

3RD CONGRESS OF RCPB(ML) 1999

Documents

Documents *on the 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML)* London, March 19-21, 1999.

Message of Sandra Smith, National Leader and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

What the Objective and Subjective Conditions are Pointing Towards

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The Line of March to a New Society Presentation by CC at Release of Report

Resolutions of the 3rd Congress of the RCPB (ML)

Communiqué Historic 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML) Successfully Held



Workers' Weekly, carried instalments, "From the 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML)", reproducing themes and issues taken up at the 3rd Congress, held in London from March 19-21, 1999. See Workers' Weekly, May 1, Vol.29, No.9, for Special Supplement "Historic 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML) Successfully Held", and May 8, No.10, for messages which were sent to the Congress.

Supplementary Documents

National Consultative Forum London on September 12 1999

Communiqué of the 4th Plenum of the Central Committee of RCPB(ML)

RCPB (ML) Congress & documents

Afterwards

Document 1 | Message of Sandra Smith, National Leader and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), to the 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML)



Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), I would like to express how happy we are to have been here to share this occasion with you and participate in your deliberations. We express our warmest congratulations for the success of your work. We are overjoyed at the quality your Party has created based on the refusal to conciliate with the old, with the pressure that there is no way forward, no alternative to the crisis-ridden capitalist system and its inability to provide for the people.

One of the things that has created the close relations between our two parties based on proletarian internationalism is the understanding we have that besides settling scores with the bourgeoisie in our own countries, we have common tasks which we do together, the problems that face the international communist and workers' movement. This is, in the opinion of our two parties, the essence of proletarian internationalism, the basis for the fighting unity we have established over the years. Identifying the work which we have in common has established very close working relations which we treasure and pledge on this occasion to further strengthen. Just as in the past few years we have worked together to establish the general line for this period of retreat of revolution and to provide the movement with modern definitions, we are certain that in the coming period we will together contribute to providing the problems left over by the 20th century with a solution. As the new millennium approaches, all the contradictions inherent in society and on the world scale are sharpening and the demands which the life and death class struggle makes on us are increasing. I am confident that on the basis of the quality which you have given rise to, based on the refusal to conciliate with the old, you will successfully lead the struggle in Britain for a consistent democracy and open society's path to progress.

Dear Comrades, it is a matter of great sadness for all of us that Comrade Bains, who was at your side in 1994 when this phase of the work that you have entered was started in all earnest, is not here to share this occasion with you. I know the pride that we feel that the element that Comrade Bains held most precious, which was to have fidelity to one's principles, fidelity to one's cause, has been demonstrated by the British Party. In my opinion, it is because it has demonstrated that fidelity that the problems which it has taken up for solution in

the last few years, the difficulties it has faced, have been tackled successfully. Your 3rd Congress is testimony to this.

Comrade Bains used to say that we should look at problems with affection because they are of our own making. The easiest thing to do, especially in the face of the liquidationist pressure, is to simply not do anything because there is no dearth of excuses why it is not possible to do various things. But to have the courage of one's convictions means to open up the path to society's progress and this means that we are creating a lot of problems for ourselves. Comrade Bains taught us never to be stymied by the real problems of life but to face them with affection and march on.

Our main assets are our principles and basing our line on reality and the concerns of the people. In this regard, Comrade Bains pointed out, "A theory must be linked with practice but to actually do so, to actually carry out action with analysis, to give it a broad and profound character, to fight any narrowing or diminishing of the question, is the crucial task." I think that we have seen at this Congress that this is precisely the character that the work of the British party has begun to assume. On this occasion, besides wishing the British comrades further successes in their work, we also greatly appreciate the fact that your work is of great assistance to us as well.

Comrade Bains pointed out that an event is analysed and the conclusion about it is drawn not by detaching it from the conditions in which it occurs but in its context. The work is then carried out further based on the conclusions. In other words, such events have become the source of our line and the basis of our theory. The conclusion that without line there can be no organisation and that the work to develop the line has begun in all earnest is what will stand us in good stead in the coming period.

A Congress, of course, is the time for summation. It is a very exciting time because it not only has the satisfaction of work accomplished but it also begins to present the prediction of what lies ahead. From having reached a particular stage you start seeing the new zero; and the work begins all over again. There is an excitement in the air which comes from the eagerness to tackle the tasks set by the Congress so as to make the advances required by our times. The excitement we feel in the air at this Congress is real because it is based on a summation which has taken place as part of life. This summation or analysis of the developments is then worthy of guiding our actions and our actions enrich our analysis and the consciousness of the organisations and cadres deepens in a dialectical fashion.

When Comrade Bains guided us in the analysis of the present period of retreat of revolution in the 1989-1990 period, and I know when he stood with the British comrades in 1994, he pointed these things out. It is of tremendous satisfaction to all of us here to have carried out the work and begin to really understand what this means. In this regard, he also taught us to pay the utmost attention to the form, that is the level of organisation and the tactics of struggle. He pointed out that “an organisation which does not correspond to the level and the needs of the movement will be of no use to anyone. This much is very clear. But when it actually comes down to paying attention to building an organisation, only then does the hankering come for another life. This is where the chaff is isolated from the wheat.” This shows the close relationship between the form and the content, which is a dialectical relationship. The crucial thing is to establish that force which is capable of embodying it and doing it in real life; otherwise it is just knowledge, a weapon without much use.

Clearly at this Congress we have seen such a force and this is a matter of great joy to all of us. Since their founding, our two parties have been opposed to system-catchers, to those who seek to divert the movement in a manner that goes against its interests. But the movement is with us. It represents the drive for the creation of a society that respects and recognises the rights of all. This demand has put the solution of the question of rights on the agenda and it is the key to opening the path to progress. This movement faces all kinds of disruptive influences from forces which try to divert it to some other aim, which is the preservation of the status quo. We are fully convinced that it is by providing the line for that movement, that banner, that demand that society recognise the rights of all, which will give it its coherence and provide it with its organisation. We are fully convinced that we will solve this problem of having the working class develop its independent role so that we can end the status quo and avert the dangers which imperialism, the bourgeoisie and all reaction are preparing.



Comrades, the feeling which is engendered in the developments at this time, not only the feeling but the certainty, is that during these days the whole future is being conceptualised. Comrade Bains pointed out that this world is not going to remain the same. Something is telling us again and again, he said. He called it a voice coming from the heart of humanity: the world is not going to remain the same. And he said that we are that force which is all too anxious to see it change, to become its willing instruments. This is what we have seen at the 3rd Congress of the RCPB(ML)!

Long Live the 3rd Congress of the RCPB(ML)!
Long Live the Fighting Unity Between Our Two Parties, CPC(ML) and RCPB(ML)!

Document 2 | What the Objective and Subjective Conditions are Pointing Towards

THE agenda that was set for the Congress was orientated to taking decisions on the work of the Party. The main issue in these decisions was to assess, in looking at the stage of the Party's work, and what the objective and subjective conditions are pointing towards, what must be done to rise to the occasion, to meet the challenge of the demands of the times. The aim of the agenda was to ensure that the perspective for leading the way out of the crisis is set, and within this perspective what the work should be.

It was pointed out that our Party has put a great deal of attention into the consideration of the question of what the objective and subjective conditions in society are pointing towards. This is a major point of contention between the various social forces.

Discussions took place during the Congress on the objective situation and what the conditions are pointing towards. The discussions re-emphasised that the crucial draft document, **There Is a Way Out of the Crisis**, which the Party put

forward for discussion five years ago, still remains the basis of its line. The Congress passed a resolution ratifying the draft document and adopting it as the general line of the Party. At the same time, the Congress put forward the slogan *For a Socialist Britain!* as encapsulating what the vision is, that *There Is a Way Out of the Crisis*.

The Congress deliberations drew attention to the increased drive of the monopolies for global domination. The Congress affirmed that the people's well-being should be put at the centre of the economy and not the interests of the monopolies, that this escalating drive of the monopolies spells great dangers for the world's people. This increasing "globalisation" is pointing towards the need for revolution so that all the needs of the peoples and oppressed nations can be satisfied.

The deliberations underlined that on the other hand, the bourgeoisie follows the whole monetarist policy and the policy of fiscal restraints and of this current phase of paying the rich that were started by Margaret Thatcher together with Ronald Reagan. The Congress looked at how the arrangements of the bourgeoisie to preserve the status quo are being made today, how the bourgeoisie, to preserve the status quo, is adapting the "solutions" of 19th century liberalism. It is precisely in the new arrangements that the dangers which lie ahead can be seen.

Congress affirmed that *what the conditions are pointing towards* is the most important thing for the communists. In the discussions, it was pointed out that the disinformation of the bourgeoisie hides the context of the maturing objective conditions. This disinformation disarms the working class and people by taking things out of context and not analysing the developments and not pointing out what is inherent in the situation, what the situation is pointing towards. Once the working class and people are armed and can understand what the situation is pointing towards, then they are in no danger of abandoning their principles or falling into the traps set by the bourgeoisie.

It was pointed out during the deliberations that the bourgeoisie has been in all-round crisis for most of this century. The October Revolution of itself in 1917 gave rise to the greatest crisis of capitalism in this era. The socialist system which was established in the Soviet Union dealt a very severe blow from which the imperialist powers developed their warmongering policies to try and smash the socialist Soviet Union, and rescue themselves from their crisis and wipe communism from the face of the earth. However, they were foiled in their attempts. The Hitlerite aggression against the Soviet Union was defeated,

communism still kept burning, and not only in the hearts of humankind. It was not the armed might of imperialism that smashed the socialist system.

However, today in a period when revolution has gone into retreat, the Tony Blair government is trying to say that there is a “third way” between capitalism and socialism. But in the present crisis of capitalism, when the whole society is geared to paying the rich, when Tony Blair is carrying forward the anti-social offensive in a different guise, it is even more important to explain that the objective conditions are still pointing towards the fact that society must undergo a radical transformation. The monopolies are still ruling the roost. If anyone thought that monopolisation could not go further, this past year or so has completely dispelled that. The electoral coup of New Labour, Tony Blair’s “third way”, his promotion of “social partnership”, have the primary aim of trying to divert the working class and people from going for socialism.

The objective conditions are pointing towards socialism. The working class as the revolutionary class, as the class that whose interest it is not to exploit any other persons, which produces all the wealth, is the class in whose interest it is to lead the transformation of society to socialism. When society is socialised to the maximum, where else is there to go, how else can society be extricated from the crisis? Socialism is not just those categories of doctrines that the communists preach to the people, a dogmatic collection of ideas. Neither is present-day society capitalist just as a matter of definition. It is not just a matter of providing a description of the society that is causing such problems for the people. The working class and people desperately want to get out of this crisis. Struggles are going on in society, the struggles against the anti-social offensive in health, education, and all the other social programmes that are being attacked. The workers themselves are being drawn into this fight over the question of monopolisation, when whole sections of industry have been put on the line, when the scientific, technical revolution itself is being used as a factor against the people causing further crisis.

In other words, all the factors are there for the people to break with the system. The working class, which is being drawn into the struggle, must politicise itself and take centre stage. We cannot draw back from shattering the illusions about New Labour which has been brought to power to continue administering the capitalist system simply because it has links with the “labour movement”. In fact, illusions are being shattered simply through concrete experience. Congress reiterated that the working class and people should draw the appropriate conclusions, and these appropriate conclusions are that society must move

forward to socialism. What other future is there? Socialism is the future, it is a proletarian future and nothing else could be the society of the future in the 21st century. This is what the objective conditions are pointing towards. Congress affirmed that this socialist society is one where the rights of all are guaranteed, where the people's claims on society are met irrespective of wealth, irrespective of "scarce resources", or any other consideration.

Document 3 | Building the Communist Party on the New Historical Basis



THE THIRD CONGRESS embodied the collective will of the Party. This was the quality to work to build RCPB(ML) as a modern communist party. Like the two National Consultative Conferences of 1998 before it, the Congress represented an arrangement whereby the whole Party was drawn into the deliberations on the further advance of the Party's work.

