

KOMONIST COMMUNIST

A monthly paper of the Worker-communist Party of Iran-Hekmatist
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Statement of the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist on:

The Threat of Military Assault against Iran

The continued threat of US attack against Iran in the recent months has cast the fear of a catastrophe over the lives of people of Iran. A catastrophe that according to the most “optimistic” and most “authoritative” US military strategists will lead to the deaths of tens of thousands of people and the total destruction of the economic and industrial foundation of the country. The war will sink the country and the entire Middle East into backwardness and turning the whole region into an arena for unbridled American and Islamists terrorism. Iran will become a haven for a host of armed religious and tribal groups. Such a development will change the face of the Middle East beyond recognition and will bring about major changes to the current balance of power amongst the major economic poles in the world with lasting consequences in the political, ideological and cultural make up of the world.

The reasoning behind the threat of military aggression against Iran has once again put the hypocrisy of capitalism, their politicians and the media on the hot spot. Those very states that, within a few days, before the bewildered eyes of the world, destroyed Iraq - a country of twenty million people- are now posing as the “saviour of world’s peace and security”.

The perpetrators of genocides in Vietnam and the only country in the world that has deployed the nuclear bomb against defenceless people in the history of

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Koorosh Modarresi

Nuclear Crisis

or

Crisis with a Nuclear Pretext

The following is the last of a four part article titled “Nuclear Crisis or Crisis with a Nuclear Pretext” written by Koorosh Modarresi, the leader of the WPI-Hekmatist and published in the party’s Farsi language weekly paper No 89, April 14, 2006. The English translation of these articles will soon be produced as a separate pamphlet. KOMONIST

8. The framework of a communistic policy towards the war

Before dealing with our tasks vis-à-vis the war we must remind ourselves of several fundamental communist policies:

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humanity, has suddenly emerged as the defender of the “World Peace” and the “International Rights”. Governments and the bootlicker journalism are hiding these facts from the public. They are preparing the world for a wave of wars and rampant massacres.

Underneath the current war propaganda over the reasons for military strike against Iran, beyond the lies and the fuss of the Iranian and the American governments over the “Nuclear Confrontation” or the “Security of the State of Israel”, the truth about potentially one of the bloodiest wars of the recent times emerges. The conflict and confrontation of the US and Iran is as old as the Islamic Republic (IR). Neither the animosity of the IR towards the US nor the dislike of the US rulers of the IR has the slightest relevance to safeguarding the interests of the people of the US or indeed the just demands of the people of Iran. This is the confrontation of two reactionary powers. In victory or in defeat, the share of the people of both countries will be nothing but misery. The skirmishes between the US and Iran has never been the war of the people of the two countries.

This latest round of the “nuclear confrontation” is not the continuation of the ongoing skirmishes between the US and Iran. Other interests drive this round of confrontation. Whatever necessary, including cutting off drinking water from millions of children in Iraq, daily bombardment of defenceless people and carrying out genocides will be done to pave the way for the establishment of the unrivalled dominance of the US in the world. Two world wars bear testimony to the destructive power of the world capitalism.

The new world order that was supposed to be established in the wake of the collapse of the Berlin wall and the elimination of the Eastern block countries is still unresolved. Two wars against Iraq and the subsequent destruction and massacres and the creation of several axes of evil have yet to lead to the establishment of the supremacy of the US over its economic rivals. “Candidacy” of Iran and the lives of millions of people are to pave the way for this. This blood stained road leads to the New World Order led by the US. The responsibility of such a catastrophe will remain with the US and its allies. If the price for getting rid of dictators and despots and any fascist government is to raze the country, with its people, to the ground then the US, Israel and Britain must have, just for their latest count of crimes in Iraq and Palestine, been levelled to ground hundred times over. Such an inhumane logic and bloody path to pave the road for the advancement of capitalism has no place amongst the freedom seeking people of the world.

The struggle of the people of Iran against the IR is, inherently, for freedom and equality. This is in contrast to the animosity of the US ruling elite against IR. The US assault on Iran is totally against the libertarian movement of the Iranian people.

People of Iran would be the first innocent victims of the US attack. Further to the human casualties, the fight for liberty and equality would suffer a set back and would be forced onto the backburner. Such a war will throw up a whole host of reactionary movements. The war will sideline the current struggles to defend the rights of children, women, workers and students and the equality of all citizens. The war will unleash the reactionary religious and ethnic identities and will set people of “Azeri”, “Persian”

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and “Kurdish” backgrounds against each other. The ethnic hatred will over run the regional boundaries and will be manifested in the streets of Tehran and other major cities.

The encounter between the reactionaries will unleash all sorts of groups. Ethnic groups have all lined up and are lying in wait. The race for ethnic hatred will start. The war will not be confined to the Islamists and the Americans.

People who have never had religious and ethnic identities will be given identity badges and labelled as Shi-ites, Sonnies, Persians, Baluchies, Arabs, Azeris, and Kurds and will be given missions to avenge the “blood” of their ancestors. Citizens who have lived peacefully together will become foot soldiers of ethnic cleansing.

