

MIM Notes



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Free

Warning to the U.\$. public:

U.\$. war brewing in the Philippines

by International Minister
August 20 2002

Even Reuters has managed to report correctly that the people of the Philippines through their organization the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army have made it clear that U.\$. troops can and will be defeated in Filipino territory.(1) We at MIM would like to warn the Amerikkkan public about the war it is sliding into in the Philippines and state our own opinion about it.

In the Philippines today, there is a u.\$-lackey regime. If George Bush gave the order, there would be an invasion of the Philippines backed by the president of the Philippines herself Macapagal-Arroyo but opposed by the majority of the Filipino population. Already the U.\$. troops assisting in "anti-terrorist" operations are a major insult to the Filipino people, given that the Filipino Constitution prohibits U.S. troops on Filipino soil.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army have very good reasons to attack U.\$. interests militarily. Thus far, they have refrained from doing so.

For more than 10 years the Communist



Despite many attempts by the revolutionaries to negotiate with U.\$. imperialists, Arroyo and her U.\$. puppeteers are driving hard toward a new U.\$. war on the Philippines.

Party of the Philippines and others in the revolutionary movement have tried to negotiate with U.\$. imperialism through its various lackeys in the Philippines. We at MIM can attest, and it is a matter of public record, that the CPP has tried desperately to settle matters with u.\$.

imperialism peacefully. At the same time, with 70% of the population malnourished, the Communist Party of the Philippines can not tolerate less than major change in the Philippines. The Communist Party of the Philippines is

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Powell names CPP 'foreign terrorist organization'

Toady Arroyo regime steps up red-baiting

U.\$. Secretary of State Colin Powell declared the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) to be "foreign terrorist organizations" on August 9, less than one week after he visited the Philippines and about the same time Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced that the NPA was now the military's number one target. Powell's declaration makes it illegal for persons in the United States to provide "material support or resources" to the CPP or NPA and requires U.\$. banks to freeze such supporters' accounts.(1)

Powell's announcement escalates U.\$. meddling in the Philippines and is clear indication that MIM is right when it says there is a U.\$. war brewing in the Philippines.

The leader of the bourgeois opposition in the Philippine House of Representatives denounced Powell's classification of the CPP as intervention in the Philippines' internal affairs. "Whatever differences the government and the [National Democratic Front] have are an internal matter," said Rep. Carlos Padilla. [The National Democratic Front is an umbrella organization of revolutionary groups led by the CPP.] Membership in the CPP is not a crime under Philippine law, and the Philippines has no anti-terrorism law.

Rep. Satur Ocampo, from the nationalist Bayan Muna party, said that the Arroyo regime would use the U.\$. government's declaration that the NPA is a "foreign terrorist organization" as justification to allow U.\$. troops to go after NPA guerrillas and sympathizers. "Everything seemed coordinated," he said, "from Powell's visit to Macapagal's declaration of all-out-war, and the U.S. government's declaration of the NPA as

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Nutcase Rumsfeld threatens Russia with new global redivision

AMERIKAN MEDDLERS MAY
HAVE TAKEN ON MORE THAN
THEY CAN HANDLE

by MC5
August 27 2002

The past month has seen an intensification of imperialist maneuvering including an open threat to redivide the world to the exclusion of Russia from U.S. "Secretary of Defense" Donald Rumsfeld. In response, at least some spreading rumors on the Internet have threatened U.\$.

imperialism with a different redivision of the world.

Rumsfeld put it in typical imperialist terms: "My impression is that the Russian administration is fairly pragmatic at this stage and their interest in the United States is greater than their interest in Iraq."(1) He threatened Russia with loss of business for doing business with Iraq—contrary to the usual rhetoric of "free trade" where borders are supposed to be irrelevant, never mind politics. The formation of trade blocs

where countries are allowed to trade in the bloc only if they don't trade in others is connected up with every

major war in the past hundred or more years.

Russia correctly responded that the Pentagon has no legal authority to set the trade policies of the U.S. business community: "This is not the first time that the Pentagon has taken on the unusual mission of making statements on behalf of the American and foreign business communities," Malakhov [Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson—MC5] said in a statement. "It is hard for us to judge to what extent the Pentagon has the authority to do this and who gave it such authority."(2) It was a brilliant move by the Putin administration, to consolidate public opinion in Russia while putting Rumsfeld in his place globally. It's already not far from the Russian people's minds that what Rumsfeld did proves the real nature of the U.\$. capitalist system.

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Letters

California prisoners: Stop Operation Gatekeeper!

Greetings comrades,

I received the Stop Operation Gatekeeper! petition. This is something near and dear to my heart, for most of my family had to cross this border. I know firsthand the violence being waged on those who go through the U.S.-Mexico border. This violence is not only against Mexicans but also against Salvadorans, Guatemalans and other peoples of Third World countries categorized as "Latins." I am trying to get people here to sign in solidarity with this movement. As soon as I can I will send back the signatures, even if it's only mine!

— a California prisoner, 14 July, 2002

MIM responds: The "Stop Operation Gatekeeper!" campaign is organized around this demand:

"Open the U.S. border!

"The U.S. Immigration and

Naturalization Service's military-style 'Operation Gatekeeper' has killed over 600 Mexican migrants. This is part of the systematic violence the U.S. government uses to restrict people's free movement. The U.S. Border separates families, communities, and nations. It also keeps Third World workers and farmers under regimes where wage rates are drastically depressed through violent repression — this allows the United States to make huge profits off of its investments abroad. We the undersigned call for an end to 'Operation Gatekeeper' and an end to policies restricting people's free movement across the border."

If you want to add your efforts to those of this prisoner and MIM's other allies, you can find a copy of the petition and supporting articles on our website: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/OpenBorder.htm> If you are in prison and have no access to the Internet, write us for a copy of the petition and we'll help you out.

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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If you know you have some good places to distribute, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up. If you are not willing to distribute, just send money. If you are not willing to pay, then request papers after somehow proving to the party that you are serious (words won't count). You who will cough up/raise the money to distribute 900 papers each issue and then do the distribution -- you are what drives this party forward.

Make anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

Prisoner prefers MIM line to RCP

Greetings Comrades, I was somewhat relieved when I received your letter and May issues of MIM Notes. The information contained in your letter is very helpful in our small study group, especially the article by Mao and definitions of revolutionary words. I can explain the words' meanings from my understanding, but it is better when it's put out by the party itself for all comrades will be on the same page. ... That's one reason I commend MIM for sending MIM Theory 10, because it gives a clear view of the labor aristocracy, proletariat, and bourgeoisie. It shows comrades, myself included, how and why they are only revolutionary when their rights are denied. I've recently read a pamphlet by David Gilbert, "Looking at the White Working Class Historically," along with the RCP ["Revolutionary Communist Party-USA" -ed] line on the working class and you're right MIM, ["RCP" Chairperson Bob] Avakian wants to include this group, the white working class, as proletarian and revolutionary. Anyway, while I admit I think there are some elements in this class that are revolutionary they are mostly moved by the desire for more benefits. Presently in the ["RCP" newspaper] Revolutionary Worker, Avakian is being interviewed by Carl Dix and the cat is trippin'. I disagree with his class analysis as well as the failure of parties in the past. Alternate reading to send would be those MIM Theories, without a doubt, so I can get real deep into MIM's thinking.

In struggle,

—A Texas Prisoner, August 2002

MIM has been shedding buckets of ink and sweat about the Incarcerated State\$ of Amerikkka for about ten years now. So it is with a bitter pleasure that MIM can now say to the capitalists "We told you so." And here at least, they, and at least a part some of them do, agree with the facts as MIM states them.

The August 10th print edition of The Economist, flagship of capitalism, has as its cover story "Too Many Convicts." That issue notes that the U.S. has a rate of incarceration five times higher than in England - which has Europe's highest rate of incarceration. (The Economist, August 10th 2002) That means in "the land of the free" you are at least five times more likely to land in jail than in the other imperialist powers. To say nothing of your chances of being shot "in self defense." Or being killed in prison "by another inmate."

As the bourgeoisie begins to wring its hands and then do nothing — for capitalism cannot solve the problems it creates — MIM intends to continue to put out the hard facts — and to propose real solutions.

—mousnonya@yahoo.com

We constantly update MIM's coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!

Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:

[www.etext.org/ Politics/MIM](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)

What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Nepali rulers attempt to lift state of emergency

Ten political parties met and called for the end of a state of emergency in Nepal so that the parties can prepare campaigns for upcoming elections in November. Amongst those calling for elections were CPN-United, CPN-Marxist, CPN-MLM and CPN-Unity Centre Masal. (In each case, CPN stands for Communist Party of Nepal.) (1) It appears these parties (all the existing parties basically) got their way on August 28th, when the state of emergency came to an end as scheduled instead of being renewed for a third time.

The head of the Nepali regime is someone from the Nepali Congress Party, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. However, his party has split over his declaration of a state of emergency.

In recent weeks, it is apparent that

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba found himself threatened by a coalition of his own party and other parties. The second-largest parliamentary party, the CPN(UML) told the prime minister he would be politically finished if he did not see to free and fair elections happening on time.

Reactionary journalists are trying to provide cover for the end of the state of emergency. The Kathmandu Post says that the strong showing of the government since May has proved the People's War too weak to attack police or military outposts anymore. Hence, they believe it is time for more peace negotiations before hitting the Maoists harder if they do not end the People's

War.(2)

As MIM has explained before, in Nepal, the majority of the 25 million people are vaguely communist as proved by previous elections and the revolution in Nepal. There is only a question of false consciousness, a little fogginess about the best way of going about things. That's why no less than five parties calling themselves "communist" as the first word in their name appear to favor open elections and an end to the state of emergency. The only doubt would be whether some of these factions have been invented by the state.

In any case, returning to the point at hand, the threat against Prime Minister Deuba was apparently strong enough for

a newspaper to claim that Nepal's 1990 Constitution is under fire.(3) It is not surprising that there is a constitutional crisis, because there is no solution to the problems that the ruling class in Nepal faces without revolution.

Notes:

1. <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/ktmpost/2002/aug/aug29/index.htm#2>
2. <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/ktmpost/2002/aug/aug29/editorial.htm#1>
3. [http:// Nepali rulers attempt to lift state of emergency](http://Nepali rulers attempt to lift state of emergency)
3. <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishweekly/telegraph/2002/aug/aug28/index.htm#1>.

BC Treaty Referendum Seeks to Perpetuate Colonial Oppression

Written by RAIL-Canada
July 21, 2002

In May of 2002 the government of British Columbia conducted a Treaty Negotiations referendum in order to "formulate an approach to negotiations with Canada and First Nations" (1) meaning recast a framework for the treaty negotiation process around the issues of land, natural resources and political rights of the BC First Nations that has been taking place for 9 long years ever since its launching in 1993.

