

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

MILLIONS MARCH AGAINST THE WAR

Uncounted thousands march in New York City

Message gets out despite police obstructions

NEW YORK CITY
February 15

Although MIM Notes attended the demonstration against the war with Iraq in New York City, we have no idea how many people attended. All that we know for certain is that it spanned more city blocks than any rally ever attended—thanks to police tactics addressed in another story on this page. Undoubtedly, the demonstration was one of the largest in New York history. A reasonable estimate would probably require a satellite photo.

We handed out 2500 copies of the February 15 MIM Notes. The crowd reaction was quite favorable, many saying “oh, good.” One young womyn stopped to look at the graphic of Bush speaking and laughed.

One anti-communist passed by and said, “Maoist? Oh great, Mao would have shot us all.” In actual fact, Mao (the leader of China from 1949 to 1976) sponsored many demonstrations of millions against U.S. wars. While Huey Newton attended those demonstrations in China, he said he felt safe in front of police unlike the situation in the united States.

Our critic tried to raise a counterfactual situation. China under Mao never occupied part of Iraqi airspace and threatened it with war as part of getting leverage over Iraq’s oil resources and Saudi Arabia. Thus there are two ways to avoid having to repress anti-war movements: one is to avoid the predatory

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The L.A. march (MIM photo).

Anti-war protestors jam Hollywood boulevard

A lively MIM, RAIL and SLALA contingent hit the anti-war march down Hollywood boulevard in Los Angeles February 15. Our literature table often attracted crowds several people deep, looking to pick up their copies of MIM Notes and sign our petitions. Our comrades’ efforts garnered 200+ signatures supporting our demand that the University of California divest from Israel, and another 100+ signatures in support of Philippine political refugee Jose Maria Sison.(1) We also handed out 1200 copies of MIM Notes, and the crowd could easily have absorbed more.(2)

In a stellar example of the importance of quality activism over quantity, one interested onlooker pushed us over the 200 mark on UC Divest signatures for the day by taking charge and gathering signatures himself. After listening to RAIL debate Israeli settlerism with some Zionist critics, this persyn grabbed a clipboard and circulated through the crowd filling it with signatures. Activists from the Women in Black, an organization of Israeli and Jewish wimmin who oppose the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, also asked for blank petitions they could circulate and return to us. Two Croatian peace activists with banners reading “No Support for U.S. War, No support for I\$rael” spent time at our table discussing Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories.

Plenty of protesters MIM talked to said the February march was their first, and MIM is happy to see the anti-war forces continuing to build momentum. The main march and rally in LA drew probably 50,000 or 60,000, and area demonstrations from San Diego to Ventura drew an additional 10,000. LAPD estimates for the January 11 and February 15 marches were 5,000 and 30,000; organizer estimates were 15,000 and 100,000 for the two events respectively.(3)

The number of new demonstrators who came out in February means that there is no shortage of work for revolutionaries to do in getting our analysis of events out to more people. The fact that two-thirds of Amerikans support a war against Iraq

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Media misreports police tactics New York Police intentionally jam, then spread out demonstrators

MANHATTAN
February 15

The major bourgeois media incorrectly reported police tactics at the February 15th rally against war with Iraq in New York City.

The police started by blocking off exits between blocks ranging from the 40s to the 60s so that people on the east side highway called FDR Drive could not approach the demonstration. Hence all day long marchers streamed in from far southern and northern reaches of Manhattan toward the middle in the 40s and 50s.

By closing the FDR exits and the north-south avenues, the police had the effect of angering travelers while spreading out the demonstration into so many city blocks as to make the demonstration uncountable. In the experience of this reporter, there has never been a demonstration covering more city blocks. The Associated Press incorrectly reported: “City police provided no

estimate of the crowd, which stretched 20 blocks deep and two blocks wide.”(1) That must have been the view from the royal carriage. AP

should send some more people into the streets to get a closer look. It’s a lot easier to quote some police bureaucrat sitting in an office than to send several people into more than one hundred city blocks for several hours.

The New York Times correctly reported: “crowds ... filled the avenue from 49th Street to 72nd Street and spilled over into side streets and to Second, Third and Lexington Avenues, where thousands more were halted at police barricades, far from the sights and sounds of the demonstration.”(2) In fact, demonstrators also streamed the whole length of 1st Avenue south of the UN.

Originally activists planned the rally for 1st Avenue, but the City government stigmatized the demonstrators by saying they could not prevent such a large crowd from attacking the UN building.(3) In connection to this, the actual tactics of the police were to create chokepoints by closing 1st Avenue except for themselves. Then they used “one-way valve” tactics by allowing demonstrators to go to 2nd, 3rd and Lexington but not the other way around.

One exception was at a checkpoint near the UN on First Avenue. Police let in a man draped in a Zionist flag. Later, horse-mounted police singled out those waving Palestinian flags for attack.

The New York Post reported attacks

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Letters

Know your enemy

The principal contradiction in this country is clearly between imperialism and the oppressed internal nations, gangs, cliques, folks, peoples, brothers, sisters, cousins: brotherhoods as well as sisterhoods formed in our hoods in North America to make a change for the better and stand against those in their way. Many of us have realized it is the system of the government, yet fail to face it and take what is rightfully ours. Instead we choose to step on others who have formed for the same reasons we have, thus becoming miniature forms of this beast that continues to profit from our blood, sweat and tears. North America is the leading imperialist country in the world who manipulates its currency to predict and control all other capitalist countries.

So I challenge everyone representing in unity for a change to truly guide their hoods along the path that the Maoist Internationalist Movement is presenting as a form that will truly bring about change for the better and an understanding of the real cause of our misery which brought us together in the first place.

Mao Zedong clarified what transpires every now and then when he stated, "When imperialism launches a war of aggression against a country, all its various classes, except for some traitors, can temporarily unite in a country's war

against imperialism. At such a time, the contradiction between imperialism and the country concerned becomes the principle contradiction, while all other contradictions among the various classes of the country- are temporarily relegated to a secondary or subordinate position."

Let us put the differences to the side amongst us, like when imprisoned representing, yet respecting each others' space and realizing the prison administration, like this country's system is the true enemy.

Like demonstrated during many rallies in society against acquittals of murderous or abusive pigs, or the attempt to implement more laws that further oppress, exploit and enslave us all. If it can bring unity for and on those occasions, then this shall maintain that unity under this movement.

I am definitely not calling upon any section in the hood to cross flags, drop flags or false flag, but to lift their flags even higher for the cause of making a change for the better with the guidance that the Maoist Internationalist Movement is providing through further educating to better elevate and combat the beast that imperialism and capitalism represents.

Therefore, understand that unless you've studied within the system and experienced the truth with each of your senses. It is unlikely that you see this country's plan to keep us divided and distracted by waging war against one another over things it can easily provide to all of us if it was truly based on

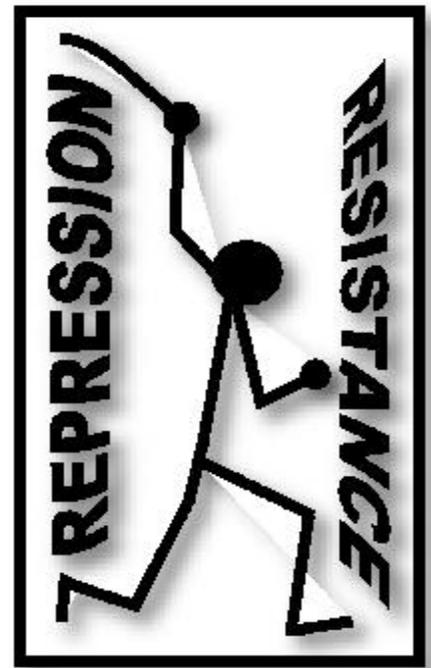
freedom, justice and equality.

That sweet american pie, that's rotten to its core. Let's wrap this up-demonstrate your nation, gang, clique, brotherhood or sisterhood by representing not against each other but against what created and maintains our differences; this government of the united snakes which must be held accountable for so much bloodshed, hardship, and sorrow we have been imposing blindly upon one another.

Not no more, let's obtain knowledge from the MIM and unite with its common cause. Let's place our mark in this world and truly be apart of history for the sake of our loved ones of the future.

Contact the Maoist Internationalist Movement and get involved in the cause against what causes us so much obstacles we face in our daily struggles.

—A New York Prisoner, January 2003



UNITED FRONT

Get the new issue of MIM Theory, #14, and read the latest theory on building the movement to overthrow imperialism once and for all, in 174 pages. Articles include MIM congress resolutions, history from the Spanish Civil War to Puerto Rico, Kenya, and Stalin -- plus international documents, reviews, and much more. Send \$7.50 to the address on page 2.

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MIM Notes

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MIM Notes is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. MIM Notes is the official Party voice; more complete statements are published in our journal, *MIM Theory*. Material in *MIM Notes* is the Party's position unless noted. *MIM Notes* accepts submissions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically denied by the author; submissions are published anonymously unless authors insist on identification (prisoners are never identified by name). MIM is an underground party that does not publish the names of its comrades in order to avoid the state surveillance and repression that have historically been directed at communist parties and anti-imperialist movements. MCs, MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM's ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

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What is MIM?

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

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

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

FBI harasses Filipino activist

In late January the FBI sent an agent to the home of a Filipino activist in the Bay Area. Although the incident did not result in arrest, this is just a small example of the reactionary Patriot Act and other “homeland security” measures that are meant to bolster imperialism at home while it attacks Third World peoples around the world. At a press conference February 7 the Filipino activist issued a statement which read in part:

“On the evening of Thursday, January 30, 2003 Special Agent William Root from the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Division came to my house seeking information on

connections with Muslim extremists groups in the Southern Philippines.

