

WSWS/SEP public meetings in Melbourne and Sydney: the political tasks facing the antiwar movement

28 February 2003

The mass protests that took place across the world over the weekend of February 14-16 inaugurated an international antiwar movement that already embraces tens of millions of people. In Australia, as many as one million marched in cities and towns around the country.

While demonstrating the broad opposition to a US-led invasion of Iraq, the protests also revealed the lack of a clear political program in the working class. Workers and youth expressed their desire for peace, social equality, democratic rights and international solidarity, but were politically limited to appeals to the official establishment to change course or hopes that the United Nations would prevent war.

The growing antiwar movement can only go forward to the extent that it resolutely breaks from the establishment parties—including the ALP, the Democrats and the Greens—and opposes the entire socioeconomic system responsible for war. This requires turning to the construction of a new mass international movement, based on the international working class. Such a movement must be armed with a socialist perspective that sets itself the task of uniting the struggle against war with the fight against the unrelenting destruction of jobs, social conditions, living standards and democratic and civil rights and reconstructing society on the principles of genuine social equality and human solidarity.

The *World Socialist Web Site* and Socialist Equality Party of Australia are holding public meetings in Melbourne and Sydney to discuss this perspective. We invite all WSWS readers to attend.

Melbourne

Monday March 17, 7.00pm
YWCA Function Hall, Hotel Y
489 Elizabeth St

Melbourne

Tickets: \$4/\$2 concession

Sydney

Thursday March 20, 7.00pm

University of Sydney

Holme and Sutherland Rooms

The Holme Building

Science Road

Tickets: \$4/\$2 concession

By car or bus, enter the university from Parramatta Rd via the Ross St entrance. Pay/display parking is available inside the university grounds for \$6.00

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