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From: "John Smith" <johnsmith@btinternet.com>
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Sent: 16 October 2006 02:00
Subject: [iraqsolidaritycampaign] Hands off Korea!

Sorry to have to say such a thing, but get ready for the next war. Articles from October 23rd issue of the New York-published *The Militant* <http://www.themilitant.com/index.shtml>

U.S. hands off Korea!

No to sanctions, acts of piracy! Withdraw all U.S. troops and weapons!
 (lead article)



Reuters/Lee Jin-Man

F-18 Super Hornet fighter jets fill deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln March 30 during U.S. military exercises in south Korean waters near city of Ulsan.

The following statement by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party was released October 11 by the party's national secretary, Jack Barnes.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people in the United States and throughout the world to oppose the rapidly accelerating threats against north Korea by the U.S. rulers and their "coalition of the willing," a coalition stretching from Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing, to Moscow and capitals across Europe. The U.S. government and its allies are already tightening sanctions against north Korea and choking off its access to credit and currency. They are pressing the United Nations Security Council to legitimize boarding north Korean ships to "inspect" and "interdict" imports and exports and lay the basis for military action. [See news article]

STATEMENT BY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

With some 10,000 weapons in its nuclear arsenal and nuclear-armed warships in the Pacific, it is Washington that poses the threat of nuclear annihilation to the people of Asia and the world. It is the U.S. government, not the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), that has entered the fifth year of its war in Afghanistan and is nearing its fourth year of combat in Iraq.

And it is Washington and its allies who for half a decade, through the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative, have imposed their "right" to board ships and seize cargo—to carry out piracy on the high

17/10/2006

seas—against any country the imperialist rulers label a “rogue nation.” Washington’s demand for “inspection” of all cargo in or out of north Korea—a de facto naval blockade, an act of war by any standard—ups the ante on the danger of military strikes against the DPRK on land as well.

It is under this same banner of “nuclear nonproliferation” that Washington joins with its allies in Europe and Asia to seek to prevent semicolonial countries from developing the energy sources needed to expand electrification to develop modern industry, farming, and education and culture. The major capitalist powers arrogantly insist that they, and only they, will decide which governments can or cannot develop large-scale nuclear energy without being reliant on other nations for nuclear fuel. Today Korea is in imperialism’s sights. Tomorrow, Iran. The next day it will be others.

Washington carves up Korea

In August 1945 Washington called attention to its new position as the world’s dominant imperialist power by unleashing nuclear weapons—for the first and, so far, only time in history—against the people of Japan. Only weeks later, with the complicity of the Stalinist regime in Moscow and support from Stalinist parties around the globe, the U.S. rulers, in flagrant disregard for Korea’s national sovereignty, carved the country in two. In the northern half the workers and farmers deepened the revolutionary mobilizations that had swept the entire peninsula at the end of World War II, carrying out a radical land reform, expropriating the capitalists and landlords, and establishing a workers state.

In 1950 Washington invaded north Korea under the United Nations flag in an effort to destroy the DPRK and deal blows to the unfolding revolution in China. Not only did the U.S. government threaten the use of nuclear weapons during the Korean War, it murderously flattened—literally flattened—the north and set it ablaze through bombardment. By 1953, however, the U.S.-led invaders had been pushed back to Korea’s 38th parallel by the combined forces of Korean and Chinese troops, dealing U.S. imperialism its first military defeat in history.

Ever since then Washington has deployed tens of thousands of U.S. troops and armaments on south Korean soil. It has carried out annual “war games” with the capitalist regime in Seoul. It has imposed imperialist diplomatic isolation on the DPRK. It has wielded economic and currency sanctions—the inhuman weapons of food, fuel, and energy—to starve and freeze the toilers in the north. And it has encouraged the strategic rearmament of Japan.

All these measures and others are a constant reminder of U.S. finance capital’s unremitting military threats against Korean workers and farmers in both halves of that partitioned country. To this day Washington maintains a massive conventional and strategic nuclear arsenal in and around the Korean peninsula.