With the first signs of military threat the IR will intensify the suppression of workers in the workplaces and students in their schools and colleges and the whole population in the streets and neighbourhoods. Sooner or later the whole camp of bourgeois nationalists will line up behind the IR to fight against the “foreigners” and in “defence of the motherland”. The entire bourgeois class will move in to impose an even harsher oppression and destitution on the population. The militarization of the society will also provide the IR with an opportunity to extend and intensify its aggression.

Amidst all these the pathetic and hopeless situation of some of the forces and the Iranian intelligentsia is worth noting. These forces are the imprudent victims of the deceit and hypocrisy surrounding the “nuclear confrontation” and have fallen for and accepted the US and its allies’ “agenda”. They have accepted that the issue at stake is about the nuclear programme and have rallied, to varying degrees, around either the US or the IR.

The nationalist and the Islamic forces that have never occurred to them that health, education, freedom, housing, security and protection from hunger are the undeniable rights of individuals, have suddenly become the staunchest defenders of the “right of the Iranian government to enrich uranium” and the “international rights” of the nations. These forces have either in opposition to US attack have gathered around the “Nuclear rights” of the Islamic reaction or have hang their hopes on the mass killings of the US government to get rid of the “Nuclear Iran”. Such forces have either swallowed the lies of the US propaganda machine or themselves are the architect of such propaganda and lies. These people, in their enthusiasm to defend the “national right” of Iran to become a “nuclear” state, toe the line of the “anti-imperialist” Iran or in their blind animosity towards the IR have become the unpaid foot soldiers of the ruling regime in the US. In any case their main purpose is to serve the reaction.

Attack against Iran is a war against humanity, against the peoples of Iran and the world. This war would be a precursor for the suppressions to come. The war is an ultimatum to the worker movements and the progressive movements around the world. The consequences of this war will not be confined to its direct victims in Iran and the Middle East. This war will set back the world in a number of ways. This horrendous massacre must be stopped. We must not allow people of Iran pay the price of consolidation of the US supremacy. We must not allow the struggles of the people of Iran to go astray and be used to bring about reactionary forces and also to be used for the consolidation of the US imperialism domination of the world. The gory path of US supremacy must be blocked. The workers and communist movements must employ all their resources to unite and mobilise the ranks of the freedom seeking people around the world.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist condemns any US aggression against Iran. We reaffirm that, both in Iran and outside the country, in the forefront of the progressive humanity oppose the US attempt to consolidate its world supremacy at the cost of millions of lives of Iranian citizens. The rights and security of people of Iran is our top priority.

The Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist, in its opposition to the militarism and the imperialistic intentions of the world capitalism, relies on the unity and common purpose of the world working class and the people of world.

We, prior to any nuclear or other rights; consider freedom, equality, happiness, welfare, health, mental and physical well being and cultural liberation as the unassailable rights of the people of Iran.

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The IR has denied the people of Iran all the above rights and is the cause of all the suppression and oppression in the country. People of Iran are not party to, and have no interest in, this fight over the right to enrich uranium. Our party at the forefront of masses of people in Iran is fighting against the intensification of the Islamic suppression and the militarization of workplaces, universities and schools and fights against the further erosion of their living standard and attacks on their livelihood and security.

We are working to empower people to organise themselves at their places of work and neighbourhoods, to set up local and regional and all-Iran organisations to combat the current crisis. We believe the only way left to the people of Iran is to unite and organise themselves to push back the IR and remove its control over their lives.

We will endeavour, by uniting, organising and empowering people, to prevent the society from falling into chaos and disintegration. Our party has initiated the establishment of the "Freedom Guards", made up of armed citizens, to defend their security and freedom and stop the country suffering the fate of Iraq and also to assert their own control in their neighbourhoods. We will continue to try to organise people all over Iran and turn the Freedom Guards into an armed organ for people to defend their lives.

Outside Iran, we will rely on the support of the working class, in particular those in the key industries and in the metropolitan countries. Our party will count on the international class solidarity of the workers as a decisive means in the battle against imperialist domination and military aggression and in support of people of Iran. In pursuit of our aims we will approach our natural allies in the west - the working class and the progressive humanity.

The world can not afford to become the backyard of the capitalism and its reactionary states. The working in the West must, once again, exhibit its power by stopping the production, put leash on the unbridled bourgeoisie in their countries. The world without the active intervention of the working class, without the fear of the workers' power will sink further into a living hell. We must mobilise all our resources to stop and prevent this nightmare.

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And hence our policy outside Iran is as follows:

- 1- Our party abroad will try, alongside indigence forces in every country, mobilise the largest possible protests against US warmongering
- 2- Explain the truth and the policies behind this warmongering
- 3- Draw the support and sympathy of the people around the world to the struggles of the people of Iran against the Islamic Republic
- 4- Our main slogans would be "No to US Warmongering" and "US Hands off People's Lives around the World"
- 5- We will do our utmost to draw the largest possible masses of people to these protests
- 6- We oppose any campaigns that appease the political Islam. We would not participate in such campaigns and will not encourage people to participate to join them.

We might, depending on the situation, participate in any activities and campaigns for this purpose, but our aim would be to pursue the objectives stated in 2,3 and 4 above.

D- Priorities and the tasks of the Party's organisations

Due to security implications these instructions will be classified and will be handed to relevant committees and organs.