“As a community and peace activist, I was aware that I did not have to provide any information to the FBI agent. I knew that my democratic rights were being violated in my own home where I am supposed to feel safe and secure. But the element of surprise and the fact that I have nothing to hide led to my full cooperation in stepping outside and answering questions as he requested.

“He asked me if I was born in Mindanao and if I was Muslim. He asked me if I had connections with extremist

groups in the Southern Philippines with alleged links to the Al-Qaeda network. He asked me if I was an American citizen and if I was anti-American as he looked over documents that the FBI had researched on my background. He even mentioned the fact that I have no criminal record.

“I asked the agent what were the reasons for this visit and he said that I was among thousands of ‘tips’ that the FBI receives everyday since the 9/11 tragedy and I was chosen for further investigation. Although he left without incident, it was clear that the FBI wanted

to send a chilling message that “big brother is watching” not just to me, but a rapidly growing peace movement of countless individuals, groups and alliances who share a popular peoples sentiment against the looming war in Iraq, the Middle East, the Philippines and around the world.

“The targeting of myself and other peace activist are just the first in a paranoid wave of racist federal programs that are spending billions of taxpayer dollars on so-called national security. Intimidating peace activists in their

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‘Working together at arm’s-length’

Indian subcontinent demonstrates security hurdles for communists

A comrade claiming to be from the Communist Party of India(M-L) has written MIM repeatedly to assure us that the pro-Lin Biao web page on the Internet is genuine.(1) The problem involved nicely demonstrates some security difficulties in doing our work.

Recently two people approached MIM under false pretenses asking for help infiltrating an organization conducting People’s War. MIM brushes off most such attempts with little difficulty. Something we all have to understand is that the enemy does not come out and say “we are using a disguise”!

Most people in our camp do not think through this and the logic of the struggle it implies. We call it a matter of steering

between Liberalism (naivete) and sectarianism. Fortunately, there is much less trade-off than the bourgeoisie would think. We can have both our security and our non-sectarian approach.

To mention just two more recent events, a member of the ruling class of a Latin American country recently wrote us to support Comrade Gonzalo in Peru. He thought we were unaware of his other activities, but he was wrong.

Of course, MIM has already written about the Zionist hacker sending death threats and provocations around the Internet. In another example, MIM finds itself the interest of police in Nepal. Yet again, no one announces: we are police from Nepal investigating what you are

doing!

There are two possible errors. One is that we fail to work with people who are genuine, because we suspect they are not genuine. Two is that we work with infiltrators and compromise security, sometimes not even just in North America.

The bourgeois approach is to collect dossiers on people and then decide whether to “trust” them. Because we are proletarian scientists, we ask instead “what do we need to get done and can it be done without ‘trust’”? If not, can we reorganize the work so it can be done without “trust” or individual hand-holding.

Those who are genuine must understand: MIM does not answer pig questions. It does not matter who you are.

If the question could be asked by a pig, we don’t answer it. In fact, if someone answers it, it may not be a MIM member. MIM also does not sponsor “revolutionary tourism.” People carrying MIM papers or saying they are MIM members do not have to be believed. MIM’s line stands or falls on its own merits independent of the persyn claiming to uphold the MIM line.

That does not mean we won’t work with people—even spies and infiltrators. If you are actually proposing or assisting us in work that can be done at arm’s length, then we should get along. If we are not getting work off the ground with you, it would be because we are too small

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Hundreds of students turn out to hear anti-war speakers

By a member of the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL)

University of California at Los Angeles; Wednesday February 5, 2003—Close to 1000 students, activists and professors gathered at UCLA’s Ackermann Grand Ballroom for an anti war teach-in sponsored by the student organization “Speak Out!” The speakers were Barbara Johns from Voices in the Wilderness, Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky, the latter two present via telephone.

As the teach-in got underway a few pro-war protesters seized the stage with signs that read: “Finish the Job!” and “No war = No peace.” They hardly resisted the efforts of the organizers to remove them and eventually slouched quietly on the ground for the remainder of the-teach in.

RAIL is pleased to report that Speak Out! made overall correct claims about imperialism, puppet governments and Third World dictators like Saddam Hussein. The emcee listed the top imperialist State Department reasons for war and divided them into half-truths and

outright lies. The half-truths were that Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator and that Iraq has connections to Al-Qaida. He correctly exposed the missing half of the story that the United States has historically supported the world’s most brutal dictators and was also the principal supporter of Al-Qaida against the social-imperialist Soviet Union’s occupation of Afghanistan. The outright lies were that the United States harbors a profound care for the people of Iraq—something which doesn’t square with daily U.S. bombings of Iraq and barbaric U.S.-supported sanctions which kill tens of thousands of Iraqis each year. Another outright lie is that the United States is committed to the principle of stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Even if the U.N. finds evidence of WMD in Iraq, it was the United States which sold these arms to Iraq in the first place and hence bears principal responsibility for making Iraq WMD-capable.(6)

While Speak Out! did a good job bringing some of the basic facts about the impending war to UCLA students, it still made some pragmatist, bourgeois-

democratic mistakes. For example, the flyer they distributed carried the headline “No war! That is what the majority says.” This contradicts polls which consistently show that a majority of Americans support a U.N.-endorsed war. A Speak Out! member at first claimed that this showed the strength of U.S. anti-war forces, but later conceded that the U.N. would either rubber stamp the war or be powerless to stop it.

Generally Speak Out! chose its arguments so they had broad appeal for Americans—to the detriment of their effectiveness. As we wrote in the last issue of MIM Notes, what matters is that we achieve the goals we have—peace. If Americans are not ready to hear it, it does not mean we can afford to dump the goal!

Another example: Speak Out! argued that an attack on Iraq is also an attack on “us”—meaning Americans. The emcee said that the principal reason for opposing the U.S. war is that it is not in “our” interests, which he cited as free health care for Americans, low university tuition and employment. This is another one of those cases where Americans fantasize

about how bad things are in the U.S. and how they can only get worse while failing to grasp that imperialist war is the source of the perks and comforts everyone, including the poorest people in the United States get to enjoy. This means things like universities that don’t get bombed by U.S. manufactured weapons, hospitals (free or otherwise) which are not bulldozed by U.S. supported rogue states, high paying jobs (most people on earth live on less than \$2.00 per day) and an employment-ensuring militarized border to seal the whole deal.

The first speaker was Barbara Johns from Voices in the Wilderness, an organization that struggles to end the U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iraq by documenting the effects that these sanctions have on living conditions in Iraq. She began by pledging her allegiance to the unfortunate philosophy of moral relativism which does not believe in truth and consequently does not believe that anything can be right or wrong. It’s odd that in spite of this ideology Barbara Johns is out addressing a crowd of anti-war activists and students. Opposing

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Central task report: January, 2003

by PIRAO Chief
February 1, 2003

January 2003 ended up having an operational plan that would make it by far the biggest month in MIM history in all combined public opinion building. Thanks to some breakdowns in the plan regarding things being done for the first time, January 2003 ended up being only a record month, not a real breakthrough type of month. On the plus side, the many decent people demonstrating against the war in Iraq boosted our circulation beyond what was in the plan.

One thing I would point out about Table 1 is that it shows that almost 100 pages went out to the public every single hour of every day on average. Because I was not happy with my report for last month, I did some more research this month on the question of slowing readership growth. I'm still in the process of looking at some leads into the question, to see if there is something very basic that I am missing from the picture. At the very least, I thought this month I would break down the results more to see if there were some departments that were growing better than 100% while others lagged. So for the first time, we break down departments into "movers & shakers," "pulling their weight" and "laggards" (see Table 2).

In effect, some departments of the web page are not growing anymore, because there is not much development interest in them. Other departments like Chinese have done a stupendous job developing but suffered a sudden loss of interest a few months ago for reasons that are not entirely clear but which must involve someone with a great deal of social, economic or political power somewhere.

This month I will take credit in two areas where I have recently taken some lumps. Our prison circulation is back on track and in many ways doing better than ever before. Though uneven, our print circulation is also at record levels. We are definitely back to the problem of not having enough money instead of having circulation bottlenecks and that's the way it should be. I suspect some of January's gains will not show up in statistics until February.

January was a big month in terms of proving to our web page developers their effectiveness; even though overall growth figures would not seem to prove it. While

Table 3. Top five movie reviews

Movie review	Requests
Spiderman	333
Lord of the Rings: II	250
Matrix	141
Black Hawk	118
Bugs Life	100

I was uploading a movie review—before it had been done and advertised in "What's New," someone read it, reviewed it on his web page and criticized it for spelling errors present in one version but not the final version up on the web page. That's how closely people are watching the movie reviews page (see Table 3).

I was also in the position to put up a document that didn't seem particularly special that quickly received over 800 hits. Seeing things like that happen make it difficult to turn away from web development work. The fact that the impact of developers can be seen should remind us that our growth figures are relative to ourselves—relative to our own past development efforts. It's not that we are having no impact, but to grow we have to surpass what we ourselves did before.

Web traffic broken down by department
The above table counts the languages all the same way, based on number of visitors. It reveals that Spanish is now language number two, French third and Chinese fourth for our web page.

