNP’s Westminster net zero spokesman, Dave Doogan, has committed the heresy of openly supporting Sunak on Rosebank.

It is at least arguable that the decision to allow development of the Rosebank oil field need not delay net zero. Replacing energy imports from abroad is not adding to carbon emissions but does prevent Scottish energy jobs from being exported. It is, in fact, actually greener. It saves thousands of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> spewed by tankers carrying American liquefied natural gas that is produced by the same fracking which is banned here.

At least the Rosebank oil field will be exploited by a nationalised company: Norway’s state-owned Equinor, which has often been seen as a model by the SNP. Equinor also drills for gas in the Arctic that they export to Britain, which is enough to make them pariahs in greenish eyes.

At present over 100 oil wells are being corked and

abandoned every year as they run dry. Developing Rosebank will not prevent the UK meeting its legal obligation to reduced emissions by 68 per cent by 2030. Rosebank is a comparatively small field with a likely annual output of 300 million barrels compared to two-billion from the Brent field.

## Selection Battles

Meanwhile the SNP is choosing its candidates for Westminster seats. Eight SNP MPs have already said they are standing down at the next election.

The most vicious battle is taking place at East Kilbride, Strathaven & Lesmahagow, where sitting MP Dr Lisa Cameron is being challenged for the seat by a Westminster party worker who is supported by the seat’s present and former MSP and other party bigwigs.

Dr Cameron, a member of the Free Church of Scotland, is a very godly woman. She’s not keen on easy abortion and the gender reforms (she wrote privately to the Scottish Secretary deploring the measure). But according to her, the main cause of the rebellion was that she spoke out against the Westminster group’s protective attitude towards Patrick Grady, a gay SNP MP who was suspended from the party for six months after being accused of making an unwanted sexual advance towards a teenage party worker. Although later reinstated, Grady was deselected for the next general election in favour of Alison Thewliss in August.

Dr Cameron says she was “ostracised” by the party after speaking out, which caused her to suffer 12 months of trauma for which she needed counselling. She complained to BBC Scotland News that “to double down on targeting someone who has undergone 12 months of counselling after standing up for a victim of sexual harassment at the hands of the SNP, is truly reprehensible”. The SNP Westminster leader Stephen Flynn denies this, of course, but a secret recording shows the SNP Westminster group rallying round Grady, and Grady’s victim backs Cameron.

Dr Cameron last hit the headlines when it was discovered that despite being a staunch opponent of the sale of social housing, she herself had amassed a property portfolio of six ex-council houses and flats.

## Ferries Again

Meantime we have had another update on the two long-delayed ferries presently being built (or rusting) on the banks of the Clyde at Port Glasgow.

In October 2015 the original fixed priced contract was £97 million. The latest cost has now been set at £400 million for ships that will not sail until next summer and 2025 at the earliest. Those who said that several smaller ships using existing technology would be a better bet have been vindicated.

The good news for islanders is that two other ferries are being bought to keep Islay in touch with the mainland. These were ordered last year and are on schedule to come into service, and within budget, next year. They are being built at the Cemre shipyard in Turkey for £91 million.

The response of the SNP to the serious disruption caused to the islanders seems to confirm Kate Forbes’s view that the SNP really doesn’t understand the Highlands...

### FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

- The Middle “Class” by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint)
- The ruling class, fascism and the State by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint)
- The poisoned well (an insight into imperialist intelligence work). £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Communists and the united front by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p. (New Worker reprint).
- New technology and the need for socialism £2 plus 50p p&p.
- Communists in Britain today £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Peoples’s China in perspective £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- The case for communism £2 plus 50p p&p.
- The basis of scientific socialism, the 1st chapter of Anti Daring by F Engels. £2 plus 50p p&p.
- On Stalin £2 plus 50p P&P (New Worker reprint).
- Stalin & the BRS £2 plus 50p p&p.
- How we got in the State we are by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint)
- All in the family by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Arab nationalism and the communist movement by Andy Brooks. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- Killing ourselves to live by Daphne Liddle. £1 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
- The first 30 fighting years of the New Communist Party of Britain £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint)

NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.  
(cheques to New Worker)

## CONTACT US...

Post: NCP, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, UK

Phone: 07497 393 263

New Worker National: [www.newworker.org](http://www.newworker.org)

email: [party@ncp.clara.net](mailto:party@ncp.clara.net)

London District NCP:  
<http://londoncommunists.blogspot.com/>



# Corbyn honoured in Islington

by Theo Russell

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn received an ecstatic welcome in a packed Islington Town Hall committee room in London last week, as he was appointed honorary president of Islington Trades Council.

