

New truce in Persian Gulf - how long this time?

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

Oil prices dip following another lull in the fighting in the Persian Gulf amid rumours of new plans to revive the stalled Iranian-American peace agreement. The Saudis claim credit for persuading the Americans to put another wave of American attacks on hold to create space for more third-party mediation.

The guns remain silent but the dialogue of threats continues with Trump warning that Iran would be "hit very hard" if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened "very soon". The Islamic Republic threatens to hit the utilities and energy facilities of America's feudal Arab allies if the USA strikes Iran's infrastructure. But in the corridors of power in the Western world, few believe that the Trump administration can end the war – except on Iranian terms. And this is reflected in the instability in the oil market and the global trust flight to safe-haven assets such as gold, silver and platinum.

Meanwhile, two Saudi oil tankers were hit in the Red Sea that remains more or less closed by the north Yemeni Houthi government. Resistance is growing in the West Bank following relentless Zionist settler attacks on Arab civilians in the runup to

TEHRAN TIMES

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the Israeli elections. And Israel continues air attacks on Lebanon after two Israeli soldiers were killed and many more wounded in a resistance attack on one of their posts in their "buffer zone" in southern Lebanon.

Chinese academician Zhu Yongbiao says that Washington's hesitation over a ceasefire in the Middle East stems from long-standing structural contradictions. While the Americans believe they have overwhelming military strength, they are unwilling to bear the high costs of a prolonged conflict in terms of time, money and casualties, leav-

ing a widening gap between their capabilities, strategic objectives and actual outcomes.

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"Combined with the US president's deal-making approach centred on maximum pressure and continued lobbying by Israel, these factors have deepened policy indecision" he said. Such constraints have persisted across successive US administrations and are unlikely to disappear anytime soon, meaning the trajectory of the crisis may ultimately hinge on Trump's personal judgement.

Zhu said many observers have long misjudged the situation by underestimating Iran's national cohesion, resilience and religious mobilisation while over-estimating the effectiveness of external military intervention. The mismatch between Washington's expectations and realities on the battlefield has contributed to the current stalemate.

The Iranians say there's been no fresh talks with the Trump team nor has there been any confirmation by the international mediators who helped draw up

the Memorandum of Understanding which was supposed to be the road-map that would end the conflict in the Persian Gulf. What is true is that there have been talks between Iran and Oman – the Gulf state on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz – on their future control of the strategic waterway.

According to the Arab media there will be two traffic lanes, one along the Omani coast and the Emirates and another along the Iranian coast. The Islamic Republic wants a five per cent toll. The Omanis will settle for three and the Americans don't want any charges at all for passage through what had been considered an international waterway before Trump launched his treacherous attack on Iran in February. And all of this is somewhat academic at the moment with barely a ship getting through the double blockade of the Strait of Hormuz that used to carry around one-fifth of the world's seaborne oil.

FUND

The August appeal has begun with £1,026 in the bag thanks to a veteran Suffolk communist who donated £500 and a bequest of £125 from the will of a long-time reader in Yorkshire. Many of our standing orders kick in at the beginning of the month, and other contributions to the fighting fund include a tenner from a supporter in Hull and a score from another in Dagenham. We now need £2,474 by the end of the month to hit our target.

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This week millions in Japan and throughout the world will pause to remember those who died in the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the last days of the Second World War. On 6th August 1945 Hiroshima was destroyed by an American atom bomb. Nagasaki was hit three days later. Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly civilians, were killed instantly in the atomic blasts. Many more would later perish from flash burns and radiation sickness.

Hiroshima Day is observed on 6th August to commemorate the tragedy, honour the victims and promote global peace and nuclear disarmament. As Jeremy Corbyn says: “On Hiroshima Day, we remember every single person who was killed by an indefensible act of barbarity. We mourn the human lives underneath the statistical horror of the bomb’s death toll which, together with that from the attack on Nagasaki, was more than 200,000 people. And we commemorate the hundreds of thousands of survivors – known as the hibakusha – who endured the horror of what was left behind: nuclear radiation, mass destruction and unimaginable grief.”

The claim that the atom bombs forced Japan to surrender is an enduring myth of the Second World War. The bourgeois politicians who seek to justify this monstrous war crime say that the Americans had to use the atom bomb to force Japan to surrender and bring the global conflict to an end. But Japan was already on its knees begging for an armistice. Hitler was dead in his bunker. Japan was reeling from daily air-raids and a crippling Allied blockade. Communist-led partisans had driven the Japanese invaders out of vast tracts of China, Korea and Vietnam, while the Soviet Red Army delivered the killer blow when they smashed through Japanese-occupied Manchuria in August 1945. But two Japanese cities were wiped out to show the world, and the Soviet Union in particular, what the might of US imperialism was capable of doing.

The Americans thought they had a monopoly on nuclear know-how. They thought their new nuclear weapons would give them the power to dominate the entire world. But they were wrong. Soviet scientists were also unravelling the secrets of the atom and the USSR would soon develop nukes that would more than match anything in the imperialist arsenal.

All the veto-powers on the UN Security Council – Britain, People’s China, France, Russia and the USA – have nuclear weapons. But China is the only one that pledges never to be the first to use them.

People’s China actively supports proposals for multilateral and universal nuclear disarmament. China stands for the complete prohibition and total destruction of all nuclear weapons. China, backed by many other countries, has challenged the West to implement the entire nonproliferation treaty, which was signed in 1968 to halt the nuclear arms race but also committed the signatories to work towards universal nuclear disarmament. In the meantime, China calls on all the major nuclearweapon states to abandon their policy of nuclear deterrence.

These longstanding demands must be projected throughout the anti-war movement in Britain. The NCP supports the efforts of the Stop the War movement, CND and other peace movements for unilateral British nuclear disarmament.

The British ‘deterrent’ is a farce. The UK’s submarine-based Trident nuclear missile system is totally controlled by the Americans. Billions are wasted on maintaining Trident – money that could be better spent maintaining the health service and providing the education, affordable housing and decent state retirement pensions worthy of a country as rich as the UK. We must mobilise to stop the new Burnham government from spending billions more on these needless and useless nuclear weapons; scrap all British nuclear weapons and close down all US bases on our soil.

The World Cup is over – the war is not

by Ding Gang

Sunday 19th July. The confetti from the World Cup final hadn’t even been swept up before American newsrooms turned the page. By Monday evening, the lead story on CNN and NPR was no longer Spain’s extra-time win over Argentina; it was a grim bulletin from northern Iraq: Another US service member killed while disposing of a downed Iranian drone.

He was the third American to die in recent days, bringing the US death toll to 17, with more than 420 wounded since the conflict began. On Monday night, both sides resumed their exchange of fire.

The hand-over was seamless: The sports pages celebrated while the front pages mourned.

None of this should shock anyone who’s spent time in a newsroom. A World Cup final, however thrilling, is a finished product. The trophy is lifted, the confetti has fallen, and all that’s left is the highlight reel and the hangover.

A war is the opposite – an open-ended story with no final whistle. A soldier’s death isn’t the end of a news cycle; it’s the latest tick mark on a casualty curve that hasn’t peaked. Editors will pick the story still unfolding over the one already wrapped every single time. It’s not cynicism. It’s physics.

And let’s be fair: Americans actually watched this World Cup. The final drew record US audiences, with viewership up more than 150 per cent over the last tournament’s quarter-finals. That’s exactly what makes the sudden shift so jarring – millions of people were still excited about the match while the Pentagon was already notifying families of fallen soldiers, and Capitol Hill was limbering up for the next round of partisan cage-fighting.

Democrats have seized on the mounting toll to argue

that Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority over war – that quaint little clause in Article I that’s been gathering dust.

In June, the House passed a war powers resolution, with four Republicans crossing the aisle to demand that the president obtain authorisation before further military action. The Senate followed suit. It was a rare bipartisan rebuke, roughly as common in Washington these days as a humble press conference. The resolution, however, is non-binding and the White House has treated it with the respect usually reserved for expired parking tickets.

