

UKRAINE REELING AFTER ATTACKS ON POWER GRID

by our Eastern European Affairs correspondent

THE RUSSIANS continue to pound Ukraine with daily rocket and drone attacks as their troops hold the line all along the western front. Civilians are being evacuated from Kherson in anticipation of a new Ukrainian push on the southern provincial capital liberated in the early day of the war and the Russian authorities briefly suspended their participation in the “grain” deal after a Ukrainian attack on the Russian Black Sea Fleet off Sevastopol.

Ukraine is reeling under a hail of drone and missile attacks in the ongoing Russian effort, now into its third week, to degrade the Ukrainian national grid and disrupt its gas supplies. Puppet president Vladimir Zelensky says Russian forces have “seriously damaged” about 40 per cent of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, in particular thermal power plants and hydroelectric power plants.

The missile strikes on the energy system were called “catastrophic” at an emergency meeting of the puppet government in Kiev last weekend. Power cuts have led to water-rationing and black-outs across the country. The power grid of Ukraine is on the brink of collapse with more than 40 key facilities hit on Saturday and Sunday.

Last week the Russians suspended their participation in the agreement that allowed for safe passage for Ukrainian grain exports across the Black Sea following massive drone attacks on Russian naval and civilian ships involved in the sea corridor. The Kremlin said the Ukrainian attack had been supported by British military advisers and many expected the Russians to mine the sea roads off Odessa in retaliation. But the Kremlin has agreed to restore the humanitarian corridor following appeals from Turkey and the United Nations and a pledge from the Ukrainian side not to use the corridor as a cover for military operations.

Meanwhile in Moscow the Russian government is considering restoring the old Soviet State Planning Committee to boost production. This new “GosPlan 2” committee would, however, be limited to state security and the defence sector as the post-Soviet bourgeois Russian constitution specifically states that the economy must adhere to market principles.

Russian communists, however, say that strategic planning is the key factor in developing the economy.

Yuri Afonin, the deputy leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), told viewers on Russia-1 TV that: “A strong economy is the basis for victory at the front, for strengthening defence capability and for future development.



• Energy system hit hard.

“We must think and calculate our steps for years to come to avoid situations like the freezing of Russian gold and foreign exchange reserves in the West that so shocked our liberal economists in high positions. They say, this is not according to the rules of the world. We must understand that now there are no rules in the world.”

Back in the Donbas, Donetsk communists are working hard to speed their merger with the CPRF now that the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) has joined the Russian Federation. Although the Donetsk communists backed the anti-fascist revolt that led to the establishment of the DPR in 2014, the communists were squeezed out of the DPR parliament by petty, sectarian politicians who constantly blocked the Donetsk communists from campaigning on their own independent platform.

Now the DPR, which retains its full name, comes under the

constitution of the Russian Federation and these sectarian ploys no longer work.

The Communist Party of

the DPR will become a regional branch of the CPRF and preparations for its founding conference are now in full swing.

FUND

A reader whose maths is better than ours pointed out that we were £400 out in our last report. We, in fact, only needed £1,523 to hit our target for October. Sadly we didn’t get it. A last minute push for the last week of the October appeal brought in £960 but we missed our target by £463. Still many thanks to all those who helped us on our way including the veteran Essex supporter who gave us £100 and the Cleckheaton reader who topped up his sub renewal with an extra tenner.

The November fighting fund starts now and we need every penny to keep our communist paper going. Every week the *New Worker* argues the case for communism. Every week our communist weekly campaigns for peace and socialism. Your donations keep our suppliers happy and our presses rolling. All donations, big or small, count. Please send them to: *New Worker* Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘*New Worker*’.

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

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

INSIDE

New journey
for a new era

...p3

West wants
world
domination

...p5

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

The Road to Sharm el Sheikh

SO RISHI SUNAK is going to Egypt after all for COP27 – or to give it its full name, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. There he'll meet his master, Jo Biden, as well as the leaders of Franco-German imperialism and the rest of the imperialist pack gathering at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh for the largest annual conference on climate change.

The woman Sunak kicked out of Downing Street not only shunned the UN jamboree but put the block on the King's attendance as well. This was not surprising. Liz Truss filled her mercifully short-lived government with climate-change deniers such as Jacob Rees-Mogg. She had ties with the anti-climate change lobby, and she was also a vocal advocate for the role of gas as a transition fuel.

Sunak initially followed Liz Truss's footsteps, saying he was far too busy to go to Egypt next week. But mounting pressure from his own camp and fear that his absence would be exploited by Boris Johnson changed his mind.

Johnson, who is going to grandstand at Sharm el Sheikh, was the host at last year's conference in Glasgow. There imperialist leaders and their minions trumpeted their self-proclaimed green credentials whilst the largest delegation came from the fossil fuel industry.

Unsurprisingly, little came out of the COP26 conference apart from the usual platitudes.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer says "caving in to criticism is not leadership. Real leadership is seizing your seat at the table". But by overturning another dismal Truss diktat the new Tory leader shows that he's at least prepared to listen to the global demands for international action to cut planet-heating emissions.

All the imperialist leaders, with the obvious exception of Donald Trump, pay lip-service to the environmental protection and climate change lobbies. None of them, however, are prepared to challenge the super-profits that the banks and corporations get from their fossil fuel investments.

The wave of record heat-waves, floods and the wild-fires that swept across the world in the summer has added a new sense of urgency to the call for action to tackle the climate emergency. Whilst recognising that climate change was the ultimate cause of all these disasters, the imperialists ignore the eco-lobby's call for sustainable developments and continue to put profits before people.

Last year the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report that said climate change is "widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and some trends are now irreversible, at least during the present time frame".

But there is still time to limit climate change. Strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases could quickly improve air quality, and over the next 20–30 years global temperatures could stabilise.

"There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change," says Sunak. "There is no energy security without investing in renewables." But whether his government is prepared to take action to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deliver on the commitments to finance climate action in developing countries remains to be seen.

Russia wants answers over leaked Truss' text

by Ilya Tsukanov

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wants answers regarding the mysterious "It's done" iPhone message allegedly sent by then-Prime Minister Liz Truss to the American foreign minister moments after the sabotage attacks against the Nord Stream network in late September.

Europe lost access to up to 110 billion cubic metres worth of natural gas when a series of explosions rocked the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines carrying Russian gas to Germany via the Baltic Sea.

A series of explosions knocked out three of the four strings of the Nord Stream network on 26th September. Western officials and media immediately began singing in unison that Russia blew up its own \$20 billion pipeline infrastructure for reasons unknown. The Kremlin accused the West of an "unprecedented act of state terrorism" involving Nord Stream, but did not name any specific states, with President Vladimir Putin only hinting involvement by the "Anglo-Saxons" (typically a reference to Brits and Americans in Russian usage).

After a comprehensive, month-long investigation, however, the Russian Ministry of Defence concluded that the Royal Navy was behind the sabotage. And last week a US defence and national security news outlet reported that amongst the information suspected to have been

leaked from Truss's "hacked cell phone" was the aforementioned text message between the now former UK leader and the US top diplomat.

Internet entrepreneur and free-speech activist 'Kim Dotcom' mentioned the "It's Done" message in a Twitter thread on Sunday, shortly after British media ran a piece on Truss's hacked phone.

"How do the Russians know that the UK blew up the North Stream pipelines in partnership with the US? Because @trussliz used her iPhone to send a message to @SecBlinken saying 'It's done' a minute after the pipeline blew up and before anybody else knew?" said the former German businessman who now lives in New Zealand.