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- a. The fundamental question for us remains to be the immediate overthrow of the Islamic Republic and the establishment of a Socialist regime. Our policy still remains to be the ones that are stated in our Party programme, our policy discussions entitled paper “ The Iranian Revolution and the Tasks of the Communists”, and in our “Charter to Overthrow the Islamic Republic”. We, under no circumstances, share any common interests, on any issues, with the Islamic Republic. Therefore there can not be any situations where our main objectives could be compromised or sidelined. This is contrary to the approaches adopted by various nationalist trends, Islamic currents and the opportunist forces that are driven, by their patriotisms, towards the Islamic Republic and each other. Our Party would not deviate from its immediate aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic and the establishment of a Socialist Government.

Neither the defence of the “motherland”, in the face of the foreign aggression, nor the defence of the territorial integrity or any other consideration will put us in a condescending position with the Islamic Republic. The political and social events will only change the environment in which we operate. Whether the US attacks Iran, or if an earthquake hits the country or mount Damavand erupts only the environment and the condition in which we carry out our activities changes not our objectives. Social events and developments either enhance our progress or hinder it.

The basis of our policy, in any event, remains to be a very active and planned activities aimed at seizing the power and organising and leading the socialist revolution. To this end we need to unite workers and people and change the balance of power in favour of the working class and the socialist revolution and in particular to strengthen the position of the Party. We, as a political party (in contrast to a charitable group) have followed such an approach during the invasion of Iran by Iraq in 1980, in the aftermath of the recent earthquake in Iran and in our approach to May Day rallies in recent years.

The US attack on Iran will undoubtedly further complicate our situation. The direct and indirect consequence of the US attack will result in the disintegration of the civil life in the country and the emergence of the nationalist and patriotic sentiments. The break out of war will be detrimental to the people and our movement while benefiting the nationalists, the Islamic Republic and various political gangsters.

In any case this is the condition under which we will have to operate. The essential thing for a Communist Party, for a Leninist Party, is first and foremost not to lose sight of its aim against a background of the most complicated and difficult conditions, and secondly to adopt the most creative initiatives and tactics to oust the Islamic Republic and seize the political power. This is what the “concrete analysis of the concrete conditions” is about. The US attack against Iran is that concrete condition that we must operate in. We, in Iran, must carry out a very active educational and publicity campaign and more importantly a very militant and active policy against the Islamic Republic. Engaging in an anti-war movement in Iran if it is not carried out within the overall policy of ousting the Islamic Republic; stopping it from interfering in people’s lives and shifting the balance of power in our favour will, in practice, serve the US policy and the right wing nationalist forces. The main thrust of our activities in Iran is to overthrow the regime and accomplish a socialist revolution. That is all. In this context any tactics and policies must only serve this purpose.

The immediate aims of the communist and libertarian parties and people in Iran regarding the war are different to those parties and people outside Iran. Outside Iran the main aim should be to prevent the US attack on Iran and taking on the US government and its allies. In Iran the main target of the people would be the Islamic Republic. Lack of understanding of this fact will mislead the working class and the ranks of the freedom loving people outside the country and will end up supporting their own governments. In Iran, focusing on the US aggression will send people to the support of the their own government. During the 1991 and 2003 war against Iraq such a misunderstanding resulted in total political confusion of the left in Iraq and the anti-war movement outside Iraq.

The mechanism for people in Iran to intervene in the current situation is through struggles to overthrow of the Islamic Republic. For the people outside Iran this mechanism is through stopping the US attack on Iran and the ousting of their own respective governments.

In Iran people can not influence the US policy and abroad people’s scope to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic policies is limited. An active policy should recognise these strengths and weaknesses. Turning the

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US into the main concern in Iran and equally turning the Islamic Republic into the main preoccupation of people outside Iran is playing into the hands of the nationalists, the US and the Islamic Republic. Such approaches will deny people from full participation in campaigns to stop the war. Based on what has just been said our tasks inside and outside Iran are different but complementary. We will pursue two different policies in these two separate political geographies.

All shades of the right wing politics find the US attack on Iran an opportunity to advance, directly or indirectly, their own interests. Shy of calling for an outright war against Iran, these trends pursue their aims through calling for exerting political pressure on Iran. This is the banner under which all shades of the pro-west and modernist nationalists, from the monarchist to the new leadership of the Worker-communist Party of Iran are mobilised. These are timid warmongers.

The issue of the Islamic Republic can only be resolved by the people of Iran. The inherent contradiction of the interests of the people and in particular the working class with any political and military intervention by the US, in the context of the existing international climate, must extensively be exposed. We need to build a formidable barrier to the US warmongering. A good example of such an approach would be our policy towards the gulf war in 1991 and the subsequent developments in Iraqi Kurdistan. A review of our policy during that period would be most useful.

b. Guiding principles for a communistic policy

The departing point to develop our stance in this conflict is not to preoccupy ourselves with trying to identify the primary and secondary contradictions; the imperialists and anti-imperialist forces; conflict between progress and reaction; the sovereignty and the territorial integrity; patriotic fervours in support of the acquisition of nuclear technology; patriotism and indulgence in legal debates; the rights of the nations and not even the ousting of the Islamic Republic at any cost (e.g. with the help of the US).

