On Thursday July 14th the new Canadian Chief of Defense Staff, General Rick Hillier fired off the opening guns of the new Canadian war drive. His announcement that 2,000 more Canadian troops will be sent to Afghanistan by February of next year to “be able to kill people” was not the beginning of the shift to the right in Canadian imperialist policy but it was significant in exposing the unanimity of the government’s position on the clear to us in the anti-war movement that the government’s brazen racist war mongering. Hillier’s words signaled a clear shift from the radical language of the government of Canada, which has managed, until now, to cleverly cloak its imperialist actions in the language of “peacekeeping”.

Really, Hillier has done us in the anti-war / occupation movement in Canada a favor with his clarity of words. He explained better than almost any others in Canada have even before he took command of the NATO forces occupying the country that what was quoted in the Globe and Mail as saying, “These are detestable murderers and scumbags, I’ll tell you that right up front. They detest our freedoms, they detest our liberties.”

And “we’re not going to let those radical murderers and killers rob from others and certainly we’re not going to let them rob from Canada.”

The entirety of Canada’s imperialist strategy is contained in Hillier’s words. The anti-war movement and all poor, working and oppressed people in Canada have seen this coming for a long time to come. What exactly are the “radical murderers and killers” in Afghanistan – now (thanks to the occupation forces) the most corrupt country in the world – as it is importuned from Canada? The Daily Points Canada has that is so threatened by the struggling Afghan people is the need for Canada to continue to occupy their country. It should be clear to us in the anti-war movement that if “detestable murderers” in Afghanistan are there courtesy of the NATO occupation, that the forces that have lowered the Afghan life expectancy by four and a half years from 2003 to 2004 were not the “risk shy business” that it, as Hillier said, whether or not further troop deployment to Afghanistan might spur terrorist attacks within Canadian borders, is that the shift to the right in regards to Canadian imperialist policy and action is being taken by ALL major political parties in Canada across the board.

Hiller’s comments should have elicited outrage from at least some major politicians on the grounds that his statements were racist, war mongering. These are the “detestable murderers” in Afghanistan are there courtesy of the Canadian imperialist interests. Instead, his statements were defended by the leaders of all major political parties: Conservative Party MP Gordon O’Connor: “[Gen. Hillier] speaks like a soldier, not a diplomat. He’s starting to give the public an idea that the troops are about to go in a dangerous area and he’s trying to explain why they’re going there in the pursuit of terrorists.”

Liberal leader and Prime Minister Paul Martin: “General Hillier is not only a top soldier, he is a soldier who has served in Afghanistan. The point he is making simply is we are at war with terrorism and we’re not going to let them win.”

New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton: “Controlled anger, given what’s happened, is an appropriate response. We have a very committed, level-headed head of our armed forces, who isn’t afraid to express a point that underlies the mission that front-line personnel are going to be taking on. A bit of strong language in the circumstances, I don’t find that to be wrong.”

STOP THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE!

All people in Canada must realize that it is not only political blindness to ignore the wars and occupations that Canada is carrying out; to ignore the imperialist policies and actions of the government of Canada would mean unforgivably irresponsible complacency with the Canadian imperialist war drive. We are now living in a Canada that has dropped away its mask of “peace” in order to continue a hard shift to the right, unfettered by the government’s public relations illusions. This shift has been a long time in coming.

When the US began its war drive in Iraq, the government of Canada began its shift into gear of the era of war and occupation by quietly sending almost 2,000 troops to Afghanistan for a “humanitarian peace keeping mission.” When General Richard C. Hillier took command of the NATO mission in Afghanistan it was billed as a transference of “Canadian values” to the reconstruction efforts. The government and media did not mention that practically all aid monies had been withdrawn and all reconstruction promises called off. They did not comment on the collapse of all infrastructure in Afghanistan, the almost absolute lack of employment, the climbing death rates of Afghan people, the lack of potable water, the complete suppression of women’s rights or the shaky deals drawn up between the imperialist-backed government of Hamid Karzai and the Canadian government.

In Haiti and Afghanistan there are all poor, working and oppressed people abroad, we can see the increase in neo-liberal attacks at home. Since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, in British Columbia alone, these attacks have come in the form of cuts to health care, social housing and resources for women and poor people, increased incidences of deportation and lack of potable water as well as worsening conditions for working people such as healthcare workers and government service employees. Similar attacks on oppressed people have been happening all across Canada.

It is not a coincidence that Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and Afghanistan is the poorest country in Asia. It is the fact that the government of Canada is in the business of, and has the easiest time, attacking the most marginalized and oppressed layer of people, both at home and abroad. The situation for people in these countries has continued to deteriorate under occupation.

In Haiti and Afghanistan there is a lack of infrastructure, jobs, services, and security, all of which were supposed to be brought to these countries by its occupier, Canada.

Well, if Canada is cutting jobs, services and infrastructure at home, how does it propose to bring these necessities to the people of Haiti and Afghanistan? It is impossible and was never part of their plan. Because the government is not only ally, we as working and oppressed people are the ones who must fend the struggle against imperialist war and occupation. In doing this, we recognize that we have the same enemy as Afghans and Haitians; it is the government of Canada. Our weapon against their attacks is solidarity, fighting for and demanding self-determination for oppressed nations abroad and for social justice at home.
Canada’s “Peacekeeper” Mask Drops

in Kabul and the warlords that run the majority of the country. However, they lost no time in exploiting the deaths of two Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan to double the Canadian imperialist strategy. Canada’s imperialist strategy unfolded further to view through their February 2004 invasion of Haiti that overthrew Jean Bertrand Aristide, Haiti’s first democratically elected president in history, and replaced him with the puppet government of Gerard Latorre.