Discussion took place during the Congress on the line of march of the Party, and in this context the question of what it means to build a modern communist party was addressed.

It was remarked that it is pertinent in considering the norms and organisational line of the modern communist party to look at the question of the how the credentials of this Congress were arrived at. If a basic organisation was in good standing, the credentials of the members of that basic organisation were assessed in relation to that basic organisation. In other words, it was not a question of individual qualities or personalities, it was not a question of assessing comrades' strengths and weaknesses in the abstract. If the basic organisation was not in good standing, even if members were admitted into the Party many years ago, there was no basis on which they could attend the Congress as full delegates because the credentials have been assessed in relation to the standing of the basic organisation. So the participation in the Congress has been reflected in relation to the work of the Party. It does not in any way go against the constitution that was adopted in 1983. The norms reflect the cultural and social forms that were appropriate for that time. These norms have not been contradicted, but they have been built on with this crucial factor of conscious participation of the whole membership in the work of the Party.

This led the Congress to point out that, in considering the question of the theory and practice of a modern communist party, one of the key issues is the consciousness with which the work is carried out. The issue is not simply just to agree or disagree with the line that is put. The issue is that a modern communist party comprises people, comrades and activists, who are thinking through and working through the problems themselves. The people who actually carry out the work are the ones who also have to do the work of analysing what is that experience.

It must be addressed that in building a modern communist party, it is the most crucial factor in bringing about revolution. Why is it then that modern

communist parties have not been built and revolution taken place? In this connection, the agenda of the Congress raised that scores must be settled with the old philosophic conscience. Building socialism here in Britain is not building socialism with old so-called British colours, with a “British Road to Socialism” which says that there is at root something to be cherished about this British democratic system, something which makes Britain an exception to the laws governing all social revolutions.

It is therefore the order of the day that a modern communist party has to settle scores with the old philosophic conscience.

The Congress resolved that RCPB(ML) must step up the work to build the Party on such a new historical basis and to further strengthen it on the basis of the principles of democratic centralism.

The Congress recognises that in carrying out this work, the basis of unity of Marxist-Leninists as adherents of some general principles of communism, or some general line, is not enough. It has to develop its work on the basis of modern definitions.

It is the order of the day that the communists elevate themselves to the position of politicians, respected by the working class and the broad masses of the people. This raises the question of what is a politician, what does it mean to be political. The Congress, in deliberating this issue, drew attention to what will transform the situation. It drew parallels with the Party’s plan for *Workers’ Weekly* which it has stuck to and in which, rather than focusing on developing some pure so-called “politically correct line”, the Party has focused on paying attention to its decisions on this front and implementing them. It drew the conclusion that having basic organisations which are organs of class struggle, the collective leadership, will transform the situation in terms of the communists elevating themselves to the position of politicians. This, furthermore, is at the core of the issue of basic organisations being in good standing.

This is one central implication of building the unity of Marxist-Leninists on a new historical basis.

IN DEALING WITH THIS QUESTION, the Congress pointed out that in this period there is very big pressure for people to say that the movement is everything, that getting involved with and intervening in the movement is the main thing, whereas the Party’s work comes nowhere. Our Party, however, is constituted on the basis of the analysis that the objective conditions are over-ripe for revolution but the subjective conditions lag behind. Our entire raison d’être, therefore, is to prepare these subjective conditions for revolution. For this reason,

it is essential for our very life to go profoundly into the question of the modern definition of a communist party.

In the course of the deliberations, it was pointed out that in the twentieth century there has been a great deal of experience. There has been not only the victory of revolution first in socialist Russia, and the creation of the Soviet Union, but people's democracies were established. The communist and workers' movement has been in existence from the time of Marx. However, in the 1960s, when the Internationalists were founded, the situation was that, more than one decade after the second world war had ended, with communist parties in many countries, including Britain, revolution was not taking place. Not to address the question of why this was so was not to take a serious attitude.

Let us go back to Marx's time, and trace through the question of the party of the working class, the communist party, as the issue was discussed at Congress. Marx said that the issue is not to interpret the world, the issue is to change it. Marx and Engels issued the Communist Manifesto in answer to the spectre of communism which the bourgeoisie had evoked. It is important to realise that the "spectre of communism" means precisely the bourgeoisie's rendition of communism, a phantasm of the brain. One of the big problems that the communist and workers' movement faces is that what is generally understood by communism is what the bourgeoisie promotes as communism. Marx and Engels, who settled scores with the conscience of their time, with French socialism and other trends, said that it is high time that the spectre of communism is answered with a manifesto of our own, the Manifesto of the Communist Party.

Marx analysed that the bourgeoisie has given rise to its own gravedigger, the proletariat. It is the class struggle between the bourgeoisie and proletariat that is the basis of motion, development and change in society. The Chartist movement was the expression of the working class movement at that time. At that time, only the citizens, the men of property, were eligible to vote, and the struggle for universal suffrage took place. If the bourgeoisie had not perfected the party system, then under a democracy the working class could have been elected to power. However, the bourgeoisie established their conception of a political party as an electoral machine, and established the system of representative democracy as one which brings political parties to power or keeps them in power. Political parties in this system are instruments to de-politicise the masses. And the essence of this political system is to keep the working class out of power. When the role of a political force in this society is assessed, then it must be assessed in relation to the class struggle. That is to say, whether it is struggling to bring the working class into power so that it can vest sovereignty in the people, or whether its contribution is to de-politicise the people, keep them marginalised, keep them out of power. In other words, the key thing about the role of a political party under

modern definitions is whether it is facilitating the working class to occupy that space for change, the space to empower itself, or not.

After the time of Marx, the role of a political party was still conceived of as that of coming to power through elections. When the working class created its own party, the Labour Party, it represented the interests of labour, just as at that time the working class was organising itself in defence organisations, defence organisations of the interests of the working class. At that time, the issue presented itself as a contest between parties of different kinds with the Conservatives representing very definite property interests and the Liberals representing very definite commercial interests. But by the time capitalism changed into monopoly capitalism, the whole system had been perfected of keeping the working class out of power. Then it was once again necessary to address the question of the nature of a political party.

This is the time that Lenin came forward to analyse that it was necessary to create a party of a new type, the Leninist party. Our Party is a Leninist party in that its conditions for membership are based on agreeing with the general line of the Party, paying dues and working in a Party organisation. The fight that took place at the time of Lenin on the rules of party membership was between those who wanted just to agree with the general line and those who upheld that membership must entail working in a party organisation. This is when it was hammered out that the communist party must be organised on the basis of cells. If the issue is left there, the question arises, if there exist communist parties where everyone who belongs to the party is working in a party cell, why is revolution not occurring? Why aren't the subjective conditions being prepared?

The problem taken up for solution is precisely that of the relationship between form and content. There is the issue that you cannot be in good standing unless you agree with the general line, you pay dues and you work in a party organisation. However, this is not enough. The key element, according to our modern definitions, is that the basic organisation has to be an instrument of class struggle. In other words, its members have to be political. Being political means waging the class struggle in favour of your class. This is a matter of very tough decisions of how to occupy this space and how to bring the class with you, how to create the social forms, how to imbue the movement with theory. The key question about democratic centralism is that it is based on the line. There cannot be organisations devoid of dealing with the line, not waging the ideological struggle. Therefore, when our Party gives the formulation that the issue is to raise the level of consciousness and organisation, based on our theory that an individual cannot have understanding without conscious participation, this means that there cannot be organisations except those of people who participate in elaborating the programme. It is impossible to build basic organisations in any other way.

Social form comes as a vision is provided, as the ideological struggle is waged, as the movement is imbued with its line. Therefore, it is necessary to consider which social forms facilitate the workers occupying this space for change, facilitate ending the political passivity of the working class. It is our responsibility to end the passivity of the working class.

How is an organisation going to occupy the space for change, set its line of march? What is important are the collective decisions that are made in practice. If organisations are instruments of class struggle and are waging the class struggle, then sometimes very hard decisions have to be made. But this is what is going to end the passivity, this is what is going to break the de-politicisation of the working class.

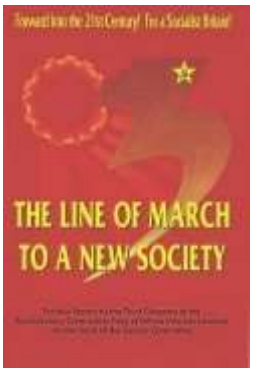
If the movement is everything and the plan is nothing, then you can fight in the movement and it is not going to make any difference, because what is needed is sticking to the plan and then taking those initiatives. Courageous basic organisations are needed that are going to analyse, that do not exist in order to master the "correct line". The line is there as a guide. As a Party, we base ourselves on the most advanced theory, the most advanced experience. But when all is said and done, theory is the summation of the actual experience of the workers' and communist movement. The comrades who are actually waging the class struggle in practice are the ones who not only know what is going on but can determine what can be done to advance the struggle. Of course, as all the comrades who are in the working class movement and others know, this is very, very tough.

To sort out of the relationship between form and content, and the dialectical relation between the two, is to defend form once the content has been decided. It is by defending that form, that democratic centralism, the implementation of the decisions, the representing and not misrepresenting, that defends the content. This is what becomes decisive. If any concession is made on the question of iron discipline then nothing will be accomplished. This is why fights take place on this question, and this is why these fights are life and death issues. This is why our Party is so enthusiastic about these fights and sorting out these problems.

When that quality is given birth to, the quality of the new historical basis, the quality of the modern communist party, of settling scores with the old philosophic conscience, this is the quality that you have your organisation and you defend it like the apple of your eye. It is then the Party will be able to turn that quality into quantity. This is why the 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML) is historic, because it is based on, it has given rise to, this quality of the new historical basis that is decisive for preparing the subjective conditions for revolution, for preparing for the coming revolutionary storms.

Document 4 | ***Presentation given by a representative of the Central Committee at the release of the Political Report to the Third Congress of RCPB(ML) on the Work of the Central Committee***





January 8th 2000. Meeting in Conway Hall, London, at the Release of the Political Report to the Third Congress of RCPB(ML) on the work of the Central Committee. Published under the title, The Line of March to a New Society. In its published form reflects also the contributions made to it by the deliberations of the Congress. Read the Party Document
Line of March Chapter 1
Line of March Chapter 2
Line of March Chapter 3

Comrades and friends,

The significance of the 3rd Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) to us as we start the new millennium is that it has opened up the line of march that will take us to a new society, to a socialist Britain, as part of the struggles of the working and oppressed peoples, the workers' and communist movement world-wide for emancipation. This is why we have given the Congress Report this title: "The Line of March to a New Society". This line of march does not mean that now everything is cut and dried. But it means that we have a clear perspective. The experience of our Party, especially since 1994, summed up in the 3rd Congress, has taught us how to build our history from one stage to the next in the course of working out the line of march and the problems which demand solution in the whole of society. Therefore, this is why the Report to the 3rd Congress is such an important document, and

becomes itself a weapon in the struggle. We are very proud to be opening up the 21st century, the new millennium with the publication and release of this document. There could be no more fitting way that our work in this millennium could be opened up other than with the publication of this document. Of course, this also means that all the hard work is ahead of us, that we actually have to advance along this line of march. But now the success of the Congress will give rise to the success of the implementation of its decisions and its perspectives. We are confident that this work too will be crowned with success, and that these successes in turn will be transformed into lasting victory, into a realisation of a socialist Britain, the deed of the working class and people themselves through social revolution, so that the working class does indeed constitute itself the nation, become the leading class and take the human and material resources under its control, set its revolutionary stamp on society, and move to the elimination of exploitation of persons by persons and finally achieve the goal of communism and the classless society.