Among the 8 questions included in the agenda were the suggestions that "private

property should not be expropriated for treaty settlements"; that "hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities on Crown land should be ensured for all British Columbians"; that "parks and protected areas should be maintained for the use and benefit of all British Columbians"; that "aboriginal self-government should have the characteristics of local government, with powers delegated from Canada and British Columbia" and that "the existing tax exemptions for Aboriginal people should be phased out".(2)

[MIM emphasizes that this referendum

asked the settler majority what the framework for negotiations over First Nations' sovereign rights. Once again, the First Nations themselves are excluded from the most important decisions regarding their own livelihood.]

All 8 questions passed with 85 to 91 percent approval among valid ballots. However, valid ballots made up only 36% of the total of 2,127,829 mailed out. Among those who did not vote were some boycotters. These people "registered their protest by redirecting their ballots, using their ballots for art contests, writing letters of support or by recycling their ballots".(4)

Background of the referendum on Treaty negotiations

Ever since the early days of colonization of Canada by European settlers resulting is slaughter, forced displacement and land dispossession of indigenous population, First Nations have been waging incessant battles for their legal and territorial rights- a process that since its very inception has been obstructed and halted in many ways by the colonial and capitalist settler governments of Britain and Canada.

In British Columbia, the creation of Confederation in 1871 left a legacy of 14

treaties on Vancouver Island between first nations and the British government while the rest of the province was left unresolved. (5) Having confined the surviving indigenous population to a system of "reserves" established at the end of the 19 century, local governments appointed commissioners to make "land adjustments" resulting in "cutting off" land from the reserves, while barring litigation activity on the part of First Nations and making it an offense to collect funds for the purpose of advancing claims (legislative restriction not lifted until 1951). In 1938 B.C. completed Indian reserve arrangements and transferred most provincial land within Indian reserves to the federal government continuing to argue that "there was nothing to negotiate". (6) It was not until 1970's that a set of judicial

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM Notes has seen a big spike in circulation since the "war on terrorism" began. It's not surprising: MIM Notes is a free and independent newspaper. Yes, there are especially now knee-jerk patriots who believe everything Bush says and pass by a chance to read MIM Notes. There are other patriots and internationalists who realize that at this time papers like MIM Notes can undo the huge spectacle that Uncle Sam is creating for its own benefit.

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Amerikkkan labor aristocracy threatens Saudi capital Yahoos make Amerika 'unstable investment climate'

Forbes magazine and the Financial Times have already figured out that the United States is not the place to be for Saudi investors. They both ran stories in August about an alleged withdrawal of Saudi investment.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of the Saudi royal family had to deny that Saudis were withdrawing money, \$100-\$200 billion by some reports already. He even said he was looking for ways to increase investment in the United States.(1) It is the same prince who donated \$10 million to September 11th survivors only to have mayor Rudolf Giuliani return the money after the Prince made a speech against Israel. He is also the one often mentioned as a future prime minister of Lebanon.

The speculations increased after some 600-odd September 11th victims' relatives filed suit against Saudi Arabians for more money than the Saudis have invested in the United States. According to the Chicago Sun Times, one of the outlets to say the September 11th suit against Saudis is for over \$100 trillion, the Saudis have \$750 billion invested in the United States and one of those named in the suit has already spoken out against the labor aristocracy that brought the suit: "This is an act to extort Saudi money deposited in the United States and a way of meddling in the region."(2)

Every Saudi knows why he does not want to invest where there is political instability, especially a likelihood of socialism or communism. What Saudis have failed to calculate so far is the fact that the United States really does back Israel and that means a state of war, which means instability threatening their investments. The Israeli do the most to remind Amerikkans of their origins in massacring First Nations people.

President Bush will try to appease the Saudis by saying he personally opposes the lawsuit, but that is not how politics works in Amerikkka. The social-democrats at the "Nation" have already sounded the call and criticized Bush for not getting behind the lawsuit: "But President Bush would never move against the Saudis because American corporations, some led by close Bush family friends and associates, do too much business there." (2) That's how Robert Scheer sees it. There can be no doubt that means a large portion of the ruling-class does too. A Gephardt or a Buchanan would make a deal with the labor aristocracy to take over Saudi assets—with the enthusiastic support of a swamp that Stalin once referred to as "social-fascism" to speak of social-democrats and "national socialists" united in patriotic super-exploitation



TOP: A Pakistani-owned Goodyear Tire Store was burned in Houston, Texas two days after the owner received threats.

BOTTOM: A Muslim owned bookstore and neighboring business become a scene of a three alarm fire after the Sept. 11, tragedy. The FBI is investigating the incident as a hate crime.

Photos from www.pakistannation.com/Arti_Pub/Y2001/SepOct01/hatecrimes.htm

against other countries.

An Arab bank estimates that Gulf Arabs have about \$1.2 trillion in liquid assets abroad.(3) There was already a buzz that Arab money would flow into Euros and cause the currency to rise before the latest American labor aristocracy lawsuit.(4) Since the time speculation started at the end of 2001, the Euro has risen 10 cents against the dollar to be almost par at 98 cents for a euro.(5)

Thrown off airplanes for looking Arab, being attacked at mosques—the Arab businessperson faces obvious enemies in the Amerikkkan labor aristocracy. Now there is a suit for \$1 trillion or over \$100

trillion depending on which philistine news outlet you believe. Even if this suit does not result in nationalization of Arab assets followed by their redistribution this time, there's nothing to stop a similar event and lawsuit in the future.

Notes:

1. <http://www.forbes.com/home/newswire/2002/08/22/rtr702286.html>
2. <http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=scheer&s=20020820>
3. <http://www.suntimes.com/output/terror/cst-nws-saudi21.html>
4. <http://www.theglobalist.com/DBWeb/StoryId.aspx?StoryId=2256>
5. www.news.ft.com August 28th

Rumsfeld threatens new global redivision

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Trade conflicts smoothing somewhat

One sign that the U.S. imperialists may be serious about attacking Iraq is that they were busy smoothing over old trade differences with the European Union (EU) and Russia—although recent conflicts over new trade deals fudge that up somewhat.

According to the Washington Post, "Washington on Thursday [August 22nd] exempted a final batch of 178 foreign steel products from duties imposed in March by President Bush to the fury of U.S. trade partners.

"It said EU and Japanese producers were the main beneficiaries of the latest U.S. move, which brought total exemptions to 727, chosen from more than 1,300 requests.

"The Commission said that so far more than 50 percent of EU exports had been exempted from the duties, which were imposed at between eight and 30 percent on a range of products."(3) This means that Bush eliminated new taxes on steel from the European Union. The European Union is still threatening to retaliate against the United States for the trade taxes Bush imposed to obtain future votes from steelworkers.

Meanwhile, Russia and the United States worked out a deal to resume U.S. chicken imports into Russia in a market worth \$660 million. Why Russians

should pay to ship something they could raise in their own backyards is another question.(4)

Russian maneuvers noted by imperialist press, upping the ante

Despite some smoothing on old trade business, it was the new trade business that saw the U.S. imperialists rock the boat. The real headline grabber of August was the deal between Iraq and Russia. According to the Washington Post, "Iraqi Ambassador Abbas Khalaf characterized it as a five-year pact worth \$40 billion. A top deputy to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov on Friday also said it would be worth about \$40 billion.

"The agreement will cover a variety of fields, including oil, electrical energy, chemical products, irrigation, railroad construction and transportation."(5) A Bush aide initially told the Washington Post he did not think the deal was too troublesome and that Putin was still on board the coalition to fight "terror." Republican Senator Richard G. Lugar who has long played a senior role in foreign relations matters for the Congress said that the Russian deal was "symbolic."(6) It was later that Rumsfeld played the "hard-liner."

Putin also met with Kim Jong-il on August 23rd. Kim announced plans to buy some tractors, but the Russians are selling the southern Korean regime a half billion dollars of weapons, including

tanks. Nonetheless, Kim said he was happy with his meeting with Putin.

At the time of the Korean meeting, Putin called on the local Russian authorities to hurry up and participate in building the rail line that will connect southern Korea to northern Korea to Russia and then Europe. The southern Korean trade will mean money for all who participate in the railroad.

The New York Times pointed out the stunning fact that Russia's economy is now the size of the Netherlands's,(7) so the Russians need business everywhere, not just where Uncle Sam approves. Russia has the largest population of any country in Europe, nearly 10 times larger than the 16 million of the Netherlands. That means capitalism has been a catastrophe for the ex-Soviet people compared with Russian glory days under Stalin—a fact the New York Times did not point out.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, Russian warplanes struck at Chechen rebels taking up sanctuary there. Georgia has sought U.S. protection and has taken U.S. military aid ostensibly for the purpose of being able to drive out the Chechen rebels, which Bush has agreed are "terrorists," because of their reputed links to al-Qaeda and the days of the Afghan-Soviet war.(8)

The United States made some noise on behalf of Georgia,(9) and more

significantly threatened several European states over the World Court. The United States told Europe that if it did not vote to exclude U.S. troops from the jurisdiction of the World Court, it would withdraw troops from NATO.(10) MIM will translate the meaning of this threat for the common person: "Eastern Europe, if you want to be under the Russian sphere of influence, then go ahead and vote against us. Western Europe: if you want to pay for the consequences of that, go ahead." Thus far only Israel and Romania have signed agreements with the United States not to turn over U.S. troops to the World Court.(10)

The number of threats the United States made in the month of August alone shows that the U.S. imperialists face too many global enemies to handle. The proliferation of weapons to the Third World alone dooms the stability of the current system and causes the scientifically retarded U.S. rulers to lash out in reactionary and widespread directions. In some cases Uncle Sam will succeed in intimidation, but the overall logic of the numbers and situation is against him.

Saudi-U.S. relations in a pickle

The U.S. labor aristocracy landed a one-two punch in U.S.-Saudi relations in August, with perfect timing giving that the kettle is already boiling in the Middle

Continued on next page...

U.S. trade deficit expanded in June; so-called Marxists don't get it

by International Minister
August 20 2002

The June 2002 U.S. trade deficit was \$37.2 billion, exceeded in all history only by the month before. The projected trade deficit for the year is \$412 billion.(1) However, the real news is that after 30 years of this pattern, so-called Marxists still do not show understanding of how it is possible.