Table 2. Web traffic broken down by department

Department	Jan. 2002 users	Jan. 2003 users	% change
Movers & shakers			
Japanese	—	98	N/A
Korean	—	95	N/A
Vietnamese	—	98	N/A
About MIM	1,402	2,997	+114%
Bookstore	794	2,031	+158%
FAQ	817	1,763	+116%
Movies	308	1,718	+458%
RAIL	464	933	+101%
Notas Rojas (Spanish)	354	918	+159%
Agitation (campaigns)	388	904	+133%
Departments pulling their weight			
MIM Theory	893	1,540	+72%
California	487	806	+66%
Contemporary Controversies page353		621	+76%
German	128	224	+75%
Finnish	130	212	+63%
Study packs	58	114	+97%
Laggards			
MIM Notes	3,738	3,755	0%
Art	2,078	2,954	+42%
Black Panther Page	2,273	2,659	+17%
Massachusetts	1,125	1,485	+32%
Under Lock & Key	834	1,204	+44%
French	605	726	+20%
Washington, DC	477	722	+51%
Chinese	839	651	-22%
Classic quotes department	353	563	+59%
Maoist Sojourner	203	293	+44%
Russian	136	212	+56%
PIRAO	103	153	+49%
Polish	73	69	-5%

Table 1. Summary statistics comparing January 2002 and January 2003

Statistic	January, 2002	January, 2003	% change
Number of different computers MIM served	15,388	23,536	+53%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	1,614	2,271*	+40.7%
MIM data transferred	2.285 Gb	7.148 Gb	+213%
MIM Notes printed copies compared with pre-911 (%)			+111%
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months compared with year earlier			-25%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	3,732	4,496	+20.5%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	163	273	+67.5%

NOTE: Starting with this report, we are not counting pages taken by search engines (robots), because they are taken more and more often with more and more robots. This will result in an underestimation in the growth in pages taken per day.

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.

Did you know?

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newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM

agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U\$ war,

and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for

the revolutionary movement. *Get involved!*

www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Hundreds of students turn out to hear anti-war speakers

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imperialist war isn't a popularity contest. In the struggle for a long and lasting peace worldwide one should expect to make both enemies and allies along lines that divide. In a clear example of what wishy-washy ideology gets you, her self-contradictory position led her to encourage the crowd to "welcome" the pro-war activists as "humyn beings" and not as people who support the use of weapons of mass destruction to achieve the death of Iraqis. The crowd cheered.

The politically watered down blanket term "humynity" was a big deal to the first speaker. She went on about the "dehumynization" of society by the imperialist mass media which creates war-mongers like Madeline Albright and Colin Powell. Because humynity comes in classes of oppressors and the oppressed we don't speak of it in the abstract. Albright and Powell represent a class in whose interest it is to carry out war. The mass media represents that same class and is therefore uncritical of it.

After winning encouragement for the pro-war activists and their "humynity" Johns talked about her recent trip to Iraq where she came to realize that the U.S. war against Iraq has continued for 12 years with daily bombings and sanctions. As a consequence of this ongoing war there are few hospitals or universities in Iraq. She says that for the first time in her life she witnessed many children dying, of cancer in particular. Chemotherapy is non-existent in Iraq as U.S.-supported sanctions prohibit the manufacture or import of anything associated with this potentially life-saving treatment. The major preventable diseases in Iraq responsible for the death of thousands are radiation poisoning (from living in a land littered with U.S. bombs), cholera and typhoid. There are not enough hospitals to admit the countless victims of the ongoing U.S. war.

Johns claimed that Iraqis lack "the ability to organize politically" and said, "we are lucky to live in the United States and should be grateful." But as MIM has said: this is a fantasy. There is no statistic in any country that compares to U.S. imprisonment of Black people (1) and MIM has to constantly fight against the U.S. "freedom of censorship" (2) to distribute MIM Notes and organize prisoners.(3) Of all the speakers Johns was the least scientific.

The next speaker was Howard Zinn whose short talk could be favorably summarized as "Don't believe U.S. lies about war. The real reason for a war against Iraq is oil." Zinn correctly pointed out that the United States is the country with the most weapons of mass destruction and noted that the United States is determined to concoct "evidence" for why war is needed.

He did not develop the line about a U.S. war for oil but said instead that he believes that the principal danger to world peace does not lie with Saddam Hussein but

with George Bush. According to Zinn war is useful for the Bush administration to deflect attention from what he calls an "attack against national wealth" and a "crime against the Amerikan people." Teaming up with Speak Out! Zinn thinks that environmental degradation in the United States, health care, education, housing and hospitals are the real issues being ignored by the Bush administration. This tag-team of speakers suffers from thinking that the main problem with war is ignoring Amerikan concerns but only internationalism can bring the fact that the problem is U.S. expansion and imperialism.

The problem of getting hung-up on Amerikan concerns is closely followed by the problem of getting hung up on individual Amerikan leaders and ignoring the systematic nature of imperialism and the economic and political reasons underlying all wars. George Bush is an imperialist, but so is Gore and any other politician in Amerika who supports the continued exploitation and oppression of other peoples under the illusion of protecting Amerika's "national wealth."

Howard Zinn's glimmer of hope for stopping the war is the fact that people all over the world are opposed to the war and "the common sense and sense of decency of the Amerikan people." RAIL is glad to see millions of people all over the world protesting the U.S. war, but Amerikan "common decency" gets you 37% of Amerikans who support war without U.N. approval and the 30% who want to see war start soon. The 63% who want to see war only after U.N. inspections is not a consoling "glimmer of hope."

Noam Chomsky was only available for a question and answer period. It went like this (paraphrasing):

Q: Why is the U.S. government going to war?

A: Weapons of mass destruction are not the reason. The people in power now in are the same people who sold the weapons to Saddam Hussein. Also, if the United States takes over Iraq weapons production in Iraq will increase at least to levels matching the armories of neighboring states—especially I\$rael.

Chomsky noted that war on Iraq, by the admission of the U.S. military will result in the proliferation of WMD, their use and terrorism in the U.S.

Q: Why did Colin Powell not mention Osama Bin Laden in his morning address to the U.N. Security Council? What about the Al-Qaida-Iraq connection?

A: He didn't mention it because it is an embarrassment. As far as Al-Qaida and Iraq, there are radical Islamic groups in the Southern border of Iraq. But these groups are opposed to Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi government "tolerates" them because it doesn't have the power to do otherwise.

Q: How will the United States justify this war? Will the international community intervene?

A: The United States will not try to



Students were among those protesting the war in L.A. on February 15; see banner from Cal State L.A. (MIM photo).

justify the war. They will invoke overwhelming military force. It is extremely unlikely that anyone in the U.N. will oppose the United States—people throughout the world fear the United States and the United States wants it this way.

According to Chomsky Donald Rumsfeld summed up the U.S. attitude towards war and the international community when he divided the world into "Old Europe" consisting of Germany and France who have qualms about a U.S. war against Iraq and the "New Europe" of Italy and Spain that show overwhelming support for war. Rumsfeld said that the "Old Europe" is irrelevant.

Rumsfeld is simply recognizing that world imperialists are butting heads on the re-division of the world. On the question of U.S.-inspired fear we refer to Mao Zedong who says that all reactionaries are paper tigers. "In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful." (5) Peace-minded people in the first world have to realize that it is not the U.N. but the overwhelming majority of people of the world that have a fearless desire to overthrow world imperialism altogether.

Q: Are pre-emptive strikes a shift or continuation of U.S. foreign policy?

A: Let's clear up the terminology. "Pre-emptive" is used by the government as a synonym for "preventive." No strike can be pre-emptive or preventive. It is a shift in form of degree, but an extension of past practice to a higher-more explicit degree.

We agree with this. The luminaries in power in the U.S. think that "if we hit them before they hit us then they won't hit us again." This is not nor has it ever been true so long as there is injustice and exploitation throughout the world. World imperialists like the U.S. have been waging WWII against the world and on September 11, 2001 they got hit. No amount of carpet bombing and pre-emptive attack strategies short of nuclear annihilation can prevent the oppressed from fighting back.

It is great that Speak Out! was able to draw many people new to politics to this teach-in. RAIL and SLALA handed out MIM Notes after the teach-in. We think that as people become involved in the anti-war movement in the U.S. it is important to argue for the revolutionary anti-imperialist position, because that is the historically-tested most effective way of stopping imperialist wars and ending the oppression they perpetuate.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freecoun.html>
2. "Google Pulls Plug on MIM Ads" MIM Notes No. 247, January 15, 2003. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn274.pdf>
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ agitation/prisons/censor/>
4. http://www.buzzflash.com/contributors/2002/10/21_Polls.html
5. "Talk with the American Correspondent Anna Louise Strong" (August 1946), Selected Works, Vol. IV, p. 100. (<http://art-bin.com/art/oma06.html>)
6. See e.g. "Bush's 'State of Union' old news," MIM Notes 276, 15 Feb 2002.

With world-famous corporate neon signs blaring overhead, police enforce 'no protest signs' rule in Times Square

Two University of Massachusetts Amherst wimmin attempted to walk into New York City's Times Square on February 15th with paper signs opposing war with Iraq written in magic marker, but police turned them away by force. In the minutes immediately before and after 6pm, MIM Notes witnessed police forced some demonstrators to throw away paper signs from the protest to be admitted into the Times Square area.

The two University of Massachusetts students kept their posters while arguing with police: "what happened to my free speech?" one asked. "I just want to go to the restaurant. . . Don't you want us to spend our money here?," said one of the students. Officer Pascal (white male, badge 5448) said, "do you know how much you cost New York today?"

In this way, New York City tried to blame protesters for the City's overreaction that resulted in hiring 5,000 police to handle the demonstration. "More than 5,000 on-duty cops, who used radiation detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs, were assigned to control the rally participants."(1)

The Mayor arranged for 5000 police to come out in order to stigmatize the protesters as the worst pack of criminals yet seen in New York. That is the mayor's fault, not the protesters'. The last time the City spent that much money mobilizing police was in November 2001 "when American Airline 587 crashed in the Rockaways."(2)

Standing at 42nd and Times Square, next to metal gates on the sidewalks,

police told the protesters: "you have a choice: either get rid of the sign or go in another direction." The menacing officer Pascal seemed to be in charge and accused protestors of "blocking the sidewalk"—even as they stood to the side of the metal gate the police had made which was truly blocking the sidewalk. Black male officer Williams (badge 7949) was there assisting as was another black male officer and at least one womyn officer.

