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Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

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STUFF THE GOVT'S TEN-POINT PLAN Support Aboriginal & Islander People's Right to Self-Determination!

The Prime Minister's ten-point plan is the latest weapon in Australian imperialism's attacks on our indigenous sisters and brothers. The ten-point plan is another land grab for the pastoral lease holders who lease 40% of this continent. Just as the *Mabo* decision legalised two centuries of land theft -- the *Wik* court decision did not threaten the pastoralists. The High Court majority decision in *Wik* was that whilst native title can co-exist with pastoral leases, if there is any conflict, pastoral lease rights prevail. In effect, native title means that indigenous people can have only the land that Australian capitalism does not want.

After the initial period of subjugation an important objective of station management was to keep the local tribes on the stations by the provision of subsistence rations, in order to provide a pool of Aborigines with strong local knowledge to act as stockman. Station work was done in the "dry" and tribal activities were carried out in the "wet". The feudal relationship between the graziers and the Aborigines began to change in the mid-1960's when the Pastoral award included Aboriginal stockman. This decision was the result of a big campaign by the indigenous people and many white supporters. The pastoralist had not paid wages for 100 years! After the wage decision the "non-productive" Aborigines were forced off the stations.

The pastoralists, who until recently saw themselves as rural aristocrats, are now close to the poverty line. The income generated from wool and beef has declined, and they want to diversify into tourism and other profitable alternatives. As the land is legally only for grazing, other activities will interfere with the Aboriginal title to the same land.

The pastoral leaseholders include some of Australia's richest people. Some are members of the National Party and some are members of the Federal and State governments. The Australian Farm Journal reports that there is immense concentration of ownership of pastoral land in the hands of a small number of pastoral companies, privately owned companies and overseas interests. They are multi-million dollar enterprises controlling vast holdings under pastoral lease. One company alone holds 11.7 billion hectares.

The ten-point plan will wipe out what little benefit certain indigenous peoples got from *Mabo*. The Native Title rights are not the same as pastoral rights. They enable indigenous people to protect and enjoy traditional laws and customs but under the ten-point plan, their rights will be singled out to have their property rights wiped out; rights recognised in common law, the fundamental basis of the present bourgeois legal system

The redneck racists continue in their attacks on the High Court for the *Wik* decision, they are attacking the indigenous people, and they are trying to wipe all pretense of Aboriginal property rights.

It is crucial that the proletarians, oppressed and revolutionary people come out solidly in support of our indigenous sisters and brothers in this fight against national oppression.

For the Communists in the imperialist countries (such as Australia), it is even more important to adhere to this principle. Any hesitation. As Lenin explained, the proletariat of the oppressing countries must absolutely fight for the liberty of political separation for the colonies and the nations oppressed by "its own" nation. In a single, simple sentence, Karl Marx stated clearly, 150 years ago, Communist policy regarding relationships between peoples, nations and national minorities: "A people that oppress another one cannot be free."

Write:- CRCPA, GPO Box 474D, Melbourne VIC 3001

Lenin on the National Question

excerpts from: **THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND THE RIGHT OF NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION** (written in 1916)

IMPERIALISM, SOCIALISM AND THE LIBERATION OF OPPRESSED NATIONS

Imperialism is the highest stage of development of capitalism. Capital in the advanced countries has outgrown the boundaries of national states. It has established monopoly in place of competition, thus creating all the objective prerequisites for the achievement of socialism. Hence, in Western Europe and in the United States of America, the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat for the overthrow of the capitalist governments, for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie, is on the order of the day. Imperialism is forcing the masses into this struggle by sharpening class antagonisms to an immense degree, by worsening the conditions of the masses both economically—trusts and high cost of living, and politically—growth of militarism, frequent wars, increase of reaction, strengthening and extension of national oppression and colonial plunder. Victorious socialism must achieve complete democracy and, consequently, not only bring about the complete equality of nations, but also give effect to the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, i.e., the right to free political secession. Socialist Parties which fail to prove by all their activities now, as well as during the revolution and after its victory, that they will free the enslaved nations and establish relations with them on the basis of a free union—and a free union is a lying phrase without right to secession—such parties would be committing treachery to socialism.