Local trade unionists and labour movement activists spoke about Corbyn's unparalleled commitment to the working class, peace and anti-imperialist struggles, on picket-lines, election canvassing and countless campaign meetings.

Ken Muller, from the NUE, said: "Our ruling class can live with reactionary nationalists around the world, but it can't live with Jeremy's support for the Palestinians and the Chagos Islanders against imperialism."

Lord John Hendy KC, a Labour peer, said Corbyn was the "greatest leader Labour ever had",

and that "Jewish people in Islington have always felt fully supported by Jeremy".

Una Doyle, from Islington Trades Council, referred to the current Labour leader as "Sir Kid Starmer", and said the problems faced by local foodbanks were getting worse and worse, many local people were struggling to make ends meet and had lost all hope. She recalled that when the first four Black

MPs were elected, they used to call Corbyn "the fifth Black MP" because he gave them so much support.

Labour councillor and veteran trade unionist Mick Gilgunn pointed out that "Jeremy was one of the few Labour MPs who spoke out against the 2003 Iraq war and helped organise the Stop the War Coalition" and Councillor Saiqa Pandore expressed her gratitude for Corbyn's

support for the Muslim community in Islington, saying that Corbyn "stood by us and gave us the confidence to come into politics". Andrew Murray, from the *Morning Star*, said that "those who take the *Guardian* view of politics do everything for the poor, but do nothing when the poor start helping themselves".

Several speakers, including Phil Graham from ASLEF, urged Cor-

byn to stand again as an MP for the constituency, as he grapples with the dilemma of being blocked as a candidate by Starmer's Labour Party.

In his acceptance speech, Corbyn spoke of the long history of working class struggle in Islington, recalling that the largest peace demonstration in August 1914 took place in the borough. Turning to current issues, he pointed

out that "the pay increases won by teachers are being taken out of school budgets".

Corbyn spoke of the many in the labour movement who feel less empowered, saying that "most people in Britain support public ownership of services", but he said this was not possible "in a grotesquely unequal society where the billionaires' wealth is growing by the minute, while the food bank queues are growing by the metre every week". He said the political alternative must be more than an offer to manage the economy as it is at the moment, "it requires fundamental transformation".

The event showed Corbyn in fine fighting spirit, a man enjoying mass support across all the communities in Islington, and who has lost none of his ability to lead and inspire all those fighting for a better and more just future for the working class in Britain.



• Corbyn's moving address of thanks.

## 74 years of victory!

by New Worker correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined diplomats, academics, businessmen and solidarity workers at a reception to mark the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China last week.

The ball-room of the Landmark Hotel in central London was packed with hundreds of guests celebrating the establishment of the people's government on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1949. Chinese diplomat Yang Xiaoguang warmly welcomed the

guests in an opening address in which he outlined the extraor-

dinary achievements of China's economic and social development in

the 74 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

He pointed out that the fundamentals of the Chinese economy, characterised by strong resilience, enormous potential, great vitality and long-term sustainability, remain unchanged and that there is a bright future for China's economic prospects.

China will solidly promote high-quality development with a people-centred approach, commit to high-level opening-up and keep to the path of peaceful development. Recently exchanges between China and the UK, at various levels, have increased.

On behalf of the Brit-

ish government, Lord Johnson, the Minister of State for International Trade, spoke highly of China's economic miracle. He said that UK-China relations are crucial and expressed readiness to strengthen engagement with China and deal jointly with major global issues.

During the reception a short film was screened showcasing China's economic and social achievements, and artistic troupes from the Guangzhou province in southern China staged a wonderful cultural performance.



• Entertaining the guests.



# Zionists will always call us anti-Semitic

by Nicki Kattoura

Ask any Palestinian or accomplice to the movement, and it is almost a guarantee that they were called anti-Semitic for expressing their anti-Zionist politics. The Zionist accusation has become so commonplace that it is to be expected in response to any vocal support for Palestine. Nevertheless, as much as it can be anticipated, it can still be reputationally devastating and traumatising for the people going through it.

It happened during the 2018 National Students for Justice in Palestine Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) when Zionists came out in their hundreds to protest against the student gathering: chasing us with cameras, calling us “terrorists”, “racists”, “anti-Semites”, trying to sneak into the conference and holding posters of our faces outside of the venue chanting phrases such as “gay rights for Gaza”.