Each new death is now fresh ammunition for those arguing that the executive branch is waging a war nobody voted on.

President Donald Trump responded to the defectors by calling them “unpatriotic”, which in his vocabulary ranks somewhere between a misdemeanour and a personality disorder. More revealing was what came next: he framed the latest strikes on Iran as retribution “in honour” of the fallen. That’s a telling choice of words.

Wars fought in the name of honour have a way of generating more honour to defend – and more casualties to avenge. It’s the geopolitical version of a bar tab that never closes.

The boos that greeted the president at the medal ceremony made for a great clip

and a viral meme, but they’ll be forgotten by the weekend.

A growing stack of folded flags, however, is the kind of news that moves legislation, tests executive power and – not coincidentally – shapes midterm elections. Stadium cheers don’t echo in Congressional hearing rooms. Casualty reports do.

This isn’t a story about the media ignoring sports for politics. It’s about a country running two parallel narratives: the entertainment economy that unites the people for 90 minutes and the war machine that quietly pulls them apart. Both are loud. Only one is still writing new chapters.

When the World Cup tide recedes, people remember the champion. When a war recedes, it leaves behind things the country has to carry: the costs, the explanations, the accountability.

A victory can make a divided nation forget its divisions for a while. A lengthening list of the dead makes forgetting impossible. America has always been world-class at moving on, but the scoreboard and the casualty report are not the same thing. Only one of them still matters after the final whistle. The party is over. The war is not.

The author is a senior editor with the People’s Daily and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China.

Global Times



Workers' Notes

Defend our Juries!

by New Worker correspondent

The Met police arrested over 100 anti-genocide supporters outside Westminster Magistrates Court at the Defend Our Juries Graduation Day that began at midday on 30th July. Sir Jonathon Porritt, advisor to King Charles for 30 years before he was crowned, was one of them. As police escorted him away, he said: "I am a supporter of Palestine Action. Trying to save lives is not terrorism. Exposing this Governments complicity in genocide is not terrorism."

They were protesting outside the Court where the hearings relating to 1,855 people charged under the Terrorism Act for holding paper signs were proceeding. The court is refusing to explain why these hearings are listed, when many of those to whom the hearings relate have been told that it would be adjourned.

Two campaigners were arrested while trying to access the court area for the listed hearing and two others were held under an unspecified charge while they were setting up a small stage for the event. Others were arrested under the terrorism act for "addressing a crowd" and, separately, for declaring their support for Palestine Action.

This is all the result of Labour's absurd ban on Palestine Action, a direct action group whose only purpose was to dismantle weapons used in Israel's genocide.

Zelensky wants drone plant in UK

Ukraine wants the UK to help it build a major new drone factory on British soil, thousands of kilometres from the front and out of reach of Russian missiles, Vladimir Zelensky has said.

Zelensky pitched the idea in



• Another defiant protester arrested.

an interview with *Sky News* last week, ahead of his visit to Britain to meet new Prime Minister Andy Burnham, while framing it as repayment for the training and support provided to Kiev.

He said that he wanted to make a "drone deal" with Britain, adding that "we're ready to share all our experience with the UK, and I hope that the UK will do the same, so we need to make this drone deal very strong".

He did not however, elaborate on the timeline, scale, possible contractors, or which coffers would finance the endeavour, as both countries are facing financial issues.

Why does Zelensky want other countries to build his drones?

Because his own military industry keeps getting pummelled by Russian missiles and drones on an almost daily basis. For instance, the Russian Defence Ministry said recently that its forces had struck several drone-manufacturing enterprises in Kiev, including a facility it identified as Smart Intelligent Systems and a site where staff from an American-Ukrainian venture assembled up to 1,000 drones a month.

Earlier in July, Russia also carried out strikes targeting facilities producing guidance systems for FP-5 Flamingo cruise missiles as well as plants making other

types of projectiles.

What countries already host military plants for Kiev?

Britain, for one. In February, Ukraine's largest drone maker, Ukrspesystems, opened a factory in Suffolk with a declared £200 million investment where up to 500 people are employed. The UK also separately started producing Octopus interceptor drones, whose main goal is to combat Russian strike UAVs.

Ukraine-related military plants are also popping up across other European countries. Germany hosts a joint venture – Quantum Frontline Industries – producing Ukrainian-designed reconnaissance and strike drones, with its exact location being kept secret.

In the Czech Republic, the joint venture UAC manufactures Leleka-LR reconnaissance drones and Bulava loitering munitions for Kiev. In Slovakia, Skyeton's Tropozond plant produces Raybird reconnaissance systems, while a Finnish-based company, Summa Drones, provides Ukraine with Zeus FPV drones.

Beyond drones, the Ukrainian company Fire Point is building a solid rocket fuel plant in Denmark, Polish-based manufacturer Bumar-Labedy repairs Ukrainian Leopard tanks in Gliwice, and KNDS has serviced artillery,

rocket launchers and air-defence vehicles in Michalovce, Slovakia.

In addition, the UK has vowed to supply Ukraine with 150,000 drones by year-end, while Reuters reported earlier this month that Germany is funding the delivery of 50,000 attack drones, worth around €90 million. France, meanwhile, has begun supplying its own Rodeur 330 strike drones to Kiev and is separately building up its domestic drone stocks.

How has Russia responded to Ukraine deploying its military industry abroad?

In April, the Russian Defence Ministry released a long list of enterprises, along with their addresses, that it said were supporting the Ukrainian military. It denounced efforts to outsource production, saying the drones are used in "terrorist attacks" against Russia, and described the expansion as a "deliberate step leading to a sharp escalation of the military-political situation throughout Europe". It added that such efforts risk turning host countries into "Ukraine's strategic rear area".

Shortly afterwards, former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev, who is now the deputy chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, suggested that the list should be taken literally – as "the list of potential targets for the Russian armed forces". "Sleep well, European partners!" he added.

How are Zelensky's relations with Burnham panning out?

Andy Burnham – Britain's seventh prime minister in a decade, who succeeded Sir Keir Starmer after his resignation in July – met Zelensky at Portsmouth Naval Base last week, making him the first foreign leader Burnham has met since taking office.

Like Starmer, who has consistently adhered to anti-Russia and

pro-Ukraine policies, Burnham assured Zelensky of Britain's unwavering support. The UK is also set to give the Ukrainians the intellectual property rights behind its Stone Cloak drone-protection technology, which is supposed to make UAVs harder to detect.

Burnham thus appears to be continuing Starmer's policies despite facing tight budgetary constraints, with UK public debt at around 95 per cent of GDP – a level unseen since the 1960s.

rt.com

No10 North raises hopes over devolution

As Prime Minister Andy Burnham starts his new life in Downing Street, attention is turning to whether No10 North, one of the most prominent initiatives of his early premiership, can shift decision-making beyond London.

Burnham chaired a meeting of the National Economic Council at the Manchester-based office last week and met officials, regional leaders and business representatives. He described it as "the place where Whitehall meets the rest of the country" and a "situation room for growth".

Burnham will work there for at least one day a week, while other ministers will use the office regularly. Its significance, however, will ultimately be judged by whether government funding and authority move north with the prime minister.

No10 North is based at Heron House in central Manchester and forms part of the newly created Office for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. It will co-ordinate policies on regional growth, devolution and investment involving government departments, regional mayors and businesses.

According to the government, its main vehicle will be the National Economic Council, which brings together ministers, mayors, trade unions and business groups. The structure gives regional leaders a more direct route into central economic decision-making.

Responsibility for local economic growth and devolution strategy will be transferred from

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the housing and communities ministry, while local growth policy will move from the Treasury. The changes bring functions previously divided across Whitehall into the same operation.

Burnham has said No10 North will end an era in which “power and resources have been sucked into the centre”. The office reflects his argument that excessive control by Whitehall has weakened regional economies and delayed major infrastructure projects.