According to bourgeois economic theory (better known as trivia) a trade deficit increases the supply of the currency in deficit and that currency's value should decrease. When the currency decreases in international value, goods in that currency become better priced just by virtue of new exchange rates. With the new exchange rates, trade deficits are supposed to return to zero or reverse themselves.

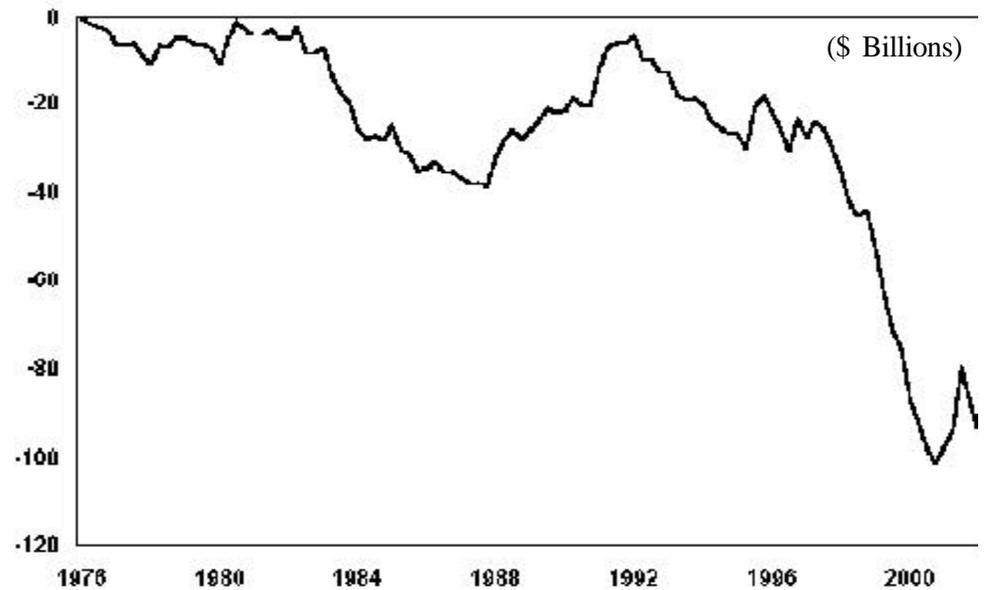
Lately we have become aware of another twist, which is that the currency market can be affected by investments in the united States, as investments in stocks and securities increase demand for U.S. dollars. So in theory, the united States could be paying for its perennial trade deficit by transferring ownership of U.S. property to foreigners, and that is why the dollar does not collapse despite humongous trade deficits. In the past two months, at least two separate organizations claiming to uphold Mao

who we will not criticize by name have put forward the bourgeois economic theory as a sign of the collapse of the u.s. system, because it will need to devalue the currency but will not be able to eradicate the trade deficit. These organizations claiming to be Marxist simply repeat what they have heard before (2) without creatively understanding the conditions they live in in 2002. Specifically, they fail to understand that the U.S. trade deficit is closer to being an indicator of parasitism than an indicator of imminent collapse.

Ideologically, the capitalists have changed their tune about trade deficits. Instead of having deficits automatically adjust themselves out of existence because of capitalism's supposed inherent stability, the bourgeois propagandists are now at least sometimes taking another tack—that ideologically, large deficits prove the power of the u.s. economy.(3) Of course, the bourgeois change of tune is not based on anything scientific underlying it, and we Marxists have a higher standard to meet.

Some analysts claiming to uphold Mao and some social-democratic economists such as Mark Weisbrot marvel at the inflow of foreign finance capital and claim that it cannot be sustained. In fact, Weisbrot connects the recent trade deficit to a stock market bubble and advocates

Quarterly U.S. Trade Deficit in "goods and services": 1976-2002



Source: <http://www.bea.dor.gov/bea/d11.htm>

tiny reforms to limit speculation and put capitalism on a more stable basis.(4) So it is that social-democratic economists limit themselves to advocating how capitalism can stabilize itself and better extract wealth from abroad. Weisbrot goes on to cry for more jobs for U.S. citizens.

In fact, the stock market bubble reminds Marxists of the difference between surplus-labor and realized

surplus-value. If in fact foreigners get sucked into speculative bubbles forever, the united States does not ever have to pay for its imported goods and services with anything but worthless paper. In exchange for goods and services, foreigners buy U.S. stocks in companies which go bankrupt or lose most of their value.

Thinking about this, some will say that cannot be sustained forever either.

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East. We are speaking of the lawsuit brought by relatives of the September 11th World Trade Center crash.(11)

To be sure, this is a labor aristocracy invention. First of all, it is virtually a move to nationalize Saudi assets. In general, we will not see the imperialists initiate discussions of nationalizing assets. It's not good for the business environment which depends on long-term trust and tolerance for stability. However, the labor aristocracy has made its move in a way that fits in the whole "War against Terror" theme of the day set by the imperialists. What is more, the labor aristocracy does not call it fascist nationalization of assets, but instead refers to it as "damages" in the language of lawsuits.

The labor aristocracy has shown its colors perfectly. One, suing the Saudi ruling class in a typical all-Arabs-are-terrorists kind of racism. Two, it reached for the ones with the money, the way every parasite is trained in the imperialist system.

The second blow landed by the labor aristocracy was in the newsrooms. The suit is so large, that the mathematically illiterate newsrooms alternately reported the suit was for \$1 trillion, \$1.6 trillion—and in at least two major outlets—\$116 trillion.(12) No doubt this contributed to the consternation of the Saudi bourgeoisie while simultaneously giving the enlightened public an insight into just how stupid the mainstream media is. Our readers will forgive MIM for not bothering to check what the astronomical

suit is really for. Apparently not compensated sufficiently already, the labor aristocracy suit-mongers are searching for at least 9 digit figures for every persyn killed in the World Trade Center.

The hard-line imperialists are playing this lawsuit as leverage against the Saudis and u.s. global domination. It is essentially a threat to take over Saudi Arabia's U.S. assets (less than \$1 trillion) and/or the oil fields themselves in the name of 911.

Thus far, Arab billionaires have denied that they are pulling money out of the united States to avoid being involved in future conflicts. According to the U.S. Embassy, the Saudis alone have \$600 to \$700 billion invested abroad.(13) Others sources say Arabs have \$500 to \$700 billion in the United States.

In actual fact, this lawsuit is a no-lose proposition for communists globally. If the suit should win, the Arab bourgeoisie will have its stake in U.S. imperialism cut off, greatly contributing to revolution and the war that would follow. The solidarity of the Middle East would be hugely increased thanks to the overreaching greed of the U.S. labor aristocracy.

If the suit loses, it will be a blow to racism naming all Arabs terrorists, when the ones who carried out the attack all died in the crash. Nonetheless, in the future, we will also use this lawsuit to remind the labor aristocracy what it thought the lives of people are worth, when it comes time for reparations for the killing of slaves, most of which died on the boat on the way to North America,

and the 10 million indigenous people killed.

A rumor on the Internet discusses how an all-out trade conflict with Saudi Arabia would play out. The Saudis would close their embassies in England and the United States, and trade with their oil in the European Union, which would be allowed to re-sell to the United States and England. Another element in play is the land forces of Russia, which could easily move into Iraq and the rest of the Middle East if so invited to prevent Uncle Sam from forcibly taking over the oil fields once ties have been cut.

Such an alignment would be very attractive to countries around the world and would pose significant challenges to u.s. imperialism. In such an arrangement, suddenly economic ties to Russia and the European Union do not look so bad to a host of Eastern European, Middle East and Central Asian countries. Those who have played Othello or the more complex Go game can see the risks that the above-average-but-overmatched Bush is playing with.

Hard times for u.s. imperialism

We are beginning to see the limits of U.S. imperialist power as the imperialists calculate how to flip all the pieces on the board at the same time without losing them all again in subsequent moves by opponents. The operation in Afghanistan is such a failure that the U.S. government has had to admit that President Karzai is an extension of the U.S. State Department. Despite the U.S. ousting of the Taliban so many people were trying to kill Karzai that the U.S. military was

protecting him. Now it will be troops of the State Department providing for his security.(14) Thus the game pieces are barely staying flipped Uncle Sam's way in Afghanistan, where there is already a considerable military commitment. Meanwhile, U.S. ambassadors have gone repeatedly to Pakistan and India to make sure that a war does not heat up there and introduce more wild cards into global game of imperialism.

Notes:

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/22/international/middleeast/22IRAQ.html>
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-1969596,00.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52873-2002Aug23.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/24/business/worldbusiness/24CHIC.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38019-2002Aug19.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33847-2002Aug18.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/24/international/asia/24KORE.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/24/international/europe/24CAUC.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/international/international-russia-georgia.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/international/international-russia-georgia.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64476-2002Aug26.html>
- <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,61257,00.html>
- <http://uk.news.yahoo.com/020816/140/d7kah.html> has the \$116 trillion figure
- <http://usembassy.state.gov/riyadh/wwwwhet00.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55181-2002Aug23.html>

U.S. Armed Intervention in the Philippines and the People's Struggle for National Freedom

By Rep. Satur C. Ocampo

Satur Ocampo is a member of the nationalist Bayan Muna (People First) party, one of the legal "political advocacy" groups the U.S.-lackey regime threatened in its declaration of "all-out war on the Communists." In fact, the Philippine military had already killed more than 40 Bayan Muna members before the government's early-August declaration of war. Now the Philippine government is moving to ban Bayan Muna and has dug up 13-year-old weapons-possession charges on Rep. Ocampo.

The following is a speech Rep. Ocampo prepared for the International Solidarity Mission Against U.S. Armed Intervention in the Philippines. We reprint it here to give our readers important background on the U.S. war of aggression brewing in the Philippines.

July 28, 2002

I cannot recall the names of the two Filipino soldiers who, on the warm moonlit night of February 4, 1899, were shot dead by American sentries, nor, indeed, if their names were ever recorded. But whoever they were they are remembered as the first casualties of U.S. armed intervention in our nation's affairs. That encounter served as U.S. imperialism's pretext to begin the conquest of the Philippines and heralded the Filipino-American War—a heroic struggle by the Filipino people against the United States whose revolutionary legacy extends to this day.

By now I am sure we are all aware why the Philippines figures so prominently in the United States' hegemonic ambitions. As it was a century ago, we are strategically important as a staging post in the region from which the United States can protect and advance its imperial interests. But also, as it was a century ago and indeed in all the time since, the Filipino people do not meekly submit to U.S. imperialism's designs.

The Filipino nation was born in the battlefield, through over 200 uprisings during three centuries of Spanish colonialism and then with the 1896 Philippine revolution under the leadership of the Katipunan. These culminated in our distinguishing ourselves as the first nation in Asia to wage and win the old democratic revolution against a colonial power. When we fought U.S. aggression beginning in 1899 we fought it as a sovereign nation. When we fight U.S. imperialism today, we do so as a sovereign people.