Earlier in the day, police stopped protesters on 1st Ave. for the slightest of sticks attached to their signs. Police determined that people would not be able to hold up a sign on a stick of any kind. It was the first sign of intimidation tactics as demonstrators arrived.

Yet, in Times Square, the tactics were different. The two wimmin were carrying paper signs and there was no demonstration at that moment to attend anyway, so the officers' request amounted to asking the wimmin to throw away their signs before they could have dinner in Times Square. When confronted that stopping the wimmin for paper signs was not the regulation, the officers had nothing to say specifically, but they continued to form a wall of officers around the two wimmin to push them out.

Notes:

1. <http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/54539.htm>
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/16/international/16RALL.html?pagewanted=2>

Organizers get out message, prepare to step up power struggle

MANHATTAN, February 15

Organizers of various groups passed out leaflets at the demonstration to prepare people for the weeks ahead. It is clear that some of the most active organizers are going to try to give the movement a labor component by organizing a U.\$-wide walk-out either March 1, March 5 or the day after the invasion of Iraq starts.

Amerika's rulers are in a "bipartisan" pinch because the Democrats voted for the Iraq War along with the Republicans. This cleared away the usual lies that the Democrats are the hope of progressive people, who might for example have a slight bit of conscience about killing others for oil. Such a conscience must arise globally and quickly for the humyn species to survive: that is not a moral statement but a scientific one subject to scrutiny. It's either true or not that killing for exploitation will bring about the species' demise if it continues. The fascists argued in contrast that they could kill off whole peoples entirely and leave only the master race—and then there would be peace (even though the fascists thought war was the highest expression of humyn nobility). The bipartisan approach in the united States has created a relatively clear opening for radical internationalists—people who know the political system offers no real choices and who also value the lives of other peoples in the world equally.

Apart from the civil libertarian material about control of the streets and demonstrations, the most common material on the streets was either religious or self-proclaimed "socialist." We disagree with all the "socialist" groups, but we would like to point out those areas where we agree in this article.

U.S.M.L.O.: for non-intervention, global economic cooperation

The former Hoxhaites of the "U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization" handed

out a leaflet. We like their program as part of a real solution to the problems of terrorism and war: "1) Outlaw any and all U.S. involvement in wars of aggression and use of force in settling conflicts between nations and peoples; 2) No U.S. Troops Abroad; 3) Cancel the Debts of all the countries of Asia, Africa & Latin America; 4) Pay Reparations Now for all the crimes of the U.S. government, present and past; and 5) End all support for Israel and act to end the occupation of Palestine now, beginning with withdrawal to the 1967 borders." Those indeed would be some good steps to undercut the causes of war and terrorism.

We also appreciate the USMLO's printed support for the Lackwanna Six, which is a court case trumped up out of almost nothing to make it appear there was a big anti-terrorism bust in the Buffalo area. It created the appearance that Ashcroft was "doing something" about terrorism, but it was actually nothing.

Free Society Collective of Central Vermont: against patriotism

We also agree with the entire pamphlet from the anarchist "Free Society Collective of Central Vermont" except for the last two paragraphs. The pamphlet attacks using patriotism in the peace movement. Many people at the rallies "wrap themselves in the flag" and chant "peace is patriotic."

If patriotism is doing what is good for one's people, then there is some possibility for an argument and agreement with us internationalists. Usually in the imperialist countries the meaning of the word "patriotism" is to put one's own nation ahead of others. In today's world of evermore sophisticated weapons but ever closer economic integration, putting one's nation ahead of others is going to result in species destruction. That is what is happening.

Saddam Hussein obtained chemical weapons in the united States, because the united States was putting itself first. Likewise, Osama Bin-Laden received U.\$ military and technical aid in the 1980s because the patriots put Amerikkka first. Patriotism is something that belongs in the "what goes around comes around" category. Christians calling for the golden rule should understand that almost all the war politics of the Bush administration do not abide even by the simple golden rule. Patriotism can only bite you in the butt when you don't expect it and the consequences get more dangerous with every passing year, even in the most stable imperialist countries.

Progressive Labor Party: against UN-sanctioned war

The Progressive Labor Party correctly attacked the liberals and UN-backers who simply want a larger coalition to attack Iraq: "Kennedy & Co., in fact, want to hit Iraq with as large and as deadly a coalition as possible. This is basically the line of many in the leadership of the anti-war movement and of the leading Presidential candidates of the Democratic Party. . . ."

Those calling for delay of war or coalition may march with us for now, but they are long-term enemies. As PLP says, "Our job as this struggle unfolds is not to march over a cliff under the leadership of our enemies but rather to grow as a revolutionary political force independent of all bosses" (Challenge, "Organize to Smash Cause of War: Capitalism").

Workers World Party

The neo-Trotskyist Workers World Party has some of the most experienced rally organizers of the major cities. We are not saying a general strike is going to work, but we cannot disagree with the idea of staying away from school and work the day after the existing war in Iraq intensifies. "To ensure no business as usual, a countrywide 'walkout and stay-away' is called for the morning after... Plans for protests at noon and at

5 p.m. that day are already taking shape in many cities" (Workers World, 20 Feb 2003).

We applaud all struggles against the war.

Socialist Alternative

"The Democrats are no answer. they have consistently supported Bush's war aims (despite a few half-waverers), and they are in the back pocket of the corporations. The Democrats supported the USA PATRIOT act which strips away the civil liberties of ordinary Americans. . . The anti-war movement and the labor movement need to break all ties with the Democratic Party" (Justice, February 2003).

Socialist Equality Party

"Whether or not the US has the official sanction of the United Nations when it attacks Iraq will not alter the imperialist nature of this war. Far from representing the 'world community' the UN constitutes—like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international institutions—a tool of the imperialist powers."

MIM would only add that it could not be otherwise with the United States always late in dues payments and constantly setting new terms for continued UN participation. Only a joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations over imperialism could find the financial resources to establish a reconstituted UN on an internationalist basis, a basis of cooperation of the world's peoples on equal terms.

MIM does not agree with any of the above organizations. MIM handed out 12-page papers at the rally that were larger than any of the above explaining our views and pointing to our own web page. We stress for our readers that politics is a matter of science. Good intentions are not enough. People who want to end war need to demonstrate, but they also need to study thoroughly to advance their

Continued on next page...

Uncounted thousands march in New York City

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wars that cause the demonstrations to begin with, which was Mao's solution, the solution of socialism to remove most of the economic causes of war. The other is the approach that the united States uses, which is to say it does not repress anyone when it in fact does.

On the way up First Ave., demonstrators chanted "This is what democracy looks like" at intersections especially choked by police. Some demonstrators carried a black-painted coffin with the words "democracy" and "free speech" on the side.

Throughout the day, demonstrators chanted slogans that the streets are theirs, and implicitly not the city government's. There were countless confrontations between police and demonstrators. No one arriving at the demonstration had a clear picture of how to arrive at the rally or where to go. There were no maps and the police simply lined too many blocks for anyone to get the overall picture.

It was possible to march in certain areas just because of the size of the areas cordoned off, but most blocks were

actually closed. Typical was one demonstrator being hassled by police: "I'm just trying to get a sandwich," he said as police told him he could not go back to the place he just left.

One of the most often seen leaflets at the rally was about civil rights in the streets. Legal monitors appeared to take notes and inform people of their "rights." One page of a leaflet titled "Know Your Rights" was most useful. It pointed out that people had rights on the sidewalks, but that the police had the authority to close streets under the current judges' interpretation of the law.

In fact, what judges occasionally say is of little use in the streets where officers take matters in their own hands through ignorance or malice all the time. However, the American Civil Liberties Union did leave the phone number for the New York Complaint Review Board, 1-800-341-2272. The New York Civil Liberties Union (www.nyclu.org) passed out the leaflets.

At some point, the U.S. population is going to have to ask itself why more than 200 years after the Bill of Rights passed police still think they have the right to stop

people carrying paper signs on sidewalks (see story on page 6). While the ACLU tries to support civilian police review boards, at some point the public will gain enough experience that it will know that the system simply cannot deliver what it promised in the "Bill of Rights," especially the First Amendment—except for the people who never try their "free speech" rights by disagreeing with the government.

Today the government spends billions on repression, instead of organizing the global economy for economic harmony and prosperity. It simply does not know how and does not care to know how to solve the underlying problems leading to repression, which is why the united States has more people in prison percentage-wise than any other country (see facts on our prison pages, pp. 10-11). That is why the libertarian world pointed to by the ACLU does not and cannot exist.

Something that most Amerikkans have to get used to is the fact that chanting "free speech" does not make it appear in practice. The First Amendment is as clear

as day and part of the highest law to which all other laws are supposed to be subordinate, but the courts and police create fabrications to get around it. There was some irony in seeing ACLU pamphlets dropped from the sky and all over the ground as police cleared streets and prevented demonstrators from associating.

The real question is the question of political power. It's impossible to have free speech while some people have strong motivations to kill others in wars for profit. If there are governments willing to kill for oil, of course those same governments are willing to repress free speech for oil, if need be. Just as the united States required a horrible repression of plantation owners to get over slavery, the united States cannot have real free speech until it addresses the underlying motivations that the rich and rulers have for promising and not delivering free speech. In contrast to the hypocritical U.S. government, MIM says openly that we will have to repress some people to create conditions necessary for freedom of speech some day.

NYC Police intentionally jam, then spread out demonstrators

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on police and not the other way around, but it did get one point right: "The mostly peaceful protesters clogged the avenues from the East Side to the Theater District."(4)

The Washington Post added one snippet that was correct as well. Police first clogged the sidewalks by closing various streets and then galloped in with horses to break up the clogs! The Washington Post quoted a police officer who said, "It's nuts. If the city gave them a set march route down an avenue, you wouldn't have these problems."(5)

Hence, the fact that police alternately clogged and opened the streets and even forced them open with mounted police is not in dispute in the mainstream media. As usual, the bourgeois media make it sound like the demonstrators attacked the

police, and even told a story where a horse showing great political consciousness threw a cop off its back, thus causing police to wrestle and arrest more demonstrators.