Northern leaders have broadly welcomed the new government’s emphasis on devolution. In an open letter on 21st July, mayors and local leaders from the North Country called for a partnership offering regions greater powers, investment and financial freedoms, indicating that support for No10 North will depend on concrete commitments from the government.

But others argue that a new address alone cannot change how Britain is governed. Spending decisions remain heavily influenced by the Treasury, while transport, housing and industrial projects require co-operation across several departments.

Xinhua

Action in the Galleries!

by New Worker

correspondent

Museums are not normally at the forefront of the class struggle, but recently a number of disputes have taken place at Britain’s leading museums.

Brighton Unison have secured a pay rise at Brighton Pavilion and Museums Trust. Here, workers have secured a pay rise for this year and maintained their terms and conditions including two Christmas concessionary days, annual leave, sick pay, maternity, paternity, redundancy and pay protection arrangements that had been under threat. Unfortunately, the pay rise is only a modest one per cent.

Both Unison and GMB have secured a formal collective bargaining agreement with the trust.

Unison South East regional secretary Jo Galloway, said: “Looking after Brighton’s Pavilion & Museums isn’t just a job for this workforce. It’s something they care deeply about because they know these collections and historic buildings belong to everyone. After months of uncertainty, staff can finally put the dispute behind them and get back to protecting the city’s heritage.” Unions say that the trust was teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, something the trust and the city council deny. This modest victory came only after strike action in April and June.

Meanwhile at the Victoria & Albert Museum’s (V&A’s) new

site in East London, members of the Prospect union have voted unanimously for strike action over working conditions at the East Storehouse in Hackney Wick.

The issue is over unacceptable “Amazon-style” conditions at the V&A, with workers denied sufficient time during the day for toilet breaks or drinks. Prospect wants two paid breaks per day to allow staff time to use toilets and hydrate in what is a punishing daily schedule, something which management reject despite being standard at the museum’s older South Kensington site.

The new building has an “order an object” process that it claims is an exciting new way to see objects and modernise museums.

Prospect’s demands include a minimum four per cent pay rise increase for staff earning above the Living Wage, time-and-a-half for Bank Holidays, to become an accredited London Living Wage employer within the year and improved food provision at the new building.

Prospect General Secretary Mike Clancy said: “This brand-new flagship site of one of the country’s most popular national museums opened with great fanfare last year and it has been a huge success...however, this incredible new way of showing off our heritage is being delivered by workers who are denied adequate break time to use the

toilet or have a drink of water. Visitors to the museum will be appalled to learn that these kinds of working practices, which unions campaign against in companies like Amazon, also exist in an internationally renowned heritage institution.”

He also warned that: “This is part of a pattern with the V&A showing a shocking lack of respect to its employees and fighting fairness at every turn. That’s why our members have also voted to take action across the whole V&A in London.”

Along the road from the V&A, the neighbouring Science Museum has been forced to greatly improve the pay of outsourced security guards as a result of efforts by the United Voices of Workers union (UVW). This independent street union has also won an attendance allowance for all workers. This sees the end to years of below-inflation increases and pay freezes by security contractor Wilson James.

The new agreement raises pay to £14.80 per hour, plus a 25p hourly attendance allowance – taking workers’ pay over the London Living Wage (LLW); the latter now applies to all workers, ending the previous system where only those who completed training in their own time were eligible. This did not come easily: in the previous two years 50 days of strike took place.

Nelly Ospino, the UVW’s new General Secretary, said:

“Sustained pressure from the guards has won them another significant pay rise in less than two years. For years, they were expected to protect some of Britain’s wealthiest cultural institutions while being paid poverty wages themselves. This victory was not handed down out of goodwill; workers had to fight for every penny of it. In a matter of months, UVW members have won more through organising and militancy than they had in the previous decade.”

Across the River Thames, at the Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG) Prospect members are also taking strike action to secure better conditions after 77 per cent voted in a turnout of 90 per cent for strike action. This will take place on Wednesday and Thursday.

The demands are similar: LLW accreditation this year, protection of existing Christmas closure annual leave arrangements, paid breaks for security workers, tougher policies on fixed-term contracts, and improved training and development opportunities.

The retired admirals who run the museum were upset at this act of mutiny and claimed: “We are disappointed by this outcome, particularly given the progress which has been made,” adding that “the remaining areas of dispute relate to a small number of non-pay matters on which the union and RMG has already had a meeting with ACAS.”

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

11th August 2006

The main item on the agenda of the annual conference of the Labour Representation Committee (LRC) in London was MP John McDonnell’s announcement that on Tony Blair’s retirement as Prime Minister, he would stand against Gordon Brown as successor.

This would force a vote and a full debate on policies within the Labour Party. All individual members would have to be balloted and all affiliated unions would ballot their members.

Given the current level of dissatisfaction among Labour

rank and file with both Blair and Brown this would mean that Brown’s succession would be far from secure. It could lead to a dramatic change in the party and its policies.

The current LRC has now been in existence for just two years and is based on the historic LRC that first founded the Labour Party.

The conference began with a review of the LRC’s progress. Individual membership now exceeds 1,000; it has more than 100 affiliated organisations and claims the biggest rank and file left Labour organisation.

Among those attending the conference were four delegates from the New Communist Party, which affiliated to the LRC.

The LRC issued an executive statement that said: “The Blair era is slowly grinding to end. It is increasingly accepted that within 12 to 18 minutes the Prime Minister will resign. Events may even overtake him sooner. This presents the left with two serious challenges:

“First how the left responds to the present attempt to

secure his ‘legacy agenda’.

“Second, how the Left challenges for the future of a post Blair Labour Party.”

It covers the New Labour intentions to eradicate the last vestiges of the social and political model inherited from past Labour governments and install the foundations of a market state.

It issued a call: “The LRC commits itself to supporting at local and national levels campaigns to protect public services such as ‘Keep the NHS Public’ and ‘Public Services not Private Profit’.”

Among the organisations present at the conference were the Fire Brigades Union and RMT. Both are no longer affiliated to the Labour party in protest about cuts and privatisation policies that have had an adverse effect on union members. The PCS union, which was never affiliated to the Labour Party, also attended. There were calls for these unions to affiliate to the Labour Party, a call which the three general secretaries agreed with.

Nasser – his legacy lives on

by
Mustafa Fetouri

Nasser defied Britain, France and Israel – and his legacy still animates Africa. When Gamal Abdel Nasser led the Free Officers Movement to power in 1952, Africa's political landscape was mostly vacant – with independent nations limited to Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Libya and apartheid-ruled South Africa. Yet, by his death in September 1970, more than 40 African countries had achieved sovereignty. This monumental shift was no coincidence.

Under Nasser, Cairo transformed into the hub of global anti-colonialism – a diplomatic base and logistics centre for liberation struggles from Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN) to movements in the Congo, Angola and Southern Africa. By exporting the ideals of the 23rd July Revolution, Egypt helped engineer Africa's decolonisation wave, anchoring a Pan-African momentum that forged the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and championed a multipolar world order through the Non-Aligned Movement.

The legacy of the 23rd July Revolution underscores Nasser's early recognition that the survival of Egypt's domestic development programmes and regional initiatives required strategic depth. Mapping out Egypt's geopolitical destiny in his 1954 manifesto, *The Philosophy of the Revolution*, Nasser conceptualised Cairo's foreign policy within three interconnected spheres: the Arab world, the African continent and the Islamic sphere.

While the Arab world was bound by a shared language and history, the African sphere offered the most fertile ground for a systemic challenge to European empires. Nasser argued that a colonised Africa left Egypt's southern flank dangerously vulnerable. Conversely, a liberated continent would secure Cairo's vital



• Cheering crowds greet Nasser.

interests – including the crucial waters of the Nile – and solidify Egypt's role as the vanguard of the developing world. Meanwhile, the Islamic sphere provided the cultural and civilisational network necessary to mobilise trans-continental solidarity against foreign hegemony, ensuring that Egypt never stood isolated against imperialist powers.

