

Socialist Party says...



END NATO BOMBING

Come along to the Socialist Party's Dublin North City Branch Meeting which will be discussing the NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia.

**WEDNESDAY, 31ST MARCH AT 8.00 PM
BACHELOR'S INN, O'CONNELL BRIDGE**

NATO began air strikes across Yugoslavia early on Wednesday evening with the launch of 100 cruise missiles on several targets across the region. This crude policy of bombing by NATO forces cannot and will not resolve the extremely complex issue of the national question in the Balkans or anywhere else. NATO is not even in favour of the right of the Kosovars to self determination.

The Socialist Party completely oppose this NATO intervention. Whilst it is true that bloody offensives by the Serb army have resulted in over 70,000 new refugees in recent weeks, bombings will inevitably mean large civilian casualties, and undoubtedly lead to terrible reprisals against Kosovars.

President Milosevic will probably emerge strengthened after these attacks. In recent weeks Milosevic has purged the top of the military, and NATO attacks have already served as an excuse for him to crack down on Serbian opposition and growing working class discontent. NATO powers do not worry about keeping dictatorships intact. The military powers that make up NATO have kept dictatorships in place all over the world and happily have sold arms to them and continue to sell arms to them when it suits.

It is innocent people who will suffer the full brunt of this attack, not Milosevic. In Iraq the bombings and the sanctions have left countless dead including thousands of innocent children, but the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein survives.

Only by linking up the movements of opposition of ordinary people in Serbia with the movements of peasants and workers within Kosovo itself on the basis of freedom, respect for culture and respect for political difference can a federation, based also on democratic socialism which means the wealth of the areas for the people, can there be peace in the Balkans. The rights of all people must be respected and an end to the nightmare that currently exists. But that will not be done by bombing.

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