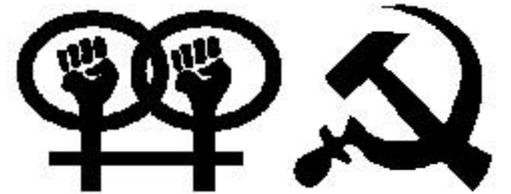


MIM Notes



Nov. 15, 2003, Nº 291

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Thousands march against Iraq occupation

MIM RAISES THE COMMUNIST BANNER AT SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON D.C. RALLIES

Thousands of people rallied today to demand an end to the war in Iraq, calling for the troops to be brought home. Activists estimate more than 15,000 people attended the rally and marched from the Civic Center to Jefferson Square Park. Rally literature and many speakers echoed the theme of self-determination for the people of Iraq. For MIM this point is fundamental. The Iraqi people do not need a better or kinder occupation force as some people suggest (i.e. bringing in the United Nations). The Iraqi people need the right to run their own country.

The Iraqi people do not see the Amerikan invasion force as their saviors. This is why the people of Iraq continue to attack Amerikan troops in spite of tremendously inferior forces and possibly lack of clear leadership and organization. People have a strong will to fight for their freedom and self-determination. It is very clear to the Iraqi people that there will be even less freedom under Amerikan occupation than under the Amerikan-financed puppet Saddam Hussein.

At this rally MIM observed an older crowd, overall, than at previous anti-war rallies. This un-scientific estimate survey of the attendees suggests that young people, who were drawn into activism

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**WASHINGTON, DC RALLY:
See page 7**



sf.indymedia.org

I\$rael rattles Amerikan-made saber *Tough tactics divide reactionary camp*

And the "Well, duh!" award goes to... Days after the I\$raeli army destroyed hundreds of Palestinian homes in the Gaza strip and left thousands homeless, the chief of staff of the I\$raeli armed forces said I\$raeli "military tactics against the Palestinian population were too repressive and were fomenting explosive levels of 'hatred and terrorism' that might become impossible to control."(1)

"Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, chief of staff of the Israeli armed forces, said that crackdowns, curfews and roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were crippling the lives of innocent Palestinians and that the military's tactics were now threatening Israel's own interests."(1)

Yaalon's comments remind us of the split between the German army command and Hitler over the invasion of the Soviet Union—as well as the split between some Amerikan military commanders and politicians like Secretary of State Robert McNamara over Vietnam. The technical expertise and school-of-really-hard-knocks materialism of generals

sometimes gives them a better understanding of the limitations of military force than civilian politicians. However, this rarely develops beyond tactical disagreements,

as Yaalon himself clarified in comments to an I\$raeli journalist: "In our tactical decisions, we are operating contrary to our strategic interests."

There are of course kernels of truth in Yaalon's statements that we've emphasized since 911. Oppression breeds

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Widow of Chiang Kai-shek dies at 105 *Masses will not mourn loss of Nationalist party leader*

Soong Meiling, a.k.a. Madame Chiang, died October 22 at age 105 in her home in Manhattan. She was the widow of Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) leader and former dictator of China. Madame Chiang actively supported her husband. She is famous in the United States as

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HELICOPTER ATTACK KILLS FIFTEEN AMERIKAN SOLDIERS

'Tough week' just the tip of the iceberg for occupying army

Fifteen Amerikans died and another score were wounded when resistance fighters shot down their helicopter on 2 November. It was the deadliest single attack since the start of the ground war and capped what U.S. occupation chief Paul Bremer called a "tough week."(1)

News reports said the fifteen Amerikans killed were soldiers on their way out of the country on leave. Chances are they were young, perhaps lured into the army with promises of easy money, perhaps too naïve to understand that the reality of army life is very different from the hip bravado of recruiting advertisements. Likely they knew little of the history of the people they were sent to conquer and occupy and could not understand Iraqis' hostility towards Amerikans. In this sense they were victims of U.S. imperialism like the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed in Amerika's decade-long war on Iraq.

Those who talk of "supporting our troops" would do well to listen to what one Fallujah resident said to the Associated Press after the helicopter was shot down: "This was a new lesson from the resistance, a lesson to the greedy aggressors. They'll never be safe until they get out of our country."(1) Many Amerikan soldiers have gotten the message, evidenced by reports of low morale and low re-enlistment rates.

Earlier in the week, Amerikan soldiers fired on protestors in a suburb of Baghdad, killing two and wounding seventeen. The protest started after the Amerikans tried to shut down a marketplace (see sidebar on page 7 for the thoughts of "Founding Father" John Adams on the effectiveness of occupying troops as peacekeepers). In response, the Amerikans now require residents to carry identification papers with them at all times and restrict their

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Letters

Lives saved and lost: communism vs. capitalism

Dear Comrades:

I am engaged in a public dispute with local Capitalists and Fascists who are seeking to vilify Communism by inflating the execution tolls of Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, et al. Their figures probably derive originally from the now repudiated Black Book of Communism, though tracing the figures to their sources has been difficult. I am trying to find accurate, evidence-based statistics for the execution tolls of Stalin, Mao, and Pol Pot.

In your December 1994 note "Exaggerations against Stalin," you write:

"One of the most maligned periods of history in the Soviet Union is the so-called Great Terror from 1934 to 1941. This period is also marked by the so-called Purge Trials of the mid-1930s. According to Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko, Stalin's "terror" in that period resulted in 19 million dead....

"Fewer than 25 million died from all causes from 1935 to 1941....

"So to arrive at 19 million deaths to blame on Stalin, there had to be fewer than 6 million deaths from normal causes between 1935 and 1941. Again to round off in our critics' favor, let's assume that to be 900,000 deaths a year for seven years as the deaths from normal causes. So for example, in 1936, that would mean

a crude death rate from normal causes of less than 5 per 1000 a year, based on a population of 180.2 million people in the Soviet Union.

"That's impossible and the death rate has never been that low in the Soviet Union, Stalin or no Stalin, not even in 1982, when the crude death rate was 10.1. In fact, the crude death rate has never been below 5 per 1000 a year in U.S. history either. A more realistic death rate from natural causes would be around 20. It was 20.3 in 1926, which according to almost all historians, was before Stalin started his repression, since he had only just assumed leadership in 1924."

Unfortunately, this analysis does not resolve the historical question of the actual number of people executed by Stalin during the period 1935-1941. Your analysis is consistent with an enormous range of possible figures for the execution toll. Do there exist any reputable and accurate estimates of this execution toll?

