

Iran remains steadfast

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

AMERICAN MISSILES strike military and economic targets in Iran. Iranian rockets hit US bases in the feudal Arab Gulf. The double blockade has closed off the Persian Gulf. The Houthi north Yemeni government closes the Red Sea to Saudi shipping. And Brent crude tops \$100 this week amid fears of long-term disruption to Arab oil exports to the West.

The Iranians remain steadfast despite the dire warnings from Trump and his minions of the terrible punishment yet to come if the Islamic Republic does not speedily return to the negotiating table. Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei says that Trump's word is "worthless" and that the Americans have repeatedly violated their commitments in the "Memorandum of Understanding" that was supposed to bring the conflict to an end last month.

People's China is deeply concerned about the escalation of the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf. The Foreign Ministry in Beijing said "the achieve-

ments made through negotiations have been hard-won, and the resumption of hostilities serves the interests of no party. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the region should be respected and upheld. The parties concerned should remain calm and exercise restraint, cease hostilities, resume engagement and dialogue, adhere to resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means, and achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire at an early date".

barrage of drones

A barrage of drones and missiles criss-cross the Persian Gulf to a chorus of threats and insults. But only last week the Iraqi premier, Ali al-Zaidi, was in Tehran bearing yet another cease-fire offer from Washington. Though it was turned down flat by the Ira-



nian authorities behind the scenes efforts to end the fighting continue. Donald Trump certainly wants a cease-fire – but only on his terms. And that's where the problem lies.

The Iranians say one of the problems is the fact that the US negotiating team is led by Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner – businessmen with no diplomatic skills – who try to articulate American demands that constantly change depending on the mood of the senile old man in the White House.

Trump's latest ploy – to help the Saudis set up their own civilian nuclear power industry in return for the Saudi signature on the "Abraham Accords" surrender peace deal with Israel has only stiffened Iranian resolve to fight on.

It has also put the House of Saud on the spot.

The deal, worth tens of billions of dollars, was first contrived during the Biden administration. Then the Saudis were prepared to join an American-led military pact in the Middle East that included Israel that would protect the big oil corporations in the region and threaten the Rus-

sian Federation and confront Iran. But these plans were derailed by the Gaza war. Now the Saudis say they will only normalise relations with the Zionist entity in return for a concrete Western pledge to establish an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Yes it's business as usual in the Middle East...

FUND

The July appeal began during our summer shut-down but fund-raising never stops. Over the break we raised £1,600 which leaves us with a massive £1,900 gap to fill if we going to hit our fighting fund target for the end of the month. We get no gifts or donations from millionaire sponsors. We rely entirely on our readers to keep our communist presses rolling. Help us get the message across and build the communist movement in Britain. Make sure that the communist voice is heard every week in every factory, office and neighbourhood across the country by supporting the *New Worker* fighting fund. Our paper has been out on the street since 1977. So join us in the fight to guarantee the survival of the *New Worker*. All donations to: *New Worker* Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Burnham makes his mark

ANDY BURNHAM starts his premiership on a high note clearing out the rubbishy ministers that revolved around Starmer and the ageing Blairite clique he relied on during his two years of misrule. He rejects neo-liberalism – the laissez-faire capitalism that gave us two global slumps and the second world war in the 20th century – and he's even made a modest criticism of Israel over Gaza. While a package of modest reforms including a curb on bus fares throughout the country, VAT breaks for pensioners and pubs, more devolution and a national council house-building programme will boost Labour's fortunes for the next few months.

But Burnham's devolution specifically rules out independence for Scotland or Wales. His government still crawls to the Americans and we're still waiting for the renationalisation of the water industry.

Labour's move towards more Keynesian economic solutions is not a shift to the left but merely a return to the traditional right-wing dogmas that once held sway in the Labour Party before the Blairites took over. But social-democracy in whatever form cannot solve the problems of the working class. Our task, to make the case for the communist answer to the capitalist crisis, is more urgent by the day.

Enter the Binman...

Summer is known as the silly season in the press because the long parliamentary recess means they have to fill their columns with even more rubbish to make up the difference. And nothing, perhaps, could be more sillier than the epic battle between Nigel Farage and Count Binface in a run-down former sea-side resort in north Essex.

The leader of Reform hoped to avoid Parliamentary scrutiny of his dodgy undeclared gifts and donations by resigning to trigger a by-election and re-contest in his own constituency. But his dream of trouncing the Tories and his other political foes in the poll has turned sour with all the mainstream parties boycotting the election and leaving the field to Binface and a legion of others seeking their fifteen minutes of fame on the streets of Clacton today.

Count Binface is the street persona of Jon Harvey, a stand-up comic who has been a familiar face at by-elections since 2017. Binface upholds the rights of every citizen to stand in elections and gets a protest vote that many left groups would envy these days. Now the Count is playing for higher stakes on an ethical platform that challenges all that the Faragists stand for.

Clacton-on-Sea is one of the poorest towns in Essex. Forty seven per cent of Clacton's residents over 16 are classified as "economically inactive" as they say. One in five working-age adults have never held a traditional job. High unemployment and the drugs and petty crime that go along with it have made this traditional Tory homeland the prey for the Faragists and their kind in recent years.

Some argue that the left should have joined the 30-odd others in the fray but this would be pointless given the absence of any substantial working-class movements in the constituency apart from the trade unions and the co-ops. Others say Clacton deserves more than a comic candidate to represent them. They certainly deserve someone better than Nigel Farage. At the end of the day those who bother to vote will decide. Who knows...it is, after-all, the silly season...

Burnham takes the helm

by Wang Shuo

ANDY BURNHAM was installed as the leader of Britain's Labour Party last week and he formally succeeded Sir Keir Starmer as the prime minister of the United Kingdom on Monday. However, he is inheriting the mess left by his predecessor. From a sluggish economy to deep political divisions, the UK, a decade after Brexit, remains deeply mired in difficulties. How much can Burnham improve the situation using his proven governance experience? Can he maintain a pragmatic and stable policy toward China? These are issues worth watching closely.

Burnham's pragmatic approach is rooted first and foremost in his nine years as mayor of Greater Manchester. During his tenure, he actively sought foreign investment to revive the local economy and did not shy away from economic and trade engagement with China. As recently as April this year, he met with the Chinese Consul General Tang Rui in Manchester and stressed that "Greater Manchester attaches great importance to developing relations with China".

This pragmatic style is broadly in line with the Labour government's overall approach toward China, which regards China as a "systemic competitor" while emphasising a stable, consistent and engaged China policy.

At the same time, Britain's current economic situation

is far from ideal. According to IMF forecasts, the British economy is expected to grow by only around one per cent in 2026. Meanwhile, the UK's public finances are losing around 330 billion pounds a year due to weak economic growth, an ageing population and ill health.

Whatever reform measures Burnham hopes to introduce, he will likely first confront the issue of "money," because without growth, other ambitions will be difficult to realise.

Economic realities will therefore continue to remind the new prime minister of the necessity of cooperation with China. After all, driven by commercial interests, the Chinese market remains a necessity that British businesses cannot afford to abandon.

Of course, Burnham's potential limitations on China policy must also be recognised. The first challenge comes from the pressure within the Labour Party and domestic political competition. Starmer's resignation was directly triggered by a crisis of confidence within the party following Labour's poor performance in local elections in May. The Labour Party is clearly not united on China policy, and any move perceived as "overly pro-China" could trigger internal backlash. Burnham will need to form an "inclusive" cabinet and accommodate various factions within Labour that supported him.

Another source of pressure comes from the Western bloc,

particularly the USA. After Brexit, the UK promoted the vision of "Global Britain," claiming it could engage more freely with countries around the world. Yet in reality, a UK outside the European Union has seen its standing decline in the eyes of both the USA and other countries. The country has therefore had to strengthen ties with the Western alliance, particularly by further consolidating its relationship with the USA, highlighting its strategic dilemma. As long as the UK remains closely aligned with the USA through NATO, the Five Eyes alliance and AUKUS, it will be difficult for Britain to significantly diverge from the American approach toward China. This leaves the UK in a difficult position. Once Washington demands that allies align on issues such as technology restrictions and investment screening towards China, how much room for manoeuvre will this new British prime minister actually have?

