

MIM Notes



January 1, 2003, Nº 273

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

With petition, support builds for persecuted Communist Party of the Philippines founder

Signatories reject charges of 'terrorism'

7 December, 2002

MIM and RAIL comrades collected over 50 signatures on a petition in support of Jose Maria Sison's democratic rights during the hour-long lunch break outside of an anti-war conference in west Los Angeles today. Prof. Sison helped found the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army in the late 1960s and has lived in exile in the Netherlands since the late 1980s. He was a consultant to the National Democratic Front in recent peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines which led to an important agreement on human rights and international humanitarian law.

The United States listed Prof. Sison as a "terrorist" in August without due process and without giving any justification. The government of the Netherlands followed suit and deprived Prof. Sison of the social support he is entitled to under Dutch law as a recognized political refugee. In late October the European Union also added the New People's Army and Prof. Sison to its list of "terrorists." (See the press release from Committee DEFEND on page 7.)

Prof. Sison commented on these charges in a telephone interview conducted by MIM.

"These decisions of the United States have been transported by the Dutch government and applied on me here, so I suffer great consequences. I am criminalized as a terrorist without due process. I am defamed and I am the object

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Some protestors carried photos of the two dead girls in mourning. Others burned effigies of U.S. President Bush.

Koreans step up protests against U.S. troops

4 December, 2002

South Koreans continue to protest the acquittal of the American soldiers who crushed two Korean schoolgirls to death with their military vehicle in June,(1) even after President Bush belatedly apologized for the incident. Protesters range from the militant youth who threw Molotov cocktails at an American military installation last week to the church groups who marched yesterday in Seoul.(2)

Although not everybody protesting this latest tragic incident believes the 35,000 American troops on Korean soil should leave—one restaurant owner decided against posting a "Yankee Go Home" sign in his window because it was "too strong" and instead put up one saying "Americans are not welcome here" (3)—more and more are making that connection. An Anglican priest interviewed at yesterday's protest said, "Rather than being killed by a U.S. army vehicle, I would choose to be killed by our people in north Korea if there is any war."(2)

As we pointed out in the last issue of MIM Notes, public opinion in southern Korea is turning against the United States, with even Korean cutey-pop groups making anti-American videos. Only one third of recently-pollled south Koreans viewed the United States favorably, compared to almost two thirds in 1994. More than 50% think Bush is making trouble with north Korea in order to sell fighter planes to the

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Zionist cops launch cyber-attacks on pro-Palestinian activists

MIM email address forged thousands of times

by MC206

Over the last six months Zionists have spammed and spoofed pro-Palestinian activists in an attempt to drive them off the internet. An article in The Nation described some of these attacks: "Within days of the April incursion of the

Israel Defense Forces into Jenin, pro-Palestine activist Thomas Olson received first a trickle, then thousands, of e-mails with menacing subject lines such as: 'Mecca is for Muslims, Jerusalem is for Jews,' 'Die Hitler Scum' and 'I take it in the ass from Arafat.' What then became daily e-mail bombardments of pro-Israel diatribes, racist cartoons and pornography soon progressed into a much more sinister form of cyber-harassment: Olson became a victim of a type of identity-theft dubbed a 'joe job' by experts, wherein someone using Olson's name and e-mail address sends out thousands of messages that grossly misrepresent his position with respect to

Security advice: Take the 'From' line in an email with a grain of salt

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One such 'job' had Olson declaring 'I love Hitler' to hundreds of his fellow activists. Welcome to the concerted (and ongoing) cyber-campaign to frustrate and intimidate US-based pro-Palestine activists who attempt to organize on the Internet.

"While spammings continue to crash servers and shut down inboxes, these joe

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On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

Letters

Nattering nabob misses big picture

Dear MIM,

I am writing in regards to your newsletter MIM notes Number 271. I am a French Canadian, and I take offence to your naming Quebec as a separate country from Canada. (page 2-What is MIM) We have had a democratic referendum and the majority of Quebecers see themselves as a Canadian. This angers me because when newsletters talk about revolution they must represent facts. If not people will not turn away and regard all newsletters as propaganda, leaving the reader to lump all news letters into the category of "politicized propaganda." If you do not feel you have the ability to edit your letter for simple grammar and punctuation, or are not able to represent facts, stop writing your letter. On a personal note, communist governments would only perpetuate the master slave relationship, which is

created by government. Revolution can not exist with the presence of a government. Outside of Anarchy, there is no such thing as revolution, any government is a betrayal of the revolution. If you have got this far in my rant I will be suprised, (sic.) if not it shows (sic.) just how right I am, communist only listen to other communists.

—An anarchist, December 2002

International Minister replies for MIM: This is an example of the kind of nit-picking letters we get from people afraid of real change and unable to think outside the box handed by the status quo. Rather than actually make a statement, the writer picks at whether Quebec should be referred to as a nation or not and spelling. It's a sure sign the person has nothing substantial to say. (To add hypocrisy to stupidity, the critic included punctuation mistakes in the letter including double periods, punctuation outside quotations and a misspelling of "suprised" and "showes," which we left intact.)

As the writer undoubtedly knows, the

majority of French-speaking Quebecois voted for separation. It was only the English-speakers who saved the referendum for the anti-separation side. The anarchist in question thinks of himself as "Canadian" and gives credit to a "democratic" referendum conducted under bourgeois auspices, but that does not prevent a majority of French-speaking people living in a contiguous territory and sharing a common language from thinking that they are a nation. The writer had nothing to say about that, just his/her own individual opinion—the Anglo-Saxon individualist error that underlies most pseudo-anarchism.

If our critic had read our French language material on our web page, s/he would know that we do not care if Quebec separates, because it would constitute an imperialist country in its own right. However, once again, substance was never the point of this letter.

Countless opportunists advise MIM that the public cannot accept anything outside the "democracy" it is already fed, so they blame us for "propaganda." This is accepting a state of non-change. The people of North America will have to go through thorough and often painful transformation for an end to imperialism to come about. It's a joke to talk about a state-less society otherwise.

month and a half ago I sent a 20 dollar bill in the mail to MIM, along with a letter saying that the money was for a subscription.

I haven't gotten any mim notes yet. I'm not sure if the letter got lost, or if someone stole the envelope, or if it got lost in the mim office. I would never want to believe that someone at mim would take the money secretly, but its been so long i can only imagine. So what can i do? Is there another person I should contact? Do you need my address? I'd like to start getting mim notes asap. Thanks.

—A reader

PIRAO chief replies: We do consider the above a political challenge for a number of reasons.

First as we already replied, it is possible that the letter is lost in the shuffle amongst MIM bureaus or stuck in some in-box pile. MIM is small and the people "get what they pay for," which means there is no professional staff.

There ain't no 9-5 staff to give you Burger King "have it your way service," by which we refer to the fact that MIM Notes does not even advertise for subscribers and does not have any. It's been that way in 2002; yet we still get letters like this above. The fact that MIM is not Burger King is a political point. The fact that MIM Notes is not Burger King and is still expanding circulation very rapidly is the point as far as we are concerned.

Precisely because MIM Notes has no professional staff and in fact the staff pays for the whole thing to go free to the public, we want to attack those who would say the money they sent is stolen. (The converse is the staff working for MIM who occasionally say they are "screwed," an oinkist ideology we also

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

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.

MIM steals the subscription money?

Dear MIM:

This isn't a political question or challenge. It's about a subscription to mim notes. I lived in X for a year and first started reading mim notes there. I really enjoy. I just moved to Y, and I wanted to get a subscription, so about a

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 possible 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.

Police attack Leather Workers in Turkey

For two months now, the Leather Federation of Turkey has started to lay off workers, especially in the region Tuzla where there have been protests before. For that reason the Leather Union decided to make a press statement on the 29th November 2002.

The chairman of the Education Trade Union Sali Kili, the general chairman of the Leather trade union Musa Servi and the chairman of Tuzla leather union Hasan Sonkaya, organizational secretary Grsel Mentese and council member Yusuf Gke together with other workers

were arrested for trying to make a press statement in Tuzla. When they arrived, the police denied permission to hold the press conference. The workers and the other representatives protested against this kind of oppression. Then the police attacked violently and made arrests. On the same evening the second municipal office in Istanbul made a statement and spoke out against these unfair attacks by sides of the government and demanded the immediate release of the people taken under arrest. On the same evening the workers and representatives were

released.

We as the (International League of Peoples' Struggle) ILPS Turkish section protest against this kind of oppression which took place yesterday. It is not illegal to make a press statement, but in Turkey it means to be beaten and arrested. For two months the leather federation is laying off workers. Because of that the workers are striking: they demand their work back.

-LONG LIVE CLASS SOLIDARITY!

-LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL

SOLIDARITY!

—ILPS TURKISH SECTION

MIM adds: The United States supports Turkey militarily, financially and politically. In return Turkey allows the United States to place spy radars in Turkey and base attack aircraft there, as in the last Gulf War. The United States often opportunistically hold Turkey up as a beacon of democracy—despite the abuses described by these Turkish comrades or the governments genocidal war against the Kurds.

Where we stand now: public opinion building

PIRAO's first report on the central task

By PIRAO chief,
November 19, 2002

Following up on the monthly Web Ministry statistical reports of the past, PIRAO is now going to start pulling together a more comprehensive report on the central task to "create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power." PIRAO is the People's Internationalist Rear-Area Organization, MIM's "army," which does not carry weapons but instead performs the mundane logistical work necessary to put out the newspaper, promote MIM's web presence, etc. This first report will try to catch us up to the present so that future reports may focus on monthly data.

"About forty thousand workers have been buying Pravda; far more read it. Even if war, prison, Siberia, and hard labour should destroy five or even ten times as many—this section of the workers cannot be annihilated. It is alive. It is imbued with the revolutionary spirit, is anti-chauvinist. It alone stands in the midst of the masses, with deep roots in the latter, as the champion of the internationalism of the toilers, the exploited, and the oppressed."