In your March 1990 note "Myths About Maoism," you write:

"Western scholars have estimated that between 16.4 million and 29.5 million people died in the Great Leap Forward....

"Mao did claim government responsibility for 800,000 executions between 1949 and 1954....

"Mao's enemies in China were more realistic than the Western propagandists. They directly blamed Mao and his followers, the so-called Gang of Four, for a total of 34,000 executions or deaths caused by other means of repression during the ten years of the Cultural Revolution."

The huge disparity between the estimates of 16.4 million and 29.5 million deaths alone casts doubt on their validity. There are various reasons Mao may have overstated or understated the execution toll from 1949-1954. Is there any other corroboration of the 800,000 execution figure? And if we take 800,000 and 34,000 as reasonable estimates of the execution tolls for 1949-1954 and 1966-1976, what about the remainder of the period of Chinese Communist rule?

I will be grateful for any further information you can provide concerning the execution tolls of Stalin and Mao. (This historical question is separate from the moral question of balancing lives saved against lives lost.)

—A supporter in Missouri, August 16, 2003

MIM responds: Accurate estimates of executions are a difficult question to address on a large scale because numbers from the capitalists are not to be trusted, but reactionaries are not likely to believe numbers that come from the communists themselves. We at MIM try to steer people away from taking numbers in the millions referenced in regard to Stalin and Mao too literally.

In reality, the question of accuracy is not as important as consistency of method used. The Great Leap estimates from critics of Maoism stem from social assumptions about the birth rate during the Great Leap. There is no list of people who died and there was no attempt to individually count the births by those bourgeois scholars carrying out these estimates. Since we wrote that article, bourgeois academic estimates have even increased beyond 30 million into the 40 million plus range. It does not mean they are "inaccurate," even though there is

evidence to build a case that even fewer than 10 million died from Great Leap difficulties.

None of these estimates had any concrete detail that the public is accustomed to thinking of in say murder cases. The trouble usually comes when journalists take academic estimates and use them to say Mao "killed" 43 million people. This leaves the public with the impression that there were the equivalent of 43 million OJ/Nicole murder cases that someone tried to cover up. That's not what it really means and we see a very similar issue debated in regard to intelligence estimates of Saddam Hussein's weapons before the intensification of war in Iraq in 2003. Academics and intelligence officers wrote detailed and arcane reports that politicians in England and the United States excerpted and spun. Sometimes that's what the intelligence officers expected, but sometimes people deeply involved in the details later have much difficulty reconciling what they said with what appears in the media.

There are many situations where the truth is more closely approximated by such a method as estimating a birth rate rather than by relying on lists of people that may or may not have been done correctly. To this day in the United States, there is a legal argument over whether the Census Bureau can accurately count every person within U.S. borders or whether an assumption-laden approach would actually be more truthful. From what we have seen, most believe the truth would be improved by using assumptions in the U.S. population count/estimate, but the law says every head must be counted in person. In countries like China, where Mao took charge of an illiterate people

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement
ISSN 1540-8817

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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For general correspondence, contact:

MIM
P.O. Box 29670
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670
eMail: mim@mim.org
WWW: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>

What is MIM?

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

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."
- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

On the difference in tactics in imperialist and oppressed nations: England in 2003

by MC5, October 2003

The quasi-revolutionary opportunity of 2003 in England brings to mind the difference between revolutionary tactics in the imperialist countries (excluding Russia and others where the majority is exploited) and oppressed nations. Roughly speaking, this difference in tactics flows from the class structure itself and corresponding strategies, where in one situation, the majority of the population is exploiters and in the other, exploited.

Lenin, Stalin and Mao taught us at length about the stages of revolution corresponding to the class structures and modes of production of certain countries, especially those where exploited majorities predominated. Following from Lenin, we at MIM say that the case of the United States, England, France, Germany etc. develops out of what Lenin said for the imperialist country situation.

Namely, in advanced capitalist countries, the first task is not to eliminate survivals of semi-feudalism to install bourgeois democracy or new

democracy. The task is to go straight to proletarian revolution, likely through a stage of civil war brought on by imperialist war as in World War I and Russia or by the victory of numerous People's Wars as explained by Lin Biao and sanctioned by Mao.

Our tactics in a situation where the majority is imperialist petty-bourgeois differ from the tactics utilized in Russia and China where the majority was peasant petty-bourgeois. The most important difference is that the proletarian banner is pretty much at all times in danger of

falling to the ground in the imperialist countries (excluding Russia). The task is more or less to stand out and away from the petty-bourgeois crowd. In the oppressed nations, the proletariat can fight to win over the petty-bourgeoisie, but in the exploiter-majority countries, only a very fine line prevents the exploiters from winning over the would-be proletarian.

In contrast, countries with exploited majorities will see the red flag hoisted again and again, despite repression. The task there is patiently to educate the

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Quasi-revolutionary opportunity arises in England Umph for revolution lacking in British anti-war movement

The complete version of this article ran in the last issue of MIM Notes (number 290, 1 Nov 2003). We reprint these excerpts to remind readers of the political and military context in 2003 England.

Few have noticed (including those in the international communist movement), but since the Iraq War started, England has pushed itself to the brink of a revolutionary opportunity. The number of troops currently left "at home" to defend against a revolutionary movement is minuscule.

One officer in England said, "we have not only taken everything out of the cupboards, we've stripped all the shelves bare." (1) In one move in early 2003, the British sent over a quarter of the Army to the Gulf. Another 19,000 troops were covering for the fire department workers on strike, a fact that gives the fire workers' strike an objectively revolutionary character. [...]

Here is how the British military is still talking about the situation. "Defence Analyst Garth Whitty, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army and weapons inspector in Iraq in 1992, says it may be all that the Army had to offer in the wake of their recent efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"GARTH WHITTY: I think the British Armed Forces are probably already overstretched, but the reality is there is no alternative but to maintain a presence until such time as Iraq is stabilized and that could take as long as five years." (3) [...]

The British troop deployments and shortages faced by U.S. and British imperialism show that the Third World does have strength in unity. The imperialists cannot send enough troops to keep the whole exploited and oppressed world down. If the oppressed nations put aside their own conflicts and follow proletarian leaders, they can turn the world upside-down.