"iCloud admin access rocks," Dotcom sarcastically wrote, referring to the Apple service allowing for iPhone text messages, files, photos and other information to be saved 'to the cloud' and accessed by authorised computers (thus making user files vulnerable to hacking). "It's not just the Five Eyes [Western intelligence] that have backdoor admin access to all Big Tech databases," Dotcom added, referring to the intelligence alliance of Anglosphere nations including the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. "Russia and China have sophisticated cyber units too."

"The funny thing is Govt officials with top security clearance still prefer using iPhones over their NSA & GCHQ issued

encrypted shit-phones," Dotcom wrote.

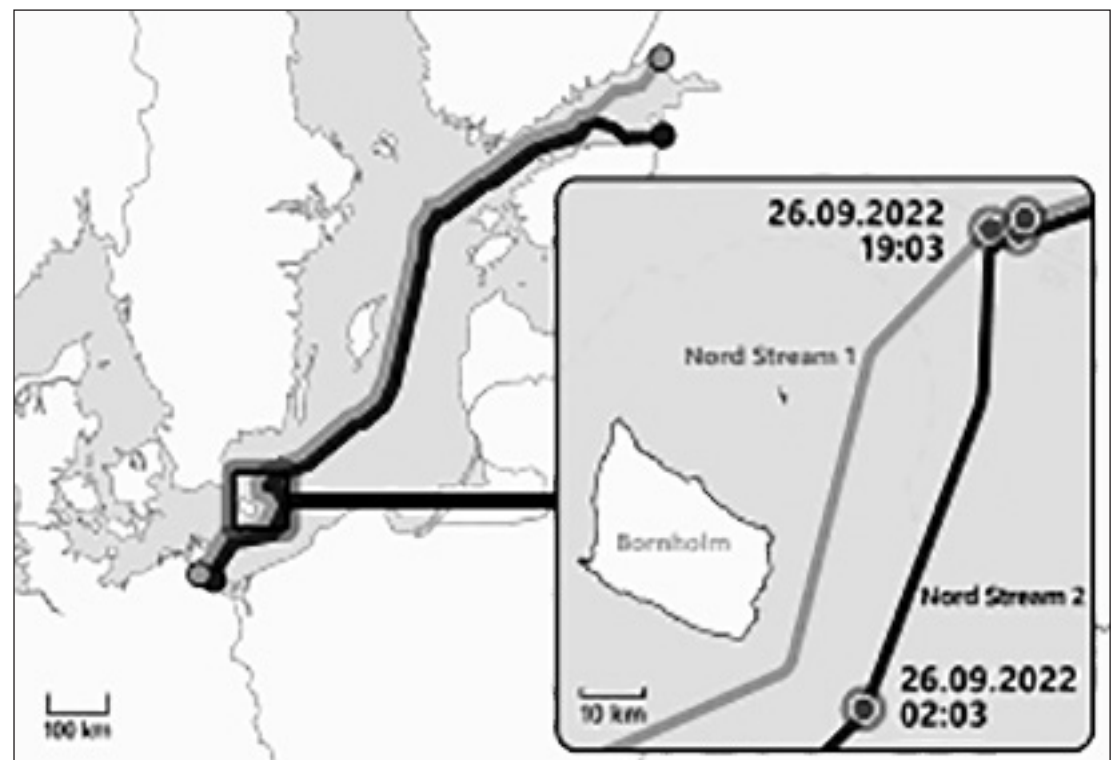
"To be honest, I don't care who got this information and how. I'm interested in London's answer to the following question: Did Prime Minister Liz Truss of Britain send a message to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken immediately after the Nord Stream gas pipeline was blown up with the words 'It's done'?" said Zakharova.

The spokeswoman suggested that "millions of people around the world" were waiting for answers to the question of how the planet's energy security was undermined, "and what role the Anglo-Saxons played in this terrorist attack".

The damage to the Nord Stream network has robbed Central and Western Europe of a major traditional source of natural gas ahead of the winter heating season. Yamal-Europe and Soyuz, two major Russian overland pipelines delivering natural gas to Europe, have also been halted, or experienced a major drop in usage, sparking questions about the region's energy security.

Late last month, French President Emmanuel Macron complained that Paris's American allies had jacked up the price on natural gas deliveries to Europe, and that Europeans were being made to pay "3–4 times" more than Americans for the same gas. "That is unfair. These are double standards," Macron complained.

Sputnik



• Nord Stream pipelines and damage points.

Workers' Notes

A New Journey for a New Era

by New Worker correspondent

NCP General Secretary Andy Brooks joined other communists, academics and friends of China at a seminar at the Chinese embassy in London on Monday.

The symposium on the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was opened by the Chinese ambassador Zheng Zeguang, who gave a 20-minute summary of the main points of the Congress that met in Beijing last month.

This was followed by short interventions by all the guests including the NCP leader, who said: "The 20th Congress was a congress of victors and we are certain that there'll be plenty more victories to come as the Chinese people march forward to build a modern, socialist China."

"The New Communist Party of Britain stands with the Communist Party of China in the common cause of the communist movement, and we will continue to strive to strengthen the efforts of everyone working in solidarity and friendship with the Communist Party of China and the people of China."

Labour pains

by New Worker correspondent

WORKERS involved in every aspect of human life, from cradle to grave, are presently involved in one or other stage of industrial action. Even trade union officials and Britain's last miners are amongst many others taking action.



• Zheng Zeguang and Andy Brooks at the seminar.

Firstly, the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) in England and Wales is opening a four-week ballot on industrial action next Thursday. This comes after a month-long consultation that saw 75 per cent of the membership reject the below-inflation pay offer from Westminster and Cardiff.

To encourage support for action, the RCM announced to both maternity staff and pregnant women that midwives will not take any type of action that would put women or babies at risk, stressing that if members vote for industrial action they will not break the National Midwives Council code of conduct as in the 2014 strike.

breaking point

Suzanne Tyler, an RCM leader, said the action was only the second in 140 years. She had warned "NHS leaders and Governments in England and Wales that staff were at breaking point and a below inflation pay award would see midwives heading for the door. Our members feel undervalued, under paid and are now angry that the Government has not listened to them".

The union made the less-than-rousing statement that: "If members vote in favour of taking industrial action when the ballot closes in December the next steps will be decided by the RCM Board."

North of the border midwives have already voted for industrial action over pay. Last

Thursday the RCM announced that with a turnout of 61 per cent, over 88 per cent voted for taking industrial action consisting of a strike, with an even higher 94.6 per cent voting for industrial action short of a strike. This was a rejection of an "insulting" five per cent offer to midwives and maternity support workers.

The RCM said that a revised offer made the previous week "made no meaningful difference to the initial offer for most RCM members across Scotland, in fact it is a reduction for many".

Jaki Lambert, Scottish Director for the RCM, added: "Our members' feelings on their pay and the derisory offer from the Scottish Government are patently clear. It reveals their disgust at a massively below inflation pay offer that goes nowhere near to catching up with inflation or makes up for years of pay freezes and pay stagnation."

"This is though not a decision they will have taken lightly. Indeed, they will have taken it with very heavy hearts, because they are committed to providing the best possible care for women, babies, and their families. They will continue to do that even if we do move to take industrial action. There is though still time to avert that. I repeat our call to the Scottish Government to put a meaningful pay offer on the table that recognises that financial challenges our members face and gives them the pay award they deserve."

Blast from the past

by New Worker correspondent

MEANWHILE Arthur Scargill, former general secretary of the National Union of Miners (NUM) at the time of the 1984-85 strike, has been on the picket lines again in a strike by miners. This time the dispute is at the National Coal Mining Museum (NCM) at Wakefield in Yorkshire.