Of course, none of this is really new. The foundation of Canada is the theft of Indigenous land and resources that make up all of the territory of Canada. This land has been stolen through the same methods that Canada is now using in Haiti and Afghanistan; through the genocides of entire Indigenous nations, the murder of millions of Indigenous people, and the criminalization of Indigenous cultures and communities.

The implications of Hillier’s proclamations are huge. They call for an immediate escalation of war in Afghanistan and, additionally, for the deployment of 100 armoured vehicles to the Sudan. These “missions” require not only a deep investment in military budget and Canadian Forces recruitment, but a political campaign of the entire government of Canada to shift the consciousness of people in Canada to accept that “our job is to kill people” to accomplish Canada’s imperialist aims.

This means an escalation of the racist propaganda that Hillier threw out unopposed by any major politician that the opponents of Canadian imperialism are “terrorists”, “scumbags” and “murderers”.

Hillier’s statement must be a call to action for the anti-war movement and all progressive people in Canada. We must identify and organize against the occupation of Afghanistan as Canada’s Iraq. We must meet the racist and warmongering propaganda with the truth and take up a campaign against Canadian war and occupation seriously, dedicated and without hesitation. We must struggle and organize against the coming Canadian war machine to begin the lives of millions of people and the future of the world hang in the balance. Because they do.

DEFEND THE STOJO, MI’KMAQ AND ALL INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA!

When General Rick Hillier announced the expansion of Canada’s bloody imperialist strategy abroad, the colonial government at home, at the same time, was making moves to further consolidate stolen Indigenous land within Canada.

The Sto:j6 (Sto:lo) are one of more than 60 Indigenous nations in Canada. A large part of the modern residents of British Columbia are of First Nations ancestry, and many of the current residences of the province are of European descent. Today, 70% of the population of the Province is of European descent.

The Sto:j6 are an important Indigenous nation for the government of the Canada to attack, because they carry with them a legacy of strength against resistance against colonial attacks, such as the Burnt Church fishing rights struggle against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2000.

The denial of the Mi’kmaq’s right to harvest trees from their traditional territory is, one example among many of how the government of Canada is trying, again, to steal the land, resources and sovereignty of Indigenous nations in Canada.

Critical

Sto:j6

On July 17th 2005, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officers seized nets from at least 23 Sto:j6 communities and threatened charges against the Sto:j6 fishermen on the Fraser River, about 100 km outside of Vancouver. The fishermen were exercising their inherent rights to the resources in their rivers, rights that were never given up, or ceded, to the government of Canada or BC.

The Sto:j6 have also fought against the DFO many times. Of Nova Scotia, cannot harvest trees on their traditional territory without a permit from the commercial logging companies or to treaties signed between the Mi’kmaq and British in 1760 and 1761, this ruling means that the government of Canada still refuses to acknowledge Mi’kmaq sovereignty over their territory. The Mi’kmaq are an important Indigenous nation for the government of the Canada to attack, because they carry with them a legacy of strength against resistance against colonial attacks, such as the Burnt Church fishing rights struggle against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2000. The denial of the Mi’kmaq’s right to harvest trees from their traditional territory is, one example among many of how the government of Canada is trying, again, to steal the land, resources and sovereignty of Indigenous nations in Canada.

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• ON July 26, 2005 more than 350 UN occupation Forces massacred 23 Haitians in Cite Soleil. Despite heavy repression, one week later the Haitian people shut this demonstrator of 5,000 in Cite Soleil. Canada’s involvement in an occupation response for this Cite Soleil’s massacre, increasing poverty in the poorest country in Latin America, countless murders and house raids has exposed the face of Canada as a so-called peacekeeping nation.

• Since the February 29th, 2004 overthrow of Haiti’s first democratically elected president Aristide by Canadian, French and US forces, sharp contradictions between action and words of the government of Canada have been exposed. The 100 RCMP sent to “stabilize” Haiti train former death squads who carry out the murderous campaign to eliminate all opposition to the occupation. With 132 years of experience in repressing Indigenous nations in Canada, the RCMP attempts to “restore law and order” in the favor of the occupation by training the so-called “Haitian National Police” to crush the fight for Haitian self-determination.

Since the overthrow of Aristide, the minimum wage in Haiti has been eliminated, opening the door for Canadian garment companies to further exploit an already impoverished nation. But more important than the economic gains that Canadian imperialism has accomplished from Aristide’s overthrow is the strategic position Haiti represents as the front of the era of war and occupation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The military control of Haiti widens the door for imperialists to launch new attacks on the anti-imperialist stronghold Cuba and Venezuela, and wage a war to reign control of South America. With the occupation of Haiti, Canada has a position in this game.

There is nothing for the Haitian people in a continued occupation. Every day brings more suffering and death. After a year and a half of occupation living standards have plunged, unemployment has increased and people are dying. The only solution is immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops, a return of the democratically elected president and an end to the training and funding of an illegitimate and criminal police force. End the occupation! Self Determination for Haiti NOW!

On July 6, 2005 more than 350 UN occupation Forces massacred 23 Haitians in Cite Soleil. Despite heavy repression, one week later the Haitian people shut this demonstrator of 5,000 in Cite Soleil. Canada’s involvement in an occupation response for this Cite Soleil’s massacre, increasing poverty in the poorest country in Latin America, countless murders and house raids has exposed the face of Canada as a so-called peacekeeping nation.

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