

To Our Readers

The perspective of the monopoly-controlled media is that there are only, perhaps, a few thousand people in the world – or only a few thousand people who count for anything. There are the Presidents and Foreign Ministers; there are generals and big businessmen; there are sports stars, movie stars and music stars. As for the masses of people, they rarely appear in the monopoly-controlled media and then only as the objects of history, never as active participants with their own aspirations, agenda and struggles.

Breaking this blockade of silence against the working class and popular movements – giving voice to the independent thought and action of the people – is one of the decisive tasks of the mass workers press.

And make no mistake about it. Everyday, the workers and people are thinking and acting in an independent way. Sometimes this takes the form of big actions and social movements, such as strikes, mass protests, political conferences, and so forth. Sometimes this takes the form of people discussing the situation and looking into the problems facing society as well as solutions to these problems.

With the independent movement of the workers and people as our starting point, we aim to:

1) Report, as systematically and comprehensively as possible, on the actual movement and struggles of the people and reflect their thinking and concerns. In other words, we take the activity and thinking of the workers and activists very seriously and we call on them to do the same. Help everyone get a real picture of the conditions and struggles of the people by writing about your experience. Help strengthen the consciousness of everyone by making sure that our press takes up the important issues and provides the needed infor-

mation.

2) But simply reporting on the movement is not enough. The mass workers' press also aims to give direction to the movement. This includes concentrating attention on the burning issues of the day and especially on how to develop the independent political life of the working class and people. It means building the mass workers' press as a focal point for discussing the aims, agenda, strategy and tactics of the movement. It means using the press as a means to strengthen the independent organization of the workers and for mobilizing the people into independent po-

litical life. Again the success of this work depends on the participation of the broadest possible sections of people. Present your views on the political issues of the day. Join in the discussion about how to achieve the independent goals and agenda of the workers and people.

In short, the aim of our press is to help empower the workers and people themselves by enhancing their independent consciousness, organization and program. But people can only empower themselves and that is why we call on all our readers to join in this work.

Support the Struggle of the Egyptian People!

Stop U.S. Military Aid to Egypt!

The Obama administration is working to buy time for the ruling elite in Egypt by once again resurrecting the "now that we're there we can't leave" theme. According to Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the Obama administration will not cut off aid to the Mubarak dictatorship because, "There is a lot of uncertainty out there and I would just caution against doing anything until we really understand what's going on. I recognize that (\$1.3 billion) certainly is a significant investment, but it's an investment that has paid off for a long, long time." Not only must U.S. imperialism continue arming and financing the Mubarak regime now that it has been doing so for 30 years, but the Obama administration has also greeted the democratic movement in Egypt with the deployment of two U.S. warships to the Red Sea. As The Worker goes

to press, the U.S.-backed Mubarak regime remains in power and is stepping up its repression of the opposition. Already in the two weeks since the Egyptian uprising began, the regime has murdered over 300 people, hundreds have been arrested, and many tortured.

But the Egyptian people are not being intimidated. On the contrary, they are gaining momentum in their struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Mubarak dictatorship and to advance their national democratic movement. Demonstrations, strikes and other actions are organized every day. The people are defying the terror of the guns and tanks of the Mubarak regime in one confrontation after another. There is not a single town or village in Egypt that has not joined in the struggle.

The revolutionary spirit of

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the struggle in Egypt is an inspiration to the people of the whole world who can see that the people are uniting their ranks despite the repression. The growing organization of the uprising is seen especially in the emergence of popular organizations in the towns and villages which have taken charge of insuring that food and other necessary services are supplied through the efforts of the Egyptian people themselves.

U.S. imperialism's program of sponsoring reactionary regimes (such as Hosni Mubarak, the Shah of Iran, the Saudi Arabian monarchy, Saddam Hussein, etc.) as well as its all-around militarization and war in the Middle East and Central Asia is motivated by the drive of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class to plunder the oil wealth of the region and maintain its domination of this strategic part of the world. Since WWII, U.S. imperialism has carried out the 3-pronged U.S. strategy of "protecting" the region's "great natural resources" from the national liberation movements of the peoples by 1) direct military intervention, 2) supporting the aggressive Israeli state, and 3) building up reactionary local regimes.

It is precisely because of the growing opposition of the peoples to war and colonialism today that the Obama administration is pursuing its hypocritical two-faced policy of combining military aggression with political deception. While talking about "reform" in words, the Obama

administration is carrying out the "war on terrorism" in deeds. U.S. imperialism is trying to impose the law of jungle – declaring that it will launch military strikes at any time against any country in the way of its global domination. In the last two years and more, U.S. imperialism has set Central Asia and the Middle East on fire, occupying Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, attacking Pakistan and Yemen. The U.S. continues to pressure Syria and Iran and prepare for war against these countries. All along, the declared aim of the U.S. government has been to create a "new Middle East" in which U.S. imperialism imposes its economic and political dictate on every country. With absurd, doublespeak logic, the U.S. government is still claiming to be "bringing democracy" to the region.

In fact, not only in the Middle East and Central Asia, but throughout the world, the foreign policy of U.S. imperialism is based on militarism, interference and repression against the peoples. This entire foreign policy of militarism and war arises from the very foundation of the capitalist-imperialist system which is based not only on the exploitation of the U.S. working class but also on the superexploitation and plunder of peoples throughout the world.

But, we live in an era in which the oppressed peoples everywhere – in the Philippines and Indonesia, in Vietnam and Korea, in Cuba and Nicaragua, in China and India, across the whole of Africa and the Middle East –

have stood up and are fighting for their liberation. National sovereignty, the independence and equality of all peoples, the liberation of the oppressed is not something given the people by the ruling classes. Neither can the guns nor the lies of imperialism take it away. It is something the peoples themselves have asserted and fought for. It is a struggle, a demand, which arises from the very humanity of the people and is a practical problem taken up for solution. So too, the American people have risen and are continuing to rise against each and every aggressive war launched by our "own" government because, unlike the capitalists, we do not live by exploiting and oppressing other nations, and because we aspire to a world of peace and friendship amongst the people.

The American people must assert this aspiration by fighting for a democratic foreign policy based on ending all overt and covert U.S. intervention, on recognizing the sovereignty and equality of all countries, on withdrawing all U.S. troops stationed abroad and cutting off all U.S. military aid.

This is why all across the U.S. people are coming forward to support the Egyptian people's struggle against U.S. domination and to demand an end to U.S. military aid to Egypt.

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