

Tudeh News

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Popular Movement, Student Protests and Damaging Interference by US Administration

(From editorial in the "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 663, 24th June 2003)

In the British newspaper, The Guardian an editorial (June 23rd) regarding US Iranian policy wrote: ‘Alarm bells have to ring when we hear that George Bush “will not tolerate” the possible construction by Iran of a nuclear weapon. Although US military action is “only one of the options”, no one is going to forget that Iran is number two on his checklist for regime change.’

Criticizing the adventurous US policies, The Guardian proposed that instead America should adopt a policy of “to woo rather than isolate”. Pointing to the popular movement and the recent student protests in various cities, it adds: ‘the current US hostility will only drive Iran further down the nuclear road, by reinforcing the most hard line images of the great Satan. Mr. Bush’s clumsy support for the Iranian student protests undercuts their autonomy, too.’

The recent student demonstrations which are an integral part of a popular protest against the ruling regime have subsided ensuing a violent repression with mass arrests of militant students. Following years of suppression, years of

In this issue:

- *Popular Movement, Student Protests and Damaging Interference by US Administration*
- *Athens Meeting 19-20 June 2003, Statement of Solidarity with the Iranian People*

perusing policies totally against national interest and years of ignoring the needs and the aspirations of a youthful and frustrated nation - still a fire is burning beneath the ashes and before its flames will flare elsewhere.

A letter of protest signed by 166 members of Majlis (parliament) correctly states: “Unfortunately by ignoring certain legitimate demands of the people and an absence of adequate venues allowing rational criticism of the state, has created a situation where minor social and protests lead to wider crisis and disturbances – this, in some cases has tempted foreign interference into [our] internal affairs..... Regrettably in the recent events we have witnessed several incidents concerning the humiliation of students and universities. For example the savage attacks on students dormitories which demonstrate the hatred, wrath and retribution against our nation’s intellectuals.”

By linking the student protests to US policies, the reactionary rulers through intimidation and the harsh sentencing of the arrested students are trying to spread a weave of fear and repression in society. And by silencing all voices of dissent are preparing for the anniversary of the 1999 student uprising (9th July).

The former head of Judiciary (Mohammad Yazdi) and a member of the powerful Council of Guardians during last Fridays prayers in Tehran while severely attacking the militant students stated: "I ask the lawyers a question; those individuals which halt vehicles and smash their windows, and assault the passengers - are they the opposition or the combatants? They are combatants and the Judiciary should deal with them as combatants.....as the great leader has declared, deal with them in the most pitiless way..."

The attacks by the reactionary forces against the student movement accusing it of having links with the US occur in circumstances in which the damaging interference of Bush's right wing administration, knowingly and practically assists the ruling reactionaries – hence endangering the militant students. Interference in the affairs of our country by Bush and his spokesmen are not rooted in their convictions in establishing democracy in Iran. But it stems from ensuring the short and long-term interests of Imperialism in Iran and the Persian Gulf region. America still aspires to restoring the "Island of Stability", i.e. a police state similar to Shah's regime that before the 1979 revolution safeguarded interests of the US in the region. It is not a coincidence that the monarchists who are supported by the US, are directly provoking the Bush administration towards military intrusion in Iran.

The reality is that the likelihood of US military intervention and the repetition of Iraq's disaster in our country is a serious matter, which must be dealt with very carefully. The report by the UN's Atomic Research Agency regarding Iran's nuclear policy and the need for further cooperation by Iran, in conjunction with the abuse of this report by the Bush administration are danger signs for the future of our country.

The Tudeh Party of Iran believes that all of provocative policies and adventurism must be avoided and through negotiations and cooperation with international organizations which should greatly limit any grounds for a military attack against Iran. Possession of nuclear weapons by this despotic reactionary regime is a matter that no progressive force can agree with. On the other hand, supporting any

intervention by the US in our country's internal affairs under whatever pretext, would be effectively against Iran's national interests and is nothing short of a betrayal.

We have always maintained and will reiterate again that the future of our people's struggle against the reactionary regime of Velayat-e Faghih (supreme leader) must only be determined through the supporters of freedom and popular forces of Iran, and not by foreign intruders. The main point is that the ruling regime's reactionary policies and the meddling policies pursued by the Bush administration in Iran are two sides of the same coin with both contrary to our national interests.

