

MIM Notes



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Former inspector: Charges against Iraq baseless

Hundreds attend Scott Ritter's talk at Cal Tech

Pasadena, CA, November 13, 2002

At least 700 people turned out to hear former UN Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter talk about the growing danger of U.S. war against Iraq and Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capacity. Ritter's principal arguments — that war is deadly and should only be taken up after the

gravest consideration, and that the Bush administration is only using the threat of WMD as a pretext for war — met with broad agreement from the crowd.



Scott Ritter

MIM also agreed with much in former u.s. Marine Scott Ritter's presentation. He called the Amerikan itch for another war against Iraq "imperialism," and criticized the u.s. as the "world's biggest terrorist" for the fact that it is killing 3-5,000 Iraqi children every month with economic sanctions. Arguing correctly that all Amerikans are responsible for these deaths for as long as we fail to prevent them, Ritter shot out: "we kill kids by the hundreds of thousands. You kill those kids, I kill those kids, we all kill those kids."

Ritter also did his best to instill a sense of the emergency facing Amerikans today. He pointed out that the deadlines laid down in the recent UN Security Council resolution leave just enough time for Iraq to make an inventory of its WMD, have inspectors find this inventory faulty, have another week-long debate in the Security Council, and then go to war by mid- to late-December when the u.s. will have the overwhelming air

Continued on page 6...

AMERIKA LIES TO JUSTIFY A WAR...



...TO REDRAW THE MAP OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES

Koreans have nukes, Bush can't take it

Uncle \$cam peeving Koreans

It's not Osama Bin Laden disrupting relations on the Korean peninsula and provoking war. The lead story November 17th on the British imperialist BBC website was that the Kim Jong-il regime in northern Korea just admitted in public to obtaining nuclear weapons in response to U.S. deployment of nuclear weapons in Korea.

The Associated Press reported that it

was only one press report from the Kim regime. Later official reports apparently qualified the earlier report by adding the word "entitled." A

commentary from the northern Korean Central Broadcasting Station read, "To safeguard our sovereignty and right to exist, we are entitled to have powerful security measures, including nuclear weapons."(10)

Nonetheless, the U.S. Government had come to the conclusion that Kim had nuclear weapons back in 1994. What is news is that this is now being discussed in the open. What is disgusting is that Bush already knows that northern Korea has nuclear weapons and still he grandstands against the peace. The Korean move only exposes Bush to risk from global public opinion, now that global public opinion will know that Bush is doing all of this to a state with nuclear arms.

Bush cut off oil shipments to the northern Koreans over the nuclear weapons developments, but more importantly he has refused thus far to

Continued on page 4...

Thousands in Phila. march against U\$ war on Iraq

Philadelphia, PA, November 23

Thousands of people converged upon City Hall to protest Amerika's escalation of the ongoing imperialist assault against the Iraqi people. RAIL members attended the rally, and distributed hundreds of flyers, circulated petitions and distributed copies of MIM Notes. After the initial gathering, protesters took to the streets and marched down Market St., chanting anti-imperialist slogans like "Hey Bush, what do you say, how many kids have you killed today?" and "No blood for oil".

RAIL helped to debunk various imperialist generated myths about Iraqi links to terrorism and possession of weapons of mass destruction by handing out information fliers to onlookers. The flier listed facts on the ongoing genocidal campaign against the Iraqi people and included the following text:

"As a means of justifying the planned invasion of Iraq, the Amerikan Imperialists have concocted various stories and myths: The two most often cited are that Iraq is supposed to be linked with Al-Qaida in some way and that Iraq is said to have 'weapons of mass destruction' which it plans on using against its neighbors and possibly the United States.

"The first lie has been debunked by British M15 and M16 Secret Service agencies, who completely rejected the idea of any connection, adding that Saddam has stayed as far away as possible from Al-Qaida. As Dr. Stephen Zunes noted recently, 'The State Department's own annual study, Patterns of Global Terrorism, could not list any serious act of international terrorism connected to the government of Iraq.' There is absolutely NO evidence to suggest that there is any link between the Iraqi government and Al-Qaida- or any other terrorist group for that matter. Even Donald Rumsfeld has been forced to modify his story from the U.S. having 'bulletproof' evidence, to: 'they're not photographs. They're not beyond a

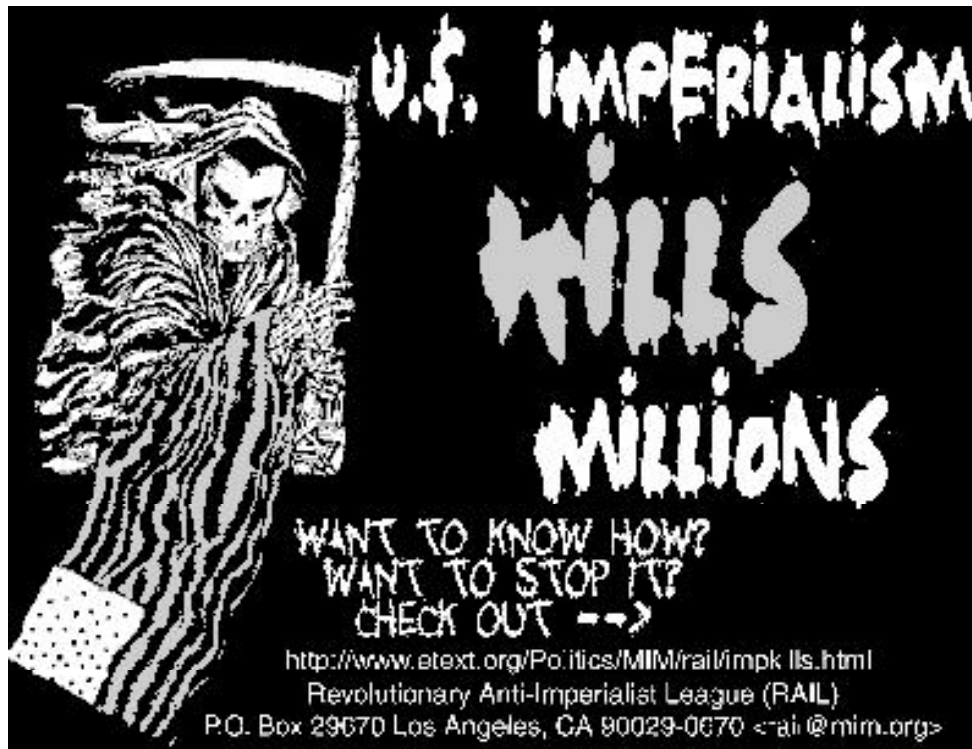
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MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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MIM is looking for distributors and sponsors to step forward. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support:

Distribute	Cost per year
12 (Priority Mail)	\$120
25 (Priority Mail)	\$150
50 (Priority Mail)	\$280
100	\$380
200	\$750
900 (Express Mail!)	\$3,840
900 (8-10 days)	\$2,200

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.

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.

Sure, you have seen MIM Notes around, but MIM Notes needs people to do two simple things: 1) Pay for it (postage and printing), 2) Distribute it!

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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 human 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.

California SHU protests reach Berkeley

Berkeley, CA
November 23

Today MIM helped bring a mock "Security Housing Unit" or SHU to the University of California, Berkeley. The SHUs are sensory deprivation torture. SHU prisoners spend 22 hours a day in windowless, 6x9 cells. Activists passed out information on SHU conditions and collected just over 100 new signatures on a petition demanding the SHUs be shut down.(1)

The mock SHU action preceded a November 25 meeting between state Senator Richard Polanco, the California Department of Correction (CDC), and a few select prisoner advocacy groups. This meeting discussed the demands of SHU prisoners in Pelican Bay, who have been on hunger strike since October 19. Senator Polanco expressed support for the striking prisoners.

MIM and its allies in this campaign go further and call for the abolition of the

SHUs, which serve no legitimate purpose. The Berkeley action followed a week-long vigil in downtown San Francisco the first week of November, organized by MIM, the All People's Coalition, the Barrio Defense Committee, the Uhuru Movement and others.

The environment in Berkeley was different from that in San Francisco. In Berkeley the crowd was predominantly white and well off; there were many more homeless people e.g. in San Francisco. Nonetheless we met a number of former prisoners in Berkeley and several people who had worked in the prisons in CA and knew firsthand the horrible conditions.

We met one former prisoner who received MIM Notes while on the inside. He is currently homeless and organizing homeless people. He took a copy of the petition to gather more signatures. A defense attorney stopped to talk about the conditions in prison, donate money

to our work, and sign the petition. Several people working in the prisons also stopped to support the protest. And a number of high school students taking SAT classes at UC Berkeley stopped to sign the petition on their lunch break.