Using Moscow, Beijing muscle

It is in face of this forcible division of Korea by imperialism, and its unrelenting economic and military pressure, that the DPRK has asserted the right to take the military steps it deems necessary to defend itself. The aim of Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul in the so-called six-party “negotiations” in recent years has been to bring to bear the muscle of Moscow and especially Beijing—the DPRK’s largest source of trade and economic aid—to compel Pyongyang to unilaterally abandon its nuclear research, enrichment, and testing programs while the U.S. atomic arsenal, the world’s largest, remains intact. And while plans for nuclear-powered energy spread throughout the world, from Japan and India to Finland, Russia, and the United States itself.

In response to the DPRK’s announcement October 8 that it had carried out a nuclear weapons test, the Chinese government’s ambassador to the United Nations agreed that “there have to be punitive actions” against north Korea. Both Beijing and Moscow have already made clear they will support stiffer sanctions. It remains to be seen, however, whether this treachery will yet go so far as to bow to Washington’s demand that such punishment of the Korean people also fall under Chapter VII of the United Nations charter, which makes mandatory sanctions “legally” enforceable by imperialist-

organized troops under UN banners. (These are the same blue banners that for more than half a century have flown over imperialist occupation forces in south Korea and the Demilitarized Zone, the DMZ.)

A matter of sovereignty

As a simple matter of national sovereignty, working people in the United States and elsewhere have a fundamental class interest in supporting the DPRK's right to self-defense. At the same time, the Socialist Workers Party stands in solidarity with the DPRK's repeated calls for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula—and of the entire Pacific and Asia. We demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and armaments from Korean land and waters and the lifting of all economic sanctions.

The imperialist rulers attack with particular ferocity those who refuse to bow to their dictates. Just as they will not forget or forgive the defeat handed them by the Korean people more than half a century ago, they have also never forgiven the workers and farmers of Cuba for making the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

The Cuban people and their communist leadership continue to set a revolutionary internationalist example for toilers worldwide in linking the defense of their own sovereignty and socialist conquests at home to the advance of popular struggles in other countries. As president Fidel Castro explained—in a December 1988 speech honoring Cuban internationalist volunteers who had joined Angolan fighters in defeating apartheid South Africa's invading forces—"Whoever is incapable of fighting for others will never be capable of fighting for himself. And the heroism shown by our forces, by our people in other lands, faraway lands, must also serve to let the imperialists know what awaits them if one day they force us to fight on this land here."

In a more recent speech, in November 2005, Castro explained why Cuba depends for its revolutionary defense on the armed readiness and political consciousness of Cuban working people, not on chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. "We have never considered producing nuclear weapons, because we don't need them," the Cuban president explained. "Even if they were accessible, how much would they cost and what sense would it make producing a nuclear weapon with an enemy that has thousands of nuclear weapons?..."

"We have a different type of nuclear weapon: it's our ideas," Castro said—Cuba's revolutionary ideas and living example. "We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power, and it is the magnitude of the justice for which we are struggling.... That is why we have never even considered producing them, nor have we ever considered seeking biological weapons. What for?"

The Cuban government has taken the proletarian political high ground—and thus the moral high ground—against the rapacious U.S. ruling families. It has issued the call for a nonnuclear Caribbean, exposing the reality that it is U.S. imperialism that poses a danger to the peoples of the Americas and to humanity as a whole.

Like Washington's unending bipartisan economic warfare and military pressure against Cuba, like its mounting threats against Iran, the escalating threats by the imperialist parties today against the DPRK are one front in what the U.S. rulers call a "long war." This decades-long conflict has only begun with their bloody aggression against Iraq and Afghanistan, and their open support of Tel Aviv's war against Lebanon.

In 1950 Socialist Workers Party national secretary James P. Cannon sent an open letter to Democratic U.S. president Harry Truman condemning Washington's brutal assault on the Korean people's struggle for national sovereignty and unification. SWP members at that time—in factories, on street corners, high school and college campuses, and in working-class districts across the country—championed the demand: "Withdraw all U.S. troops so the Korean people can have full freedom to work out their destiny in their own way."

To that demand, we add today: No to sanctions! No to piracy against north Korean ships! Remove all U.S. weapons from the Korean peninsula! Denuclearize the Pacific and Asia!

Korea is one!