This 21st century ahead will be a century of unprecedented revolutionary transformations. This is what we can confidently predict from the whole history of the 20th century from our standpoint as communists engaged without reservation in the struggle to transform society from capitalism to socialism. The bourgeoisie cannot offer the people any bright future for the 21st century. Their world is full of incoherence, which they try to rescue by imposing on the people a programme of being competitive globally while hatching up various versions of the so-called Third Way to convince the people to go along with this programme and accept that there is some hybrid system, some mythical beast of a society which is neither capitalist nor socialist, to convince the people that human development has ended apart from implementing the programme of globalisation, that the future can only be guaranteed if they do so, but that life consists of such hard choices.

For us the exact opposite is true. From the concrete analysis of the objective situation and armed with the theory of Contemporary Marxist-Leninist Thought, we can see how the human factor/social consciousness can be brought into play so that humanity can march along the path that will open the door to progress and bring about a new society based not on sentiment, not a utopia, but a society which is born of the very conditions that exist in today's society, but provided all that is blocking the forward development of such a society is cast off. This is the challenge to our Party and to humankind, to remove those blocks to the development of society, to fight the class struggle on these fronts where the space for change exists, to actually bring about this change in a programme of practical politics, to bring the gestation of the new society to its full term precisely along this line of march.

In other words, our task is to prepare the subjective conditions for revolution. This is one of the main themes of the Report, that the whole reason for the Party's existence to prepare these subjective conditions, to prepare for the coming

revolutionary storms is brought out in *The Line of March to a New Society.* The Party itself is the number one factor, the decisive instrument, the most conscious element in preparing these conditions. We say that the objective conditions are ripe, in fact over-ripe, that there is and can be no next stage of society except socialism, that everything about this society cries out that such socialism should be brought about. But that conversely this is the ruin of the bourgeoisie, it is the ruin of the financial oligarchy and all exploiters. So all their efforts go into the promotion that there is no next stage, that the working class should not go for socialism.

The Political Report to the 3rd Congress brings out what the main thesis of the Party's 3rd Congress is. It points out that it is the work of the Party and its Central Committee which brought the Party to the 3rd Congress and enabled us to stand on our own feet. The Report then stresses that in order to rise to the occasion in the period which lies ahead into the 21st century and carry out its new plan of practical politics, the tasks which are required to lift society out of the crisis and open the door to a socialist Britain – what is necessary is that RCPB(ML) be consolidated on the new historical basis. What this new historical basis is, is elaborated in the report. The conscious factor is what underlies this new historical basis. It involves all the members, all the Marxist-Leninists, in being political, not confining themselves to agreeing or disagreeing, not just being members of a basic organisation but actually working out ways to wage the class struggle in practice at the appropriate level. It requires organisations that combine action with analysis. In this context, the Report raises the importance of settling scores with the old philosophic conscience. Here it is the new parts company with the old, what is revolutionary parts company with what is conciliatory. Settling scores with the old philosophic conscience is not something obscure or esoteric that we are putting forward. It is crucial to Marxist-Leninists finding their bearings. It determines whether it is revolution that is being organised or something else. One can be very "left" sounding but not be settling scores with what is old. And this struggle dates right back to the time of Marx when he put forward that philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways, but the issue is to change it. He put forward that the most radical rupture was required, not only with the old property relations but with the whole superstructure and pervading ideology that protects and defends those old property relations. This is the radical rupture, this is the settling of scores with the old conscience, that Marx and Engels came to the conclusion must be carried out in their day. And they did so by going into the essence of things. All forms of social democracy deny that scores must be settled with the old conscience. Margaret Thatcher was a Conservative. She was and is a whole-hearted advocate of privatisation and the neo-liberal agenda. She made no bones about her support for capitalism, and was "radical" only in the sense that she pushed forward the programme of privatisation and neo-liberalism, the adoption of 19th century values on the economic basis of the rule of the monopolies. In dismantling the state sector of monopoly capitalism and

dismantling the welfare state to suit the needs of the monopolies, at the same time she promoted the "trickle-down" effect and "people's capitalism" as to how the people were supposed to benefit from this neo-liberal agenda. But the people were up in arms against such an agenda. At this point in Britain comes Tony Blair, after the interregnum of John Major where "style of leadership" was changed without changing the substance of the policies, without departing from Thatcherism. Blair has done a service to the whole bourgeoisie internationally by his elaboration of this "Third Way", the attempt to re-impose a coherence on the crisis-ridden capitalist society. Logic shows that if the programme of privatisation and neo-liberalism that Thatcher put forward has not only failed to lift society out of its crisis but is a factor exacerbating the crisis, then without further ado the whole motive of this society should be changed. The whole direction of the economy should be changed, society should move forward to socialism. But Tony Blair comes up with the "Third Way", a modernised and renovated social democracy that is supposedly neither capitalism nor socialism, that is neither pro-worker nor pro-capitalist, that is neither old left nor new right. It is supposed to transcend all these divisions and release the British genius. In this context, Blair too claims to be "radical" just as Thatcher before him. But actually to be radical is to transform society at its root. In other words, to be actually radical also means that scores have to be settled with the old. Settling scores is the last thing that Tony Blair wants to do, apart from settling scores with the independent working class programme. This Third Way is all elaborated, and one of the latest things is that a TUC journal is set up. This comes after the special TUC conference on social partnership last year, at which both John Monks and Tony Blair elaborated that the key thing for the workers and the trade unions is what is in it for the employers, that capitalists and workers should be "partners for progress". And note that this word "progress" is being introduced which becomes one of the main themes of the "Third Way", that under the signboard of progress, in fact retrogression and medievalism, the promotion of 19th century liberal values takes place. Up till now, workers have thought of trade unions as their fighting organisations to defend their interests. They and us may have criticisms of them and how well they are doing their job. But at least there was a consensus that this should be their aim. But Tony Blair and John Monks are assigning a completely different role to the trade unions. The trade unions themselves are to become tools for the benefit of the employers. This is called "new unionism in the workplace". It is to seek common ground with the employers. There is to be partnership at work. Partnership can beat militancy. So this is a call for the workers to get behind the capitalists of their enterprise in the conditions of globalisation, when being competitive in the global market is everything and further monopolisation is the order of the day. Nothing could be worse for the financial oligarchy and the government than workers fighting for their interests. And not just for their interests but to put forward solutions, to have an independent voice in society. Now having also set up a new trade union journal, Blair begins the new year by writing that unions should not even think about politics, and not just unions but

workers themselves. The unions should just provide services for the workers. Of course, they are not to be debarred from putting forward the politics of partnership at work. Of course this whole Blairite thesis is to be opposed, but social democracy gets very flustered by it, that the union leadership is being debarred from having its influence and is having its links with New Labour loosened. The point here is then that social democracy conciliates with all these Third Way illusions that Tony Blair and an increasing number of government cronies internationally of the "centre-left" are fostering in the working class. Who is to step forward and put forward the independent programme of the working class, that can rally them to occupy the space for change, that can challenge the bourgeoisie in trials of strength on particular fronts of this programme, that within the very movement against the anti-social offensive and for the victory of the pro-social programme can begin to create the subjective conditions for revolution? Social democracy cries, not us! Liberalism cries, don't look at me! It is true that the direction of society is causing havoc for the people, it is instituting cut after cut in social programmes, it is enriching beyond measure the financial oligarchy, it is leading to increased tensions and armed interventions internationally. But as for settling scores with the old conscience, that would be a bridge too far! The workers would never follow us, they say, if we made such a clean break. At the same time, all varieties of the old ideology are promoted and given currency within the working class, which leads to their spiritual disarming, to their ideological disarming, to reluctance to break with passivity and a holding back from organising for their own emancipation and the emancipation of all sections of the people and entire society.

So for us this is the issue of settling scores with the old philosophic conscience. The bourgeoisie has so steeped the working class movement in Britain with social democracy that it is afraid to overcome the very divisions that social democracy has created because of the fear that to do so would divide the workers from the Labour Party. Even if it were true that the Labour Party could be considered as a workers' party, would that debar they working class from having and fighting for its independent programme? This is not the case. But what we are talking about is the necessity to organise for revolution, to insist on the necessity for change and to actually organise to bring this change about. Furthermore, because of the gathering of the retreat of revolution and the fact that the world is going through an historic turning point, a defining moment, it is the case that no force can act in the old way. It simply does not meet the demands of the times. The old communism, in the sense of taking sides and not continually renovating society and the workers' organisations including the communist party, is dead. There is no longer a division of the world into a socialist camp and a capitalist camp. This does not mean that socialism failed, that communism failed. The opposite is true. It was capitalism that failed and pseudo-socialism that collapsed. But the issue is not to resurrect this

old communism and use it as a model. It is not, for instance, to speak of Stalin's time and call for the world's people to uphold Stalin and his system. This is not to say that we should not draw lessons from the Soviet Union and what in its change and development contained the seeds of its later collapse. Again the opposite is true. But, without going into the question in any detail, the lessons from the collapse are of the necessity for the human factor/social consciousness to be brought on a par with the requirements of the times. And this is the case today. The times are demanding that we move forward on the basis of modern definitions. These modern definitions are not new definitions, in the sense of changing the principles of Marxism-Leninism. But they are precisely to breathe life into these principles in line with present day conditions and requirements, to give content to our words. This is the issue again of settling scores with the old philosophic conscience, that our deeds must be consistent with our words. When we talk about a socialist Britain, or when we talk about preparing the subjective conditions for revolution, these cannot be left on the level of phrases or dogmas. As the Report to the 3rd Congress points out, when Tony Blair transformed Labour into New Labour and distanced the Labour Party from anything socialist, this so-called "socialist" space was occupied by others who have reduced socialism to merely a phrase. So the issue is that one's deeds, the way the Party organises, has actually got to be along the line of march that brings close in concrete reality the establishment of a socialist Britain. This means organising the working class here and now to occupy the space for change. Not to complain of the ills of capitalism on the one hand and make socialism a distant dream on the other, while one's actual actions only contribute to the deepening of the crisis, the kind of reforms that divert the working class fighting here and now for its independent political programme. That is to say, that the workers must be organised right now to fight battles with the bourgeoisie on particular fronts. These struggles should by no means be confined to the economic or industrial fronts. In fact the political battles are of supreme importance, the workers must themselves become political, they must end their marginalisation, they must set their agenda. This is precisely the task we have taken up so that both the Party and the class end their marginalisation from the political affairs of society. This is a practical political programme, which is not practicalist in the sense that it is a question of what "works" which must be followed. In fact the development of revolutionary theory is of the utmost importance, especially in Britain. The working class movement here is old and has been very strong, but it has not achieved the goal of the revolutionary transformation of society. Without a revolutionary theory the movement constantly gets diverted pacified, divided by social democracy. We, our Party, must give pride of place to this revolutionary theory, and this also is a matter of settling scores with the old philosophic conscience. At the same time, a revolutionary theory is only formed, can only be fully developed, in the course of a genuinely revolutionary movement. The point here is that when all is said and done, theory is the summation of the development of the actual movement. But unless the theoretical work is done and analysis takes place, the actual movement is not summed up.

Imbued with that revolutionary theory the working class movement becomes invincible. Without that revolutionary theory it is prey to the diversions and incoherence that the bourgeoisie throws at it.

Crucially, what the Report to the Congress highlights in this connection is the thesis of the Congress. It points out that the 3rd Congress was historic because it was based on and is giving rise to the quality of the new historical basis that is decisive for preparing the subjective conditions for revolution, for preparing for the coming revolutionary storms. It points out that what is necessary to lift society out of the crisis and open the door to a socialist Britain is that the Party must be consolidated on the new historical basis. Now is the time for this consolidation and the issue is that the consolidation of the Party on this basis is to consolidate it as the most important subjective force in the preparation for the coming revolutionary storms.