In a classic example of the influence of knowing someone in prison, a MIM activist talked to two young white men about the issue. One of them said that everyone in prison is no good and a criminal and deserves to suffer. The other one said to him "hey, my dad's in prison" and eagerly signed the petition proclaiming how much he would hate to be locked in the SHU. He then convinced his friend to sign as well. At the rate imprisonment is rising in the U.S., the number of people who have been or know someone in prison is reaching far into the population. And this provides a significant base of



Getting the word out in Berkeley.

support for our fight against the criminal injustice system. This is concentrated in the Black and Latino communities which are disproportionately targeted by the criminal injustice system but reaches many whites as well. This explains the higher level of support for the protest in downtown San Francisco relative to the

Continued on page 5...

Bush ends ILWU dock lockout in West

On October 8 President Bush won a federal court order to end the Pacific Maritime Association's lockout of International Longshore and Warehouse Union workers. The Taft-Hartley Act allows federal authorities to end a strike or lockout for 80 days if it poses a "threat to national security." The PMA locked the ILWU out on September 27, in response to a work slowdown and threatened strike. This shutdown brought on federal government intervention both because of the economic impact of the shutdown and because the ports are essential to Amerika's terrorist war on the people of the world.

The union and port operators came to a tentative agreement on November 25, averting a late-December strike or lockout.

The ILWU has a history of internationalist actions, including a one-day politi-

cal strike a few years ago in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. A work stoppage now could have seriously compromised Amerika's ability to wage a war of aggression in Iraq. However, in this case the ILWU let the opportunity slip. In fact, ILWU members helped load military cargo during the shutdown.(1) "The commitment to loading military materiel, to assuring the security of the residents of Hawaii and Alaska as well as the safety those who travel on cruise ships out of West Coast ports is a long-standing practice of the union," the ILWU said in a press statement.(4)

One of the central issues behind the threatened strike was ILWU fears about the implementation of new technology to handle cargo at the expense of human operators. This fear is justified: as capitalism advances the ratio between constant capital (machinery and raw mate-

rials) and variable capital (labor) increases, displacing workers. The fact that these technological advances lead to unemployment is a failure of capitalism. Advances in production should lead to greater abundance for the majority, not greater poverty. In addition, capitalist competition and intellectual property laws slow down innovations.

Under the tentative agreement, the ILWU accepts the new technology in exchange for a 60% increase in pensions and a promise that the 400 clerks replaced by the new tech will be given other jobs. Rank-and-file ILWU members will vote on the agreement on December 9.(5)

Just because a small number of dock workers may lose their job to more efficient technology does not mean dock workers are exploited. In fact these workers' salaries—\$60,000 to \$80,000 per

year—depend on the superprofits extracted from exploited workers outside of U.S. borders. This is the imperialist way to buy off the "workers" in the United States generally, not just dock workers. The capitalists still take an even bigger share of the profits, but they are not exploiting the Amerikan citizens.

A truly progressive union in Amerika needs to stand with the exploited workers of the world. These workers are forced to labor for a few dollars a day under the rule of Amerikan militarism. The correct target of the international proletariat is Amerikan imperialism.

Notes:

1. Washington Times, October 8, 2002
2. New York Times, September 20, 2002.
4. <http://www.ilwu.org/solidarityday/20021002-1PressRelease.htm>.
5. New York Times, 25 Nov 2002.

Amerika, 2002: A terrible time to be an immigrant

Taking the "War on Terrorism" as its carte blanche, the federal government has unleashed a pack of restrictions on immigrants to the united snakes since 9/11. During the summer, overseas money transfer companies started requiring government- or employer-issued photo identification from all customers. Already companies like MoneyGram, Western Union and Lucky Money must report even the smallest cash transfers to federal law enforcement, which will check customer names against lists of known or suspected terrorists.(1) This fall, the FBI and CIA have begun reviewing all visa requests for men aged 16 to 45 from 26 Arab and Muslim countries.(2) And as MIM Notes has reported, many col-

leges and universities have turned information on their foreign students over to the feds, while students at other schools struggle to keep their administrations from doing so.(3)

These forms of surveillance are both highly persynal and insulting; they make a mockery of Amerikan pretensions to friendship with immigrants in general and Muslim and Arab peoples in particular. Tracking cash transfers is a targeted attack on poor immigrants from the Third World. While the petty- and bourgeoisie have more sophisticated ways of sending money home, it is largely proletarians and those who have not yet made their way into the middle class relying

on companies like MoneyGram to transmit the kind of money they can only make on this side of the u.s. border. Undocumented workers now have to fear that their information will get to the INS, and that they could be deported for sending home the very money they came here to earn.

Malcolm X famously said: "I'm not going to sit at the table and watch you eat, when there's no food on my plate, and call myself a diner." Well, listen up Amerika because neither are the rest of the people in the world. The u.s. economy requires a closed market for labor to keep labor aristocracy wages high, and an open market for Amerikan goods overseas, to

complete the circuit of capital back to the u.s. This country's borders are a nudge and wink operation, where plenty of people get in under the radar of the INS, only to do the work Amerikans won't while looking over their shoulders for la migra. Socialism would make international peace and cooperation possible because it would mean fair prices for goods and labor exchanged, and so do away with the incentive to militarize borders.

Notes:

1. New York Times 12 November, 2002.
2. Washington Post 24 September, 2002.
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept112001/text.php?mimfile=uspsix.txt>.

Koreans have nukes, Bush can't take it

Continued from page 1...

negotiate a peace treaty or nonaggression pact as requested by the northern Koreans. Not only is northern Korea still technically at war with the United States since the Korean War of 1950-3, but also, it is clear from Bush's previous remarks that he views northern Korea as a target of covert war actions, similar to those seen already in Yemen, Afghanistan and openly in the Philippines and other places. No self-respecting state in this capitalist world can be expected to do other than what northern Korea's regime is doing, and young people in southern Korea have already figured that out.

Although the southern Korean people are on the pro-U.S. and pro-market capitalist side of the border in Korea, 56.4% said in a poll that Bush's remarks calling north Korea part of the "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran were "inappropriate." (1) We can be sure that the opinion on the northern side of the border was even more disgusted with U.S. imperialism.

The 49.7% plurality of southern Koreans said that the United States was aggravating intra-Korean relations; 47.6% said Bush's own domestic problems led him to make the remarks. (1)

For its part, according to the BBC, the Kim regime has pointed out that it was the United States that first put 1000 nuclear weapons in Korea. BBC did not deny this and in fact, nutcase "Secretary of Defense" Donald Rumsfeld had already admitted a month ago that northern Koreans might have one or two nuclear weapons. Despite all that, the United States has not made any moves for a peace treaty. (2)

Although between 30 and 40,000 U.S. troops are at risk in Korea, (38,000 being the most recent figure) if any nuclear weapons should detonate, the Korean and Japanese people have concluded that Bush does not have any civilians under threat, because northern Korea's missiles can only reach Japan, not the United States. The United States has also made it clear to the world that it hopes to have Star Wars in place before Korean missiles can reach the USA—great for the stupid Amerikkans who think it will work, but no use to Japanese and Koreans today.

Amerikkkan propaganda can only go so far where real self-interests are at stake and the pro-U.S. regime in southern Korea was not able to make the most basic facts of Korean self-interest go away. The president Kim Dae Jung repeatedly warns his people not to make a diplomatic mistake in alienating the United States, but the protests and incidents keep happening. As a result, the United States stands at a low in southern Korean opinion, with only 33% holding a positive view of United States, down from 63.7% in 1994. (3)

In fact, Koreans have come to a whole host of conclusions about the United States since 911. While many Koreans mourned with the Amerikkans, in fact,

it was a time when Koreans realized why the United States sets itself up for so much hatred. Popular songs in Korea were found to be celebrating Bin Laden as the one "most admired" and one Amerikkkan in Seoul says she went jogging when a group of young schoolchildren jumped out in front of her to tell her they "love Bin Laden." According to the Christian Science Monitor, southern Koreans now enjoy a "recent music video by popular all-girl Korean band S.E.S. It features cowboy-booted Americans being beaten up, fed to dogs, and tossed off buildings." Korean schoolteachers assigning children to write letters to Bush after 911 found that half the children were writing letters saying the United States deserved it for war-mongering or must enjoy it. How often it is that truth comes from the mouths of small children!

A majority of Koreans believes Bush makes speeches destabilizing the peninsula in order to sell F-15 jets to the southern Koreans. (4) This by itself is reason enough to overthrow capitalism in MIM's opinion. There should never be any question of a diplomat's or head-of-state's motivations being one of profit. It's difficult enough to get along.

Almost half supported protests by scores of protesters trashing the offices of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Korea. 60% "don't like" the United States. (5) Less than 24% of Koreans in their 20s and 30s like the United States. (6)

Up through the 1980s, the U.S. lackey regime violently repressed all anti-American protests and movements. It took a change of generations, nuclear weapons and a mediocre U.S. president to wake up southern Koreans to U.S. imperialism, but there is no way for the imperialists to put the genie back in the bottle now. It goes to show that there is a profound relationship between power and truth, that people will say one thing in one set of circumstances and another thing in another. For most of the last 50 years, the United States has twisted Korean arms one way, but now that northern Korea has nuclear weapons too, the arm starts to twist back. In fact, the youth in Korea do not regard northern Korea as a threat, even after a small naval battle that broke out with the Kim regime.