We as members of a communist and an internationalist Party, and as a section of the workers' movement, have distinct aims and objectives. The livelihood and the destiny of the toiling masses are at stake. The fate of the working class and a people who are trying to emerge from the suppression of the Islamic Republic and are about to oust it and create a better world, will be decided. The destiny of millions of people and several generations will be shaped.

The future shape of the contemporary world is being formed. Furthermore the future societies and our socialist state will also be affected by these developments. We have vested interests in all these. As always these clear and concrete interests are our guiding principles.

Military aggression or economic sanction against Iran is a direct assault against the people of Iran and their interests. Such an attack not only destroys the fabrics of the society but will also help to prolong the rule of the Islamic Republic. The US in pursuit of its imperialist interests is determined on imposing a bloody war on the people of Iran and the region. We condemn this open and naked aggression. Regardless of the issues surrounding the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, today it is the US and its interests that have put the world on the verge of a human catastrophe much larger than anything that we have seen so far. This policy is the continuation of the invasion of Iraq and the control over the waterways in the Persian gulf and the Red sea. With or without the UN support they invade and occupy other countries and plunge them into death and destruction. The world does not a police. They should be stopped.

What is important today, and everyone needs to take a stance on it, is not approval or disapproval of the Iranian regime's attempts to acquire nuclear technology. The central issue is the long term interest of the US and its plan to maintain its global hegemony. To this end it is prepared to sacrifice millions of people in a war with horrific consequences for several generations to come. Overlooking this reality and focusing on the nuclear issue is to surrender to the imperialistic perspective and becoming a pawn in the service of the US propaganda war.

For the masses of people whose lives and livelihoods are being threatened by this war there is only one answer. This imminent war must be stopped at any costs. The US and its allies must be dissuaded from embarking on another carnage. None of the stated issues in this conflict can justify this catastrophe. **P7**

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c. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the US attack on Iran

We do not condemn non-compliance with the NPT by any states. We are not in favour of this treaty and are not a signatory to it. We find ourselves constantly at odds with this exclusive club and their bullying and blackmailing attitudes. International treaties have been adopted to regulate the capitalist states' relationship. Compliance or non-compliance with these treaties does not warrant our approval or disapproval in itself. Preventing a country from acquiring nuclear weapons, while this treaty is not extended to all countries, and those that are in possession of nuclear weapons are constantly piling up their arsenal, is not sacrosanct for us. As far as we are concerned, preserving the right of access to nuclear weapons to the friends of the US government and denying it to unfriendly states does not constitute a sound basis to determine the rights of possessing nuclear weapons. There can not be different standards.

9-Our Tasks

On the basis of what has been said above, two concurrent questions present themselves. Firstly how can we sustain the current movement to overthrow the Islamic Republic in the face of the US attack. And secondly how, within the current political situation, can we strengthen and expand the party as a means for uniting and fostering solidarity of the working class and people in general and move them a step closer to seizing the political power.

We should re-emphasize that our approach here again is based on our position stated in our discussion paper "The Revolution in Iran and the Tasks of the Communists". The main points of that article, specifically if war breaks out, should be taken up and adopted. In that paper we pointed out the followings:

- 1-Organising resistance against the disintegration of the society with emphasis on setting up units of Freedom Guards and taking control of districts and neighbourhoods.
- 2- Kurdistan is the gateway to power. Kurdistan should be brought under the political and organisational power of the communists. The creation of a mass armed political party in Kurdistan is plausible.
- 3- Organising and uniting the workers and toilers in the face of the unemployment and the treat of destitution.
- 4- Forming a revolutionary and militant movement against the IR ad for promoting political freedom and defending equality particularly equality between women and men.
- 5- Securing intellectual influence within the left and in the society. Defending and promoting Marxism and promoting interventionist communism against nationalism, opportunism and left-nationalism.

Therefore we must pursue a very active policy, in the first instance against the break out of the war and secondly, in the event of the war breaking out in relation to the war

Our general political and Propagation tasks

We must oppose the war and perpetrators of the war. We must patiently and boldly expose the real intentions of both sides of the war. We must persistently, thoroughly and actively, expose the policies and the approaches of the Islamic currents, the anti-imperialist nationalist forces and the pro-west nationalists. We must pay special attention to the following forces with a view to expose and isolate them:

- Forces that while opposing the war, or in the aftermath of the break out of the war, call on the proletariats and the people to support the regime or one of its factions. Expose the phoney and reactionary contend of all the patriotic and nationalistic demands and slogans
- Forces that merely contend themselves with anti-regime position. Forces that are only interested in the "overthrow" of the regime at any costs and have no objection to the pro-west nationalist forces and their anti-regime activities advocating the downfall of the regime with the aide of the US. Forces that overlook the imperialist and new world order policies behind the war. Forces that in one way or an-

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- other consider the war as a positive development for their movement and practically support the US.
- Forces that out of their political haplessness lookup towards the US and advocate a wait and see-policy
- Forces that under the pretext of “this is not the proletariats war” are propagating pacifism and indifference

A - Active Policy against the Islamic Republic

It must be borne in mind that the outcome of the political development in Iran can not be shaped by the amount and volume of our agitations and the extend and influence of our TV programmes. There is no historical evidence that a popular broadcaster has accomplished a revolution. The fate of the society first and foremost is decided through our strength, the power of organised and united people around our communistic policies.