In fact, witnesses saw police beating a man held down by four officers after he was handcuffed and arrested. The major media all quoted the police side of events that day but none mentioned that report, only one report of police firing pepper spray.(6)

MIM Notes witnessed two mounted officer attacks, while standing at 52nd and 2nd and again at 52nd and 3rd. There was also a variety of staged police incidents designed to intimidate the crowd and impress the general public as if demonstrations were some emergency that justified all the wasted money spent on police that day. While the police kept control of the streets and would not let marchers use them in most cases, they still managed to make a big show of being blocked in their travels by demonstrators. They kept driving emergency vehicles in all directions, even as they had control of the streets. In other words, they were using their many vehicles to intimidate people.(7) We saw one white police truck pushing a blonde womyn by driving too close behind her down the sidestreet. A cop grabbed the crying womyn who surrendered saying "all right, all right."

People who think the First Amendment applies in Amerika just don't have much experience. When it came to the demonstration, police admitted to breaking up the rally into smaller pieces and no one denies that thousands of people never got to the rally. That is called violating

one's right to "freedom of association" as the "founding fathers" would say. It was the police who decided how big the demonstrations would be (by breaking it up into pieces) and what each demonstrator would hear from speakers, by preventing demonstrators from having their choice of speakers that spoke that day. Protesters did not have the "freedom of association" to congregate in one place with each other.

Notes:

1. USA Today http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-02-15-protests_x.htm; a similar story seeing only two avenues involved ran in the Boston Globe, http://www.boston.com/news/daily/15/ny_war_protests.htm
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/16/international/16RALL.html>

3. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/15/nyregion/15PROT.html> Conversely stating the same thing, the Mayor Bloomberg said that security procedures would have meant he could not guarantee the safety of demonstrators in a march.

4. <http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/54539.htm>

5. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14348-2003Feb15.html>

6. See CNN on pepper spray: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/02/15/sprj.irq.protests.main/index.html>; See reports of police violence here: http://nyc.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=47372&group=webcast

7. For another report along these lines and other reports on the NYC demo, see: http://nyc.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=47387&group=webcast

REVIEW, from last page...

political consciousness and scientific understanding so that they put into action an effective end to war, not just some slogans.

Yes, we need to complain about the totally apathetic people who are doing nothing, but amongst those of us already doing something against the war, we need to raise the quality of our consciousness. The combined Democratic and Republican parties do not have as many activists as marched in New York City. If the New York activists advance themselves enough, they alone—not even to mention the other anti-war activists in other cities demonstrating that day—could defeat both the Republicans and Democrats.



<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

Anti-war protestors jam Hollywood boulevard

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should not discourage us as there are many more in that last one-third who have not yet come into contact with MIM's line.

As we argued in MIM Notes 276, even the small minority marching against war is sorely in need of confrontation with revolutionary politics.(4) Among the anti-war marchers we saw on February 15, the most common slogans reflected the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. The "impeach Bush" folks (who clarified to MIM that they are also calling for Cheney's, Rumsfeld's and Ashcroft's job) were out in force. We also saw signs sporting the slogan "duct tape this," with a picture of Bush with his mouth taped over; and others saying "hey Daddy, I can make war too."

MIM does not spend a lot of time skewering Bush as an individual because we are concerned with the system of imperialism. After all, Amerika's last Democratic president signed the so-called Iraq Liberation Act supporting what is politely called "regime change" — George Bush's acknowledged goal in going to war. But Americans have short memories, and the unfortunate truth is that many people at the anti-war marches believe this war would not be in the making if Al Gore were in the White House. Another way of saying this is that the anti-war demos would be a lot smaller with a Democratic president.

Similarly, protesters have raised the slogan to "win without war" or to "use the UN" instead of using bombs on Iraq. Which really begs the question: use the UN for what? And what, to these people, is so wrong with waging a hotter war against Iraq in the first place? MIM is no more in favor of "coercive diplomacy" than we are in favor of quickening the bombing campaign against Iraq. We are agitating against the u.s. military presence in the Middle East, not to negotiate its form.

Some protesters told MIM they do not "trust" the polls that say two-thirds of Americans support going to war in Iraq. To see more opposition to the war pollsters had to throw in the conditions of substantial Iraqi civilian casualties, substantial u.s. military casualties, or a lengthy and expensive occupation. Americans would also prefer to wait for UN approval on a war (though it is not clear from the polls if this is more out of concern for international opinion or the expense of a war).(5) To the people who say Americans have more anti-militarist credentials than all that, we point out the gap between numbers of American anti-war demonstrators and their counterparts in Europe.

Using the rally totals from indymedia.org for the 15 February demos, less than 700,000 Americans, or less than one-quarter of one percent of the population, came out for anti-war demonstrations. Compare that to the 1.5 million, or 2.5% of the British population,

who rallied in London. Pundits pointed to enormous demonstrations in European countries whose governments oppose the war as well. Even though these populations seemingly had less need of demonstrations, 1.5% of France's population rallied, along with 4.3% in Italy and 6.8% in Spain.(6) Looking at it another way, with less of a reason to march and one-seventh the population, the Spanish people came up with four times as many anti-war demonstrators as the Americans. It stands to reason that the most parasitic country would have the worst record on protesting military aggression.(7)

RAIL and SLALA comrades caught their share of flak from Zionist opponents of our UC Divest petition. One critic told our comrades that never having been to Israel they could not understand its politics. A RAIL activist responded that even though he'd never been to the moon he was quite certain it was a large barren rock. Our critic called Israel the only democracy in the Middle East and stressed the importance of supporting the Israeli peace movement.

We have heard this racist, war-mongering myth about Israeli democracy before. Zionism's liberal wing uses it to exaggerate the importance of the tiny minority of Israelis who are "brave" enough to challenge their government, even in the midst of a "hostile" Arab world. But the history of Israel is one of land grabbing, genocide and aggression towards everyone in the region. Already U.S. foreign aid to Israel is \$18 million per day, six times as much as the U.S. spends on "famine relief" for the entire world.

Anti-war protesters should be especially wary of the myth of the exclusive democracy of the Israeli state as Amerika prepares for war in Iraq. The U.S. has every intention of installing a quisling regime in the place of Saddam Hussein, and of supporting this regime with a



The crowd mills around before the L.A. March (MIM photo).

military presence more intrusive than that in Afghanistan, if necessary. Talking democracy in the Middle East is code for supporting U.S. interests — interests that include free and easy access to the oil in the Persian Gulf.

Many Zionists slandered RAIL as anti-semitic, some saying of the UC Divest petition: "I'm Jewish, I can't sign this." One confused and reactionary banner had the slogan "Anti-War, Pro-U.S., Pro-Israel." Divesting from Israel has much less to do with Jews than with the fact that the one-quarter of Palestinian children are living with malnutrition under Israeli occupation, border closings and curfews.(8). Divesting means refusing to support the humiliation of the Palestinian people under the daily brutality of the Israeli occupation.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/>

- DivestIsrael.htm <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/philippines/sisonpetitionoct02.htm>
 2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/pirao/mndistrocampaign.html>
 3. MIM Notes 275, Los Angeles Times 16 February, 2003.
 4. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn276.pdf
 5. New York Times 14 February, 2003.
 6. Look for Feb 15 coverage at indymedia.org It is true that the numbers are not perfect, but they generally reflect the pull between the low estimates of the police and the high estimates of demo organizers.
 7. For those who question the big national polls and MIM's analysis of the anti-war movement, we recommend conducting your own poll. MIM has done this, and has refined and suggested some questions for future polls. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn271.pdf
 8. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/mn269.pdf>

FBI harasses Filipino activist

Continued from page 3...

communities is only part of the reactionary hysteria which has given birth to the Patriot Act and the Department of Homeland Security.

"This visit was a drop in the bucket compared to the recent mass detainment and deportation of immigrants from oppressed countries who are forced to leave their families and find economic survival abroad. INS special registrations and collaborations with local police and authorities are devastating our communities with Operation Absconder and Operation Tarmac. Many other victims are also experiencing the brunt of a vicious Bush Administration which bears its ugly face in secret military tribunals and has pushed many to commit suicide rather than face torture.

"These tactics are shameful reminders of some of the darkest periods of history in this country such as the Black Power Movement in the 60s and the McCarthy Era where neighborhood snitch systems were implemented. The fear of concentration camps during the Japanese internment is also more real than ever to repeat itself."

MIM unites with this activist, and we remind him and others to assume that the government is always watching us, as long as we are fighting imperialism. We cannot do our work entirely underground, but we can take steps to make it more difficult for them to compile information and disrupt our work.

The Filipino activist correctly concluded: "We cannot have national

security while dropping bombs for oil around the world. We cannot have national security without international peace and security. And we cannot be safe in America with an oil hungry warmonger in the White House." MIM agrees: imperialist attacks on people around the world will only stir fury against Amerika. Although imperialism provides for the wealth and standard of living enjoyed by the vast majority of people within U.S. borders, it also threatens all of the world's people with on-going violence and ultimately possible nuclear destruction. Even for those only acting in their own personal interests, this alone should be incentive enough for all people to oppose imperialist militarism.

‘Working together at arm’s-length’

Indian subcontinent demonstrates security hurdles for communists

Continued from page 3...

and thus too busy or because we don’t quite agree with you that your project is conceived correctly. In actual fact, the ability to judge these matters is never infallible. Yes, the less naive our leaders the better and yes, many in our camp lack even basic notions of power struggle.