Also a factor is that the simplicity of the anti-communist propaganda is breaking down with China rising to south Korea's number 2 trade partner, equal with Japan. While stupid anti-communists of yesteryear continue to call China "communist," youth in Korea today are figuring that north Korea's poor economic status is not a result of its "communism" but because of U.S. imperialism's division of the peninsula.

MIM would point out that only places on the front lines of revolutionary class struggle succeeded in business like southern Korea in recent years. The same is now true for Taiwan and China. The vast majority of the world's capitalist

countries—about 200 such countries—are poor and have remained poor because of a lack of advance in the class struggle. Only where communism threatened did the imperialists allow a few small countries break through to better trade relations and wealth. There is no other way to explain why Taiwan and southern Korea are economic successes while the Philippines and Indonesia still suffer typical Third World capitalist conditions. The communists created the leverage for major land reform and in Indonesia and the Philippines, despite being pro-U.S., such land reform never happened.

It will take a while for southern Koreans to shake off their colonized mentality and figure out how they will continue to prosper while throwing off U.S. colonialism and militarism. The key points are already in order. As of now, polls published by the Korean Times show a majority of southern Koreans oppose supporting the U.S. war in Afghanistan and 70% oppose helping the war in Iraq. (7)

As MIM has said before, there is no way to stop weapons proliferation in a global capitalist system anymore than there is a way to stop people from the black market in drugs. Mao's China did it—by cracking down on the profit-system. The "war on drugs" has been hopeless for decades in the capitalist world, just as much as the war on alcohol before it. The Bush & company dinosaurs are fighting a hopeless rear guard action that only endangers the whole world's people, when resources would be much better spent on resolving the underlying causes of humyn conflict.

Even Amerikkans know that. 51% polled by an institute at the University of British Columbia say a reduction of global poverty would make the world a safer place. The "United Kingdom" came up with the same 51% figure. When it came time to asking whether the United States plays a "major role" in making the world a safer place, the lowest scores came from Japan and southern Korea, 29% and 33% respectively. (8)

When it comes to who is making the world an unsafe place, even the British rate Bush as more dangerous than Kim Jong-il in Korea. Bush is third behind Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden for making the world an unsafe place—according to a British public opinion survey. (9)

Amerikkans: your system has failed profoundly. Not only do your rulers take away the liberties that are supposedly part of your way of life without bringing safety, but also the system has allowed people into power that would take chances with war in a nuclear world. The solution is not to give these rulers more support. The solution is to crack down on them hard while you still have a chance. If you cannot see it yourself, look around the world, and notice what other people are saying about you. The southern Koreans were your best friends

and now they tell you something only friends can tell you.

Notes:

1. <http://www.korealink.co.kr/times/200202/t2002020917160840110.htm> See BBC statements such as http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/not_in_website/syndication/monitoring/media_reports/2486007.stm
2. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/2485829.stm>
3. Choong Nam Kim, "Bush's America is getting a bad name," International Herald Tribune, September 26, 2002.
4. www.koreasociety.org (See the Katrin Fraser report on anti-Americanism.) The Los Angeles Times cites a local Korean television poll. ROBIN WRIGHT and BARBARA DEMICK, "Students Aim to Give Bush a Lesson in Diplomacy," 20Feb2002.
5. Christian Science Monitor, <http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0911/p02s03-wogi.htm>
6. www.koreasociety.org/TKSQ/FeatureArticles/V-3/03_2_SUMMER2002-Oberdorfer-US-ROK-under-stress.html Don Oberdorfer, "Korea and the United States: Partnership under Stress," August 2002.
7. http://www.fnkorea.org/fnst_eng/Liberal%20Times/liberal/times69.html
8. <http://216.239.33.100/search?q=cachexULoHsCqUC:www.lucenubcca/surveys/media/releases/16502eaepl+Koreans+poll+Bush&hl=en&ie=UTF-8>
9. 2Sept2002 Daily Mirror. Also, <http://www.british-weekly.com/columns/add.html>
10. New York Times, 18 Nov 2002.

There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U\$ war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary movement. Get involved!
www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Global opinion: Star Wars undercuts world safety

When it comes time to evaluating the Bush "missile defense" plan, 74% of southern Koreans and 80% of Brazilians believe it makes the world more unsafe. For those unfamiliar with the issue, the prevailing opinion of the rulers till now was "mutually assured destruction," in the use of nuclear weapons. With the United States trying to shoot down other countries' nuclear missiles, it seems that some countries will increase the arms race as Russia and China have said, while others may want to use their nuclear weapons before the shield is really effective.

The only country in the world where a majority believes the "missile shield" will make people safer is the united States, with 64% holding that belief. In

addition to the Koreans and Brazilians, majorities of "UK," Canadian, French, Russian, Japanese and German peoples believe the missile shield will make the world more dangerous.

Meanwhile in the united States, Amerikkans live in a hypocritical dream world where they accuse others of killing unarmed civilians while forgetting their own actions. A third of U.S. people do not know that the United States dropped nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while 99% of Japanese, 92% of Russians and 87% of Germans do know. In the under 35 category, fully 39% of Amerikkans do not know that the united States dropped nuclear weapons on two Japanese cities. (That still leaves no excuse for the two- third of the U.S.

public that does know.)

It's often said that the Amerikkans just suffer "false consciousness" and that in fact they are just being stupid as war-mongers. The fact that 39% of young Amerikkans don't know about Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be taken as proof, but that would be a mistake, because Russia and Germany are capitalist countries too. They also have what Marx called "superstructures" that brainwash the oppressed and exploited.

The top three of Russia, Japan and Germany may very well have superior overall education especially at the pre-college level, and they also have the nationalist resentments of losing to the united States in wars. Nonetheless, it is not from a lack of money or printed paper

that makes Amerikkans uneducated. Russians live at a level less than one-tenth the U.S. level economically.

The problem is that Amerikkans and the other "victor" countries of World War II and the Cold War choose to block out what they did as a part of national pride. In the Anglo-Saxon case, it is also a matter of the development of a gender aristocracy, a sense of entertainment developed in parasitic society that diverts high school age children from learning basic facts, even something so lacking subtlety or complexity as the dropping of nuclear weapons on Japan.

Note:

http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/dsp_displaypr_cdn.cfm?id_to_view=1525

Prisoners describe Security Housing Unit conditions

Prisoners in California's Security Housing Units or SHUs face a number of abuses besides being confined to their small isolation cells 22 hours per day. Guards shackle and strip search them every time they leave their cell. Prisoners receive all their meals in their cells; they are not allowed to participate in training or educational Activities; they are not allowed contact visits and they have no phone access. The exercise "yard" has no exercise equipment and no view of the outside world.

A prisoner in the Corcoran SHU wrote to MIM in November: "I'm incarcerated in a maximum security prison. I am in my cell 23 hours a day, 7 days a week. My only permitted luxury are books. We're allowed to purchase them from outside bookstores. But I have no income to do so. The library here supplies books, but only novels, which I derive no pleasure from. I prefer books that have intellectual value such as philosophy and other classical literature. Unfortunately they are in absence in the library here so this brings me to you in hopes that you can help me out with a few books." The lack of educational materials is just one aspect of the repression in the SHU.

A prisoner in the Pelican Bay SHU wrote: "These prisoncrats are about to implement another repressive policy: effective Jan 1, 2003 all incoming mail must be written on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, on one side only and incoming letters cannot be longer than 4 pages in length. Handwriting or printing must be legible so the fascist censor can screen all the incoming mail plus we will be able to receive only five letters per week. This bullchet policy will be introduced for 'security reasons.' Yea right. Like all other Pelican Bay policies this one is pure crap. This policy is simply another vehicle of oppression and social control."

For over 15 years the California Department of Corrections (CDC) has had a practice of placing prisoners in the SHU under the guise that the prisoners are prison gang affiliates or a threat to the safety of others or institutional

security. The five California SHU's - Pelican Bay State Prison SHU, Valley State Prison for Women SHU, California State Prison at Corcoran SHU, California Correctional Institution at Tehachapi SHU and Corcoran SATF - are the lynchpin for the CDC's prison system. They are the most brutal prisons in the system and principally target those prisoners who show the most resistance. They are designed to break inmates' spirit.

The blatant repression of prisoners in the SHU demonstrates the lack of real security concerns and the use of these units, as the Pelican Bay prisoner pointed out, for social control. Join us in this battle against control units in California. Download the petition and flyer and get out on the streets to collect signatures: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons.html>.

Berkeley protest

Continued from page 3...

supposedly progressive Berkeley.

Readers should not take these examples of support as a sign that we met no opposition. The SHU protest was the same day as the "big" Berkeley vs. Stanford football game. The crowds of sports fans were far from sympathetic to the protest. Many of them walked by commenting "I think torture is good." This is no surprise as the largely white petty bourgeois crowds reflect the interests of mainstream Amerika in general.

