

STOP G8

CAPITALISM. IMPERIALISM. WAR.

AGAINST THE G8 SUMMIT IN 2007 IN HEILIGENDAMM!

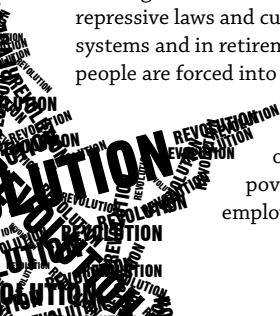
In the summer of 2007, the heads of state of Germany, Italy, France, Russia, Great Britain, Japan, Canada and the USA will meet for the so-called G8 summit in Heiligendamm in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in north-east Germany. They will be well protected by police and the military, and they want to demonstrate their unity to the media. They will try to present themselves as the legitimate leadership of the “civilized world” and will organize to implement their common interests. Contrary to their actual policy they will again feign commitment to fighting world hunger, disease, poverty and terrorism. Just like at past summits, tens of thousands will protest against the meeting to show the real meaning of the G8.

G8 – PEACE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY?

The G8 summit will take place in a political situation in which the contradictions are growing in Germany as in the other G8 states. There are increasingly far-reaching attacks on the standard of living of the working class in the form of repressive laws and cuts in wages, in the social systems and in retirement plans. More and more people are forced into unemployment, precarious employment or low-paid jobs. Already millions of people live under the poverty line – even full-time employment no longer guarantees

the former standard of living. At the same time privatization leads to a clear deterioration in standards for workers in this sector as well as for the general population, who pay higher prices for fewer services. Steadily rising costs for rent, heating, water and electricity, as well as the discontinuation of many previously guaranteed services in the health care system and in education are the concrete results. Women are especially affected by these cuts, as they are in a worse position in many sectors and the cuts have an especially dramatic effect on them. Because of the legal regulations from the “Hartz” laws, many women get no social support because their life partners’ income is calculated as their own – this is only one of many examples. Also many immigrants, as a part of the lower classes of society, are affected even more drastically by these developments, and as soon as they are no longer useful for the economy, they are threatened by massive state discrimination and deportation. In addition, they are held up as scapegoats for the worsening situation and are exposed to social prejudices, exclusions and attacks. However, in the end, it is characteristic of the current attacks that they no longer affect only the marginalized social groups, but the majority of the population. Consequently more protest and resistance is appearing against these attacks in the form of mass demonstrations and strikes.

The offensive of capital takes place not only on a national level, but affects people in all parts of the world. The imperialist states have always used every means possible to forward their interests worldwide – with wars, economic sanctions or the installation of the logistical and military support of regimes faithful to them. Thus nowadays the G8 states are involved directly in imperialist wars,



are the foundations of the capitalistic system. These foundations are based on exploitation, competition and ownership of the means of production by a minority which holds power in society. On this basis there can be no real steps towards emancipation, because the rights and needs of people and the preservation of the environment are subordinated to the profit system. All appeals to the profiteers and managers of this system, appeals for a more social version of this system, appeals for at least minimum concessions have proven hopeless – the current worsening of the situation makes them more hopeless than ever.



The current developments also make it clear that the capitalist system with its exploitation and repression always produces the means to overcome it: the inner logic of capitalism and the supposed weakness of the exploited lead to increasing fierceness of the “class struggle from above” in the capitalist metropolises, which means that the question of real alternatives is posed for the people affected.

In this situation it's obvious that the reformist policies of the social democracy and the trade union leaderships, which aim for a compromise between the classes, lead in this situation to a dead-end, or they position themselves openly on the capitalists' side and begin to lose their integrative role. Based on this development, the possibility of an actual transformation of social relations towards a liberated society makes itself real. The appearance of new, mass protest movements, strikes and attempts of different forms of organization are the first signs for the fact that the times when there was a consensus in the G8 states and the social contradictions were exported are coming to an end. Besides the conflict zones in different parts of the world, where the revolutionary movements and organizations have built on decades of experience,

from Nepal via India, Colombia and the Philippines to Mexico, capital finds itself in an objectively precarious situation in

the metropolises as well, and the tendency is for this to increase. The preemptive internal armament and the ever more brutal methods against social protests, sometimes by attacks in the bourgeois media, sometimes by (supposed) offers of integration, sometimes by crude police actions, already show how this problem is to be solved. However,

the results of the relatively small strikes in the car industry, at airports or in the civil service at least give an idea of the power of the class of the wage-earners, and of what the results of even bigger and better-organised workers' struggles or even a general strike could have. Also the struggles in other parts of the world, like the factory occupations in Argentina, mass protests and riots in France against the attacks on protections against dismissal, the guerrilla struggles and militant and political general strikes in Nepal or the countless other labour struggles show which forms of struggle are possible as an answer to the attacks of capital – and also must be developed here.

But for this it is necessary to bring the isolated protests, resistance and workers' struggles again onto a political plane: to recognize the capitalist system as a cause of these developments and to strive for its overthrow. The fact that the revolutionary forces are so weak after many mistakes and defeats, especially in Germany, that they currently have almost no political influence to intervene in current developments, presents this necessity all the more urgently.

Together with racist attacks against migrants, “public opinion” is to be mobilized in a social-chauvinistic to preemptively split a possible common resistance of all affected persons.

Mobilizations like the one against the G8 summit can be an occasion to unite ourselves, to conduct discussions and gain experience. They can be used to explain criticisms of the dominant social relations and the necessity of a revolutionary transformation of these relations, as well as