As mentioned above the threat of war and in particular the start of war would change the condition in which we operate. Our policy is not aimed at scaremongering but to educate and unite people. On this basis our practical work must be directed at neutralising the IR, changing the balance of power in favour of our movement and our party and seizing the power from the Islamic Republic and the reactionary currents. To this end the following tasks will move to the top of our list of priorities:

- 1- Agitation and mobilisation of the working class and the revolutionary masses against the militarisation of the society, workplaces, neighbourhoods, schools and universities and the suppression of political freedom and the worsening of work conditions. Advocating and mobilising the defence of democratic rights as a means of mass mobilisation of people against the Islamic Republic.
- 2- Control of neighbourhoods- empowering people especially in the event of war breaking out, efforts to set up self-defence committees and other organs to protect and organise self-help groups. Seizing power from the regime and replacing it with Party or non-party organs of power. Confiscating all the government's properties and those belonging to the mosques and religious institutions. Declaring the content of the “Declaration of the Overthrow of the Regime “as the governing laws of the country.
- 3- Advocating independent arming of people and the need for people and revolutionary organisations to be permanently armed and to join the Freedom Guards. Speeding up the formation of the Freedom Guards in Kurdistan and other parts of Iran. Advocating the importance of joining the Freedom Guards and taking over the control of the workplaces, neighbourhoods, schools and universities from the regime. Advocating the need to take over the military barracks and arm depots in order to maintain the supply of arms and ammunitions. The command centre and the units of Freedom Guards would have a vital role to play.
- 4- Immediate establishment of revolutionary cells or units of Freedom Guards within the armed forces in order to render the regime's armed forces ineffective in the event of the war and use it against the regime. Our slogan at the onset of the war would be to seize the power from the Islamic Republic. The guns should be turned around and aimed at the IR and all the reactionary forces.
- 5- Developing the capacity to defend against the occupation by the US and forces link to it or forces trying to impose themselves on the country.
- 6- Without a strong Party organisation on the ground and without an extensive network of communist leaders the above tasks can not be implemented. Therefore we need to hasten our attempts to set up the Communist Committees.
- 7- We need to make sure that in the event of any upheaval resulting from political or military intervention by the US, the people of Kurdistan in the main cities are capable

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of defending themselves. We must rise up against the nationalist forces that will pour in from across the borders. Kurdistan is one of the most important centres of power for the communists. We must make sure that Kurdistan remains a bulwark of communism and freedom.

- 8- Establishment of Communist Committees in workplaces, mobilisation and organisation of workers against unemployment and destitution and mobilising the workers from key industries as a decisive force in dealing with the situation.
- 9- With the militarization of the society the regime will undoubtedly, in an attempt to save itself, resort to terror and suppression and will embark on eliminating communist and workers' leaders and political activists. During these crucial times we must deny the regime the opportunity to touch these leaders. We must keep the highest level of alertness both for the party and the political activists. We can not afford to have these activists arrested by the IR. Our constant vigilance and ability to protect these leaders and activists and offer them temporary or permanent protection is the key to our success.

C- Our Policy outside Iran

We are aware that our party lacks the resources to organise communities outside Iran against the war. But we can definitely play an important role. Expecting our organisation in the UK for instance, to lead the anti-war campaign in that country is unrealistic. This is the task of the communists, the working class and the freedom loving people in that country. Outside Iran we will pursue our political work and awareness raising tasks. As an internationalist, we expect the working class in these countries to come out against the war, and in the event of the war, to turn against their own governments with a view to bring them down. Protests against the war, important as it is, is not sufficient to stop the war. Our strength, the strength of our class, is in its ability to stop the production. The Iraqi experience has proved this. The bourgeoisie must be paralysed. This is the task of the people in Europe and the US. Contending with protests and demonstrations offers the bourgeoisie a window of opportunity- with the help of the marginalised left and the syndicalists in these countries- to escape unharmed. The communist activists and workers in the factories must be called upon and ask them to halt production and turn the guns against their own governments. We certainly should call on the people in Europe and the United States to come to the forth and stop the war and put pressure on the workers and the communists to turn against their governments.

We must declare that in the event of war breaking out, it is not only the duty of the workers and people in Iran to bring their government down, but it is also the duty of the workers and soldiers in other countries to turn their guns against their own governments . We must expose the opportunism of the traditional leftist currents, syndicalists and the social democratic currents. This is an opportunity to take the working class away from the control of these currents. Now and in the aftermath of a socialist revolution we will need the support of the working class.

Our policy on the anti-war movement has been published in our papers. Here we touch on the headings:

To oppose the threat of the US attack against Iran we must mobilise the largest possible number of people around the simple demand of No to US Warmongering. Any addendum to this simple and clear demand will limit the scope of this campaign and disperses the ranks of people. We aim at organising the biggest possible campaigns against the US warmongering.

We need to be aware of the attempts of the Islamist currents to highjack these protests. These forces will try by attributing these protests to Islam buy credibility for political Islam and the Islamic Republic. Any Islamic connotation is a direct blow against the anti US warmongering campaign and plays into the hands of the most reactionary forces in the history of humanity.