The museum guides are mostly former coal-miners who took action in search of better pay, which has only increased by just £1.16 per hour since 2008, to £10.35. The offer they are rejecting is worth only 4.2 per cent, the striking guides are seeking a £2,000 flat-rate increase.

restated

Unison's Wakefield District secretary Sam Greenwood said: "Last week we attended what we believed would be pay negotiations with the employer but museum representatives merely restated that pay offer that had previously been made and stated they were not prepared to improve upon it."

"The museum is blaming a 'pay cap' that they state the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has imposed

upon them but they have provided Unison with no evidence of this."

The ballot for industrial action resulted in 94.4 per cent supporting strike action on an 87.7 per cent turnout.

A guide told BBC Radio Leeds that: "We're not being unreasonable. We've been forced into the action that we've taken here and we're hoping that this action that we're taking will make them sit down and realise that this is for real."

If no agreement is reached, this week's strike will be followed by further strikes on weekends and at Christmas.

Deadly serious stoppage

by New Worker correspondent

AT THE other end of the life cycle, workers at the Co-op Funeralcare coffin factory at Shieldhall in Glasgow walked out on Halloween until the following Monday. Unite the union said that the Co-op had failed to make an acceptable wage offer to meet the cost-of-living crisis. The Co-op offered less than five per cent according to Unite. The factory makes 100,000 coffins per year for the business, which account for 16.5 per cent of the British market.

Willie Thomson, a Unite regional officer, said: "Our members have been forced to take this action as a result of a below inflation pay offer. The Co-op must recognise the contribution our members make and support them during the current cost-of-living crisis."

"Our members were essential workers during the pandemic, they were working when a lot of us were at home."

"They were ensuring that there was a significant supply of coffins at that time, and now they feel let down by the employer, an employer that, as a co-operative, likes to say it does things a wee bit different."

The Co-op said that they had a "strong supply of coffins" and that nobody would be going to meet their maker improperly boxed. "In spite

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of the difficult trading environment, we have offered all of our colleagues at the coffin factory a fair pay increase. We are confident that the combined base pay and our production bonus for roles within the coffin factory remain highly competitive", it claimed.

If talks at conciliation service ACAS do not bear fruit strike action will resume on the 14th November.

On and off strikes

by New Worker correspondent

STRIKE ACTION by the postal workers will continue despite legal action by the bosses. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) said that after it called off planned strikes due in the next fortnight by 115,000 postal workers, at a meeting on Sunday.

Royal Mail lawyers threatened the CWU with legal action over the validity of ballots.

CWU Acting Deputy General Secretary Andy Furey said: "We entirely understand the anger felt by many over the decision, but we believe it is a necessary move to protect our dispute."

"Our members have been facing down serious harassment from the highest levels of Royal Mail as they defend

their industry and those communities they serve."

He warned that: "They will not be forced into submission so easily, and we will be reminding the company of their determination at ACAS in the coming days."

On Monday the CWU announced strikes will resume on the 12 November and said that "Royal Mail have just declared war on your postie", as they will vote to take further strike action against "the dismantling of a 500-year-old service".

The union dismissed the new offer, which it said included more unacceptable changes and a derisory seven per cent two-year pay offer. It accused Royal Mail of imposing change rather than negotiating. Particular bugbears include imposed changes to Sunday working and start times.

Median pay at Royal Mail is £32,465 per year, but for postal delivery workers it is much lower at £25,777.

This offer excludes Parcel-force and fleet employees, new entrants will be brought in on lower terms. It will also be introducing owner-drivers into Royal Mail, a cost-cutting measure similar to that used by notorious mini-cab firm Uber.

Royal Mail claims that a lower volume of parcels is damaging its business, resulting in a £219 million loss in the first half of 2022. Royal Mail CEO Simon Thompson has been accused of wanting to break up Royal Mail to focus on parcels similar to DPD with "gig economy"



• Postal workers take action.

conditions to match.

On the Rails

by New Worker correspondent

ON Tuesday RMT announced further strike action in its long-running dispute with most of Britain's railway companies.

In particular, the brand new east-west £20 billion Elizabeth Line in London will see its newly launched "through running" curtailed after only one day because of a series of rail strikes, according to Transport for London (TfL).

TfL is due to launch the

first direct trains from Reading, Heathrow and Shenfield to and from central London on Sunday 6th November; but that is now unlikely. TfL say the strike will force it to abandon through running on 7 and 9 November and revert to the line operating as three separate railways – meaning passengers seeking to go beyond its core central London route will again have to change at Paddington or Liverpool Street.

Firework lovers will have to find different routes to attend two of the capital's biggest fireworks displays, at Alexandra Palace and Battersea Park, as there will be no trains to the nearest stations on the big day.

At Network Rail, RMT members, including signallers, will strike next Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. On Saturday and Wednesday, RMT staff at 14 train firms will join the dispute.

Govia Thameslink Railway, which operates Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern, advised passengers not to use its trains on Saturday. On Thursday, RMT's 10,000 workers on the London Underground will go on strike over pensions and the axing of station staff posts, effectively shutting the Tube for the day. RMT members on the London Overground will also take action next Thursday.

Echoing wartime advertising, GTR advised its passengers only to travel if "absolutely necessary" on the three rail-strike days, when only about 20 per cent of its trains are expected to run. There will also be a knock-on impact on each day following

a strike day.

Also in London, Croydon Tramlink drivers belonging to drivers' union ASLEF will be re-balloted to allow further walkouts in their continuing dispute over pay – with a "lengthy shut down" before Christmas on the cards.

Croydon tram drivers will be able to resume their strikes from 21 December if ASLEF members, who have already walked out six times this year, vote to continue action.

Finn Brennan, ASLEF district organiser for London, said operator FirstGroup had offered two per cent for last year and 4.75 per cent for this year, both below the rate of inflation. Earlier this year, in June and July they had taken strike action on the same issue, with a further two days, early last month.

Also on the railways, ASLEF has refuted the allegation that poor service on the northern Transpennine Express (TPE) is due to ASLEF. Instead the union accuses the company of not employing enough drivers for a long period of time and it now expects drivers to work on rest days to run services.

TPE is also trying to mislead the public that they have a rest-day working agreement "ready to go" that just needs signing off by the Department for Transport.

Mick Whelan, General Secretary, confirms that TPE has not spoken to ASLEF about rest-day working.

It is a common problem in many other companies as employers think they can save some money by persuading the drivers they do have to work on their rest days.

20 years ago this week in the New Worker

A DELEGATION of 40 former residents of the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia last week came to London to begin legal proceedings, claiming millions in compensation for being driven out of the island by British authorities to make way for a US air base.

Around 5,000 islanders were forcibly evicted during the 1960s and '70s and driven into exile in Mauritius and the Seychelles where they have scraped by in deepest poverty.

Now they are calling on Mr Justice Ouseley to rule in the High Court that the

claimants have been treated by the British government in such a way as to entitle them to claim compensation and the return of their property.

Diego Garcia is one of the Chagos islands, which are a British overseas dependency.

Delegation member Bernadette Dugasse told the court: "When the Americans came to the island, they treated people very badly. They removed us from our home with guns."

"They would come in the night. You didn't have time to pack anything. They ordered us to go on board ship and we left with nothing."

The islanders won a High Court ruling in 2000 that they were entitled to return to their homes, but the Foreign Office has delayed their return by commissioning environmental studies on whether the repopulation of the islands is feasible.

Delegation spokesperson

Oliver Bancoult said: "The British government has not shown very much goodwill towards us in the negotiations and they have not taken any positive action."