THE MEANING OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS RELATION TO FEDERATION

The aim of socialism is not only to abolish the present division of mankind into small states and all national isolation; not only to bring the nations closer to each other, but also to merge them. And in order to achieve this aim, we must, on the one hand, explain to the masses the reactionary nature of the ideas of Renner and Otto Bauer concerning so-called "cultural national autonomy" and, on the other hand, demand the liberation of the oppressed nations, not only in general, nebulous phrases, not in empty declamations, not by "postponing" the question until socialism is established, but in a clearly and precisely formulated political programme which shall particularly take into account the hypocrisy and cowardice of the Socialists in the oppressing nations. Just as mankind can achieve the abolition of classes only by passing through the transition period of the dictatorship of the oppressed class, so

mankind can achieve the inevitable merging of nations only by passing through the transition period of complete liberation of all the oppressed nations, i.e., their freedom to secede.

THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY PRESENTATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF NATIONS

The proletariat of the oppressing nations cannot confine itself to the general hackneyed phrases against annexations and for the equal rights of nations in general, that may be repeated by any pacifist bourgeois. The proletariat cannot evade the question that is particularly "unpleasant" for the imperialist bourgeoisie, namely, the question of the frontiers of a state that is based on national oppression. The proletariat cannot but fight against the forcible retention of the oppressed nations within the boundaries of a given state, and this is exactly what the struggle for the right of self-determination means. The proletariat must demand the right of political secession for the colonies and for the nations that "its own" nation oppresses. Unless it does this, proletarian internationalism will remain a meaningless phrase; mutual confidence and class solidarity between the workers of the oppressing and oppressed nations will be impossible; the hypocrisy of the reformist and Kautskyan advocates of self-determination who maintain silence about the nations which are oppressed by "their" nation and forcibly retained within "their" state will remain unexposed.

The Socialists of the oppressed nations, on the other hand, must particularly fight for and maintain complete, absolute unity (also organizational) between the workers of the oppressed nation and the workers of the oppressing nation. Without such unity it will be impossible to maintain an independent proletarian policy and class solidarity with the proletariat of other countries in the face of all the subterfuge treachery and trickery of the bourgeoisie; for the bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations always converts the slogan of national liberation into a means for deceiving the workers; in internal politics it utilizes these slogans as a means for concluding reactionary agreements with the bourgeoisie of the ruling nation (for instance, the Poles in Austria and Russia, who entered into pacts with reaction in order to oppress the Jews and the Ukrainians); in the realm of foreign politics it strives to enter into pacts with one of the rival imperialist powers for the purpose of

achieving its own predatory aims (the policies of the small states in the Balkans, etc.).

It was precisely from the standpoint of the revolutionary struggle of the English workers that Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland from England, and added: "although after the separation there may come federation." Only by putting forward this demand did Marx really educate the English workers in the spirit of internationalism. Only in this way was he able to oppose the revolutionary solution of a given historical problem to the opportunists and bourgeois reformism, which even now, half a century later, has failed to achieve the Irish "reform." Only in this way was Marx able—unlike the apologists of capital who shout about the right of small nations to secession being utopian and impossible, and about the progressive nature not only of economic but also of political concentration—to urge the progressive nature of this concentration in a non-imperialist manner, to urge the bringing together of the nations, not by force, but on the basis of a free union of the proletarians of all countries. Only in this way was Marx able, also in the sphere of the solution of national problems, to oppose the revolutionary action of the masses to verbal and often hypocritical recognition of the equality and the self-determination of nations.

It will be the duty of the Socialists to explain to the masses that English Socialists who fail to demand the freedom of secession for the colonies and for Ireland; that German Socialists who fail to demand the freedom of secession for the colonies, for the Alsations, for the Danes and for the Poles, and who fail to carry direct revolutionary propaganda and revolutionary mass action to the field of struggle against national oppression, who fail to take advantage of cases like the Zabern incident to conduct widespread underground propaganda among the proletariat of the oppressing nation, to organize street demonstrations and revolutionary mass actions; that Russian Socialists who fail to demand freedom of secession for Finland, Poland, the Ukraine, etc., etc.—are behaving like chauvinists, like lackeys of the blood-and-mud-stained imperialist monarchies and the imperialist bourgeoisie.!

**Uphold, Defend and Apply
Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!**

**For a Revolutionary Communist
Party to Lead the Struggle to
Overthrow Australian Imperialism!**