Furthermore any Islamic inclination of these protests will drive away a large section of the people who, rightly, detest Islam and will keep them away from joining these protests and consequently serving the US policy. We oppose and stand up to any attempts to Islamising these protests. **Continued on Page 4**

Victory in France

Workers and Youth Defeat the French Government

Interview with Nicola Dessaux, a communist activist and a communist organiser engaged in the workers and youth struggle against the imposition of the CPE (The First Employment Contract) in France. This interview was conducted on the last day of the strike.

The victory of the workers and the youth over the right wing government in France marked a welcome development in favour of the workers movement in Europe. This victory was complemented by another successful strike by the public sector workers in Britain who came out in defence of their pension rights and staged the biggest mass strike since the 1926 general strike.

KOMONIST wishes to thank comrade Nicola for his time and wish him further success in his struggle against capitalism.

KOMONIST: The French society is experiencing a wave of social unrests. The youth revolts in the suburbs and the current struggles against the imposition of the CPE has once again put France on the map and drawn the attention of the revolutionaries across the world.

What are the underlying socio-economic factors that have led to such radical mass struggles at this particular time?

Nico: Since the seventies, unemployment in France has continuously grown. Now, there's something like four millions of unemployed people and seven millions of precarious jobs, which means one-third of the total workforce. Officially, this situation started with the oil crisis, but it is clear that bosses use unemployment as a means of pressure on labour costs and on working-class demands. During the eighties, the left-wing "government" closed all the big factories and mines, in order to suppress the "workers citadels". Unemployment is not a result of an economic situation, but a weapon in the hands of bosses. And now, it is the turn of small factories, with a few hundreds workers, which are closing down one after another. During the same period, the number of students has grown exponentially, as the suppression of professional formations turned many people toward universities. So, it has become very common for people with high diplomas to find a job that, ten years later, didn't need any qualifications. And it's also very common to be an unemployed after years of university training.

In November 2005, during the riots, Media were speaking of "ethnic gangs" and "unschooled" people". But when the trials began, as there was thousands of arrests, they discovered that many rioters who burned bins and cars were "white" people, with good education but no job. Or "coloured" people, born in France, schooled in France, but who were victims of racist discriminations in the labour market. All of them were living in poor suburbs where the unemployment rate is very high. After the riots, the government announced measures for youth jobs. CPE is officially one of these measures. Even if it is a part of a plan to suppress the CDI (full-time contract), which workers consider to be the norm. The CPE introduced the possibility for the bosses to fire a young worker without any explanation, during the first two years of his / her employment. The youths feel it as a strong injustice, and unions are very angry as it is a direct attack against the labour code.

So in February 2006, the students of Rennes, in the west of France, launched a strike against this CPE. This spread among all universities: 64 of them voted for the strike and students began to block the campuses – a new way of struggle in French universities. Then, after the high schools went on strike and began to block campuses also. Under the pressure of this movement, all the twelve unions called for a joint demonstration across the country, which gathered some three millions people.

This is the first time a struggle in defence of the labour laws started from the universities. It's very significant of the current situation: French students really feel themselves to be future workers – or unemployed – and most young workers have the experience of university or at least high schools.

KOMONIST: The International media and the bourgeois commentators are attaching a great deal of importance to the split and rivalries between ruling politicians. How significant are these internal differences within the government?

Nico: The rivalry between the Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin and the Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy is not new, as both want to be the right wing candidate for the presidential elections of 2007. In itself, it is not really significant, as the right wing is traditionally divided. But everybody feels

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that the government is unable to handle the crisis, and the fact that right-wing MPs agreed to discuss directly with the unions, which is the role of the government, shows there is a political crisis. At best, they will benefit from the rejection of the right wing. Remember, in April 2002, the fascist candidate was in the second round of the presidential election, a situation which permitted Jacques Chirac to be elected with 82 % of the votes. In reality, the fascists didn't get so much more votes than in the last elections. But the Socialist candidate, Lionel Jospin, lost four millions votes. Four millions of workers which usually vote for the left didn't vote because they condemned the right-wing policy of the Socialist party. Now, we face the same lack of alternative, even if the extreme-left – which is very strong in French elections – has better chances to benefit from the struggle. The main problem is... its fear of political power.

This is a very important issue for the struggle. The national coordination of students, which gather delegates from all universities on strike, asks for the withdrawal of government. But they can't go further in that direction, as the question of political power is not really and clearly discussed in the movement.

KOMONIST: The solidarity between the workers and their unity in action is a welcome development. What has prompted this unity? How organised are these struggles? Are there any formal or informal cooperation between the workers and the students?

Nico: Unions fear the CPE to be the first attack against the full-time job, as the government plans to launch a new type of contract which will suppress full time jobs. That's why all the unions, including the most moderate ones, agreed to refuse it. But without the students' movement, they won't have been so radical. In itself, this union unity is rather a surprise, as in spring 2003, during the struggle against the retirement reform; one of the biggest unions (CFDT, moderate) supported the government against the strike. Now, they joined the movement. This was a first victory for the students.

On the rank-and-file level, the unity was also a strong part of the struggle for students. Quickly, they called on workers, sent activists to the factories, called associations of the civil society to join, and done a great job to get this unity. The national coordination of students called for general strike, and some unions joined this call, locally and nationally. Even if most workers go on strike only once a week, for the biggest demonstrations, it enables worker activists to take part in common direct actions like road and port blockings.