We can say there was a revolutionary opportunity in England in 2003, but there was no revolutionary situation. That means that physically the government was stretched thin, but subjectively the population of England—which benefits from the super-exploitation of the Third World by British imperialism—did not want any revolutionary upsurge. It's not just that it let itself be robbed and had to learn political tactics. The population of England is predominantly petty-bourgeois. [...]

In England, most of those calling themselves "communist" are some kind of Trotskyist or another. They believe their "workers" are among the most advanced in the world, the way all national chauvinists do. They had their chance for revolution in 2003. Where is it? The answer to this question lies in economics, not political leadership and military factors. The majority of England is petty-bourgeois. When given the chance for revolution it does not want it. A determined proletarian minority must form its own pole, fly its own banner and give the petty-bourgeoisie another option to vacillate toward.

New book exposes sham 'peace process'

Dishonest Broker: The U.S. Role in Israel and Palestine

by Nasser Aruri
South End Press

Cambridge MA, 2003, 265 pp.

This book is about the so-called "peace process" in the Middle East since 1967. It is a revised and updated version of an earlier book, "The Obstruction of Peace: The United States, Israel, and Palestine," and includes material right up to the end of 2002. As such it is very useful not only as an introduction to the topic—especially for readers too young to remember Gerald Ford, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Alexander Haig etc.—but also as a guide to current events. Lenin mocked idealist philosophers of his day for muddling the issues by putting new window-dressing on 300-year-old failed ideas. We can say the same about every one of the U.S.-backed "peace" initiatives, from Carter's Camp David to Bush's Road Map. Watching the evening news after reading

Dishonest Broker can lead to some serious *deja vu*.

As its name implies, Dishonest Broker debunks the pretense that the United States acts as an independent, neutral peacemaker in the Middle East. In fact, United States' leaders have publicly admitted they support Israel as a defender of American interests in the region. "[Israel] is a force in the Middle East that actually is a benefit to us," then-President Ronald Reagan said in 1981. "If there were not Israel there with that force, we'd have to supply that with our own, so this isn't just altruism on our part" (p. 39). Reagan was just reiterating the strategy laid down in the Nixon-Kissinger Doctrine (ca. 1970), which placed the American "hose and water" in the hands of Israeli "fireman" (p. 20). Or, as a spokesman for the Israeli foreign office smugly put it: "The United States has come to the conclusion that it can no longer respond to every incident around the world, that it must rely on a local power, the deterrent of a friendly power as a first line of defense to stave off

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Opinion: Kobe case should not have gone forward

by MC5

It was non-stop Kobe Bryant coverage after a judge ruled that Kobe must face trial for an alleged rape in Colorado. At all four different public places this reporter visited in 12 hours, the TV was talking only about the Kobe case—this in the midst of the Iraq War and U.S. negotiations with Korea about nuclear weapons. MIM itself is not about to send someone to investigate the Kobe case, so we offer our opinion that this case should not have gone forward only if the assumptions of fact we make below are true in this or any other case.

Our opinion should be seen as a statement of principle more than a definitive investigation of the Kobe case facts. Both accused and accuser are exploited by for-profit media and interpreted in stereotyped ways by detectives and lawyers seeking to pigeonhole the case. The result is often far from accurate public information. We advise the public to move away from judging matters via the TV newscasts, tabloids or Hollywood movies.

If it is true that the accuser flirted with Kobe, went his hotel room, willingly kissed him and let him touch her on the breasts and buttocks before saying "no" when he began petting her vaginal area, (1,2) we at MIM are opposed to seeing this case go forward. Although the law says that the right to consent extends to going to a man's hotel room, kissing him, letting him touch you and then accusing him of rape, it should not.

Wimmin in both public and private places should be free of attack and kidnappings, but in the current legal

system, wimmin should not have the right to prevail just based on their word in date rape cases where there are no immediate witnesses. Taking the accuser's word as "proof beyond a reasonable doubt" makes marginalized men less than equal before the law.

We fully admit that this means wimmin lose some freedom. More accurately, we acknowledge that they and others already do not have freedom to go to men's hotel rooms without occasionally disastrous consequences. For every Kobe case that goes to trial there are probably at least two where the womyn wanted to go to trial for the same or worse and did not.

Yet if we change the law or interpretation of the law to prevent "he said/she said" cases from going to court, it is not adult wimmin who lose the most. If heterosexual wimmin are afraid of going to private places on dates, because of a change in the law or its interpretation, then it stands to reason that heterosexual men will lose some chances to persuade or cajole wimmin into sex. Hence, men's sexual access will also decrease if wimmin know that they cannot win a rape case in a private context.

The clear winners if we take away the right to go to private places and accuse men of rape later—aside from clarity and the public's intelligence, currently damaged by sensational sex stories taking up all the news hours—are children losing fathers to the injustice system and marginalized social groups which the legal system convicts disproportionately, such as oppressed

Continued on next page...

The national aspects of the Kobe case

By PC5 and MC5

As in our other articles on the Kobe Bryant case, we take the reported details of the encounter between Kobe and his accuser as fact, to make an ideological point. We have done no investigation on our own and doubt that extensive investigation could reveal what went on in that Colorado hotel room beyond the "he said - she said" level.

The details of the Kobe case as they have appeared in the media, whether true or not, remind one of something Sartre said about anti-Semitism: "Anti-Semitic women often have a mixture of sexual repulsion and attraction toward Jews. One woman I knew had intimate relations with a Polish Jew. She would often go to bed with him and allow him to caress her breasts and shoulders, but nothing more. She enjoyed feeling him respectful and submissive, divining his violently frustrated and humiliated desire. She afterward had normal sexual intercourse with other men."(1)

Wimmin are so used to trading sex for money and other things that it is not surprising to hear an anti-Semite use her body to carry out a power game. It's obvious that so much sex goes on for reasons having nothing to do with the sex itself. Going on an anti-Semitic power trip is just one more extrinsic reason seemingly no worse than any other.

There is after all no law against degrading men sexually the way the womyn Sartre discussed did, but there would be a law against the Polish Jew if he attempted intercourse. This is the sort of thing that goes around in a vicious circle. Where people struggle to be respectable economically and socially, wimmin often mingle sex and power as a matter of culture, through no individual's fault. However, as a result of hearing about "get a job" and "pay the bills" too much, Black men talk about all Black wimmin as whores in the most popular rap music. Some misogyny arises from an honest understanding of the condition of wimmin today, including the lack of intrinsic sexual desire that many wimmin have while going through the motions of wanting sex. This anger needs channeling toward those conditions instead of the individual wimmin themselves.

