

LETTERS

ELECTION IS NO CURE

The Congress(I)-led UPA Government at the Centre has served big business, foreign capital and landlord classes in the country during its five year tenure. While these classes have reaped windfall profits, the people were left high and dry. All its welfare measures are meant to cover up this loot and the consequent affluence of the ruling classes and offer a bare subsistence level of living to the vast masses of the country. The Congress(I)-led UPA Government has tied its defence and foreign policies to the US superpower while reducing the country to a US appendage. In addition, it has been following a policy of interference and hegemony over all neighbouring countries. It is raking up vicious chauvinism directed against Pakistan using the problem of terrorism. The regime has been running a police, military state all over the country where people are left with nominal democratic rights. Hence the need of the hour is for the people to defeat the anti-people Congress(I) and its UPA allies in the ensuing elections to the Lok Sabha.

The BJP-led NDA is opposing the Congress(I) at the All India level. However, its practices when it was in power at the centre, as well as its current policies show that it has no basic differences with the Congress(I) as far serving big business, foreign capital and the landlord classes is concerned. Its opposition to the Congress(I)'s foreign policy (i.e., on the nuclear deal) is not a basic one as it also advocates a pro-US foreign policy. It is vying with the ruling party in raking up chauvinism against Pakistan. So is its policy of enforcing fascist repression within the country. Hence it represents a reactionary opposition and should be opposed by the people.

The basic problems of the people can be resolved only by a revolutionary movement for land, democracy and independence. People must organise themselves into such a movement led by the communist revolutionaries.

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SWITZERLAND OF SOUTH ASIA

Sharply against the path being taken by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)—CPN(M), which is concentrated in its promise to make Nepal the "Switzerland of South Asia"-a promise that featured prominently in the Party's election campaigning earlier that year. First, this promise is built on the illusion that Nepal's problems could be solved by further integration into the world imperialist system (one key plank of this promise is making Nepal a "hub of trade" between China and India), rather than by rupturing Nepal out of the system in which it has suffered generations of domination and the distortion of its economy and society overall, in accordance with the interests and dictates of imperialists and other exploiters. And this is an illusion that is rapidly going up in smoke amidst the current global economic crisis, with Nepal suffering sharp rises in the prices of basic necessities such as energy and grain. Even more

fundamentally, what does this vision have to do with communism in the first place? Switzerland is a small imperialist country that sits near the top of the imperialist food chain, feeding off the global plunder of this parasitical system. Is this the vision that should be inspiring communists?

Once again, the base areas in the People's War in Nepal had vividly demonstrated some of the revolutionary transformations that the masses were capable of making once they had power in their own hands. Imagine what a contribution the establishment of a revolutionary state, even in a relatively small and poor country like Nepal, could make to breaking through the all-too-widespread view that there is no alternative in the world today to bourgeois democracy serving capitalism and imperialism.

It is no accident that one institution that has gone virtually untouched by any changes sought by the CPN(M)-led government is the Nepal Army (NA), the pillar on which the old state stands. But while the NA, which waged a vicious counter-revolutionary war for years, and racked up one of the worst human rights records in the world, still stands fully intact, the PLA has been disarmed and confined to UN-supervised cantonments for almost three years and is now threatened with liquidation through the process of being integrated into the NA.

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA