

Free German Youth (FDJ) introduces:

# International Anti-War Campaign on the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation from Fascism

## Class Struggle Against World War

### A Campaign in three Countries, May 2011

The FDJ supports the campaign “Class Struggle Against World War”, which is organized by the Campaign Office “The Funeral or The Heavenly Four”. Together with other supporters we prepare a tour with five lorries from 8th to 22nd May 2011 through three countries: the annexed GDR, the Czech Republic and Poland. We want to use this campaign as an alert to the rise of German Imperialism and as a reminder of the causes of the World War II. It is a campaign in the spirit of international solidarity.

### The Route

The map shows a red dotted line route starting in Berlin, moving to Potsdam, then to Leipzig, Dresden, Prague, Poznan, Bydgoszcz, and Gdansk, before returning to Berlin. The route passes through the FRG, annexed GDR, Czech Republic, and Republic of Poland. Callouts provide historical context for each location.

Starting in Berlin, the city in which the last German world war was planned, the procession moves to Potsdam, home to Prussian-German militarism and residence of the illegal General Staff.

The procession returns to Berlin on the trails of the Red Army, passing the Seelow Heights. During the battle for these heights tens of thousands of soldiers of the army of soviet workers and peasants lost their lives – to clear the way for the final victory over German Facism, which had come close to rule the world and which required 110 countries to enter a state of war.

Through Bydgozcz to Gdansk, a polish city which was used as a reason by Nazi-Germany to start the second world war. A city, which was also a place of organized collaboration between German and Polish antifascists and revolutionaries.

FRG

annexed GDR

Republic of Poland

To Poznan where flyers dedared in 1933: “Support the common struggle of the German and Polish proletariat against hunger, fascism and imperialist war”.

Czech Republic

From Leipzig to Dresden, where the population had to pay with the destruction of the city for the failure of the Germans to rise against Nazi-barbarism.

From Prague to the Polish Republic, where the city of Zgorelec has the German twin-city Görlitz whose mayor explained in 1998 the true purpose of the Euroregions at Germany’s East borders – occupying land and overriding borders: “Clearly, we want to become one city – with one townhall and one mayor.” The contrasting slogan of workers was declared during a German-Polish-Czech congress in January 1993: “Three countries, one flag, one enemy, one victory!”

Towards Prague which provided a first shelter for many German antifascists. It was here that the FDJ was founded – an organisation which warns with this campaign against history being repeated. Leaflets written by German workers, printed by Czech Workers and distributed by Polish workers were smuggled from Prague to Poland to call to resist the German war. 30.000 workers erected 1.600 barricades in Prague during the night of 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> of May 1945 and started the insurgence against the fascist Wehrmacht.



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## Rehearsal

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010, the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation from fascism the rehearsal for this procession took place in Berlin. The pictures were taken during this event.



The procession on it's way to the 'Reichstag', where the German Parliament is located. In front of the 'Reichstag': Chancellor Merkel, capitalists and army.



The worker's lorry takes course to German Parliament.





The procession is welcomed by Brecht's Berlin Ensemble.



Oskar Matzerath, a figure from Günter Grass' poem 'Die Blechtrommel' wearing the uniform of 'Wehrmacht' – Germans army during Hitlerfascism.

In Front of 'Brandenburger Tor'





## The Procession

At the beginning of the procession there will be a replica of a German V2 rocket. The German chancellor Angela Merkel is positioned as a tragicomic figure on the rocket trying to escape its tail which spits fire. The rockets activity changes over time – depending on the capital's mood and courage. This is followed by a lorry which represents the increasingly militant German interior forces. In a hatch stands late General Steinhoff – or what is left of him – to provide his bon mot: "It is more pleasant to inhale the smoke of a rocket than to be hit by one." On the third lorry a figure from Günter Grass' novel "The Tin Drum" can be seen twice: Oskar Matzerath – once in the clothes of a defender of the Polish Post Office, once wearing the Hitler Youth uniform. Oskars' two sides represent many who refused to take a side. One lorry with workers is followed by a youth lorry, both will argue in German, Czech and Polish language against defending a German fatherland ("We have no fatherland to defend!"), and for protection of the sovereignty of the Czech Republic and Poland ("Never again Munich!", "Poland has not perished yet!").

Extract from FDJ's declaration to support the campaign:

### We need to fight the danger of war now

Now – as German imperialism declares the post-war era as finished with the annexation of the GDR, and the pre-war area as opened.

Now – as we face the danger of the next world war, since – as Bertolt Brecht wrote – "The capitalists do not want war, they must want it", to save their rotten and ailing system.

Now – as German imperialism has already established economic and political occupation of other states and positions his forces against them.

Now – as the youth of the FRG and the annexed GDR grows up in schools and universities where they are trained for war; civil organisations are brought under control of the military; preparations are made to ensure a graveyard peace at the home front.

It is now that we are required to fight! United, not split by borders.

Class struggle – now! Before we are forced to gather in exile.

Class struggle against world war – now!

Before millions in our neighbouring countries and worldwide will have to pay with their lives for our reluctance and our disunity.



Sowjet Monument, Berlin-Tiergarten

The youth's lorry



Contact and further information at the Campaign Office "The Funeral or The Heavenly Four":

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