



## **Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa**

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CAFCA believes that the independence of most countries has eroded away, because most of the world's economy is now owned and controlled by a relatively small number of huge transnational corporations (TNCs). These TNCs have control over most of the world's resources, trade, industrial production and the services sector, which covers everything from finance to transport. With this dominant control, TNCs can use the economy of individual nations for their own benefit, in a way which is against the interests of that country's people, weakening national independence. Most Third World countries are in a far worse position, being totally at the mercy of the TNCs.

CAFCA believes that, hand in hand with the growing global dominance of TNCs, is the military might of the world's biggest industrial nations. These countries use a range of tactics, from covert destabilisation to outright war, to defend the interests of their TNCs, against the interests of the people of small and Third World countries, threatening their sovereignty. The Iraq War, fought for the oil TNCs under the banner of "democracy", is a good example.

CAFCA is most concerned at the local effects of this worldwide trend. Between one third and one half of the New Zealand sharemarket is foreign-owned. In short, Aotearoa's independence is rapidly disappearing and with its "free market" policies, including encouragement of foreign investment and unrestricted foreign capital flows, the Government is actively promoting this process. It is further accelerated by international bodies such as the World Trade Organisation, and free trade agreements.

Our military forces are trained not for national defence but to take part in the international military network of the United States. We still host a US military base and nominally "New Zealand" intelligence gathering bases serve the US. NZ's military still functions as part of the "Western alliance", whether in Afghanistan or closer to home.

### **What Does CAFCA Stand For?**

An independent Aotearoa based on policies of economic, military and political self-reliance, using Aotearoa's resources for the benefit of the people of Aotearoa, and refusing involvement in the self-serving military and economic treaties of big foreign countries. We oppose foreign control, irrespective of which country it involves. We oppose the exploitation of Aotearoa's people and resources by foreign companies, and any foreign military or intelligence activities in Aotearoa. Anyone who supports these aims may be a member of CAFCA.

### **What CAFCA Does Not Support**

While opposing foreign control, CAFCA does not support the replacement of foreign exploiters with local ones. New Zealand Big Business collaborates with foreign companies in the exploitation of its own people – its only loyalty is to profits. CAFCA is not racist. We do not oppose foreigners, but the TNCs which are exploiting the people of Aotearoa. And, of course, CAFCA does not support New Zealand companies ripping off other countries, or New Zealand military activities in other countries.

# CAFCA CHARTER

1 CAFCA is a protest group, an educational group and a Leftwing progressive group. We define ourselves as “progressive nationalists” – we take the viewpoint of working people in Aotearoa. We reclaim the legitimacy of “nationalism”. We reject racism, either as used against foreigners or as used against opponents of foreign control. We are also internationalists – as we are fighting a global enemy, we work with global allies.

2 We specialise in providing information and analysis available nowhere else. We employ a range of tactics, from lobbying to mass-based direct action. We believe that real change will come only by fully informing and convincing people at large.

3 CAFCA does not advocate a general alternative to the existing system; we are united in what we are against rather than what we are for. This is precisely because we are not and will not be a political party, so we do not have a range of policies outside of our issues. We will not be used to promote a particular party line nor do we endorse any political party. We are happy to network, form coalitions and work with likeminded groups, including political parties, anywhere in the country and overseas.

4 However we recognise that our goal must involve leaving all military pacts, closing all foreign-controlled military and intelligence installations; and strictly controlling transnational corporations (TNCs), being prepared to repossess them. On specific issues we may propose solutions, for example “Close Down The Bluff Smelter” or “Nationalise Telecom”.

5 We oppose foreign control because it is harmful to the interests of people everywhere. Profits are the only concern of TNCs investing in this country. To gain profits they will lean on governments, devastate the environment, corrupt the news media and destroy civil liberties. We oppose all forms and all aspects of foreign control. We use single issues as examples.

6 CAFCA recognises that imperialism (foreign control) is a logical and inevitable product of capitalism. However, because we are not a political party and because of the diversity of views within CAFCA, we define ourselves as anti-imperialist rather than actively anti-capitalist. But we campaign vigorously against our “own” TNCs, and against New Zealand Big Business which ruthlessly pushes the same domestic political agenda as the TNCs. We oppose the entire spectrum of New Right “reforms” being implemented to make the economy of Aotearoa “attractive” to foreign investors.

7 We affirm that the people of this country are the only ones entitled to control our national destiny, not the financial markets or foreign investors. We want a fair go society. We commit ourselves to equity, democracy, sustainability and security. Above all we assert the essential need for national sovereignty.