

Overseas Appeal for the 56th International Antiwar Assembly in Japan

Oppose the nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia!

Workers and people all over the world, unite to advance antiwar struggles across borders!

The Executive Committee for the 56th International Antiwar Assembly

- Zengakuren [All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations]
- Antiwar Youth Committee
- Japan Revolutionary Communist League (Revolutionary Marxist Faction)

Comrades all over the world! We are holding the 56th International Antiwar Assemblies in Tokyo and six other cities in Japan on August 5th, just before the day when Hiroshima was burnt in the nuclear fire. We ardently hope that you send a message of solidarity to the assemblies.

We are sounding an alarm bell: a new phase of the nuclear arms race has started with unprecedented cruelty between the imperialist state of America, the would-be 'super-power' of China and Russia. US, Chinese and Russian rulers have openly announced that they are developing 'usable' nuclear weapons. No hesitation do they have in causing another Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

We are also calling your attention to the fact that the recently started bargaining between the US and North Korean rulers is pregnant with a crisis that may turn into war any time. In the South China Sea, US and Chinese forces are at loggerheads over the command of the sea to such an extent that a clash of arms could break out. In the Middle East, wars are going on and spreading.

War clouds are hanging over the 21st-century world. We call on comrades all over the world. Let us promote a revolutionary antiwar struggle arm in arm to radically eliminate this crisis.

Prevent the Trump administration from launching a military attack on North Korea! No to Japan's participation in the war! Oppose North Korea's nuclear armament!

The US-DPRK summit meeting cannot be 'an epochal event of great significance', as boasted by Trump and Kim, much less a 'turning point for world peace' (as applauded by Japanese Communist Party leaders). We must expose the nature of mutual deception latent in the handshake that the two rulers showed off. We must also reveal that their bargaining, started over the issue of 'denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula', is charged with a crisis.

After having announced the 'suspension' of US joint military exercises with South Korea, Trump is pressing Kim to take steps 'in return' towards 'denuclearisation'. He is even hinting at the use of force. On the other hand, Kim, who thinks that nuclear armament is the last resort to defend his regime, is trying to prolong the talk to retain his nuclear arsenal by gaining the support of China. This opposition in interests between the two states will become acute in the process of bargaining. If it becomes obvious that Trump can hardly oppress Kim's resistance, he will start to agitate nationalist sentiments against North Korea and China. Calculating for such a possibility, he is prepared to launch a military attack on North Korea.

On top of that, military confrontation is intensifying between US imperialism and China, which is acting as the strongest backer of North Korea. The Trump administration and the Abe-led Japanese government as its ally are rapidly strengthening their military bases in Japan as forward bases for attacking China. (Abe is intent on constructing a gigantic US Marine base at



Zengakuren students fighting in the van of a mass protest action against the Abe government (April 14th, 2018, in front of the Diet bldg., Tokyo).

Cape Henoko on the Okinawa Island and brutally suppressing mass protest actions.) US Forces are also carrying out provocative operations in the South China Sea, straight before Chinese forces stationed on their artificial islands.

Those Japanese opposition leaders who applaud the Trump-Kim meeting as ‘the beginning of a process towards the building of a peace structure’ have no sense of crisis towards the on-going situation. To begin with, we must not overlook the fact that, behind handshaking, the US and North Korean rulers are keeping their missiles aimed at each other’s people. Their diplomatic talk is part of the ‘power politics’ in pursuit of their state interests, and cannot be relied on. The only power that can break through such ‘power politics’ and root out the danger of war lies in an international antiwar struggle by workers and people united across borders.

This is not all. Even if ‘the end of the Korean War’ and ‘the building of a peace regime’ is declared by the North and South Korean governments together with the US and Chinese governments, its result will only be a perpetuation of the North-South division. It means that the bourgeois state of the ROK allied with US imperialism will continue to exist and that workers will continue to be exploited by the monopoly capitalists of the notorious ten family-run conglomerates while toiling masses in the North will continue to suffer hardships under Kim’s ‘nepotistic’ rule. Historically, the division originated in the divide and rule by US imperialism and Stalinism after the defeat of Japanese militarism in WWII. The tragic division of the Korean people cannot be resolved unless the toiling masses in the South and the North topple down both the southern bourgeois state and the northern state as the remains of what was formerly a Stalinist bureaucratic state, and win a true unification through their own fight.

Break the crisis of war arising from the confrontation between imperialist America and China-Russia!