Burnham does possess unique advantages. His pragmatic reputation gained through successful local governance, the overwhelming support he currently enjoys within the Labour Party, and even the "ice-breaking" progress in China-UK relations made by Starmer's government this year all provide him with certain capabilities and conditions to manage bilateral ties.

However, these factors are not enough to help him overcome Britain's existing structural constraints, whether domestic or external. For the UK, there is no "perfect China policy" that can simultaneously satisfy economic interests, security needs and value-based considerations.

The new prime minister is more likely to continue Starmer's pragmatic approach based on practical considerations, seeking a balance between co-operation and competition rather than moving beyond the Labour government's existing framework on China policy. What he can do may simply be to make the UK's China policy less chaotic in an era of uncertainty. And that, in itself, would already be a pragmatic achievement.

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Global Times



Workers' Notes

Marching for Palestine!

by New Worker correspondent

THOUSANDS of protesters marched through central London last weekend to demand that the new Prime Minister take real action to pressure to end its genocide against the Palestinian people. Almost three years into Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, Britain's incoming Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, has been forced to apologise and admit that the government got it wrong. As we have always known – it was the people, the millions who have steadfastly stood with Palestine, who got it right.

Millions of us have taken to the streets, joined campaigns for boycott and divestment, and piled pressure on politicians. We have done so despite attempts to demonise and stigmatise our marches and all those protesting against genocide and for Palestinian rights. We have been standing on the right side of history. We must continue to do so.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign, one of the main organisers of the protests that have rocked London over the past two years, says “we march in London with a clear message for Andy Burnham. If he really wants to break with Starmer's shameful legacy, he must start by imposing wide ranging sanctions against Israel including a full arms embargo, an end to all military cooperation and diplomatic support, and a total ban on all trade that aids or assists Israel's atrocities and violations of international law. He must also reverse the spiteful use of repressive public order and anti-terror legislation to target those speaking out for Palestinian rights”.

Burnham clearly wants to distance himself from Keir



Starmer's moral bankruptcy, but in this respect, his statement remains totally inadequate. As the Palestinian people continue to confront Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza and escalating colonial violence and apartheid across their homeland, we demand meaningful action. Mass pressure by our solidarity movement has forced this apology. It is clear that only ongoing action will deliver real change.

Burnham signals break with old model

Andy Burnham entered 10 Downing Street on Monday promising to break with four decades of centralised politics and economic orthodoxy, but his first Cabinet suggests the changes will be pursued within tight fiscal and political constraints.

Burnham said his government will devolve more power to cities and regions, revive industry, strengthen public control over essential services and work with businesses to promote regional growth. The agenda draws heavily on the model he developed as mayor of Greater Manchester.

However, analysts said his decision to appoint experienced and relatively cautious figures to key economic and security posts indicates an ef-

fort to reassure financial markets, contain divisions within the ruling Labour Party and avoid an abrupt break with the previous government.

Professor Martin Jacques says that Burnham was probably “the best choice available”, citing his record as mayor of Greater Manchester. Jacques said Burnham appeared determined to move away from the economic approach associated with former prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair and break with neo-liberalism. However, Burnham has said little about foreign policy, making his positions on major international issues difficult to assess.

In his first speech outside No. 10 Burnham noted that he was Britain's seventh prime minister since 2016 and acknowledged that politicians had “not been good enough”. He pledged to make his premiership a “circuit breaker for Britain” and deliver “the biggest changes in the last 40 years” through “a new political model and a new economic model”.

Burnham said policies pursued since the 1980s had concentrated political power in London, weakened industrial regions and left many communities unable to reverse long-term decline.

He said his government would transfer more authority to local areas, strengthen public control over essential services and use public procurement to support British

industry. A 10-year national plan is expected later this year.

The programme draws heavily on Burnham's experience in Greater Manchester, where local authorities have gained greater influence over transport, housing and economic development.

Before taking office, Burnham proposed establishing a “No. 10 North” office in Manchester to help co-ordinate the transfer of power from Whitehall to cities and regions.

His first instruction as prime minister was to launch a national drive to end long-term rough sleeping. He also said the government would introduce measures to ease living costs, with bus fares, energy bills, housing and youth employment among the priorities.

Burnham appointed former Defence Secretary John Healey as Chancellor – an unexpected choice for a government promising higher public investment and stronger public services.

Ed Miliband became foreign secretary, Wes Streeting was appointed defence secretary, and Louise Haigh, a close Burnham ally, took a senior role in the Cabinet Office. Several figures closely associated with Keir Starmer left the government, while other experienced ministers remained.

The *Financial Times* described Healey as a steady figure with ties to both busi-

ness and trade unions. A former junior Treasury minister, Healey faces the challenge of funding Burnham's domestic agenda while addressing a multibillion-pound shortfall in the defence budget.

The appointments point to a more social democratic direction, tempered by Burnham's commitment to retain existing fiscal rules and avoid unsettling financial markets.

Jonathan Reynolds was appointed to oversee business, trade, science and innovation. Kanishka Narayan became minister for artificial intelligence and will attend Cabinet meetings, giving the issue a more prominent role in economic and industrial policy.

Whether the government can translate those changes into tangible results remains the key test.

Jonathan Tonge, a professor of politics at the University of Liverpool, said Burnham entered Downing Street with considerable goodwill, but “the economic facts have not changed”.

High spending on welfare and pensions, together with public debt and interest payments, would limit Burnham's room for manoeuvre and could shorten the government's political honeymoon, Tonge said.

Xinhua

The return of Ed Miliband

Andy Burnham has appointed former Labour leader and ‘net-zero’ architect Ed Miliband as foreign secretary despite concerns over his past record and lack of conventional diplomatic experience.

Burnham made the announcement after formally taking office on Monday. He replaced Keir Starmer, who resigned following falling public support, heavy Labour losses in local elections and a series of scandals within his government.

Miliband previously served as Starmer's energy secretary from 2024 and was one of the former premier's most prominent Cabinet members. He was widely regarded as the mastermind of

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the controversial 'net-zero' programme to completely decarbonise electricity generation in the UK by 2030. He previously led Labour between 2010 and 2015 but resigned after the party lost that year's general election.

His appointment as foreign secretary, however, has revived criticism of Miliband's record as energy secretary. Conservatives, Reform UK, trade unions and sections of the British media have accused him of worsening Britain's energy crisis through his efforts to accelerate the transition to renewable power and opposition to new North Sea drilling.

The unions have also criticised his restrictions on oil and gas development, warning that they threaten jobs and industrial communities. British businesses currently pay energy prices around 45 per cent above the G7 median, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Miliband has dismissed the accusations, claiming that volatile international gas prices and Britain's dependence on imported fossil fuels are responsible for rising bills. He has insisted that further expanding renewable power would eventually make energy cheaper.

Critics have also highlighted the fact that Miliband has never held a diplomatic, defence, or national security position. His supporters, on the other hand, argue that his

involvement in international climate negotiations has given him the necessary experience.

The *Telegraph* has reported that the White House is also "deeply concerned" about his appointment, particularly due to his role in defeating a 2013 proposal for British military action in Syria. He had also reportedly encouraged Starmer to deny American access to British bases in the early stages of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

In his first statement as foreign secretary, Miliband promised to defend British interests, strengthen the country's alliances, seek an end to the Iran conflict, and pursue peace between Israel and Palestine.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Burnham has promised an "era of hope" and "renewal" for the UK. However, he has so far largely retained Starmer-era foreign policy points, pledging continued support for Ukraine, NATO, closer military co-operation with the European Union, and increased defence spending despite the country's escalating cost-of-living crisis, weakening public services, and rising unemployment.