The Report points out that this issue of preparation is fundamental. What is meant by preparation for the coming revolutionary storms? What is meant is precisely that the subjective conditions for revolution should be prepared. The issue is not just that there are great upheavals coming in the 21st century and we should be prepared to sway them one way or another. This in essence would be to say that the spontaneous movement is the primary thing. As a communist party, a modern communist party, we work according to a plan. Our participation in the working class movement is precisely to prepare the subjective conditions for revolution, while the fact that revolution is in ebb or in flow is largely an objective consideration. This is one reason we prize the work with *Workers' Weekly* so highly. Precisely by organising with and around the newspaper, improving its content and extending its readership, building groups of workers or other sections who write for and disseminate the paper, this is a fundamental way of ending the workers' marginalisation and ensuring that they themselves take up politics and write for their peers from their own experience on this basis. This is why we are developing the Workers and Politics section of *Workers' Weekly* and are ensuring that the paper speaks with the voice of the workers. It is not a case of organising with the perspective of organising little groups but of organising with the aim of waging the class struggle.

The Report stresses that the consolidation of RCPB(ML) as the most decisive conscious force, the building of the unity of the Marxist-Leninists on the new historical basis, ensures that the work to take Britain forward into the 21st century on a new basis can be accomplished and takes place in the course of the elaboration and implementation of this work.

The thesis of the Congress which the Report presents is that the consolidation of RCPB(ML) on the new historical basis is what will characterise this period of the Party's work up until the next Congress. It is the foremost aim of the Party in this period. It points out that, as the vanguard of the working class, the communist

party must fight to place the working class as the leader of society, take hold of what belongs to it and place itself in the positions of political power, as well as placing the resources of society in its own hands. The Marxist-Leninist party is both in theoretical and practical terms the most decisive subjective factor in bringing about this revolutionary transformation of society in Britain to socialism, as well as contributing to this same cause internationally. Furthermore, when Britain leads the world in backwardness and the contention about what is progressive and what is reactionary is particularly being fought out in this country, this strategic objective assumes unparalleled importance. It is a trial of strength whether the door to progress and a socialist society is opened up or kept shut.

In focusing on building and consolidating the Party, stressing that this task can never be downgraded, besides highlighting that the whole Party is organised in and around the work to strengthen *Workers' Weekly*, the Report also raises that it is also a question of gearing all one's thoughts and actions to serving the movement of the working class for its emancipation. A communist party cannot have members whose life is compartmentalised into a section dedicated to social revolution and a section dedicated to the pursuit of individual interests. The communist party cannot realise its tasks if it has members who live their lives with their social culture being detached from their politics or with their ideological culture which is not revolutionary. The force must arise which is capable of working to ensure the victory of the pro-social programme and opening the door to society's progress, and people must arise who are capable of carrying that line organisationally.

These are also the characteristics of a modern communist party, and RCPB(ML) is becoming consolidated as such a communist party and this is the defining characteristic of its work. Once again, this is the unity of word and deed, that the Party's word is its deed, and the members and activists of the Party reject that there should be a hiatus, this gap between the word and deed, which is characteristic of the bourgeoisie and their parties. In a sense, this is characteristic also of social democracy and the Third Way, that they say one thing and do another. The Third Way turns progress into reaction and vice versa, while social democracy keeps everything, all its good intentions, as policy objectives. In striving to turn its words into deeds and working that the independent programme of the working class itself – *Stop Paying The Rich – Increase Investments In Social Programmes!* – is not turned into a series of policy objectives, this is also a question of settling scores with the old conscience, of consolidating the Party on the new historic basis, so that in concrete practical steps the subjective conditions for revolution are prepared and the line of march to a new society is carried. In other words, the task of preparing the subjective conditions for revolution is one of taking into account the revolutionary class battles that will inevitably break out, the necessity to prepare for going on the offensive when the conditions for launching an assault exist, as well as the fact that such conditions may come into being soon rather than later.

As we enter the 21st century, there are all sorts of predictions about how society will develop that come from the politicians and the media. Many of them are gloomy scenarios about how humans will become the slaves of machines and the prey of events outside their control. This reflects a projection of the present-day state of affairs when human beings are made subordinate to things. Predictions such as that robots will become more intelligent than human beings and could well control or exterminate them are little more than a reflection that without an aim, without an overall plan for society, anarchy and chaos are the result. They are also warnings from the bourgeoisie that the people should become fatalistic, take no initiative in their hands, but let the politicians and the experts take charge. There are warnings to the people that the 21st century will be a "hard century". In this the youth are being especially targeted, to attempt to train them as the willing workers of the capitalists, and exist on the margins of society. The only future that is being offered to them is of doing a job, having a family and repeating the same for every future generation, and even this is supposed to be uncertain.

In other words, this coming "hard century" is supposed to be one of every competition with fellow human beings, of becoming subordinate to those things which are absolutely out of their control.

Going into the 21st century on the basis of the "Third Way" is to actually deny that there is an aim in society, despite the rhetoric of Tony Blair. It is to offer no future. In fact in some ways, although it takes us further back to 19th century values, and turning back the clock to medievalism, it is similar to the situation a hundred years ago, at the time of the transition from capitalism to imperialism, that saw the reawakening in the working class movement, the demand for the workers to have their own independent party.

Tony Blair is said to be a student of the early years of the Labour Representation Committee which was formed in 1900. If so the lessons he draws are the opposite of the warranted ones, because now in entering the 21st century, he is telling the workers to stay out of politics, that to have a party of the working class is old dogma. The problem with the Labour Party was that neither did it adopt socialism as its aim, nor did it work out an ideology that was partisan to the working class, nor did it become independent of the bourgeoisie in its programme and tactics. This was the situation one hundred years ago.

Although in his New Year Message, which was delivered at Trimdon Colliery Community Centre in County Durham, Tony Blair recalls 19th century conservatism in his call for one-nation politics, in reality this is only a call for social partnership, that is, that workers should unite with their employers. This has more in common with 19th century liberalism, except that in that case struggle between worker and capitalist, and between capitalist and capitalist, was a given of

society. In actual fact Blair also emphasises globalisation, which throws the interests of the nation to the winds in the interests of the international financial oligarchy, and puts all the material and human resources of the nation at their disposal. Although he raises the questions: who decides? who enforces? when is it legitimate to act without unanimity? when should we use force, when not? what are the rules? he does not answer them, except to say that no solution but a global one works and that the 21st century must confront those questions early and find answers.

The answers that the working class has is that it has the necessity itself to constitute the nation, it must attain political supremacy, place the resources of the country in its hands, the resources of international and national trade, the human and material resources of society. The bourgeoisie has proved that today it is not concerned with the national economy; it is concerned with making and amassing the maximum capitalist profit. The financial oligarchy utilises the state itself so that the whole of society is forced to pay the rich. In putting its stamp on the nation, the working class affirms the individual and collective rights and claims of all.

The Political Report of the Central Committee to the 3rd Congress pays particular attention to the question of hitting at the illusions of the "Third Way". It explains that these illusions are designed to conciliate the class struggle and points out that the essence of the "Third Way" is to create illusions about capitalism and imperialism and to reconcile the class struggle. At the base of the illusions is that the crisis can be overcome within the confines of the capitalist status quo and that its severity and the havoc that it is causing is merely a passing phenomenon to be dealt with by some adjustment of government policies. It points out that the particular issue with Tony Blair is that he was brought to power as the champion of the bourgeoisie and the form that this took was opposition to Thatcherism in order to carry Thatcherism forward. So that it is now more than ever crucial that the working class and people of Britain unite in a consistent programme against Tony Blair's "Third Way". At the same time, all serious groups and individuals should work to strengthen and consolidate the communist and workers' movement in Britain.

As the Party advances along its line of march, it is important to emphasise, as the Report does, that the strengthening and consolidation of *Workers' Weekly* has prepared the conditions for the task of increasing the tempo of the all-round organising work and of defining new organisational tasks. The new cutting edge work is being built on *Improving the Content, Extending the Readership* of *Workers' Weekly*, incorporating it and not moving off in some different direction. All the demands of the programme of the working class, *Stop Paying the Rich, Increase Investments in Social Programmes*, must find and are finding their place within the newspaper and the Party bears in mind that the newspaper is the scaffolding for building the Party in every detail. In particular, the

paper is the scaffolding for building the Party in the heart of the working class, for imbuing the workers with the spirit of taking hold of what belongs to them and presenting them with the clear theory that they can take up as their own and use their own experience to organise their peers and set their agenda.

We are entering the 21st century in confidence that the line of march to which the 3rd Congress has given rise will, if we do not deviate from it, give rise to the conditions whereby the working class can lead the people in establishing a socialist Britain. In this respect, the practical plan the Party must adopt is outlined in the Report to the 3rd Congress. The Report itself will become an important instrument in setting out the perspectives for entering the 21st century, for a socialist Britain, in organising the working class and people.

It is with this optimism in entering the new millennium, while recognising the enormous amount of work that lies ahead, that the Central Committee would like to announce the launching of a Millennium Project. This project is not to depart from the plan set by the Congress but is to maximise and accelerate it.

As we said, central to the plan set by the Congress is to consolidate the Party on the new historical basis, and to build the Party in the working class, establishing the newspaper as the scaffolding around which the Party is built. To further concretise this plan, the Central Committee is putting forward that it is to establish and build a Workers' Resource Centre to be centred at the Party's National Office, John Buckle Books. We have there a library and research resources, and this will be further developed to assist the paper and to assist the basic organisations in their work of building groups of writers and disseminators in the working class and other sections of the people, but it is primarily directed at the workers. In the course of their work, the comrades can let the Party know what their needs are and their views on how such a Centre can be developed.

Secondly, as from this Monday, January 10, the Internet Edition of *Workers' Weekly* will become a *Workers' Daily* on a daily basis. Conditions have already been laid for this with the daily-updated weekly edition. For a period in December, *Workers' Weekly* was updated on a daily basis. This has provided the conditions for the further advance. This is to fulfil the needs of the comrades, the working class and people, for news and analysis on a daily basis.

Thirdly, and most importantly, the Central Committee would like to announce a further development of our Press Project. This is to build a fully professional publishing house with the most up-to-date digital technology so that the printed edition of the paper becomes a paragon of excellence and embodies all that is most modern as we enter the new millennium. Then *Workers' Weekly* will further take on its role of becoming a force in the workers' and communist movement and can provide direction for those who find a converging point in their struggles in the independent programme of the working class and in taking a step forward in

defence of the rights of all. The Publishing House will provide further facilities for those forces engaged in these struggles.

This is a very ambitious project and requires the maximum political mobilisation together with the comrades pledging fully their commitment to this cause. But, as the Report "The Line of March to a New Society" says, the Party in particular upholds that the Party members on the one hand cannot claim to be revolutionary in words while at the same time withholding their physical, financial and social commitment. To put it another way, they cannot live their lives with their social culture being detached from their politics or with political culture which is circumscribed.

So with this, I would like to issue a call to all the comrades and friends to support this new Millennium Project, as well as to utilise the Congress Report to the utmost in their work, use it as an organising tool, and enter the 21st century building on the success in their work and creating the conditions for the victory of socialism in Britain in the 21st century.

With that, I'd like to end with the slogans that the Report ends with.

Forward into the 21st Century! For a Socialist Britain!
Party and Class: Take Hold of What Belongs to You!
Long Live RCPB(ML)!
Workers of All Countries, Unite!

(Applause; standing ovation)

Document 5 | Resolutions of the 3rd Congress of the RCPB (ML)



First Published: *Worker's Weekly*, Supplement to the May Day issue, 1999.
+Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line

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1. This Congress resolves to adopt the Political Report on the Work of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

Congress resolves that the new Central Committee be entrusted with the publication of the Report to reflect the contributions made to it by the deliberations of the Congress.

2. This Congress resolves to ratify the draft document There Is a Way Out of the Crisis and adopt it as the general line of the Party.

Congress recognises that There Is a Way Out of the Crisis represents the general line of the Party forged in the conditions of the retreat of revolution to chart the way out of the crisis to a new socialist society. Congress recognises that this general line has successfully guided the Party to drafting its independent programme for the working class and implementing its programme to Improve the Content, Extend the Readership of its newspaper Workers' Weekly.

