

# Socialist Party Leaflet

# NO WAR FOR PROFIT



Establishment politicians and the media have seized upon the plans of a small minority grouping who want to pull down the fence at Shannon Airport, to portray the Irish Anti-War Movement as organising a confrontation that will be violent.

The Socialist Party is part of the IAWM and these allegations are false. Labour, the Greens and Sinn Fein have made a bad mistake in withdrawing support for the peaceful IAWM anti-war protest planned for Shannon on 1st of March.

We and the IAWM believe that direct action protests are not appropriate in Shannon at this time. Anti-war activists should be concentrating on building the biggest possible anti-war movement in the communities, schools, colleges and in particular in the unions. The most effective "direct action" would be generalised industrial action by the unions aimed at ending the use of Shannon by foreign military.

The media hype which has now been given credence by Labour, the Greens and Sinn Fein, is simply designed to distract attention from the real issue - that this government supports a war for oil which will result in the deaths of thousands and thousands of innocent people.

It is extremely disappointing that parties who are anti-war allow their attendance at the IAWM's peaceful protest to be determined by media hype. Ironically the only effect of their actions will be to diminish the numbers turning up to protest peacefully.

It is vital that all those who are seriously interested in building a real mass anti-war movement stand against attempts to divide the movement and we hope given the disaster that is about to be forced upon the Iraqi people, the importance of principled unity will be obvious to everyone.

• **US and British military out of the Gulf**

• **No to a war for oil and capitalist domination**

• **Mass mobilisations and trade union action to get US military out of Shannon**

• **Close down the war machine - spend the money on socially useful projects**

• **Build the forces for socialist change to challenge capitalism and its war machine**

## **MASS ACTION CAN DEFEAT THIS WAR**

- ★ As this war is fundamentally about securing oil supplies and creating super profits for US big business, "opposition" at the UN based on "weapons inspections" and "Iraqi co-operation" is unlikely to have any effect. The UN, France or Germany have no record of standing against the dictatorship of profit in the interest of working class people.
- ★ This war can be defeated, but only by magnificent demonstrations like on Feb 15 and other mass actions by working people which can force the right-wing governments that currently dominate the world into retreat.

## **A CAPITALIST WAR**

- ★ This war is a horrific military expression of the economic policies and political propaganda that the US establishment have been trying to impose around the world for the last 20 years. It is the other side of free market capitalism and of privatisation of services, i.e. part of the increased exploitation and oppression of people around the world. The Irish government's support for war is only an extension into international affairs of the policies they pursue at home.

## **TASKS FOR THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT AND TRADE UNIONS**

- ★ The key tasks facing the anti-war movement in Ireland are:  
To end once and for all the providing of any facilities to foreign military forces, particularly at Shannon. and to win the majority in this country to an active opposition to this war.
- ★ The most direct and effective way of forcing the US military out of Shannon is through industrial action. We demand that ICTU uses its influence to encourage and support workers in Shannon to boycott all work that assists the US military. If or when war breaks out the trade unions should take a lead and organise walk-outs and protests.
- ★ Up till Feb 15 the anti-war movement involved a relatively small number of people. The strength of the anti-war movement will be determined by how the mass opposition against war shown by the huge turnout of 150,000 people can be organised into an active anti-war campaign over the next weeks. Regardless of whether you consider yourself an activist or political, we strongly encourage you to get involved, you have a key role to play in building the opposition to this war.

## **WHAT ABOUT SADDAM?**

- ★ What about getting rid of Saddam for the sake of the Iraqi people? The Socialist Party supports the overthrow of the Saddam regime. We and the movement should do all in our power to support all genuine opposition within Iraq. But like in Serbia the task of overthrowing a brutal dictator is a task for the Iraqi people themselves. For us the only future for Iraq is real democracy, that can only be achieved if Iraqi workers and farmers own and control of all the wealth and resources i.e. a socialist Iraq.

## **SOCIALISM IS NECESSARY**

- ★ This war exposes the brutal phase that capitalism has entered into. Unfortunately with economic recession hitting hard, things are set to get worse. But there is an alternative and it is in the hand of the millions of people who are protesting around the world today. War and economic exploitation are inevitable under capitalism where a tiny minority own and control politics and economics. If those opposed to war also got organised and actively opposed capitalism, we have the power to challenge the system.
- ★ That is the struggle that the Socialist Party in Ireland is dedicated to. We are part of the CWI, an international movement based in nearly 40 countries, which is fighting the war and fighting for socialism internationally. Join us today.

**Check out the cwi website: [www.worldsocialist-cwi.org.uk](http://www.worldsocialist-cwi.org.uk)  
Also, for more info on Socialist Party, website: [www.socialistparty.net](http://www.socialistparty.net)  
E-mail us at [info@socialistparty.net](mailto:info@socialistparty.net)**

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