On a worldwide scale, US imperialists and Chinese rulers (allied with Russian ones) are developing a vehement struggle against each other in all respects — militarily, politically and economically. Driven by a growing sense of crisis towards challenges from China and Russia, the Trump-led US government has established a strategy for world hegemony, in which it brands the two as ‘revisionist powers’ and stresses the need to hold them down. What is most strongly emphasised for that purpose is to reinforce nuclear capabilities under the slogan ‘Rebuild the world’s strongest military’. Trump’s first review on nuclear posture (NPR) emphasised the need to develop and deploy actually ‘usable’ nuclear weapons, which included cruise missiles equipped with small-sized nuclear warheads. Trump himself openly declared that the US military might use a nuclear weapon even when an enemy used non-nuclear ones.

In opposition to this move, Vladimir Putin immediately declared that Russia had already developed and deployed more sophisticated small-sized nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles. The Chinese government is also developing unmanned planes for nuclear attacks controlled by artificial intelligence.

US, Chinese and Russian rulers are competing to develop and deploy new nuclear war potentials by applying information and communication technologies and robotics, and extending their competition into outer space. In the newly started nuclear arms race, they are revealing their extremely arrogant brutality by saying that they may annihilate the people of a rival state by actually ‘using’ nuclear weapons.

Today’s US imperialism is being shaken by an enormous financial deficit and deindustrialisation caused by the globalisation of capital. The Trump administration, which is crying out for making this waning America ‘great again’, has started to employ an economic strategy linked with its military strategy. Insisting that the drain of US advanced technologies to China is threatening national security, this administration has launched a trade war against China. Onto the EU and Japan, too, it is bent on pressing ‘new rules’ favourable for the US by quibbling about ‘unfair’ elements. It is also carrying out outrageous policies, such as cruel punishments on emigrants and refugees, discrimination against blacks, Hispanics and others, and a one-sided secession from the Iran nuclear deal.

Trump has abandoned even the hypocritical definition of the United States as ‘the champion for freedom and democracy as universal values’, which successive presidencies maintained to ideologically authorize this imperialist state as the ‘leader of the world community’. Instead, under the banner of ‘America First’, he is unreservedly pushing forward America’s national interests. He is thus arousing the anger of the working masses all over the world and even annoying the power holders of other countries.

Taking advantage of the decline and isolation of US imperialism, the Xi Jinping-led Chinese government has established the strategy of promoting China to a ‘socialist great power’ by 2049 with a ‘first-rate military power’

overwhelming the US. Based on this strategy, it is ambitious to seize the command of the Western Pacific from the US by basing itself on its military fortresses constructed in the South China Sea. It is also intent on building up a China-centred extensive economic sphere based on the 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Acting as if it were 'the flag-bearer of free trade' in place of the US, the Chinese government is winning over rulers of developing countries and further those of European countries. (In fact, some island countries in the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific have come under the yoke of China because of their unpaid loans.)

The Putin-led Russian government is ambitious to revive Russia as a 'great power' by strengthening its ties with China.

A drastic reorganisation of the existing world order is now in progress. US imperialists as well as Chinese and Russian rulers are clashing against each other with their unreserved nationalism under the banners of 'great America', 'the great Chinese nation' and 'great Russia'. They will stop at nothing to pursue the imperialist state interests of America, or the state interests of China or Russia.

Comrades! Awake to the reality that the on-going nuclear arms race between the US and China-Russia can cause nuclear annihilation to humanity. Now is the time to rise up in unity!

Denounce the Israeli government for murdering Palestinian people!

In the Middle East, conflicts between religions and sects as well as between nation-states and ethnic groups have been spreading and deepening. In this region, the Trump administration has perpetrated new crimes. In order to support the state of Israel as a US ally (and to secure his votes from conservative Evangelicals), Trump relocated the US embassy to Jerusalem by recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel though it is also a holy place for Muslims. Upon the Palestinians who have risen up against this move, the Netanyahu-led Zionist regime is indiscriminately firing. Trump has defended this crime in total disregard for international condemnation. In support of Israel, he also announced the US secession from the international agreement on Iran's nuclear program, quibbling that, if the Shiite Islamic power of Iran should possess nuclear weapons, it would be a threat to Israel (while saying nothing about the latter's nuclear armament). What's worse, Trump has sent massive amounts of weapons to the Sunnite kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the archrival of Iran, thus instigating the former to war against the latter. Using US-made bombers, this monarchical regime is bombing towns and villages in Yemen with the aim of wiping out Iran-backed Shiite rebels. Evidently, Trump is a war-maker in the Middle East!