--V.I. Lenin, 1915

Lenin reported that in the 1905 upheaval the mushy "left" sneered at him and even as late as World War I itself, Russian people still thought of Lenin as "insane," all the more so because he opposed the war. Did Lenin have no political common sense? Nor did Lenin just oppose the war: he broke ties with all previously fraternal organizations that did not. He sent out Zinoviev to represent him at major anti-war conferences to say it would be better to be 20% the size of a larger party that so much as vacillated on the question of the war. Yes, it was an elitist, authoritarian, top-down thing to do, to say "to hell with public opinion." The science of solving political problems is not just a matter of public opinion or voting.

Lenin says he had 40,000 subscribers in 1915 and he was especially proud of the fact that thousands of exploited workers paid their own money for

Bolshevik newspapers. He found that the workers were unwilling to pay as much or as often for the Liquidators' newspapers.

I raise this because we need to understand that MIM's public opinion work is already in the league where Lenin's was in 1915. That's right: MIM has already proven that our line does not put us out of reach of the masses despite the endless chatter of the opportunists. It only raises why the opportunists keep saying MIM line puts us out of range of the masses. Yes, the other organizations are bigger than us, sometimes much bigger. That only proves that MIM is getting done more per comrade. That's not to mention that the Black Panthers already proved that there is no need to water anything down. It is possible to hoist the banner MIM has and place it in front of people to consider. We cannot expect more at this moment, as Lenin understood and we will get into more in detail.

In starting this new series of statistical reports on MIM work, we have decided that it is not worth the security risk to release information on our total printed paper circulation. We will say that after September 11th, 2001, the state succeeded in intimidating some of our circles but others stepped up and MIM Notes printing roughly increased by one-third. Since that time, that crude measure of circulation is up another 17% annually. Nonetheless, it is not a secret that MIM's web site attracts 25,000 visitors a month as I write this report in addition to those who pick up the MIM Notes in paper form.

As we explained before in the 2001 party congress resolution on defining "masses," Lenin's readers were more motivated than ours on average, not necessarily more motivated than our prison readers who show every sign of doing what Russian workers did in Lenin's day—read the paper thoroughly and then struggle hard to pass it on to someone else.

Yet as Lenin himself pointed out even in his day, Americans have advantages in their political work too. Namely, technology and advances in communications make it possible for

large numbers of Americans to hear something quickly. In fact it is true that the Internet is more widespread in the imperialist countries and the capabilities of that Internet are greater also.

Just looking at the web traffic alone, MIM's non-graphics web traffic has been growing at an 80% annual rate for more than a year. At that rate, it will surpass Lenin's 1915 circulation in a year or maybe four if we consider that MIM is responsible for a larger population than Lenin was in 1915 and we want to consider a per-capita circulation rate. On this point I speak of the web page by itself, never mind our printed word.

All across the Internet, people recognize that MIM is most out on the "limb." We are the ones promoting Stalin, Mao and our thesis on the labor aristocracy—not in an half-hearted or defensive way. For that, of course we have come up for countless opportunist criticisms that we should "wage the battle for the middle," without first answering the question of "middle of what?" (1) (The same question goes for those speaking of a "left": left-wing of what, the National Bolsheviks? The left-wing of those seeking a popular way to go to war in Iraq?) Countless people calling themselves "leftist" or even "Maoists" tell MIM to fight for the "middle" of the "masses," without defining either and thereby surrendering to exploiters. They fail to understand that opportunists spontaneously generate at a dime a dozen rate. There is no need to water things down for people, and MIM's current circulation numbers prove it. Whatever MIM says will be watered down by 10 times as many people than MIM currently organizes anyway.

If we are in the midst of internationalists, then going to win over the middle is appropriate. Seeking to win over the middle of a chauvinist "left" or chauvinist anything misses the point of what our goals are right now. In some circumstances, Lenin advised us to take our lumps and be unpopular. The party sets up a banner or beacon. It shows another way, even while the vast majority opposes that way. Yet if no one sets up that beacon, it takes that much longer and that much more suffering to get to where

society has to go, whether it likes it or not right now.

"Going for the middle" in Lenin's day would have meant supporting the war in exchange for worker pensions. In Lenin's day, only his paper stood against the war, and even in Russia where there was hardly any labor aristocracy, Lenin was in the tiny minority right up to World War I. So what should we expect in an undefeated imperialist country where the labor aristocracy is proportionately much larger? To be more popular than Lenin? What's crazy is the people claiming to be Leninist and saying that.

Even more crazy, if revolution is on the agenda in the united States, even within two years, MIM is no further away from being prepared than Lenin was in 1915. He had many advantages to be sure, but we have our own, and if there is to be a revolution in the united States in two years, that is what will be relevant, not Lenin's advantages in his circumstances. I am not saying we are going to have a revolution in two years, only that to argue MIM should surrender the cardinal principles on account of being in touch with the "masses" is wrong, because we have the example of Lenin in 1915 to see what can happen in two years. To be quite frank about our times, today, we have every possibility of far greater horrors and de-stabilization than what Lenin saw in World War I in the imperialist countries and the Third World already experiences the devastating conditions Lenin did in 1915.

People stuck in "lesser evils" electoral politics thinking are unable to see the dialectical potential in a moment. That's why they advise us to "wage the battle for the middle." They don't have MIM's experience of knowing what political views go with what buzzwords in the imperialist countries when it comes to some Third World "Maoists" criticizing

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Correction

We apologize for our October 15th article referring to "British Columbia (BC) First Nations." There is no such thing as "BC First Nations." There are First Nations in conflict with British Columbia.

‘Waging the struggle for the middle’

A case study in muddled opportunism

Right now, MIM is doing a little public opinion work on a new web forum where there are many youth and others considering the subjects of Marx and Stalin. It sounds good. Our mechanical opportunists would probably advise us to pursue the “middle” in such a context—if not that context, what context? Isn’t MIM “sectarian” not to pursue the “middle” even in that context? Shouldn’t a forum where people are interested in Marx and Stalin be a good place to win over the political middle? After all, why would people be there talking about Marx and Stalin in the first place? However, it turns out that issuing airy and vague statements like “waging the battle for the middle” is only possible coming from those who do not carry out internationalist practice in the imperialist countries.

Indeed, politically within the imperialist countries, the “win the middle” approach may seem correct at first blush. However, if we get into the struggle we find that even amongst 15-year-olds in imperialist countries in this forum we are working in right now, one poster hates Jews more than any other religion. Another major poster moderating one of the groups says “tut-tut” to the anti-Semitism, but then says that Nepal and Philippines people on the WHOLE have no chance of making an advanced revolution. He refers to the CPP as “bandits.” Another one there actually defending

Stalin speaks in favor of eugenics. He and another Stalin defender refer to a web site where the authors have spoken for gassing Jews, expelling all Mexicans—and when confronted with this fact they cover for it. It becomes clear that amongst these imperialist country people (and this is in fact common, not just a factor in that particular forum), it is possible—barely—to talk about Russia and Turkey—who “coincidentally” appear closest to being white amongst those being discussed. The entire Third World is irrelevant to them.

Yet, if MIM were to pursue the middle in that forum, these all would be in “our camp,” including some closet national Bolsheviks who would go for the ride—because the rest of the population on the forum is worse. Well of course, some of these people are buying the MIM Theory magazines, and using the MIM web site to help defend Stalin, but even here, can we say these are part of our camp? Of course ordinary readers in the forum will perceive MIM as being in the same camp, regardless of what we say or do, since we are pro-Stalin. There is reality to that. However, there is no sense in which we should cater to that middle. Quite the contrary, that “middle” has an enemy aspect that has to be transformed. We can even say that enemy aspect is principal and the need for self-transformation higher than the need for unity. Any other

approach is to make a mockery of naming the principal contradiction the oppressed nations versus imperialism, but that is exactly what the world’s supposed Maoists are advising MIM. Naming the principal contradiction as Maoists have means that we split the difference on other issues, not questions of chauvinism. That’s what it means to answer the “middle of what?” question.

This is something Lenin understood. It’s easy to issue vague proclamations about what is politically wise, and tactically smart. It’s also lazy, a way of putting off the horror of just how far the struggle has to go to get the humyn species through this violent period of decaying imperialism. Lenin had no problem appearing “insane” for more than a decade from the time of 1902’s “What Is To Be Done?” and the midst of World War I when Russians finally saw the light:

“Let us, however, consider in general and in the light of present-day events the meaning of the ‘unity’ slogan. The proletariat’s unity is its greatest weapon in the struggle for the socialist revolution. From this indisputable truth it follows just as indisputably that, when a proletarian party is joined by a considerable number of petty-bourgeois elements capable of hampering the struggle for the socialist revolution, unity with such elements is harmful and perilous to the cause

of the proletariat. Present-day events have shown that, on the one hand, the objective conditions are ripe for an imperialist war (i.e., a war reflecting the last and highest stage of capitalism), and, on the other hand, that decades of a so-called peaceful epoch have allowed an accumulation of petty-bourgeois and opportunist junk within the socialist parties of all the European countries. Some fifteen years ago, during the celebrated ‘Bernsteiniaid’ in Germany — and ever earlier in many other countries — the question of the opportunist and alien elements within the proletarian parties had become a burning issue. There is hardly a single Marxist of note who has not recognised many times and on various occasions that the opportunists are in fact a non-proletarian element hostile to the socialist revolution. The particularly rapid growth of this social element of late years is beyond doubt: it includes officials of the legal labour unions, parliamentarians and the other intellectuals, who have got themselves easy and comfortable posts in the legal mass movement, some sections of the better paid workers, office employees, etc., etc.”(2)

This quote from Lenin is relevant to my mention of the Internet forum discussing Marx and Stalin. It’s clear Lenin was looking at these “socialist parties” of his day the same way MIM looks at this supposed “left” forum on Marx and Stalin.