The Foreign Office report concluded that whilst it might be possible for a small number to live in the outer Chagos islands for a spell, it would be too expensive to rebuild the infrastructure to allow them a long period of resettlement.

American anthropologist Jonathan Jennes conducted an alternative study. He said: "It is fatuous to imagine the islands cannot be resettled. They were settled, successfully, for several generations."

The islanders want to return and have a right to return. The archipelago is in any case already 'successfully settled' by the military and the British Indian Ocean Administration in Diego Garcia.

World domination is what the West wants

by Ilya Tsukanov

THE WEST seeks to establish and maintain its control over the rest of the planet using “dirty” and “bloody” means says President Vladimir Putin.

“World domination is what the so-called West has staked in its game, but the game is unquestionably dangerous, bloody and I would say, dirty,” Putin said, speaking at the plenary meeting of the Valdai Discussion Forum last week. “It denies the sovereignty of nations and peoples, their identity and uniqueness, and has no regard whatsoever for other countries.”

The Russian president’s comments come amidst the continued unprecedented tensions between Moscow and the West over the long-running Ukrainian crisis, which escalated into a proxy conflict between Russia and NATO earlier this year.

Putin also suggested that the so-called ‘rules-based’ international order declared by the USA and its allies actually has only one “rule” – designed to give those who created it “the opportunity to live without any rules whatsoever” and enabling them to “get away with anything, no matter what they’ve done”.

Attempts to do away with cultural, social, political and civilisational diversity and to “erase any and all differences have become almost the essence of the modern West” and is aimed at ensuring “the disappearance of the creative potential in the West itself and the desire to contain and block the free development of other civilisations. There is also a direct mercantile interest here, of course,” Putin said, pointing to the West’s efforts to impose its consumer culture values on others to expand their markets.

“It’s no coincidence that the West claims that its culture and world-view should be universal. Even if they don’t say so directly, they behave this way. In fact, their approach insists that these values be



• President Putin, right, at the Forum.

unconditionally accepted by all other participants in international communication,” he said.

The origins of the current crisis have their roots in the destruction of the Soviet Union three decades ago, Putin

said. “The collapse of the Soviet Union destroyed the balance of political forces. The West felt like a winner and proclaimed a unipolar world order in which only its will, its culture, its interests had the right to exist.”

“The so-called West – I use this term conditionally of course, there is no unity there, it’s clear that this is a very complex conglomerate – has taken a number of steps in recent years and especially in recent months toward escala-

tion,” Putin said, describing the state of affairs in the world today. “They’re always trying to escalate... They’re fuelling the war in Ukraine, organising provocations around Taiwan, destabilising the world food and energy markets.”

Putin characterised last month’s terrorist attack against the Nord Stream gas pipeline network as an “outrageous” step, adding that unfortunately “we are witnessing these sad events”.

Pointing to the Western governments’ admission that they financed the events leading up to the 2014 Euromaidan coup in Kiev, which gave rise to the current crisis in relations between Russia and the West, Putin suggested that they’ve openly demonstrated their “loutish” nature.

He warned that the West’s confidence in its “infallibility” is a “very dangerous” delusion, with there only being “one step” between this self-confidence to the idea that “they can simply destroy those they do not like, or as they say, to ‘cancel’ them”.

“History will put everything in its proper place and will not ‘cancel’ the works of the greatest and broadly recognised geniuses of world culture, but instead those who today have decided for some reason that they have the right to dispose of world culture at their own discretion. The self-conceit of these people is off the charts. But in a few years no one will remember them, while Dostoevsky, Tchaikovsky and Pushkin will live,” Putin stressed.

The neo-liberal “American-style” model is experiencing a “doctrinal crisis” that has “nothing to offer the world except to preserve their dominance”.

Emphasising that Russia is not a natural “enemy” of the West, Putin urged the West’s liberal leaders and elites to stop seeing “the hand of the Kremlin” behind all their internal domestic problems.

“In the conditions of the



continued on page 6...

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current tough conflict, I'll say a few things directly: Russia, being an independent, distinct civilisation, has never considered itself and does not consider itself an enemy of the West. Americanophobia, Anglophobia, Francophobia, Germanophobia are forms of racism, just like Russophobia and Anti-Semitism or any manifestation of xenophobia," Putin stressed.

But there are "at least two Wests," he added, including the positive, traditional one with its immensely rich culture, and the aggressive, neo-colonial one, whose dictates Moscow will never accept. Russia has resisted Western hegemony and defends "its right to exist and develop freely" but at the same time Russia does not have any plans

everyone. There's no need to harbour any illusions. There are essentially two paths for humanity: either to continue to accumulate the burden of problems that will inevitably crush us all, or to try to find solutions together, solutions which may not be ideal, but which work, and which are capable of making our world more stable and safer," Putin said.

start talking

He emphasised that the West would need to start talking to rising alternative centres of power. "I have always believed and continue to believe in the power of common sense, and therefore am convinced that sooner or later both the new centres of a multipolar world order and the West will have

platforms are necessary that are outside the control of national jurisdictions, and which are "secure, depoliticised, automated and not dependent on any single control centre." He expressed confidence that such a system could be built.

Multipolarity is a necessity for the planet, including Europe – to restore the latter's political and economic agency, which is "very limited" today Putin said.

"We are standing on a historical frontier. Ahead of us is probably the most dangerous unpredictable and at the same time important decade since the end of the Second World War."

Commenting on Russia's ongoing military operation in Ukraine, Putin said he thinks about the losses in life resulting from the con-

wanted to "show" everyone "who's the boss in the house...everyone (and ladies please excuse me for the expression) has to sit on their buttocks and not quack. It will be how we say it will be. I simply cannot explain these actions any other way," Putin said.

Putin said Russia had no other choice but to recognise the Donbas republics in February and to come to their defence and said that the unity of the Russian and Ukrainian people is an undisputable historical fact. Only Russia could guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty, as Russia "created" Ukraine during the Soviet period, he said.

In the decades after the end of the Cold War, Russia's consistent message to the West and NATO was "let's all get along", like in the Soviet children's cartoon *Leopold the Cat*, but in almost all the main areas of potential co-operation, Moscow got the simple answer "No", he said.

Regarding the latest developments in the Ukrainian crisis and the concerning reports from Russian officials and military commanders that Kiev may be preparing to use a dirty bomb, Putin said he welcomes the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) initiative to check Ukraine's nuclear facilities.

"We are for it. This needs to be done as quickly as possible, as thoroughly as possible, because we know that right now the authorities in Kiev are doing everything possible to cover up the traces of these preparations," Putin said.

The Russian president warned that it would be "easy" for Kiev to assemble a dirty bomb, and that Moscow has a rough idea about where it's being created. Ukraine could use a Tochka U or another missile in its inventory to detonate the bomb somewhere and accuse Russia of launching a nuclear strike, Putin said.

Sputnik

• Anti imperialist protest in Democratic Korea.

China's young communists a firm will and unwavering faith

AS 15 delegates to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) from the frontline stood in front of cameras to take questions, their young faces brimming with confidence and strength, they used witty remarks to present achievements in their professional areas, which impressed the audience. Yet they are just 15 amongst the Party's more than 96 million members.

The CPC celebrated its 101st birthday this year but it still shines with young vitality; more than a third of members are under 40 and many more young people are keen to join.

How has the Party kept its sheen amongst its members? Does the passion for contributing to the Party remain strong in those youngsters? Are the young people in China ready to contribute to achieving the second centenary goal for China under the CPC leadership, which is to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation?