Putin's government of Russia, on the other hand, has been carrying out military operations in Syria to eradicate anti-Assad rebels in league with the Assad regime for the purpose of keeping this state, which harbours its military bases, as its Middle Eastern ally. As a result, towns of the rebel forces have turned into a hell on earth. More than 500 thousand Syrian people have been killed, and several million people are suffering hardships in foreign lands. What caused this tragedy are the crimes of the Assad regime, as well as the criminal interventions by Russia as its patron, US and other Western imperialist states, Turkish and Iranian rulers and other regional power holders, all of whom have intervened under the pretext of 'war on terror'.

The 21st century world under darkness — Now is the time for the working people to unite and fight!

The 21st-century world as the here and now in which we live is suffering from wars and charged with a crisis of nuclear war. On top of that, the governments and ruling classes in capitalist countries, which are mired in the deepening crisis of late capitalism, are mercilessly victimizing the working class that they rule. Workers are suffering from intensified labour with low wages and faced with reactionary offensives designed to deprive them of social rights that they have gained historically, such as the eight-hour working day system and trade union rights. The working class has been thrown into a misery that might be called 'classical', exactly like the one in the days of Karl



Workers, students and citizens blocking construction vehicles for a new US Marine base (April 23rd, 2018, Henoko, Okinawa).

Marx. Some of the politicians are resorting to chauvinistic agitation against Muslims and immigrants to prevent social complaints from developing into a fight against the ruling class. In EU member countries, in particular, neo-Nazis have started to swagger along imperiously.

In China, the neo-Stalinist bureaucracy, which waves the banner of the ‘socialist market economy’, is suppressing by force the revolts of workers, peasants and ethnic minorities who are suffering from capitalist exploitation and hardships of life. The Putin regime of Russia is also bent on consolidating its authoritarian ruling system based on the Federal Security Bureau.

Comrades! The 21st-century world is covered with the dark clouds of war, poverty, authoritarianism and neo-fascism.

Notwithstanding this, working classes in capitalist countries have yet to launch a powerful fight against their ruling class and government. The prime reason for this is that the existing leadership of the working class has fallen into nationalism and the politics of tripartite consultation among labour, management and the government. This humiliating situation must be broken through by the power of militant workers.

In Japan, neo-fascist Prime Minister Shizo Abe is preparing to revise the current Constitution of Japan, which stipulates the ‘renunciation of war’. Against this, joint actions among trade unions and other mass organisations are being organized. However, degenerate labour aristocrats, who control the Japanese Trade Union Confederation [JTUC], are pressing its affiliates not to join in actions against constitutional revision. The Japanese Communist Party has stated that the party is against the constitutional revision because it will enable Japan ‘to wage a war abroad together with the US’. Clearly, this statement is based on a position of accepting a ‘war for defending the home country’. In the last analysis, by saying that the revision is disadvantageous for defending the country, this party is expressing just a weak-kneed opposition. We are fighting to overcome such oppression and distortions of the struggle by the existing leaderships, and to strengthen the ranks of workers and students who have risen up in fight.

We have been calling on people all over the world to ‘Stop a nuclear Korean war’. Holding up the banner ‘Fight against the US-Japan nuclear military alliance’, we have been fighting in the van of mass protest actions against the new US base construction in Okinawa. Also in the van of demonstrations surrounding the Diet building, we have been leading the struggle of workers, students and citizens against the Abe government. Comrades all over the world! Fight arm in arm with us!

Expose the criminal acts of US imperialist rulers, as well as of Chinese and Russian rulers, perpetrated all over the world with the aim of pursuing their state interests against the toiling masses! Expose the crimes against the working people committed by the US-servile Abe government of Japan and all the power holders of the world! Smash their crimes by organizing internationally united antiwar struggles of workers and people and by promoting political and economic struggles on this basis!

Denounce the existing leaderships of the working class for falling into the position of ‘defending the home country’! The root cause of their nationalist degeneration lies in the fact that they have yielded to the contemporary myth that ‘Marxism has failed’, which has been propagandised by the bourgeoisie since the collapse of the self-proclaimed ‘socialist country’ of the USSR, thus throwing Marx’s and Lenin’s thoughts into a dustbin. But in opposition to their degeneration, we must say this with emphasis. Marx’s calls, ‘Working people have no country’ and ‘Workers of all countries, unite’, as well as Lenin’s denunciation of the nationalist position of ‘defending the homeland’, are increasingly shining for those who fight to eradicate the crisis of the 21st-century world covered with the dark clouds of war.

Comrades all over the world! Let us promote antiwar struggles based on proletarian internationalism!

June 30th, 2018

We welcome your message of solidarity!

The central meeting of the Assembly will be held in Tokyo, and regional meetings in Sapporo, Kanazawa, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka and Okinawa, on the same day, Sunday, August 5th. (Right: last year’s meeting in Tokyo.)

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