To turn this geopolitical vision into reality, Nasser transformed Cairo into the operational centre of African decolonisation. Crucially, arts and literature flourished alongside these movements. The city evolved into a dual Pan-Arab and Pan-African sanctuary for liberation fronts that the European empires were actively trying to crush.

From Nelson Mandela seeking military backing for the African National Congress (ANC), to Jomo Kenyatta's representatives from Kenya and Amílcar Cabral's PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) vanguard, the archi-

tect of African revolution found resources and safety in Egypt's capital. However, subverting entrenched empires also required the imperialist monopoly on information to be broken. Cairo utilised its reputation as the 'Arab Hollywood', leveraging the continent's latest pop music and poetry to draw millions of listeners to the Voice of the Arabs and Radio Cairo. Broadcasting across the continent in dozens of indigenous languages (including Swahili, Hausa, Amharic and Somali), Egypt bypassed colonial censors to deliver a message of self-determination directly to the African masses.

Cairo under Nasser utilised its diplomatic infrastructure as an instrument of liberation, most notably through its backing of Algeria's FLN. Central to this strategy was the African Association, established in 1955 in Cairo's Zamalek district under Nasser's close advisor, Mohamed Fayek. The Association functioned as a diplomatic centre for exiled

vanguards. When European imperialist rulers legally erased freedom fighters by revoking their citizenship, the Nasser government stepped in to issue official Egyptian travel documents and stipends.

This infuriated the colonial powers, culminating in October 1956 when French intelligence intercepted and hijacked a civilian plane carrying the top FLN leadership, including Ahmed Ben Bella, from Morocco to Tunis. This act of French piracy saw Cairo double down: Nasser escalated military shipments and financial aid and gave the FLN a state-backed diplomatic and media platform in Cairo to rally the world. Combined with similar passport, logistical and broadcast lifelines to those extended to South Africa's ANC, Mozambique's FRELIMO and Zimbabwe's ZAPU, this mobilisation proved that true sovereignty demanded the defence of a globally connected political elite long before the formal lowering of a colonial flag.

The escalation did not go unanswered by the colonial powers as they witnessed their influence quickly waning. France, the UK and Israel were determined to crush Nasser once and for all. Their opportunity came when he announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. The tripartite alliance launched a full-scale military invasion of Egypt in late 1956. However, their aggression backfired. By holding the line militarily and leveraging diplomatic pressure through the UN with back-channel support from both Washington and Moscow, Nasser transformed a crisis into a political triumph for the Global South, when the invading forces had to withdraw.

The humiliation of London and Paris signalled the collapse of traditional European imperial power, proving to liberation movements that the Western empires were no longer invincible.

This solidarity culminated in a structural overhaul of the global architecture, with Nasser cementing his legacy as a co-founder of continental unity. Egypt was a primary driver behind the historic May 1963 OAU Addis Ababa summit. As the leading voice of the Casablanca Group, Nasser placed his signature on the founding charter of the OAU alongside fellow continental leaders such as Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah, Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, Tanzania's Julius Nyerere and Guinea's Sekou Toure. They did so out of a shared conviction that isolated independent states would remain vulnerable unless they came together, particularly at a time when the African continent was facing new challenges, including wars.

This institutional anchoring of Pan-Africanism was mirrored globally as Egypt's revolutionary path converged with other titans of the Global South – such as India's Nehru and Yugoslavia's Tito – to es-

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establish the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961. By refusing to become vassals of either Cold War bloc, Nasser and his contemporaries forged a distinct third way.

Today, as debates intensify around African autonomy and resistance to neo-colonial pressures, the legacy of the 23rd July Revolution remains a foundational blueprint for Global South sovereignty. Seven decades later, the structural shifts engineered in Nasser's Cairo continue to reverberate across the African



geopolitical landscape, in which African states have not only replaced the OAU with the more unifying African Union but made it a trusted vehicle for collective will.

And the struggle is not yet over, as seen today in the Sahel countries which, decades after formal independence, have managed to kick out the remnants of French colonialism. As the modern international order fractures, today's African leaders echo the

exact vocabulary forged during the anti-colonial wave, asserting independent policies in a multipolar world. Whether navigating new financial frameworks, resisting external security dictates, or demanding structural reforms at the UN, the continent's push for absolute sovereignty stems directly from the precedents set when Cairo broke the imperial monopoly on power.

rt.com

• Pillars of the Non-Aligned Movement – Tito, Mrs Gandhi and Nasser.

The Great Leader of the Korean People

The Friends of Korea campaign recently 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 of 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 DPR Korea embassy in London who joined the panel via a Zoom link. This is Dermot Hudson's contribution.

by Dermot Hudson

My presentation to the joint seminar on the importance of solidarity with People's Korea will address the question of the DPR Korea's internationalism and its role in the global struggle and at the same time recall the great exploits of President Kim Il Sung, who passed away 32 years ago on the 8th July 1994.

I was probably one of the last British visitors in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) when Kim Il Sung was still physically with us. Our delegation departed the DPRK on the 2nd July 1994, only six days before Kim Il Sung passed away. All the time during our visit we felt Kim Il Sung's



• Kim Il Sung meets Joseph Stalin.

presence as we saw him every night on TV giving guidance to co-operative farms and meeting for-

ign guests such as Ludo Martens, the then head of the Workers Party of Belgium and a noted

anti-revisionist writer.

Kim Il Sung was not only the founder of the DPRK and builder of

the most durable socialist state but was also a great internationalist who fought not only for

the Korean people but for the world revolution, for the liberation of all of humanity from exploitation and oppression. The DPRK actually punched above its weight in the international arena.

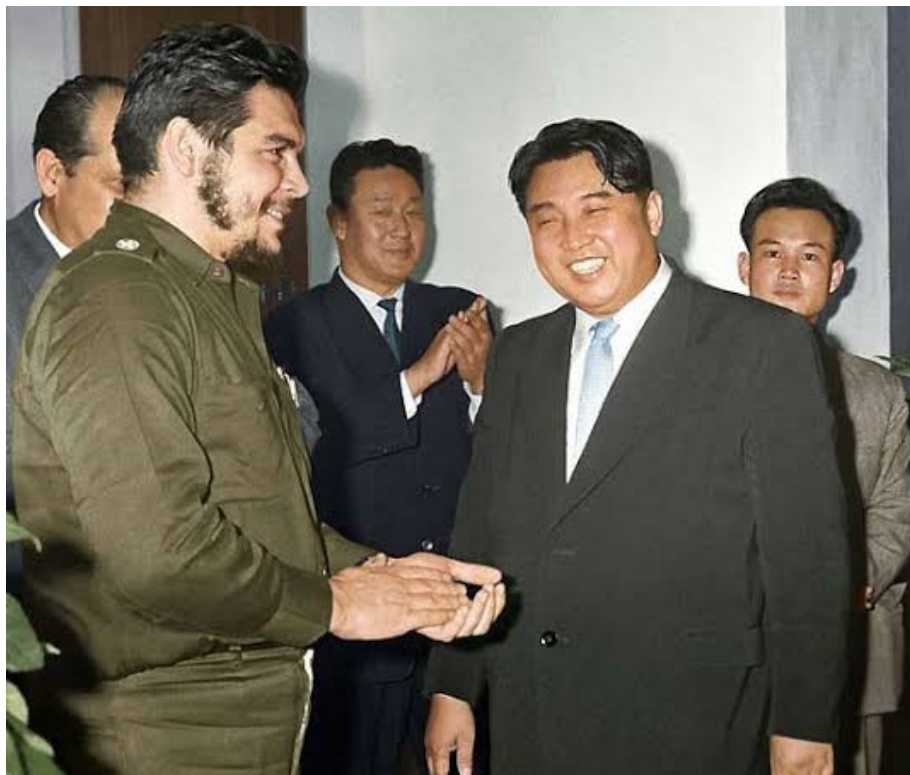
When I first came to know the DPRK in the 1980s and began to study the Juche idea, I found the internationalism of the DPRK to be a big eye-opener for me. I came to know of countries such as Equatorial Guinea, which I never knew existed. Also, that there were attempts to construct socialism in the People's Republic of Benin, the People's Republic of the Congo, the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and the Revolutionary People's Republic of

Guinea. These countries had been scarcely mentioned if at all by the old Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) and the British left but reading publications of the DPRK there was news about them. The Democratic Republic of Madagascar actually hosted an international seminar on the Juche idea in 1976.