It happened to Fatima Mohammed, the commencement speaker for the City University of New York (CUNY) Law School, who spoke out against well-documented, egregious human rights abuses that Israel continues to commit against Palestinians. Right-wing news outlets, Texas Senator Ted Cruz and CUNY officials condemned her words, denouncing them as “hate speech”. New York City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov went as far as sending a letter to the New York Bar urging



them to deny Mohammed from obtaining a license to practice.

It happened to Steven Salaita, a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, who was forced to resign from his tenured job after he tweeted his outrage about the 2014 assault on Gaza – an Israeli-orchestrated attack that murdered 2,252 Palestinians, 500 of whom were children, over 50 days.

There are thousands of stories that I could share that follow a similar trajectory.

Back in college when I began organising, we responded to Zionist backlash with a letter that would methodically lay out why our event, or teach-in, or statement, or vigil, was not anti-Semitic. We would outline the distinction between Zionism and Judaism and the ways that the former mobilises the accusation of anti-Semitism to deflect from Palestinian suffering.

We would lay out the

unequal power dynamic between a nuclear superpower, Israel, and an occupied people, Palestinians, concluding that calling it a “conflict” was a misnomer and deeply uninformed. We would highlight the fact that the USA provides Israel annually with \$4 billion of military aid while not recognising Palestinian statehood. We would denounce anti-Semitism in all its iterations, and we would re-affirm our principles for a free Palestine.

We would spend hours writing sentences that have been written before, get signatures from partner organisations and allies we had partnered with previously, and disseminate the statement online, in student newspapers and in any outlet in which we had published the last statement. Unsurprisingly, the anti-Semitism accusation would not be rescinded.

Although the statements would do nothing to quell accusations of

bigotry levelled against us, they did successfully eliminate the Palestinian struggle for freedom from the conversation. It was surreal and anxiety-inducing to see these accusations of anti-Semitism both challenge our credibility as young activists and obscure our message underneath a separate discourse.

No matter how vocal we were in our condemnation of anti-Semitism, the same accusation persisted. The defamatory nature of these accusations is never about anti-Semitism in the first place but is rather a deflection from talking about Palestine.

As *Nation* correspondent Mohammed el-Kurd wrote on X (formerly Twitter): “I grew up under the rule of a self-proclaimed Jewish State. Still, I’m expected to distinguish with surgical precision between Zionists and Jews, I’m asked [to] learn and apologize for century-old tropes created by Europeans, and

I’m somehow guilty of bigotry until I declare otherwise. No way.”

If we recognise that these Zionist accusations cannot be appeased, why do we continue to respond to baseless, racist accusations?

The year 2023 is on track to be the deadliest in Palestine, with over 200 Palestinians having been murdered by Israel since the end of August. The United Nations has declared that the Gaza Strip has been uninhabitable since 2020. Last year Israel committed a war crime by assassinating journalist Shireen Abu Akleh when she was covering a raid at the Jenin refugee camp. A year later they raided that same refugee camp killing over 12 people, including three minors.

Israel has been forcing Palestinians to destroy their own homes and then charging them demolition fees. Recently, a story dropped that 16 Israeli soldiers beat up and branded a Star of David on a Palestinian

man’s face. Ceaseless violence, a ruthless military occupation and ongoing genocide are the daily reality for Palestinians.

No matter how many times I highlight these atrocities or how often I have written and re-written these above sentences, the dominating discourse remains being about responding to accusations of anti-Semitism, so I am disengaging, and I urge you to disengage as well.

I’ve seen far too many videos of Palestinians being shot and killed in broad daylight on social media, too many heart-breaking, tearful pleas as parents and siblings hold lifeless bodies, too many pictures of demolished homes and rubble, too many Palestinians being denied entry to their homeland, too many Israelis spewing the most vitriolic, hateful, racist language at Palestinians, too many soldiers brutalising worshippers and too much Western indifference.

We are witnessing a human rights catastrophe play out in real time as Israel continues to annex our land, erase our history and incarcerate, brutalise and murder us. Zionists will continue to weaponise accusations of anti-Semitism, but we must be steadfast in our principles and confident in politics. We cannot let Zionists distract us from the ultimate goal of freeing Palestine from the river to the sea.

**The author is a Palestinian editor, writer, and organiser based in Philadelphia.**

*Workers World (USA)*



## China reaches out to Syria

by Roberto Morejon

In the midst of serious difficulties after 12 years of war, compounded by the impact of an earthquake, Syria is making enormous efforts to restore the economy. The government is slowly and gradually rebuilding foreign relations – and important agreements signed by the presidents of China, Xi Jinping, and Syria, Bashar al-Assad, are a hopeful path for the future.

