

## Iceland Out of NATO

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Backed by the working people of Iceland the government has successfully established against British imperialism its rights in its own territorial waters, allowing British trawlers only limited fishing facilities.

It has been this growing campaign of the Icelandic people which has enabled the government to defend its 200 mile stand.

Iceland itself overfishes. Its government's own studies show that cod and other spawning stocks are dwindling year by year. The size and weight of codling caught off Iceland are falling all the time, and the overall catch is declining in relation to a greatly increased fishing effort. The brave struggle of the Icelandic working class goes on however, to save the precious resources of the ocean upon which their national life depends.

Not least in importance in determining the outcome of the present 'talks' and ending the absurd posturing of the British government, has been fear by capitalists in all countries of the growing campaign in Iceland against Nato.

The United States has a large military base at Keflavik which is not only of strategic importance for its reconnaissance and control of the North Atlantic and Polar regions, but also in

maintaining its control of Iceland itself. With the development of the 'cod war', far from 'protecting' Iceland the US has encouraged Britain and refused gunboats and credits to Iceland. This has resulted in a widespread and growing demand from all sections of the working population there, that Iceland should quit Nato and the base should be withdrawn.

This movement culminated on May 15th in a massive march from the gates of Keflavik to Reykjavik - over 50 km. away. The march ended in a mass meeting of almost 15,000 (out of a total population of only 200,000). In the words of the newly formed Communist Party of Iceland (M-L): This march "showed clearly that the masses are arisen to struggle for national self determination and against Nato membership. It showed that opposition against British aggression is growing and more people are understanding the imperialist nature of Nato, through the fishing dispute."

Although small in number the struggle of the Icelandic working class is of great significance. Above all it demonstrates clearly to all the world that today, it is the working class and not the United States or the Soviet Union which is the real super-power! Workers of the world unite! Nato out!