Despite promising a harder line on Israel, it also remains unclear how tough Burnham will really be, given that he and 11 of the 22 Cabinet members in his newly formed government are members of the Labour Friends of Israel (LFI) lobby group, which promotes

Israeli interests in the United Kingdom.

rt.com

The State of the Unions

by New Worker correspondent

There was much misplaced rejoicing from the TUC at the start of June when it was officially announced that union membership had risen by 192,000 to 6.6 million in 2025. This figure appeared in the Department for Business & Trade's (DBT) annual statistical bulletin. But another set of statistics gave another, more precise figure: 5,352,319. This appeared in the Annual Report from the Certification Officer (CO) for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. What explains these 1.3 million discrepancies?

The former is based on sampling while the latter is based on the actual returns from the unions, so we might expect a small variation. However, the gap can be blamed firmly on Unite the Union which once again has failed to submit returns – the last full one covered 2021, (although Unite submitted a partial one for 2024).. Also missing from this table is the PCS civil service union whose 2023 returns claim 189,399 members. One wonders why the Certification

Officer, or indeed the membership tolerate this lack of transparency which resembles the financial reporting of Nigel Farage.

It needs to be borne in mind that the workforce is 34.33 million, so even with the DBT figure membership density is a mere 22.4 per cent overall and the welcome rise a mere 0.4 per cent. That is bad enough but it conceals the depressing fact that the private sector (which accounts for 70 per cent of the workforce) has a miserable 12.1. Despite the fact that USDAW is in the top ten, its membership is only about a tenth of the retail workforce. In contrast 48.5 per cent of the public sector workforce is unionised, a respectable number, but still below a majority of the potential membership. The comparison between the latest CO report and the previous one lead us to suspect the 192,000 rise claimed by the DBT might be fictional. Someone with a more powerful pocket calculator really needs to see what is going on.

British union membership peaked in 1979 at 13.2 million, falling sharply under Thatcher's anti-union laws and de-industrialisation during the 1980s and early 1990s. After 1996 decline slowed significantly. In 1996 the membership stood at 7.9 million but in the following years the trend continued downwards. The recent high spot was 2023 when 6.7 million trade unionists were recorded.

The fall in union density is perhaps more important than the absolute numbers. The DBT's present run of figures that began in 1995, first recorded a density of 32.4 per cent – ten points higher than today.

British trade unionism is increasingly the preserve of the labour aristocracy. 65 per cent of union members have a degree or equivalent or other higher education qualification. This is likely due to the high union density in the teaching profession, the NHS and other parts of the public sector where, in theory, union membership is encouraged.

As can be seen by the presence of three education unions in the top ten, education is the most unionised sector where 47.4 per cent of workers are unionised. At the other end of the spectrum are the construction industries, real estate and worst of all the hospitality industry which is below five per cent, despite decades of efforts by Unite and GMB. Therefore, employees in supervisory roles are more likely to be members of a union than those they supervise.

The CO report is also revealing for the salaries paid to general secretaries. The highest earner is the general secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association who gets £649,000, which at one level is a case of a union leader taking a worker's wage. In distant second was his colleague in the Professional Cricketers Association on a comparatively modest £194,719.

While USDAW and GMB represent low-paid workers their general secretaries earn £134,593 and £121,000 respectively. In contrast the leader of BALPA earns £129,000 which is below the going rate for its pilot members.

Even though the general secretary of Unison has a pay packet of £126,673 that still only works out at less than nine pence a member. In stark contrast the remaining cost of the general secretary to each of the remaining 196 members of what's left of the National Union of Mineworkers is a massive £231.75 each. This doesn't actually mean much as the rump union only took in £8,379 in subscriptions and seems to live off the one-off benefits from closing the pensions fund. How the mighty are fallen...

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

**The New Worker
21 July 2006**

ISRAELI FORCES are pounding Lebanon from land, sea and air, spreading death and destruction throughout the country. But the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, has given the Israelis a taste of their own medicine, scoring a direct hit on an Israeli warship off the Lebanese coast and launching hundreds of rocket attacks on towns across northern Israel.

The daily rocket attacks on northern Israel have paralysed the port of Haifa, Israel's third largest city, and forced thousands of Israelis to flee to Tel Aviv and other parts believed to be out of range of Hezbollah's missiles. The deadly attack on an Israeli missile corvette blockading Beirut, which killed four and set the ship ablaze, was a dramatic demonstration of the Lebanese guerrilla movement's capabilities.

Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, has said his fighters are fully armed and more than ready to take on any Israeli ground invasion. Speaking on Sunday, he said that the fight against Israel had only just begun. The militant Lebanese Shia leader said that the Israeli attack had inflicted no real harm

on the Hezbollah movement, and that his fighters had every right to resist. Hezbollah's fight is not just for itself or for Lebanon, but for the whole Arab world, he declared.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has called for a ceasefire and the deployment of an international force along the Lebanese frontier with Israel and oil prices topped \$78 a barrel on the open market on Monday reflecting fears that the conflict could spread across the entire Middle East.

But US imperialism has blocked the UN Security Council from censuring Tel Aviv for its attacks on Lebanon and Gaza and Washington has not expressed the least concern over Beirut's announcements that the attacks are killing civilians and de-

stroying its infrastructure.

Syria has said it would respond forcefully to any Israeli attack, and Iran vowed it was "standing by the Syrian people".

The Communist Party of Israel is demanding an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza and Lebanon. Calling the policies of the Kadima/Labour coalition "violent lunacy", the Israeli communists are demanding an immediate ceasefire on all fronts, an end to the seizure of Gaza and the opening of the commercial crossings to allow uninterrupted supply of food, medicines and fuel to the Palestinian population of the Gaza strip, threatened with a humanitarian disaster.

The Friends of Korea campaign held a hybrid seminar at the John Buckle Centre as part of the global month of solidarity with the Korean people against US imperialism that is held every year in July to mark the outbreak of the Korean war. Chaired by Andy Brooks speakers included Michael Chant from the RCPB-ML, Dermot Hudson from the Korean Friendship Association and veteran Korean solidarity campaigner Keith Bennett as well as a diplomat from the DPRK embassy in London who joined the panel via a Zoom link. This is the contribution by Michael Chant, the Secretary of the Friends of Korea.

by Michael Chant

SOLIDARITY is the affirmation of the bonds between peoples and their leaders in struggle. As such it is more than just a declaration; it is the expression of standing shoulder to shoulder in the struggle, in the cause of humanity for peace, justice and democracy. Today we are declaring the importance of solidarity with the DPRK Korea, not only in today's global conditions, but looking back, in this month of solidarity, and remembering the Korean War – that is the Fatherland Liberation War – and affirming the right of the people of the DPRK to sovereignty and independence, to choosing and building their own social system which favours the people.

It was on June 25th 1950, that the US imperialists, under the aegis of the United Nations, launched a brutal illegal war of aggression against the Korean people. The UN coalition, under the military command of the USA, involved troops from 16 other countries including Britain.

Today, when the US imperialists and their allies, particularly Britain, are rapidly militarising the Asia-Pacific and endangering the peoples of the region, it is more important than ever to recall the terrible tragedies visited upon the Korean people during the Korean

Solidarity with the Korean people!



Andy Brooks, Michael Chant and Dermot Hudson.

War and to speak out, organise and ensure that the US, Britain and others do not wage another tragic war against the Korean people.

The USA and its allies falsely accuse the DPRK of being a terrorist state, a danger to peace, abuser of human rights and all sorts of slanders that in fact apply to themselves. South Korea remains under the dictate of the US which maintains some 28,000 troops and one of the largest arsenals of weapons including nuclear

and chemical weapons, fighter planes, warships, submarines and other weapons in order to constantly threaten the DPRK and use the Korean Peninsula as a forward staging ground for US-led wars of aggression.