Born in 1990, Yu Ruofei, leader of the Gansu Blue Sky Rescue team, has devoted himself to rescue work for 10 years. During this time he has risked his life saving people in the devastating earthquake in Sichuan's Ya'an in 2013, an 8.1-magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015, and floods in Myanmar in 2015.

Amongst his more than 370 rescue missions, a small episode in Nepal

left Yu with the deepest memory. It was when he had to carry away the body of a victim that had been crushed by beams. "There were frequent aftershocks, and some of our team members were not experienced enough. So we were torn about how to go ahead," Yu said.

"I also hesitated. But being a Party member, I must stand up." When he finally carried out the body, Yu was welcomed by huge applause from the crowd. "Standing up to help when people are in trouble is the best embodiment of the responsibilities on the shoulders of Party members. So I took their applause as affirmation of the Party member's ability, as well as responsibility, which I am so proud of," said Yu.

Yu joined the Communist Party in 2014 and was selected as a delegate to the 20th CPC National Congress. When standing under the spotlight, in front of cameras at the venue for delegates in Beijing last month, Yu, dressed in the blue uniform of Blue Sky Rescue, said that during the revolutionary age, countless young Party members sacrificed themselves on their initial mission when joining the Party.

"This spirit has been spurring the youth of today to keep fighting," he said. "I am responsible for contributing my efforts to make the country stronger. We will fulfil the promise of youth with our actions."

Although the Party celebrated its 101st founding anniversary in July, it still shines with young vitality. The CPC had more than 96



to itself "become some kind of new hegemony", nor to impose its values on anyone or "interfere in someone else's backyard."

Putin suggested that amidst the escalating economic, humanitarian, military and political crises plaguing the planet, it is unlikely that any country anywhere will be able to "sit things out". Therefore, solutions of a global scale need to be reached, even if they are imperfect ones.

"The crisis has acquired a truly global character and affects

to start a conversation based on equality about our common future. The sooner, the better, of course."

The "new world order" that replaces the current one "should be based on law, be free, original and fair. Thus, the world economy and trade should become more fair and open," Putin said, benefiting the majority of nations and people, not individual corporations. At the same time, technology should reduce inequality, not increase it.

He added that new international financial

flict "all the time", and that the crisis in Ukraine is a part of the "tectonic changes" taking place "in the entire world order".

"Why was it necessary to carry out a coup d'état in Ukraine in 2014?" Putin asked, recalling the origins of the current crisis. "[Ukrainian President Viktor] Yanukovich actually gave up power and agreed to hold early elections... Why was it necessary to carry out a bloody anti-constitutional coup under these conditions?"

The answer, he believes, is that the West

million members at the end of 2021, more than one-third of whom were below 40 years old, and student Party members accounted for three per cent of the total.

The average age of the 2,296 delegates to the 20th CPC National Congress is 52.2 years. Amongst them, 1,371 delegates, or 59.7 per cent, are below 55-years-old, and 18.9 per cent are below 45-years-old, the official data showed.

In a report delivered to the 20th CPC National Congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee on Sunday, Xi Jinping said that a nation will prosper only when its young people thrive. China's young people of today are living in a remarkable time. They have an incomparably broad stage on which to display their full talent, and they have incomparably bright prospects of realising their dreams.

Spirit inherited

The special bond between youth and the Party can be traced back to the anti-imperialism and anti-feudalism struggles in the early 20th Century.

The May 4th Movement, which started with mass student protests on 4th May 1919, is widely considered a great patriotic and revolutionary campaign pioneered by advanced young intellectuals and joined by people from all walks of life to resolutely fight imperialism and feudalism.

It was a time when young people risked their personal safety and their lives to help the country when it was suffering from feudal oppression and imperialist domination. Several delegates at the Congress, including Yu, believed that the spirit to fight for a better life for people is still strong amongst young Party members.

"We are living in a time when people are so much better off than those revolutionary martyrs and some of China's Generation-Z have already become part of the backbone force in our society. For example,



• Young Chinese communists fly their flag.

young village officials have led their villages out of poverty. This proves young people's vigour and ability," Yu noted.

Born after 1990, Li Min, Party secretary of Shuangdang village in Jiangsu, had a thorny childhood after she lost her arm during an accident, which made it hard for her to find a job. Five years ago, she was selected as Party chief of Shuangdang village, with more than 900 households. Being savvy about e-commerce, Li began to encourage her fellow villagers to engage in this area. Since then, 400 households in the small village have engaged in e-commerce and many have escaped poverty as a result.

The young cohort in China have witnessed China rapidly rising to the central stage of the world, but they also realised that they have new tasks and a new role in contributing to the country, said Zhang Yiwu, a professor at Peking University. He noted that this realisation has made youngsters in the country willing to take on the unique historical task of achieving the country's second centenary goal, adding that they also have firm faith and confidence in the country.

Cheng Ke, a 32-year-old Party member who works in a Chengdu chip company, has closely studied the report Xi delivered to the 20th CPC

National Congress on Sunday.

"People in our industry have been warned of 'dangerous storms' and we are fully prepared," he said.

Cheng was referring to attempts by the USA and a small number of other Western countries to crack down and hold back China's technological development. In a recent move, the US government released a broad set of technology export controls, including what was said to be the "harsh" ban on shipments to China of certain semiconductor chips made with US equipment.

But the young worker has found his calling, which illustrates the history from 1915 to 1921,

including the New Culture Movement, the May Fourth Movement and eventually the establishment of the CPC, as documented in the popular TV series *Juexing Nian-dai* (Awakening Age).

"Like us, those revolutionary ancestors also faced outside threats and internal struggles. Back then, few believed the Party had a future and now some in the USA think they can single-handedly cut off China's road to technological development. But what they all miss is the strong will of Party members," said Cheng. "Even during that dark time, there were passionate young people struggling to find light for the country. The CPC founders made it

when they established the CPC; we will also make it when we say we will achieve self-reliance in technology."

Unfading faith

Some are also wondering how the CPC has maintained its appeal to a group who grew up in peace, showered with the country's booming economic and social development, and who are the cohort most exposed to the West.

On a cold morning in mid-October, 36-year-old Zhang Xiujun arrived at Tian'anmen Square at around 3am to watch the flag-raising ceremony held at the Square. "On my way there I saw a huge line in front of the gate. People coming from all over China gathered for the flag-raising ceremony. Their enthusiasm warmed up the chilly morning," said Zhang, who came to Beijing from Lutong in East China's Hangzhou.

Zhang said that getting up at midnight to witness the flag-raising ceremony at Tian'anmen Square shows the faith that is engraved in CPC members' bones. "The pride of seeing the gleaming national flag at Tian'anmen Square is beyond words. My pride at being born in this country rose up with the flag," Zhang said.

A survey conducted by *China Youth Daily* in

September 2021, which included 2,064 young people, found that 97.7 per cent of respondents believe the spirit of the CPC is the soul of the Chinese nation, and the spirit of the Long March, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and "Two Bombs, One Satellite" ("Two Bombs" refers to the atom bomb and later the hydrogen bomb and the ICBM, while "One Satellite" refers to the Chinese satellite) were regarded by the majority of respondents as the most inspiring spirit amongst all.

Bai Jing, a 30-something-year-old official from the procuratorate in Inner Mongolia, said that she joined the Party in 2004 after she witnessed how Party members fought bravely during the fight against SARS in 2003.

"There was a news article at the time, saying those CPC members were like beams of light. I wished I could be that light, so I joined the Party, hoping to be a person like them," said Bai.

A great and glorious Party is what every youngster who pursues progress would yearn for, Li Molan, a doctoral student majoring in Marxism in a Chinese university in East China's Jiangsu, said.