Filipino-American War

The sounds and images of the Filipino-American War reverberate to this day. In all the important things, U.S. imperialism's deep grip on Philippine society was established through its war of conquest and in the course of the colonial and then the neo-colonial puppet regimes in its wake.

The extent and brutality of the U.S.' war of aggression against the Philippines are lost or obscured in history written from the U.S. viewpoint.

The defiant resistance of the fledgling Filipino republic against the then still maturing but already mighty imperialist behemoth is undeniable. The Spanish-American War lasted less than four months in its entirety with insignificant losses for the U.S.: less than 800 dead from direct fighting, mainly in Cuba. Yet the Filipino-American War dragged on for virtually 17 years in Luzon and the Visayas, up to 1916, and at least 14 years in Mindanao, up to 1913. When the U.S. formally declared colonial rule in 1902, only three years into the fighting, there were already 4,234 American dead and 2,779 wounded.

The U.S. had unleashed its vast war machine. Some 60% of the U.S.' 216,029 Army regulars and volunteers in 1898 were deployed in 639 outposts across the archipelago. Indeed, the 50,000 Army regulars of 1898 were doubled—some estimates say even quadrupled—because of the Filipino-American War. Prosecuting the war cost the U.S. anywhere from U.S.\$400 million to over U.S.\$600 million, staggering amounts for the time.

Clearly then, it was by no means the small "Tagalog rebellion" as it was called by then U.S. President McKinley. Nor was it fought just by what U.S. General Otis called "a rag tag army." U.S. history has recorded the Filipino-American War as an "insurgency" or an "insurrection" by insurgents, outlaws, brigands and bandits. It was far more than that.

The Filipino fighting forces came from the working classes, mainly the peasantry—*hacienda* tenants, dispossessed farmers, small farmers and agricultural laborers—and some urban working people. They fought with whatever weapons were at hand. Maybe one in four had rifles captured from the Spanish and the rest were armed with bolos and other crude weapons. This against the U.S. troops' modern rifles, revolvers, artillery, rapid-fire guns, flame throwers, explosives and their navy's big guns. But the guerrilla war we fought drew its strength from much more: the people.

Even General Arthur MacArthur couldn't but concede:

"The success of this unique system of war depends upon almost complete unity of action of the entire native population. That such unity is a fact is too obvious to admit of discussion; how it is brought about and maintained is not so plain... but fear as the only motive is hardly sufficient to account for the united and apparently spontaneous action of several millions of people."

And it was the people who paid the price for their fierce patriotism and determined struggle for independence. Filipino soldiers and civilians alike were wantonly killed. We were beaten,

dismembered, burned alive and subjected to the infamous "rope torture" and "water cure." Our villages, crops and property were indiscriminately burned and destroyed. Public assassinations, beatings, intimidation, rape and other wanton violence and terror tactics were in daily use.

As early as May 1901, U.S. General Bell estimated that there were already 600,000 Filipino casualties in Luzon alone of which perhaps only between 15,000-20,000 were soldiers. This was only after two years of fighting and before the systematic "pacification campaigns" in Luzon and the Visayas. Entire populations were herded into so-called "zones of protection" and so many tens of thousands died from hunger, exposure and disease. Perhaps, 100,000 Muslims were also killed in their resistance from 1903 to 1913 in Mindanao. It is certain that U.S. imperialism killed between 10-15% of our population then of some 8 million, or from 800,000 to over a million deaths. By any account, that is a staggering amount.

Colonialism and neo-colonialism

We rake up these brutal events not out of any historical curiosity but because they are of the greatest relevance today. As so well put by one of our country's nationalist historians, the present is a continuation of the past.

The Filipino-American War and the succeeding decades of colonial rule aimed to destroy any vestiges of the sovereign Filipino nation and erect in its

stead a vassal state, be it in colonial or neocolonial form. Brute military force, as we have seen, was used to deadly effect. But the colonial period also saw U.S. imperialism using the rest of the powers of the state against the Filipino people.

Repressive laws like the Sedition Law (1901), Brigandage Act (1902), Reconcentration Act (1903) and Flag Law (1907) were put in place to sanction the use of force against all nationalist Filipinos. The U.S. also started organizing and training surrogate armed forces to help suppress resistance to American rule. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) we know of today trace their anti-people lineage to the U.S.-created Philippine Scouts and the National Police Force of 1901.

There is an important point worth stressing. The people's armed revolutionary and anti-colonial resistance continued well after U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt declared the so-called "Philippine insurrection" over on July 4, 1902 and long after the ilustrado elite had reverted to attending to their political and economic affairs.

Armed fighting continued in Pampanga, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Zambales, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Tayabas, Isabela, Albay, Samar, Leyte, Negros, Cebu and elsewhere under the leadership of Sakay, Montalan, Felizardo, San Miguel, Guillermo, Ola, Toledo, Manalan, Tomines and many others until 1916. Defiant Mindanao Moro resistance

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U.S. war brewing in the Philippines

Continued from page 1...

composed of the starving and people who directly know the starving.

Now Bush & Company say they are going to settle scores with "terrorists," but in this case they mean to go on the offensive and start armed violence where none existed. In contrast, we at MIM believe that the United States should spend its money another way—buying out the landlords of the Philippines, giving them citizenship in the United States and handing over the agrarian economy to the Communist Party of the Philippines, the only non-corrupted force able to address the poverty in the countryside and prepare the advance of the Philippines into the modern economic world, the same way Mao did in China.

Only complete land confiscations enabled Taiwan, southern Korea and Japan to become economically prosperous, and this the World Bank itself admits.(2) The reason for this is that old landlord classes are used to using backward methods of production while living lives of idle luxury and thus have nothing progressive to contribute to the Philippines or other countries like it.

With a land reform led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, the Philippines would see its economy grow like in Taiwan, southern Korea and post-World War II Japan, without landing any U.S. troops. The growing economy would consume expanded imports from the U.S. people and contribute to a solution to the current economic crisis.

The Amerikkkan people should make one last effort to prevail on their leaders to act for peace, and choose costly peaceful solutions instead of costly military "solutions" which will only impoverish everyone and increase terrorism by the united States and increase violent acts of resistance to that U.S. terrorism.

Notes:

1. http://www.reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=search&StoryID=1342484
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/worldbanklandreform.html>; see also Jose Edgardo Campos and Hilton L. Root, *The Key to the Asian Miracle: Making Shared Growth Credible* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1996).

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continued still in Cotabato, Sulu and Lanao until 1913 in the face of equally ferocious massacres by U.S. troops. As late as 1935, some 60,000 Sakdalistas rose up in arms in 18 municipalities of Southern Tagalog and proclaimed independence shouting, "Long live the Republic of the Philippines!"

Despite the death penalty or long prison terms under the Sedition Law for anyone calling for independence, open legal struggles against U.S. imperialism and its colonial rule continued to flourish. The pro-independence Partido Nacionalista was organized in 1902 and Congreso Obrero de Filipinas (COF) in 1913. The Union Obrera Democratica de Filipinas (UODF) led the commemoration of the first labor day in 1903 with some 100,000 workers shouting, "Down with U.S. imperialism!" Filipino journalists and writers opposed colonial rule through nationalist plays like "Tanikalang Ginto" and newspapers like *El Renacimiento* and *Muling Pagsilang*. And doubtless to the great dismay of the U.S. colonial government, the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP) was launched on November 7, 1930.

Flag independence was granted the Philippines on July 4, 1946. By that time, however, decades of colonial rule had succeeded in politically, economically, ideologically and culturally fettering the Filipino nation to U.S. imperialism. The very puppet governments and the big business and landlord interests beholden to U.S. imperialism carefully put in place then—as its proxy rulers—are the very caretakers of the system today.

Continuing U.S. intervention

Sustained U.S. intervention in the Philippines' affairs in the past half century is no less armed just because American fingers haven't been pulling triggers of guns aimed at Filipinos. The most glaring example of this in the post-colonial period are, of course, the U.S. military bases guaranteed under the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement (MBA) of 1947 and the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) of 1951.

Is there any doubt that the U.S. military presence is, in the final analysis, what lay behind such outrageously anti-people laws as the U.S.-RP Treaty of General Relations Property Act (1946), the Bell Trade Act (1946), the Parity Amendment (1947) and the Laurel-Langley Agreement (1954)? These blatantly affirmed the country's neo-colonial character, especially by upholding and deepening the interests of U.S. monopolies over our economy—by granting Americans equal economic rights as Filipinos, by skewing trade and investment relations in their favor, and so on.

And is there any doubt that, in the decades that followed until today, brute U.S. military might is, in the final analysis, what underpins IMF-WB stabilization and structural adjustment programs, World Trade Organization (WTO) "commitments," and imperialist globalization in all its forms? We are not naive.

That U.S. forces haven't been openly mobilized against Filipinos—because it is certain that they have—is testament more to the complete servility of the U.S. imperialism's puppet Philippine governments, and especially its armed forces, than to any real independence. We note how the AFP, the U.S.' proxy armed force in the country, has historically been active not against any external aggressor but mainly against Filipinos—in the peasant uprisings of the 1930's, against the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) [Anti-Japanese People's Army] and Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) [People's Liberation Army] in the 1940's and 1950's, against the New People's Army (NPA) since the 1960's, and against the Moro people since the 1970's.

But even then it's important to highlight our complete solidarity with national freedom movements around the world. Since 1946, the U.S. has conducted hundreds of military operations in over 70 countries, not even considering yet countless covert operations. It actively had a hand in attempts to overthrow some 40 foreign governments and in efforts to crush 30 freedom and liberation movements. We know that the U.S. used their military bases here in the Philippines as major staging areas in at least the Korean War and the Vietnam War. They have also been key transit points during military operations in the Middle East such as against Iraq. Most recently of course was the use of Philippine facilities by the U.S. in its war against the Afghan people. Our struggle against U.S. imperialism dovetails with the sovereign rights of other peoples to be free from outside intervention.

In any case, it's clear that the U.S. exercises the overtly military option even in the Philippines when, as, and how it sees fit. We recall the December 1989 "persuasion flights" by U.S. Air Force jets from Clark Air Base that helped the Aquino regime put down a rightist coup. And of course the current military operations under the guise of Balikatan "training exercises."