During the Korean War, the USA and its allies carried out massive bombing raids, massacred hundreds of thousands of civilians in the north and south of Korea, engaged in germ warfare and chemical warfare and bombed cities and infrastructure north of

the 38th parallel, razing them to the ground. Civilians were buried alive, dismembered, burned to death and drowned. Many were forced to dig their own graves before being executed in the same manner that the Nazis massacred civilians, particularly those who resisted. Chinese and Korean prisoners of war were tortured and murdered on Koje Island and in other prisoner of war camps. By the time of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27th 1953, some

four million people, mostly civilians, had perished and countless others were wounded, and most of Korea had been destroyed.

Britain contributed the second-largest international force to the Korean War after the United States, deploying over 81,000 service personnel between 1950 and 1953. The British contribution was multi-faceted, spanning ground, naval, and air forces. Around 60,000 British combat troops—both regular soldiers and young National Service conscripts—saw heavy action. The Royal Navy provided nearly 50 ships and 17,000 sailors throughout the conflict. The RAF provided a wing of Sunderland flying boats based in Japan. Many British aircrews also flew alongside Commonwealth squadrons.

There was organised opposition to Britain's involvement from the start. Anti-war demonstrations at Marble Arch and Connaught Place (part of the larger Trafalgar Square/Hyde Park convergence routes) highlighted the intensity of people's opposition to the commencement of the war in 1950. For example, a communist Peace Demonstration took place at Marble Arch in 1950 condemning US imperialist aggression against the Korean people. Other demonstrations were held, with placards such as "Hands Off Korea", "Refuse to Die for Yankee Bankers", "Not a Man nor a Gun for the American War on Korea", and "Stop USA Intervention in Korea". A feature of the Marble Arch rallies was the prominent participation of women's cooperative guilds and maternal peace groups. If the marches attempted to move from the Hyde Park towards Westminster or the US Embassy, police were deployed to block protesters from advancing and the police were frequently used to physically push crowds back into the Park. The police attacks resulted in regular arrests of activists for "obstruction" and "breach of the peace". Demonstrators, however, were able to routinely surround the US Embassy. Trafalgar Square also served as the location for demonstrations against the Korean War organised throughout the duration of the war by the British Peace Committee, with marches to Whitehall and Downing Street. Crowds of thousands demanded an imme-



US workers supporting Korea.

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diate ceasefire, the withdrawal of British troops, and the recognition of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations.

The resignations of Aneurin Bevan and Harold Wilson in 1951 were tied to the Korean War. Grass-roots trade union bodies opposed the war. In the final year of the war, the TUC received over 60 formal letters from regional trades councils opposing the TUC leadership's aligning with the government. Notable figures like eminent scientist Joseph Needham and writer and town-planner Monica Felton visited the north of Korea and China and publicised how the US military were using biological weapons against the Korean people. It is reported how the state actively damaged the reputations of high-profile opponents of the war, revoked their passports, or ensured they lost their employment. Monica Felton, who chaired the inaugural meeting in 1952 of the National Assembly of Women, was fired after her visit to the north of Korea from her job as Chairman of the Stevenage Development Corporation, expelled from the Labour Party and was threatened with prosecution for treason. Standard military censorship was amplified by British newspaper owners who deliberately suppressed the true extent of the war's devastation to ensure Britain "stuck with America".

The Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27th 1953 in Panmunjom signifying the defeat of the United States. The USA has never been reconciled to this situation, and has never fully complied with the agreement, particularly that the two sides would sign a peace treaty as soon as possible which the USA has refused to do.

The American refusal to formalise the peace shows its true intent. The USA and south Korea, along with a remilitaris-

ing Japan, continue to carry out joint military exercises which involve other countries, including Britain.

Following the end of the Korean War Britain acted as a trusted ally of the US, refusing to support the DPRK's integration into international bodies, and maintaining that the government in Seoul was the sole legitimate representative of the entire Korean peninsula. It was not until 2001 that Britain opened its embassy in Pyongyang, following the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Britain and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in December 2000. The DPRK embassy in London formally opened in 2003. Despite this, Britain has expanded its military involvement in joint war exercises with the United States around the Korean peninsula, exercises which are a dangerous, provocation that destabilises regional peace under the guise of maintaining regional stability. Deployments of the Royal Navy in the Indo-Pacific are continuing, documented examples occurring for example, in 2021, 2022, 2024 and 2025.

Given this record of participating in the war drills against the DPRK and the damage to bilateral relations this causes, it further seriously damages these relations that recently, on May 11th the British Foreign Office staged an extremely provocative act of including the Songdowon International Children's Camp in the DPRK in the recently-issued list of sanctions against Russia, announcing "sanctions measures" against Russia's "organisational activities" to "forcibly transfer" and "militarise" Ukrainian children.

It must be emphasised how provocative this measure is, carried out as part of the British government's moves to demonise Russia. It must be condemned by all justice-loving people, which, as a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokes-

person has said, is a "malicious act of the British government which even targets the camp, a sacred base for education and the growth of children, to achieve its purpose of political machinations".

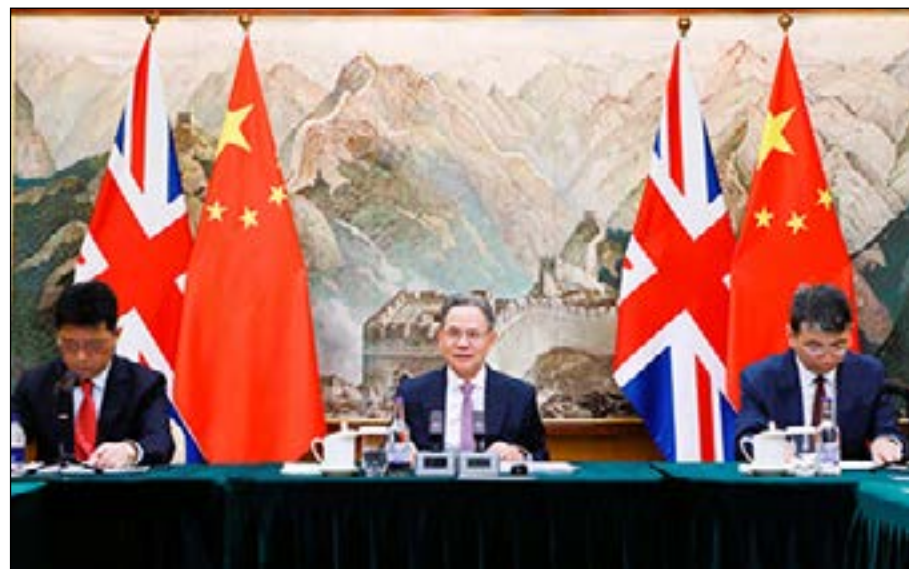
This act can also be seen as a component of the serious provocations of the Trump administration and its allies against China and the DPRK which they call "undemocratic dictatorships" and threats to "Western civilisation" and the "free world". It should be emphasised that it is in the context of these ongoing threats from the USA and its war-mongering allies, that the DPRK has built its own nuclear deterrent to maintain a state of equilibrium on the Korean peninsula and maintain peace regionally and on a global scale. The developing unity of the DPRK, China and Russia is also to be seen in this context.

On this 76th anniversary of the start of the Korean war, it is time once again to demand that the USA stop its threats and bullying of the DPRK, withdraw its 28,000 troops from south Korea, close all its military bases in and around south Korea, remove all its nuclear and chemical weapons from the Korean peninsula as well as promptly sign a peace treaty with the DPRK. This is the demand of the Korean people and peace and justice-loving peoples of the world including in Britain.

Friends of Korea also demands that the British government end its hostile actions against the DPRK, which are so damaging to the friendly relations between the peoples of Britain and the DPRK and globally. To restore friendly relations in the interests of peace and sovereignty, rather than exacerbate war-mongering and "war readiness" under the banner of "national security", is the demand of the times.

Remember the Korean War! Solidarity with the DPRK!

Looking to the future with People's China



Chinese ambassador Zheng Zeguogang opens the symposium

New Communist Party leader Andy Brooks took part in a symposium with the theme of the Communist Party of China and the World at the Chinese embassy in London in July. This is his contribution to the discussion.