Li joined the Party 10 years ago. He said that this long journey helped him realise that the "hearts and minds of people" matter most to the CPC, and what differentiates the CPC from other political parties is its devotion to "serving the people and winning their hearts".

The Party has been a core force for the country's progress for the last 100 years, and this remarkable history has strong appeal for ambitious youngsters, said Zhang, noting that Chinese youth see their country growing more and more prosperous under the Party's leadership.

This means they want to be part of it, so that they can also contribute to the country, he said.

Global Times



• Yu Ruofei.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

One anniversary not talked about is the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis or Caribbean Crisis.

It was on the 22nd October that the US imperialists announced that their spy satellites had detected long-range missiles being transported into the Republic of Cuba by the Soviet Union. The US imperialist chieftain Kennedy blustered and threatened the Soviet Union and Cuba. A naval blockade was imposed on Cuba and it was threatened with invasion, and the USSR was threatened with a nuclear strike.

The USSR under the leadership of the revisionist Khrushchev (a leader whose treachery was only outdone by Gorbachev) caved into the USA in the space of six days. On the 28th October 1962 Khrushchev announced: "The Soviet government, in addition to previously issued instructions on the cessation of further work at the building sites for the weapons, has issued a new order on the dismantling of the weapons which you describe as 'offensive' and their crating and return to the Soviet Union."

As comrade Kim Jong Il said: "The modern revisionists yielded to the US imperialists, promising that they would withdraw their missile bases as well as all weapons they had deployed in Cuba."

This was done without consulting the Cuban leadership of comrade Fidel Castro or involving the Cubans in the negotiations. It was an example of a sordid deal between big powers at the expense of a small country.

It was an act of abject surrender to US imperialism, an act of capitulation. The USSR was completely humiliated, it lost face. Its ships were searched by the USA. The message sent to the imperialists was that the socialist countries could be pushed and bullied by imperialism. It established a precedent for the imperialists to interfere in socialist countries and limit their weaponry or decide where it could be deployed.

The Cuban missile crisis also showed that smaller countries cannot rely on big powers for their defence. The DPR Korea is therefore absolutely correct in developing a nuclear deterrent.

Dermot Hudson
South London

Dear Comrades

With mid-term elections due in the USA the current unpopular Democratic Party administration is becoming desperate. They may feel that a successful strike against liberated Russian-speaking areas of Ukraine would be a good PR move and so continue to put maxi-

mum pressure on President Zelensky for this purpose. The USA would like their war to continue for as long as possible for a number of reasons.

Firstly, of course, to make lots of money. Not only for the arms manufacturers who will have full order books for decades, but also to line the pockets of corrupt politicians throughout Western world. A great deal of deadly weaponry is being sold on the black market to the delight of terrorists everywhere.

Secondly, it is in the interest of the USA to see its European allies, which are also competitors, weakened politically, economically and industrially. The European Union has caused itself to become reliant on limited supplies of vastly overpriced gas from the USA. France and Germany may be starting to realise that they have been led into a trap, but Macron is no Charles de Gaulle and Olaf Scholz is a pale shadow of Angela Merkel. One may start to wonder how many of the top unelected and unaccountable EU bureaucrats are pawns of the USA.

Thirdly, a major geopolitical goal of US imperialism is to promote regime change in the Russian Federation. That game has failed and the dream of turning a great nation into a neo-colonial backwater and mere supplier of cheap commodities has faded.

The USA may now start to lose interest, abandon the Ukraine project and move on to its next theatre of disaster. US-promoted wars have left a trail of death and destruction in a long list of countries. Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Ukraine, with Taiwan possibly next.

Meanwhile, as the horrors of war continue in Ukraine not one imperialist leader has had the courage, or honest endeavour, to stand up and make a call for negotiations to end the tragedy. In scenes reminiscent of the Somme battlefields of the First World War thousands of young

Ukraine soldiers have become cannon fodder. Western-supplied missiles are used to shell civilian areas, particularly in Donetsk city where so far almost 15,000 people have died since 2014.

A comprehensive peace agreement needs to address the following issues:

- The 2014 coup that led to the establishment of a pro-Western authority with Nazi backing was totally illegal.

- The expansion of NATO eastwards in opposition to agreements made when the USSR collapsed has crossed Russia's red line.

- Russian-speaking regions of Eastern Ukraine have voted overwhelmingly to join the Russian Federation.

Robin Kett
East Anglia

Dear Comrades

The most controversial visit by Pope Benedict to Bahrain has bewildered many who could not find a reasonable justification for the Pontiff to squeeze this visit into his busy schedule.

Many have called on the Pope to cancel the visit and victims of torture have written to him to urge him to condemn the ruling House of Khalifa. Religious scholars who were abused by the regime have also submitted testimonies of their horrific ordeals at the regime's prisons.

The visit will be devoid of real meaning if the Pontiff does not meet the highest-ranking religious figure in the country, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim. He lives in exile since his deportation in 2018 following the slaughter by the Pope's hosts of six innocent young native Bahrainis at his doorstep.

The families of the Bahrainis on death row have also written to the Pope asking him to raise their cases.

John Hughes
Bahrain
Freedom Movement
London

Diary

SAT 5 NOV

People's Assembly: National Demonstration. Assemble 12:00, Embankment, London WC2N 6NS.

SAT 5 NOV

Society for Cooperation in Russian and Soviet Studies: Christine Lindsey on Representation of Workers in Soviet Art. 14:00, SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6AB

MON 7 NOV

Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust: Andrew Murray on Competing Imperialisms: A New Cold War. 19:00. Hybrid meeting at Marx Memorial Library and Online. Book on MML website.

TUES 8 NOV

Socialist History Society: Kryss Katsiavriades on Iraq's cultural heritage: Theft of Artefacts following the US/UK Intervention. 19:00, Zoom Lecture. Register on SHS website.

WED 9 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Science as Technology. Online Seminar. 19:00-20:30. Book on MML website.

SAT 12 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Trade Union Solidarity with Palestinian Workers. Conference. 9:45-17:15, London. Details TBA.

SAT 12 NOV

Keep NHS Public: SOS NHS Conference 10:00-17:00, hybrid. 50-52 Camden Square, London, NW1 1XB. Register on KNHSP website.

SAT 12 NOV

Supporters of the Communist Front (Italy) in the UK: Remember the Soviet sacrifice in the anti-fascist war 13:30, Soviet War Memorial, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road SE1 6HZ (Imperial War Museum)

TUES 15 NOV

Society for Cooperation in Russian and Soviet Studies: Geoffrey Roberts on Stalin's Library. 19:00, SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6AB

FRI 18 NOV

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Soy Cuba (I am Cuba) 1964 Soviet-Cuban film 19:00. Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, CR0 1BD £5.80

SAT 19 NOV

Merseyside Marxist Book Fair: 11:30-16:30, The Casa, Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BP

MON 21 NOV

Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust: Vijay Prashad on Viewing decolonisation through a Marxist lens. 19:00. Hybrid meeting at Marx Memorial Library and Online. Book on MML website.

WED 23 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Science as Work. Online seminar. 19:00 Book on MML website

WED 30 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: John Bellamy Foster on Engels and the Second Foundation of Marxism. 19:00 Online lecture. book on MML website.

MON 5 DEC

Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust: Peter Nolan and Jenny Clegg on Understanding China in the new world order 19:00. Hybrid meeting at Marx Memorial Library and Online. Book on MML website.

SAT 10 DEC

Arise: Solidarity, struggle, socialism: Rally. 10:00 Conway Hall 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL. Register at www.mstar.link/arise22.

FRI 12 JAN

Marx Memorial Library: Screening of Barry Gardiner's film on fire and re-hire. Details TBA.

