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RabbleRouser

committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

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RECONSTITUTE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA ON THE BASIS OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM! 2002

The recent visit of the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, to the USA caused many Australians to squirm. The visit was a lesson in crawling. When the PM returned, a member of parliament called the PM 'an arse licker'. This caused a storm, 'unsuitable language for the House' pleaded the conservatives. These puppets of the ruling class, including the Labor Party in Opposition, do the same each day as the PM did in the USA.

The high light of the US visit was the PM.s speech and the many standing ovations from the US Congress . We were later informed that out of 500 Senators , only about 30 turned out to hear the PM and the empty seats were filled with local school children.

The result of the US visit is the same as ever, Australia fully committed to the War on Terror, the commitment to silencing opposition inside Australia, US troops in Australia , full use of the spy facilities to aid the 'war', and the farmers just as near to an expanding US market as the 'second coming'. The PM is now on a world tour telling all about Australia's detention policy of asylum seekers, whipping up the european conservatives against the approx 22 million refugees in the world. We wonder if any of the Europeans , or Bush, remembered the PM's name.

For the benefit of citizens not born in Australia, the term, 'arse licker' is part of the language, and applies to people who inform on fellow workers to the boss for personal gain, all sorts of teachers' pets. or in times of enemy occupation snitching to the enemy, although the word then was quisling.

Australia is already the dumping ground for American films and TV, the local industry fights to remain alive. The food, dress, music, language tails behind the USA. So supporting the 'first strike' policy, mandatory detention., third strike you are down, was all born in the USA.

This does not mean that Australia is oppressed by the USA. Australia is an imperialist power in its own right and acts according to Australia's interest. Australia's interest is bourgeois interest, not in the interests of the working class; these two are irreconcilable.

Plans are being drawn up to overthrow Saddam Hussein around November 2002. the US predicts the use of 250,000 ground troops, Britain has been asked to participate. Downer, Australia's Foreign Minister, would like a more democratic government in Iraq, and wants more diplomatic processes tried before military action! Australia has had a naval presence in Iraq since 1990, so is not likely to spit the dummy over diplomatic schemes. The SAS troops already used, 1800 of them,

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are trying to get their disabilities recognised after 11 years . This included chromosomal damage. **HANDS OFF IRAQ !**

The PM crawling all over the USA and Europe has been done without the consent of tens of thousands of Australians.


Mr Downer, pictured in the daily press with US Colin Powell, now urges war with Iraq. He believes the world will be a safe place when the government of Iraq is overthrown! The imperialists hope to do an electoral shuffle like they did in Afghanistan. US troops are ready in Jordan.

Any ideas Downer had of diplomatic moves on Iraq, vanished when he met Secretary of State Powell, the CIA Chief George Tenet, and the former secretary of state Albright. These plans have serious consequences for Iraq where more than a million children have already died from the US sanctions. The much talked about 250,000 troops needed to crush Iraq will reap the whirlwind.

The imperialists will meet the wrath of the masses in the Middle East and the world.

HANDS OFF IRAQ !

12.7.02 AUSTRALIAN



...SO MANY YOUNG MEN DIED
HERE AT YPRES...WE MUST
REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO
ENSURING THAT IT NEVER
HAPPENS AG....

GEORGE!! G'DAY!...
...IRAQ?... SURE!!...
...WHEN DO WE START?...

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\$55m to end black pay fraud

Scott Emerson
• Queensland political reporter

ABORIGINES defrauded of wages and savings have been offered \$55 million in compensation by the Queensland Government in a move that has split the state's indigenous community.

Premier Peter Beattie described the offer as a historic effort to end a century-long injustice, which defrauded Aborigines of between \$200 million and \$1 billion.

Mr Beattie said the offer to 16,400 Aborigines of \$2000 or \$4000 would also include a

'This is a historic offer — it is also a realistic and fair offer'

Peter Beattie
Queensland Premier

formal apology, which some Aboriginal leaders have branded an insult.

Between the 1890s and 1972, the Queensland Government controlled the wages of most Aborigines in the state, placing up to 70 per cent of them into government-controlled funds — a practice formalised in 1943 by the establishment of the Aborigines Welfare Fund.

When frozen in 1993, the fund contained \$3 million — now \$8.6 million — despite an investigation estimating it should have controlled more than \$200 million in assets and investments.

The fund was found to have been subject to mismanagement, repeated fraud, withdrawals by successive governments to cover expenses

across the public service, and even to pay for the removal of Aboriginal children.

"This is a historic offer — it is also a realistic and fair offer," Mr Beattie said yesterday.

Mr Beattie said the offer of \$55 million, which was made to Aboriginal leaders at a meeting last week, could save \$100 million in legal expenses.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Queensland commissioner Ray Robinson said the settlement was "a major step towards practical reconciliation", and offered his team's services to other states grappling with similar issues.

"I think this is a step towards reconciliation between black and white Australia, and I think these type of things have got to be done all around Australia," Mr Robinson said.

"We will now offer NSW, and any other state that needs to do it, to negotiate for them as well."

But Yarrabah Community Council chairman Peter Yeatman described the offer as an "insult", and Palm Island Community chairwoman Delina Forster said she was disappointed.

"I suppose it's something, but I believe it should have been more," Ms Forster said.

Historian Ros Kidd, whose research revealed the abuse of the Aboriginal funds, said as much as \$1 billion could have been lost, and the \$55 million would only compensate those from Palm Island.

Mr Beattie said he was unaware of the situation in other states, but believed such an offer would be a step towards reconciliation.