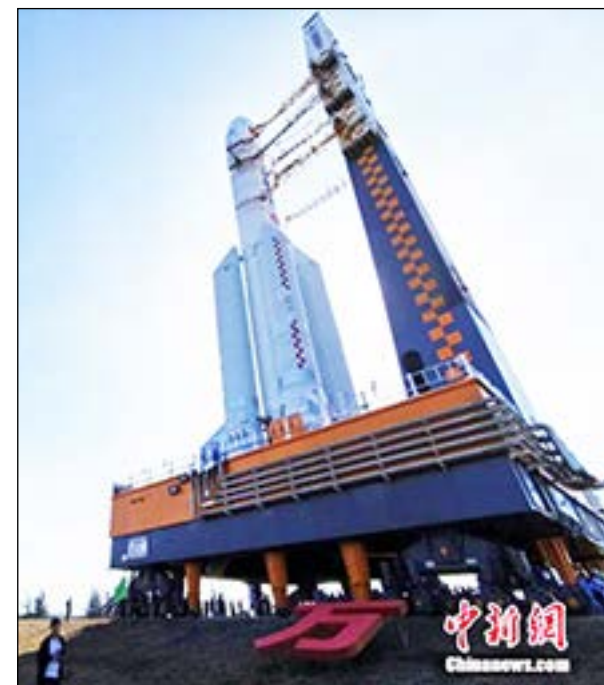
by Andy Brooks

THE CHINESE revolution that established the people's government in 1949 has transformed the country that was then the poorest in the world. China has now risen from being a weak semi-feudal, semi-colonial country to become a force for peace in the global arena, with the second largest economy in the world. Productivity gains, innovation and consumption needs have become the main driv-

ers of growth. China's manufacturing, innovation and construction now serves the entire world. As China transforms it shares what it has learned with other developing countries facing similar challenges. And equally the communist party, which led

and continues to lead the Chinese people's march to socialism, is always ready to share its knowledge and experience with the rest of the communist movement around the world.

People's China, under the leadership of its Communist Party,



China makes great strides into space.

has made remarkable progress in the transformation of a poverty-stricken land into a leading power within a few short decades. It looks forward with confidence to the future and offers friendship and respectful relations to all the peoples of the world.

From just over 50 members when it was founded in 1921 the Communist Party of China has grown into the world's largest governing party, leading a nation of more than 1.4 billion people. The founding of the Party in July 1921 was the spark that united the people of China in the struggle against the landlords and capitalist oppressors, as well as Japanese and American imperialism, that led to the proclamation of the People's Republic in 1949.

The qualitative transfer of society from obsolete capitalism to progressive socialism is the historical mission of the working class. The Chinese revolution was a momentous event – a landmark in world history like the French Revolution, the Paris Commune and the Russian Revolution of November 1917. The steadfast path taken by the Communist Party of China, changing the course of history in the pursuit of national liberation, social justice and the struggle against fascism and war embraces the lofty ideal of communism. The people's government and the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics are the products of generations of struggle led by the Communist Party of China. People's democracy, the people's democratic dictatorship, reflects the essence of the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism in Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chi-



The young are recognised as the future in China.

nese Characteristics for a New Era.

We live in turbulent times. A time of sharpening contradictions — and the primary contradiction in the world today is between United States imperialism and the rest of the world it seeks to dominate. American imperialism fans the flames of war in Ukraine and the Middle East, blocks the return of Taiwan to its Chinese homeland and prolongs the unhappy partition of many countries including Cyprus, Ireland, Kashmir and Korea.

Mao Zedong famously said that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers but he also warned that they are their most ferocious when their backs are against the wall. This year we've seen the Americans land in Caracas to seize the Venezuelan president and drag him off to jail in New York. We've seen the treacherous American-Israeli "decapitation" raids on Iran that killed the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic and many other senior members of the Iranian government and we hear the threats to strangle Cuba and anyone else who stands in the way of US imperialism.

But wherever there

is oppression there is always resistance. People's China and the other people's democracies in the world stood firm with Iran when the Islamic Republic fought back and forced the Americans and their Israeli and feudal Arab lackeys to cease-fire in June.

beacon of hope

On the economic front China has become a beacon of hope for all the peoples of the world struggling to build their own independent economies without imperial-

ist interference. While Anglo-American and Franco-German imperialism use their military and economic might to impose their neo-colonial rule throughout the Global South the Chinese people can, and do, provide the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America with an alternative source of high technology and economic assistance without the odious strings attached that always go with deals with the West.

And a new spirit of determination is sweeping across the world

communist movement. For many years communists in the imperialist heartlands of Europe and North America looked to what many of them called the "Soviet model" and tried to create platforms to rally working people against the imperialists and oppressors.

But calls for the re-establishment of another Communist International were unrealistic. The conditions that led to the establishment of the Comintern in 1919 do not exist today. The experiences of world communist conferenc-

es sponsored by the revisionist leaderships in the CPSU after the death of Stalin were not taken into account.

The vies of the ruling parties were often ignored. Now the "Brussels" conference has gone and the moribund Solidnet forum looks likely to soon follow.

But times are changing. The close solidarity, co-operation and growing ideological dialogue and ties between the "five golden flowers of socialism" — that is China, Vietnam, Laos, Cuba and the DPR Korea — provides a focus for the entire world communist movement and the potential basis for a concrete platform for all the communist and workers' parties of the world.

We are all stepping stones to the future that Marx and Engels foresaw — a future now being built in China and the other people's democracies around the world.

The Communist Party of China has become a rallying point for the world communist movement. We welcome it. Although calls for the reestablishment of a formal Communist International are premature, a co-ordinated international communist response is needed to rally working people against the imperialists and oppressors.

We must work to restore the momentum for revolutionary change; strengthen co-operation and united action with communist and workers parties around the world; build solidarity with the global anti-war movement and forces for liberation in the Global South to unite the class and march towards a new tomorrow — the world Marx and Engels predicted and a world that will surely come. We see it in China today. We will all surely see it tomorrow.



Much of China is served by highspeed trains.

LETTERS

LISTENING TO the recent speeches by our leaders on the need to increase defence spending I could not help thinking of the speech the Nazi Luftwaffe chief, Hermann Göring, made to the German population in 1936 – the famous ‘Guns and butter’ one, part of which goes as follows “Party Comrades, Friends, I have come to you to talk about Germany, our Germany, Germany must have a place in the sun!”

“Rearmament is only the first step to make our people happy, for me rearming is not merely a goal in itself. I do not want to have rearmament for military ends to oppress others. I want it solely for the freedom of Germany.

“Believe me, my friends, I am for international understanding. That is why we are rearming, if we are weak, we shall be at the mercy of the world. What’s the good of being in the concert of nations if we are not allowed to play the comb?”

“I must speak clearly. There are those in international life who are hard of hearing, they listen only if the guns go off. We have no butter, my good people,

but I ask you, would you rather have butter or guns? Should we import lard or metal ores?”

“Let me tell you straight- preparedness makes us powerful, butter merely makes us fat”.

If you alter a few words – put Britain instead of Germany, “spend more on weapons” instead of “rearmament” and put welfare/schools/hospitals instead of butter/lard the speech could be one made today in this country!

**Robert J Smith
Sutton-in-Ashfield**

IT WAS DURING the Second World War that the poet Roy Fuller wrote “The years of war pile on our heads like lime. And horrors grow impersonal as engines; Nor can I think in discipline and slime. Perhaps beside some blue and neutral lake another Lenin sorts out the real from the fake. Yes, I think it would be great to have another Lenin.

Who would sort out the real from the fake; and especially with regards to the current war in Ukraine, where the genuine interests of Russia are never discussed, as it is easier to dismiss Russian concerns as “outdated” imperialism.

In addition, NATO’s role in both the 2014 Ukrainian coup and its expansion right up to Russia’s border is completely ignored.

The UK’s political and media establishment is working very hard to sell a long war to the British public by pushing the narrative of Ukraine actually winning the war. Of course, NATO’s proxy war against Russia is given to us as being driven by “empathy” and “selflessness” towards the Ukrainians. It is therefore vitally important for the West to defend that narrative from inconvenient truths. However, no matter the circumstances, there is never any empathy for the Russians – not even the terrible consequences of the German invasion during the Second World War, when 27 million Soviet citizens died.

In the long siege of Leningrad President Putin’s mother and father bravely survived near fatal wounds and disease; his older brother died and several of his uncles perished. Russia suffered a death toll equal to about one in every seven Russians then alive.

Yet, rather than noting, or showing any empathy for the relevance of this painful history to the question of Russian security; rather than pointing out how NATO expansion and the encroachment of Western military power on Russia’s border resonates with that history and rather than even positing a psychological sensitivity on the part of President Putin’s personal familial experiences, the West frames Putin’s personal family experiences as further support for the West’s view that Putin is motivated by a “dangerous and irrational expansionism”.

Thus the West, even when dealing with Putin’s own family traumas, appears to have no room in its analysis for Russia’s security concerns. We must keep trying to explain to people that for the Russians what happens in Ukraine is an

existential matter. Ukraine is not some distant country in Africa. Ukraine sits right next to Russia. Why should Russia tolerate foreign forces and capabilities on the ground inside a country that is hostile to them and could threaten their existence?

Of course, the West has proved in the past that Russia can’t afford to trust them. In 1942, for example Churchill and the West deliberately put off opening a second front in order to bleed the Soviet Union. Also, in 1944 and ‘45 Britain and the USA were secretly negotiating with Germany in Sweden and Switzerland against the Soviet Union.

So, it should be no big surprise that the West likes to keep its spurious “empathy” for a corrupt and fascist Ukraine, and firmly believes that Ukraine should continue fighting. The West is no friend to the ordinary people of Ukraine just as Hitler was no friend to the German people.

Western mainstream media would also like us to believe that Russia’s economy is on the verge of collapse (despite rising oil

Diary

UNTIL 18 OCT

‘Comrades in Art: Artists Against Fascism’ exhibition, on the anti-fascist Artists International Association. The Towner Eastbourne, Devonshire Park, College Road, Eastbourne BN21 4JJ.

TUES 28 JULY

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign: Emergency in Venezuela - End all sanctions, give back the gold! 18:30, online. Register on VSC website.

THUR 30 JUL

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: Trico: The Longest Equal Pay Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SUN 2 AUG

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on SLS website.

THUR 6 AUG–SUN 9 AUG

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings nationwide commemorations. See CND Events for details of local events.

THUR 13 AUG

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Cuba After Castro film & brigade report back. 19:00, Pelican House, 144 Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green, E1 5QJ. Book on CSC website.

SAT 15 AUG

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against American nuclear weapons in Britain. 12:00-14:00, RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9PN

SAT 5 SEPT

Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies: Jim Jump on Soviet Policy and the Spanish Civil War. 14:00–15:00. SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB.

SUN 6 SEPT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on SLS website.

SUN 6 SEPT

Burston strike school rally. Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk IP22 5TZ. Visit the NCP stall.

SAT 19 SEPT

Society for the Study of Labour History: Charism Day 2026. Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick CV34 4AX. Details from SSLH website.

SAT 19 SEPT

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil against American nuclear weapons in Britain. 12:00-14:00, RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9PN

THUR 24 SEPT

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: National Unemployed Workers’ Movement (NUWM). Online lecture 19:00-20:30. Book on GFTUET website.

MON 28 SEPT

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: End the siege on Cuba. 17:45, The Casa, 29 Hope St, Liverpool, L1 9BP

30 SEP–21 NOV

Townsend Theatre Productions: Ribert Tressell’s Ragged Trousered Philanthropists. Touring play. See TTP website for venues and booking.

SUN 4 OCT

90th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street. Assemble 12:00 Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1BJ

SUN 4 OCT

Caribbean Labour Solidarity: Sunday Zoom seminar. Subject TBA. 14:00. Register on CLS website.

FRI 9 OCT

Unveiling of the Mandela statue. 16:00. Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow G2 9 IYQ.

SAT 10 OCT

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: National march for Palestine: End the Genocide / 3 years. 12.00-16:30. Central London details TBA.

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prices), and that Ukraine is recapturing territory on the front line.

These assertions are entirely false. The reality is that while Russia's offensive has slowed overall, it has continued in one crucial area – the route towards Kramatorsk, a city in the Donbas region. It is already reported that Russian forces have broken into Konstantinovka.

Fierce fighting is under way in that city (one of Ukraine's four strongholds in the Donbas), and the Russians are now clearing buildings one after another. This will take time, but it does not appear that the Ukrainians will be able to hold the city now.

The Ukrainians are pointing to the drone and missile attacks that Ukraine now regularly carries out against Russia. These are undoubtedly a morale boost for fascistic Ukraine, but they do not change the underlying direction of the war.

Ukraine has also had notable success in hitting Russian supply lines behind the front. But the observable facts do not support the narrative that the war has turned a corner.

It seems to me that most of the false stories arise from some people believing what they want

to believe. Usually, these stories are full of noise and anger, mostly devoid of meaning.

And when we read that Macron, Merz and Zelensky are laying down conditions even for speaking to Putin, we 'know' that they believe they hold all the cards, as President Donald Trump would say. That just could tell us that they are not genuinely ready for peace talks.

The idea, in particular, that Russian assets should remain frozen until Russia agrees to pay compensation is really only wishful thinking.

President Putin is not ready for talks either. He rightfully believes that there is a realistic military path for him. this will, of course, probably not happen overnight, but progress, slow or small, is being made towards taking full control of the Donbas. However, there is something that the West and Ukraine seemingly take great comfort in believing. and that is the false estimates contained in reports of Russian war dead. the published figures can only be described as arithmetically impossible. on some of those estimates, Russia would have lost about two million troops, which would be more than the to-

tal size of its armed forces. This is outright propaganda of the worst kind.

As in 1917 Senator Hiram Johnson was right to say that "the first casualty when war comes is truth".

A McKerl Fife

FOR SOME time now we have been seeing Clive Myrie intone solemnly on the BBC that "the fight for truth is on". There certainly is a fight for truth going on but the BBC is on the wrong side of it.

Media organisations like *Declassified*, *Double Down News*, *the Morning Star*, *Zeteo UK* and the *Canary* are trying to bring truth to the public. They will highlight stories like the cruelty of Israel's Sde Temain prison camp or the suffering and deaths caused by the US blockade on Cuba.

The BBC is a highly professional organisation and will be aware of what is going on but censors stories like these. If the British public knew the truth there would be a public outcry against our government support for these crimes. People are dying because BBC News is not fit for purpose.

Brendan O'Brien London

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

A NEW BROOM is sweeping over the border much to the delight of Anas Sarwar who is stepping down as leader of the Scottish Labour party to take up a new role in the Burnham government.

It comes more than five years after the former dentist took over the leadership in February 2021. The Glasgow MSP who championed the Burnham cause in Holyrood will now sit in the House of Lords as Minister of State for Trade in Andy Burnham's government. Sarwar's departure from the Scottish parliament will see former MSP Monica Lennon, whom Mr Sarwar defeated in that leadership contest, reclaim a seat in Holyrood through the regional list system. Whether Ms Lennon will now make another bid to become leader of Scottish Labour remains to be seen. But she did coyly tell the *Daily Record* that "I am not going to rule myself out of anything right now. I want to respect other colleagues and hear what they have to say".

What is clear is that whoever does take-over faces an uphill battle to revive Labour's fortunes in Scotland. In the Scottish election in May Labour lost four seats and tied with Farage's Reform UK on 17 MSPs. And Scottish Labour's prospects aren't good if the last four council by-elections are anything to go by.