Where we stand now: public opinion building

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MIM. When MIM listens to people speak politically, we know what the implications of what those people are saying are. Two people listening to the same persyn speaking may hear false consciousness or conscious chauvinism. Being able to distinguish that means having both Marxist-Leninist-Maoist discernment and experience. Proving who is right is a matter of comparative study of class consciousness, something Sakai did in his/her book titled “Settlers.” There are a lot of ways of knowing whether something is rooted in the material reality of parasitism or just false consciousness, not least of all the actions of the population in question in relation to obtaining a share of superprofits.

A summation of circulation development so far

One tactic that has worked from the beginning in the 1980s is taking MIM Notes to busy streets, crowded parking lots or demonstrations. Distributing MIM Notes at a large rally is going to be more efficient than what you can do on our web page. The whole web site distributes 100 documents in a good hour, so if you go to one good rally, at least for that moment you are beating the whole web site’s

work, not a small feat considering all the work that goes into the web site both by us and search engines—with 2 gigabytes of material on the web site that took so much work to do.

In passing, I would like to address a difference of opinion about distribution. Most organizations attempting independent media say it’s important to “talk” to people while “selling” them a newspaper—“mass line” blah, blah. Instead of “sales” we prefer to build speaking events, petitions and rallies by accosting people with a few words as they go by.

MIM’s tactic is especially suited to what MIM is trying to do—which is to set up a beacon, not fantasize that advanced people with false consciousness just need to speak a few minutes on the corner with a salespersyn. In some towns it is possible to carry out “mass line” while selling papers. MIM does not mostly use that tactic but our circulation and the interaction we have with the masses is beyond our capability to handle.

Of course there is also the question of professional distributors, both periodical distributors and bookstores. This tactic has had some limited success through the years, but it is one of the most costly ones.

Something I would like to address in the same context is the importance of people actually distributing the papers they receive or pick up. In the past, thanks to a lack of alternatives, we have had a fatuous attitude toward people distributing the paper. In 2001, even before 911 but completed shortly after 911, we had a shake-out where we cut the deadwood or incapable or gutless distributors. It cut two-thirds out of a particular kind of petty-bourgeoisie we had hanging about. It’s partly a question of distinguishing hand-holding from leadership. Part of leadership is indicating to people what they are already capable of and not accepting “no” as an answer when it comes to someone’s capabilities. In the small-minded, hand-holding, ultra-democratic petty-bourgeois mindset, comrades reinforce each others’ lack of aggressiveness. In connection to this a whole friendly but bureaucratic style of work arose that emphasized the individual instead of procedure. It was onerous but actually failed even in distributing basic information about distribution.

In a communist party, especially in the departments connected to our central task, it is not possible for us to tolerate an approach where procedures do not match visions. We are not here to unleash individuals, which is impossible to do

scientifically anyway. We are here to figure out how to maximize a class’s participation and struggle. That means forward-looking procedure, simple accessible procedure.

MIM Notes writers, producers and distributors have considerable experience now. We are ready to ramp up distribution as support comes in. It would not take much to make MIM Notes the largest circulation newspaper in all communist or “socialist” history in the united States.

Further news on the central task

In the future, we would like to report on independent institutions of the oppressed aside from the public opinion question. At the moment MIM has several books that need to be printed. One includes a primer from the new Noble Young Lords Party. We need money for printing these books.

I already explained that newspaper printing increased one-third after 911 and then another 17% in the last year. There are a number of reasons MIM is not emphasizing the number of the print run that much. One is that newspaper publishers take surveys to measure how many times each printed paper actually gets read. MIM has no access to such a survey just yet. In prison the printed word gets passed on many times and for that

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November, 2002 Central Task Report

TABLE 1

Summary statistics comparing November 2001 and November 2002

<u>Statistic</u>	<u>Nov01</u>	<u>Nov02</u>	<u>Change</u>
Number of different computers MIM served	15,731	23,553	+49.7%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2,384	2,346	-1.6%
MIM data transferred (Gb)	3.072	6.797	+121%
MIM Notes printed copies compared with pre-911			+88%
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months compared with year earlier			-25%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	2,279	4,046	+77.5%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	158	250	+58.2%

by PIRAO Chief
December 5, 2002

The above Table 1, as promised, attempts to integrate some more data beyond what the Web Minister reports used to provide. We are now including some comparisons of our print runs of MIM Notes and our prison circulation. Also, we now try to list the statistics in rough order of importance.

This month I take blame for two negative aspects of the report. One is that prison circulation is down from a year ago. Two, is that our growth rate in computer users of our web page also declined. Assuredly though, both are thanks to temporary problems. In particular, we had a

Public opinion building

Continued from previous page...

by itself, MIM can be considered in touch with the masses. Overall, though our idea of printed circulation is no where close to being as accurate as our Internet statistics.

Another reason that we do not talk about the print run that much is that we have learned from concrete coordination work that the print circulation influences the Internet reading. In fact, the Internet numbers tell us something about what is going on with our print circulation. There is still no better set of statistics for the MIM central task than the Web Minister reports which we are going to be expanding now as "Central Task" reports.

A longer version of this report is available at www.etxt.org/Politics/MIM/pirao/centraltask1.html.

Notes:

1. For just such a vacuous expression missing the answer to "middle of what?" see Bob Avakian: "I was thinking not only about our strategy of United Front under the Leadership of the Proletariat (UFuLP) and its application in general but more particularly how the 'fight for the middle' (as we have sometimes described it) will go on throughout the whole period of political preparation for revolution. And then, when a revolutionary situation finally emerges, this 'fight for the middle' will be intensified." (Revolutionary Worker, "Great Objectives and Grand Strategy: The Basic Masses in Their Revolutionary Expression, and Winning Over the Middle Strata: Communism vs. 'Calvinism,'" December 23, 2001.)

major glitch in circulation in November, but the first 4 days of December are back on track for 80% annual growth.

The agitation page had only 224 hits. However, at least the California bandcal.pdf received 278 readings. The RAIL rail.html had 227 hits and the Philadelphia RAIL page had 70 visitors while California had 117.

Other details:

* The Joma Sison interview in .mp3 format had a combined 286 hits and the Sharon puppet poster garnered 493.

* 978 Notas Rojas articles taken, 210 for first-place "Yanqui" article on Panama (211 hits in 2001!).

* 540 visits to our Chinese page, with 232 hits on Tiananmen story.

* 192 visits to French (with over 200 hits on the leading article).

* 154 visits to our German page.

* 122 visits to our Russian page.

* 117 visits to Turkish page.

Standard disclaimers:

1. The numbers in these reports are conservative estimates for a number of

TABLE 2

Top five theory articles by number of times requested

<u>Theory article</u>	<u>Requests</u>
DC Murder	530
Myths of Mao	439
Congress 2002	
fascism definition	349
Prison Labor MT11	345
What Is MIM?	323

reasons.

a. The number of computer users refers to number of computers. The number of users could be higher or lower, because some computers serve pages to more than one individual, because individuals share computers and because conversely individuals use computers in more than one place.

b. The number of pages served should be thought of as a minimum, because statistics do not count re-readings or re-servings from local computer memory. Nor do they count sharing of pages once downloaded.

c. Most but not all graphics served are excluded from the figures to cut back on

increasing "page" averages just by calling up various graphics. Without specifically programming this, a casual analyst will overcount web traffic thanks to graphics.

2. Tracking where computers are from is bound to have some error as many wise users intentionally surf the web and leave a false trail. On the other hand, we doubt that such error means that non-U.S. readership is lower than reported, given that we do not count .com, .net and .edu readership.

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.

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!

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

Make anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Contact MIM in regards to this campaign by writing mim3@mim.org

<u>Distribute #</u>	<u>Cost per year</u>
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 do distribution, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up higher. If you are not willing to do distribution, 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.

Koreans step up protests against U.S. troops

Continued from page 1...

south Korean puppet regime.(4)

Amerikans should listen to what their former good friends in southern Korea are saying with growing force. There should be no reason for Koreans to suspect Bush is meddling in their affairs for profit—never mind that they are likely correct to suspect so. It's difficult enough to get along. Amerikans need to get tough with their war mongering leaders. Until they do, they have no reason to complain if restaurateurs bar them from their favorite barbeque joint in Seoul.

Indeed, they should be lucky to only face a restaurant boycott or taunting on the street. Earlier this year off-duty Amerikan soldiers clashed with south Koreans on their way to protest the schoolgirl killings. Accounts differ—the Koreans claim the soldiers mocked their leaflets and attacked an old man putting him in the hospital—but in any case the

protestors physically forced one of the soldiers to attend their rally and read a statement apologizing for the death of the schoolgirls and the attack on the protestors.

On one level, this particular GI likely had nothing to do with the girls' deaths and was an "innocent bystander." On another, all GIs in Korea have been sent there as an occupying army and are hence natural targets of Korean resentment. To U.S. troops who feel caught in a trap, MIM says, "yes, you are." The imperialists can let a few men suffer the consequences of their system. GIs who recognize that they are pawns in a system of war should take action to remove themselves from pawn status by opposing some—or all—duties. They definitely should not take out their anger on Koreans.

MIM has nothing against the south Korean protestors carrying out some ad



No galbi sweet ribs for G.I. Joe. Some restaurants in Seoul closed their doors to Amerikans.

hoc re-education. In principle, they were doing the same thing the revolutionary Chinese government did when they imprisoned Allyn and Adelle Rickett for spying on the eve of the Korean War. As the Ricketts describe in their book "Prisoners of Liberation," their imprisonment and forced self-criticism made them drop chauvinist assumptions

about Amerikan lives and self-interests being more important than those of the Chinese or Koreans.