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks said he would seek advice on whether the Queensland move could be replicated in his state.

It was a "protection" racket that defrauded Aborigines of at least \$200 million. Aborigines' wages were even used to pay for the removal of their children. Under 19th-century legislation, the Queensland government had the responsibility for the protection of its Aborigines. It used its powers to move them off their land on to missions, break up families and exercise control over their financial affairs. Until 1972, it controlled the labour, wages and savings of most Aborigines, as much as 70 per cent being compulsorily deducted from wages to be placed in two funds. The rest went on taxes and pocket money, but many Aborigines claimed they received nothing.

The investigation found the accounts were defrauded regularly... and were raided by successive governments to cover expenses across the public service. One of the funds was the Queensland Aborigines Account, established in 1897 as a grant savings account, administered by the state on behalf of Aboriginal workers until 1966. The Aborigines had no control over their money, which was nominally held in accounts under their names that officials used to buy them clothing, and pay for travel, postage and medical treatment. The other was the Aborigines Welfare Fund, into which was paid a 10 per cent levy on wages after income tax. It was created in 1943 on the principle that Aborigines in the workforce

should pay to support Aborigines living on government missions, such as Cherbourg. Interest from the savings accounts was directed to the welfare fund. The savings account was closed in the early 1990s. The welfare fund ceased trading in 1993 after an investigation by the Goss government estimated it should have held \$200 million in assets and investments, but instead was worth less than \$3 million. Despite poor records, the investigation found the accounts were defrauded regularly. The welfare fund was also raided by successive govern-

ments to cover expenses across the public service. "Proectors and administrators were in positions of considerable power," said the report by The Consultancy Bureau. Assets of the welfare fund included loans to hospital boards, loss-making community enterprises and even shares in bauxite mine Comalco. The report noted some uncertainty about the destiny of the proceeds from the sale of the Comalco shares in 1987. Government archives show that in 1964, £10,000 from the welfare fund was spent on the "removal" of Aboriginal children. In the early 1960s, the people of Mapoon were evicted at gunpoint as their homes were burned to make way for Comalco's bauxite mine. Their forced relocation to Bamaga was financed by the welfare fund.

Relieved of wages for their own protection

Scott Emerson

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CHILDREN WE WRITE OFF

(Published The Age June 8-9 2002)

The above article reported that thousands of children are reported suffering neglect, to the various State government departments in Australia. In the parliament, the economy is proclaimed as the 'best' in the world, and the 'war on terrorism' has, in Australia, the greatest ally of the USA.

The case workers employed to watch over the children are forced to make decisions every day on what child to remove from a violent home and which child to 'write off'

The case workers are under paid, under resourced, often do not have a car to drive to see the child, nor another case worker to attend a case (the rules are for two to go), bad working conditions, and long hours.

The Child Protection Case Workers are so stressed that the State's Worksafe Agency found them to be at risk of psychological injury and the Dept of Human Services had been ordered to take action. The Union covering the workers in Child Protection, said, 'we have the laws but not the resources' Case workers interviewed reported that they lay awake at night worrying about the children at risk. In one state there were more than 700 cases to be assessed

Some children die as a result of this government neglect. Children are beaten with electric cords, are locked out of the house for wetting the bed, baby girls with vaginal injuries, toddlers who are scalded, and youngsters drowned in the bath from being left alone. Caseworkers say they are dealing with complex cases of dysfunction, in one State 140,806 reports of suspected abuse, up from 19,336 notifications in 1992, while they have to spend precious time photocopying and word processing.

The Age report brought this to the attention of the general public. It appears that the people need to take a hand in supporting the Case workers and their Union in applying pressure on the government to save the lives of these children and open the purse strings. The government can find millions of dollars to send troops to AFGHANISTAN AND NOW THEY PROMISE TO GO ON A KILLING SPREE IN IRAQ.

This is further evidence that parliament is not going to solve the problems of the people, We must solve our own problems outside parliament.

ABORIGINES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF 20 YEARS LESS THAN WHITE AUSTRALIANS. IS THIS A NATIONAL DISGRACE ?

Australia has the dubious distinction of being the only First World country with a dispossessed indigenous minority whose men, on average, will not live long enough to claim a retirement pension. (Australian June 29-30 2002).

Aboriginal life expectancy lags 20 years behind that of the wider community. Noel Pearson, Aboriginal leader, has said that if non-Aboriginal towns expectancy of '50 years and sliding', if almost 40% of 15 to 40 year olds had a sexually transmitted disease, if the populations of country towns suffered the same imprisonment rates as those of Aboriginal communities, "nothing less than a state of emergency" would be declared. But because it was black communities that were afflicted, these 'outrageous' statistics were greeted with 'numb acceptance'.

After more than 200 years the Aboriginal people are still dying. Not only are they handed this by the federal and state governments, but by a large number of Australians.

The various government departments spend money on Aboriginal welfare but we need to listen to the indigenous people. They say the money is spent and administered in most cases by white bureaucrats. This must stop. And, we all have to see that the indigenous people manage their own affairs. Of course they can do it. We would all be insulted if we were told we couldn't be 'the butcher, the baker, the candle stick maker'. Any 'numb acceptance' of the terrible conditions above, and we must join together and practice proletarian internationalism.

Australian life expectancy 1998-2000

♂	Indigenous males	56
	Total male population	77
♀	Indigenous females	63
	Total female population	83

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Life expectancy 'gap'

Years between life expectancy of indigenous population and national average

Australia	20-21
US	3-4
Canada	7
New Zealand	5-6

Source: Parliamentary library