Two of these were in Aberdeenshire. The first was in the George Street & Harbour ward of Aberdeen. A Liberal Democrat councillor resigned causing the contest in the same constituency which had just had the Aberdeen South Westminster election. Voters were so tired of voting, a mere 13.1 per cent turned out. The SNP won with 33.1 per cent of first preference votes. The ward already had two SNP and one Labour councillor, so the gain was some-

what theoretical, and the victory only came after eight counts. Labour came second with 14.1. The Tories were down to 8.3, below the Liberal Democrat on 9.2.

The following week the contest in Aberdeenshire's Peterhead South & Cruden ward saw the SNP win the seat from the Tories in a contest caused by the incumbent dying. On a 22.2 per turnout the SNP secured 36.3 per cent of first preference votes, needing six rounds of counting. Reform on 22.9 narrowly beat the Tories on 21.3 with two Independents on 7.4 (a former Tory MP) and 6.5 hammering the Liberal Democrats on 2.8. At least they beat the reactionary Scottish Family Party on 2.7 per cent.

In the Highland ward of East Sutherland & Ederton the resignation on grounds of ill health of a long serving Independent councillor triggered a contest which unsurprisingly saw another Independent win on an impressive 39.7 turnout.

He won 40.2 of first preferences securing victory after five counts. The Lib-Dems were on 32.9 with the SNP on 17.4, Reform on 7.2 with Tories slumping to 2.3. Labour did not even have the energy to stand.

Further south in the Larkhall ward of North Lanarkshire the death of a Labour councillor resulted in a contest with a 20.9 per cent turnout which saw Reform UK secure the seat after four counts with 35.2 per cent of first preference votes, the SNP were in second place with 29.9, Labour lost a third of their vote with 24.5 with the Tories on 10.5, having lost more than half their

2022 vote.

Larkhall is known for its Orange Order traditions and its staunch support for Rangers. The town is famous for its rich musical culture having many flute bands, and for the local Subway sandwich shop abandoning its usual green facia for a black one in order not to offend members of such bands. No doubt the new Faragist councillor will get on well with the British Unionist Party councillor...

And finally...

...farewell to James Mackay, who rose from being the son of a railwayman to entering the House of Lords as a Conservative peer and taking on the English legal establishment and dragging them into the 19th century before dying at the age of 99.

As Lord Chancellor between 1987 and 1997 under Margaret Thatcher and John Major he launched a full scale attack on restrictive practices which would see the ending of the barristers' monopoly of the rights of audience in Crown Courts.

In 1989 he found unwanted fame when he left the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland of which he was an Elder rather than face the wrath of its Synod which demanded that he promise not to repeat the dreadful sin of attending, in his official capacity, the funeral masses for two Roman Catholic judges.

This caused the emergence of a brand-new denomination, the Associated Presbyterian Churches. Such was the career of James Mackay, Baron Mackay of Clashfern.

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South African campaigner condemns Israel

by Theo Russell

RONNIE KASRILS, a veteran South African freedom-fighter, denounced Israel at a showing of Oliver Tambo's London Recruits docudrama at Palestine House in London last week.

The former South African Minister for Intelligence and a founding member of Umkhonto we Sizwe (the ANC's armed wing during the struggle against Apartheid) focused on the global struggle against Israeli genocide. And he recalled that "in 1961, as apartheid South Africa responded to worldwide criticism for the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of the apartheid system, declared that 'Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state', and that, in fact, Israel was 'far worse than us'.

"When I visited the West Bank in 2004 and 2007" Kasrils said "I was immediately taken back to apartheid South Africa, but I could see that the violence was actually far worse than what we saw in South Africa. The treatment of political prisoners is beyond description. Even Nazi Germany, unlike the Israeli Zionists, didn't boast and brag about its genocidal actions".

"Genocide was practised in South Africa by the Dutch settlers, who massacred thousands of indigenous San people in the late 18th century" Kasrils said referring to the VOC, the Dutch East India Company, that officially endorsed the total eradication of



the San, who it classed as an inferior category of humans who were already doomed to extinction. But later on, particularly under the British, the African population was converted into a proletariat to provide cheap labour for the mines and the farms. Under this system, the blacks were kept down and repressed, but as they were needed as workers, they weren't indiscriminately or systematically killed. That's what makes Israel by comparison such a depraved, morally bankrupt state".

Kasrils was confident that the global struggle against the genocidal Israeli state can be won.

"Make no mistake, we can win this fight through international solidarity in support of Palestine, just as the international boycott and sanctions helped the South African people to win their freedom.

"Israel is an artificial state created by Britain, where the Zionist ideology emerged and the Balfour Declaration was

issued. This state has to be dismantled and restored to the Palestinian people".

He described the Palestinian Authority as a "sell-out" and said "they made a major error by entering into the Oslo Peace Process".

The struggle for Palestine was a global struggle, as evidenced by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Munich Security Conference speech in February denouncing the "godless communist revolutions and anti-colonial uprisings which had rolled back 500 years of the great Western empires".

"The aim now" said Kasrils "is to put the clocks back on the liberation struggles of the past century, and to restore complete hegemony for the US, Britain and France. Their eyes are on the Congo and Sudan, for their minerals, and on Iran and Cuba for their regional importance".

Kasrils said "What is the commonality between Iran and Cuba, and why should we defend them? It is that just as Cuba stands by Venezuela in spite

of its own difficulties, Iran stands by its solidarity with the people of Palestine and Lebanon".

On South Africa Kasrils said "The key objective for the South African people was a non-racial unitary state. 'However while we overcame apartheid, in its place we failed to demand economic power and control. That's where the compromise was made – you can have your own vote per person, but we have the capital'.

Referring to the

recent wave of xenophobia against foreign migrant workers from other African states, he said "There were two elements involved to: firstly, corrupt rule by those more interested in their own wealth rather than solving the problems of their own people, and secondly, internal political forces seeking to destabilise South Africa. We also need to struggle against those who have taken power seeking their own advancement, and we've had our own in South Africa".

Show Israel the Red Card!



by New Worker correspondent

ACTIVISTS from the London Irish Brigade protested outside the Irish embassy in London's Belgravia against planned football matches between Ireland last week. But Ireland's home game against Israel in the Nations League will now be behind closed doors

in Serbia in October.

The UEFA Nations League games are scheduled for October this year with the Irish Football Association's consent, and are planned to take place in Hungary and Serbia. There have already been many protests by Irish football fans in Ireland itself.

Days after the London protest, teenage Palestinian footballer

Fadi al-Nassan died a week after being shot in his West Bank village in an Israeli settler attack. A spokesperson for the London Irish Brigade declared at the protest "Israel should be as isolated, in sport and in every other way, as apartheid South Africa ever was. Shame on the cowardly officials and bodies who are refusing to do it!"

AT THE entrance to the Red Army's western expedition memorial hall in Tongxin county, in north-west China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a bronze sculpture of a young bugler stands with his face upturned to the sky. The figure evokes a pivotal moment in Chinese history, first captured 90 years ago by American journalist Edgar Snow.

The image later appeared on the cover of Snow's landmark book *Red Star Over China*, which introduced the Chinese revolution of the 1930s to the world. This summer, nine decades after Snow photographed the young soldier, Snow's relative, Samuel Maclean, revisited the site with his own camera.

"At this moment, I truly felt the heavy and long history in this place, and that's very meaningful," Maclean said.

Tongxin is a revolutionary heartland where China's first county-level Hui autonomous government was established. It also became closely tied to the Red Army's activities in north-west China after the three main forces of the Red Army joined forces at the end of the Long March.

Earlier in the month Maclean joined representatives of the Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation and international scholars for a Retracing Snow's Route tour visiting places tied to both Snow's original reporting and Tongxin's revolutionary past.

According to Sun Hua, director of the China Centre for Edgar Snow Studies at Peking University, Snow arrived in Yuwangpu – now Yuwang Town in Tongxin – in August 1936 and stayed for nearly a month, one of the longest stops during his journey through the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region.

During that time, Snow interviewed Red

Edgar Snow: a journey to the past



At the entrance to the Red Army Hall in Tongxin.