The two things are separate questions and we can say: 1) no, we won’t answer pig questions. 2) yes, we will work with everyone and give them their due when they act. The problem for the capitalist class is that we can afford this strategy and it cannot.

The capitalist class needs pig questions and needs to be able to divide the world majority on a “who is this” basis. As long as our people keep working to put out the truth, raising their own consciousness, getting organized and learning the armed struggle, there is no way the capitalist class can win.

Why the capitalist class cannot win

The fact that the enemy has disguises should not paralyze us. While we have the task of sorting out the true from the false, so does the enemy. Proportionately, this is more of a drain on the enemy than on us, because there are more people in the proletarian camp and the number of loyal imperialist lackeys is a minority percentage-wise and globally. More importantly, we need only spread the truth, but the imperialists need to find truth about certain individuals and spread lies about them. That is actually more work.

As MIM explained in post-911 coverage, the u.\$ government already owns sophisticated data-collection

devices and networks that cross the globe. It takes satellite “photo” images, monitors all electronic communications, mechanical sounds and emissions of gas and nuclear particles. Despite listening in on our telephone conversations and emails and building evermore powerful weapons that can be operated by ever fewer people, the U.\$ government cannot always win its battles.

Since the Gulf War in 1991, “friendly fire” has killed more U.\$ troops than organized war resistance by bourgeois states. Recently, we heard the case of the U.S. Air Force personnel who bombed the four Canadians in Afghanistan to death, saying that they thought the Canadians were Taliban. One would think that the work of the air force and ground troops could not be more clear to the U.S. Government, but still, the U.S. Government has bad information and discipline and kills its own side.

Truly accidental military deaths are an example of something actually much more common on the imperialist side. While they cannot sort out who is who even when everyone is wearing a uniform and located in the place where they are supposed to be by imperialist dictates, the imperialists have a much harder time sorting out the intelligence they get on targets that are not so straight-forward.

It is inevitable that while the people will never spend as much money on intelligence and counter-intelligence per persyn as the imperialists do, the people will win, if there is no nuclear or environmental catastrophe for everyone. The imperialist treatment of the

revolutionary movement globally as “terrorism” and “crime” is exactly why the imperialists cannot win, for everyone knows that “crime” has never ended under imperialism. The “who is this one and who is that one” approach suits the rulers’ individualistic needs, the needs of a class that excels in one-on-one fighting, but which faces doom on a group level.

Hence, we call our policy “working at arm’s length” for people we do not know that well. It is the appropriate motto for our class in the imperialist countries where we are building public opinion and can do so without close bonds of trust.

We wrote this article so that all our friends, all the people who are in our camp will know why we do what we do. MIM is not here giving up because of the array and assortment of disguises the enemy assumes. It is important that we all realize that we too can spread false information to the enemy. Whether totally invention, a silence where there should be none—anything that prevents the enemy from understanding is good. Even the truth delivered in such a way that the enemy doubts it can cause plenty of difficulty.

To return to the Lin Biaoists, one could say MIM reduces the number of people who attend to the Indian Lin Biao page by saying we cannot prove its authenticity. In contrast, we would say that the proletariat’s success over the bourgeoisie does not rely on knowing which web page is authentic and which is not. We should do our best to know, but ultimately, MIM can address the political substance of the Lin Biao page

in India without knowing its authors. The fact that $2+2=4$ no matter who says it is a profound security advantage of the proletariat, one that the imperialists simply cannot afford to utilize. The proletariat rises in strength the more the truth spreads and the more its unity builds. The bourgeoisie must divide people on an individual basis.

The challenge to the people in our camp of course is to work well with the people we do know; however, when it comes to working internationally or in difficult security situations that could easily involve government intelligence agents, the true challenge is: “can I work with this persyn without knowing who she or he is?” If not, “is there something wrong with how I do my work, if I really need a dossier on someone?” MIM would say those doing political work in the imperialist countries who need “trust” or the equivalent of a dossier on someone are probably going about their work incorrectly and should rethink it.

Again, there are high trust situations when people pretty much do have dossiers on each other. However, in today’s world when someone from India writes to North America claiming to be from the original pro-Lin CPI(ML), “do I really need to know who this persyn is to work with him or her?” is the real question, from the proletarian scientific standpoint.

Notes:

1. MIM reviews that web page in its “What’s Your Line?” at our own ETEXT web page, www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/wyl.

Frederick Douglass on discretion and security

This passage from the autobiography of the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass gives more reasons for not answering “pig questions,” whatever their intentions.

I now come to that part of my life during which I planned and finally succeeded in making my escape from slavery.

But before narrating any of the peculiar circumstances I deem it proper to make known my intention not to state all the facts connected with the transaction. My reasons for pursuing this course may be understood from the following:

* First, were I to give a minute statement of all the facts it is not only possible, but quite probable, that others would thereby be involved in the most embarrassing difficulties;

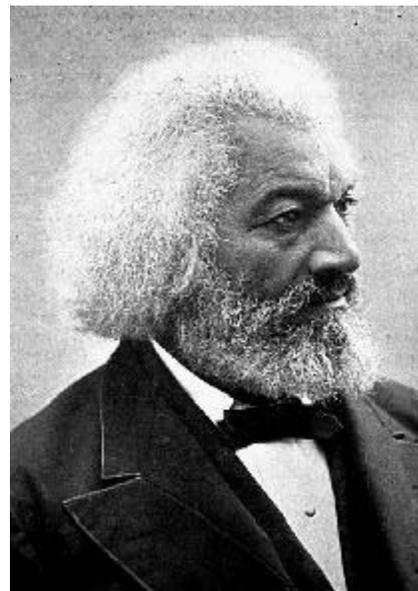
* Secondly, such a statement would most undoubtedly induce greater vigilance on the part of slaveholders than has existed heretofore among them, which would of course be the means of guarding a door whereby some dear brother bondman might escape his galling chains.

I deeply regret the necessity that impels me to suppress anything of importance

connected with my experience in slavery. It would afford me great pleasure indeed, as well as materially adding to the interest of my narrative were I at liberty to gratify a curiosity which I know exists in the minds of many by an accurate statement of all the facts pertaining to my most fortunate escape.

But I must deprive myself of this pleasure and the curious of the gratification which such a statement would afford. I would allow myself to suffer under the greatest imputations which evil-minded men might suggest rather than exculpate myself and thereby run the hazard of closing the slightest avenue by which a brother slave might clear himself of the chains and fetters of slavery.

I have never approved of the very public manner in which some of our Western friends have conducted what they call the *underground railroad*, but which I think by their open declarations has been made most emphatically the *upperground railroad*. I honor those good men and women for their noble daring, and applaud them for willingly



subjecting themselves to bloody persecution, by openly avowing their participation in the escape of slaves. I, however, can see very little good resulting from such a course, either to themselves or the slaves escaping; while, upon the other hand, I see and feel assured that those open declarations are a positive evil to the slaves remaining, who are seeking to escape. They do nothing towards

enlightening the slave, whilst they do much towards enlightening the master. They stimulate him to greater watchfulness, and enhance his power to capture his slave. We owe something to the slaves south of the line as well as to those north of it; and in aiding the latter on their way to freedom, we should be careful to do nothing which would be likely to hinder the former from escaping from slavery. I would keep the merciless slaveholder profoundly ignorant of the means of flight adopted by the slave. I would leave him to imagine himself surrounded by myriads of invisible tormentors, ever ready to snatch from his infernal grasp his trembling prey. Let him be left to feel his way in the dark; let darkness commensurate with his crime hover over him; and let him feel that at every step he takes in pursuit of the flying bondman, he is running the frightful risk of having his hot brains dashed out by an invisible agency.

From Frederick Douglass, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave”, Benjamin Quarles, ed. (Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 1960), pp. 136-7.

California USW interviews SHU prisoner

MIM is waging a campaign to abolish the Security Housing Units (SHU) in the California prisons. These torture units house prisoners labeled as "gang members" including many who are active organizers helping others to fight for their rights, those who fought legal battles, and others targeted by guards as "troublemakers." The prison collects evidence against prisoners, using informants. Then, during closed-door hearings where no self-defense is allowed, it routinely convicts them. Evidence used to entrap prisoners into gang validation and transportation to indefinite hell can be anonymous snitch notes, group photos, tattoos, innocent letters from home, or other flimsy items. Once charged, all are found guilty. Prisoners designated "a threat to institutional security" are sent off to be warehoused inside a bare SHU cell. The only way out is "parole, snitch or die." Working with other activist organizations, we have been staging demonstrations, collecting petition signatures, distributing literature and working with our comrades behind bars to build public opinion against these torture units. Our comrades behind the bars in United Struggle from Within (USW) are providing valuable information for the campaign in the form of interviews, flyers, art, testimonials, and legal advice. For more information or to get involved contact us or visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/campaigns/ca.html>

Q: How long have you been entombed in SHU?

A: It will be 9 years in a couple of months.

Q: Why exactly are you being held captive in the SHU?

A: Assisting other prisoners with legal work who the California Department of Corrections (CDC) alleges are gang members. And, because confidential informants claim that I am an "associate" of a prison gang. It's important to note that the CDC refuses to give a clear definition of an "associate." It is defined only as "being involved regularly with gang members." Nevertheless, I do associate with prisoners of all races which the CDC alleges to be gang members because of my work as a jailhouse lawyer.

Q: Can you comment on the current struggle against CDC regarding the SHU and arbitrary gang policies?

A: The struggle has been going on for 25 years or more. The reason it has gone on so long is because (1) courts refuse to meddle in the administration of prisons (2) the issue of "gang policies" is not politically appealable to courts, legislators and most attorneys, and (3) the issues have not been properly litigated in court nor lobbied in the political arena.