Throughout his life, which spanned most of the 20th Century, Kim Il Sung gave unstinting support for peoples fighting for independence and met many different leaders and fighters from across the globe, including very distinguished figures such as Stalin, Mao Zedong, Zhou En Lai, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Muammar Gaddafi, Hafez al Assad, Salvador Allende, Norodom Sihanouk, Enver Hoxha, Erich Honecker, Yasser Arafat, George Habash and many others. He even met our very own Harry Pollitt, the famous British communist leader.

Right from the start Kim Il Sung stressed internationalism and fought not just for the interests of the Korean people, but for the interests of the struggling peoples of the whole world, whilst at the same time stressing independence and self-reliance. Juche does not mean rejecting internationalism – far from it.

As the leader of the Korean revolution pointed out: “Our adherence to the Juche Idea does not in any way mean that we have become chauvinistic. The Juche Idea we advocate does not conflict with internationalism. Instead it is designed to promote internationalism for it leads to the development of sciences and the building of the economy to suit our particular conditions and thus contributes to increasing the



• Kim Il Sung and Che Guevara.

strength of our country and the might of the socialist camp as a whole.”

Kim Il Sung raised the slogan of “Defend the Soviet Union” during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. In 1929 he roused youth, students and other sections of the masses for the fight to defend the Soviet Union in order to hold in check the anti-Soviet machinations of Chiang Kai-shek’s Kuomintang government and the reactionary warlords who acted at the instigation of the Japanese imperialists. The great Korean communist leader later wrote in his autobiography *With the Century* that “our activities in connection with the Zhongdong railway incident represented an internationalist struggle to defend the Soviet Union politically. At that time we regarded the first socialist system established on Earth as a beacon of hope and considered it our solemn internationalist obligation as communists to fight in its defence.”

Later, in 1938 and 1939, Kim Il Sung led the anti-Japanese guerrillas to defend the Soviet Union, the first

workers and peasants state against Japanese aggression.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas fought shoulder-to-shoulder with their Chinese comrades against imperialism. After Korea was liberated in 1945 Kim Il Sung made sure that unstinting support was given to the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and Chinese communists in their revolutionary war against the Kuomintang reactionaries. He sent his best fighters such as Kang Gon as well as troops and materials to assist in the Chinese PLA and allowed them to use the northern part of Korea as a rear base.

During those heady days of the 1960s and 1970s Kim Il Sung ensured that the DPRK punched well above its weight, giving support to many liberation movements and newly independent states.

Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara visited the DPRK in 1960 and later said that the DPRK was the socialist country that he liked best. During the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, the DPRK stood by Cuba when the revisionists and big

power chauvinists abandoned it. Kim Il Sung instructed the DPRK embassy staff and their families to arm themselves and fight to the end. The DPRK actually sent a Korean People’s Army (KPA) General to Cuba as its ambassador. DPRK students studying in Cuba also armed themselves ready to fight. The DPRK gave political and military assistance, while sending food and tractors as well as a group of technicians to help on the economic front. The DPRK also publicly supported the five-point demands of Premier Fidel Castro, which included the US withdrawal from Guantanamo. The DPRK press denounced Nikita Khrushchev for his capitulation, defeatism and cowardice.

President Kim Il Sung called for international volunteers to be sent to Vietnam and sent the best pilots of the DPRK’s air force to Vietnam as well as tunnelling experts to help in the war against American aggression – plus material assistance as well. During the October 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Kim Il Sung

sent a squadron of KPA warplanes to the United Arab Republic (as Egypt was then known) to help the Arabs in their fight against Zionist aggression.

Strong support was given to Palestine by the DPRK. People’s Korea established relations with Palestine on the 13th April 1966. There is a Palestinian embassy in the DPRK. Chairman Yasser Arafat visited the DPRK five times and George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), also visited the DPRK.

Kim Il Sung said: “The just cause of the Palestinian and other Arab people for the restoration of land lost to them and of all the legitimate rights of Palestine, including the establishment of an independent country, must be accomplished. The Israeli Zionists must abandon their policy of expansion and annexation and withdraw from all the occupied Arab land immediately.

“The United States must stop giving the Israeli Zionists political and diplomatic support and military and economic aid, take their hands off the Middle East and discard their ambition for dominating this region.”

The Palestinian fight was not the only Arab struggle that Kim Il Sung and the DPRK supported. The DPRK maintained good relations with anti-imperialist and socialist-oriented Arab states such as Libya, Syria, the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen (south Yemen) and Iraq (until 1980). Another cause that the DPRK supported was that of the West Saharan people. The DPRK recognised the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and established relations with Polisario

when some other socialist countries did not. Kim Il Sung met with President Mohamed Abdel Aziz of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and Polisario front in April 1982.

There are three other examples of the DPRK’s internationalist assistance under the leadership of Kim Il Sung. Firstly, the DPRK supported the Grenadian revolution led by Maurice Bishop. DPRK construction experts were sent to the small Caribbean island that took the socialist path and the DPRK gave a generous amount of military aid to the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada including 1,000 rifles. In fact, in per capita terms the DPRK gave more aid to Grenada than the USSR did.

Secondly, maybe the most dramatic example of the DPRK’s internationalist assistance was when DPRK special forces helped foil a coup, led by French mercenaries, in the People’s Republic of Benin in 1977.

Lastly but not least, the DPRK sent agricultural technicians and engineers to many third world countries such as Madagascar, Tanzania, Togo, Central Africa, Benin, Guinea, Egypt, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Ghana and the Seychelles. Agricultural institutes bearing the name of Kim Il Sung were established in Guinea and Tanzania. This was genuine assistance as opposed to the fake aid of the imperialists that aims only to corrupt and enslave newly independent countries.

Thus, the life of Kim Il Sung is associated with lofty and boundless internationalism. It is fitting to both remember this great leader of the Korean people and at the same time step up solidarity with People’s Korea.

LETTERS

The Labour Party has a new leader who may be able to reverse its decline and restore public confidence in what has for over a century been Britain's mainstream political party of the Labour movement. It has however, become a political party of only very modest reforms and long ago abandoned socialism to embrace the class collaboration of social democracy. As such it has entered a blind alley that will never lead to socialism. It has abandoned many of the ideals and principles of its founders and has a long history of betrayal.

Andy Burnham has attempted to address the concerns of critics by apologising for Labour "not getting it right" in relation to the tragedy of Gaza but stopped short of describing the actions of Israel as genocide and continues collaboration with the US war machine and arms sales. One of his first proposals was to remove VAT on domestic electricity bills for six months, which will help struggling families but not tackle the root cause of the problem. This is the rejection of cheap Russian energy by Europe in favour of expensive American fuel. We look in vain for diplomatic efforts to establish a new security architecture for Europe that will address the concerns of both Western nations and Russia and so end the proxy war engineered by imperialism in Ukraine. We look in vain for any bold new policy that would end Britain's role as a vassal state of the USA.

We must however, re-

sist the temptation to write-off the Labour Party for a number of very good reasons. It is still a vital part of the labour movement and is supported by the trade unions. It is still the only political force capable of defeating the politics of hate and exploitation of the right-wing parties. The Labour Party has within its ranks many sincere, dedicated hard-working members who have given loyal service over many years and with whom we could work.