3. This Congress resolves to adopt RCPB(ML)'s Draft Programme for the Working Class.

Since publication in January 1995, this Draft Programme has provided an independent programme which gives the perspective with which all the struggles of the class should be fought. The experience of the mass movement and the deliberations of Congress testify to the necessity for such a programme and the stands the programme takes. Congress reaffirms that the starting point of this programme is that the working class calls for the recognition of the inviolable rights of all human beings.

4. This Congress resolves to adopt the fighting call: Stop Paying the Rich – Increase Investments in Social Programmes!

Congress recognises that this call sums up the independent pro-social programme with which the working class politically unites the people to overcome the crisis. The main elements of this programme are:
· In the economic sphere, a moratorium on servicing and repaying the national debt to the financiers; an end to the militarisation of the economy; increasing investments in education, health care and other social programmes.
· In the political sphere, people's empowerment through the democratic renewal of the political process and institutions, with a modern constitution drafted with full participation of the people which vests sovereignty in the people; modern sovereign states of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and a free and equal union between them if they so desire.
· Internationally, the dismantling of the EU and of NATO, and all such economic/political and military alliances based on big power domination; an end to Britain's colonial and neo-colonial relations and its intervention in the internal affairs of other countries; democratisation of international affairs; the recognition of the right of all peoples of the world to live according to the social system of their choice.
· Support for all people fighting for the same abroad.

5. This Congress resolves that the Party must continue to build and strengthen Workers' Weekly on the basis of its programme to Improve the Content, Extend the Readership of the newspaper. It reaffirms that the Party newspaper is the scaffolding which ensures that the Party is built.

Congress recognises that any deviation from this task would be a conciliation with the liquidationist pressure. It is a task which continues to be in force in the circumstances of building the Party in the the working class and preparing for the coming revolutionary storms, and Congress recognises that not to work out how to give content to advancing along this line of march in this period would be for the Party to abandon its communist quality.

6. This Congress resolves that RCPB(ML) must step up the work to build the Party on the new historical basis. It resolves to further strengthen the Party on the basis of the principles of democratic centralism.

Congress recognises that in carrying out this work, the basis of unity of Marxist-Leninists as adherents of some general principles of communism, or some general line, is not enough. It is the order of the day that the Party develop contemporary Marxist-Leninist thought as the summation, taken in general form, of the experience of the application of Marxism-Leninism to the conditions of socialist revolution and socialist construction and to the struggle against modern revisionism and capitalist restoration; as the summation of the application of Marxism-Leninism to the struggle of the peoples against fascism, militarism and imperialism, as well as to the struggle to end medievalism; as Marxism-Leninism as enriched and developed by the practice of revolution; as an affirmation of the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and their higher development. It is the order of the day that the Party settle scores with the old philosophic conscience and develop its work on the basis of modern definitions so as to build the Party as the main subjective force in bringing about the revolutionary transformation of society to socialism.

7. This Congress, recognising that the youth are coming forward and deciding to join modern communism, resolves to organise the youth for modern communism.

Congress recognises that in this society youth are marginalised, suppressed and denied a role in the affairs and organisation of society of which they are a crucial part, in fact, the future. By their nature youth are questioning, forward looking and ready to challenge old ideas. They are

ready to transform words into deeds and take action. The necessity now is for the youth to take measures to become an organised force, to motivate their peers through discussion, by showing that there is an alternative way forward, capitalism is not the only way; and to present alternatives to the set of values, beliefs and information imposed by the interests of big business powers. Understanding requires an act of conscious participation, an act of finding out! The importance of taking action (with analysis) and the power of questioning is central to the youth and their coming to the forefront of the struggle for the future of humanity and a society that can realise the full potential of people.

Congress thus reaffirms the importance of the youth and students participating in political affairs and taking up modern communism.

8. This Congress condemns the reactionary anti-social offensive carried out by Tony Blair and the Labour government in the name of the "Third Way".

Congress recognises that between the old and the new, between the demand for a new society and the insistence of the rich that the old should be preserved and that there is no next stage of development, there can be no "Third Way". It therefore resolves to deepen the exposure of the "Third Way" as a dangerous illusion which has the purpose of attempting to conciliate the class struggle of the working class under the conditions of the intensification of the anti-social offensive against the people and the drive of the monopolies for dominance in the global market.

9. This Congress resolves to give every assistance to the movement against the anti-social offensive and for the victory of a pro-social programme by continuing to provide that movement with a programme to advance its aims and with a vision of the new society that can be created.

Congress accordingly adopts the following resolution on safeguarding the future of the health service:

The health service is increasingly being geared to pay the rich in the form of PFI, etc.

Health workers are constantly being attacked both in conditions of work and in the blame culture being foisted on them – that they are the ones to blame when health care is not provided.

In the face of struggling to give their best to care for the patients they are becoming increasingly demoralised and hopeless because they are constantly being told that the only way forward is the "Third Way" and the only thing they can do is to be in on the decisions as to where to institute the rationalisations and cuts.

Despite this, in the face of the increasing anti-social offensive in health care, many health workers have united with members of their communities to defend the NHS against the cuts. Health workers feel increasingly marginalised when their voices and those of the people in the communities are ignored on such a vital question as provision of health care.

We resolve to take the line into the everyday work and struggles of the health workers. The hopes and aspirations for a society in which health care for each member of society is recognised as a right and guaranteed can only be achieved through putting forward a pro-social programme to articulate and defend the rights of the working class and people. We resolve to bring this to the fore of the movement to safeguard the future of the health service.

To safeguard the future of the health service and show that the only sure guarantee of this is summed up in Stop Paying the Rich – Increase Investments in Social Programmes! we resolve to develop a programme which articulates this in relation to the specifics of the health service.

10. This Congress upholds that the rights of all must be defended.

Congress recognises that the Party must fight as one with the women, national minorities, disabled people and all society's collectives. It takes a stand against racism, against ghettoisation, and against the marginalisation of minorities and all collectives. It doing so it also takes a stand against all arrangements in society which stop national minorities and other sections of the people from fully participating in the affairs of the polity and working to open the door to progress, and which make them vulnerable to the hegemony of the bourgeoisie over the political affairs of society. Congress recognises that in this regard the Party works to establish the new arrangements characteristic of the new society.

Congress upholds that all national minorities should be recognised as equal in respect of their right to espouse and develop their languages and cultures.

11. This Congress condemns the national chauvinist war propaganda of the rich. Congress hails the people's opposition to the continued aggression against Iraq and for the lifting of the genocidal sanctions regime imposed by the British and US governments. It resolves to develop further the coverage of this and other struggles against militarism, aggression and intervention in the context of Improving the Content, Extending the Readership of Workers' Weekly.

12. This Congress resolves to stand shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Marxist-Leninist Parties and the workers and peoples of all continents, in the struggle against the onslaught of capital and imperialism, for national liberation, the empowerment of the people and for revolution and socialism.

13. This Congress resolutely condemns all imperialist aggression and interference. It opposes the 19th century liberal conceptions and values represented by the Charter of Paris of 1990, to which Britain is a signatory, which the international financial oligarchy is seeking to impose on the entire world in the form of the demand that every country must have a free market economy, a multiparty system and "human rights" based on private property.

Congress militantly greets the people of all lands fighting for their national and social liberation. It greets those peoples who are continuing their struggle for the independence of their countries and following their own paths of development, including the peoples of the Republic of Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are opposing the US imperialist blockades and continuing the struggle to maintain the socialist systems of their choice.

Congress resolves that RCPB(ML) will redouble its efforts to make its contribution to the struggle of humanity for a new world and fulfil its proletarian internationalist duty also by organising for socialist revolution in Britain.

March 21, 1999

Document 6 | Historic 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML) Successfully Held



First Published: [Communiqué Issued by the National Office of RCPB(ML), April 11, 1999] *Worker's Weekly*, Supplement to the May Day issue, 1999. Reposted Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line.

The Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) success fully held its 3rd Congress, the Party's highest decision-making body, in London, beginning its proceedings on March 19 and concluding on March 21, 1999.

RCPB(ML) came to its 3rd Congress as the culmination of the period of its work which began on January 2, 1994. The Party and its cadres also came to the Congress with the experience and deliberations of the two National Consultative Conferences of 1998 behind them. The agenda of the Congress centred around the problems the Party had taken up for solution, the work which it had identified as crucial, in extricating society from its crisis.

The Congress took place at a crucial time for the working class and people. In the situation where the capitalist crisis is extremely acute, Tony Blair has been brought to power as the champion of the bourgeoisie to actually carry Thatcherism forward. The Congress put forward that in this situation, the Party must articulate the vision of the new society and the way forward into the 21st century which the objective conditions are pointing towards, to give confidence to the workers' movement, and imbue it with the revolutionary theory based on settling scores with the old philosophic conscience and as part of the summing up of the workers' and communist movement world-wide in the 20th century. The Congress pointed out that such a revolutionary theory will give an invincible quality to the proletarian movement for emancipation. It pointed out that the Party must work out the modern arrangements that require to be made to advance the communist and workers' movement in the conditions of retreat of revolution as well as the coming revolutionary storms. The Congress pointed out that the Party must formulate the immediate as well as the strategic political tasks that the working class needs to elaborate to lead all of society out of the crisis, and that it must set the tasks which the Party must now undertake and the aims it sets for itself in advancing on its line of march. These were the themes of the Congress. They were summed up in the slogans of the Congress: Forward into the 21st Century! For a Socialist Britain!

The banner of the 3rd Congress with these slogans and the logo of the Congress, inscribed with the Party's red star and hammer and sickle, was hung prominently at the front of the Congress hall. It is reproduced on the back page of Workers' Weekly.

At 2.55 pm on Friday, March 19, a representative of the Central Committee, to prolonged applause, declared the 3rd Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) open.

He then welcomed the delegates and observers and announced the presence of the fraternal delegates and observers participating in the Congress proceedings. Following this, the Congress elected a seven-person Presidium. The Congress Rules and Agenda were then discussed and adopted. As never before, those that have participated in the work of the Party were those that participated in formulating the Agenda and the 52 pages of material on which the Congress deliberations were based.

The Political Report to the 3rd Congress on the Work of the Central Committee of RCPB(ML) was then given. At the commencement of the report, the representative of the Central Committee called on those present to remember all those comrades who have fallen since the last Congress of RCPB(ML) in 1987, particularly our beloved Comrade Hardial Bains. The Congress observed a minute of silence in their memory. The Political Report declared that with this 3rd Congress, RCPB(ML) proclaims that it is standing firmly on its own feet. This can only be done if at the same time any theory of exceptionalism is rejected. The Party does not hold that there is a peculiarly British road to socialism, nor that the issue is to build socialism with peculiarly British characteristics. Standing on our own feet means that we are capable of dealing with the world as it is and not as a category of ideas. In this context, the Report summarised the line of march of RCPB(ML) since January 1994. It summed up the objective situation in the light of the anti-social offensive which is being carried out in Britain by the Labour government, and condemned Tony Blair's "Third Way" which seeks to conciliate the class struggle. And it assessed the importance of the fighting programme for the working class: Stop Paying the Rich – Increase Investments in Social Programmes!

In setting the seal on the entire work of this period, the Report explained, the holding of the 3rd Congress is something which is quite momentous. It pointed out that since the 2nd Congress of the Party in 1987, the world has gone through a historic turning point. The main and crucial aspect of the Party's and the Central Committee's role during this period, it

declared, is that the Party of John Buckle, Cornelius Cardew and the many other comrades who worked to the utmost to build the Party and to give it life not only survived, but is here today holding its 3rd Congress. This declaration was fervently applauded by the delegates. The Report affirmed that the Party was never reconciled to a situation where it had difficulty finding its bearings or a situation which could be described as "groping in the dark". It was this factor of not being reconciled to the situation, a determination that the Party should live, and a realisation that only the work of the Party itself could ultimately transform the situation that were the basis for the Party to once again make its own history.