Washington demands 'enforceable' sanctions against north Korea

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

October 11—Washington has pushed to intensify sanctions and other attacks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since the north Korean government announced October 8 that it had conducted a nuclear weapons test.

The U.S. government, which already maintains economic sanctions against the DPRK, has proposed a United Nations Security Council resolution empowering member states to board ships and inspect all imports to or exports from that country, freeze all assets claimed to be connected with its nuclear program, and impose a trade ban on all commodities it defines as military and luxury goods.

U.S. officials want the resolution to fall under Section VII of the UN Charter, which authorizes the Security Council to "enforce" sanctions by breaking diplomatic ties or sponsoring military action if the targeted government does not comply with its demands.

"We're talking about really making it hurt," U.S. assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill said October 10. "We're not going to accept that North Korea...is going to join the nuclear club." Last week Hill said that north Korea "can have a future or it can have these weapons. It cannot have both."

U.S. president George Bush issued a statement branding north Korea as "provocative," and warning that if Pyongyang were deemed to have transferred nuclear materials to other countries, Washington would treat it as a "grave threat to the United States."

Democratic Party politicians seized on the nuclear test to criticize the Bush administration for not being tough enough in its hostile actions against north Korea.

"What it tells you is that we started at the wrong end of the 'axis of evil,'" former Democratic senator Sam Nunn told the New York Times. "We started with the least dangerous of the countries, Iraq... and now we have to deal with that."

On October 9 Sen. Hillary Clinton condemned the White House's "failure to deal with the threat posed by North Korea" and called for "the strongest possible action from the entire international community" against "this rogue nation."

The following day the editors of the New York Times complained that the Bush administration's proposed sanctions and cargo inspections "won't be enough to quickly change Pyongyang's mind." They instead called for "starting with a Security Council-ordered ban on all trade, until the North agrees to stop expanding its arsenal."

On October 11 the Japanese government, which tightened sanctions against the DPRK last month, ordered a total ban on north Korean imports and barred the entry of any ships from that country. It also banned most north Koreans from entering Japan. North Korea exported \$133 million in goods to Japan last year.

Beijing joins call for sanctions

The Chinese government urged the Security Council to impose "punitive action" against Pyongyang,

although it opposed interdicting shipments.

Beijing is part of six-party talks aimed at pressuring Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programs. The talks, which also involve Washington, Tokyo, Seoul, and Moscow, have been stalled since November 2005, when Washington imposed new economic sanctions against the DPRK. The north Korean government has repeatedly stated it will not participate in the talks as long as the imperialist sanctions remain in effect.

“The U.S. extreme threat of nuclear war and sanctions and pressure compel the DPRK to conduct a nuclear test...as a corresponding measure for defense,” said north Korea’s Foreign Ministry in an October 3 statement explaining the decision to conduct the test.

The north Korean government also noted that it “will make positive efforts to denuclearize the peninsula.” The statement added that “the ultimate goal of the DPRK is not a ‘denuclearization’ to be followed by its unilateral disarmament but one aimed at...removing the very source of all nuclear threats from the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity,” referring to the U.S. military presence there.

Washington keeps nearly 30,000 troops on the Korean peninsula, part of maintaining the division of Korea it imposed after being fought to a stalemate in the 1950-53 Korean War. While the Pentagon officially claims to have withdrawn all of its nuclear weapons from south Korea in 1991, it continues to station nuclear-armed warships in the surrounding waters.

Among the armaments Washington has deployed in the Pacific are non-strategic air-delivered bombs and sea-launched ballistic missiles on Trident class submarines, which provide “a unique very short notice (12-13 minutes) strike capability against time-critical targets in North Korea,” according to the Nuclear Information Project of the Federation of American Scientists.

Since 2003, the U.S. and Japanese governments have collaborated as part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), asserting their right to stop, board, and confiscate the cargo of any ship they claim is carrying “suspect” cargo. Several north Korean ships have been boarded and inspected as a result of this U.S.-led initiative, which legalizes piracy on the part of over 60 signatory governments.

Washington and Tokyo have recently expanded their military cooperation toward establishing nuclear first-strike capacity against their adversaries in Asia. Tokyo, which reportedly has the technology to develop a nuclear arsenal within six months, is believed to have a stockpile of enough separated plutonium for 9,000 nuclear weapons.