At the end of the football game (won by Berkeley), a crowd of thousands rushed the field and, after repeated clashes with police, successfully pushed their way through and tore down the goal post. They then took to the streets, shutting down traffic in their victory march carrying the goal post onto another part of the Berkeley campus. According to a policeman who stopped to ask what was in the mock-SHU, no arrests were made in connection with the crowd at the football field.

This tolerance of blatant property destruction and illegal activity demonstrates the unity between the white nation and the criminal injustice system. Blacks and Latinos living in poverty who steal food or other property to feed their family are sent to prison, and crowds of oppressed nation youth demonstrating bring down serious police repression. But white students tearing down a goal post and taking over the streets without a permit results merely in news camera coverage. Media that was uninterested in the SHU protest. As the crowd surged past the mock-SHU we didn't see a single police office anywhere nearby.

Notes:

1. The petition and an informational flyer can be downloaded from <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons.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-profiteering 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.

Former inspector: Charges against Iraq baseless

Continued from page 1...

power of four aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf region. MIM has not made any predictions about when the U.S., alone or behind a UN veil, will attack Iraq. We simply note in the words of Prof. Jose Maria Sison that “the United States is using the pretext of waging a war on terrorism in order to wage a war of terrorism against the revolutionary peoples and against countries assertive of national independence.”(1)

The issue for people in the United States should not be whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, but whether their own government does and to what end it will wield them as a threat against the world’s people. As Ritter correctly pointed out, it was never possible for the U.S. and USSR to have the bomb without China, Israel, India and Pakistan acquiring it too. He even went so far as to argue that Amerika’s willingness to launch a war against Iraq counts as evidence that Iraq does not have WMD, as the united snakes would not walk into such a threat. MIM points out that even if the United States is assured that Iraq has no WMD, it remains a horribly dangerous gamble to launch a war of aggression. Bush’s own Mad Warrior Rumsfeld has admitted that nuclear attacks against the United States are inevitable, which to MIM means it is past time for Amerika to be making its reckoning with the international community, not looking to piss off more enemies and allies alike.

Our disagreements with Ritter relate to definitions of imperialism and terrorism. Ritter understands that people around the world hate Amerika because “maybe the way the U.S. dominates the globe

deprives others of the chance at life,” and that “no imperial power lasts forever.” Still, he is an Amerikan patriot and says so. He rejects current U.S. policies because he thinks they violate this country’s principles of democracy, which in his opinion were basically intact before the Persian Gulf War. Ritter thinks Amerika is imperialist and terrorist now because it is so blatantly planning a war for control of Iraqi oil, and because it is killing Iraqi civilians for no reason (i.e., using WMD as an excuse for war even though Iraq has so few as to be irrelevant).

While we certainly agree that these things mark Amerika as imperialist, terrorist, and an international criminal, these specific conditions are not the basis for our analysis. Where Ritter’s analysis leads him to think that the UN should have pulled its inspectors out of Iraq and begun a new bombing campaign back in the summer of 1991, MIM says the United States and the UN never had any business in Iraq in the first place. This country has killed millions of people around the world through wars of aggression and the daily violence of imperialist exploitation. From the Indian Wars to the conquest of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, to the present-day war against as many Arab and Muslim countries as Bush can name, Amerika has applied the infamous Dred Scott decision to the rest of the world: No country has a right to national sovereignty that Amerika is bound to respect.

MIM circulated its petition to Defend the Rights of Prof. Jose Maria Sison at the event. Prof. Sison is a political refugee in the Netherlands and Chief

Political Consultant to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines negotiating panel in the Netherlands. The U.S. and Dutch governments have smeared Prof. Sison as a “terrorist” in an effort to demonize him, and to terrorize overseas Filipinos and the revolutionary and anti-imperialist movement internationally. While we were only able to talk to a small fraction of the people at the event, responses from those who stopped to talk about the petition were positive. Several people signed without hearing MIM’s pitch, saying they had heard an interview with Prof. Sison on the radio.(2) Most people who refused to sign said they needed “independent” or “objective” information on this case. But even these people asked for a copy of MIM Notes to read our interview with Prof. Sison, and spent time discussing his case and the so-called War on Terrorism.

Overall, we are heartened to see such a big crowd for an anti-war event on a weeknight. The crowd flooded the main auditorium and an upstairs room with audio-visual hook-up. The last two hundred people arriving seated themselves outside to listen to Ritter’s talk on outdoor speakers.

The black mark on this event for MIM was when a CalTech security guy snatched our comrade’s clipboard, telling h that s/he was not permitted to petition at the event and hiding the clipboard behind a locked door. After being told that s/he was not even permitted to petition outside the building, the comrade started notifying people in line for the event that s/he was being prevented from petitioning. Our comrade continued to hand out MIM Notes, and to discuss Prof.

Sison’s case. S/he also polled the audience informally to find out what people thought of an activist being barred from petitioning against the “war on terror” at an event devoted to discussing that war.

Roughly half the people we spoke to thought the University’s policy was bogus and that the security guard was wrong to interfere with our comrade’s work. The other half initially said that because CalTech is a private university it is the school’s right to bar people from petitioning or leafleting on the campus. Though when pressed for their own opinions, many of these volunteered that they oppose the current U.S. war policies and think these policies should be opposed. Our comrade argued that the country’s war footing warrants breaking the rules for the sake of preventing further bloodshed, yet many held to their views that CalTech can set its own anti-speech policies for its own private property. Fortunately, our comrade got h clipboard back shortly after the event started, and was able to continue petitioning out of the security guard’s view. People we spoke to after the event seemed to reject the CalTech policy much more readily, perhaps because they had just finished listening to Scott Ritter argue that in time of war more than any other time, it is vital that the people speak out, question and argue against government actions they disagree with.

Notes:

1. “Interview with Prof. Jose Maria Sison,” MIM Notes 270 November 15, 2002.
2. Audio files of an hour-long interview with Professor Sison are available on MIM’s website.

Phila. march

Continued from page 1...

reasonable doubt.’

“The second lie is just as fact-less as the first. As Scott Ritter, Former U.N. weapons inspector put it 2 years ago: ‘Iraq has indeed been disarmed...The chemical, biological, nuclear and long-range ballistic missile programs that were a real threat in 1991, had, by 1998 been destroyed or rendered harmless.’ UNSCOM admitted in 1999 that the overwhelming majority of Iraq’s weapons had been destroyed. Bush has recently claimed that Iraq attempted to import high-strength aluminum tubes ‘for gas centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons.’ Yet again, British intelligence denies that there are any facts to back this up. Lest anyone has forgotten what context the discussion of ‘weapons of mass destruction’ should be viewed in, the ONLY country to EVER use an atomic bomb, killing innocent civilians, was the United States.

“It is quite clear that there is absolutely NO legitimate reason to go to war with Iraq. In fact the ONLY reason a war seems imminent is because Amerikan Imperialism is intent on controlling the

region’s vast natural resources and re-drawing the map of the Middle-East to suit the interests of Amerikan Imperialism and its allies. When Bush talks of a ‘regime change,’ what is meant is simply that the United States desires a loyal puppet government that will aid in the further plunder and oppression of the Iraqi people.”

After this text was written, the bourgeois media has revealed a new twist to the situation: Amerika is planning on reverting to direct colonial rule and installing General Tommy R. Franks or one of his subordinates as the military ruler of Iraq. The colonial government will have supreme power and direct control of Iraqi oil. After an un-specified period of time, the imperialists will their favorite comprador lackey(s) and thereby continue to control the Iraqi economy in their own interests.(1)

RAIL also talked to the masses about distinguishing popular struggle and terrorism. RAIL helped people understand the link between the so-called “War on Terrorism” and the brutal treatment of political prisoners through its petitions.

[RAIL comrades circulated petitions supporting Memik Horoz and Joma

Sison. Mr. Horoz is a Turkish journalist imprisoned for the “crime” of interviewing a Maoist guerrilla leader—a “crime” he did not even commit.(2) Prof. Sison is the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The United States recently declared him a “terrorist,” and several European countries have followed suit, although the Americans’ charges are baseless. He faces extradition to the United States where he could be railroaded by a military tribunal; reactionaries in the Philippines have even hinted the CIA might assassinate him.(3) Both Mr. Horoz and Prof. Sison have been harassed because of their militant writings against U.S. imperialism. MIM and RAIL’s petition campaigns are one way we directly support local resistance to Amerikan imperialism in the Middle East and Asia.]

One rally attendee felt RAIL’s “Fighting Imperialism is Not Terrorism” poster advocated wanton violence and sent the wrong message. A RAIL comrade pointed out that oppressed peoples do not choose violence but have it thrust upon them by their imperialist oppressors, and it would be suicide not to take up the gun and claim their political power.