But the Filipino people's struggle for national freedom has continued, in the open mass movement and in the armed struggle. Against the backdrop of 1950's U.S.-orchestrated anti-communist hysteria, militant Left organizations spurred a resurgent nationalism and directly opposed U.S. imperialism from the late 1950's and in the 1960's. Sparked by the youth and students, the workers and peasants movements revived nationwide and flourished. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) was re-established on December 26, 1968 and the NPA organized on March 29 the following year. National-democratic (ND) mass organizations took root among the people and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was formed in 1971 aiming to build a sovereign, democratic, progressive, just and peaceful society.

Despite the imposition of martial law and harsh repression by the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship, millions of people

were swept into the struggle for national freedom and democracy. The people's movement continued to draw broad swathes of the country's patriotic and progressive into its fold, coalescing into the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) formed in 1985, and was instrumental in toppling the regime in 1986.

The ND forces spearheaded the anti-bases movement with the militant Abakada (Anti-Baseng Kilusan) and Anti-Treaty Movement (ATM) at its core, also driving other broad anti-bases initiatives forward. It was a truly nationalist force that couldn't be resisted. When the MBA lapsed in 1991, the Senate rejected its extension by voting against the new proposed RP-U.S. Bases Treaty and caused the removal of U.S. troops and facilities—a truly historic step towards genuine freedom for our people.

The return of U.S. troops

But U.S. imperialism apparently can't long stand being deprived of Philippine facilities so crucial to its geopolitical interests.

When the U.S. came to our shores a century ago, it was continuing a wave of territorial expansion conducted throughout the 19th century—from its east coast across the mainland continent to the west coast and various Pacific islands, then into Central America, then across the Pacific to the Philippines. We were desired not only for our rich forests and vast minerals but also as a staging post from which to expand into the markets of China and the rest of Asia—in short, extending the U.S.' imperial reach into this part of the world. Senator Beveridge said to the U.S. Senate in 1900: "...the archipelago is a base for commerce of the East. It is a base for military and naval operations against the only powers with whom conflict is possible."

Things have changed little even after the Cold War. The U.S.' 1995 East Asian Strategy Report of the Department of Defense: "reaffirms our commitment to maintain a stable forward presence in the region, at the existing level of 100,000 troops, for the foreseeable future... for maintaining forward deployment of U.S. forces and access and basing rights for U.S. and allied forces... If the American presence in Asia were removed... our ability to affect the course of events would be constrained, our markets and interests would be jeopardized."

U.S. imperialism first tried to extract an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) which would have allowed U.S. forces to refuel, repair and store war materiel in the country. Vigorous protests and mass demonstrations put this down. This was repackaged in 1997 as the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and, again, was met with great opposition and put down.

Yet, quietly, RP-U.S. military exercises were still held in the country even after total U.S. withdrawal in 1992. These exercises allow the U.S. to gain familiarity with other countries' forces and potential battlefield terrain, as well

as cement political and military ties of dependence.

The U.S. was finally able to force a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) through in 1999 despite the protestations of our Junk VFA Movement. Approved by the Senate as a treaty—and by the U.S. as a mere executive agreement—the VFA effectively makes the country one gigantic U.S. military facility at its convenience. Full access to Philippine territory is granted by giving U.S. military and civilian forces, including their personnel, warships, and warplanes, extraordinary rights and privileges.

The VFA is fully a piece of the U.S.' global military spread spanning over 800 military installations (including 60 major facilities) in over 140 countries, significant troop deployments in 25 countries, and at least 36 security arrangements. It's part of a string of dozens of security treaties, arrangements, ACSAs and SOFAs in Asia stretching from North Asia through Southeast Asia to Australia and the South Pacific—including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the Marshall Islands and so on.

The U.S. lost no time in taking advantage of this and conducted Balikatan 2000 in January 2000 in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite and Palawan—i.e., in exercise venues exceeding the scope of any before it.

We have always argued that these agreements make a mockery of Philippine sovereignty and lay the basis for a return of U.S. troops to the country and direct armed intervention. Well a scant decade after the ejection of the military bases, the foot soldiers and grunts of U.S. imperialism are well and truly back—this time for their "war on terrorism."

The "war on terrorism"

U.S. imperialism, which has had little qualms in targeting civilians in defense of its hegemony, [now invokes "the war on terrorism"] for its own self-interested ends. All the end of the Cold War has meant for the U.S. is a golden opportunity to expand its economic, political and military hegemony ever wider across the world.

Consider what the important U.S. Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) 2001 says. It begins from the premise that America's overseas presence posture, concentrated in Western Europe and Northeast Asia, "is inadequate for the new strategic environment, in which U.S. (economic and security) interests are global and potential threats in other areas of the world are emerging." It thus calls for an even more aggressive U.S. global security posture reoriented to:

a) develop a basing system that provides greater flexibility for U.S. forces in critical areas of the world, placing emphasis on additional bases and stations beyond Western Europe and Northeast Asia;

b) provide temporary access to

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facilities in foreign countries that enable U.S. forces to conduct training and exercises in the absence of permanent ranges and bases;

c) redistribute forces and equipment based on regional deterrence requirements;

d) provide sufficient mobility, including airlift, sealift, pre-positioning, basing infrastructure, alternative points of debarkation, and new logistical concepts of operations, to conduct expeditionary operations in distant theaters against adversaries armed with weapons of mass destruction and other means to deny access to U.S. forces.

Largely written before the 9/11 attacks though released a few weeks after, implementation of the recommendations of the QDR 2001 gained momentum with the creation of the “war on terrorism” as a propaganda pillar.

The Philippines was quickly declared as the “second front” after Afghanistan with the return of U.S. troops sycophantically embraced by the Arroyo regime. As ever, the country is critical to the U.S. strategy of fortifying its presence in Southeast Asia, a presence somewhat weakened after the ouster of the bases. The region is rich in natural resources like oil, gas and minerals. With over 500 million people, it’s a vast market for U.S. goods and services and a significant

destination for U.S. investments. Its east-west sea lanes connect the Indian and Pacific Oceans and its north-south routes link Australasia with Northeast Asia. These are vital not only to international commerce but also to any movement of U.S. forces from the western Pacific to the Indian Ocean or the Persian Gulf. Mainland Asia is also home to three nuclear powers: China, India and Pakistan.

Tenuous links of the CIA-created bandit Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) with the Al Qaeda were played up to bolster the U.S. campaign for deeper military ties with the Philippines and a stronger military presence. Spuriously invoking the VFA, Balikatan 02-1 was a qualitative leap for RP-U.S. relations with open joint RP-U.S. field military operations conducted for the first time. Mindanao is clearly of special significance with U.S. Combat Engineers (“Seabees”) working on a network of roads and airfields that come on top of earlier U.S. AID-funded development of military-ready “civilian” airports and seaports.

More to come

The VFA—a toned-down ACSA—is apparently still not enough for the U.S.’ tastes. In her trip to the U.S. last November, President Arroyo took up a

Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) which is presently being negotiated secretly by the two governments. The preamble of the working draft says the MLSA aims to “further the interoperability, readiness and effectiveness” of the RP-U.S. military forces “through increased logistics cooperation.” The basic aim though is simply to allow the U.S. to set up logistics support network in the country—covering supplies, billeting, transportation, communication and medical materiel—by storing or procuring them locally. Though involving seemingly innocuous items they clearly have a darkly military purpose.

The joint combat operations against the trifling ASG are also obviously meant to lay the ground for similar operations against the NPA, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Misuari faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The Arroyo regime has been conspicuous in floating and pushing the idea of allowing the U.S. troops to go well beyond Basilan. In her State of the Nation Address (SONA) last week the president even boasted of “[enhancing] our strategic relationship with the U.S. through continuing training exercises.” Clearly the deployment of U.S. forces against the ASG was meant

to start a chain of events for rationalizing further U.S. military intervention and aggression, which can only wreak havoc on the Filipino people and our struggle for national freedom. Bayan Muna joins U.S. Troops Out Now in confronting U.S. imperialism’s machinations.

[Since this speech was written, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the ASG defeated and launched an all-out war against the Communist-led revolutionary movement in the countryside which is not limited to the small Southern island of Basilan. The NPA operates in 128 guerrilla fronts, covering 823 or around 54 percent of the total number of Philippine towns and cities.]

Our history is replete with experiences that show U.S. imperialism is a deceitful and brutal enemy of the people. The widespread poverty, social inequity and deep exploitation we suffer today is in large measure due to its domination of Philippine society. Yet our history also shows that the hard and valiant struggle and, indeed, the sacrifices and martyrdom of so many are not in vain.

We are unrelenting in our struggle and convinced that each battle we fight, no matter the outcome, is a step in the right direction. A step towards national freedom and liberation.

Powell names CPP ‘foreign terrorist organization’

POWELL: Continued from page 1...

a foreign terrorist organization. These are all part of a plan for direct intervention of the United States in the counterinsurgency campaign.”(2)

Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes admitted that \$25 million out of a \$55 million military aid package Powell promised to the Philippines during his recent visit would be used to train elite commando units to go after the NPA.(1) Amerikan forces will again join Filipino soldiers for war exercises in Luzon this October. The NPA is very active in Luzon, while the bandit Abu Sayyaf gang—the original justification for sending U.S. troops to “train” Philippine soldiers—does not operate there.

The height of hypocrisy

In his announcement declaring the CPP and NPA to be “foreign terrorist organizations” Powell claimed that the NPA “has killed U.S. citizens [in the Philippines].”(1) This was apparently a reference to the alleged NPA assassination of Col. James Rowe of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) more than a decade ago. The JUSMAG trains Filipino officers in counter-insurgency tactics.

Powell should take a cue from the Bible and take the log from his own eye before removing the supposed speck from his neighbor’s. The United States has a long history of killing Filipinos, from the millions killed during the Filipino-Amerikan war at the turn of the last century to the tens of thousands killed and tortured under the U.S.-backed

Marcos dictatorship and its so-called democratic successors. The Philippine military’s abuses of combatants and non-combatants in its recent campaigns against the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front caused even the New York Times to question whether the United States was supporting the real terrorists by committing to “train” Philippine soldiers.(5)

Thus, according to the most proper definition of “terrorism”—the killing of civilians to spread fear with the purpose of achieving a political goal, in this case the preservation of a corrupt government favorable to U.S. business interests—the United States is the biggest supporter of terrorism in the Philippines.

The CPP and NPA are working to overthrow the corrupt semi-feudal and semi-colonial system in the Philippines using the strategy of protracted people’s war. People’s war is targeted at police and military forces, not the general civilian population; hence, people’s war should not be counted as “terrorism.”