In July 2001, myself and nearly a thousand prisoners began a hunger strike in protest of the CDC gang/SHU policies. However, after five days we agreed to suspend our protest pending the intervention and commitment by Senator Richard Polanco to resolve the issues. Over the next year and a half, several meetings between the CDC, Senator Polanco and several religious and community leaders took place. But it soon became clear that the CDC had no intention of making any necessary changes and that they were merely stalling until Senator Polanco's term ran out.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Thus, in October 2002, we recommenced our protest. And after 38 days we ended our protest because a different legislator stepped forward to take Polanco's place in these matters. Her name is Gloria Romero.

Immediately Senator Romero called a meeting with the CDC, legislative aides and religious and community leaders, however, the CDC refused to attend. For that reason, more protests are set to occur this year, and, they won't be hunger strikes. It has become obvious to us that the CDC does not care if we starve ourselves today. In short, prisoners have basically lost patience with the CDC and are tired of the CDC arbitrary and oppressive policies and practices.

Q: Additionally, can you please describe SHU conditions?

A: It's not bad for a short term (though I have seen many prisoners physically and psychologically decompensate within a relative short period of time.)

The SHU is designed for strict isolation and sensory deprivation. No windows or view of the outside world. Prisoners, unlike in older prisons where there were 60 cells on a tier and five tiers high, are segregated in small pods of eight cells. The design is obviously to create a sense of isolation, even from other prisoners. The cell doors are made of perforated steel, and thus, easier for guards and other prisoners to hear someone talking. We spend 22 1/2 hours a day in our cells and we're allowed one and a half hours of exercise time in a small concrete yard that is approx 3 times the size of our cell. The yard is attached to the back of the pad. The design and conditions of the SHU have a detrimental effect on prisoners, and upon society, when we are released from such places. You see, prisoners can become even more anti-social and learn to have a great disrespect for authority.

I've seen a lot of frightening things in prison. But the most frightening was passing by a cell and watching a prisoner calmly playing chess with pieces made out of his feces. And prior to that, when I spoke to him over the tier there was absolutely no indication that anything was wrong with him.

I've seen prisoners becoming more distrustful of not only the guards, but each other. This place was designed to be stressful and to take a toll on prisoners. And once it begins to work, prisoners tend to internalize that negative effect within themselves and each other.

On a personal level, I don't know that I'll ever fully understand the effect that these conditions have had on me, but I know that there has been some detrimental effect. I can look at some of my friends who have been around here as long or longer and what this place has done to them. When I listen to them speak and watch how they act, I become concerned, for I've never see that of them. I don't know if it's stress being burned, mania or psychological decompensation. But it makes me think about myself. And so I become concerned that maybe there is some

detrimental effect that I suffer like some of my friends.

I believe the work I do and your reporting on these issues are critical. We need to continue our efforts in educating society on the true reality of why this laboratory of human experimentation exists.

Q: How would you characterize the mood of prisoners? Can you comment on the importance of solidarity?

A: Rebellious at times, though rarely. For a while I carried a lot of frustration over prisoners seemingly being indifferent or stagnating in their existence almost as if they accept their oppression. But as time went by I learned that they can't necessarily be faulted for that. The design of this place precludes communication, unification and the ability to maintain a higher level of solidarity. That doesn't mean that I don't encourage prisoners to snap out of the daze and focus on what we should be doing to get out of here and end the oppressive CDC policies and practices.

The mood of prisoners in general is like the seasons and changes too frequently. It is acceptance, then rebellion, indifference, and uncertainty.

Demand a legislative hearing to shut down the SHU

The following letter was drafted by a prisoner in the SHU at Pelican Bay. Sign and send in a copy to Senator Romero or write your own protest letter to her.

Senator Gloria Romero
State Capitol Room #5051
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916-445-1418
Fax: 916-445-0485

Request for legislative hearing regarding gang and segregation policies by the California Department of Corrections (CDC)

Dear Senator Romero,

As you are aware prisoners, their families, and citizens in general have for years been trying to get the CDC to cease its arbitrary and capricious gang and SHU policies. However, it does not seem likely — even after the intervention of Senator Richard Polanco following the July 2001 and October 2002 hunger strikes — that the CDC will make the necessary changes that are immediately required. They're not even willing to create the three or four sentence definition for what constitutes "gang activity."

Due to the fact that you are now familiar with the issues, I respectfully request that you convene a legislative hearing as soon as practical to bring to light all of these issues of the CDC's gang policies. Their non-compliance and false promises have gone on long enough. It is time to bring this issue to a legislative hearing and public forum so that prisoner's and their family's and supporter's voices can all be heard. I wish to thank you and all of your colleagues for your attention and effort in this matter.

California prisons close education and rehab programs, give money to COs

I am interested in studying the conditions we are living in here in prison, and in exposing the prison system of where the money is really going that is supposed to be used for prisoners rehabilitation, vocational classes that are being closed, but tax payers are still paying the state thinking these classes are still open. The budget problem should not affect prisoners, because the correctional officers are constantly getting unnecessary overtime, and then they take from the prisoners such as clothing, less food, less privileges, old mattresses, and no new ones. We are supposed to receive new things at least one time a year. We do not. We get someone else's old things so the corrections officers can get more overtime money.

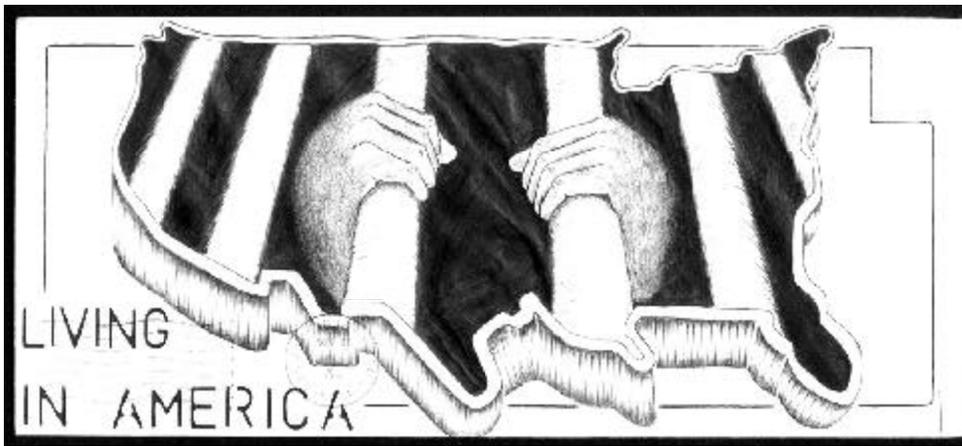
— a prisoner in California, December 2002

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.



California allows books from Barnes & Noble, denies books from MIM

I have read, reread and reread the material I have at hand because your books were not the only ones I did not receive. I wrote to ascertain what the problem was, I was interviewed and told that I could only receive books from Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and Walden Books. I wrote again and asked if it was a policy to monopolize book sales to big bookstore corporations and stop prisoners from getting alternate political literature. They wrote and told me I am allowed to receive new books from legitimate bookstores but I cannot receive used donated books, so I interpret it to mean I can receive new donated books.

- a prisoner in California (Centinela State Prison), February, 2003

California governor paroles one man, denies all others

On January 2002 the governor of California did an about face and stated "critical new evidence" showed that elderly inmate Chu Ly is worthy of release. Actually no new evidence was unveiled at all, in fact all info was made obtainable to herr Davis during that previous January 2002 review of Ly's case which resulted in a parole veto.

While Chu Ly's release is a very good thing, I think Gray Davis' decision was political motivated. Justice is not on the governor's agenda. He continuously vetoes parole for many other lifers and that are pronounced "rehabilitated" by the kangaroo board. According to the San Francisco Daily Journal (Jan 10, 2003) the governor has only paroled 3 people and vetoed more than 220!

- a prisoner in California, January 2003

Minimum sentencing in Oregon leads to funding cuts

We are caught in the binds of the Measure 11 law which subjects us to minimum sentences of 70 months. Because of this law that took effect on April 1st, state's budgets have been depleted and this particular institution is experiencing drastic changes in education, the meals and the mail. The institute's directors are so much in the DOC strain caused by the budget that it now has to eliminate DOC staff. Teachers were the first to go, on November 15, 2002, because they were not allowed to lay off DOC officers. Instead a lot of inmates are suffering program failure due to lack of a GED program.

Along with this the meals have gone from full course meals and the regular menu to a day by day conservation of low caloric meals thrown together for a quick and cheap serving. This is also a DOC money making tactic to purchase brands of food (generic brands) which changes inmates dieting, forcing us to buy more canteen and boxes to store our groceries. Even on top of that, some foods cannot be stored for long so we get fined \$15 to \$25. Along with this is a change in mailing, we now pay 44 cents on 37 cent envelopes and 90 cents on envelopes weighing over an ounce.

— a prisoner in Oregon, January 2003

Not one typewriter for personal use

Recently I was fined \$25 and had a loss of privileges for 7 days. This was due to typing a personal ad on a word processor in the law library. There are no other type writers or WPs unless you're in school. But the story is the same. If caught doing your own work, you face a minimum of 7 days LOP and \$25, and a max of 180 days seg time plus fine. Our canteen profits at last count was \$9000. Less payroll and expenses.

We cannot access our general library

unless we put a request in for research only. You may not check books out at that time. General reading material must be selected by catalog. Which are worn and in disrepair. The local Ontario public library refuses to assist in giving information or do periodical research. The Boise city public library returned my letter to the assistant warden with a note that said to tell Mr. Jeffries we do not help out of State prisoners. I wrote asking for information on any local pen pal club. I'm told the local papers won't print request for pen pals by prisoners. We are 13 miles from Boise ID and less from Ontario Oregon.