Although former Colorado prosecutor Mark Silverstein says prosecution of the Kobe case never should have been attempted, "Norm Early, the former district attorney of Denver, thought the session was most damaging to Bryant. He said the quick encounter with the woman left little impression of a mutually agreeable tryst."(2) We have to ask Early if he has ever heard of groupies before and does he know what happens on a rock band's bus after the show? Has he ever stopped to wonder why wimmin line up outside certain hotels and hotel doors? We'd suggest he collect statistical evidence on the average length of a groupie tryst.

By the U.S. legal system, Kobe is supposed to face trial by his peers, obviously not guys like Early who do not know what a groupie is. Kobe's jury should be Black millionaire entertainer stars who have had white groupies. People disgusted by that thought should take their anger out on entertainment for profit that creates these stars along with millions of disempowered fans. The legal system requires a jury of one's peers and that system has its merits in bourgeois context. It should not be abused by those who disagree with what our current culture allows of its entertainment stars. If people want a law against groupie-ism, they can pass one, but that is separate from this individual rape case and others like it.

MIM rather tires of Early's sort of point especially in bourgeois legal context. The implication is that had Kobe been willing to extend his visits with the accuser over days or weeks or months, that sex would have been OK. In other words, we can all imagine that the accuser might have been trying to have a prolonged affair. Oh, and by the way, a man is supposed to go to prison for life, because of the "credibility" of a womyn who admits to allowing a married man with a child kiss her and grope her breasts and buttocks—all in the good name of her profession as hotel hospitality extender. Then stupid media outlets like CNN defend the court system's handling cases like this based on the accuser's "credibility."

Now the former Denver prosecutor is trying to say the accuser is not so "fast." This is nothing but the reverse of the argument that is now legally disallowed in court that the accuser is loose and probably consented to sex. Yet this kind of question is bound to come up whether legally allowed or not (and it's there in a former prosecutor's mind as we see from this quote), because courts are involved in judging the credibility of individuals. If courts got out of that business and people sought their solutions to group-level problems through revolutionary or reformist means, such questions would not come up.

Wimmin have a right to consent as a group. That is an ideological and group-level statement. It's not the same thing as saying that individual wimmin can prove just based on their word "beyond a reasonable doubt" that they did not consent.

Kobe's accuser is what we at MIM call "gender aristocracy." What she has done in her leisure-time—her little game with a married Black man with a child—is hurting a wife and more importantly, a Black child now faced with having a father in prison for life. This demonstrates the accuser's power, gets her the TV attention she reportedly craved as an aspiring singer and, no matter what happens, will end with million-dollar offers from Playboy magazine to pose nude. Kobe is even more of a plaything—a successful one and a leader of leisure-

time society. One basketball club owner Mark Cuban has already remarked that the case increases media attention for basketball. Others pointed out that Kobe may sell more shoes this way among young men seeking a tough image and embittered by issues of crime and gender in this society. We do not have to find either the accused or the accuser credible to know that Blacks have been degraded by this accusation as if sex with Kobe involved so much suffering. The laws and attitudes need to change to account for more than just individual consent.

The ones who pay the price for playtime are the poorest wimmin and the youngest people—children: "More than half of all African-American women and a third of Hispanic-American women now find

themselves struggling to raise children alone, although usually not from choice and usually with disastrous consequences."(3) To hell with both the accuser and accused. Fine Kobe; seize any money the accuser makes posing for Playboy or selling her story to a cheesy TV docudrama; put the money into daycare for the poor who are absorbing all these bad leisure-time messages.

Notes:

1. Jean-Paul Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew* (NY: Grove Press, 1960), p. 48.

2. http://www.usatoday.com/sports/basketball/nba/2003-10-09-detective-details_x.htm

3. Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *Feminism Is Not the Story of My Life* (NY: Anchor Books, 1996), p. 176.

Case should not have gone forward

Continued from previous page...

nationalities.

In our opinion, if no other important interests are affected and it can be proved with videotape when the accused says there was consent and there was not, then we should uphold consent. However, we at MIM believe that the bourgeois law system is an inefficient and disastrous substitute for socialism when it comes to solving the rape problem. We'd rather see the idea of consent and enforcement of all other crimes taken down a notch by making it impossible to convict someone based on the victim's word about what happened in a private place—except when a crime in a private place followed a kidnapping from a public place. Whether it is marijuana or date rape, an unproductive prison system is too much involved in people's lives right now especially in the United States where the imprisonment rate is the highest in the world. We need to make other social adjustments to reduce that dependence on the prison system.

Even if Kobe had been white, so that the accuser and accused were the same race or, even better, the same cultural background, the interests of any child involved (3) should take precedence in date and marital rape. In Colorado, Kobe could face life in prison for conviction; yet there is no sentence that would not harm Kobe's child in this capitalist society where we still expect both parents to raise a child and do it often without even the benefit of day-care and other supports that should exist for those raising children.

At MIM, we regard adults in the United States as mostly gender oppressors. Kobe and his accuser are old enough to enjoy sex. The bulk of gender oppression occurs in the United States when that fun occurs at the expense of children and others.

Consent between such adults is not the only issue involved in combating patriarchy. It is a mistake to believe that it is easy to separate male and female interests even in a rape case. For one, 63.3% of Black men accused of rape are

accused by white wimmin.(4) Black wimmin's interests are adversely affected when whites throw Blacks in prison by giving a weak interpretation of "equality before the law" and "proof beyond a reasonable doubt." Many problems stem from a shortage of Black men available to heterosexual Black wimmin and more importantly, their children. Secondly, children are of both male and female biology and all male date and marital rapists also have mothers and sometimes wives. Throwing away all those social ties by putting a man into prison because someone says he was allowed to put his hand on her breast but not his penis in her vagina—that's too much given the other problems that also need solution in this society. It should be made impossible to bring "he said/she said" cases to court—probably just by a strict interpretation of "equality before the law."

Under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the profit-motive will be gone. There will be no open pornography for profit and no pornography masquerading as news media for profit. There will be no public images allowed that pretend to offer a stylish, stereotyped and flippant view of all wimmin's sexual attitudes. Without entertainment for profit, the whole "groupie" phenomenon will disappear along with the corresponding attitudes. Under socialism, MIM will insist that whatever diversity there is in wimmin's sexual attitudes, that it be put forward accurately by public cultural and political authorities.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/10/20/bryant.hearing/index.html> The CNN website alone has at least 49 stories on the Kobe case as of October 24th, 2003.