KOMONIST: What have been the roles of the established unions? Where do they stand in this conflict?

Nico: As I explained, they play a big role in the biggest demonstrations, and they have adopted an unusually radical attitude. We should not be lured by this, as there is a strong difference between the demands of unions and of students. Unions ask for the withdrawal of CPE only, and the national coordination of students has a very complete agenda for the withdrawal of all laws that organize unemployment and precarious work and life in France.

One aspect of the movement is the refusal of leadership, which is a very strong feeling among the students. The national coordination of students, which meets every week in a different university, waited a long time to elect spokespersons, which changes each week. So the Media are not very interested to interview them. As a result, the president of the national union of French students (UNEF) is considered by papers and TV as the leader of the student movement, even if students don't recognize him as their representative. The workers unions also took a long time to admit the delegates of the coordination of students in their discussions, and prefer to discuss with the students unions, which are not very strong but are established. So, the students' defiance towards leaders and unions has benefited the unions' leaders.

KOMONIST: What are the different trends within this movement? What are the vanguards and militant leaders calling for?

Nico: This defiance against leaders is also defiance toward organised political trends. A lot of activists take the movement seriously, but they're generally discrete about their political or union affiliation. This is a rather common feature in the French student movement since twenty years ago.

A typical trait of demonstrations is students wearing political stickers on their coats, but with the name of the organisation cut out! Anyway, the Trotskyites – which are an important feature of the French left – are active in the national coordination, the anarchists are active in the rank-and-file movement, and the French communist party, which was almost void of the youth, has come back. It would be very time

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consuming to detail the nuances between all of them. What's clear is that a lot of students who weren't at all aware about politics are now interested and wants to get involve in a new way.

KOMONIST: your struggle so far has been very successful. What would, in your view, constitute a satisfactory outcome?

Nico: Now, the CPE has been withdrawn. First President Chirac asked, even if the law was signed, that it was not to be put into real application! Later, right-wing MP's agreed to come up with new proposals very soon, but unions still asked for the withdrawal first – and they won. In itself, it is only a small victory, as the problem that youth faces is precarious work and life, not only CPE, and their demands were larger than this. But this was clearly what was planned by most of the unions, which fear the radicalization of the movement and would prefer to negotiate the “end of crisis”. But the movement has probably gone too far for this time. The most radical students still consider themselves to be in the struggle, even if most universities have ended the strike. In some towns, direct actions still continue but on a smaller scale.

KOMONIST: Your struggle has generated a great deal of sympathy and support from many quarters. Revolutionaries from all parts of the world are watching you struggle with interest.

Nico: The movement of French students and workers have been an important struggle. It opens more questions than it solves problems, as after the withdrawal of CPE, work will still be precarious and students sill have hard times to find it. But the fact is a full generation of young people discovered the power of struggle and discussed its own future it is in itself a victory and will produce experienced and radical activists. It's our task to discuss the limits of the struggle and how to take it over, how to challenge the capitalist state and its government and how to challenge this society.

The Fourth Plenum of the Central Committee Continued from Page 13

The Plenum run out of time and was not able to discus items 7 and 9 and they were referred to the political bureau for consideration.

The Plenum also agreed to hold the party's first congress before the end of the current year and also agreed on the procedure to elect the delegates to the congress.

A number of resolutions, amongst those submitted to the Plenum, were also debated and adopted. The resolutions and the discussions of the fourth Plenum will be published in the party's publications.

The Plenum unanimously elected Koorosh Modarresi to the post of the secretary of the Central Committee (Party Leader). According to the newly adopted plan the leader of the party is also member of the political bureau. The Plenum elected a further 20 people to complete the twenty one member political bureau. The elected members are: Azar Modarresi, Asad Golchini, Asad Nodinian, Azam Kamguian, Aman kafa, Iraj Farzad, Bahram Modarresi, Soraya Shahabi, Hossein Moradbeigi (Hameh Soor) Khaled Haj Mohammadi, Rahman Hosseinzadeh, Saleh Sardari, Abdullah Darabi, Fateh Sheikh, Koorosh Modarresi, Mozafar Mohammadi, Majid Hosseini, Mohammad Fatahi, Mahmoud Ghazvini, Mosrafa Asadpour, Nasan Nodinian.

The Plenum concluded its proceedings with the concluding speech by Koorosh Modarresi and with the signing of the Intrnationale.

At the first meeting of the political bureau, held immediately after the Plenum, Fateh Sheikh was unanimously elected as the chair of the Political Bureau. Also a Leadership Committee made of 10 members was elected. The members of the Leadership Committee are: Asad Nodinian, Aman kafa, Bahram Modarresi, Soraya Shahabi, Hossein Moradbeigi (Hameh Soor) Khaled Haj Mohammadi, Rahman Hosseinzadeh, Abdullah Darabi, Koorosh Modarresi, Nasan Nodinian. According to the new plan the secretary of the Central Committee will also assume the post of the secretary of the Leadership Committee. Finally Koorosh Modarresi nominated Rahman Hosseinzadeh as the deputy secretary of the party and his nomination was put to vote and he was unanimously elected to the post of deputy secretary of the Party.