—MC206

Notes:

1. MIM Notes 261, 1 Jul 2002; MIM Notes 262, 15 Jul 2002.
2. AP video report, 3 Dec 2002.
3. Los Angeles Times, 27 Nov 2002.
4. MIM Notes 272, 15 Dec 2002.

Zionist cops launch cyber-attacks on pro-Palestinian activists

Continued from page 1...

jobs in particular have been smearing identities and wasting countless hours valuable to the activist community. University of Illinois law professor and pro-Palestine organizer Francis Boyle, for example, returned from a summer vacation to find 55,000 e-mails waiting in his inbox—most of them return-to-senders from a mass e-mail he supposedly wrote saying, 'When I see in the newspapers that civilians in Afghanistan or the West Bank were killed by American or Israeli troops, I don't really care.' Boyle—a former board member of Amnesty International USA and outspoken critic of the war in Afghanistan—spent four days sorting through the e-mails, deleting failed deliveries and apologizing to angry colleagues."(1)

maoist3@yahoo.com has also been a target. S/he explains: "Recently, the Zionists/FBI have been ITAL forging END 'From' lines in emails. The purpose has been to create conflict between 'FROM' and 'TO' people. Thus hundreds of emails forging my identity in the past three months have included inane Zionist messages to Islamic groups. The weeks of tedious work dedicated to forging my email identity at all hours of the day and night is actually a kind of compliment from the enemy, the kind Mao spoke of when he said 'it is a good thing when the enemy attacks.' The work is so tiresome that the Zionists are now sometimes just copying and pasting mild mainstream articles on the Middle East in my name instead of doing the usual work of writing childish or incredibly stupid posts with a Zionist spin—often times starting out sounding pro-Arab to get attention and ending with pro-Zionist propaganda. It goes to show what kind of money and time the Zionists and FBI have on their hands.

"My advice to people: totally discount emails from people and their 'FROM' line. If you get into a dialogue with someone via email, then you have some chance of knowing who you are dealing with, because it's not as easy to forge a whole machine's existence instead of just the 'FROM' line. If you get an actual reply to something you send to the 'FROM' address, and that reply shows proof that it knows exactly what you said in your letter, then you might finally be speaking with someone who is not forged. If you receive an email that you suspect is not genuine, forward it back to the address it came from. You may be told that it was a forgery. The key is to take the 'FROM' line with a grain of salt. For example, the liberate-palestine Yahoo group email address [cited as a spammer by the owner of the Yahoo! 'Stalinist list'] is likely caused by the same Zionist hacker forging my existence. It is not likely the liberate-palestine owner in reality, but someone wishing to cause bad blood between the "Stalinist" list and the liberate-palestine list.

"Also keep in mind that the hackers have proved that someone exists working 24 hours a day to create forged appearances by email. There are countless possibilities to create leadership splits in organizations, the way the FBI did to the Black Panthers by forging letters about the leaders there. Some concrete solutions to this problem include using software with SSH tunnels—not crap like Yahoo! groups software. Another possibility is to establish your public PGP or GPG key and sign articles with it. Yet the most commonsense approach is to communicate by email with people making sure that the other persyn

demonstrates knowledge of what you said and some kind of concrete details of what is going on. We do not recommend that people speak more openly with concrete details, because that too risks security. We only tell people that it is easy to forge a 'FROM' address but more difficult for a forger to receive email on behalf of the people being abused by the forger."

Nor is the problem of forgery limited to e-mail. MIM recently received a letter purportedly from an organization doing work against the U.S. blockade of Cuba which contained vicious anti-communist materials, of the ridiculous and depraved "communists eat babies" variety. Clearly the intention was to spark some bad blood between MIM and this other organization.

Some pro-Palestinian activists asked the FBI to investigate and prosecute the spammers and hackers under "anti-hate speech," "anti-cyber harassment" and "anti-spam" laws. "The FBI said there was little they could do to stop the e-mail impersonations from continuing.

"While these e-mails are a nuisance, offensive and intimidating, the FBI didn't find anything illegal: There haven't been threats that rise to the level of a hate crime, no money has been stolen, public safety has not been endangered and, as far as we can tell, our computers have not been hacked or "technically intruded into" as one agent put it, [said Monica Tarazi, head of the New York chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.] "The offensive messages are all protected by the First Amendment."(3)

The FBI's claims are contradicted by e-mails containing detailed information about users' hard drives and one threatening "maybe one day I will kill

your children." This illustrates the hypocrisy of Amerikan "anti-hate" and "free speech" laws. The state prosecutor took Mumia Abu Jamal's quotation of Mao's abstract dictum "political power grows from the barrel of a gun" out of context and used it against him at trial—yet according to the FBI a threat against a specific individual's children "was not specific enough to qualify as a real threat."

In another case the FBI claimed they would have to make a copy of an activist's hard drive to track down the hackers. The activist wisely decided not to turn over his computer.(1)

Asking the FBI to protect the speech of internationalists devoted to real peace and economic justice is asking the fox to guard the henhouse. In the hands of the bourgeois state, Liberal, "politically neutral" "anti-hate speech" laws are handy weapons against those who stand up to imperialist machinations. Instead, MIM encourages activists to learn basic security measures such as those outlined in this story. In Weimar Germany, the Communists had to physically defend their "right" to free speech from Nazi hooligans. The arena has changed, but the today struggle is similar. We must rely principally on our own efforts to defend our ability to organize and disseminate information and analysis. We must develop our technical expertise and common-sense.

Notes:

1. The Nation, 28 Oct 2002, <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article784.shtml>.
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/zionisthackers.html>.
3. Wired, 23 Aug 2002, <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,54708,00.html>.

International appeal

Remove Prof. Jose Maria Sison (Philippines) from the E.U.'s List of 'Terrorists'!

MIM received this press release from Committee DEFEND (<http://defendsison.be>), an organization based in Europe working to defend Prof. Sison's democratic rights.

On 28 October 2002, the Council of the European Union added Jose Maria Sison and the New People's Army (NPA) of the Philippines to its list of 'terrorist' persons, groups and entities. This decision was taken by written procedure, without discussion or due process, without motivation whatsoever. Measures to be taken against the organizations and individuals on the list include "the freezing of funds and other financial assets or economic resources, as well as police and judicial cooperation."

With this decision, the European Union toes the line of the United States. On 9 August 2002, the US State Department listed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army as 'foreign terrorist organizations', asking other governments to do the same. On 12 August 2002, the US Treasury Department listed Jose Maria Sison as a 'terrorist' whose assets must be frozen.

Whenever the criminalization and the repression of national liberation movements and other revolutionary organiza-

tions and individuals are concerned, the European Union applies exactly the same unjust and undemocratic standards and methods as the United States. In the final analysis, the EU goes along with US President Bush in his global war against states, regimes, movements and individuals that reject and resist the imperialist world order.

The US is targeting Prof. Jose Maria Sison because he has been a leading figure of the Philippine national democratic revolution for almost forty years. He was one of the pioneers who revived the anti-imperialist movement in the Philippines in the early 60s. He re-established the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). For nine years, he was dictator Marcos' most important political prisoner.

Today, Prof. Jose Maria Sison is living in the Netherlands as a political refugee under the protection of the Refugee Convention and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. He is the chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP, the revolutionary alliance to which the CPP and the NPA belong) in the peace negotiations with the Govern-

ment of the Republic of the Philippines. These negotiations have been facilitated by the Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian governments, and the European Parliament has endorsed them through several resolutions.

The CPP, the NPA and the NDFP have been leading an exemplary people's struggle for national liberation and democracy, against foreign domination, exploitation and oppression. As Prof. Sison puts it, "the word liberation is what the US hates most, because it means freedom from its imperialist system of exploitation".

We reject the notion that the struggle for national liberation, including armed struggle, is equated to terrorism. We are concerned that legitimate political organizations and individuals, including legitimate asylum seekers and recognized political refugees, may become the target of unjustified repressive measures in the guise of fighting terrorism.

We demand from the European Union and its member states:

- * the repeal of the Council Common Position 2002/847/CFSP "on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism", and of the Council Decision

2002/848/EC "on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view of combating terrorism";

- * the removal of Jose Maria Sison from the list mentioned in the Council Decision 2002/848/EC;

- * the full respect for the protection of Jose Maria Sison as a refugee under the relevant international conventions;

- * the refusal of any possible demand for his extradition.

We demand from the European Union and its member states to refrain from any legislation or action that may hinder the legitimate political activities of organizations and individuals.

We support the procedure to be introduced by Prof. Sison, with the help of an international team of human rights lawyers, before the Court of the European Community in Luxemburg, against his inclusion in the EU's list of 'terrorists'.

We vow to extend Prof. Sison financial support for his basic necessities and for his legal defense, even if this runs counter to the decision of the Council of the European Union. For us, the values of justice and solidarity are more important.

With petition, support builds for persecuted Communist Party of the Philippines founder

Continued from page 1...

of official incitement to public hatred. My life is threatened and I suffer material and moral damages. I am supposed to be prevented from moving around from one country to another. And I am told that I can not participate in the peace negotiations if there would be any between the Manila Govt. and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

"It's so clear that my basic human right to life is violated by the withdrawal of these benefits. So the result is that there has been a public outrage here against this insanity committed by the Dutch government, and these benefits have been returned. But still, cruelly and stupidly, I'm supposed to get them back within the framework of the sanction regulation against terrorism. So they're really clever and cruel. They would like to give back those things unjustly taken away and more unjustly I am made to take them back within the sanction regulation against terrorism. But I am not getting them back unless there is a de-listing, a removal of my name from the so-called terrorist list."

Many of the dozens who signed the petition had heard of Prof. Sison's case, either by word of mouth or through radio interviews such as MIM's, which aired on KCSB 91.9 in Santa Barbara. This is

a welcome sign that the work MIM and others have been doing is paying off.

