

The Global Justice Movement and Imperialism Today

Anti-imperialism, the line that could unite all progressives and left

By Geronimo Pasetes*

It is forthwith appropriate that the first plenary session of this international left gathering delves on imperialism.

While there are debates and differences in understanding imperialism, especially in its present operations, and therefore differences in tactics of struggle, imperialism, being the principal enemy of nations and peoples worldwide is a unifying factor for all progressives and “left”. It is our common task to rouse, unite and mobilize oppressed and exploited classes and peoples of our countries and worldwide.

Before proceeding, the KPD would like to greet and salute the Cuban and Vietnamese people in their respective historic victories against US wars of aggression. The people of Cuba gallantly frustrated US armed invasion at Playa Giron of the Bay of Pigs from April 15-19, 1961. The Vietnamese people completed US defeat in its 21 years of aggression in Vietnam on April 30, 1975. Filipino activists also remember today is the 37th anniversary of the start of the First Quarter Storm of 1970 when the anti-imperialist line and call reverberated before the gates and walls of Malacanan in the historic Battle of Mendiola.

In the present historical circumstance, we honor as we draw inspiration from the Iraqi people in their heroic and martyr-ly resistance against US war of occupation and colonization and the resolute struggle of the laboring masses of Venezuela in thwarting every US scheme to create disorder and destabilization. We also give tribute to the relentless anti-globalization and anti-war movements in the USA and worldwide.

These victories of peoples prove imperialism can be defeated and its every scheme foiled by united people daring, determined and creative in struggle. These are worthy of study especially for us in this 2-day forum or we all fall into rigidity and fixation in finding “alternative forms of popular power” and all together retrogresses into rejecting practical and theoretical lessons from objective historical experiences in popular and class struggles and reduce ourselves to joining the bourgeois bandwagon of reforming capitalism and its statutes.

There are but a few imperialist powers. The bellicose imperialist superpower USA is the principal. In such status US imperialism for over half century until presently has become the narrowest target of people’s struggles worldwide. In this context, it can be asserted that the imperialist US is the weakest link in the imperialist chain. In other words, its superpower position, that is, its yet dominant currency and economic position backed by the aggressive and armed to the teeth military that is projected against the world, is its weakness.

Neo-colonialism, freedom of movement of capital (both finance capital and commodities), debt dependence of countries, wars and preparation for war are hallmarks of imperialism. All these mean the exploitation and oppression of countries, nations and peoples. All these mean the undermining and subversion of sovereign nations and states. For one the Philippines was colonized by the imperialist USA by the turn of the 20th century and remains a US neo-colony since. But of course imperialism as a global system can not be studied and understood on the basis of one neo-colony like our country.

It is general knowledge that the US economy, the world's biggest, is in crisis and this manifests the generalized crisis of imperialism. This impels the imperialist state, in behalf of and for the interests of American monopoly interests in industry and finance, to heighten its militarism and direct assault of every country, nation, organization and individual that it sees as threat to its "national security".

The world is in a new "McCarthyist" period. This time the line is "anti-terrorism" and the forms and methods of repression more blatant and sophisticated. The present Bush government is the unprecedented model of chicanery and utter violations of constitutional norms and legal statutes and moves that flagrantly violate the democratic rights of the American people and of the world. New "McCarthyism" features global implementation of anti-terrorism laws and agreements such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism. Never before has the world seen systematic attack on human rights and legal conventions as the laws that effectively suspend up to totally abolish the writ of *habeas corpus*. The US runs roughshod on UN and other international conventions.

The US is in Iraq and Afghanistan and is more aggressively fomenting violence and pushing wars especially where there are deposits of oil and other strategic mineral resources. It is involved in Nigeria and Sudan for the interests of Chevron and Exxon-Mobil and other American oil giants. It is fomenting border wars and is backing and pushing nations against nations. It initiated the creation of Israel and has since supported it and made Israel as the promoter of war and guardian of US interests in the Middle East and North Africa. Now in the pretext of anti-terrorism, the US is invading Somalia with the help of Ethiopia.

Alongside this new McCarthyist "anti-terrorism" is a new wave of colonization through combination of military and financial aggression and intervention. As has always been, the US is actively interfering in affairs of nations and subverting governments that it sees as threats to its "national security". The US has appropriated unto itself popular actions to make appear as legitimate its intervention in nations' affairs. It is sponsoring and is funding "people power" or "color revolutions" to initiate regime changes where governments are unfriendly to the US.

Imperialism has manacled and is shackling nations and peoples to backwardness, diseases, poverty and oppression. Global and national movements for justice must be necessarily and essentially in the framework of anti-imperialism or they lose direction and orientation. At the forefront of global movement for justice are anti-imperialist struggles in general; the struggles for national liberation and genuine independence and

sovereignty in neo-colonies and client nations and socialist movements and struggles in the nation-bases of imperialism and other capitalist countries.

We are still in the era of imperialism on one hand and proletarian revolution on the other. The defeat of imperialism, that is, of capitalism worldwide is the basic condition for socialism to advance.

This international forum itself is a contribution to the advancement anti-imperialist movement and proletarian revolution worldwide. #

**Geronimo Pasetes is the education officer of the Kilusan sa Pambansang Demokrasya, a member organization of Laban ng Masa.*