RAIL was pleased to see the masses

hoist the banner of anti-imperialism as opposed to liberal pacifism. Many protesters seemed to grasp the concept that it is not political violence itself that is the problem but rather imperialist interests which are the sole motivation for the war on Iraq. However, many of the people speaking against imperialism did so from a national chauvinist perspective. Revisionist organizations and their front groups had signs demanding “money for jobs; not war.” This erroneous line only contributes to the further plundering of the oppressed peoples throughout the third world. True proletarian revolution cannot come about through the further bribery of the oppressor nation labor aristocracy.

By RAIL-Philadelphia. RAIL stands for Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League. RAIL is a mass organization led by the Maoist Internationalist Movement. RAIL members are not MIM members, but agree with MIM that oppressed nations’ can only win their liberation through armed struggle.

Notes:

1. New York Times, 11 Oct 2002.
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/horoz.html>.
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/philippines.html>.

Gender roundup

A series of reactionary setbacks

The feminist struggle suffered a series of setbacks in the New England area these past few months.

Harvard Law School caved in to the U.S. Government, rather than continue with its old policy of not allowing military recruiters except at its alumni organizations. Since the military refuses to take up a policy of non-discrimination against gays, it had been previous Harvard policy to exclude military recruiters from ordinary use of Harvard buildings. Then the Bush administration interpreted the law as saying that over \$300 million in federal aid would be lost by Harvard if Harvard did not admit military recruiters. Harvard caved in and proved itself an extension of the government yet again. A huge portion of Harvard's research and overhead money comes from the government.

Yale Law School has also capitulated; although it claims to seek legal aid in determining who is right, Yale with its anti-discrimination policy or the military.(1)

Meanwhile, 514 faculty and students mostly at Boston University Law School petitioned against B.U. President Silber's abolition of a gay student group at a high school that B.U. runs. The students accused Silber of "bigotry," but Silber points out that no sex-discussing student groups are allowed at the high school, not just gay ones.(2)

The student group in question was a gay-straight alliance organization. Since we do not believe the world is created with equal individuals the way fantasy-prone individualists like Silber are inclined to think, we see an equal implementation of rules as de facto discrimination. Probably most children realize that straight children do not face harassment in school for being straight per se. Gay students face taunting from a very early age, much earlier than the "early secondary school" age that Silber is worrying about. Hence, being even-handed in applying rules when reality is discrimination/harassment by group is not "even-handed" but a cover for existing oppression. If Silber is unaware that young students face the cruelest and most open of gay-baiting harassment he is merely dense. If he is aware, he is a bigot, and that is what we suspect.

Nonetheless, we at MIM believe the strongest argument on this point does not concern sexual oppression but age. The fact is that what Silber does will do nothing to advance the youth. Hatreds against "fags" and "queers" spread at a very early, elementary school age in this sick society. The action that young people take on that should be left to them, not adults with their ridiculous fantasies about innocence in childhood. Even if adults could be even-handed, youth should have responsibility for their lives.

The reactionary "Parents' Rights Coalition" applauded Silber saying that homosexuality "is medically and psychologically extremely self-destructive, and they [the gay-straight alliance organization] are telling kids that they should feel good about doing it."(2) The phrase "parents' rights" is pretty much identical with the ideology of "patriarchy" that MIM opposes.

Meanwhile, gay rights advocates and Mitt Romney's major opponent in the governor's race in Massachusetts noticed that Romney's television advertising boils down to saying he loves his blonde-haired, red-lipstick-using wife and has kids. We consider this a setback, because apparently some major political leaders believe such a strategy can work in Massachusetts or it would not be used. Indeed, Romney won the race despite having little to say in such ads.(3)

Romney's major opponent in the governor's race, Shannon O'Brien stepped forward to endorse gay marriages, provided the state legislature writes such a law, despite early expectations that she would avoid the issue. Not only did Romney not endorse gay marriages, but he is a Mormon who gave \$1 million in 1998 to Brigham Young University. BYU bans gay/lesbian conduct and does not allow any faculty that disagrees with Mormon Church teachings, as illustrated in the following anecdote:

"Konchar Farr, an assistant professor of English, was personally opposed to abortion but supported its remaining legal—just as Mr. Romney did. She had been hired by the English department to fill a need for a feminist scholar, but during her third-year review was turned down for a second three-year term leading to tenure on the grounds that she had spoken at a pro-choice rally at the Utah capitol and, what's more, 'politicized the classroom.' The administration claimed that she had violated BYU policy, which explicitly endorses full academic freedom except where 'faculty behavior or expression seriously and adversely affects the University mission or the Church.'"(4)

An ex-professor at BYU went on to say, "In another incident, two sociologists, Karen E. Gerdes and Martha N. Beck, were ordered not to publish their study of Mormon women whose sexual abuse as children had been ignored by Mormon churchmen."(4) Other professors got the boot for being pro-choice or challenging accepted gender roles in the Mormon Church—and all of that is public knowledge coming from professors who are Mormons themselves!

What the Mormons tell us is not half the story and unfortunately, most of those calling themselves "feminist" in Massachusetts are Dalai-Lama-loving,

Source: www.polygamy.org



Andrea Johnson was married at age 14 to her half-brother. She died a painful and unnecessary death giving birth at age 15 from medical non-treatment of pre-clampsia, an easily treated medical condition.

posing-as-feminist pc-liberals, so no one raised the issue of Mormon polygamy and abuse of children and backward young wimmin when Romney came forward as an active Mormon.

MIM will explain: it's not pc to pick on others' religion in Massachusetts. Much of the Christian Establishment has succeeded in convincing conservative individualists that religious oppression is good and liberal individualists in Massachusetts merely believe that the right to religion is higher than the right to a violence-free world. It's typical of how Amerikkans have everything screwed up—a right to religion but no right to eat guaranteed anywhere.

Supposedly the Mormon Church abolished the practice of multiple wives in its religion way back in 1890 despite its earlier history of advocating polygamy. Discussion of the subject seems only to titillate. At first glance, one might think that the matter of having multiple wives is really a private matter, despite what the law says. There is even something pornographic about how people amuse themselves talking about Mormons.

MIM is not going to say that the Mormon Church is a great threat to the capable adult womyn. The problem is the children and the backward.

Slavery was part of the Dalai Lama's version of Buddhism when he practiced it in Tibet. It was not part of the Panchen Lama's Buddhism in Tibet; even though the Panchen Lama was in charge of spiritual affairs when the controversy over slavery in Tibet erupted in the 1950s in China.

Just as many forgive slavery because the Dalai Lama says it's religion not slavery, many are unwilling to separate

Mormon religion from abuse of wimmin and children. It goes back to the Liberalism of a court case in the 1953 that the state lost on polygamy. Since that time, the state has treated Mormon home life as a private and religious matter.

Only last year did a Utah man receive the first polygamy-related conviction in 50 years—and he caught himself attention for not paying child support to 31 children. As we speak, a case against a womyn is going forward for the first time in over 100 years. Suzie Stubbs Holm told her 16-year-old sister that she would burn in hell if she did not marry the same older sister's husband. She now faces 10 years for abetting bigamy and illegal sex. Unfortunately, the girl's parents said the marriage had their approval consistent with their religion—another example of the very definition of patriarchy.

An offshoot of the mainline Mormon Church with 6000 members who call themselves "fundamentalist" Mormons openly practice polygamy in Hildale-Colorado City—including Suzie Stubbs Holm.(5) By the way, the polygamous husband in the criminal case is a police officer. 70% of Utah is Mormon and that is why no prosecutions occur.

Now there is an organization of former wives calling for prosecution of polygamous wives called "Tapestry Against Polygamy." Rowenna Erickson says prosecution helps wimmin to think of themselves as responsible for their lives. Another ex-plural-wife named Flora Jessop sensibly said, "People don't understand this has nothing to do with religion. It's a human right violation, a civil rights violation."(5)

People like Erickson and Jessop have

Continued on page 9...

It's all about the Benjamins for bourgeois trade sim

**“Trade Empires”
2001
Eidos Interactive**

“Trade Empires” is another in the relatively small niche of complex strategy games. The assumptions that the programmers put into the game are typical of the bourgeoisie’s view of itself. The basic strategic premise of business competition is the same as in Trevor Chan’s “Capitalism II,” but Chan’s game is the far more realistic and instructive.

As in Trevor Chan’s “Capitalism II,” Eidos Interactive takes up the bourgeois view that trade leaders are heroes who ease bottlenecks in the economy. Those players who bring goods that are in demand to the market make the most money—and the goal of this game is making money and owning other forms of wealth. As such, the game is actually a step up from other games by the same company such as “Commandos 2,” which are just the usual mindless militarism games.

In “Trade Empires,” if heroic business leaders do not see to supplying cities, the cities themselves will dwindle to no population. The variety and price of goods made available by merchants is what determines the population size of a city, and then also the amount of business it can do.