In a Maoist people’s war, whether it is in Peru, Nepal, the Philippines or anywhere else, the use of force does not have the design to produce fear and hence a change of policy. Rather the strategy of people’s war is to wear down an imperialist invader or overthrow a regime that is opposed to the toiling workers and peasants. Quite the contrary to producing fear, a People’s War only succeeds if it garners popular support, not fear, because the governments People’s Wars oppose historically—in China, Peru, the Philippines etc.—all have

technologically superior weapons and financial backing from U.S. imperialism. Without popular support, the People’s War would have a severe disadvantage against any invader or lackey regime of imperialism.

We laugh in the faces of Attorney General Ashcroft, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell when they accuse Maoists of having a “philosophy of violence.” Ashcroft, Bush and Powell also have “philosophies of violence” as proved by their actual use of violence.

All the hype about “terrorism” merely serves to cover the United States true interests in sending troops to the Philippines: preserving an important military base and neo-colony. (See article by Satur Ocampo in this issue of MIM Notes.)

Red baiting

Philippine lawmakers also expressed concern that the U.S.-Arroyo regime is calling groups with anti-U.S. views “terrorists.” Padilla specifically recalled U.S. President George Bush’s threat that those against the United States’ “war on terrorism” were themselves terrorists.(2)

The U.S.-Arroyo regime has already attacked legal national democratic organizations like the militant mass organization Bayan and its electoral party Bayan Muna. It has threatened to freeze the official bank accounts of Bayan Muna representatives and dug up 13-year-old gun possession charges on Satur Ocampo.(4)

In her early-August speech declaring

all out war on the communists, Macapagal-Arroyo equated workers’ strikes and protests with kidnapping and drug smuggling. She pointedly kept Bayan and Bayan Muna off of her list of “communist organizations” not engaged in armed struggle—giving the police and military “a license to kill and harass [Bayan’s] leaders, making them targets of her government’s brutal [so-called] anti-insurgency... campaign,” according to Bayan Secretary General Teodoro Casino.

“This is no trivial thing,” Casino said. “Ms. Macapagal’s announcement about who is and who is not a communist or terrorist can mean death or torture for many people. As it is, her recent statements are death warrants for many of our leaders.”

In the past year, police, soldiers and paramilitaries killed 39 Bayan and Bayan Muna leaders. All had been named “communist sympathizers” before their deaths.(4)

The Philippine police and military have repeatedly violated humyn rights agreements their own government signed with the National Democratic Front. These violations include summary executions of captured NPA combatants and torture.

Notes:

1. Philippine Daily Inquirer, www.inq7.net, 11 Aug 2002.
2. Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12 Aug 2002.
3. Philippine Daily Inquirer, 16 Aug 2002.
4. Philippine Daily Inquirer, 13 Aug 2002.
5. MIM Notes 254, 15 Mar 2002.

U.\$. trade deficit expanded in June; so-called Marxists don't get it

Continued from page 5...

Foreign capitalists will not go for it. In fact, even that “common sense,” is not necessarily true. If in crisis, the capitalists feel that they would only do worse somewhere else, the capitalists will keep returning with hope, for the same reason a company going down the tubes may still advertise goods at slashed prices. Granted, in a politically demoralizing situation like that, the capitalist may in fact become either more desperate for more war and fascism or more resigned to the end of capitalism itself.

That could be the situation. However, more likely, there is another more important and widely applicable scenario we are seeing played out. Marx taught us that surplus-value is the secret of capitalism. When we see the united States carry a trade deficit in goods and services in every quarter since 1976, (with the Gulf War rent-a-cop surplus of 1991 showing up in another line of the accounting), we Marxists should ask ourselves if this is one and the same mystery.

The capitalists spend money on advertising, which on the face of it seems to be only a loss of money, but which aids in obtaining sales—the realization of surplus-value as Marx said. Likewise, the trade deficit is connected with the process of realizing surplus-value as the economic system exists in 2002 with a huge parasite at the center of the world economy—the united States.

We will not comment here on what fad

seizes the bourgeoisie politically. The very huge numbers involved in trade and budget statistics send shivers into the spines of countless petty-bourgeois, so we at MIM are not able to anticipate the particular bourgeois strategy that is going to become dominant in the upcoming period.

Nonetheless, we need for our own political activities a realistic grip on the question of the trade deficit. With a trade deficit of \$412 billion a year, which is in the realm of the kind of number that total profits could be, is it inevitable that the u.\$. currency is going to collapse and the economy end up in foreigners' hands? MIM says no. The only reason the united States has sustained the trade deficits it has sustained is the invisible transfer of surplus-value to the united States such that wealth increases more rapidly than the trade deficit. The size of the trade deficit and the fact that the u.\$. economy has not collapsed combine to point to the trade deficit being smaller than the super-profits absorbed by the united States. Goods transferred to the united States realize their value in the united States and that is the reason Amerikkkans merely pay back foreign countries with the surplus-value extracted predominantly from the Third World.

The key to understanding the mystery is that the surplus-labor arrives in the united States from the Third World, but does not take final monetary form until the U.\$. consumer turns over his/her dollars for it. This as of yet unseen wealth

does not show up in the trade deficit. It only shows up in final U.\$. wealth.

There is no way around a global bottom-up strategy of the international proletariat to fight u.\$. imperialism. The United States can sustain very large trade deficits with its own wealth and foreign wealth both expanding even faster than the trade deficit. Surplus-value has to be cut off at the source for imperialism's crisis to intensify. Conversely, setbacks like the restoration of capitalism in 1976 in China do inject new sources of surplus-value into the system.

The leaders of the Third World proletariat must study this question for themselves. Strategically useful outbursts of the anarchy of capitalism are not to be found in connection to the trade deficit, as we have seen it these past 30 years, and that means waiting to stage an offensive for an international economic collapse on that basis would be wrong.

Even government budget deficits and the taxes they imply can only shake a sector of the imperialist-labor-aristocracy alliance, namely the labor aristocracy. Such government deficits show up when the “openness” of the economy comes under threat as in 911. A downward psychological spiral and increased budget deficit occur as a result of the level of simultaneous class struggle globally.

There is no point in exciting the imperialist country so-called worker about fictitious collapses that some

supporting Mao have been proclaiming over 30 years now with regard to the trade deficit. Such fear-mongering only inspires the labor aristocracy to want a racist-nationalist movement to nationalize foreigners' assets. Continued recitation of old political formulas only becomes more regressive as time goes on.

Notes:

1. http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/trade/2002-08-20-trade-gap_x.htm
2. See for example the Chinese Maoists publishing in Peking Review point to the modern Israeli trade deficit as early as June 28 1968, a deficit caused by the war economy. “Because of the war economy, the adverse trade balance has greatly increased, there is inflation and a lot of people are out of work.” Of course, they said the same thing about the United States too, and in the early 1970s, that was indeed a new trend to observe. In a 1971 interview, Zhou Enlai also pointed to the growing U.S. government budget deficit. Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars, China! Inside the People's Republic (NY: Bantam Books, 1972), p. 365. Today supposed Marxists still point to it without understanding it, as if some iconic power would create the final collapse of imperialism.
3. See the Libertarian right-wing Cato Institute, <http://www.cato.org/dailys/02-21-01.html>; See also the major newspaper in the “Motor City,” Detroit, <http://detnews.com/EDITPAGE/0102/22/1edit/1edit.htm>
4. http://www.cepr.net/globalization/trade_deficit_commission_testimony.htm

Referendum

Continued from page 3...

decisions called Nisga's Treaty acknowledged “aboriginal rights, constitutional protection for such rights..... and a general acceptance that major changes must occur”. However even after Canada's constitution was amended in 1982 to reflect the recognition of first nations' rights to litigate, British Columbia refused to participate in the Nisga's Treaty negotiations maintaining there was no aboriginal land title in the province. (6)

In 1993 Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Summit agreed to initiate a treaty negotiation process following the province's final acceptance of aboriginal rights including inherent right of self-government as official government policy. B.C. tabled 19 recommendations, and called for the establishment of a six-stage process for negotiating treaties with First Nations. There are currently 53 First Nations participating in the BC treaty process, representing 122 Indian Act bands and two-thirds of all aboriginal people in B.C., and 42 sets of negotiations underway. (7)

A 1997 Supreme Court of Canada case decision secured a further shift in the treaty negotiation process by confirming the existence of aboriginal title to land as land ownership itself as opposed to

the right to hunt, fish or gather and ordering First Nations' compensation for use of Crown land whenever aboriginal rights were affected. (6) This decision served as an impetus for a tripartite review of the BC treaty process resulting in a proposal to accelerate lands and resources discussions in treaty negotiations. The legal framework provided by the court decision fueled continuing court battles. In March of 2002 Haida Nation initiated a lawsuit against the provincial and federal governments claiming ownership of land and resources of the entire archipelago off the north coast of B.C., as well as halting of commercial activities and repayment of benefits proceeding from the territory collected over years. Another lawsuit launched by The Tsawwassen First Nation involves shutting down a BC port and Ferries terminal. (8)

Conclusion

This so-called “referendum on treaty principles” does not come as a surprise. In fact, it is more of the same old story: a “democracy” appeal trick (although this time below the usual “majority” margin in terms of voting numbers) used by a supremacist settler government to back its way out of what might have begun to resemble progress in the 9 year long negotiation process entailing threats to profits and business interests. To the less conservative sector of bourgeois

politicians and scholars hoping for the best, this referendum casts a shadow over what otherwise they consider a slow but overall successful system: “over a century to get over crown immunity, a quarter of that to re-establish aboriginal title as property right, and only four years to confirm that aboriginal title has some clout even before it is litigated” seems like a reasonable pace. (9)

RAIL considers this widely spread line of reasoning ridiculous. One does not need 130 years to be awakened to the eye-opening truth that a people that has lived on and labored land for centuries has “some clout” to claiming its title. That it should take that long to recognize a nation's right to what it was illegally disposed of while justice continues to

be obstructed through legislative games, court bouncing, never ending treaty negotiations and referendums speaks for the fact that the present capitalist system is unable to abolish colonial legacy that shapes the relationship between oppressed nations and imperialist governments.

Notes:

1. www.fns.bc.ca/treaty/t-time.htm
2. www.gov.bc.ca/tno/news/2002/referendum_treaty_principles.htm
3. www.elections.bc.ca/newsrel/n_020703.html
4. www.ubcic.bc.ca/docs
5. www.bctreaty.net/files/aboriginalrights.html
6. <http://www.bctreaty.net/files/aboriginalrights.html>; www.bctreaty.net/titles/aboriginalrights.html
7. <http://www.bctreaty.net/files/status.html>
8. http://www.fns.bc.ca/treaty/t_time.htm
9. www.bctreaty.net/titles/aboriginalrights.html

WHAT IS MILITARISM?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profitteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

Northern State Prison reading mail after hunger strike

To MIM,
Revolutionary Greetings to all comrades inside the belly of the beast.