The question remains 'What can we do'? We must step up our efforts and raise the class struggle to a new level. We must expand sales of the *New Worker* by establishing new support groups supported by leaflet campaigns. It is important to work together with groups and other organisations fighting for justice. Everyone should be encouraged to join a trade union. Above all, with Imperialism in its terminal crisis it becomes essential to take every possible opportunity to discuss the real need for Socialism. We have to explain what has gone wrong and what must be done to create the workers' paradise we all need.

John Maryon
Suffolk

The USA is desperately trying to preserve its waning supremacy. By employing its strongest tool, its military superiority, it is attempting to halt the secular decline. But it is about to reach a tipping point, fuelling the fires of resistance even more.

It has committed resources to too many wars while all economic, social, political and cultural factors go in reverse. The Zionist genocide is the symbolic expression of a general situation exposing imperialist massacre but leaving the resistance undefeated. For this, US-Israeli-led imperialism will

pay a heavy price down the line.

Anti-Imperialist Camp
Berlin

The ancient Greek Elgin Marbles are the pride and joy of the British Museum. The sculptures were removed in the early 19th Century by Lord Elgin, Britain's ambassador to the Turkish Ottoman Empire which ruled Greece at the time. But the Greeks, who gained their independence in 1830, have long wanted them back.

The Greeks call them the "Parthenon Sculptures" and claim they were looted from the ruins by Elgin. They say the sculptures should return to the ancient temple they once adorned in Athens.

The Museum maintains that Elgin's removal of the sculptures was legal, citing an Ottoman permit allowing him to do so. But the only known existing document referring to the permit is an Italian translation of the permit, or 'firman', as these Ottoman edicts were known, which no-one has ever seen. Now a Turkish official casts doubt on whether it ever existed. Zeynep Boz, the head of the Turkish Culture Ministry's anti-smuggling committee, says that no such document has been found.

Greek Culture Minister Lina Mendoni says this only confirms what they've been saying for years, arguing that "there never was an Ottoman 'firman' granting Elgin the permission to treat the Parthenon Sculptures with the brutality with which he did".

While Burnham ponders on the problems of the world, he could perhaps spare a thought on resolving this long-standing row with Greece over the Elgin Marbles...

Dave Danton
Dagenham

Perhaps you saw this in the news earlier this week? It

looks like the Government is again seeking access to highly encrypted personal data belonging to British users of Apple.

It was reported that the Government backed down on an attempt to access encrypted iCloud data last year in the face of political pressure from the USA, but reportedly it has now issued a new demand.

End-to-end encryption is an essential security tool that protects your sensitive personal data, including your bank details, health information, private conversations and photos. Only the sender and recipient can access the data being sent.

Creating a secret backdoor will make this data vulnerable to hackers and malicious state actors. There is also a risk that journalists, activists and dissidents from around the world will be targeted if end-to-end encryption is weakened.

Liberty has teamed up with Privacy International in a landmark legal case to protect your right to privacy and free expression.

We are working together to challenge the Government's power to use secretive "technical capability notices" (TCNs) to undermine end-to-end encryption and gain access to the public's personal data.

This is a hugely significant case that will have far-reaching implications for the public's privacy rights well into the future – here and around the world.

If the Government gains access to encrypted iCloud data, it will set a precedent for them to target other important end-to-end encryption systems such as WhatsApp and Signal.

This is also the first time a major democracy has sought to weaken encryption in this way and could embolden other countries around the world to clamp down on their citizens' privacy rights.

continued on page 9...

Diary

Check the Stop the War Coalition and Palestine Solidarity Campaign websites for emergency Iran, Venezuela and Gaza protests across the country.

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.

UNTIL 2 NOV

People's History Museum: On the Line – 100 Years of Strikes and Solidarity. PHM Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER.

THUR 13 AUG

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

THUR 13 AUG

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Beyond Green: Ecocide, Imperialism, and Palestinian Liberation with Hamza Hamouchene. 19:30–21:30. Merton Arts Space, Compton Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 7QA.

SAT 15 AUG

No to NATO: Stop Zelen-sky protest. 14:00. Opposite Downing Street, Whitehall, London SW1.

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 29 AUG

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Boycott Apartheid Day. Nationwide protests against supermarkets selling Israeli goods. See PSC website for local actions.

SUN 30 AUG

Calton Weavers Commemoration Committee: Remembering striking weavers killed in 1787. 13:00. Calton Burial Ground, 309–340 Abercrombie Street, Glasgow G40 2DD.

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 CLS 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: Chartism 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.

SAT 26 SEPT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Commemoration of Fife volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. 11:00. Memorial stone, Forth Avenue, Kirkcaldy KY2 5PR; later social at KUSI Club, 8 St Brycedale Avenue KY1 1ET.

SUN 27 SEPT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Evening of films about solidarity. 17:00–21:00. The Nest, Little Clarendon Street, Oxford OX1 2HU. Register on WeGotTickets.

MON 28 SEPT

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

WED 30 SEP–SAT 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.

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

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...continued from page 8

We should all have the right to feel safe when messaging friends and family and sharing photos. It is critical that the Government listens to concerns and commits to protecting our right to privacy and free expression. Keep an eye on your inbox for further updates on this case.

Ruth Ehrlich
Director of External Relations
Liberty – the National Council for Civil Liberties
London

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Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

The Scottish Labour Party leadership is shaping up with bad blood to the fore. So far three MSPs have thrown in their hats: **Monica Lennon, Michael Marra and Joe Fagan.** Even keen followers of Scottish politics will be asking: “Who are these people?”

The most obscure is Joe Fagan, who was only elected in May on the South Scotland list, having been Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, where he was credited for achieving a one million pound surplus at a time when other councils have growing deficits. As many parts of his fiefdom seem to be returning to a state of nature

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many residents think this has been achieved by abandoning all hedge trimming and verge mowing. His campaign has the backing of the present interim leader.

Michael Marra has been a North East MSP since as long ago as 2021, previously having been a Dundee councillor and failed Westminster candidate. This correspondent was surprised to discover he has been Labour’s Shadow Finance & Public Service Reform spokesman, inheriting his seat from his big sister. He claims to be on the “soft left”. And he has made his mark on public life by campaigning for Alzheimer’s disease in footballers to be classed as an industrial disease.

Marra has wisely pointed out that “highlighting the incompetence of the SNP is not an argument for why people should put their faith in Scottish Labour instead,” adding that “what I want is for our party’s goals to become obvious and unmistakable”. From his previous career it is clear he has nothing terribly radical in mind.

The third hopeful, Monica Lennon, is a comparative veteran having been an MSP since 2016 and has held several front-bench posts. Ironically, she was pushed down the Glasgow list by former leader Anas Sarwar so she lost her seat in May; but she now returns due to Sarwar’s departure. She has complained that the contest “reeks of misogyny and male entitlement”, largely because she is having trouble getting enough nominations to stand.

Her greatest achievement was the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act in 2020, which enables such items to be available in certain male toilets. She also refused to follow the Labour whip when the SNP put forward a bill in favour of a second referendum. It is clearly not going to be a battle of the giants.

Although Andy Burnham has ruled out a second referendum taking place under his watch, Scottish Labour will be stuck in a ‘doom loop’ if the party ignores the question of independence. That, at least, is what SNP MSP David Linden, somewhat predictably, believes. He says Labour refuses to “contend with the reason” it had failed to win a Holyrood election since 2003 and claims that repeated opinion polls showed independence was now “the preferred position of the Scottish people” and voters should be offered another referendum as a result.

Linden said “the Labour Party in Scotland has been led to crushing defeat after crushing defeat and yet they still refuse to contend with the reason why. For as long as they deny Scottish democracy to the Scottish people, why should they expect the Scottish people to put their faith in them?”

“Polling shows independence is the preferred position of the Scottish people, our parliament has an historic number of pro-independence MSPs and Holyrood voted for our right to decide – unless their next leader engages with that reality they will be forever consigned to the doom loop they find themselves in.”

Just before Holyrood...