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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The war goes on and on...

by Theo Russell

AROUND 60 people attended a meeting at Hamilton House in central London last week organised by the Stop the War Coalition (StW) that included contributions from a number of trade union and peace activists, as well as a video message from Yurii Sheliazhenko of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement.

Sheliazhenko condemned NATO for sending “wave upon wave of weapons” whilst “the war goes on and on”.

“While Zelensky makes no moves towards a resolution,” he said, “Ukraine and Russia urgently need peace talks, and western governments must create the conditions for talks.” The Ukrainian pacifist spoke of “an army of well-paid liars and smears against the peace movement.” But he was upbeat about the peace plan proposed by billionaire businessman Elon Musk, which includes a fresh vote on the future of the regions that recently

joined the Russian Federation, Crimea to remain in Russia, and guarantees of Ukrainian neutrality.

Jamie Newell from the firefighters’ union, the FBU, commented that the British government “has a real cheek criticising Russia’s response to recent street protests, when they do exactly the same thing here”.

Speaking for StW, Lindsay German condemned the demonisation of anyone in Britain calling for peace talks such as the suspension of Angelo Sanchez after attacking British policy at the recent Labour Party conference. She also referred to comments by BBC correspondent Jeremy Bowen – who has been reporting from Ukraine – about the Western coalition’s targeting of civilian infrastructure in Iraq and the Saudi-led coalition’s bombing of Yemen (with armaments supplied by, amongst others, Britain).

Lindsay said Labour Party members had been told not to support StW’s position on Ukraine, and



former MP Emma Dent Coad, a member of the Socialist Campaign Group, had been blocked as a future parliamentary candidate for Kensington & Chelsea where she was Labour MP from 2017–19, amongst other reasons for speaking at StW protests.

“It’s a real denial of democracy in Britain where

if you raise any criticism of what our government is doing in Ukraine or call for peace you’re regarded as an appeaser of Putin,” she said.

“Meanwhile the British government has supported people going to fight in Ukraine, while none of the parties in parliament are speaking out against the

war. This isn’t just about Russia invading Ukraine, every time we send weapons to Ukraine it’s at the expense of our schools, our hospitals and our housing. There’s a clear connection between the expansion of militarism and austerity at home.

“So far Britain has given £2.5 billion to Ukraine,

and even neutral Ireland has sent non-military aid, so this is essentially a proxy war between Russia and NATO. This isn’t going to stop with Ukraine, we know about the AUK-US Pact and the situation around China, and we are seeing much greater moves towards confrontation and war.”

Speaking from the floor, a Unite member called for a new Labour Party that was “democratic, anti-war and pro-peace”, and said: “The British government should stop sending weapons to Ukraine because they are fascist, absolutely fascist, and they are brutally oppressing their own people.”

Members of International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity distributed leaflets, spoke to members of the panel and the audience, and one was lucky enough to speak from the floor. Unfortunately, many of the speakers said almost nothing about Ukraine, and over two-thirds of the panel contributions and the following discussion focused only on peace and trade union campaigns in Britain.

Picketing Broadcasting House!

by New Worker correspondent

NCP LEADER Andy Brooks joined other Korean solidarity activists protesting against the BBC bias at a picket outside Broadcasting House in central London on Saturday. The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) had called the protest to highlight the appalling bias of the BBC in its coverage of news from Korea that invariably reflects the lies of the American lie-machine and those of its south Korean puppets.

Discussions were held with passers-by and the media during the 90-minute protest that also called on people to stop funding

the state broadcasting network by cancelling their BBC licence fees.

Dermot Hudson, KFA chair, said: “Recently there was an incident in the West Sea of Korea in which a south Korean puppet warship intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) basically invading the DPRK and violating its sovereignty but the BBC falsely reported that the DPRK had infiltrated south Korean waters and fired at south Korea...”

“The BBC not only pumps out false propaganda against the DPRK but it is also a regime change agency. We should never forget the role of the BBC World Service in the past in undermining



and destroying socialism in the USSR and former socialist countries. Now the BBC is trying to do the same with the DPRK and

beaming its lies into the country. We must defend People’s Korea from regime change, from all attempts to force ‘reform’ or ‘open-

ing-up’ on People’s Korea.

“We, the Korean Friendship Association of the UK, believe in defending People’s Ko-

rea with No Ifs or Buts.

“We believe the BBC should stop lying about the DPRK and instead produce fair, accurate and objective material about People’s Korea.

“We say don’t pay your licence fee because if you do you are funding the BBC’s lies about People’s Korea.”

The NCP badge



£4.50 inc P&P from New Worker, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ.

Building a fairer society

A week after the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) drew to a close, the CMG Europe media group assembled experts from different fields to discuss key messages about the direction in which the world's most populous country is heading. On this special one-hour show, CMG Europe's Juliet Mann was joined by China's Ambassador to the UK, Zheng Zeguang, and a host of experts from across the world to consider exactly what that new journey will look like, and how it will impact on relations with the UK and Europe.

IN ANY discussion about the policies that have steered China's recent past, the topic of poverty alleviation is impossible to avoid. The numbers are well known – around 100 million rural residents lifted out of poverty in just eight years through 2020; 800 million in the last four decades; a middle class that has swollen to 400 million people. But the achievement goes far beyond incomes, into access to education, clean water, internet and transport connections.

That is the development strategy of China, one that goes beyond economic growth and puts people first. China cannot develop in isolation from the world and the world needs China for its development. And the message from the country's leaders in recent weeks has been a firm com-

mitment to that path.

The Chinese ambassador to the UK, Zheng Zeguang, shared his thoughts on how China and Europe can work together to tackle global problems. He told Juliet Mann: "China will respond to external uncertainties with its own certainty and inject positive energy into world development with its high-quality development and high standard opening up."

There are "several key messages that are essential for the future global order: that China vision of a fairer and more inclusive global order; a more co-operative global order; and more importantly about a global order that has a safety net for the left-behind so that everybody can benefit," said Yin Zhiguang, a professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University.

shares the fruits

David Ferguson, senior translation editor at the China International Publishing Group, agreed: "A huge amount of emphasis has been placed on shared development, which means that everybody shares the fruits. That was one of the fundamental bases of the whole poverty alleviation programme. Targeting poverty alleviation was designed to make sure that nobody was left behind. And I think that that fundamental concept of shared development, people-centred development, is something that President Xi places increasing emphasis on."



Balanced growth

On a panel focusing on China's economic development, guests discussed how China has ensured that its growth – powering the global economy for the last two decades – has also been sustainable. With a "trilateral, hybrid" structure built around a 60 per cent contribution from domestic private businesses, a 20 per cent participation from the state and a further 20 per cent from multinational companies, China has been able to create a modern economy, says Wang Huiyao, founder and President of Centre for China and Globalisation.

The challenge the country's leadership is now taking on is about

how to adapt governance structures designed for an economy of around \$2 trillion for an economy that has now grown to closer to \$20 trillion, noted Mark Ostwald, chief economist at AGM Investor Services.

As it makes those changes, other economies will have the opportunity to learn from them, says Stephen Perry, the Chairman of the 48 Club. "We may find ourselves where we could have been several hundred years ago when we used many of the innovations from China to make our industrial revolution happen," Perry noted. "It's important, I think, for every country around the world to participate in China in order to learn all these great

innovations which are going to be, in many cases, led from China."

One advantage China has in the course of its development is the long-term perspectives that its political system affords. The stability offered by the Communist Party means that rather than changing tack every few years, policies can be targeted decades ahead.

look forward

"It's astonishing to see a governance system, a governing party that's able to look forward 27 years and be able to make specific plans for what the country is going to be looking like then," said China International Publishing's Ferguson.