2. <http://www.vaildaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20031009/BREAKING/310090151>

3. Kobe has a young daughter with his wife. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/10/15/bryant.hearing/index.html>

4. National Crime Survey, 1983. ASI 6066-3, Table 45.

On the difference in tactics in imperialist and oppressed nations

Continued from page 3...

exploited in class consciousness and to aim the struggle toward clarifying political events. For example, Stalin made a point of having the communists in Baku stand at the forefront of the oil workers' struggles—literally at marches for instance. More often than not, any conflict with people that the communists face in nations with exploited majorities will involve a contradiction among the people. The most dangerous events to the imperialists and their local lackeys in that situation are clarifying political events connected to economic struggles. The most dangerous event that faces imperialists in their homelands is the link-up of the population with struggles of the oppressed nations abroad.

In the case of imperialist countries excluding Russia, if we do not live in fascist conditions but liberal parliamentary conditions, we must do the utmost to attack the enemy line seeking to drown out the proletarian voice. There is no point in waiting for gathering forces to undertake bold agitation attacking the enemy. They may never gather, because the majority is exploiter. There must be no fear of alienating anyone in countries with exploiter majorities. More often than not, the exploiters alienate themselves from the proletarian camp, both because of imperialist domination of the superstructure and because of real short-term economic interests. Anyone afraid of "alienating" the population in the imperialist countries on questions of principle must be cut down politically as counter-revolutionary. Any true representative of the exploited should be expected to alienate the exploiters at least sometimes, those times when the exploiters are paying attention.

In fascist conditions, Mao instructed us that armed struggle is the only hope in the imperialist countries and the stage of long legal struggles must end. At that time, the proletarian forces must think of themselves as isolated agents behind enemy lines seeking to do the most damage to the fascist machine. In that situation, communists who think of gathering their small numbers on a street corner to launch a coup are wasting their effectiveness in countries with exploiter majorities. The communists in that situation must think of themselves as specialized detachments of the military forces sent by the world's exploited majority to deal with imperialism in its homeland.

In contrast, in countries with exploited majorities, fascism more or less prevails at any time and the conditions for armed struggle and united front to bring down the whole government are more or less in existence. Downplaying struggle to arrive at false unity is often merely "right opportunism" in that circumstance when the same line applied in exploiter-majority situations is downright counter-revolutionary paving the way for fascism.

Throughout the world, the bourgeoisie

dominates the superstructure, but in populations with exploiter majorities the intensity of class conflict declines through the lack of proletarian strength while the pervasiveness of enemy attacks increases. The occasional proletarian voice is drowned out by the various voices of exploiter unity acting in conjunction with the media, but also through the petty-bourgeoisie's contact with its own daily life. We must be absolutely clear that the dependent bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations has virtually nothing to offer its petty-bourgeois masses exploited by foreign exploiters, while the imperialists do offer substantial benefits and super-profit sharing to the petty-bourgeoisie of the homeland. Pushing for the petty-bourgeoisie's economic demands in the oppressed nations is often objectively revolutionary. In the exploiter-majority countries, such a movement gives the imperialists a chance to give in and appear munificent.

The proletarian line will not fail in imperialist countries just because the internal majority is exploiter. Imperialism only succeeds in displacing its gravedigger geographically, but it creates that gravedigger proletariat faster than ever before. The Nazis seemed like an unstoppable juggernaut, but in fact German imperialism created its multinational enemy that stomped out Nazism at the source. It was wrong for the German communists in the 1940s to believe they could stage a revolution on their own or modify the ideology of the Nazi Party. Their work was best suited toward sabotaging the enemy and having confidence in the eventual victory of the international proletariat.

In MIM, we face challenges from time to time from our lumpen base in particular that believes that fascism has already arrived in the exploiter-majority countries. We disagree and continue building aggressive public opinion campaigns, not armed struggles. Around this question there could be errors of "right opportunist" and "left opportunist" nature.

As Lenin told us, the last and most stupid thing that imperialist country communists could ever do is defend the fatherland. Conversely, we must prepare minds for the fact that an alternative view of the world may come from the oppressed nations with exploited majorities. We must offer this picture of a sharp contrast and alternative to capitalism without watering it down to become another petty-bourgeois revenue sharing plan. When we downplay struggle to advance unity with the imperialist country petty-bourgeoisie, we proceed immediately into a counter-revolutionary line in the exploiter-majority countries. In the best of circumstances, it is unrealistic to expect the imperialist petty-bourgeoisie to rally to our side immediately. However, if we lay down a sharp contrast of principles, the petty-bourgeoisie can keep that alternative in mind in future political crises. The petty-bourgeoisie may even

vacillate toward the proletariat by accident in the imperialist countries—if only there is a proletarian pole to vacillate towards.

The task in the oppressed nations is different. There they must work out unity among themselves and not let ancient conflicts get in the way of anti-imperialist unity. Where the national question is at stake, as in most countries oppressed by U.S. imperialism, the petty-bourgeoisie is in fact held back by imperialist exploiters. An overly populist comrade would be guilty of right opportunism in such a circumstance, but not outright revisionism and liquidationism.

In the exploiter-majority countries there is absolutely no room for communists to operate to their right on questions of unity and struggle and their relative importance. There is no time to patiently await opinion to develop before putting forward the correct line, because the population is predominantly petty-bourgeois and allied with imperialism. No national question drives the population forward and brings about unity against the tiny exploiter class. In that circumstance, it is a mechanical and nationalist counter-revolutionary line to apply Mao and his line for China to the exploiter-majority population directly, just as Mao himself warned.

The only meaning that "left" and "right" opportunism have in the exploiter-majority populations does not concern the level of unity with the population and intensity of struggle but rather the form of struggle connected to the balance of forces. "Left" and "right" errors occur in connection to whether armed struggle should occur or whether long legal struggle should occur. That is strictly a matter of timing in coordination with international events. However, there is no such thing as even a mere right deviation on the question of working with the demands of the imperialist petty-bourgeoisie. Any slacking in the struggle against the imperialist petty-bourgeoisie's demands amounts to favoring the system of super-exploitation by imperialism.

Since the CIO union struggle of the 1930s, the communists of the exploiter-majority countries have served bread-and-butter economic demands only at the cost of dropping the red flag to the ground. The positive lessons for struggle derive from the Vietnam War, which is so relevant to the anti-war movement in England now.