...packed up for the summer holidays it used the very last hour (in the last 20 minutes to be precise) of the parliamentary session to announce that it was back-tracking on a replacement for the Monklands Hospital in Lanarkshire, which is to be delayed yet again. Health Secretary Angela Constance ordered the project to be redesigned. She announced that “proceeding in this cost envelope would significantly limit our ability to invest in services

and infrastructure across the wider NHS”. In other words, they can’t afford it after the estimated cost rose from £1.3 billion since December to £2.1 billion. While Constance assures us that this is a “reset and not a stop”, others were not convinced.

During the election campaign it was hailed by the SNP as one of their major projects and that “work is already well under way on major capital projects including replacements for University Hospital Monklands”. An opening date of 2031 was announced.

The North Lanarkshire council leader, a Labour man, says the decision is “in effect a complete cancellation” and warns of “legal challenges” from the approved contractors who had about 300 workers undertaking groundwork.

Unsurprisingly, it has now been confirmed that then health secretary Neil Gray, drugs minister Maree Todd and public health minister Jenni Minto, had been informed in March that NHS assessors recommended a halt to construction.

This did not prevent Neil Gray, the current Justice Secretary, from promoting the abandoned project in his election campaign. We can see him on 14th April declaring: “Great to have the First Minister John Swinney out to see the work progressing behind us at the new Monklands Hospital site at Wester Moffat. A critical project for all of Lanarkshire, but especially folk locally in Airdrie.”

Interim Scottish Labour leader (for the third time) Jackie Baillie said it was now “crystal clear” the SNP knew about the cost problems before the election “but decided to lie to local voters”, adding that “former health secretary Neil Gray promised his own constituents his government would deliver the new hospital they needed knowing full well that it wasn’t going to happen. Neil Gray has been caught in a lie and he should resign from government.”

Spoiler alert: Gray remains in office...

FROM THE NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

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The ruling class, fascism and the State by Neil Harris. £2 plus 50p p&p (New Worker reprint).
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NCP Lit. PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.
(cheques to New Worker)

Two homes and the miles between them

by
AF Reeves

Waking this morning in Istanbul, after spending over a month away from Vietnam, I felt that familiar longing that arrives whenever I'm gone too long. I miss the chaos, the plastic stools, the daily surprise of something new. The food, my god, the food. My mind commits to a month of noodles and broth from the minute I step foot in Nội Bài, and after a dairy laden month of excess, it's fair to say I'll need it.

Then my travelling companion sticks a BBC radio breakfast show on while he goes about his morning routine. It echoes through the apartment, the reassuring voice of a host I recognise but can put neither face nor name to, it's cathartic. It also reminds me that my time in the UK

is done for another year. I miss England already, having only left last week. After a month at home, people had stopped asking about Vietnam and started treating me as they had before I ever left. A sense of belonging that's hard to find even after a decade in Hanoi.

The irony of lying in Istanbul, where East meets West, and longing for both, was not lost on me. It got me thinking. There seem to be two kinds of 'expat': those running away from something, and those running towards it. For the former, everything here is likely useless, reminders of home being the last thing they want. That's okay. But for those of us who still love where we come from and left only out of a need for something exciting, it may resonate. Staying in touch with our roots is valuable and frustratingly



• Fish and Chips at Hanoi's Union Jack chippy.

difficult in equal measure.

Following your football team helps. Whatever the kick off time, it's a priority; I'll sleep early or lose a morning to it, and a good boss should understand. Hopefully. It keeps me tethered to where I'm from, friends and family messag-

ing in real time about the same ninety minutes. Then, most obviously, there's calling home. In an age of FaceTime and voice notes there's no excuse. Even a chat about the weather counts, because the sound of your loved ones' voices is a form of home in itself.

Keep your accent, if you're lucky enough to have one. It's a thread back to where you started and a reason for a stranger to ask where that is. I'm not suggesting my students should be subjected to the poor enunciation of my northern twang, but my friends can

and will be. Don't trade a piece of your identity for the convenience of being more easily understood. The world is becoming homogenous enough as it is.

And food. Vietnam's cities cater to most diasporas now, and I await the day a Union Jacks chippy opens in Hanoi (tick tock, Mr Ryan). For now, the international shops stock Yorkshire Tea, Marmite and Walkers, and a decent Sunday roast is never far. I'll be fine.

All I'm really saying is this: you don't have to shed your local identity, or your connection to home, because you moved a few thousand miles. It's still a part of you, something to embrace rather than forget. I'm proud to have two homes and lucky to miss them both so dearly. Hanoi, I'll see you soon.

VNS

Roger Waters speaks to Cuba

by Ed Newman

Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations in New York, has recently had a chat with Roger Waters, the co-founder of the legendary *Pink Floyd* band. The Cuban diplomat explained that the musician shared his views on Cuba, the Cuban people, and US policy toward the island, in an exchange broadcast via a reel on the Facebook platform.

Waters said: "We thank the Cuban people for everything they have done for the world since the Revolution." Soberón Guzmán affirmed that Cuba has insisted on maintaining a dialogue with the USA, considering that there are

multiple possible areas of co-operation between the two countries.

The ambassador pointed out that, despite the differences, it is viable to establish a bilateral agenda, promote collaboration in various arenas, and peacefully address disagreements, in the context of the 67th anniversary of the Revolution. "There is no reason for this collective punishment that the Cuban people are suffering right now," Guzmán emphasised in relation to the intensification of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington, and the latest restrictive measures aggravated by the energy embargo.

Waters described the



prolonged conflict between the USA and Cuba since the 1950s as absurd and defended the right of the

Cuban people to organise themselves and decide their destiny without foreign interference.

Their discussion is part of Cuban diplomacy's efforts to promote under-

standing and co-operation with the USA, as well as the trajectory of the British artist, recognised for his political activism.

Radio Havana Cuba

New Worker Supporters' Groups...

New Worker supporters groups exist to support the weekly newspaper of the New Communist Party.

Individual membership is £10.00 (8 Euros or \$10) for all or part of the calendar year and every member will receive a New Worker Supporters Group (NWSG) card and a copies of the Internal Bulletin for the year.

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What's behind the Ceuta border tragedy?

by Luke Rotello

Over 50,000 people crossed from Morocco into the Spanish colonial enclave of Ceuta on 30th July, only to face a series of mass deportations and military deployments by the Spanish government. The number of lives lost so far – mostly to drowning or crushing during crossing – could be as high as 90.

Racist reactions and diplomatic retaliation from far-right politicians and governments around the world, meanwhile, have spiralled into a continental crisis.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni temporarily ordered the closure of Italy and Spain's air and sea borders and called for the suspension of free movement rights for Spanish citizens guaranteed under the European Union's Schengen agreement. Santiago Abascal, leader of the Spanish extreme-right Vox party, repeatedly described the immigrants as "an invasion".

Spain's centre-left Socialist government, led by Pedro Sánchez, characterised the crossings as a "violation of sovereignty", directing blame at Morocco's government for engineering or allowing the incident. Sánchez faces growing diplomatic pressure for its opposition to the Iran war and genocide in Gaza – stances which could have factored in the mass border crossings.

On the surface, a 29th June ruling by Spain's Supreme Court is at the centre of the crisis. Its decision found that migrants intercepted at sea while trying to reach Ceuta or Melilla, another Spanish enclave on the Moroccan coast, cannot be summarily deported



• Spanish communists condemn Morocco's use of the migrant population as an instrument of political pressure, while also denouncing the Spanish government and the European Union, whose economic policies contribute to perpetuating the poverty that forces thousands of people to take desperate measures.

under the country's "hot return" procedure, since they do not cross the physical border infrastructure the law refers to.

The ruling requires Spain to process such migrants through ordinary immigration channels instead – a stronger due-process protection, but a narrow one, since it says nothing about migrants' eventual right to remain.

Sánchez's government has said human trafficking networks in Morocco seized on the ruling, telling prospective migrants that reaching Ceuta by water now guaranteed a legal process and an effective path to stay in Spain. Whether that message reflects a genuine misreading of the decision or a deliberate exaggeration by smugglers – and whether Moroccan authorities eased their own border enforcement in response – remains disputed.