Being aware of the dangers threatening Iran, the popular movement, militant and vigilant social forces including the youth, students, women and working class will continue to intensify and broaden their struggle against the Velayat-e Faghih regime. The reactionary rulers of Iran are faced with two options; either, surrender to the demands of the popular movement and the frustrated masses to move towards fundamental structural changes, or to maintain the status quo, which in the long run will undoubtedly cost the people and the country immensely.

Athens Meeting 19-20 June 2003, Statement of Solidarity with the Iranian People

From: SolidNet, Thu, July 3, 2003
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*"The Movements Against the War
and the Capitalist Globalization,
and the Communists"*

19-20 June 2003, Athens

www.solidnet.org

Statement of Solidarity with the Iranian People

The following participants in the meeting of Communist and Workers parties that took place in Athens on the 19th and 20th of June 2003, express their concern about the recent US threats against Iran.

These threats are primarily intended to influence the internal struggle taking place in Iran in favour of the forces of reaction and are open interference in the internal affairs.

The threats by the U.S. administration against Iran are clearly irresponsible that could engulf the entire region in war and destruction. A US led military strike against Iran would be catastrophic not only for the people of Iran, but also for the movement for peace, progress and democracy the world over.

The US provocation is taking place at a time that Iranian youth and students are demanding democratic reforms. Iranian people have consistently demonstrated their demands for an end to the regime's repressive policies and the democratization of the country as the only way to overcome political, economic, diplomatic and social crisis, which has crippled Iran. The theocratic regime has exploited the statement by the US as a justification for suppressing the people's movement.

The US policy has in fact strengthened the hands of the right wing reactionary forces branding any socio-political opposition as an American led move and therefore justifying its savage suppression.

The US is desperately attempting to encourage the formation of a pro-US Iranian opposition. This is a bankrupt strategy which seeks to impose so called democratic settlements on individual states.

All Iranian progressive forces are rightly against the US provocations and have condemned them outright.

The participants at the meeting expressed their solidarity and continued support to the progressive forces in Iran in their struggle against the theocratic regime in Iran. They saluted the bravery and courage of the people in their current struggle for democratic reforms.

The participants at the meeting believe the plight of the Iran and its future government should only be decided by the Iranian people and their progressive and democratic forces and no externally manipulated alternative

Athens, 20th June 2003

The Parties:

Communist Party of Albania
Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism
Communist Party of Armenia
Communist Party of Australia
Democratic Progressive Tribune – Bahrein
Workers’ Party of Belgium
Communist Party of Brazil
Communist Party of Britain
New Communist Party of Britain
Bulgarian Communist Party «Georgi Dimitrov»
Communist Party of Canada
Colombian Communist Party
AKEL-Cyprus
Communist Party of Bohemia Moravia
Communist Party in Denmark
Communist Party of Denmark
Communist Party of Egypt
Communist Party of Finland
Communist Party of Greece
Hungarian Workers’ Party
Communist Party of India
Communist Party of India (Marxist)
Tudeh Party of Iran
Iraqi Communist Party
The Workers’ Party of Ireland
Communist Party of Ireland
Communist Party of Israel

Communist Refoundation Party
Party of the Italian Communists
Socialist Party of Latvia
Lebanese Communist Party
Communist Party of Luxembourg
Popular Socialist Party of Mexico
Party of the Communists of Mexico
New Communist Party of the Netherlands
Communist Party of Norway
Portuguese Communist Party
Romanian Communist Party
Union of Communist Parties-CPSU
Communist Party of Russian Federation
Communist Workers’ Party of Russia - Party of Communists of Russia (RKR- RPC)
Communist Party of Slovakia
Communist Party of Spain
Communist Party of Peoples’ of Spain
Sudanese Communist Party
Communist Party of Sweden
Syrian Communist Party
Syrian Communist Party
Communist Party of Turkey
Communist Party of Ukraine
Union of Communists of Ukraine
Communist Party, USA
New Communist Party of Yugoslavia