The true advances in the Vietnam War occurred when the anti-war movement developed a section that identified with the Vietnamese fighters opposing U.S. troops. This included being able to distinguish petty-bourgeois and proletarian internationalist reasons for opposing the war. Likewise, with millions demonstrating against war in England, the real task was not to downplay disunity with the petty-bourgeoisie but to develop a proletarian internationalist portion of the anti-war movement.

In the 1960s in the United States this

came out as a question of the candle-bearers versus the helmet-wearers. The Weatherman was strategically and tactically out of whack according to MIM, but what it was doing was correct in the overall sense of trying to find a way to ally with the Vietnamese fighters. In many ways it was a crude birth for proletarian internationalism in the oppressor nation. The Weatherman fought physically to be on the Vietnamese side and caught a vastly disproportionate share of Nixon's attention. The petty-bourgeoisie begged Democrats to change their minds. The Weatherman and chauvinist petty-bourgeoisie often marched together, but they knew their differences. At first, the Weatherman thought of themselves as people appearing on the scene of a crime and getting physically involved rather than letting a murder happen. In England, the portion of the anti-war movement wondering how a vast movement could fail as it did in 2003 is ready for the next step. It should not be sidetracked into the petty-bourgeoisie's demands. On the contrary, we should explain to that section of the anti-war movement why it failed and what is necessary to win. Identifying with the murder victims (the Iraqi people) and siding with the freedom fighters is the first step in separating from petty-bourgeois thinking.

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

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

MIM's position on Iraq: a brief summary

*Support internationalism as necessary for long-run species survival.

*Overcome complacency in the peace movement.

*Only support wars that address causes of violence.

*The cause of the war is the economic system.

*Weapons proliferation (including weapons of mass destruction) is inevitable under capitalism. The existence of capitalist rulers who justify war based on weapons proliferation proves that war is also inevitable under capitalism.

1. Only internationalism can bring global peace. Many people already know that the u.\$ war will only create more terrorism and war. Each country must put itself in the shoes of the other country. For every action of imperialism, we must ask, "what if every country decided to do

that? What would happen?" What if every country decided to get rich by taking slaves, killing off the indigenous people and then making war for natural resources?

What if every country justified a war to "support our troops" on the border of some other country? It is clear that this sort of thinking leads to global disaster quickly, but Amerikkans are the last to figure it out, because they have received too many economic benefits from previous wars.

2. The peace movement has failed and needs to steer away from complacency by raising its political consciousness and studying political power struggles in similar circumstances. The apathy of others is not a reason for the peace movement to get "tired." It could be our own lack of political consciousness that failed to

convince the apathetic.

People in the peace movement should re-arrange their lives to give a portion of their daily resources to the cause of justice. That too is a matter of the quality of the movement. A movement that merely holds candles and marches can never win.

3. MIM opposes the war whether the united \$tates "wins" in a day or whether Iraqis kill a six digit figure of Amerikkans and British. We only favor wars that address the causes of violence, such as the U.S. Civil War. This war does not address the causes of the problems and only makes them worse.

4. Nations making war to free themselves from oppression and economic exploitation are only doing what is natural. The united \$tates is an imperialist country, a country with an

economic system that exploits the whole world and cannot stand still within itself. The humyn will to be free of oppression and exploitation is a given and permanent. Economic systems on the other hand have changed many times. It's time to change again.

5. Stuck within their system, the imperialists have succeeded in forcing people to ask whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, instead of asking whether it is possible in general to stop arms proliferation. The spread of weapons of mass destruction is inevitable in a capitalist world. The rulers blame northern Korea for supposedly not being capitalist and at the same time they panic in public that the Koreans might sell nuclear weapons for money: welcome to capitalism.

19 Mar 2003

Thousands march against Iraq occupation

Continued from page 1...

during the peak of the Amerikan invasion of Iraq, did not have the staying power of older activists. This is unfortunate, as the anti-imperialist movement needs youth to carry it forward and fight dogmatic tendencies.

We also noticed a large number of rally attendees wearing Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich paraphernalia promoting their respective presidential candidates. This was mostly among the older attendees. It is good that these people, supporting imperialist presidential candidates with the Democratic Party, still oppose the war in Iraq—if only because bickering among reactionaries over tactics exposes imperialist machinations to the public. (See MIM's review of Howard Dean in MIM Notes 290 and our review of Dennis Kucinich in MIM Notes 288). Backers of the Democratic Party clearly haven't made the connection between the Amerikan invasion of Iraq and Amerikan imperialism. It is not enough just to demand the end to one imperialist war, possibly because you don't like seeing Amerikan soldiers come home in body bags. We must be against all imperialist wars because of the millions of people around the world who die at the hands of Amerikan imperialism—not just by bombs, but also by starvation and disease.

MIM had a conversation with one Kucinich supporter who asked what our position is on Kucinich. We put him in the imperialist camp with a foreign policy that's no better than the rest of the imperialists. This man agreed but went on to say Kucinich is still the best candidate out there. If Kucinich doesn't get on the ballot he said he will vote for an independent candidate. This is an example of someone who is pretty clear at recognizing imperialism in the

international arena, but is still willing to support an imperialist candidate for president if it means he might see a more even distribution of the superprofits stolen from the Third World here at home. As we wrote in the review of Kucinich's proposed domestic policies: "This is just the first glimpse of Kucinich's Amerika-first plan: a glorious Amerika that provides for its citizens with its bountiful wealth. Wealth Kucinich seems to think is a god-given right of the country rather than something stolen from the oppressed people of the world."

MIM found a receptive audience for our literature table at this rally, with particular interest in The Stalin Issue of our MIM Theory journal. We only brought along 4 issues of our theory journal and we sold them all before the end of the event along with our "What is MIM?" pamphlet. This is a good sign as it suggests people are taking theory seriously and are looking for information to study at political events. A few people asked about how MIM differs from the "RCP-USA" since they also claim Maoism in North Amerika. Comrades were able to point them to the latest debates where MIM discredits the "RCP-USA" claims that a majority of Amerikans are proletarian. One persyn bought MIM Theory 10 on the Labor Aristocracy in imperialist countries.

This is why it is so important for communists to attend political rallies not just to support the demands but also to distribute literature. Even without theory journals, handing out MIM Notes gives people a chance to see some of our political line and a link to our web page for more in depth analysis.

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 \$tates, 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.

DC rally: Counter-demonstrators try harder

Washington, DC, Oct. 25—Counter-demonstrators made their most concerted effort yet at a rally against the war in Iraq. A couple dozen from the “Free Republic” organization attended the anti-war rally with carefully prepared placards.