In the ruling's wake, Madrid has moved to install floating barriers in the water off Ceuta, which it

argues will let it intercept and return migrants before they reach the shore, satisfying the court while preserving fast deportations.

Ceuta and Melilla, each with a population of around 80,000, are the two major cities among a set of Spanish enclaves along Morocco's Mediterranean shores. Together, the enclaves are the European Union's only land border with Africa and are often sought as a point of entry by immigrants and refugees in the Middle East and North Africa. The hostile geography regularly compels undocumented people and asylum seekers to swim for several kilometres around the border fence.

The border's militarisation owes in large part to a set of agreements between the EU and Morocco, which annually commit hundreds of millions of euros to Moroccan immigration enforcement. The agreements compose one part of "Fortress Europe", the EU's system of border controls. Migrant support

groups say it has cost tens of thousands of migrants and refugees their lives since 2014.

Morocco wields its authority over the enclave borders as a form of political leverage against Spain and the EU generally, and the ongoing Ceuta crisis is the latest in a series of mass migration events facilitated by the Moroccan government.

In February 2014, Moroccan and Spanish authorities shot rubber bullets at migrants attempting to swim across the border, killing 17. Two people were killed in a similar incident in 2021, when Morocco facilitated the entry of over 8,000 immigrants into Ceuta in response to Spain hosting Brahim Ghali, president of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), for medical treatment. SADR's territory, situated in Western Sahara, is occupied by Morocco, which combats any international recognition given to the republic. In 2022, 23 people were killed by Mo-

roccan forces at the Melilla border, when more than 2,000 attempted to break through the fence.

The Moroccan government is not alone in treating refugees, asylum seekers and economically precarious people as a political weapon. Donald Trump, Senator Ted Cruz and other ideologues of the MAGA movement have sought to turn Spain's border policies into a talking point for November's mid-term elections in the USA.

Trump told a cabinet meeting that the crisis "looks like an invasion". Attempting to divert domestic fears away from ICE's terrorism and toward racist caricatures of immigrants, Cruz accused Sánchez of granting amnesty to "millions" of Africans, claiming that the Socialist government "hates the West".

Sánchez met with Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the recently re-elected prime minister of Algeria, on 20th July. The meeting was the first of its kind since

2022, when the previous Sánchez government ended nearly 50 years of formal neutrality to endorse Morocco's occupation plan for Western Sahara. Algeria, a long-time supporter of the Sahrawi independence struggle, largely froze diplomatic relations in response.

However, the deepening energy crisis in Europe, exacerbated by US-Israeli attacks on Iran and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, brought the two governments back into negotiations. Seeking expanded access to Algerian natural gas exports, Sánchez and representatives of Spanish industrial monopolies promised stronger bilateral ties and greater Spanish investment in other sectors of the Algerian economy.

Given long-standing tensions between Algeria and Morocco over the former's support for the SADR, the meeting was taken as a provocation by the Moroccan government.

The American and Israeli governments, now closely aligned with the Moroccan monarchy and right-wing European administrations, have sought to isolate Spain and Algeria alike. In addition to diplomatically recognising the state of Palestine, Spain has refused to participate in the Iran war, banning American use of jointly-operated military bases for military actions that it deems illegal under international law. In response, the Trump administration has threatened the suspension of bilateral trade and ratcheted up diplomatic pressure through its reactionary allies across the region. All these factors are widely seen as relevant context for the mass crossing at Ceuta on 30th July.

People's World
(USA)

The Fidel we know and trust

by Ed Newman

The 5th August 1994 is a historic day for Cubans, as it was for Fidel Castro Ruz, when he appeared wearing his combat jacket amidst the unrest in Havana. Cuba was living through difficult years following the collapse of the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe. Fuel and food shortages were taking their toll on the daily lives of Cubans, who were resisting the escalating economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the USA and the growing subversive campaign that led to those events.

The leader of the Cuban Revolution immediately went to the street to speak with the people and help restore calm. Referring to that moment in 1995, Fidel said: "Every year we will

have the duty to remember the great victory of August 5th 1994, when the people crushed the counter-revolution without firing a shot, because this date speaks volumes, teaches much and inspires great enthusiasm."

If we take this example and delve into what Fidel wrote and said we will find countless quotes, born from the leader's daily prolific output, showing the path to follow in difficult times.

In this search, we find phrases from the people that help us understand the transcendence of a legacy that we have a duty to perpetuate as a valuable resource.

The slogans "Where is Fidel?" and "I am Fidel!" still resonate as a question and a response, calls to action in the face of powerful dominant forces that today seek to undermine



the historical continuity of the Cuban social process, challenged as never before.

"I am Fidel!" implies a commitment to the thought and action of a leader, which must be used as a tool, a method and a compass, especially in an economic and socio-political context that requires a firm step and a long-term

vision, so as not to lose sight of the socialist construction enshrined, as irreversible, in the Constitution.

The task is not easy, as following Fidel Castro never was, but the fact that Cubans are still standing is the best testament that they have succeeded. The first step is to analyse the multidimensional man he was:

a rebellious and diligent student, a restless young man, a guerrilla leader, a statesman, a diplomat – all mediated by an unparalleled humanism.

In a text published in 2022, titled *Difficult Times: Defining Moments*, the author quotes the words of the leader expressing his process of radicalisation towards the anti-imperialist we know.

"...seeing the rockets they fired at Mario's house, I swore to myself that the Americans are going to pay dearly for what they are doing. When this war is over, a much longer and greater war will begin for me: the war I am going to wage against them. I realise that this is going to be my true destiny" Fidel wrote on 5th July 1958 in a letter addressed to the revolutionary Celia Sánchez.

Later Fidel gave a speech on 5th September 1992 that illustrates the confidence he had in his people: "In difficult times some become confused, some become discouraged, some lose heart, some soften, some betray, some desert. That happens in every era and in every revolution. But it is also in difficult times that men and women are truly tested, in difficult times that those who are truly worthwhile are revealed."

That could be said today because we are living through difficult times in which human frailties and virtues come to the surface. Such is Fidel on his centenary, a man who transcended his life with such certainty in his words and deeds that we can stand upright on his legacy.

Radio Havana Cuba

Polish communists honour Gierek

Polish communists took part in commemorative events last month marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Edward Gierek, the former First Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party, and reaffirming the legacy of socialist Poland in a country where anti-communism has become official state doctrine.

Hundreds of people gathered at Gierek's grave in Sosnowiec on 25th July to pay tribute to the leader whose decade in office was associated with rapid industrialisation, major infrastructure projects and significant social progress. The commemoration was followed by a conference in Dąbrowa Górnicza examining Gierek's political

and economic legacy.

Speakers sharply criticised the official historical narrative promoted by Poland's authorities, particularly the role of the reactionary Institute of National Remembrance, accusing it of systematically distorting the history of the People's Republic of Poland. It was stressed that millions of Poles still live in homes, attend schools and rely on infrastructure built during the Gierek era, despite relentless efforts to portray socialist Poland as a 'black hole' in the nation's history.

Participants also highlighted the destructive consequences of the capitalist restoration that followed the counter-revolution, arguing that much of the



country's industrial base – built through decades of socialist development – was dismantled or sold off at a fraction of its value during the privatisation drive of the 1990s.

The discussion also contrasted the co-operative economy and industrial independence of the 1970s with today's Poland, which was described as increasingly dependent on Western capital and subordinated to the interests of the European Union and the USA.

The event stood as a rare but significant expression of historical memory and political resistance in contemporary Poland, where far-right nationalism and militant anti-communism dominate public life, communist symbols are crimi-

nalised and communists continue to face persecution for defending the achievements of socialist Poland. Against this hostile backdrop, the Communist Party of Poland and other progressive forces continue to challenge the prevailing anti-communist consensus and preserve the historical legacy of the People's Republic of Poland.

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• The modern Polish cinema take on the Gierek era.