Central Committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist

April 18, 2006

Communiqué on:

**The Fourth Plenum of the Central Committee of the
Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist**

The Fourth Plenum of the central committee of the Worker-communist Party of Iran – Hekmatist was held from 14 to 16 April 2006. A delegation from the leadership of the Worker-communist Party of Iraq had been invited. The proceedings started with a minute silence in commemoration of all those who had fallen in the path of socialism and freedom and in memory of Mansour Hekmat.

The Plenum agreed the procedure to conduct the plenum and the following agenda:

- 1- Reports – assessment of the Party’s activities since the previous Plenum
- 2- Re-organisation of the leadership organs to meet the current requirements of the Party
- 3- The political situation in Iran, the threat of war and the Party’s policy
- 4- The situation of the movement to overthrow the regime, the leftist forces and our position
- 4- The working class movement and the Party’s policy
- 6- The Situation in Kurdistan and our immediate tasks
- 7- Our policy on stationing our forces in Iraqi Kurdistan
- 8- Policy towards Komala and the nationalist forces in Iranian Kurdistan
- 9- Our policy towards the international leftist and communist forces
- 10- The Party’s first congress
- 11- Resolutions
- 12- Election

On the first item of the agenda, report to the plenum, Koorosh Modarresi, the secretary of the Central Committee (CC), Rahman Hossienzadeh Deputy Secretary of the CC and Fateh Shaikh the Chair of the Political Bureau and the secretaries of the main committees and organs of the Party presented their reports and dealt with questions concerning the progress of the party since the third plenum. The reports while focusing on the advances of party highlighted the lack of preparedness and the ability of the party to respond to challenges of the present critical political situation in Iran.

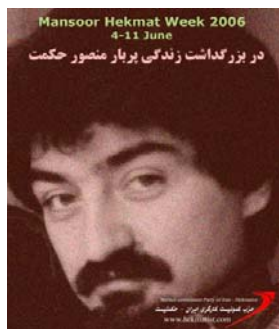
The Plenum while approving the assessments presented called for raising the awareness at all levels of the party, in particular the central organs and called on the party’s cadres to prepare themselves for the new political developments in Iran.

On the issue of restructuring the leadership organs to deal with the needs of the current situation, the Plenum adopted the plan proposed by Koorosh Modarresi . The new plan is aimed at providing a more focused and yet flexible leadership and integrate decision making and executive elements of the party into the political bureau. This plan allows for the political bureau to elect, from its membership, a Leadership Committee under the auspices of the Party Secretary (leader of the party). This plan was unanimously approved.

The common theme of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th items on the agenda of the Plenum was to analyse and discuss the consequences of the possible US attack against Iran and its impact on the political development in Iran, the working class movement, the leftist forces, the situation in Kurdistan and finally the actions and stance of the left and right wing forces. The Plenum discussed these issues at length and managed to derive important conclusions.

The Plenum also approved a resolution calling for adopting a series of articles published by Koorosh Modarresi entitled “Nuclear crisis or Crisis with a nuclear pretext” as the official document over nuclear issue.

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In Commemoration of a Prolific Life

Mansoor Kekmat Week

4 - 11 June 2006

A week of lectures, seminars, discussions and stalls and exhibitions to commemorate the life of Mansoor Hekmat, the founder and leader of the Worker-communism and his contributions to Marxism and the emancipation of the working class.

Marx- Hekmat Society – London, UK

Saturday June 3, 12noon to 4pm

- “Dark Scenario” and the Communist Policy – Fateh Sheikh
- Communism and Women’s Question, Before and after Mansoor Hekmat – Soraya Shahabi
- Mansoor Hekmat’s Contribution to the theory of State – Iraj Farzad

Mansoor Hekmat and Socialism – Koorosh Modaressi

Marx Society – Koln, Germany

Saturday June 10, 2006, 5 to 9pm

New World Order and Interventionist Communist Policy – Fateh Sheikh

Marx Society - Stokholm, Sweden

Sunday June 5, 2006. 2pm

Mansoor Hekmat and the Communist Movement in Iraq – Rebewar Ahmad

Mansoor Hekmat and the Political Development in Iran – Rahman Hosseinzade

Copenhagen – Denmark

Monday June 5, 2006, 3pm

Tribute to a Great Marxist – Mahmood Ghazvini

Helsinki – Finland

Saturday June 10, 2006, 3 to 6pm

Mansoor Hekmat and the Class Struggle in Iraq – Saman Karim

Mansoor Hekmat and the Women’s equality Movement in Iraq – Ala Faraj

Mansoor Hekmat and the Interventionist Marxism – Esmael Vaisi

Oslo-Norway

Saturday June 3, 2006 12noon to 4pm

Mansoor Hekmat and Nationalism – Abdullah Sharifi

Mansoor Hekmat and the New World Order – Dariush Niknam

Toronto – Canada

Saturday June 10, 2006, 2 to 5pm

A Journey through Mansoor Hekmat’s Communism – Iraj Farzad

Stalls and Exhibitions in:

London, Köln, Hamburg, Berlin, Kassel, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Toronto, Copenhagen, Helsinki and Brussels