Others signed as a matter of principle after only a cursory introduction to the case. They opposed U.S. government policy such as the "USA Patriot Act" which makes it possible to sanction individuals like Prof. Sison without due process or transparency and try them in secret military tribunals. One university lecturer said that he hoped somebody would be petitioning for him when he gets arrested for some of the unpatriotic things he said in class. Indeed, this is one of the reasons MIM has taken up Prof. Sison's campaign. If we can embarrass the U.S. government and turn public opinion against these measures now, we can prevent further arrests.

A few people said that they could not sign until they reviewed the charges against Sison. Comrades gave them copies of MIM Notes with more information but also pointed out there were no specific charges against Prof. Sison. He apparently has been listed because of his association with the New People's Army (NPA) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

When Colin Powell added the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA) to the United States' list of "foreign terrorist organizations" on August 9 he claimed

that the NPA "has killed U.S. citizens [in the Philippines]." This was apparently a reference to the alleged NPA assassination of Col. James Rowe of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) more than a decade ago. The JUSMAG trains Filipino officers in counter-insurgency tactics; hence Col. Rowe was a combatant, not a civilian.

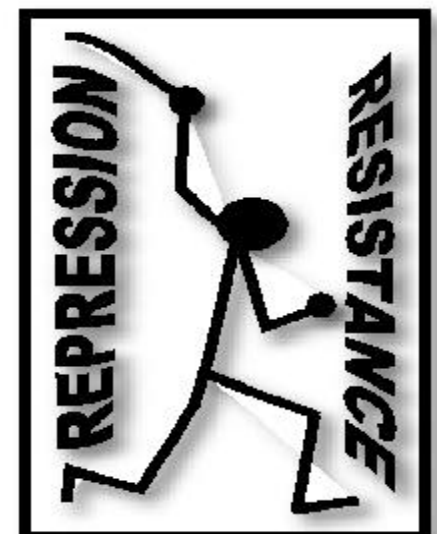
Colin Powell also mentioned that the NPA "has also killed, injured, or kidnapped numerous Philippine citizens, including government officials." What Powell did not mention is that people's war such as the NPA wages targets police and military forces, not the general civilian population. People's war should not be counted as "terrorism."

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

Without popular support, the People's War would have a severe disadvantage against any invader or lackey regime of imperialism.

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

All the hype about "terrorism" merely serves to cover the United States true interests in sending troops to the Philippines: preserving an important military base and neo-colony.



Kanadian simulation game takes honors for most realistic

“Superpower”

<http://www.dreamcatchergames.com/superpower/>
2002

“Superpower” is a computer program—a video game that simulates the world economy, politics, demography, diplomacy and military in 1997 based on CIA and U.S. military databases. It deserves a prize as the most realistic world politics game yet available on the store shelf and a good candidate for best strategy game overall.

Ideology

We are not a great fan of the gradation of government systems seen in “Superpower,” with “democracy” the pinnacle and something called “totalitarian democracy” encompassing Iran, China and many others. However, we are glad that the Dreamcatcher at least attempted to model this question. Players can choose their form of government and attempt to install similar governments to it in the rest of the world, but ideology does not play a very big role in the sense of coming up with long-term visions that can serve as a guide to a solution to the world’s problems. “Rebels” in each country are upset by the same things and their ideology is almost non-existing, dictated by geopolitics. Countries where the economy manages to employ everyone will have the least potential for rebellion.

In “democracy” there is supposedly some built-in opposition to war while other systems have much better design for war according to Dreamcatcher and other programming companies. On the “human development” graph, “democracy” does the best according to Dreamcatcher. The depiction of “democracy” as peaceful and prosperous is a common propaganda feature in strategy games on the market including “Civilization” and its successors. To its credit, Dreamcatcher lists numerous poor countries as “democracies,” because of their electoral systems. Many chauvinists use the word “democracy” to refer only to rich countries, thereby mixing together the results of exploitation with an electoral system.

Geopolitics

We are sure that nations ranging from Armenia and Georgia to Tajikistan will notice that they are not included amongst 140 “important” nations in the game, while some much smaller ones are in the game. Several countries were lumped into “Russia.”

Nonetheless, the accomplishment of “Superpower” in incorporating data about 140 countries is unparalleled. The game simulates the diplomatic and military attitudes of each of the 140 coun-

tries. This introduces a much-needed “diversity” into the global picture. Whether the programmers got the diplomatic data exactly right or not for each country is not important compared with confronting such a reality, that each country has its own attitude towards the other 139.

That diversity does not mean that we can come to the anti-scientific conclusion that the world cannot be broken into two instead of 140. On any question, the world can be broken into two, with countries either being 50% or more pro- or anti-. In “Superpower” each country can be described as being in one of two camps based on its attitude toward the player’s country.

Today MIM speaks of the “Third World” which is a large collection of Latin American, African and Asian countries with similar interests opposing their own exploitation and super-exploitation at the hands of the imperialists. The common economic interests of the Third World override anything their temporary government leaders might say.

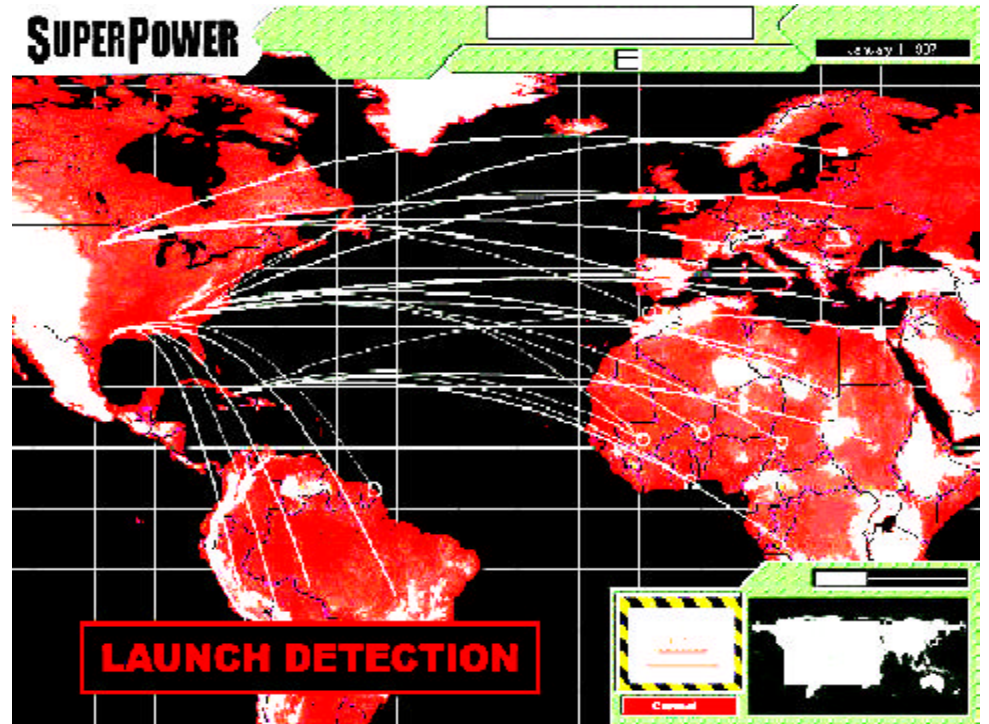
The game starts with the United States in dominance with allies in Western Europe. Anyone playing the “conquer the world” strategy starts at a disadvantage unless choosing to play as the United States. Russia starts only with Ukraine as an apparent ally and China has no allies according to the Dreamcatcher.

The ironic impact of seeing all the geopolitical conflicts that arise in this simulation of the 140 countries interacting is to remind communists of the bitter past in which N. Khrushchev succeeded Stalin as leader of the Soviet Union and then proceeded to split the international communist movement by condemning Stalin in 1956. Various communist parties split away from the Soviet Union, because Khrushchev and his supporters did not realize the value of what they had.

In this game, we see that it is very difficult to make an ally while other powers contend and cause disruptions of various kinds. Even a very deliberate strategy aimed at alliance will be difficult for Russia and China now—purely on a geopolitical level. Khrushchev and the people supporting him did not appreciate how far how fast Stalin had taken the Soviet Union and made the foolish mistake of “changing horses mid-stream.”

Secret services

The best part of this reactionary game and a feature that redeems its many flaws is the depiction of what the CIA or its equivalents do each turn. The usual options of sabotage and spying are there. What is most excellent is how the secret services are linked to domestic politics and geopolitics.



The player has the option each turn of trying to rig elections in other countries, stage coup d’etats, assassinate other countries’ leaders and carry out acts of terrorism—each with the possibility of framing another country. Each action can influence public opinion globally. A successful election-rigging is potentially more effective than conquering a country for outright colonial purposes, because the country’s resources are at the disposal of the conqueror without the lack of enthusiasm and provoking of rebellion seen in countries where elections are not rigged.

People who have illusions about electoral politics need to understand that not only do secret services and militaries provide money, assassinate candidates, threaten others and rig elections and intimidate entire nations to vote in certain ways, but also they create terrorist incidents to manipulate public opinion. In the 1960s, the U.S. military made plans to carry out terrorism on U.S. cities to frame Cuba with.(1) If the reader is one of those naive people asking “why would they do that?” even playing this game will demonstrate some reasons.

The U.S. military is still denying that the U.S. Government arranged its own navy ship the “Maine” to be sunk as a pretext for the war with Spain in 1898. In any case, no one denies that the sinking of the “Maine” and other spectacular incidents can mobilize public opinion for war. As long as there are secret services—which means as long as there are states—there will be motivations and pretexts for creating incidents that mobilize public opinion for war. The crucial catch is that they are “secret.” There can be no way of knowing all of what

governments do and this creates a sufficient impulse for species self-destruction by itself.

One reason for such manipulation of the public by government leaders not included in the game is corporate bribery of politicians—what Amerikkans refer to euphemistically as “special interests,” so as not to rock the capitalist boat. It should never be forgotten that people ranging from the oil business to arms contractors to secret services gizmo manufacturers benefit from war. The latest is that robot manufacturers are making money selling remote-controlled weapons like the “Predator” that killed six people in Yemen in November, the Lockheed Martin “Micro Air Vehicle” that has a six-inch wingspan for spying, the former lunar device the RATLER designed for shuttling bombs etc.(2)

Elections today only prove what people say when their arms are twisted behind their backs (the Third World) or what they say bribed with the super-profits of exploiting the Third World (imperialist countries). Democracy is not a solution to political problems or a method of solving them. Electoral politics do not serve the majority, so we must learn how to discern scientifically what the majority’s self-interests are and not accept diversions, regardless of how the majority votes or government leaders manipulate public opinion.

Political economy strategy game production

The production of games like “Superpower” is corrupted by the capitalist system. Simple arcade games are much easier to program and support than “Su-

Continued on next page...

Letters

have no time for.) There is no meaning of such an accusation in a circumstance where the money spent on the budget far exceeds receipts from the public. There is also generally no meaning to saying you are “screwed” in a money context in the world’s greatest parasite. In fact, MIM has repeatedly offered to return money and will do so in this case when the alleged letter turns up. It’s thanks to letters like this, that MIM Notes feels even more justified in not taking subscriptions to begin with.

This letter is not the only expression or the worst along these lines. In general, individualist distrust of the Maoist movement stems from an anarchism so individualist not even the capitalists would support it. “Distrust all; overthrow all” is the slogan of the ultraleft anarchists. They missed the point and have no compass for getting from here to society where people do not have power over other people. We need to learn to be able to judge when leaders such as MIM leaders are moving forward and not raise indiscriminate criticism. As the late Stokely Carmichael said in his day when criticizing some of his Black comrades, they criticized him for appearing at white talks sponsored with white money, but they did not provide any alternative forum opportunity themselves. Likewise, MIM Notes has not had anyone step forward to pay for a 9-5 staff, so the idea that we have time for individual subscriptions we did not ask for is a kind of anarchism showing a lack of priorities.

[For a further discussion of MIM’s distribution policies and the ideas behind them, see “Where we stand now: Public

Opinion building” on pages 3 & 4.]

Are Whites Reformed?

MIM Staff,

I’ve been listening to right wing radio talk shows. These right wingers—such as Michael Savage, Michael Reagan, Jimbo Hanon, the very “nice” sounding Charlie Jones, etc. They’ve been trying very hard to convince (deceive) the American people on why we got to make a war with Iraq.

But I’ve noticed that half if not more of the callers on these shows were against the war. These right wingers would get very frustrated and made at times. They would call these callers names, like wimps and unpatriotic. They weren’t wimps! All they sounded like was very informed people. They were letting these right wingers know that President Bush was trying to deceive them with “pretext,” and they weren’t going for it. They did not believe for one minute that Iraq was a threat to us. In a sense, these callers were just “honest” Americans telling it like it was. But the right wingers wanted all Americans to go be dishonest so they could make war.

Obviously most of the callers sounded white. So I found myself feeling proud of them. I thought to myself that not all white folks seem racist and dishonest like I thought they were. They seemed very honest. So tell me, don’t you think that this label of “labor aristocrat” may be unjust and out of date? It may not apply to them no more. When did this label come into effect, the 1950s? If it did, the 1950s were very different times. Back then white folks were very racist. But it ain’t the 1950s no more. And numerous white folks have had to change from that

up tanks, which is the stuff of most computer games.

By the way, seeing the poorest countries’ budgets, quirky diplomacy and unwillingness to trade with anyone in some cases—this will cause the imperial-minded to consider taking over “basket-case” countries for “their own good.” In contrast, MIM supports the smallest of nations in their struggle against imperialism while still retaining hope for the possibilities of international economic cooperation. There are errors possible in adopting a “small nation” mentality, which overlook the possibilities of global cooperation: it’s just that imperialism can never make these advantages self-evident.

Although the game’s screen interface is quite attractive, the bottom line is that “Superpower” is a game of numerical tables. The player’s understanding of graphs and tables determines the outcome of the game—in addition to qualitative aspects of politics and the military. For this reason the gap between educated and uneducated people continues from the world of books and reports that the CIA data lives in to the world of video games that at least has more potential of including the game-playing public—perhaps

racist mentality. That’s why I say that this “labor aristocrat” label may not fit them no more.

These white callers were putting up such a fight with these right wingers that they made me very proud indeed. And numerous did sound “conservative.” But just because they are conservative—believe in traditional morality—don’t make them bad guys. They can be honest people. They proved that to me.

Some of these right wing radio hosts sounded so deflated at times. They could tell that it was not going to be easy to deceive this American populace. I think that much of the American people are now very informed, and that’s what these right wingers found out. So I say to MIM and related left wing publishers, keep on educating the public. It is taking effect.

In solidarity,

—A Texas prisoner

MIM responds: There is opposition to the war against Iraq, including by many white Americans, as demonstrated by the big protests around the country (and world) on October 26. And there are more people, who are not activists and do not go to protests, who oppose the war too, for various reasons. It is important for anti-imperialists to take advantage of these sentiments and try to use them to weaken the US war machine and sap its militarist momentum. That is true even if we have major disagreements with some of these people—such as those “traditional moralists” with whom we might not have much in common otherwise. Opposition to imperialist war is a cornerstone of our program in Amerika, and we have to work these alliances if we can.

Further, we do have to keep an eye on our analysis of the class composition of the imperialist countries. If this were changing with regard to the parasitic nature of the petit bourgeois majority—the labor aristocracy—we would need to take that into account. However, that is not happening, despite repeated predictions over the last 100 years that Amerikan workers are about to change their orientation and get with the anti-imperialist program as a class.

even those pleasure-seekers MIM refers to as the men and “gender aristocracy” that dominate the Internet.

Numerous strategy games crash (cause the computer to terminate the program without the user’s asking) before any reasonable completion and the company ceases to “patch” it, which means that the company does not attempt to fix the software based on consumer input. We played with the “1.3” patch; however, “Superpower” still crashes repeatedly—particularly as war and secret service operations become more developed in the game. What that means is the consumer can put in long days playing the game only to get the simulation to a certain stage and see it crash. As in many softwares it is best to “save” the file every turn.

It’s easy to see how the public has an interest in supporting the extension of

The description of the petit bourgeois majority as a “labor aristocracy” is based on their economic position, their role as a class in the imperialist system. Their economic interests remain with imperialism. However, there are those who see that hitching themselves to the wagon of imperialism not only dehumanizes them by turning them into oppressors, but also threatens all of us with the continued destruction of war, including species-ending nuclear war. These are the natural allies of our anti-militarism efforts, whom we need to reach if we are to disrupt current and future war efforts.

As far as racism: although outright racism is still widely prevalent, with devastating effects, there are also many whites that do not engage in these practices. However, if you look back at US history, you will see contingents of anti-racist or anti-imperialist whites in various movements, doing their part against the master race (for example, members of the Industrial Workers of the World before World War I, or the Civil Rights Movement freedom riders in the 1960s). These people who turn against the white nation earn the right to join the ranks of humanity—and it is appropriate to be proud of them and encourage them. But the actions of these individuals and small groups do not signal a change in the underlying nature of the imperialist class structure. Part of the power of imperialist economics is that the system has been able to maintain its basic structure even as ideological props such as virulent racism have shifted or in some cases weakened.

There is another side to these changes as well, which is that more members of the oppressed internal semi-colonies are rising into genuine positions of economic and political power—the Colin Powells and Condoleezza Rices—and the Black nation has seen more of its members coming to join the ranks of the parasitic petit bourgeoisie as white collar paper pushers. MIM has published an important essay on this subject in MIM Theory 14 (see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/internalclass3.htm>).

more educational video games. What may not be profitable might best be termed “education.” As it stands now, games like “Superpower” are part of the superstructure reinforcing ideologies of imperialist militarism.

Notes:

1. http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/DailyNews/jointchiefs_010501.html has a story about the declassified U.S. Government documents on faking Cuban terrorism as a justification for war

2. See the “exciting” pictures cast in the midst of soft-core pornography in Gear magazine’s “The Model Issue,” July/August 2002, p. 22.

Superpower

Continued from previous page...

perpower.” Not surprisingly, the store shelves show that strategy games recede further and further in market share despite continual advances in programming and computers.

The question of people’s tastes in computer games is the same as in magazines. The trashiest pornography magazines sell the best and in video games the most militarist and simple-minded also sell the best, a very rare “Mysts” game notwithstanding.

Addressing consumer demand issues, the “Superpower” programmers generously allow that the player have the option of playing “only” to stay in power and not be overthrown or to “balance” a Third World country’s budget and resources or to destroy rebels or to “take over the world.” The advance here—kudos to post-modernism and Dreamcatcher—is that people are allowed to play the simulation as the poorest country in the world just trying to make it. This is a far cry from taking the joystick, piloting an F-16 and shooting

Conn. prisoner fights illegal mail policy

In regards to the book issue, yes, the new policy of publisher only will affect MIM and RAIL's Free Books for Prisoners Program. The reason being the return address of MIM says on the stamp "MIM Distributors" instead of "MIM Publishers/ing." However, as of yet I don't believe this will affect the reception of MIM Notes or MIM Theory journals [only used books -RAIL].