Players in this game fantasize that they are leaders of a major trading “house” or merchant family. One player is capable of flooding the market to the point where business is unprofitable but possibly causing growth in population and further demand. In fact, the trade empire itself pays for palaces, temples and barracks. These items are important for stimulating demand, raising prices and making trade profitable according to Eidos Interactive’s view of the world. There are no taxes or government in the game, but it is easy to see how government-like functions can be in the interests of a well-to-do merchant family.

Since trade empires last hundreds of years, it is very possible that it is profitable to the trade house to fork out the cash for establishments that produce nothing while creating demand for the merchant family’s goods. It may cost 2000 monetary units to build a palace, but if the merchants sell the occupants of that palace enough jewelry over the years, the palace can pay for itself several times over just by raising demand and thus profits.

It was not that hard for the programmers to throw in that little simulation of the “demand side” of the economy, but it is too bad that libertarians and anarcho-capitalists cannot understand even this basic point in “Trade Empires,” namely that the wealthy can in every way afford to imitate a government. The only question is whether the government will try to claim independence of the merchant family to be even more effective.

Contrary to sterile thought that holds that governments form for their own sake, for “power for its own sake,” it is clear even in this simple game that the origins of modern day government are in class differentiation. Without the legal possibility to make profit in the manner that they do, merchants would not hire guards or troops and nor would they build palaces and temples. Proto-government arises because of the private interests of the bourgeoisie and earlier propertied classes. Libertarians and anarcho-capitalists who think the state can be eliminated without the underlying conflicts in society that give rise to the state are fooling themselves.

On the plus side, regarding the realism of the game’s assumptions, it is clear that there is a whole sector of the economy that appears as unproductive even to the trader bourgeoisie. For example, in addition to having temples and palaces sitting there demanding products, while traveling amongst countries, merchants need to hire military protection or face the wrath of pirates. This military protection costs money and what could be a profitable trade route might very well not be thanks to military and transport expenses. At the same time, a properly equipped trade outfit may do some marauding of its own and rob pirates of their treasures. This too helps the bottom line of profit for the merchant. It all depends on whether equipping military units costs more than the raiding profit they can obtain.

The militarism angle in the game is useful if properly understood. Occasionally in real life we hear some deluded pacifists or social-democrats argue that war is not profitable. The question is really profitable “to whom?” The fact is that in a society with private property someone is making a profit out of militarism—namely the better-equipped military units that attack others. In real life, there are military contractors and mercenaries making money from war. This is what Marxism helps us to see in this and many other facets—that what is profitable for the individual is not necessarily beneficial to the society as a whole. Pirates/troops do not produce anything in their military capacities. When they are done fighting there can only be less wealth total than there was before the fighting, never more tangible wealth. Capitalism and the merchant class do not concern themselves with this fact: they see only what is profitable at the individual level and if that means equipping merchant traders with some military firepower to raid other merchants or pirates, then so be it!

Some of the more questionable assumptions in the game are: 1) that prices can only range from half to double the normal price. Unsold goods cannot cut prices more than 50% and will go to waste. 2) There is only a limited number of merchants available to hire!

One benefit of the above assumption



“I don’t know what rice is, I just know its price.” “Trade Empires” interface guides players’ quest for personal wealth.

made is that we see that some goods will go to waste, simply because there is no demand even at half off the original price. In fairness to Eidos Interactive, the difference between a sale price and total waste is merely a question of proportions. Wasting more goods may result in higher prices for the remaining goods after all.

With the game’s assumptions, merchants will also face time pressure to sell their goods, both because attending to low-demand markets means that it will take longer to sell goods and because there are only so many merchants to hire, so each merchant should be assigned the most profitable trade route possible.

Each merchant hired by the merchant house can be thought of as a transport worker. We do not see that any profit is shared with the individual merchant. The greater the supply of merchants (transport workers), the more work they will do for less profit. In fact, we can even imagine from this game that having too many transport workers might make them all unprofitable. That is something Marx pointed out, that labor has to be for something “socially necessary” and that there is such a thing as an average profit or average method of production. There is nothing in capitalism that guarantees there is not an excess supply of labor;

even though, from a strictly physical point of view or a socialist point of view, society can always benefit from the creation of more wealth, no matter how many workers there are (assuming we have the planetary-environmental space).

It is not as if Karl Marx disagreed with so trivial a notion as “supply and demand.” In fact, he spelled out that bourgeoisie would be unaware of the real workings of the capitalist system, because it would only concern itself with what it has to do to make profit on an individual level.

While Chan’s game has the possibility of at least involving some labor struggle over wages, there is absolutely no sense of class struggle in “Trade Empires.” Like the vulgar bourgeoisie, it would seem the Eidos Interactive people would say there is nothing else to know other than how to make money.

Those who prefer games in ancient settings may enjoy the graphics, geography and music from ancient cultures better in “Trade Empires” than in “Capitalism II.” On the other hand, there are fewer realistic assumptions put into this game than “Capitalism II,” even though both are about “supply and demand.”

What questions do YOU have?

Wasn’t Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it “Amerika”? Shouldn’t you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn’t hating white people reverse racism? Why don’t you leftists work together? Why don’t you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

**Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>
and get real answers to these and other questions.**

Gender roundup: A series of reactionary setbacks

Continued from page 7...

seen through Liberalism—by which we mean individualism, whether conservative or left-leaning. It's not surprising that it is the people involved who see through oppression. The Dalai Lama's ex-slaves opposed him; even though the West gives them no attention whatsoever, while hanging on every word of the Dalai Lama.

MIM believes we have heard enough of Romney and other pc people who avoid the facts. On July 9th, 2002, Tapestry against Polygamy sounded the call for a real feminist cause against an ex-bishop in the Mormon Church: "Luis Gonzales has been charged with 20 counts of child molestation, battery, rape, bigamy, stalking, and fraud. The victim, alias Tammy Doe alleges, 'The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been fully aware of this man's illegal activities since 1998 and failed to do anything until the child molestation became public.'"(6)

As in Tibet, the people on the front-lines do the best exposing the lies of religion to cover for oppression. Ex-plural wives have explained some of the scams: 1) Divorce repeatedly while continuing the life before. 2) Take welfare aid while claiming to be "single" mothers. 3) Form a splinter church from the Mormon Church that no one will touch. 4) Hide within the sanctity of "the family." As absolom.com says, "It's not really the practice of polygamy that is punishable, but the flaunting of it to the rest of the world."

One problem the scams run into is that it is illegal in Utah for unmarried wimmin who are 16 or 17 to have sex with men more than 10 years older. Thus, attention tends to focus on the cases involving children. In 1998, a major case involved the beating of a teenager by a father seeking to force the teen daughter to marry his brother.

MIM has never met "Tapestry against Polygamy." No doubt we disagree on some things. However, the following statement of theirs is a right-on statement regarding the bulk of the feminist cause within U.S. borders: "Is polygamy a healthy lifestyle for children? No. Children are the real victims of polygamy because they have no choice. There are no watchdogs for children born into polygamy because they are kept isolated from mainstream society for parents and leaders to groom innocent children for a polygamist life. Minors suffer from these various forms of abuse within the polygamous subculture: Statutory rape, incest, denial of public education, child-slave labor, trafficking of minors into different countries for sex, arranged marriages, marriages to close relatives, medical neglect, poverty etc."(6) MIM would say that it is children who bear the brunt of gender oppression within U.S. borders—not glass-ceiling obsessed

professionals of the gender aristocracy.

"Andrea Johnson was married at age 14 to her half-brother. She died a painful and unnecessary death giving birth at age 15 from medical non-treatment of pre-clampsia, an easily treated medical condition."(6)

Rather than smashing openly polygamous religions, politicians back down under pressure. In February, 2001, almost 100 polygamists of the Apostolic United Brethren openly lobbied in just one meeting in the state capitol. The result was politicians talking about polygamous marriage as a misdemeanor.(7)

Meanwhile, an independent candidate for governor in Arizona named Mahoney has tried to raise the non-prosecution of open polygamy as an issue. However, the fatuous Liberals of the Anti-Defamation League objected: "'It's not fair game, ever, to try to label an entire group, a religion, a race, a classroom, a state, a city, by the actions of a few of the more fanatical elements of that group,'" the ADL said.(8)

The ADL fantasy requires that there only be a few fanatic individuals. Unfortunately the truth is that a whole town on the Utah-Arizona border consists of a fundamentalist Mormon church living in open polygamy and no law enforcement doing anything about it in either Utah or Arizona. When 6000 people live in open polygamy and when polygamists even lobby in the state capitol for their rights, and when Tapestry against Polygamy has estimated between 80,000 and 300,000 men involved in polygamous marriages, it is not a question of a "few fanatic individuals." It is law enforcement turning a blind eye, because the governor who last tried to enforce the law in 1952 lost the following election. That's not a few fanatics. That is the entire state talking.

As a result not even Tapestry against Polygamy supports raiding houses. Attacking polygamy is some kind of novelty: "The Mormon fundamentalist tradition has been interwoven into Utah's culture for so long that today it is being protected by the ACLU, local NOW, and much of the state of Utah as a religious freedom without any regard for the polygamous women and children whose human rights are being violated," says Tapestry against Polygamy.