I have received the past MIM Notes of the months of Jan. & February and I just received the issue for the month of May. The issue for the month of May was almost denied due to a letter written by a comrade in the same institution concerning the Hunger Strike, but I received it, since there was no response in the newsletter indicating what should be done. At this moment due to that incident of the Hunger Strike & because it was printed out, they will be reading all MIM letters going out & correspondence from MIM coming in, I guess they are trying to see if they can catch the person who wrote it by investigating all MIM correspondence coming in. So now it will even take longer than the usual to receive MIM Notes & to receive you're correspondence

—A New Jersey prisoner, June 2002

MIM replies: This should go as a warning to comrades organizing within prisons. Under Lock & Key is a forum to get the word out about your organizing to the outside as well as to other prisoners. But be aware that the pigs can and will read our correspondence and take the proper precautions. You should avoid giving any information that could help the prisoncrats crush or repress a movement.

Comrades should also be aware that in April Northern State Prison returned all MIM Notes saying MIM is an "Unauthorized Correspondent" at NSP. Any insight comrades at NSP might have into why that occurred would be helpful in future campaigns to keep MIM Notes flowing into that facility.

Attica censors MIM Notes

To: V. Herbert, Superintendent
From: [a New York prisoner]
Date: July 19, 2002
Re: MIM Notes newspaper
Sir:

It has come to my attention that this facility is not letting in any of the MIM Notes newspapers sent to me by MIM Distributors. No reason has been given to me for the rejection of these newspapers. Indeed, I was not even aware this particular facility was rejecting the MIM Notes until recently.

I have a First Amendment right to receive political oriented publications, even if they speak about revolution or criticize the government or even the prison system. The right to political dissent is fundamental and one upon which the United States of America is supposedly built upon. Although I am a prisoner, I still have certain fundamental rights and the one to receive political material is one of them.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

From Great Meadow to Sing Sing to Upstate I have received MIM Notes without difficulty. MIM Notes do not advocate violence in prison or the overthrow of government. Yes, MIM Notes does criticize the government and prison system but this is constitutional protected speech; hence, the rejection or banning of MIM Notes from Attica is also an infringement upon MIM Distributors' First Amendment [right] to free speech.

This is a formal request that you order the discontinuing of the ban this facility has on MIM Notes and allow them to be evaluated through the appropriate media review procedure. It is illegal and arbitrary to put an outright ban on MIM Notes, and a reason for such is at least warranted. Thank you.

MIM adds: First we need to clarify that MIM does advocate the overthrow of the government. But we are clear that we do not engage in or advocate any illegal activities at this stage of the struggle in Amerika. We are currently engaged in work to build public opinion. Attica Correctional Facility has been returning virtually all material sent by MIM, since the fall of 2001, usually with a message written on the envelope saying "not allowed." For a while we could not even communicate with comrades there because simple letters were not permitted. Since then we have been carrying out a postcard campaign to protest this censorship and have sent letters to the superintendent of Attica with no response. We encourage those on the inside and outside to continue to put pressure on Attica to address these concerns and to abide by their own regulations regarding media review. Letters of protest can be sent to:

Superintendent Victor Herbert
Box 149
Attica, NY
14011-0149

Let's have an anti-censorship column

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I have once again begun to receive the MIM Notes. The May issues were recently delivered by our friendly postal worker here at the Menard Corr. Center.

I was saddened to learn about the increasing censorship by prison administrations that are afraid of the messages in supposed anti-establishment publications. Unfortunately, I did not read much in the line of legal challenges being mounted against this continued and ongoing oppression. Have you thought about starting a legal column to respond

to most frequently-mentioned problems regarding censorship? While I feel that it is important to bring problems we are confronted with to the public's attention, wouldn't we be better served by using the legal system to challenge these people with their own laws? Just a thought from one who believes that the best way to secure justice is to expose these prisoncrats' illegal policies.

In solidarity,

— an Illinois prisoner, 22 June, 2002

MIM responds: Go to it! MIM also believes in fighting for partial demands — those demands that will not bring immediate revolution but will protect our bourgeois democratic rights and those of prisoners. We want to defend our right to free speech, a right all people should fight for in an Amerikan-style democracy, and we encourage prisoners to defend their own rights in the ways that they can. We welcome all contributions to a Frequently Asked about Censorship column.

California: another senseless stabbing

Well comrade, pass on my undying respects to all involved in the struggle. Sadly, in these places, the population is too ready to fight among each other, rather than against the real enemy. Just the other day a white man stabbed (punctured his lung) a brown man over nothing important. Now we wait in our cells to see if all hell is going to break loose when these doors open. Being a warrior at heart, times like these do not worry me. I train my mind and body to react to anything this world within a world can throw at me. Nevertheless, I greet such senseless violence lamentfully. My fight is not with any of these prison factions.

In solidarity,

— a California prisoner, 23 June, 2002

Virginia: exporting bed space, importing prisoners

I'm currently being held at one of Virginia's so-called SuperMax prisons (Wallens Ridge). Although the general population here is now reduced from Level 6 to Level 5 (segregation is Level 6), there is another SuperMax 15 miles away from here, and that one is Level 6. There are now two Level 5 prisons: Sussex and Wallens Ridge, and one Level 6 prison. Now that Washington, D.C. has removed its prisoners from the Virginia Department of Corrections due to abuse by staff, Sussex II (which had housed them) is now reduced from Level 5 to

Level 4. My point is Virginia is simply concerned with building prisons and filling the bed space in them.

Our Dictator Director Ron Angelone resigned last month. Now the Governor says that he wants a more lenient Director who would ease the oppression and attract out of state prisoners to fill up these empty beds. It's all about money.

— a Virginia prisoner, June 2002

Legal struggle over long hair

Dear Comrade,

In response to my comrade in MIM Notes 258 (May 15), I would ask that you print the following legal information. I am a white inmate in the Texas State Prison system (TDCJ). TDCJ has a policy that prisoners must keep short hair (crewcuts basically) at all times. For 2 years as part of my religious belief I refused to comply with the policy because I was already in seg for refusing

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

to be a slave. After all my good time was gone they took me and sheared me against my will. A prisoner that wishes to grow his hair because of his religious belief can now do so. In 2000 the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act was signed. It can now be located at 42 USC 2000 cc. To find it, it is located in the pocket part (the little pamphlet at the back of the book) in the United States Codes Annotated Title 42 USC 2000e5 to 2010 book. When grieving this issue specifically cite 42 USC 2000 cc-1(a) and 42 USC 2000 cc-2(a).

Getting this information to all our comrades may be a way to stop some of the abuse. I am pursuing my case here in Texas. I'll try to update our comrades on my results as I go. Just by pointing out the statute since my assault has led to a whole new attitude here. My only regret is that I was growing my hair to donate to wigs for kids, and I never bothered to express to my keepers my knowledge of the law because after 2 years of growing it I really didn't think they'd assault me and take it. When they decided to cut it I was given no warning and not allowed to first grieve the issue to try to stop it.

Power to all the people.

—A Texas Prisoner, August 2002

CaDC visitation: same old shit, new policy

Greetings comrades,

I read the proposed changes that they are trying to make to our visits, and thanks for informing us as now most of these changes have been implemented. I've been down since 1996, and they had barely given family visits to lifers, or to those in "C" and "D" status (Ad Seg or SHU). These prisoners only get one hour visits, behind glass.

Everyone who wants to visit has to submit a CDC form 106. The CDC checks to make sure visitors are not on probation/parole, have not been locked up, and do not have any type of warrants on them. [If the visitors fail this test] they are denied approval to visit.

Other items in the visitation proposal get imposed depending on the pigs on duty that day. These are the rules on not being able to hold your kids, or only being able to embrace families at the beginning and end of visits. This is the way it's been since I've been down.

I have tried to appeal these issues, for

I am a lifer and these types of changes concerning visits do and will affect me and others alike. Nothing ever comes of the grievances. I am always denied and given the same answer: the policy has been implemented and it's the law now.

It's been a while since I tried to contest these decisions. I know that protests and pressures from the streets by yourselves and others do bring to light the effects that these policies have on prisoners. They are denying the only real thing that we look forward to: having contact with our families, being able to hug our kids and play with them, and enjoy these visits as much as possible. For the most part they keep us hundreds of miles from our families, so we are not able to have a lot of visits due to the time, funds or whatnot.

It is important that we take action, do something before they restrict something else.

— a California prisoner, July 2002

Get your money on release; interest belongs to prisoners

Dear Comrades,

Greetings in the name of the struggle. Recently I was transferred. The move was a mixed blessing, I'm closer to my family and I have more access to the law library, and I seek to make them pay for it. Some fellow comrades and I were researching the issue of whether we are entitled to the interest the institutions earn from our trust fund account. I recall that I'd read about a Federal case where we had won the right to be paid this interest.

This slave state has alleged laws that we are entitled to this money up to a year after our release. If we don't request the interest money by then, it goes into the prisoners benefit fund. Yet the pri\$oncrats don't tell this to the prisoners. Recently I asked a brother who attends the mandatory pre-start (pre-parole) class whether they have mentioned this, and he said no! So I asked him to inquire about the interest in his trust fund account and they told him that the money goes to the prisoners benefit fund.

I can find anyone who remembers giving them consent to deposit their interest in the inmate benefit fund. If you can provide a case citing it would be of great help. Any other information would be a blessing as well.

Peace,

—an Illinois prisoner, April 2002

MIM responds: The Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual has plenty to say on this issue. Your memory is correct; the courts are solidly in your favor. Boston and Manville write "There is no question that an inmate's interest in the funds in his prison account is a protected property interest." It looks like this is one of those rare instances where good ol' Amerikan property values work in prisoners' favor. "In general, the courts have upheld that money is property and is protected by due process." (Alexanian v. New York State Urban Development Corp.)

The Federal 9th Circuit specifically addressed the issue of inmate benefit funds, deciding that "the prisoner is clearly entitled to the interest if state statutes create a property interest in prisoners' funds and the interest in them." Eubanks v. McCotter and Washington v. Reno are the two cases that applied specifically to prisoners.

The Manual goes on: "regardless of state law, interest is considered the property of the person who owns the principal, and if public officials appropriate it, they violate the Fifth Amendment ban on taking of property for public use without just compensation."