The Report declared that as a historic stage in its forward march, with this Congress the Party is rising to meet the challenge of opening the path to take society into the 21st century on a new basis. It affirmed that in preparing for the coming revolutionary storms, the Party must build itself in the heart of the working class so that the class is organised and made conscious that it must take control of what belongs to it and empower the broad masses of the people. The Party and the working class should elaborate and fight right now for their vision of a socialist society, of a socialist Britain, a modern society in modern colours, proletarian colours, the Report concluded. It was met with a vigorous standing ovation, and it ended the proceedings of the first day of the Congress.

The Political Report set the tone for the deliberations of the Congress which took place on the second day, March 20. The agenda items dealt with the key theoretical, ideological, political, organisational and practical issues facing the Party and the class – problems which demand solution. In pointing towards the future, the orientation of the discussions centred on building the communist party on the new historical basis as the most crucial factor in bringing about the transformation of society to socialism through revolution. The discussions were successfully completed.

The morning of the third day, March 21, was allocated to a closed session in which the new Central Committee was elected. At the commencement of the afternoon session, it was announced that a new seven-member Central Committee of the Party, its leading body between Congresses, had been elected. Three-quarters of its new candidate members are women. It was announced that the Central Committee had held its First Plenum and had re-elected Chris Coleman as National Spokesperson for RCPB(ML).

The Congress received messages of greetings from a number of fraternal organisations abroad as well as from British organisations and individuals. As well as these, the Congress was addressed by the leaders of the delegations attending the Congress from the Communist Organisation of Britain, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, Indian Workers Association (G.B.), New Communist Party of Britain, Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist), Communist Ghadar Party of India, and by Sandra Smith, National Leader and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

The Third Congress of RCPB(ML) to enthusiastic applause adopted Resolutions on the Party's programme and political tasks for the coming period. These are published separately.

In his concluding remarks, a representative of the new Central Committee said, "It was in July last year that we resolved to hold this 3rd Congress at the time of the 20th anniversary of our Party. There was much work to be done from that time but it has been accomplished and we are here and the 3rd Congress has been held. It is also five years since the launch of our draft document There Is a Way Out of the Crisis which has now been formally adopted by the Congress. This alone constitutes a great victory for the Congress. But as the resolutions have pointed out, as the political report has pointed out, there are great vistas opened up for the working class and people but there are great responsibilities on the Party also to fulfil its duty in organising the working class and people to bring about this socialist revolution in Britain, to bring about a transformation of Britain into a modern country with modern sovereign states and moving forward into the 21st Century on a new basis, a socialist basis. We pledge to fulfil these responsibilities on the path this 3rd Congress has charted."

The Congress concluded with the singing of the first verse of The Internationale and the shouting of the slogans: Hail the Victory of the Third Congress! Forward into the 21st Century! For a Socialist Britain! Long Live the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)! Workers of All Countries, Unite! With pride in its accomplishments, the 3rd Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) ended its historic proceedings at 4.35 pm on Sunday, March 21, 1999.

A closing cultural event celebrating the victorious 3rd Congress was held that same evening. It was a festive event of music, song and poetry marked by great enthusiasm. Its centrepiece was a powerful video

celebrating the Congress, which interspersed footage of the Congress itself with a mosaic of the Party's rich fighting history.

Supplementary Documents

National Consultative Forum of RCPB(ML)

as reported in Workers' Weekly Volume 29, Number 17, September 18, 1999



A National Consultative Forum was called by the Central Committee of RCPB(ML) in London on September 12 [1999]. Activists from around the country gathered to discuss directly with the Central Committee the work of the Party and the perspectives for this work.

Its aim was to ensure that all the activists and Party circles are drawn into the new tasks that have been given rise to by the 3rd Congress of the Party. It gave rise to a collective consciousness on what is being achieved and what needs to be achieved after the initial period of assimilating the Congress decisions, identifying the constant work and putting this programme into operation. In this context its purpose was to initiate a period where the Party puts this programme into practice as a conscious collective, and then sums it up in an appropriate way and creates the conditions for this work to advance. This period can be considered as the start-up period of the work to take Britain into the 21st century on a new basis, a socialist basis.

The theme of the National Consultative Forum was summed up in the slogans: The Full Weight of the Collective Behind All the Work! Improve the Content, Extend the Readership!

Resolutions of National Consultative Forum

Resolution I

On the Work of RCPB(ML)

Whereas the Party must act with the full force of the collective in its work on all fronts;

Whereas the cutting edge of the work remains Improve the Content, Extend the Readership in the new circumstances;

Whereas it is necessary for the whole Party to implement and elaborate the decisions of the 3rd Congress;

This National Consultative Forum proposes to the Central Committee that a National Consultative Conference be held by the end of the year 2000 to sum up the work of this start-up period and to crystallise the Party's new tasks at the commencement of the 21st century.

Resolution II

On the Work to Safeguard the Future of the Health Service

Moved by health worker activists of RCPB(ML)

In order to implement the Resolution of the 3rd Congress on the programme to further the movement against the anti-social offensive and for the victory of a pro-social programme in relation to the specifics of the health service, we propose to the Central Committee the setting up of a Workers' Weekly Health Group.

In this way, the strength of the collective will enable activists of the Party working in the health service to begin the implementation of the resolution. This will also further the work of the individual units and assist in Improving the Content, Extending the Readership of Workers' Weekly.

Resolution III

The Future Belongs to the Youth!

Moved by Workers' Weekly Youth Group

That as a part of developing our Workers' Weekly Youth Group, we resolve to hold a meeting in October, to which all youth are invited, to prepare to organise a National Conference dealing with the problems facing the youth and how they can work for a bright future.



National Consultative Forum: Volume 29, Number 18, September 25, 1999

An Initiative to Activise the Party around the Work of the Start-Up Period to Take Britain into the 21st Century on a New, Socialist Basis

At the recently held National Consultative Forum of the Party three important resolutions were adopted. The resolutions, reported fully in the previous Internet edition of Workers' Weekly, spotlighted the Party's own work to implement and elaborate the decisions of the 3rd Congress, the ongoing activities of health worker activists of RCPB(ML), and the work of the Workers' Weekly Youth Group (WWYG).

The resolutions rounded off a day clearly aimed at putting the full weight of the collective behind all the work and continuing the Party's line of march in the current period. In this way, each aspect of Party's activities can be thrashed out in the units and circles of the Party collectively always ensuring individual responsibility is developed.

The Forum began with introductory remarks by the Party's National Spokesperson, Chris Coleman. The Forum, he explained, was intended as a means to map out the Party's immediate tasks in the current period and to assess the resolutions and tasks adopted by the Congress with a view to implementing them collectively.

He referred to the Congress, which had evaluated all the Party's work since the 2nd Congress, particularly in the period from 1994, ratified it in the current period of retreat of revolution and sought to involve the circles and friends of the Party in all of the work. The National Spokesperson said that the Forum would give participants the opportunity to both fully assimilate and discuss the resolutions of the Congress. Collective consciousness, working together to solve all the problems, was one of the key themes of the gathering ensuring the Party acting as a conscious collective, an organised force in the movement for a pro-social programme.

Following these opening remarks a representative of the Party's Central Committee addressed the Forum.

Echoing the comments of the National Spokesperson, the Central Committee representative said that the National Consultative Forum would give the entire Party an opportunity to consult with the Central Committee on the current stage of the work which has taken place since the 3rd Congress. In this context, he assessed the perspective for the current phase of the Party's work as being one in which the Congress resolutions should be implemented in the immediate period as integral to the start-up period for bringing to life the slogans Forward into the 21st Century! For a Socialist Britain!

One of the most important aspects of this work was the need to stick to the plan and tasks initiated by the Congress and implementing them. Everyone should be involved in discussions on this orientation in order that unity of thinking is developed and that the tasks are seen in both their theoretical and practical aspects. Such a conception would give to theory the important position it merited. Referring to the practical work engaged in by the Party it was robustly stated that such work would have no direction without being guided by revolutionary theory, without adhering to the Party's plan. This is especially important when Tony Blair and New Labour are coming out to lead the world in backwardness. It is necessary to engage in struggle against the anti-social offensive with the perspective that the strategic aim is socialism. The Central Committee representative reminded the Forum that each aspect of the activity engaged in by the units and collectives of the Party must be identified with its own specificity; the work in regional and other work must be organised and all the task must be carried out in this context. In this way the tasks of the Congress would be weapons in the struggle.

After briefly reviewing the conceptions elaborated by the Congress, work carried out since March 1999 was outlined. The speaker said that since the Congress each unit of the Party should have discussed the resolutions of the Congress with a view to carrying them out in the context of their own conditions and activities. The Party identified that, having summed up this initial experience, definite arrangements in the Party should be put in place which can be summed up in the slogan: The Full Weight of the Collective Behind All the Work! The experience of this period itself provided the preparation and gave rise to the necessity to develop this method and form of all of the Party's work considering that all the work must have the force of the collective behind it. Such a method was in step with the new way of working which the needs of the times, the needs of the movement of the working class and people, demand.

As a part of this initiative, the Central Committee representative highlighted the importance of Improving the Content and Extending the Readership of Workers' Weekly remaining at the cutting edge of the current work. The struggle to transform these conceptions into real life, into motion the material world, is what will prove decisive in the coming period.

Having elaborated the Party's central plan, the speaker then focused on what it means for the whole Party as a system to be involved in working out its elaboration and its implementation. Central to this is conscious participation, the grappling with the work of improving the content and extending the readership of Workers' Weekly in the context of waging the class struggle. The speaker dealt in some detail with the issues to be addressed and the problems presented for solution in this regard. He explained some of the main aspects of the thinking of the Central Committee as regards the development of Workers' Weekly which have come to the fore in the experience since the Congress of elaborating and implementing the

Party's line and tasks. At the same time, he dealt in a living way with how the activists can be grappling with the issues in the work at their level.

Throughout the speech, the vital role of Workers' Weekly as a weapon to smash the illusions of the "Third Way" and combat all that conciliates with these illusions, to oppose the anti-social offensive and develop a pro-social programme was emphasised, which is done in opposition to all conciliation with these illusions. The theoretical underpinning of this work was also emphasised, that it is the workers themselves who must constitute themselves the nation and vest sovereignty in the people, so that it is the workers themselves who must take up the question of setting their agenda, and become the leader of all developments in society in opening the door to progress.

The representative of the Central Committee pointed out that it is in keeping with the necessity to put the full weight of the collective behind all the work that the decision to hold the National Consultative Forum was made. In the context of the Party's overall line of march, the Forum could also be said to initiate the third stage of the project to modernise the technical base and publish the paper as a broadsheet, which is to see this work through to completion and ultimately to fully professionalise this work.

Concluding the speech, the Central Committee representative called on the entire Party, as a vital part of the class struggle underway in society, to grasp and implement the tasks set by the Congress not as passive followers but as active participants. The question was not one of "understanding" but one of contributing on the basis of actual experience, so that the Party moves ahead on its line of march as one, united in its thinking.

The discussions which followed this part of the National Consultative Forum focused on the ongoing work to Improve the Content, Extend the Readership of Workers' Weekly, the activities of the Workers' Weekly Youth Group and its work to build a bright future for the youth, the Readers Groups which have been established and the collective consciousness needed to push the work forward in the context of the work to affirm the rights of all.

After the adoption of the resolutions (see the Internet Edition of Workers' Weekly, Vol.29, No.17), the formal part of the National Consultative Forum ended with the shouting of slogans and singing of The Internationale. After this, the video "Forward to the Third Congress of RCPB(ML)" was shown, which is a powerful mosaic of the Party's history up to the historic 3rd Congress of the Party.

The National Consultative Forum was a successful day which has contributed to drawing the activists and circles of the Party as a collective into the work to take Britain Forward into the 21st Century on a new basis – For a Socialist Britain.

The Full Weight of the Collective Behind all the Work!

Improve the Content, Extend the Readership!

Communiqué of the 4th Plenum of the Central Committee of RCPB(ML)

The Need to Stick to the Plan Has Never Been Greater

https://www.rcpbml.org.uk/ww99/ww29-23.htm#plenum

The Central Committee of RCPB(ML) held its 4th Plenum in recent days. The Plenum focused on the situation and the tasks for the working class and the Party as we are poised to move into the 21st century.