The idea of polygamy is so intertwined with the spiritual doctrine and the practice of Mormon leaders such as Brigham Young who had 55 wives, that most papers written on the subject do not bother venturing past the history. "In 1843, Joseph Smith told the press that Mormons did not practice polygamy. He LIED! Smith was already married to 12 women, taking a 17 year old orphan as his second wife back in 1835. (The Twenty-seventh Wife, Wallace, Irving, NY, Simon & Schuster, 1961)."(9)

"Mormon teaching today does forbid the practice of polygamy, as compliance with the laws of the land. However, never has the Church acknowledged doing wrong in the practice of this principle, nor has it ever acknowledged the principle itself to have been wrong or morally reprehensible. To the contrary, it still teaches that 'plural marriage' is a divine principle and holy institution ordained of God, the practice of which is held in only temporary abeyance. The so-called revelation commanding that the principle be practiced is still printed by the Church as scripture binding on the consciences of its members (Doctrine and Covenants, sec. 132)."(10)

One Arizona columnist says independent anti-polygamy activist Mahoney has no chance of winning the governor's office. Nonetheless, E.J. Montini says, "But on the matter of young women and girls being abused in certain parts of Arizona and us not doing much about it, he's right."(11) Nor is it just Arizona and Utah. Canada admits that plural wives of the same church on the Arizona-Utah border have entered Canada with government knowledge of their illegal practices.(12)

Tapestry against Polygamy claims that the polygamists are raising babies faster than anyone else. The Miami Herald provides the overall demographic picture: "Nationally, the Hispanic interest in the faith has helped make the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints the fastest-growing denomination in the United States. In the '90s, the number of U.S. followers mushroomed 19.3 percent, to more than 4.2 million, the biggest jump of any major denomination, according to a decennial survey, 2000 Religious Congregations & Membership, released last month.

"The survey found the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to be the country's sixth-largest denomination, behind only Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists, United Methodists, Jews and Evangelical Lutherans. There are more Mormons than Presbyterians or Episcopalians in this country."(13)

Republican and Mormon Mitt Romney echoes the Liberal view of churches: "'BYU is a religiously oriented university,' Romney said. 'I just don't think religion should be part of a campaign. I've indicated what my position is with regard to gay rights in Massachusetts. I want to preserve and protect those.'"(14) Romney is a bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Our take on religion that includes oppression is different. MIM agrees that Mormonism should not be a campaign issue, but because people who are Mormons should not be allowed to hold office. If Romney is really so opposed to discrimination, he should be an ex-Mormon—someone of Mormon

background, but not a Mormon anymore.

There is simply no two ways about it: BYU discriminates. Rather than being shut down for its open beliefs banning gay/lesbian conduct and hushing up sexual abuse of children and wimmin, BYU receives private donations and government aid.(6)

In MIM's view, feminism is not Shannon O'Brien's professional career. It is not having four out of five of the candidates for governor being wimmin. Feminism is shutting down oppression of wimmin and children. Feminism is putting an end to patriarchy and that is the exact opposite of Liberal fantasies about gay children getting an even shake from their peers in today's schools or religions as some sort of oppression-free zone. Unfortunately too many people calling themselves feminists are nothing of the sort, just Amerikkkan individualists.

Notes:

1. newsweekly 16Oct2002, p. 16.
2. Ibid., p. 1, 16.
3. Boston Globe 30Oct2002, <http://www.globe.com/politics/>
4. Scott Abbot, "Does Brigham Young University pose a threat to academic freedom?" <http://www.globe.com/politics/30Oct2002>
5. Patty Henetz, "In a groundbreaking case, Utah woman is charged with aiding and abetting polygamy," Associated Press 14Oct2002.
6. <http://www.polygamy.org/>
7. <http://www.polygamyinfo.com/plygmedia%2001%2027trib.htm>
8. Howard Fischer, "Mahoney drags polygamy, religion into governor's race," Arizona Daily Sun 11Oct2002, http://www.azdailysun.com/non_sec/nav_includes/story.cfm?storyID=50566
9. http://ww2.moriel.org:8004/discernment/mormonism/mormon_tv_ads.htm
10. Timothy Oliver, "Mormon Polygamy Still Bearing Fruit in Utah," Watchman, 5Jun99.
11. 15Oct2002, <http://www.arizonarepublic.com/arizona/articles/1015montini15.html>
12. Globe and Mail 8Oct2002, p. a4.
13. Miami Herald 12Oct2002, <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/4263330.htm>
14. Stephanie Ebbert, "Romney: Religion should not be campaign issue," Boston Globe, 18Oct2002.
15. Any good college administrator will deny receiving government aid at one time or another, as part of political posturing for independence from the government, but after counting student loans, support to research etc., it always turns out false. See for example, <http://www.aect.org/Events/Atlanta/Presentations/detail.asp?ProposalID=30>

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

California SHU: repression and social control

California SHU denies “luxury” of educational books

I’m incarcerated in a maximum security prison. I am in my cell 23 hours a day, 7 days a week. My only permitted luxury is books. We’re allowed to purchase them from outside bookstores. But I have no income to do so. The library here supplies books, but only novels, which I derive no pleasure from. I prefer books that have intellectual value such as philosophy and other classical literature. Unfortunately they are in absence in the library here so this brings me to you in hopes that you can help me out with a few books.

— a prisoner in California, November 2002

California denies rights in gang investigations

I’m writing to let you know I’ve been placed in Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU for allegedly being a member of a gang. The Institution Gang Investigator (IGI) came to my cell on 10-28-02 and took all my property (with no explanation at all). I kept asking all officers on all shifts about my property. They stated that IGI had the power to do these things. I also asked if I could get a receipt for my property. I was told it’s up to IGI. Two days later I was rolled up and placed in ASU. Now I await charges that could possibly lock me down for years. I have been doing time since 1997 and have never been involved in any gang activities and until 1999 had not had any writeup. In 11-1-99 I was attacked by a confessed gang, that told the corrections officers that they wanted to rollup so they attacked Blacks. Since 2001 I’ve been on this yard with no write-ups. This prison has a history of falsifying papers to place any outspoken individual in lockup. And now I’ve fell victim to these claims.

— a prisoner in California, November 2002

Building more SHU prisons

By December of this year, or as late as January, they will have finished constructing the SHU at High Desert State Prison. This means no one will be getting transfers, which just escalates the already high tension around here. You would think that due to the way we are all being treated (Black, Red, Brown, white, yellow) that we would come together against our captors - it’s just the opposite. There is too much tribalism and asinine politics, ideologies that conflict.

These people have achieved results from their nefarious plan to keep us locked mentally and fighting each other. Our captors are the only ones who gain from any dissension among us. Until we overstand this

we will remain in this pit of oppression.

— a prisoner in California, October 2002

Corcoran SHU conditions deteriorate

Conditions here have gone from bad to worse. We are being systematically denied exercise yard periods. The federal mandates are ten hours weekly, we probably receive that in a month! In February of 2002 they started work on water-cannons/pepper spray hybrid robotic controlled weapons that they have installed in the concrete SHU yards to control and repress. This is not to mention the 347 MM block, gun and AK10 that are in plain view while inmates exercise, socialize or practice their religious freedoms under the scrutiny of the Department of Corrections.

During installation of the water/pepper spray cannons no contingency plan was put in place in order to accommodate inmates exercise yard privileges. We were just shut up in our cells for months while overpaid state flunkies installed this massive weapon system with attached camera to intimidate, degrade and shock our consciences. Needless to say the water cannon/pepper sprayer received demonstrations by staff and other flunkies as to this weapons efficiency, and we continue to sit in our cells suffering daily denials of yard due to last minute adjustments to the water cannon. So life goes on in the SHU.

— a prisoner at Corcoran, November 2002

Pelican Bay limits mail, increases repression

These prisoncrats are about to implement another repressive policy: effective Jan 1, 2003 all incoming mail must be written on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, on one side only and incoming letters cannot be longer than 4 pages in length. Handwriting or printing must be legible so the fascist censor can screen all the incoming mail plus we will be able to receive only five letters per week. This bullchet policy will be introduced for “security reasons.” Yea right. Like all other Pelican Bay policies this one is pure crap. This policy is simply another vehicle of oppression and social control.

— a prisoner in CA, November 2002

MIM responds: California currently has Control Units, known as Security Housing Units (SHU) in five prisons in the state. There prisoners are locked up 23 hours a day, in isolation conditions without access to education or other programs. These conditions, described in the letters above, cause many prisoners to go crazy. Further, the prisoners are confined to the SHU after secret gang membership hearings based on false evidence targeting prisoners who are organizing politically, as is described in the second letter above. And limiting their one

outside stimulation, mail, just furthers the oppression in these institutions. MIM calls these SHU prisons for what they are: torture. And we have a campaign going on in California to abolish the SHU. Look for stories in this and future issues of MIM Notes about how to get involved or check out our web page: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Magazine illegally censored by WA DOC

Outlaw Biker Magazine is not known for its obscene or sexually explicit material. At most there is nudity to go along with scooters and all those bikers who live a free and loose life style in our society. Nevertheless issue 145 was rejected by mail room staff working at the correction center in Shelton, Washington.