The only cases in which states have been allowed to take prisoners' money have been to pay the costs of incarceration (Burns v. State, Arkansas); State, Michigan State Treasurer v. Turner) or the enforcement of debts such as child support. (State v. Murray, Hawaii) "However, state law also places limits on the collection of debts; you should consult your state's law of debtors' rights and creditors' remedies to determine if any of these limits protect you. For example, in some states, there are minimum amounts of money that a debtor must be permitted to keep."

Following are all the relevant decisions cited in the Boston & Manville book: Scott v. Angelone, 771 F. Supp. 1064, 1067 (D. Nev. 1991), affirmed in 980 F.2d 738 (9th Cir. 1992); Alexanian v. New York State Urban Development Corp., 554 F.2d 15, 17 (2d Cir. 1977); Tellis v. Godinez, 5 F.3d 1314, 1316-17 (9th Cir. 1993); Eubanks v. McCotter, 802 F.2d 790, 791-93 (5th Cir. 1986) Webb's Fabulous Pharmacies, Inc. v. Beckwith, 449 U.S. 155, 164 (1980). (Reasoning applied to prisoners' accounts in these

two unreported decisions: Douglas v. Ward, No. 77 Civ. 2559-CLB, Memorandum and Order (S.D.N.Y., January 3, 1980); Fayerweather v. Wainwright, TCA 75-3 (N.D.Fla., Aug. 20, 1976), quoted in Smith v. Robinson, 456 F.Supp. 449, 453-54 (E.D. Pa. 1978); Washington v. Reno, 35 F.3d 1093, 1101-04 (6th Cir. 1994); Burns v. State, 303 Ark. 64, 793 S.W.2d 779, 780 (Ark. 1990); State, Michigan State Treasurer v. Turner, 110 Mich.App. 228, 312 N.W.2d 418, 420-21 (Mich.App. 1981); State v. Murray, 621 P.2d 334, 340-43 (Haw. 1981).

Source: John Boston and Daniel E. Manville, Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual, Third Edition (New York: Oceana Publications, Inc.) pp. 231, 348-351. (Book is available from Oceana Publications, Inc., 75 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.)

MIM does not have copies of this book to distribute to prisoners, but we strongly recommend our comrades get a copy if possible: we need to use the system's laws to our favor whenever possible. We would also welcome donations to MIM's Books for Prisoners program of either copies of this book or money to purchase this book to send to prisoners.

What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is "applied internationalism." We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the international proletariat against imperialism.

"I must argue, not from the point of view of 'my' country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a plaything in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U\$. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.





Procesamiento de Vladimiro Montesinos Justifica la Guerra Popular en el Perú

Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina

A principios de julio la corte del Perú declaró culpable al ex-activo de la CIA, Vladimiro Montesinos, acusado de "usurpación de autoridad" por apoderarse del infame Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional cuando oficiaba como asesor de éste. El juez le dictó lo que parece ser una sentencia pesada por el detalle que resultó en su enjuicio- una multa de 2.8 millones de dólares más una cadena de 9 años y 4 meses de prisión- pero que en realidad es leve en comparación con lo que se merece por los crímenes cometidos al ejecutar la ley marcial bajo dirección del ex-presidente Alberto Fujimori. Cientos de miles fallecieron a causa de la guerra genocida del gobierno oficial en contra del movimiento revolucionario dirigido por el Partido Comunista del Perú (PCP) o "Sendero Luminoso." Este verano durante el juicio Montesinos enfrentará cargos de corrupción, narcotráfico, contrabando de armas, homicidio e incluso acusaciones de que él dirigía un escuadrón de muerte paramilitar. El hecho de que este títere de la CIA estaba metido en todas estas cosas fue reportado por el MIM y otros amigos del PCP hace más de diez años. Durante este tiempo los medios de comunicación en América y el gobierno yanqui se mantuvieron en silencio y hasta aclamaban a Montesinos por sus sanguinarios esfuerzos "contrainsurgentes." A continuación imprimimos una nueva

traducción de un artículo que apareció en MIM Notes detallando la relación entre el gobierno yanqui, Montesinos y como los portavoces burgueses consuetudinarios a este último.

En la década de los 90 los principales medios de comunicación imperialistas difamaban al "Sendero Luminoso" y a su líder, el Camarada Gonzalo, con acusaciones de que se asociaban con narcotraficantes. Ahora son los imperialistas y otros reaccionarios quienes admiten que el gobierno del Perú estaba metido en el narcotráfico tal como lo había dicho el "Sendero Luminoso."

En MIM Notes Nú. 216 le informamos al lector que el Tío Sam se había fastidiado con su entonces lacayo y maestro de espionaje Vladimiro Montesinos. Este es un fin común para los lacayos quienes llevan a cabo el trabajo sucio de los yanquis sólo para descubrir luego que ya no le hacen falta al patrón. El problema con lacayos tipo Montesinos es que quedan descubiertos ante el pueblo -como en el Perú- y luego sólo es cuestión de tiempo antes de que el Tío Sam se deshaga de ellos. Y claro, el próximo lacayo cobrará más para llevar a cabo las órdenes del Tío Sam.

En cada país existen personas como Montesinos, listas para convertirse en traidores y lacayos. Tanto el Tío Sam como sus lacayos merecen ser derrotados.

Los medios de comunicación yanquis protegen a Montesinos

El día 10 de julio de 2001 CNN dijo:

"Después de ser expulsado de las fuerzas armadas y un corto plazo en prisión por vender secretos a la CIA, el licenciado Montesinos abogó a favor de narcotraficantes." (1) Cuando esto fue anunciado por CNN Montesinos acababa de terminar su huelga de hambre de 9 días en una prisión en el Perú después de haber sido entregado por las autoridades venezolanas. Ahora Montesinos enfrenta varias acusaciones criminales las cuales incluyen narcotráfico y homicidio.

Sin embargo, una búsqueda en las páginas de internet del supuestamente imparcial vocero CNN, revela que antes de que Montesinos huyera del país, es decir antes de que el Tío Sam se enfadara con él, CNN no menciona nada en relación con la protección que le ofreció Montesinos a los narcotraficantes. Basta con decir que CNN es una extensión del gobierno yanqui. Cuando el Tío Sam pide aclamaciones, CNN las entrega. Y cuando el Tío Sam le pide que muerda, CNN muerde.

Ya el día 19 de mayo del 2000 CNN decía lo siguiente sobre Fujimori y, por implicación, de su "mano derecha," Montesinos: "Será una difícil decisión para EE.UU. soltar a Fujimori ya que él ganó grandes aclamaciones durante los primeros dos años de su mandato por la eliminación de la producción de cocaína en su país, por aplastar a la guerrilla izquierdista de los movimientos de Sendero Luminoso y los Tupac Amaru y por controlar la superinflación." (2) Pero ya que el gobierno yanqui decidió resistir por completo a Fujimori y Montesinos, CNN y toda la prensa del monopolio capitalista cambió de tono y se le permitió hacer la conexión entre éstos y el narcotráfico.

La misma búsqueda en las páginas del periódico New York Times demuestra que desde 1996 este vocero nunca mencionó a Montesinos en conexión con el narcotráfico hasta después de la crítica del gobierno imperialista en el año 2000. Por cierto, uno de los pocos artículos del New York Times en el cual se les critica a los líderes peruanos se basa en fuentes provenientes de medios de comunicación israelitas en el Perú.

Los lectores de MIM Notes, al contrario, conocían todo el panorama desde 1994 por medio de MIM Notes no. 90 o artículos de Luis Arce Borja, quien en el mismo año comenzó su exilio en Bélgica. Periódicos al estilo Christian Science Monitor o Houston Chronicle y ediciones burguesas de Latinoamérica como el Venezolano, Caretas, sólo sueltan pequeños trozos de información.

Los periodistas lacayos sólo se atreven a imitar la práctica del MIM y presentar los hechos importantes ahora que el Tío Sam se deshizo de Montesinos. Antes de que se declarara "muerta" la Guerra Popular en el Perú los lacayos voceros del imperialismo temían perjudicar a la guerra del Tío Sam en contra de ésta y su jefe el Camarada Gonzalo y sus seguidores, pero ahora la cuestión del narcotráfico vuelve a tomar el escenario.

Ahora los voceros imperialistas hablan sobre la separación entre el Tío Sam y Montesinos y explican por qué escondieron los hechos. Durante los años 90, la agencia estadounidense contra el narcotráfico (DEA) y la CIA buscaban continuar las relaciones con Montesinos, mientras que la ex-Secretaria de Estado Madeline Albright y el ex-Zar de Narcotráfico Barry McCaffrey se oponían a las mismas, según aseguran ahora después de haber seguido una disciplina de soldados fieles a la máquina mentirosa de propaganda del Tío Sam. De hecho, fue el FBI el que capturó a algunos de los socios de Montesinos en Miami y ayudó a tronar a Montesinos mientras que ambas agencias- la CIA y DEA- siguieron unidas hasta el fin.

El Tío Sam decide intencionalmente apoyar a los traficantes de coca

Además de subrayar lo poco confiable que son los medios de comunicación yanquis, el caso de Montesinos también señala los huecos/vacíos en el gobierno que se supone debería bloquear la corriente de drogas que alcanzan llegar a EE.UU. De por sí es una atrocidad que la DEA favoreció las relaciones con Montesinos pero también el mismo McCaffrey, el jefe superior de EE.UU. contra el narcotráfico, se vio rebajado al nivel de un cabildero interno y tuvo que mantener silencio mientras el gobierno yanqui apoyaba a los que destinaban la cocaína a EE.UU.

Sólo ahora se conoce todo esto ya que los autores de Knight Ridder, Kevin G. Hall y Lucien Chauvin han desenmascarado los detalles y algunos periódicos como el Boston Globe los han publicado. Ahora el Boston Globe admite que Montesinos enfrenta acusaciones de que él dirigió escuadrones de muerte y que traficaba la droga y las armas. El Boston Globe imprimió el reportaje en la cadena de Knight Ridder el cual decía que Montesinos era "el hombre a quien muchos creían ser el verdadero no elegido líder del Perú desde 1990 hasta el 2000." (3) No es sorprendente, entonces, que la administración de Bush haya tardado en soltar todos los asquerosos detalles del trabajo de la administración de Clinton en el Perú ya que temen que éstos puedan poner en peligro al "joven gobierno democrático del Perú." (3) La palabra "democracia" en boca de los imperialistas es una palabra clave que significa narcotráfico, contrabando de armas y otras cosas por el estilo que hacen del mundo entero un lugar seguro para las ganancias norteamericanas.

Notas:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/americas/07/10/peru.montesinos.reut/index.html>
2. http://www.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/americas/05/19/peru5_19.a.tm/index.html
3. Boston Globe 26June2001, p. a10.

¿Que es el MIM?

El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existirá aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

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