The Plenum analysed that there are broad perspectives which are being opened up for the working class to occupy the space for change from the work the Party is carrying out, as well as developments nationally and internationally which provide the context for this work. The authority of the Party is beginning to make itself felt on various fronts of work. The Plenum emphasised that in this situation, the need to stick to the plan that the Party set at its 3rd Congress has never been greater. It is evident that the tempo of the movement against the anti-social offensive is increasing. At the same time, while the government is stepping up its implementation of the anti-social offensive, its assertions that this is progress become more outrageous and any opposition or political struggle is being made the target of "law and order" measures. As disillusionment with the government grows and opposition to globalisation becomes more conscious, it is the people whom the bourgeoisie is blaming for the growing crisis and insisting they shoulder responsibility for it and let society off the hook. The representatives of the financial oligarchy are becoming more Hitlerite in their actions and interventions globally, all under the guise of following high ideals. The programme of the Party must respond to this increased tempo by also increasing the tempo of its work. The Plenum underlined what was crucial in this response was that the elaboration and implementation of the Party's plan and programme of work assume ever greater importance. It drew attention to the fact that the Party has laid to rest the diversionary and liquidationist positions that the issue was to become submerged in the spontaneous movement, abandon the Party's democratic centralist norms and make everything a matter of discussion. But the Party must still be on guard against such pressures which seek to wreck its work, pressures which can only become more intense. The Party's perspective, highlighted at the 3rd Congress, is that to prepare for the coming revolutionary storms, it is even more important to develop and implement the plan. This must be accompanied with the most open elaboration and explanation of the Party's policies and plan, the taking of its decisions in full view of everyone, and the mobilisation of the various sections of the people to take up this programme, focusing on the working class and bringing

into play its leading role. In this regard, the ideological work of smashing the illusions fostered by social democracy and exposing Tony Blair's "Third Way" is of great significance. The youth also are coming forward to take up their position in the forefront of the struggle, as well as the women.

The 4th Plenum drew attention to the Party's call to put the full weight of the collective behind all the work. The Party's experience has shown the importance of this call, and the Plenum emphasised the necessity right at this time to concentrate on the struggle to put that call into practice. At the same time, this struggle must be carried out with the study of the Party's positions and decisions, as the organisations of the Party solve the problems in developing their work and crystallising their tasks.

In assessing the exciting perspectives opened up in moving forward into the 21st century, the Plenum emphasised that this does not mean doing anything to deviate from the Party's line of march. On the contrary, what is necessary is to accelerate the line of march and to maximise the plan. It is to give everything coherence and come to the head of the masses of the people step by step. The cutting edge of this plan, the programme of work of RCPB(ML), is the strengthening and development of the Party's newspaper, the work to Improve the Content, Extend the Readership of Workers' Weekly. In this context, the Plenum discussed specific work to prepare the conditions for such an advance so as to open up the door to the progress of society, so that the Party and the class move into the 21st century laying the basis for the revolutionary transformation of society to socialism. It laid particular emphasis on theoretical work, the work to sum up the movements at work in society, the work to further formulate the laws which govern their development, in order to give scientific orientation to these movements, furnishing them with a programme and with a vision, so that they are crowned by the victory of the creation of a new society.

Bearing these deliberations in mind, the 4th Plenum of the CC decided to publicly release the Political Report of the Central Committee to the 3rd Congress at a New Year event. This is to take place on Saturday, January 8, 2000. A separate announcement regarding this event is being made. The Line of March to a New Society

The 4th Plenum concluded in a vigorous and united atmosphere, full of confidence and optimism for the line of march of RCPB(ML) into the 21st century.

RCPB (ML) Congress & documents

1979

First Congress of Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) leads to foundation of RCLB(ML) March 1979. The immediate predecessor, formed in March 1972, the CPE (ML) had its roots in an earlier incarnation, the English

Communist Movement (Marxist-Leninist) that emerged from the student-dominated Internationalist trend which originated in Canada with Hardial Bains.

https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/uk.hightide/cpe-report.pdf

"One of the decisions taken at the First Congress of the Party was that in the coming period it was necessary for the Party to resolve the problem of declaring one Party for the entire British proletariat. In the light of this decision of the Party's First Congress, in light of the developments in the national and international situation and in light of a number of external and internal conditions created by the Party, the recently held Third Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) announced that the time was now ripe to declare the Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)."

1983

First Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/uk.hightide/rcpb-1st.pdf

1987

Second Congress of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/uk.hightide/cpb-report-2.pdf

994

There Is A Way out of the Crisis

The Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) held and important celebration on March 19, 1994, In the Conway Hall, London, marking the fifteenth anniversary of its founding. The important draft document printed here, *There* Is *a Way Out of the Crisis*, was released on that occasion by the Central Committee of RCPB(ML) for discussion. Still advertised in 2025

Published Report of the Proceedings of the National Consultative Conference of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), June 25-26, 1994

https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/uk.hightide/rclb-3rd-consultative.pdf

1995

RCPB(ML)'s *Draft Programme for the Working Class* was published on January 7, 1995. Its Preamble states:

If the working class is to play its historical role and lead the entire society out of the crisis and open up a path for progress, it must have its own independent programme, that is, it must set its immediate and long-term aims.

The Immediate Programme is summarised by the following principles:

1. Recognition of All Inviolable Rights.
2. More into the Economy than is Taken Out.
3. Democratic Renewal of the Political Process.
4. Recognition of the Inviolable Right of all Peoples to Determine Their Own Affairs Nationally and Internationally.

Draft Programme Read the Draft Programme online.

1998

National Consultative Conference Points the Way Forward

Workers' Weekly Vol 28 No.21, July 25- August 1 1998 contains an edited report of the whole proceedings of the Conference.

https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/uk.hightide/rcpb-nat-consult.pdf

1999

Third Congress

2000

The Line of March to a new society.This document was released by RCPB(ML) at a Public Meeting, in Conway Hall, London, on January 8, 2000. This document comprises the Political Report to the Party's 3rd Congress on the Work of the Central Committee. The Report was adopted at the Congress in March l999, and in its published form reflects also the contributions made to it by the deliberations of the Congress.

2003 4th Congress

Only the Working Class Can Save the Day!

The 4th Congress of RCPB(ML) was held from March 29-30, 2003. The Congress, taking place at a critical time for humanity, was dedicated to the role of the working class in leading the way out of the crisis. The thesis of the Partys 4th Congress was that the work of the past four years has enabled RCPB(ML) to forge the instruments of battle-readiness to be used in the space for change which has opened up in the battle to come out on top politically. The theme of the 4th Congress, adopted at the culmination of the proceedings, was: *Only the Working Class Can Save the Day!*The Congress elected the Partys new Central Committee, and Chris Coleman was re-elected as the National Spokesperson for the Party and its Central Committee.

2004

The 8th National Consultative Conference of RCPB(ML) was held in Coventry on January 17, 2004, aimed at summing up the work of the Party since the 4th Congress in March 2003. The Conference was entitled: "Developing Resistance and Planting the Alternative".

AFTERWARDS: A LAST HURRAH

The RCPB(ML) limped into the 21st Century, a shadow, less charitable a relic of what had been a minor political group following Canadian inspiration. A dwindling band of aging activists did have a Fourth Congress in 2003 and maintained its propaganda output transferred to the internet. Twenty-five years on, it still raises the call that “placed an important focus on improving the content and extending the readership of its online newspaper “Workers’ Weekly” “

Anniversaries were acknowledged and relationships built and the LARP of party façade maintained. Each year, in homage to its founding in March 1979, and too those who “the many other comrades who worked to the utmost to build the Party and to give it life [it] not only survived, but is here today” guided by the theory of Modern Communism.

The Third Congress failed to unify and reenergise the organisation on an agreed “Line of March”. Following the Third Congress, the organisation’s disquiet in the ranks was obliquely acknowledged by the convening of National Consultative Forum within six months of Congress, described as “An Initiative to Activise the Party around the Work of the Start-Up Period to Take Britain into the 21st Century on a New, Socialist Basis “; “It gave rise to a collective consciousness on what is being achieved and what needs to be achieved after the initial period of assimilating the Congress decisions, identifying the constant work and putting this programme into operation.“ As usual, the discussions of the Forum were described as “extremely successful”.

The issuing of the leadership Communiqué of the 4th Plenum of the Central Committee of RCPB(ML) entitled, "The Need to Stick to the Plan Has Never Been Greater" , and previous references to liquidationist issues, indicate that the general malaise that affect others of the Left in Britain had swept into the upbeat universe of the RCLB(ML).



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Recent anniversaries statements 2019-2025 published at Workers Weekly Online



John Buckle speaking at the historic Conference against Racism and Fascism, Conway Hall, London, June 7, 1981

Workers Weekly
Internet Edition
Volume 49 Number 5, March 23, 2019

Anniversary of RCPB(ML)

Congratulations to All Activists and Well-Wishers Over the Years Who Have Built the Party

Our Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), was founded on March 16, 1979.

Having 40 years behind us is itself a great achievement. During these 40 years, the Party and its comrades have fought many important battles, both in terms of defending the rights of the people and in terms of defending the Party as the apple of our eye.

This year is also the year of the 70th birth anniversary of John Buckle, the founding General Secretary of RCPB(ML), and on this occasion we also pay him our deepest respects and pledge to always learn from his example.

For us, building the Party is our reference point. And over 40 years it has been built in the course of providing solutions to the problems society faces, and in the face of all the crimes of British imperialism.

Indeed, the marauding of British imperialism throughout the world created conditions for women, youth, people from all over the world, to depart from these conditions, coming to Britain and finding common cause and becoming as one with the working class of Britain.

Not least have been the heroic struggles of the Irish people for their self-determination, for which cause many of our comrades were attacked by the state and sent to jail. It has been a testament to the heroism of the Irish people that far from being subdued by the British state, they have continued along the path of the struggle to be in control of their own affairs.

Scene from the Seminar marking the 35th Anniversary of RCPB(ML), March 16, 2014



The Party and its comrades have also been forged in the midst of the anti-fascist struggles of the people. One remembers that John Buckle himself came to prominence as an anti-fascist leader, and many of our comrades were arrested in the course of preventing the state-organised fascist forces from growing and consolidating.

In the report to the Third Congress of RCPB(ML), given 20 years ago in March 1999 under the title "The Line of March to a New Society", the Central Committee said of its history to date: "The main and crucial aspect of the Party's and the Central Committee's role during this period is that the Party of John Buckle, Cornelius Cardew and the many other comrades who worked to the utmost to build the Party and to give it life not only survived, but is here today holding its Third Congress."

And as was said five years ago at the seminar marking the Party's 35th anniversary, "One of the crucial issues that faces the working class and people today is the issue of their empowerment [...] It is a class struggle that is going on; it is a power struggle. [...] And ultimately it is a question of who has decision-making power in the country, whether it is the financial oligarchy, the ruling elite, whether the decisions are made by monopolies elsewhere in the world."

So today, it is very much the case that the democratic revolution against medievalism that began in the 17th century must be carried through to completion. It requires the modern democratic personality to emerge in the conditions of the 21st century, with the stupendous growth of the productive forces and the necessity for an anti-war government. This historic call of the times demands that the Party and its organisations be built as the number one political task in the course of unleashing the human power and initiative of the working class and people.

Long Live the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)!

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Marking the 41st Anniversary of RCPB(ML)



Meeting on the 35th anniversary of RCPB(ML) "What the Times are calling for: Building the Party in the 21st century"

March 16 marks the 41st anniversary of the founding of our Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), which was established on this day in 1979. Over these 41 years, the Party has built itself in the course of providing solutions to the problems of society.