Washington, the only government to ever have used nuclear weapons, has the largest nuclear arsenal in the world with some 10,000 warheads, 5,735 of which are classified as active or operational. Forbes reports that north Korea “is believed to have enough radioactive material for about a half-dozen bombs.”

In late June, Washington and Tokyo agreed to jointly produce antiballistic missiles, and to deploy Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles on U.S. bases in Japan, where some 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed. Tokyo also signed an agreement to produce PAC-3 missiles to deploy on its own bases.

The Japanese government is using the Korean nuclear test to wave the banner of “national security” and push forward its plans to remove constitutional restrictions on the use of its military force abroad, imposed as a result of its defeat in World War II.

“A nuclear test by Pyongyang might lead to the last gasp of Japanese pacifism,” noted an October 9 editorial in Investor’s Business Daily. “The transformation of Japan from Asia’s Switzerland to Asia’s Britain—a strategic partner with teeth—is under way.”

Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialists leaders: Support reunification of Korea!

(front page)

The following message was sent October 10 to Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Olympia Newton on behalf of the Young Socialists.

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists send revolutionary greetings on the sixty-first anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. We affirm our commitment to the Korean people's fight for national reunification, for a united Korea free of Washington's troops and its armaments, armaments destructive beyond imagination. We pledge our solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in face of today's escalating threats of expanded economic sanctions and acts of piracy against your freighters and cargo planes by the U.S. and Japanese imperialist governments and their allies.

The U.S. rulers, who wield the world's largest strategic nuclear arsenal, are once again trying to turn the victim into the criminal. Washington is the only government on earth ever to have used nuclear weapons, against the defenseless Japanese and Korean populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sixty-one years ago. Then, in 1950, as pointed out by the SWP's first national secretary, James P. Cannon, the Truman administration threatened "to repeat the atrocities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by using the atom bomb in Korea"—as U.S. warplanes unleashed nearly 650,000 tons of explosives to level Korean cities and scorch the countryside bare. To this day the U.S. government deploys more than 30,000 troops on Korean soil and maintains nuclear-armed warships and planes throughout the surrounding waters.

It is these capitalist rulers of the United States and their "willing" allies who present a threat of annihilation to the people of Korea, Asia, and the world. Singling out the DPRK as their common enemy, the U.S. and Japanese governments are strengthening "missile defense" cooperation to advance toward a nuclear first-strike capacity in the region. The U.S. rulers' unending aggressions against Korea are part of their arrogantly declared "long war"—from Iraq, to Afghanistan, and beyond—to try to reverse the growing disorder of the world capitalist system and tighten their bloody oppression and brutal exploitation of workers and farmers both at home and abroad. The U.S. government and its NATO allies promise Iran increasing economic strangulation and threaten military assault if it continues to enrich uranium for nuclear power needed for economic and social development. And Washington's own warheads target socialist Cuba 365 days a year, despite the Cuban government's repeated assertions, consistent with its revolutionary course, that it needs no nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and has no intention of ever developing them.

Working people and youth the world over, as we engage in struggles and look for ways to fight more effectively and win, develop a hunger for the true history of our class and its allies. The proud record of the Korean people in resisting imperialism is part of that record—from your struggle in the opening half of the twentieth century against Tokyo's degrading colonial rule, to handing Washington its first-ever military defeat in the Korean War.

On the occasion of the sixty-first anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists stand in solidarity with the DPRK and its right to defend Korea's national sovereignty. We support the DPRK's call for the denuclearization of the entire Korean peninsula and its surrounding air and waters.

We remember with pride our participation in Korea in the activities surrounding the 45th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in 1990—from Pyongyang to the DMZ. As we did then, we continue to speak for the historic interests of the working class in the United States in demanding of the two-party, anti-Korea coalition in Washington: No to sanctions against the DPRK by the U.S. government, other imperialist powers, or their pawn, the United Nations! No to acts of piracy against

Korean ships and cargo planes! Withdraw all U.S. forces and U.S. arms from Korean soil and waters! Denuclearize the region!

Korea will be one!

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