Army leaders, soldiers and local residents. His writings portrayed disciplined Red Army soldiers and recorded their respect for the customs of the local Hui population. Tongxin, Sun added, was a key site where Snow documented the Red Army's western expedition and policies on ethnic unity.

For some members of the visiting delegation, the trip also offered a chance to compare

external perceptions of China with the reality on the ground.

At the former site of the founding conference of the Yuhai county Hui autonomous government, which covered roughly the same area as present-day Tongxin, Egyptian scholar Mehad Mousa was struck by the county's historical significance.

"I learned that this represented the first county-level Hui au-

tonomous regime established under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and one of the earliest implementations of China's policy of regional ethnic autonomy," said Mousa, a scholar at Northwest University in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

She said the visit had challenged some narratives she had encountered outside China. "Just like the name 'Tongxin' itself, which

means 'united as one' in Chinese, it embodies a spirit of peace," she said. "Everyone here lives together peacefully, regardless of what they believe in, where they come from, or which ethnic group they belong to".

If the Tongxin of Snow's era was defined by hardship, today's Tongxin tells a very different story.

In *Red Star Over China* poverty was one of Snow's recurring observations about the county. Located in the Xihaigu region, Tongxin was once among China's harshest and poorest areas. Snow wrote that "over 70 per cent of the local farmers were in debt, and about 60 per cent were living on food bought on credit".

Sidne Ward, president of the Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation, said Snow described the people of Tongxin and Ningxia as poor but generous, sharing what little food and shelter they had with him.

"Today, my impressions are naturally quite different," she said. "While the warmth and hospitality of the people remain every bit as remarkable as Snow described, nearly everything else reflects an extraordinary transformation".

Tongxin's transformation is part of a broader national story. After an eight-year relentless campaign, China lifted all of its 98.99 million impoverished rural residents out of poverty by the end of 2020, eradicating absolute poverty that had long plagued the nation.

In Tongde Village, a relocation community in Tongxin's Hexi Town, rows of goji ber-

ry plants now stretch across local plantations. The goji berry industry has helped more than 6,000 residents shake off poverty, with many moving into more stable jobs linked to cultivation and processing.

According to local official Ding Lin, most households in the community now earn about 20,000 yuan a year, roughly four times their pre-relocation income.

"I saw a community that is building its own future," said Mohammad Saiyedul Islam, a Bangladeshi scholar at Sanming University in east China's Fujian Province. "It is a powerful example that offers valuable lessons for other developing countries."

The visit also invited reflection on the continuing relevance of the Long March spirit. The year 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Long March. In Tongxin, Snow wrote admiringly of the soldiers' endurance and their ability to bear hardship without complaint.

"I saw the core of the Long March spirit," said Rami Khalil, an Armenian-born professor at Sichuan International Studies University. "Ninety years on, the Long March is never a static, concluded chapter of history, but a perpetual, living spiritual journey that constitutes the unshakable soul of the Chinese nation".

For Sidne Ward, Snow's legacy also carries a message for China-US relations. She said the Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation has spent more than half a century promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

"We believe no relationship is more important to the 21st century than that between China and the United States," Ward said. "Through collaboration and friendship, we become stronger together".

Beijing Review

Open Arms to Cuba!

by Syara S Massip

INTERNATIONAL solidarity and the defence of human rights converged in Cuba with the arrival of a European humanitarian mission in Havana last weekend. The Astral yacht has arrived in Havana carrying members of the Rumbo a Cuba (Heading to Cuba) solidarity project, a joint effort of Open Arms and other European organisations. The vessel, which departed from Barcelona on 24th May and made stops at various ports including one in Mexico, is carrying vital supplies for the Cuban health-care system.

The *Astral* crossed the Atlantic to support Cuba amidst the intensification of the blockade and energy embargo imposed on the island by the United States. The Rumbo a Cuba project aims to guarantee the energy independence of the Juan Manuel Márquez Paediatric Hospital, where the crew and the delegation that supported them on the voyage visited on Monday to deliver the donation.

The Rumbo a Cuba mission has a strong political component. The international delegation accompanying the ship's arrival is headed by MEP Ana Miranda, who has described the US blockade as a "collective punishment, illegal, inhumane, and extraterritorial." Her presence, along with that of other Spanish political, trade union and social movement representatives, aims to highlight the humanitarian impact of the blockade and the need to break it. Open Arms founder Óscar Camps emphasised that, although they are not transporting as many tons of supplies



Above: the *Astral* in Havana. Below: marching against the blockade.

as they would like, they are carrying "what little humanity remains in the European Union".

The welcoming committee activities began at the Casa de las Américas, in an event that brought together figures from Cuban culture and civil society, and served as a prelude to the arrival of the *Astral* in the port of Havana on Sunday.

The Casa's president, Abel Prieto, welcomed the international delegation, highlighting the importance of the spiritual and political support this mission represents, and reminding them that Cuba is not alone. The event was attended by prominent figures such as Ana Miranda from the Galician Nationalist Bloc and Miguel Urban Crespo, the co-founder

of the Spanish Podemos Party as well as the Palestinian Ambassador to Cuba, His Excellency Ammar Zorba, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and young Palestinian and Sahrawi students residing in Cuba.

Miguel Urbano, the organiser of the campaign, explained that the main objective is to denounce the United States' economic blockade against Cuba, which he described as a war crime. "It's just one ship, but we want to be a flotilla," he stated, emphasising the intention to link the Cuban cause with that of other peoples suffering under pressure, such as Palestine and Western Sahara.

The arrival of the *Astral* in Cuba marks a milestone for the Open

Arms campaign. Thanks to a fundraising campaign that raised over €170,000, with more than 4,000 individual donations, the ship brought 110 photovoltaic solar panels, inverters, and batteries. This equipment is intended to ensure the energy self-sufficiency of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), intermediate care unit, and clinical laboratory at the Juan Manuel Márquez Paediatric Hospital.

The goal is to guarantee the operation of incubators and other vital equipment in the face of the frequent power outages that plague the island. In addition, various medical supplies, consumables, and equipment will be delivered, along with a donation of books for the paediatric oncology unit.

Radio Havana Cuba



Russia will never forget Korean help

NORTH KOREAN soldiers brought closer the liberation of the Kursk region from Ukrainian neo-Nazis at the cost of their lives, and the Russian people will never forget their feat, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

"Our people will never forget the unparalleled feats, exceptional courage of the Korean soldiers, their selflessness, which were shown during battles alongside us in the same trench against a common enemy" Lavrov said during a meeting with North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui.

"This was most vividly demonstrated in the Kursk region, where soldiers of the Korean People's Army fought shoulder to shoulder alongside our soldiers for Russian land as if it were their own, and, at the expense of their lives, brought closer the liberation of that land from Ukrainian neo-Nazis and foreign mercenaries," Lavrov said.

Lavrov also recalled that Pyongyang hosted the opening ceremony of the Memorial Complex and Museum of Combat Feats of Heroes of the Foreign Military Operation on 26th April. "The majestic memorial complex has become a symbol of the friendship and unity of our peo-

ples, forever preserving the memory of the Korean People's Army soldiers' heroism," he said.

On Sunday the Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, hosted Choe at the Kremlin. Sergei Lavrov and Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov were also present at the meeting. Putin praised relations between the two nations and conveyed his warmest greetings to Kim Jong Un, the leader of the DPR Korea.

Kremlin spokesman Dimitri Peskov told the media that President Putin has spoken highly of the bilateral relations between Russia and the DPR Korea. "He took the opportunity to once again thank the north Korean leadership and people for their assistance in the special military operation, emphasising that the heroic deeds of the north Korean troops who supported our military would never be forgotten in our country," Peskov told reporters.

Putin also conveyed his warmest greetings to the north Korean leader, the spokesman said. Choe, in turn, thanked the Russian president for his kind words, adding that Kim Jong Un had recently reiterated that developing relations with Russia in all areas remains a strategic goal of his government.

Sputnik