

Unite to fight war and privatisation

BLAIR is in deep trouble. His government reshuffle was supposed to relaunch Blairism but has ended in a shambles. He's lost two cabinet ministers over opposition to the war and another close ally, Alan Milburn, has resigned 'to spend more time with his family'.

The May elections should have been Blair's post-war victory celebration. Instead it was a terrible result, with Labour losing over 800 councillors and for the first time getting the same share of the vote as the Lib Dems.

Iraq is in chaos, with growing resistance to the US/British occupation. Accusations of deliberate exaggeration and distortion, ie lying, about the threat from weapons of mass destruction have been levelled against Blair by Cook, Short and the BBC and simply won't go away.

Blair is determined to carry on with his programme of privatisation and cuts. He is still committed to SATs, foundation hospitals, student tuition fees, and the continuing privatisation of housing and public services. Even if he is replaced by Gordon Brown, it will be more of the same. He is after all the person who is the primary architect of cuts and privatisation.

The local elections showed there are millions of former Labour voters who will not vote Labour for the foreseeable future because of the war on Iraq.

The Lib Dems (who posed as anti-war even though they supported the war as soon as it started) were the main beneficiaries in England of the anti-war vote. But the elections also showed that where socialists were able to establish themselves as a credible alternative, we could attract a lot of support.

In Scotland, the Scottish Socialist Party had six MSPs elected and two councillors. In England, the Socialist Alliance saw its first councillor elected in Preston and had many other very good votes.

The danger if the left fails to forge a credible alternative is that those disillusioned with New Labour will vote for the Lib Dems or fall into apathy. It will also weaken the fight against the rise of the Nazi BNP.

In June 2004 there will be European and local elections across the UK. We believe all who oppose privatisation and war need to get together as soon as possible to provide a united socialist electoral challenge to Blair and New Labour.

SUPPORT THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

① Tax the rich to fund public services

② Stop privatisation & renationalise the rail

③ Stop foundation hospitals

④ Defend council housing & comprehensive education

⑤ Stop attacks on asylum seekers & fight racism

⑥ Stop Bush & Blair's war drive

⑦ Put people before profit

JOIN THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

- I want to know more about the Socialist Alliance
- I want to help with the Socialist Alliance campaign
- I want to join the Socialist Alliance. Membership for 2003 is £24 (£6 unwaged)
- I want to make a donation to the Socialist Alliance election fund

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Please make any cheques payable to Socialist Alliance.

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