Good news, I met with the ACLU attorney yesterday and a class action lawsuit will be filed next month in regards to the censorship issue and the publisher- only policy. [All books must come directly from the book's publisher.] It seems to be an open and shut case because the DOC's policy is unconstitutional on the face. Let's see what happens. If you MIM would like to be a plaintiff also, let me know what I have to do to get the lawyer and MIM in contact

— a Connecticut prisoner, October 2002

RAIL responds: Express your outrage at the policies of the CT DOC, by writing: Ashbel T. Wall, II Director, Department of Corrections, 40 Howard Ave., Cranston, RI 02090; Assistant Director, Institutions and Operations, PO Box 8200 Cranston, RI 02920. Send copies of your letters to MIM.

High court heard oral arguments on Cal.'s three strikes

On Tuesday, November 5, 2002, the Supreme Court conducted oral arguments on whether or not California's use of the three strikes sentencing law renders life sentences for minor theft crimes cruel and unusual punishment. The court will decide this issue sometime in the first half of next year.

In November of 2001, Leandro Andrade, a California prisoner convicted of two counts of petty theft for stealing \$153 worth of videotapes, had his sentence of 50 years to life overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit held such a sentence for petty theft offenses was a "grossly disproportionate" sentence and violated the 8th Amendment's ban against cruel and unusual punishment. (*Andrade v Attorney General* (9th Circuit 2001) 270 F.3d 743, cert. granted)

Gary Ewing, also a California prisoner and HIV positive, received a sentence of 25 years to life for a single count of grand theft for stealing three gold clubs valued at \$399 a piece. After the California Supreme Court upheld Ewing's sentence, he filed a petition for writ of certiorari directly to the nation's highest court.

On April 1, 2002, the Supreme Court agreed to hear in tandem *Lockyer v. Andrade* (01-1128) and *Ewing v. California* (01-6978).

Since Andrade had absolutely no violence in his background and one of Ewing's prior convictions includes brandishing a knife, there has been much speculation as to why the high court picked these two petitioners. Because of the differences in the instant offenses - i.e. petty theft and grand theft, as well as the difference in their criminal records - the court can make a number of determina-

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

tions and distinctions on how and on whom California can apply the three strikes.

California's three strikes came into being when Richard Allen Davis, a violent recidivist, abducted and murdered twelve year old Polly Klaas in late 1993. The public was outraged and in a whirlwind three strikes became law in March of 1994.

While the proposition of permanent removal from society for three violent acts was well-received and embraced by a large majority of California's voters in 1994, the law has proven to cast a much wider net than how it was promoted to the public at the height of their outrage. From its inception, three strikes recipients have bombarded the judiciary with a wide range of petitions and appeals because the third strike can be "any felony."

There are well over 7,000 prison inmates within the California Department of Corrections who have received a sentence of at least twenty-five years to life due to the three strikes sentencing law. Over eight years into this heavy-handed practice and the numbers tell a tale of wholesale incapacitation of both violent and nonviolent offender alike. The range of offenses to come under the umbrella of "any felony" is very wide, with 4,000 men and women, well over half of the total, given life sentences for nonviolent crimes.

In the present matter, the Supreme Court

has to conduct a three-pronged proportionality analysis to determine whether or not the petitioners, Andrade and Ewing, have received a grossly disproportionate sentence. This test is articulated by the Supreme Court in *Solem v. Helms* (1983) 463 U.S. 277.

Under *Solem*, a court is first to compare the gravity of the offense and the harshness of the punishment. The second prong consists of a comparison of punishments in the same jurisdiction; and the third prong involves a comparison of punishments for similar offenses in other jurisdictions.

At the state level, forty states have recidivist statutes. Twenty-six states and federal government have implemented a form of three strikes. Yet, despite the trend towards harsher punishments, California is the only state to use three strikes frequently. Nationally, California is responsible for 92 percent to 94 percent of all three strikes sentences - and the only state to use this type of sentencing scheme to send minor offenders to prison for life.

— a prisoner in California, November 2002

MIM adds: Join us in fighting the Three Strikes law in California. Print up a copy of our petition below and gather signatures. Create flyers with this article. Or contact us to organize educational events in your town.

Petition to End the Three Strikes law in California

The Three Strikes law in California has resulted in over 7,000 prisons receiving a sentence of at least twenty-five years to life. The range of offenses to come under the umbrella of "any felony" is very wide, with 4,000 men and women, well over half of the total, given life sentences for nonviolent crimes. California is responsible for 92 percent to 94 percent of all three strikes sentences, and the only state to use this type of sentencing scheme to send minor offenders to prison for life.

Further, as a means to make the 3-strike law physically possible, increasing incarceration rates and lengthening sentences, CDC is using the illegal and all too often lethal practice of forcefully double celling prisoners into one man designed cells. Currently all single person designed cells throughout California are at an alarming 198% capacity, creating a barbaric gladiator type of environment through out the state.

Laws such as the 3-strikes law directly impact the rate of imprisonment but have no effect on the crime rate. The skyrocketing numbers of people in prison in the U.S. as a whole over the past 20 years have shown no relationship with the crime rate. Locking more people up, in increasingly dangerous and repressive conditions, is only serving the ends of social control and repression of the oppressed nations.

NAME

ADDRESS

Oregon over classifies prisoners to justify expenses

I was at Oregon State Prison IMU when I wrote the first time. A lot has happened since then. Here in Oregon the newest prison is called Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI), a.k.a. Two Rivers Correctional Institution. They moved me here to a program they call the step down program.

The government tells the citizens of Oregon that they need money, that they'll have to close prisons and let violent offenders out to use as a scare tactic, but reality is these money hungry people can afford to construct a new program which is an extension to IMU. This program opened July 2002.

Well the feds saw that TRCI was only 1/4 full so they were going to take it and use TRCI as a federal institution, so ODOC started putting minimum custody inmates in this maximum facility just to fill it up. Then they still

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.

have a couple of units empty so they invent an IMU extension program which is where they place rivals together just so they can say "see we do need this prison."

They have the money to run an extension unit but they don't have the money to give us education or vocational training? They have a map in the visitors section of the institution. On the map where there is two warehouses they say its vocational training, but there's absolutely no vocational training in this institution. These people lie and steal from the citizens so they can have more money. The stepdown program we're locked down all day except 3 hours a day. We have to shower, rec, make our phone calls, do our legal work in the three hours, then we're on lock down again. I had an altercation with another inmate. Something that normally would only give me 84 days in the hole. They gave me 180 and three years in IMU, then two years at that step down program. This program hasn't even got a purpose except to cause unnecessary drama between inmates.

—a prisoner in Oregon, November 2002

Regarding the WA prisoner's essay on education vs. incarceration

I disagree with a few points of the prisoner's letter (regarding education vs. incarceration printed in the November 15, 2002 MIM Notes) but I am in agreement with MIM's point. My disagreement is with the prisoner's solution suggestions: of crime victim compensation requiring incarceration of prisoners until a debt is paid. The DOC is already trying to slowly implement that practice with its' 35% policy. We must remember that it was this practice that brought the European penal colony indebted servitude, and after the abolishment of slavery came peonage convict labor camps for profit.

So MIM is correct when it mentions that the prisoner's solution fails to mention the entire system behind the problems addressing this racist, capitalist criminal injustice system, i.e. police agencies, judicial sector and prison industry corporations all generating billion dollars revenues through the exploitation of minorities and the social underclass.

— a prisoner in WA, November 2002

Spending on prison wasted: rehabilitation proposal

As I sit isolated in an IMU control unit cell,

separated from the inside prison population and the outside world, I am trying to analyze the social and political madness of Washington state judicial and correctional agencies. The disenfranchising of whole communities and races of people.

In Washington King county African Americans make up only 5.4% of the general population but are 35% of the country's prison population, they account for 37% of the 173 felons sentenced under the 3 strikes law. For every 100,000 people in the state of Washington, 161 European Americans are incarcerated, compared to 1,392 African Americans.(1) This policy is depriving the urban minority community of one of its most precious assets, Black and Latin men, women and youth, becoming one of Washington's prize commodities. And now Washington leads the nation with the highest unemployment rate, and suffering from massive budget cuts.

Over the last 10 years Washington state has tripled spending on prison industries. All the time neglecting needed education and transportation expansion, i.e. road repairs and new freeways. Teachers are striking because of low pay, big corporations are relocating because of taxes and traffic commuting problems that have been an issue for years, plus down sizing and hiring for lower wages. But the DOC budget spending has increased three fold. Since the passing of senate bill 2010, the DOC has made massive upgrades in high tech construction to all its prison facilities, increased hiring of staff, acquisition of new equipment, and construction materials, all in the name of security.

Inmates are deducted 35% of any money earned or received, 20% is for cost of corrections, 10% goes into mandatory savings fund controlled by the DOC and 5% to a crime victims compensation fund that is actually used to fund DOC victims notification and awareness programs. And another 20% in LFO legal financial obligation such as to pay off any victims restitution, child support, trial costs, any fines acquired during incarceration or any court ordered financial obligations.

What is not being spoken of is the interest the DOC receives on that money in its treasury account. The vast amount of that money is being used by the DOC to upgrade its facilities and pay employees. Since 1998 all DOC facilities have seen budget increases to upgrade with high tech computers, cameras, security reinforcement, construction, weapons and new vehicles.

New institutions have been built such as Stafford Creek Corr. For every year which

an inmate spends in prison it costs tax payers \$22,000. This rises as the prisoner ages. The cost of a life term averages \$1.5 million.(2) So at the cost of \$22,000 a year, what is an inmate to do. Since 1996 the DOC has cut most of its education and vocational programs, with reductions of other positive effective training programs. Lifers, long and short term prisoners are learning no meaningful job skills in the technology or labor field to be marketed. Yes there is a DOC industries program employing just 300 prisoners at minimum wage by class industries.

The state is spending millions on its prison industries bureaucracy, squandering tax payer money, money that could be used for educational programs, literacy, and vocational training. It only serves the purpose of cheap labor for big corporations and private enterprises.