That philosophy is exemplified in the

commitments made to education at the CPC Congress. China's science and education strategy has been in place since 1995 and has evolved to focus on new areas of growth such as artificial intelligence and space technologies.

Environmental leadership

It is in actions, not words, that China's impact on the global economy is being felt, said Christoph Nedopil, Director of the Green Finance and Development Centre at Fanhai International School of Finance – and nowhere is that more obvious, or important, than the battle against climate change.

"Over the past years, based on its huge size and strategic capabilities in manufacturing and research, China has seized the opportunity to innovate and to develop globally leading bases for green transport and energy, and become the largest supplier of solar and wind power in the world. And I think this is just the beginning of a great opportunity for China to scale up infrastructure domestically and internationally," he said.

China's message to the world is to take a holistic view – thinking about people first, the panellists agreed, summed up in a message to the corporate world from Fudan University's Yin: "Business needs to include much more concerns of the society in general, the social responsibility not only in China, but also globally...engaging with stakeholders instead of shareholders."



• At the discussion.

Lula is back in Brazil!

by Ed Newman

FORMER president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party (PY) is now the president-elect of Brazil after the ballot held this Sunday, according to the results issued by the Superior Electoral Court (TSE). With almost 99 per cent of the votes counted, Lula obtained more than 50 per cent of the votes cast beating the current president, Jair Bolsonaro.

According to the country's election authority, Lula garnered 50.8 per cent of the vote compared with 49.2 per cent for Bolsonaro on Sunday.

"First of all, I'd like to thank all the comrades that are here with me. We had a fight with the machine of the state, not just a candidate, who tried to block us from winning this election. For everyone who went to vote, I want to thank you," Lula told a large applaud-

ing crowd.

Bolsonaro had been leading throughout the first half of the vote count on Sunday and, as soon as Lula overtook him, cars in the streets of downtown São Paulo began honking their horns. People in the streets of Rio de Janeiro's Ipanema neighbourhood could be heard shouting "It turned!"

"He's the best for the poor, especially in the countryside," said retired government worker Luiz Carlos Gomes, 65, who hails from Maranhão state in the poor northeast region. "We were always starving before him."

It was Brazil's most polarising election since its return to democracy in 1985 after a military dictatorship that Lula, a former union leader, has rallied against and Bolsonaro, a former army captain, invokes with nostalgia.

Bolsonaro promised to consolidate a sharp



• Lula and supporters celebrate.

rightward turn in Brazilian politics after a presidency that witnessed one of the world's deadliest outbreaks of COVID 19 in the pandemic and widespread de-forestation in the Amazon basin.

Lula promised more social and environmental responsibility, recalling

the rising prosperity of his 2003–2010 presidency.

Lula allies on Sunday said police had stopped buses carrying voters on highways even though the electoral authority had prohibited them from doing so. Brazilian media reported such operations were concentrated in the northeast,

where Lula has the strongest support. "What happened today is criminal. There is no justification for the [police] to mount roadblocks on election day," Workers Party President Gleisi Hoffman told journalists.

The Superior Electoral Court (TSE), which

runs Brazil's elections, said no-one had been prevented from voting, however, and declined to extend voting hours. The Federal Highway Police said they had complied with court orders.

Bolsonaro's four years in office were marked by proclaimed conservatism and defence of traditional Christian values. He claimed his rival's return to power would usher in communism, legalised drugs, abortion and the persecution of churches – things that did not happen during Lula's earlier eight years in office.

Lula is credited with building an extensive social welfare programme during his previous tenure that helped to lift tens of millions into the middle class, as well as presiding over an economic boom. He left office with an approval rating above 80 per cent.

Radio Havana Cuba

Digging their own graves

by Dimitri Sudakov

IT APPEARS that the Western media have devised another thesis that they need to hammer into the minds of Western people. In a recent CNN article about Armageddon, White House reporter Stephen Collinson called Vladimir Putin a "self-styled" president for the first time.

CNN depends on commercial and diplomatic support from the US government. Therefore, the broadcaster receives instructions on how to interpret things directly from the White House. The *New York Times* says CNN has spent millions covering the war in Ukraine.

Collinson does not try to come to terms with the fact that this "self-styled president" was elected by the overwhelming majority and why his popularity ratings go off the scale

compared with those of Western leaders. The goal is to hammer this idea into people's heads.

It's noteworthy that the ratings of CNN, as a television network that remains completely dependent on the White House, have been declining just as speedily as Joe Biden's ratings have.

According to Nielsen business services, the network attracted an average of 639,000 prime-time viewers this quarter, which marked a 27 per cent decrease from the previous year. CNN lags behind MSNBC, which fell 23 per cent in prime time over the same period, and Fox News, whose viewership grew by about one per cent. In general, the CNN audience has sunk by 54 per cent since Biden took office.

In a nutshell, the dependent US media are digging their own grave. Let's see how the "self-styled president" narrative is going to play out further. It seems to me that it is going to appear only in White House-controlled media outlets.

Pravda.ru

China–Vietnam summit cements bonds

by Fantine Gardinier

NGUYEN PHU TRONG, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, was the first world leader to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping after the Chinese Communist Party's historic 20th Congress last month. The meeting saw the two leaders pledge greater co-operation between the socialist states.

Xi told Trong that China would work to build a stable supply chain with its "comrade and brother" Vietnam, including encouraging Chinese tech companies to invest in Vietnam and promoting co-operation in healthcare, the digital economy, and efforts to

combat climate change. Many of these would take place via the Two Corridors, One Belt (TCOB), part of the Belt and Road Initiative focused specifically on China and Vietnam.

"China is willing to accelerate linking development strategies with the Vietnamese side, promote connectivity between the two countries and jointly build a stable industrial chain supply chain system," Xi said.

Trong pledged to remain non-aligned in global affairs, telling Xi his country would never allow a foreign military base on its soil or join an alliance against another country.

"Vietnam ... has made the development of friendship and co-operation with China the top priority in our foreign policy," Trong told Xi at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

The Americans have worked to divide China from its neighbours, especially in south-east Asia and the Pacific region, as part of a strategy to "contain" what they call Chinese "expansion", which Washington characterises as being done at the expense of other

states. The Pentagon's recently released National Defense Strategy calls for working with groups such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to build a "networked security architecture capable of deterring aggression, maintaining stability, and ensuring free access to common domains" – Washington shorthand for pushing nations to become hostile to China.

In the South China Sea, that has meant supporting other nations' territorial claims against China's and characterising ASEAN–China talks on writing a code of conduct for the waterway as Beijing bullying smaller nations.

Washington says it's willing to support ASEAN nations against Beijing, and one influential policy thinktank has even encouraged Washington to sabotage the ASEAN–China talks, then work with ASEAN to impose a new anti-Chinese document on Beijing.

By contrast, Xi and Trong agreed that "the Chinese and Vietnamese communist parties

must ... make every effort to promote socialist modernisation, never letting anyone interfere with our advancement and never letting any force shake the institutional foundation of our development," as Xi put it.

China is Vietnam's largest trading partner, with \$165 billion in bilateral trade between them in 2021 – a 24 per cent increase over the previous year.

There are some outstanding disputes, however, especially over an archipelago in the South China Sea known in China as the Xisha islands, in Vietnam as the Hoang Sa Archipelago, and to other nations by the English-language name Paracel Islands. The unsettled maritime dispute has led to clashes between their fishing and oil exploration vessels.

Xi is also due to receive several other world leaders later this week, including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan. **Sputnik**