The Syrian leader completed his first official visit



• A warm welcome for President Assad in Beijing.

to China since 2004 last week and as a result the two governments established a 'strategic partnership'.

China reiterated support for Syria in its rejection of foreign intervention and Western sanctions, in

its efforts to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

For Syria, co-operation

with Beijing on the Belt & Road initiative, in addition to signing economic and technological co-operation agreements, represents an important step forward.

The Americans, in their illegal military bases in Syria, loot Syria oil whilst supporting the terrorists who have spread death and destruction across the country. But the Syrians are gradually beginning to break through the encirclement promoted by the USA.

Al Assad has recently visited Saudi Arabia, the

United Arab Emirates, Iran, Oman and Russia, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs has visited Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Jordan – and the country has returned to the Arab League.

Aid to Syria, with an economy weakened by war and the terror gangs that still control parts of the country, is expected to increase. So the understanding and help promised by People's China, a country willing to address the plight of nations in the Global South, is an encouraging step forward.

*Radio Havana Cuba*

## A two-faced American in Africa

by Karina Marrón  
González

**The USA is proud to stand with all those who seek free, open and democratic governments in Africa, said US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during his visit to Angola last week.**

Although Austin is clear about Washington's intentions he not, however, explain what are the standards under which they evaluate freedom, openness or democracy.

The US minister's tour, which included Kenya and Djibouti in addition to Angola, was intended to "reaffirm the commitment of partnership" of the USA to Africa and to the "improvement of its security".

That angle was missing in the offensive launched by Joe Biden's administration, after the meeting with African leaders in December last year, and the subsequent visits of Secretary of State Antony Blinken (to Niger and Ethiopia) and Vice President Kamala Harris (Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia).

Now it was the turn of none other than the Secretary of Defense, at a time when Africa is struggling with the resurgence of coups, the threat of terrorism, and internal conflicts.

Austin, who is billing himself as the first Black to hold that post in the USA, rather than a retired four-star general, then spoke of "The Power of Partnership" and stressed that while "other powers view African countries as proxies or even pawns" the White House sees them as "partners".

The American message is: we can help them become "safer, freer and more just"; "deepen defense relations, always on the basis of mutual equality and respect"; and "empower them to find local, national and regional solutions to the dangers they face".

The experience of previous years, however, points to the fact that US aid has never been so disinterested or so respectful.

Recall only that when, in 2011, the African Union Peace and Security Council drew up a comprehensive

road-map to roll back the conflict in Libya, and intended to send a mission for that purpose, France and the USA began bombing that country.

The action, which showed great contempt for the African institution, seems today a thing of the past, but it should not be forgotten, especially when after the NATO's war against Libya, the Sahel region became embroiled in conflicts that continue to this day, the same conflicts that the USA has come to "teach" how to manage.

The Defense Secretary offered assistance to partner countries' security forces, including professional military education, capacity building, counter-terrorism training, logistics, and maritime security co-operation.

In addition, he said Washington is working to help its "friends in Africa build stronger institutions" and to find "creative ways to prevent conflicts before they start".

He included in that package cyber-security, "to expand cyber informa-

tion sharing to help African countries fight the digital evil of external disinformation". This from the country with the biggest international scandals for spying on the communications of others.

It is clear, however, in a context where Africa is once again in the sights of the Great Powers for its immense natural wealth, and where material shortages and insecurity become

vulnerabilities that can compel to accept the outstretched hand without adequately assessing the consequences, the USA does not want to be left out.

Biden said it – the future is written right now in Africa, and this is what motivates the Americans to show the best face, talk about respect, while on the other hand

ensure greater influence in the field of defence, in a continent where they have about 30 known military facilities.

"The peoples of Africa deserve to chart their own sovereign paths," said the US Secretary of Defense, but history reminds us that Washington has always had the last word on which side is right.

*Radio Havana Cuba*

## Cuban embassy petrol-bombed in Washington

**The Cuban embassy in Washington was attacked last week by an assailant who threw two Molotov cocktails over the perimeter fence to hit the building. Fortunately, no one was injured in the terror attack. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has urged the USA to respond.**

"Last night, once again, hatred launched a terrorist

attack against our embassy in Washington, in an act of violence and impotence that could have cost valuable lives," the Cuban leader said. "We denounce it and we expect action from the US authorities."

This is the second violent attack on the Cuban embassy in the US capital.

In April 2020, a gunman opened fire on the

embassy causing some material damage to the building.

At least 581 acts of state terrorism have occurred against Cuban diplomatic missions around the world since the triumph of the Revolution in January 1959.

*Prensa Latina*