After the placard-bearers waved their menacing signs at demonstrators, a womyn with a megaphone was sure to

tell all the marchers that they were marching in support of a “communist” named Larry Holmes leading the speakers. The megaphone user correctly identified Larry Holmes with the Workers World Party.

In response, one passing demonstrator said, “and Rush Limbaugh is a coke

addict,” shrugging his shoulders. The point is that the effort to discredit a particular speaker can never substitute for addressing the issue itself. In fact, in both pro- and anti-war camps there will always be those easily discredited in mainstream eyes. That has nothing to do with whether the war is right or wrong. In fact, as

Buddhists said during the Vietnam War, if the resistance to the war is communist-led like the propagandists say, then it’s proper to give credit to the communists. Likewise, MIM says of the non-communists: whatever reasoning process they used, if they concluded the war on Iraq is wrong, then we give them credit.

MIM tables at DC rally

Washington, DC, Oct. 25—MIM handed out 1000 copies of the November 1 MIM Notes to the rally which numbered from between 10 and 100,000 people, with police observers saying 10 or 20,000 and organizers saying 100,000.

Our biggest problem was that a number of people thought we supported Dean for president with our November 1 headline. One cursed us loudly, because Dean attacked medical marijuana he said. Others also would not allow a word in edge-wise. However, there were very few Dean supporters evident. About 20%

of demonstrators were wearing campaign stickers for Kucinich, many of whom raised an eyebrow against our headline. We had to explain that MIM opposes both Dean and Kucinich.

We will give credit to speaker and Democratic Party presidential candidate Rev. Al Sharpton. He argued against troops’ staying in Iraq until a tidy withdrawal “with dignity” could be achieved. “You lost your dignity when you went in in the first place,” he said.

Attending the rally was Redstockings leader Kathie Sarachild who is working

on a new book. She is famous for pioneering the radical feminist movement in the 1960s.

The people came forward to MIM to donate money and express opinions. One said that he did not know about our line on the Soviet Union and China, but he thought it was obvious that MIM was correct about the white working class being bought off. One young man said, “I’m so glad about the whole resurgence of the MIM.”

We also sold MIM Theory magazines and the writings of Mao.

‘Tough week’ just the tip of the iceberg for occupying army

Continued from page 1...
movements.

Adding to the blessings of liberation, the Amerikans have begun wholesale arrests of male villagers. According to the Associated Press, Amerikan troops arrested all male inhabitants of the village of Habbariyah over the age of 13. The Amerikan Army claimed the raid was to stop the movement of “terrorists” from Saudi Arabia into Iraq, but the Army admitted it had no such “terrorists” in custody. A month after the raid all but two of the 79 captives remained in detention. One of those released said he was never even questioned by the Amerikans.(3)

We encourage readers to apply the “cockroach rule” to the reports of violence in Iraq, whether by Iraqis against Amerikan soldiers or vice versa. If you see one, there must be many more you can’t see. The incident at My Lai is perhaps the only Amerikan massacre of Vietnamese civilians familiar to most Amerikans, yet such acts were commonplace. Being a foot soldier in an occupying army is stressful business, whether you are shooting or getting shot at. Take Amerikan soldiers’ dropping morale as a gauge for the scale and injustice of the violence—violence that is built into this occupation in the name of Amerikan imperial interests.

Notes:

1. Associated Press, 2 Nov 2003.
2. The Army’s own newspaper, Stars and Stripes, published one survey showing low morale, contrary to White House claims.
3. Associated Press, 23 Oct 2003.

You said it, Daddy-o



George Mason (left) and John Adams might have had something to say to today’s occupying army: British troops take incoming stones in Basra, Iraq.



Once upon a time, the story goes, a group of revolutionaries from the hinterlands rose up against colonialism and aristocracy under the banner of freedom and happiness for all peoples. Now their descendants openly colonize Iraq and elect presidents who defend flying the pro-slavery Confederate flag in government buildings. Thanks to that wonderful modern technology called “books” we don’t have to imagine what the “Founding Fathers” would have to say about current events.

Here’s what George Mason, “Father of the Bill of Rights,” might have said after September 11: “As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.”

Present-day Amerikans should take notice: George has a pretty good track record on this issue. The national sin he had in mind was slavery, which he said

would bring “the judgment of heaven on the United States.” Sure enough, about eighty years after he said this, more than 600,000 soldiers died before Amerikan slaveholders conceded defeat.

We read and hear regular reports that Amerikan soldiers fired on crowds of Iraqis protesting Amerikan occupation. Even according Stars and Stripes, the U.S. Army newspaper, 34% of Amerikan soldiers in Iraq say their morale is “low” or “very low,” and 40% said they had not been adequately trained for their “peacekeeping” tasks.

John Adams, who eventually led the drive to declare independence from England, certainly would have had something to say on the subject of occupying armies. He was defense lawyer for the soldiers who fired on a crowd of (possibly armed) hecklers in the famous “Boston Massacre.” Adams’ defense was double-edged: in acquitting the soldiers, he indicted the occupying

army. “Soldiers quartered in a populous town will always occasion two mobs where they prevent one. They are wretched conservators of the peace.”

To some extent Amerikan soldiers in Iraq are ground up by the machinery of colonialism. As we wrote at the beginning of the latest Amerikan ground invasion of Iraq, “We also mourn those of the U.S. troops who are too young and foolish to understand world affairs and why they die in Iraq... However, unlike the Iraqis, we can say that the u.s. troops did at least have a chance to avoid their fate. Whether they were watching too much nakednews.com (which is the leading news website in the male 18-34 age group) to pay attention to political matters or whether they read too many romantic tales of military adventure, the U.S. troops had the economic opportunity to educate themselves better and push their country away from aggression, but they failed.”

We constantly update MIM’s coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!
Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:
www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

New book exposes sham 'peace process'

Continued from page 3...

American intervention. Israel feels it fits this definition" (p. 19).

Because of its support for I\$rael as a proxy force against independent Arab nationalist forces, the United States has continually sided with I\$rael on fundamental issues. A partial list:

* Despite occasional mutterings from the White House that new I\$raeli settlements on Palestinian territory are "not helpful," the United States has encouraged continued settlement. The settler population has doubled since the beginning of Oslo "peace process," while the U.S. government relaxed restrictions on Amerikan aid going to building settlements and did nothing about tax-exempt private subsidies (p.xiii).