John Buckle, Founding General Secretary of RCPB(ML)



This anniversary is occurring in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and an unfolding financial crisis, not to mention the ongoing crises of war, migration and the natural environment that continue to develop. The burning need to take up our social responsibility is particularly sharp at this time. Particularly with regard to the health of the population, the British government stands exposed for its reduction of everything to an individual matter, with its twin consequences of complacency and hysteria, while preparing the conditions for indefinite rule by exception and overt police powers.

Our anniversary is a time when we also pay respect to our dearest friend, our mentor and guide, Comrade Hardial Bains, whom we lost in 1997. Under his leadership, The Internationalists was founded at the University of British Columbia, Canada, on March 13, 1963. The founding of the RCPB(ML) in 1979 was part of the direct legacy of the achievements of The Internationalists, to whom we pay tribute.

A characteristic feature of this unbroken motion initiated by The Internationalists and inherited by out Party is to put consciousness at the centre of activity. In this respect, it is part of the Party's *raison d'être* at this time to nurture that modern democratic personality that is so crucially lacking expression. The modern democratic personality, the personality of all speaking in their own name, requires new democratic forms and arrangements to become established as a fact and made actual.



Hardial Bains at the historic 1989 meeting of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) in Chertsey, Canada

As was said six years ago at the seminar marking the RCPB(ML)'s 35th anniversary, "One of the crucial issues that faces the working class and people today is the issue of their empowerment [...] It is a class struggle that is going on; it is a power struggle. [...] And ultimately it is a question of who has decision-making power in the country, whether it is the financial oligarchy, the ruling elite, whether the

decisions are made by monopolies elsewhere in the world."

And today, as the Party said in its New Year statement: "The new decade brings with it the necessity for working people to take up their individual and collective social responsibility to oppose imperialism. This means in practice to speak out and act in one's own name individually and collectively on the issues and problems facing the people, economy and society; it requires the people to advance the organised movement for democratic renewal and their empowerment."

In the present situation, the government stands condemned for its anti-human, anti-conscious outlook that brazenly declares that people prepare to "lose loved ones before their time". We do not accept that nothing can be done and that there is no way out of the crisis. The Party upholds the human factor/social consciousness, consciousness that is synonymous with social change. The times call for the Party to be built in the course of unleashing the human power and initiative of the working class and people.

RCPB(ML) congratulates all activists and friends who have taken up this cause and built the Party over the past 41 years.

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Internet Edition
Volume 53 Number 8, March 18, 2023

44th Anniversary of Founding of RCPB(ML)



2016 London Political Forum on the future of society organised by RCPB(ML).

March 16 marked the 44th anniversary of the founding of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in 1979. The Party is proud to have reached this anniversary tempered in the midst of the struggles and fighting traditions of the working class and people of England, Scotland and Wales. We pay tribute to these struggles and traditions which the working people have never betrayed, especially the working women who have always been at the forefront, as well as the forerunner organisations of RCPB(ML).

The Party has been tempered in the anti-fascist struggles of the 1970s, has taken up as one the cause of the liberation and unity of Ireland and the Irish people from British colonialism and imperialism, and against all racist attacks, organised by the state, and as one, the cause of the people of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean, whether as part of the working class in Britain or in unity against the colonialism and neo-colonialism of the British state, its ruling elite and its reactionary and retrogressive monarchy.



John Buckle, General Secretary of RCPB(ML) from its founding to his untimely death in 1983, leading the anti-fascist demonstration in Digbeth, Birmingham, 1978.

It has always taken up the fight against imperialist war, and today has as part of its cutting edge work the fight for an Anti-War Government. It does so first and foremost in its work of Party building, the taking and implementing of decisions in and through the collective, having in mind the necessity to give rise to the modern democratic personality, and takes these methods into the movement itself. In this way, the line of march is being taken towards establishing an Anti-War Government which embodies the modern democratic personality and which fulfils the people's striving for peace, democracy and freedom. This is a profound conception encompassing a government which is also pro-social and pro-worker. Out of the resistance struggles of society, and guided by the theory of Modern Communism, will come the outlook of the New. This is a new framework which has fidelity to the ensemble of human relations, and recognises that the need for political power is indispensable. It is an internationalist framework, working to bring into being a world of socialised humanity.



Michael Chant, General Secretary of RCPB(ML), speaking at the 35th anniversary celebration of the Party, March 16 2014.

In this respect, the Party persistently implements its stand against all aggressive alliances such as NATO, but also against the police powers wielded by the ruling elites who are restructuring the state to ensure everything is done to serve the narrow private interests of finance capital and the oligopolies. RCPB(ML) organises and inspires the working class to respond to the urgent necessity for a change in the direction of society and the economy, for the people to establish their own vantage point and for the working class to rely on and implement its own agenda and programme and speak in their own name. This points the way forward to the way out of the crisis, a crisis which is characterised by the existence of defunct liberal democratic institutions which no longer answer to the needs of the times. This requires settling scores with the old conscience which embodies the "covenant thesis" on which the old political system is based, with "representatives" authorised to speak in the name of the electorate, a system which is disempowering the people, maintaining a fictitious person of state which keeps everyone as subjects, rather than as citizens with equal membership rights. The Party in this context upholds that the working class must constitute itself the nation and vest sovereignty in the people with the aim of creating a society without the exploitation of persons by persons, and in particular ending the old system of wage slavery. The Party organises the people to be history-making. This is the significance of its own history. No amount of attempts to marginalise the Party can erase this. Its outlook, revolutionary ideology and methods of work mark it out.

Over the years since its founding, the Party has built itself in the course of providing solutions to the problems of society. On this occasion we pay tribute to all its members, activists and sympathisers over the years who have contributed to building RCPB(ML) in all its vibrancy and vitality, dealing with the world as it is, and as part of the communist and workers' movement internationally.

Salute to the Party on its 44th Anniversary! Long Live RCPB(ML)!

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Celebrating the 46th Anniversary of RCPB(ML)



John Buckle, then General Secretary of RCPB(ML) speaking at the June 7th Conference against racism and fascism held in London in 1981

March 16 marks the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in 1979. The Party is proud to have reached this anniversary tempered in the midst of the struggles and fighting traditions of the working class and people of England, Scotland and Wales, and as a contingent of the international communist and workers' movement in Britain. We pay tribute to these struggles and traditions which the working people have never betrayed, especially the working women who have always been at the forefront.



Michael Chant General Secretary of RCPB(ML) speaking at the 35th anniversary of RCPB(ML)

The Party has been tempered in the anti-fascist struggles of the 1970s, has taken up as one the cause of the liberation and unity of Ireland and the Irish people from British colonialism and imperialism, and against all racist attacks, organised by the state, and taken up as one the cause of the people of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean, whether as part of the working class in Britain or in unity against the colonialism and neocolonialism of the British state, its ruling elite and its reactionary and retrogressive monarchy.

It has always taken up the fight against imperialist war, and today has as part of its cutting edge work the fight for an Anti-War Government. It does so first and foremost in its work of Party building, the taking and implementing of decisions in and through the collective, having in mind the necessity to give rise to the modern democratic personality, and takes these methods into the movement itself. In this way, the line of march is being taken towards establishing an Anti-War Government which embodies the modern democratic personality and which fulfils the people's striving for peace, democracy and freedom. This is a profound conception encompassing a government which is also pro-social and pro-worker. Out of the resistance struggles of society, and guided by the theory of Modern Communism, will come the outlook of the New. This is a new framework which has fidelity to the ensemble of human relations, and recognises that the need for political power is indispensable. It is an internationalist framework, working to bring into being a world of socialised humanity, humanising the human and natural environments.

In this respect, the Party persistently implements its stand against all aggressive alliances such as NATO, but also against the police powers wielded by the ruling elites who are restructuring the state to ensure everything is done to serve the narrow private interests of finance capital and the oligopolies. RCPB(ML) organises and inspires the working class to respond to the urgent necessity for a change in the direction of society and the economy, for the people to establish their own vantage point and for the working class to rely on and implement its own agenda and programme and for workers and the class to speak in their own name. This points the way forward to the way out of the crisis, a crisis which is characterised by the existence of defunct liberal democratic institutions which no longer answer to the needs of the times. This requires settling scores with the old conscience which embodies the "covenant thesis" on which the old political system is based, with "representatives" authorised to speak in the name of the electorate, a system which is disempowering the people, maintaining a fictitious person of state which keeps everyone as subjects, rather than as citizens with equal membership rights. The Party in this context upholds that the working class must constitute itself the nation and vest sovereignty in the people with the aim of creating a society without the exploitation of persons by persons, and in particular ending the old system of wage slavery. The Party organises the people to be history-making. This is the significance of its own history. No amount of attempts to marginalise the Party can erase this. Its outlook, revolutionary ideology and methods of work mark it out.



Session of the 3rd Congress of RCPB(ML) 1999

The Party has over the decades foiled every attempt of the state to subvert it, marginalise it and crush it or get it to conciliate with the ruling elites. It has continued to march on along the high road of civilisation, taking its stand with progressive humanity and the resistance struggles of the people against exploitation and oppression. It pledges to build the New by leaving the Old behind, being at one with the struggles of the people for their rights, and with its programme for the working class: "Stop Paying the Rich! Increase Investments in Social Programmes!" It calls on all democratic forces to join the work for democratic renewal and the empowerment of the people.

Over the years since its founding, the Party has built itself in the course of providing solutions to the problems of society. On this occasion the Party pays tribute to all its members, activists and sympathisers, workers, women and youth, who over the years have contributed to building RCPB(ML) in all its vibrancy and vitality, dealing with the world as it is, and as part of the communist and workers' movement internationally.

On this occasion the Party gives a call for everyone longing for and fighting for change, especially the youth, to consider joining the ranks of RCPB(ML), building it as the Party which the times demand as the instrument for this change. Let us move forward together!

Red Salute to the Party on its 46th Anniversary! Long Live RCPB(ML)!

Overview of political activities of RCPB(ML)
Submitted to the Electoral Commission for the year 2024

The Party continued its work on the basis of its general line and programme for this period of its work set out at its 4th Congress held in 2003, and on the basis of its overall line laid down at the 3rd Congress in 1999.

The work of the Party is concerned with the urgent need for a change in the direction of society and the economy. This is the call of history which the Party is answering. It requires the democratic renewal of the political process and institutions, mobilising the working class and people to take up this task. The cutting edge of this work at present is the challenge to bring into being an anti-war government in Britain with a modern democratic personality. This is a profound conception encompassing a government which is also pro-social and pro-worker. Out of the resistance struggles of society, and guided by the theory of Modern Communism, will come the outlook of the New. This is a new framework which has fidelity to the ensemble of human relations, humanising the natural and social environments, and recognising that the need for political power is indispensable. It is an internationalist framework, working to bring into being a world of socialised humanity.

The political work of the Party in intervening in the life of the country in 2024 has been carried out in this framework that the old forms and institutions have become obsolete, but the necessary new forms and institutions for empowering the people have to be brought into being. The solution that it has encouraged the working people to take up is that of speaking in their own name. The movement of working people to say that “Enough Is Enough” has been transforming the consciousness of working people that they themselves have the solution to the crisis. With the proxy war against Russia in the Ukraine, the Party has emphasised that the main blow of the anti-war movement must be against NATO and its provocations. The Party has paid particular attention since October 7, 2023, in standing with Palestine and the Palestinian resistance, insisting that there must be a ceasefire and that the Israeli genocide be stopped, condemning the complicity of the British government. RCPB(ML) throughout the country has participated with the masses of the people in the manifestations of standing shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people.

The crisis has underlined that it is necessary for the communist movement to further develop its theoretical work, and has demonstrated that the “covenant thesis” on which the old political system is based, with “representatives” authorised to speak in the name of the electorate, is disempowering.

It also placed an important focus on improving the content and extending the readership of its online newspaper “Workers’ Weekly” in these circumstances.

The Party and its supporters continued their efforts to intervene in the important movements of the working class and people, mobilise the youth, and support the struggles in defence of the rights of all. It also continued to pay attention to its internationalist duties, including strengthening its ties in the international communist movement .