

PBR
320.5323
RHC

RABBLE ROUSER.. NO 28...OCTOBER 1999

GPO BOX 474D...MELBOURNE. VICTORIA. AUSTRALIA-----

- The Australian people have mounted a magnificent struggle in support of INDEPENDENCE FOR EAST TIMOR. The Australian people are generally well informed of the situation in East Timor over the past 25 years. In spite of the bally-hoo coming from the imperialist media and the government lots of new information is known now.

Australia, Britain and the USA have trained and armed the Indonesian army very well. These three imperialist powers have supplied American M16's, British Aerospace Hawk aircraft and the Australian training of the Indonesian Army at Duntroon, Carungra and Pearce. General Wiranto is a graduate.

It should not be forgotten that Australia also has troops deployed in Sinai, Cambodia, Israel, the Gulf region, Iraq, Mosambique, Bougainville, Bosnia and other places.

From the Boxer Rebellion last century to the year 2000, Australia has had troops in almost every theatre of war and always these troops have been fighting on the side of imperialism. So let us be very careful when some throw the mantle of "peace keepers" on the Australian troops in East Timor..

Already the Australian troops tried to disarm the East Timorese fighters who have conducted armed struggle for 25 years. They pulled back when there was an outcry. However, we must see that, whatever the plans of the imperialists, we should demand the Timorese be consulted and included in the re-building of East Timor.

Big dollars are at stake in East Timor. The oil and gas in the Timor Gap is already being gobbled up by giant oil companies. This oil belongs to the independent nation of East Timor. Not Australian, British and American monopolies, with a good cut going to the Indonesian junta.

The Imperialist Tiger will never lay down its butchers' knives. Only the people can disarm the imperialists.

The governments of Britain and Australia, both political parties have armed and trained the Indonesian armed forces, both parties have betrayed the East Timorese. Along with the USA they have bloodied their hands in the slaughter of the Communist Party Of Indonesia (PKI) and the democratic forces, thus opening the way for the Suharto fascist regime. All over Indonesia the people are demonstrating against this regime and some are demonstrating against Australian troops, calling Australia the deputy sheriff of the USA!

Some revisionists here say the Australia has been forced by the USA to send troops into East Timor. Australian troops are in East Timor and every other theatre of war to defend Australian imperial and monopoly interests.

In spite of the hypocritical tears shed in parliament, they, like their counterparts in the USA and Britain are up to their armpits in the slaughter, the robbery and destruction in East Timor. This includes the ALP and New Labor!

The developing mass movement in Australia and abroad is playing its part with the fighters in East Timor to roll back imperialism.

Long live the independence of East Timor!



We have only known you for 10 years out of your 89 years. We met you when the USA began to bomb Iraq. We learned a lot from Karl..... of his childhood in the Austrian Hungarian Empire : a childhood of starvation for the workers and peasants and riches and pomp for the ruling class.

Three of Karl's siblings died from diphtheria and were buried in unidentified ground because there was no money to pay the gravedigger or the priest.

Karl suffered from the 'english disease' ricketts a result of this child hunger.

Karl was apprenticed to a tailor and told us that the food given to the apprentices was worse than that given to the criminals in the jails. Apprentices, in those days lived in with the Master.

When Karl grew up he joined the Communist Party and helped to distribute the 'Red Flag' over the border into Southern Germany where the people groaned under the Nazi regime which came to power in 1933. If caught by the Nazis it could mean death.

Karl told us that his aged grandmother used to work in the fields for various local landlords. The landowner would ride up to the house on his horse, and beat on the wall with his crop and shout, "Old woman, come tomorrow for work"

After her day in the fields Karl and his brothers and sisters would wait to see her figure come over the hill, holding, under her shawl her day's pay for the toil. When she came in sight they would run to her because her pay for the day was a loaf of bread.. The children were so relentlessly hungry.

Karl was arrested on the street in Prague by the Czech police and told to report to Gestapo Headquarters next morning. So he went home put on his coat of many pockets, a little bread and some money and a change of clothes and walked by night on two crutches to Poland. Later he and others were sent to England.

We live in a society in Australia where real starvation and fascism like Karl's experience does not exist. Rather, we are told daily that we live in the best country in the world. But, Karl told us to think.

In the 50 years since WW11 when 56 million died to rid the world of fascism..... the fascists march again all over Europe and indeed the world,

Starvation of children in the world today amounts to more than a billion.

and while his grandmother worked for a day for a loaf of bread, there are now millions of men, woman and children who work for one or two dollars a day.....

Karl held that the nature of imperialism has not changed and never will, so we must continue to struggle against it Karl was saddened by the collapse of socialism in the USSR and China but said..Next time we will do it better..

So we say farewell to Karl. Our lives would have been the poorer if we had not met him. You have deserved your rest.

Long live the great anti-fascist fighters of the world !

SHOULD WE "REJECT MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO THE HUMAN PROBLEMS OF INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE WHICH ARE THE REAL CAUSE OF INSECURITY AND CONFLICT" AS THE NOTICE TO QUIT ORGANISERS URGE?

No. We should reject such pacifist nonsense.

"An oppressed class which does not strive to learn to use arms, to acquire arms", argued Lenin, "only deserves to be treated like slaves."

"..... The fact that the bourgeoisie is armed against the proletariat is one of the biggest, most fundamental, and most important facts in modern capitalist society. and in the face of this fact, [we] are urged to 'demand' 'disarmament! This is tantamount to the complete abandonment of the point of view of the class struggle, the renunciation of all thought of revolution. **Our slogan must be: the arming of the proletariat for the purpose of vanquishing, expropriating and disarming the bourgeoisie.** These are the only tactics a revolutionary class can adopt, tactics which follow logically from the objective development of capitalist militarism, and dictated by that development. Only after the proletariat has disarmed the bourgeoisie will it be able, without betraying its world-historical mission, to throw all armaments on the scrap heap; and the proletariat will undoubtedly do this, but only when this condition has been fulfilled, certainly not before."

(War Programme of the Proletarian Revolution).

So if you are really a supporter of the self-determination struggle of the people of East Timor, Bougainville etc, your political position is not limited to calling upon the Australian government to cease bankrolling counter-revolution.

What's wrong with building support for the military and political victory of the anti-imperialist struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations? And if Australia goes to war against our class sisters and brothers what's wrong with calling for the defeat of the Australian imperialists? Nothing. It's the least we can do.