We are sold envelopes, stamped envelopes at 44 cents each with bright red address labels that state Oregon Department of Corrections - Inmate Mail. Overseas envelopes are off colored and 88 cents per ounce. The difference in color I'm told is so that they can be metered and separated easier. But regular postage mail is pre-stamped.

All these things are interconnected to three things. And that's containment, control and connivance by imperialistic dogma that operates on the basis of enslavement, self-enrichment and power. Greed bagot greed. Why are there no typewriters or word processors? Maybe so any plea's for help look awkward handwritten. We can't even buy a typewriter. What libraries do you know would refuse service unless they were instructed to do so. Why else did they return my correspondence via the warden? How about a newspaper refusing to place a personal ad? Since when does a newspaper not want money? Maybe there's much bigger money in the largest employer in miles of farm land: Snake River Corrections Center. And what's up with these envelopes? Easier tracking and censorship. Just pull the overseas envelopes, note where they're going and to who, read them and send them on. Then place an official looking letter "typed" to the recipient and alas no more pen pals! Paranoia; not likely.

Snake River is an appropriate name for a correctional facility that's had more money come up missing in the construction of a prison, that's ever been noted in Oregon history and maybe U.S. history. It's said that contractors routinely billed the state for employee luncheons at \$250 a pop and got paid. Have you been to Ontario Oregon? This prison is 10 years old. Ontario was a dust bowl then at the end of a farm belt, dependent on Nampa and Boise Idaho for subsistence. Potatoes were the game then. Now it's human bondage. The money is so good here that former construction employees are living in housing supplied by Oregon State and have jobs at this prison. But our prior Warden pushed the envelope too far and left this post under charges of sexual harassment in a cloud

of dust, to a demotion at another post in Oregon. TexasDon'ty'll know Lampert, didn't he leave there in a cloud too

— a prisoner in Oregon, November 2002

State funds wasted on prison bureaucrats

When you say magic words like crime and punishment everything is possible. State government's funds flow even when it means needless bureaucracy which comes at the expense of education or other programs needed by poor and working class people.

One example of this is found in Olympia Washington among those employed at a regional office funded by correctional operations. Prison officials offer a flimsy justification for their work done at this office. But it's impossible to really buy if you know there's correctional personnel just down the road and any work being done by a regional office could be done for less by those at headquarters.

This is true when it comes to all the regional facilities situated around Washington State. And there's no doubt that this accounts for just a small portion of the bureaucratic spending covered by a prison budget that comes to nearly 1 billion dollars.

What makes for good politics is decidedly bad policy as far as schooling and other programs are concerned. This is especially true where there are less expensive ways to deal with crime. Yet reforms aren't viewed as an option because politicians have more to lose than gain by putting programs ahead of prison bureaucrats. Or anyone else who seeks to profit from a high rate of crime in a capitalist society.

Students or others who want to change any of this must organize and join our fight for better education or prison reforms in Washington State.

— a prisoner in Washington, August 2002

Another Struggle

As a seed before it is planted
An easy life isn't always granted
Pushed down into the soil of earth
Comes the first struggle towards its birth
Mother nature plays out her role
Nurturing this newborn soul
As it rises to come from within
Another level of struggle will begin

Now experiencing the elements firsthand
Through senses, one begins understanding
The extensions of roots begin to take place
For education has just picked up the pace
Reaching skyward as branches on a tree
To stand on its feet, assuming it is free
Here the new level of struggle starts
For you become aware of the degrees of the heard

Swaying with the wind, yet standing tall
A constant struggle trying to understand it all

Though a toll takes place every passing season

You must continue on, you know the reason
If by chance you haven't realized it yet
Without a struggle, there's no growth to met
So the next time another struggle rears its head

Rise to the occasion and meet it head on instead

— a prisoner in California, October 2002

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.S. 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.

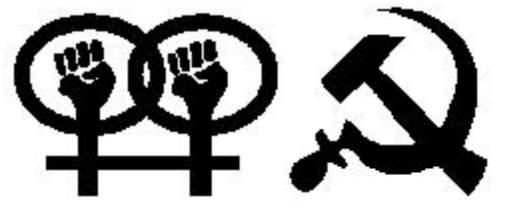
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

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.



¡Defiendan los derechos democráticos de José María Sisón!

El 13 de agosto, siguiendo la iniciativa del gobierno estadounidense, el gobierno de los Países Bajos hizo pública su "Decisión judicial sobre el terrorismo 2002 III" criminalizando fuera del proceso legal al refugiado político, el profesor José María Sisón. Como resultado de esta decisión, se congela la cuenta bancaria del profesor Sisón, así como se liquidan todos los subsidios gubernamentales de vivienda, alimentos, seguro médico y otras necesidades básicas recibidos por Sisón conforme su condición de un reconocido refugiado político.(1)

El profesor Sisón ha estado viviendo en exilio desde que el régimen de Aquino canceló su pasaporte a base de unas acusaciones falsas en 1988. Antes de este suceso, a partir de 1977, Sisón había sido encarcelado y torturado durante nueve años por la dictadura de Marcos respaldada por los EE.UU. Anteriormente, los tribunales holandeses habían confirmado su estatus de refugiado y habían proporcionado a su mujer e hijo auxilio político. Unos miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas de las Filipinas han conspirado para asesinar a Sisón durante su residencia en los Países Bajos.(2)

Actualmente el profesor Sisón es el Consejero Superior del revolucionario Frente Democrático Filipino (NDFP) que

está llevando a cabo negociaciones de paz con el gobierno de la República Filipina (GRP). Sisón fundó el Partido Comunista Maoísta Filipino (PCP) en 1968. Tanto los servicios de inteligencia filipinos e yanquis como sus voceros aseguran sin cualquier evidencia que Sisón aún encabeza el PCP. Sin embargo, según la declaración del PCP, el liderato colectivo del Partido opera de una manera eficaz en las bases reforzadas por la guerrilla revolucionaria fuera del alcance inmediato y travesuras de los EE.UU. y las reaccionarias fuerzas armadas locales".

Hace poco el Departamento de Estado de los EE.UU. incorporó al PCP y al Nuevo Ejército del Pueblo (NPA) en la lista de "organizaciones terroristas internacionales", instigando a que otros gobiernos "tomen acción con el fin de aislar a estas organizaciones terroristas, estrangular sus fuentes de apoyo financiero e impedir su movimiento a través de fronteras internacionales".(1) El 12 de agosto de 2002, el Departamento Fiscal de los EE.UU. calificó al profesor Sisón como un "terrorista" cuyos activos deberían ser congelados. Al día siguiente, el gobierno holandés aprobó la "Decisión judicial sobre el terrorismo 2002 III". Las aserciones estadounidenses sobre el



carácter "terrorista" del profesor Sisón y el PCP no tienen ningún trasfondo. No constituyen más que un intento burdo de meterse en los asuntos internos de las Filipinas y silenciar al profesor Sisón, un crítico implacable del imperialismo yanqui.

El Secretario de Justicia filipino ha declarado que en las Filipinas no existe ningún tipo de cargos criminales en contra de Sisón. El NPA ha prometido atenerse a la Convención de Ginebra. En sus negociaciones con el gobierno de la República Filipina, el Frente Democrático Filipino encabezado por el PCP priorizó la ratificación del Acuerdo Comprensivo sobre los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Humanitario Internacional. Desde que ambas partes firmaron el acuerdo, el ejército filipino ha torturado y asesinado a los capturados miembros del NPA mientras que el NPA ha puesto en libertad a varios oficiales filipinos de alto rango quienes alabaron su tratamiento.(4)

22 miembros del Parlamento Europeo firmaron una carta solicitando que los Países Bajos retiren la calificación "terrorista" del profesor Sisón y el PCP/NPA. "Solicitamos la presente medida de acuerdo con las resoluciones del Parlamento Europeo de 1997 y 1999 las cuales respaldan de una manera convincente y endosan las negociaciones de paz entre el gobierno de la República Filipina y el Frente Democrático nacional de las Filipinas".(1) Hasta algunos de los senadores del gobierno filipino han condenado la decisión de los EE.UU. por ser ésta una intervención en los "asuntos internos".(3)

El profesor Sisón no es la única persona afectada por dichos cargos. Estos últimos

restringen además la libertad de expresión tanto de los ciudadanos de los EE.UU. como de sus aliados europeos. Hasta los que defienden los derechos de Sisón o el PCP para publicar sus escritos basándose en la creencia de que la divulgación de los mismos es una condición necesaria para un debate público bien informado, pueden convertirse en víctimas de acoso y deportación bajo el "Acta Patriota" ("USA Patriotic Act"). Apoyar al profesor Sisón significa defender nuestra propia libertad de expresión y organización.

Con el fin de defender los derechos democráticos del profesor Sisón, llamamos a nuestros lectores a presentar las siguientes solicitudes al gobierno holandés:

- * un respeto completo por la protección del estatus de refugiado reconocido de José María Sisón según los convenios internacionales correspondientes;
- un otorgamiento de su permiso de residencia en los Países Bajos;
- * un retiro inmediato de su nombre y una liquidación incondicional y total del "Sancieregeling terrorisme 2002 III";
- * una devolución inmediata, incondicional y completa de todos los beneficios sociales cuyo otorgamiento le es garantizado según el estatus de refugiado político (pago mensual, seguro médico y beneficios de vivienda);
- * un renunciamento de cualquier solicitud de su extradición.

Escriban a:

Primer Ministro Jan Peter Balkenende
Binnenhop 20
Postbus 20001
2500 EA The Hague
Tel. + 31 70 356 41 00
Fax. + 31 70 356 46 83

Sr. J.G. de Hoop Scheffer
Ministro de Relaciones Externas
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67
Postbus 20061

Consul General de los Países Bajos
9th floor, King's Court
Building 1, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

Adjuntamos el texto de la solicitud en inglés.

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

¿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:

MIM • P.O. Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670