Here's a logical idea, one that will have a lot of logistics but is possible. Cuban president Fidel Castro has offered anyone with a high school diploma up to 500 students per year free medical training who can not afford it, with the agreement that they will return to the u.s. to practice in underserved urban centers, rural communities, and or Native American reservations, also third world nations. By 1983 between 7 and 13 percent of all Cuban doctors had completed internationalist missions. In April 2000 Cuban health minister Carlos Dotres said that more than 42,000 Cuban health professionals have worked in 93 countries since the Cuban revolution triumphed.(3)

Why can't this country, the superpower of the globe, take its confined men and women locked away in its corrections for profit system, inmates serving between 10 years to life sentences, train them in medical, engineering, construction and agriculture fields. This plan could be in effect in five years to help to rebuild impoverished nations. Yes service is needed in our own urban communities. But what better way to rehabilitate men and women by letting them help people who are dying in other countries plus receiving useful training and skills, also working with victims of governmental, corporate and environmental crimes in third world countries.

Healthy capable well bodied men and women are wasting away in Americas prisons sitting idle and unproductive. Yes there are inmate work programs in this country. Slave labor. But these people could be of service doing more meaningful work around the world to pay back their debts to society and its victims. Why let the tax payers pay \$22,000 a year or a life term averages around \$1.5 million per inmate when that money

could be used in the needed communities.

True, some victims can never be given their life back or be compensated, but people in this program can help to save and build other lives that need help now who are dying of hunger, thirst and poverty in other countries. The opinion of third world countries about America's foreign policies would really change to be more positive with the implementation of such a program. This would be a good plan for law makers to work on.

Notes:

1. Justice Passage, uncovering racism in the Criminal justice system 2002
2. Center for juvenile and criminal justice
3. OFF summer 2002, ed.
—a prisoner in WA, September 2002

MIM responds: This prisoner has proposed a plan for rehabilitating prisoners that would both serve the prisoners with education and training and provide services to people in need. But unfortunately the Amerikan government would never consider implementing this program precisely because it would do these things. Prisons in Amerika are a tool for social control. Not a tool for rehabilitation. And, as the prisoner points out, people are dying in other countries at the hands of Amerikan imperialism. Amerika has no desire to change the conditions in Third World countries: they serve a pools of cheap labor and free resources, dumping grounds for environmental waste, and launching pads for military invasions. Amerika's foreign policy is designed to maintain a system of global hegemony.

This is why MIM is a communist party. We fight for a world without oppression of groups of people over other groups of people. As an example we look to China under Mao (1949-1976) where they implemented a system of criminal justice which truly worked to rehabilitate, educate and train prisoners to be productive members of society. MIM recommends the book Prisoners of Liberation, by two Amerikans who were imprisoned in China, for a detailed description of the changes possible under communist justice.

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.

Notas Rojas



enero 1, 2003, Nº 273 Fragmento del Periodico Oficial del Movimiento Internacionalista Maoista Gratis

EL CIRCO ELECTORAL DE TOLEDO

Una breve descripción de los participantes

En términos teóricos no hay ningún problema para demostrar que los procesos electorales son simples instrumentos de manipulación de los grupos de poder que controlan el Estado. Así hemos afirmado, que las elecciones se organizan periódicamente con el objetivo de encubrir el carácter antipopular y la esencia antidemocrática del Estado y del sistema político impuesto. Hemos dicho también que las elecciones, en sus diferentes formas, elecciones presidenciales, parlamentarias, municipales, o referéndum, están concebidas como eje de los planes y campañas del Estado estructuradas para alienar y estafar a las masas pobres. Los procesos electorales, dependiendo de las condiciones específicas de cada país, vienen a ser como válvula de escape de las grandes tensiones sociales del sistema (Diario Internacional 62).

En el caso concreto de las elecciones municipales del 17 de noviembre y la convocatoria a votar por su propio alcalde, es una idea ingeniosa para ejercer el control de la población y sobre todo para encubrir la aguda crisis que atraviesa actualmente el gobierno de Alejandro Toledo. Sin ninguna duda las elecciones de este domingo (17/11/02), sirven para distraer a las masas frente a

inmensos problemas sociales acumulados y que en perspectivas (a más acumulación) resultarán una bomba de tiempo que explotará en la cara de lo que ahora dirigen el Estado. Estas elecciones, cuyos competidores son ex fujimoristas, conocidos traficantes de la política, y tráfugas de todo tipo, están rodeadas de las mismas características de aquellas realizadas por el mafioso gobierno anterior. Así por ejemplo, estas elecciones están marcadas por la militarización del país, cuyo centro de poder siguen siendo las Fuerzas Armadas. A decir del propio ministro del Interior, la policía ha movilizadado a 94 mil 750 miembros para “cuidar los comicios”. La vigilancia, dijo el ministro Gino Costa, “será intensa por aire y tierra, y se utilizarán helicópteros MI-17, aviones Yankee-12 y cámaras de vídeo. (Gino Costa Santolalla, declaraciones 16/11/02). Otro de los ejemplos se refiere al aberrante hecho de que serán las corruptas y criminales Fuerzas Armadas una de las instituciones “garantes” de la “pureza” de estas elecciones. Para este fin y por decisión del Jurado Nacional de Elecciones, los militares recibirán una copia de cada acta de las elecciones. Y para mayor coincidencia con las elecciones tramposas de la época de Fujimori y Montesinos, una delegación de 60 “observadores” de la OEA se ha trasladado al Perú para “certificar” la

“limpieza” electoral.

Los candidatos

Si alguien tiene alguna dudas sobre el criterio expuesto sobre el carácter de las elecciones, y no entiende el objetivo tramposo y manipulador de las mismas, basta que revise el historial de los principales candidatos en estas elecciones. Para empezar hay que mencionar a Michel Azcueta, que se presenta como candidato principal de “Perú Posible”, agrupación política de propiedad de Alejandro Toledo. Azcueta tiene un abultado curriculum político y en 20 años ha trajinado por casi todas las tiendas políticas del Perú. Así, ha sido parte de lo que se conoció como “Izquierda Unida”. Como “izquierdista” llamó a votar por la candidatura presidencial de Alan García Pérez (1985). También como “izquierdista” apoyó la campaña electoral de Alberto Fujimori (1990) y fue un funcionario del Estado cuando la mafia fujimorista se apoderó del poder. Después apareció como militante de “Unión por el Perú” (UPP) que lideró Javier Pérez de Cuellar, y cuando este funcionario internacional fracasó como candidato presidencial no tuvo ningún problema para declararse militante de “Somos Perú” una agrupación electoral que encabeza el derechista Alberto Andrade actual alcalde de Lima. En plena crisis de la mafia fujimorista cambio de tienda y apareció dando vivas al candidato Alejandro Toledo (2000). Y tralalin tralalá este cuento no ha terminado, y Azcueta tiene aun tiempo para afiliarse al partido de camotillo el tinterillo que ahora va como candidato al municipio de Lima.

Otro de los candidatos, es Rolando Breña Pantoja dirigente de lo que en Perú se conoce con el nombre de “Patria Roja”. Este personaje se presenta como candidato del denominado Movimiento Nueva Izquierda (MNI) que en la práctica es un retazo de lo que sobra de “izquierda unida”. Como se sabe, y así lo hemos explicado en un artículo anterior (El Diario Internacional 62), “Patria Roja, hace parte de la izquierda oficial y legal del país, y bajo el mismo estilo de Michel Azcueta fue compañero de viaje de Alan García Pérez y de Alberto Fujimori. Los dirigentes de “Patria Roja” no se ruborizan cuando proclaman que ellos han estado al frente de la organización de bandas paramilitares (rondas campesinas y rondas urbanas) que el ejército utilizó en la lucha contrainsurgente. Para “Patria Roja”, la manipulación electoral de las masas, es algo inherente a su miserable

sobrevivencia política en el medio oficial. Su proclama respecto al que “el poder nace del fusil”, es algo parecido a una estrofa musical que la utiliza como postre de sus campañas electoreras. Para estas elecciones “Patria Roja”, ha hecho una alianza que corresponde a su naturaleza mafiosa y sin principios. Se ha unido a lo que se denomina “partido comunista del Perú” (Unidad). Esta organización ha vivido del engaño y la estafa. El pcp-unidad, se subió al carro del general Juan Velasco (1968), y dijo que este militar conducía al pueblo peruano “hacia el socialismo”. Han traficado con todas las luchas populares, y diferentes gobiernos tuvieron en este partido su mejor aliado para quebrar la lucha de los trabajadores. Este partido, estuvo al lado de García Pérez y de Alberto Fujimori. Apoyo la campaña electoral de Alejandro Toledo. Desde los años 60 vivieron a expensas del dinero proveniente de la ex Unión Soviética y al quiebre de la URSS se declararon oficialmente en bancarrota.

De los otros candidatos, sólo hay que decir que provienen del fujimorismo y de las canteras más sucias y derechistas del país. Hay que ver ahí a “Renacimiento Andino”, liderado por el cómico Tulio Loza conocido con el apelativo artístico de “Camotillo el Tinterillo”. Este personaje ha sido el bufón de todos los regímenes de turno, y entre chistes y bufonería de todo calibre se puso al lado de los gobernantes de turno. Otro de los candidatos a estas elecciones proviene de “Unidad Nacional”, agrupación de derecha que llevan como candidato al sillón del municipio de Lima nada menos que a Luis Castañeda Lossio ex alto funcionario del gobierno de Fujimori y acusado de haber saqueado el seguro social del Perú. En estas elecciones aparece una vez más la candidatura de Alberto Andrade, actual alcalde de Lima y líder del grupo “Somos Perú”. Andrade que se declara admirador de Toledo pretende una segunda reelección y mira de costado las acusaciones que lo vinculan a hechos de corrupción en la caja municipal de Lima. También aparece en la competición el partido “Unión por el Perú” creado por Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

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¿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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