In a notice of rejection officials claimed obscene or sexually explicit content was portrayed in the magazine. But they failed to identify what it was or why this was a violation of incoming mail policy.

On appeal Captain Trauscher upheld their rejection for the same reason given by the mail room. But Deputy Directory Lynn Delano exposed this as nothing more than a criminal conspiracy. By reviewing the publication and finding no obscene or sexually explicit material in this magazine.

While Delano settled this she proved honesty wasn’t her strong suit either because she acquiesced in their rejection for other reasons which were proven untrue. She asserts Bill Riley, her “gang expert”, found a gang related advertisement in the magazine. This claim was debunked when someone checked the ad and it proved to be about the Hells Angeles Motorcycle Club, a group which has nothing to do with gangs or the prisons in Washington State.

Prisoners or their correspondents may appeal any time mail is rejected. Outsiders do this by writing to the Director at the Department of Corrections Headquarters in Olympia, Washington. Prisoners may do the same after seeking review by the warden.

Although favorable decisions aren’t always possible, your efforts help to expose those who would violate our first amendment rights and force us to suffer even more oppression by stopping our magazines, or mail merely because we’re in prison and their in a position to do that.

— a prisoner in WA, November 2002

MIM responds: We agree with this prisoner’s assessment of the value of appealing censorship. And we take this one step further, urging people to send stories about their censorship and appeals to MIM Notes so that we can print them and more widely educate about and expose the censorship.

Georgia prison medical “care” is dangerous

Dear MIM,

[This prison] fails to provide adequate medical care services to inmates. There are serious deficiencies in each major component of this facility, including staffing, intake, sick call, and emergency care. As a result of these deficiencies, inmates frequently do not receive adequate evaluation or treatment for their illnesses, and there exists an ongoing potential for serious harm or death. For instance, this camp houses over 1100 prisoners and has no 3rd shift medical personnel after 10:00 p.m.

In dealing with mental health and suicidal inmates there is a systemic deficiency at this institution, including inadequate screening, lack of counseling and crisis intervention, and lack of on-site mental health personnel, which could lead to inadequate suicide prevention. This creates a lack of mental health input into

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.

both the identification and treatment of suicidal inmates.

—A prisoner in Georgia, November 2002

Oregon denies MIM distributor status

Dear MIM,

This is in response to your letter dated August 3, 2002 regarding authorizing MIM as a distributor of publications they do not publish

You have requested that MIM be authorized to distribute publications which they have not published. As stated in my previous letter our Mail (Inmate) Rule requires new books to be received directly from the publisher. However, we do permit suppliers and distributors who have been approved to send in publications, but these cannot be open to the public.

You asked what was the criterion for selecting these distributors. These distributors must not be open to the general public, must have a tax/business id number, must have a wide distribution, and may only distribute new publications.

You may work through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com to make available publications you do not publish. These large distributors have met the strict criteria required by the Oregon Department of Corrections for distribution of publications to Oregon's prisons

I trust you will be able to work through other approved publishers/distributors to ensure the distribution of publications MIM does not publish.

—Jacy Duran, Central Mail Administrator for Oregon, October 2002

MIM responds: The policy prohibiting prisoners from receiving books from distributors like MIM means that prisoners in Oregon can not receive literature from Books for Prisoners programs. MIM's program, and others across the country, rely on donations of books and money, and can not afford to purchase books for prisoners through pricy distributors like Amazon.com. We have been pursuing authorization for MIM to send in books but continue to meet up with ridiculous arguments like those from the mail administrator printed above.

The "strict criteria" are both meaningless and not enforced. First, Amazon.com distributes used publications. Second, any distributor can get a tax/business ID number, there is no restriction on this, it just costs money. Third, having a "wide distribution" is very subjective but we're certain that MIM has a wider distribution in prisons across the

country than either Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com. But in reality there is no reason for the Oregon DOC to care about a distributor having a wide distribution since they are only concerned with books being sent to Oregon prisoners.

These criteria (possibly fabricated for the sake of a response to MIM's insistent requests) clearly have nothing to do with the security of the Oregon prisons and can only be seen as a way to restrict prisoner's access to educational material. Unlike MIM, Barnes & Nobles and Amazon.com do not accept labor in exchange for books. They charge high prices and do not work with the prisoners to study the books they send in. The only possible outcome of this policy is to limit educational opportunities for prisoners in Oregon.

Prisons Can't Follow THEIR Rules in NY

I am in the box with some good brothers, one of them a couple of years ago stabbed the deputy sup. in the head and a couple of officers. All the brothers down here try to stand strong however these pigs make it hard. They deny brothers stuff they're supposed to have by their directive 4933. You're supposed to be able to change your linen and towels a minimum of 2 times per week. You don't get to change it once. You write to grievance and they take like 20 days to answer when by their rules and regulations they're supposed to answer in 12 days. You have this [womyn] Mrs. Reams who throws them in the garbage when she feels.

The C.O.s down here do their best to antagonize brothers to fight. They deny them the bare necessities when they need them like toilet paper, writing paper, etc. You follow the chain of command like you're supposed to and they still do nothing. They have a real secret society going on in this spot also. If you talk back to them they put a plexiglass screen on your door. Not to mention they already have you in a plexiglass cell. The only part to your cage that is not covered is the door. They let people throw human feces on people. [One prisoner] has been here 7 yrs. and for the past 3 yrs. they let this white boy throw shit on him. Listen brothers, if there is anything I can do to help the struggling brothers in Attica holla at me. I'm going to bring this letter to a close on a balcony of trust that I will hear from you brothers again.

I remain a comrade in struggle,
—a NY prisoner, October 2002

MIM responds: This letter shows that if we can just get prison officials to follow their

own rules we can improve the conditions for comrades who are trying to lead the struggle on the inside. The struggle mentioned in Attica is similar in that the mail room staff has been censoring virtually all mail MIM has tried to send in without abiding by the usual procedures of censorship in NYS. While MIM opposes all censorship, at this stage we are just fighting for Attica to follow their own rules because that would be a concrete step forward, as evidenced by other prisons in NYS where most of our mail reaches our comrades. So far prisoners inside and supporters outside Attica have written to the superintendent to protest the situation there. We have been discussing this campaign with NY comrades in prison for some time and encourage others to help us expand our efforts. People on the outside can get more information on the Attica campaign on the Albany RAIL webpage. Letters of protest should be addressed to Chairman Edward O'mara or Deputy Superintendent of Programs R. Savage at Attica Correctional Facility Box 149 Attica, NY 14011-0149. Please send copies of your letters to MIM.

Censorship in California

It appears that I am not receiving your MIM Notes nor a rejection slip from the mailroom. This does not surprise me because employees of the state perpetuate their personal agenda's when it comes to censoring our mail, which results in our mail, newspapers and magazines either being trashed, returned to sender, or held over for long periods of time without notice, cause or reason.

There are cases in which we do not receive periodicals upon receipt by mailroom. Personnel there will let them accumulate until there's a bunch or a specific day arrives when they process them, so you end up receiving them up to a week or more out of date. Mail also arrives weeks late, longer if you're housing is not located on outside of envelopes. As it stands now we are not even allowed catalogs to order books out of such as the Oklahoma press, tightwad magazines, or any book clubs. I feel this policy is in place to discourage us from obtaining literature and ease the mailrooms workload. There is a method to the department's madness, because we are not allowed to possess more than three books at one given time due to the department's policy (security reasons).

— a prisoner in California (Corcoran),
October 2002

Prisoners: build USW!

I would be honored to be MIM conduit and

USW [United Struggle from Within] representative here in this neo-plantation. As for me, my goal and desire in regards to prison is not to make the material conditions better because easy or soft conditions cause one to get comfortable, lessen ones awareness and changes the intensity of ones focus which is vital to my desire to break down the walls of the neo-plantations and with all intensity crush and obliterate this oppressive and injustice system, but that is just me. I will consult with the others and get their opinion and ideas and hopefully send them for you. One love and we will triumph in the struggle.

—a prisoner in CA (Imperial), November 2002

MIM responds: We need organizers in prison to take up the leadership of the MIM-led prisoner mass organization, United Struggle from Within (USW). This group focuses on fighting against the criminal injustice system and educating prisoners about anti-imperialism. We do wage battles for better conditions, both to make conditions more bearable, and to make it possible for our comrades behind bars to more actively take part in the anti-imperialist struggle. Censorship and other repression makes it very difficult for prisoners to educate themselves and work with MIM.



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

Por el MIM

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 "usurparción 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 consenían 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 porqué 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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