

The International Commission is a chartered commission of the Socialist Party USA.

**Statement of Purpose:** The International Commission develops relations with democratic socialist parties in other countries. We also seek to initiate relations with anti-authoritarian radicals in other countries. The International Commission hopes to work on joint projects that cross national boundaries. The International Commission also issues statements for the Socialist Party in support of socialist and left-wing movements around the world.

*THE SOCIALIST PARTY strives to establish a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control - a non-racist, classless, feminist socialist society... where working people own and control the means of production and distribution through democratically-controlled public agencies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible. The working class is in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling capitalist class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future - to a real radical democracy from below. The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We support militant working class struggles and electoral action, independent of the capitalist controlled two-party system, to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic revolutions - radical and fundamental changes in the structure and quality of economic, political, and personal relations - to abolish the power now exercised by the few who control great wealth and the government. The Socialist Party is a democratic, multi-tendency organization, with structure and practices visible and accessible to all members*



### **Socialist Party USA**

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Enclosed is \$10 for a year's subscription to *The Socialist*.

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# STATEMENT ON TIBET



From the International Commission of the



### **Socialist Party USA**

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*by the SPUSA International Commission -  
March 26, 2008*

The unfolding events in Tibet are a tragedy. The Chinese government has occupied Tibet for more than fifty years, using every conceivable method to incorporate the occupied territory into an integral part of China. Tibetan cultural and religious sites have been desecrated and Buddhist monks have been forced to sign a pledge of allegiance to China. In its desire to extract the valuable natural resources of Tibet, the Chinese government has ignored essential environmental safeguards.

Recently, thousands of Buddhist monks peacefully protested these policies, and were met with police violence. This brutal repression triggered a widespread popular revolt, which the Chinese government has met with overwhelming force. Dozens of protesters have been killed by Chinese troops, thousands have been arrested, and hundreds have disappeared from sight.

The Socialist Party USA urges the Chinese government to immediately withdraw all of its troops from Tibet so as to permit the people of Tibet to determine for themselves whether they wish to remain an autonomous zone within China, or a totally independent state. At the same time, the Socialist Party calls upon the Tibetan

people to respect the rights of all of its citizens and to cease all forms of violence directed at the people or property of those who, with the encouragement of the Chinese government, have moved from China to Tibet.

The future of Tibet can not lie in the creation of a theocratic feudal state such as that which existed prior to 1951. The Tibetan government in exile has recognized that a democratic representative government must provide the basis for a new Tibet. Such a democracy would recognize the rights of all of its residents, no matter what their ethnic origin or religious practice, if any, might be.

The ruthless policy of repression implemented by the Chinese government in Tibet mirrors the harsh and pervasive coercion that characterizes all of China. Independent trade unions have been suppressed, dissidents who dare to criticize the one-party state are jailed and mistreated, and peasants who protest the despoliation of the countryside confront troops who are ordered to shoot to kill.

While claiming to be a Communist state, the Chinese government uses its power to crush the working class for the benefit of foreign capitalists, many of them headquartered in the United States.

In reality, China is an authoritarian statist capitalist society, one that is firmly integrated into the global market economy.

The Socialist Party stands with all who seek a more democratic China. In particular, the Socialist Party USA supports the Chinese working class as it develops its own independent institutions, including trade unions. Only a mass based social movement that brings together workers and peasants can overthrow the current regime and move China forward toward a genuinely democratic socialist society. A socialist China would respect the right of the Tibetan people to seek their own path forward.