* Despite rhetoric of "evenhandedness" and "reciprocity," the United States hypocritically upholds I\$rael's "right to self-defense" while denying the Palestinians the same right (much the same way it applies this double standard to itself, reserving the right to pre-emptive strike while justifying the invasion of Iraq—or the bombing of a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan etc.—on the grounds that others are thinking about maybe producing some weapons long standard in the Amerikan arsenal). While I\$rael received \$80-\$90 billion in U.S. aid from 1948 to 2000, and continues to receive more than \$5 billion yearly—much of it in the form of Apache helicopters and jet technology used to bomb heavily populated civilian areas—the Wye River Agreement (to take one example) placed restrictions on Palestinian "possession, manufacture, or importing of weapons" (p.121; see also MIM Notes 252). While I\$rael supplies settlers with arms then used in provocative attacks against Palestinians—clearly violating numerous U.S.-brokered agreements but eliciting no response from the United States—I\$rael has repeatedly occupied and razed towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the pretext that the Palestinian Authority has not cracked down on "terrorists" (pp.119-122).

* Despite claims that the Oslo "peace process" put off "final status issues" such as the sovereignty of Jerusalem, no challenge to the status quo of I\$raeli domination can survive long in the Amerikan political scene. When the elder George Bush said Jerusalem would be included in a settlement ban (1990), which was consistent with official U.S. policy, Republicans and Democrats (1) denounced Bush, accusing him of undermining the "peace process." Congress passed a resolution stating that "Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of Israel [and] must remain an undivided city" (pp. 128-135).

Aruri correctly argues throughout the book that the reason for setting aside fundamental "final status issues" was to ensure their de facto resolution in favor of I\$rael. He quotes an advisor to I\$raeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: "The

intention all along was for the interim agreement to be very near the final settlement" (p. xv).

As mentioned above, reading Dishonest Broker sheds light on a lot of contemporary "reporting" and "debate" in the bourgeois press. We'll close this review by highlighting two examples.

"Blame it on Arafat." Apologists for Zionist colonialism often excuse I\$rael of any culpability for Palestinian suffering by pointing to Arab leaders' own duplicity, vacillation, thuggishness, etc. "Jordan illegally annexed portions of the West Bank in 1949," they say (as did I\$rael, a fact these blowhards never mention). "Arab states do not grant resident Palestinians their rights" (ignoring why so many Palestinians are in exile). "Arafat is corrupt and anti-democratic."

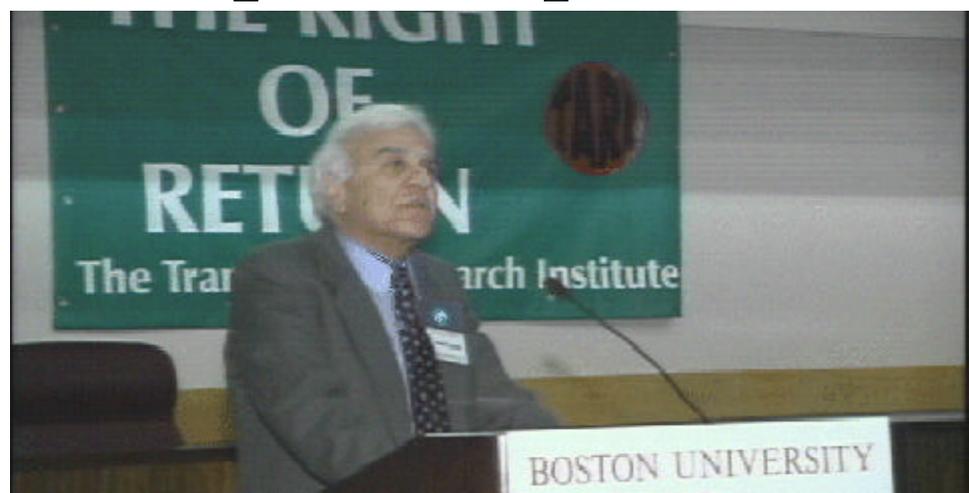
Aside from the fact that the sins of Arab leaders do not absolve I\$rael, which bears principal responsibility for Palestinian dispossession, these "arguments" ignore I\$raeli and Amerikan complicity in keeping this kind of sell-out, neocolonial leadership in power. So you say there's no secular opposition in Arab countries, Mr. State Department Intellectual? You should have thought of that when you backed the Shah of Iran, the Saudi Monarchy, Egypt's Sadat, etc.

Arafat is a clear, almost farcical example of this. From the beginning of the Oslo "Peace Process," Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have been dependent on the United States and I\$rael for power and international prestige. Aruri points out that before Oslo, "Arafat had become, together with his organization, increasingly irrelevant... The stark choice before him was either to be involved in the 'peace process' or to risk being bypassed altogether" (p. 84). The Palestinian Authority has no real authority to control its own economy or security. It has at best the trappings of statehood—and often not even those, as it cannot issue its own passports or currency (pp. 95-96).

This situation took a particularly ridiculous turn in the younger Bush's much-heralded June 2002 speech on Palestine. "Bush's speech called on the Palestinians, who were trapped in their homes for weeks and months under prolonged [I\$rael-imposed] curfews, to change their leaders and 'build a practicing democracy,' & to conduct 'multiparty elections by the end of the year' & and of course to stop terrorism. Even the New York Times remarked on June 25, 2002: 'How the Palestinians can be expected to carry out elections or reform themselves while in a total lockdown by the Israeli military remains something of a mystery'" (p. 207).

Throughout the book, Aruri makes the correct point that the United States and I\$rael have consistently undermined internationalist forces in the Middle East while promoting narrow nationalists (see e.g. pp. 51-59).

The United States and I\$rael after



Naseer Aruri.

the cold war. The common wisdom after the collapse of the Soviet Union was that I\$rael would be less important to the United States' geopolitical plans. Aruri shows that this has proven empirically incorrect: I\$rael and the United States are as close if not closer than before. He gives several important reason why: first, the United States interests in the region have not fundamentally changed; second, I\$rael has continued to do an effective job of selling itself to do Amerika's dirty work. This includes serving as a laboratory for Amerikan "anti-terror" tactics (p. 47).

The kernel of truth in the common wisdom is that there is nothing unique about I\$rael marketing itself as a thug—

contrary to anti-Semitic demagogues who say I\$rael runs the U.S. government. Pakistan for example is angling to trade its help fighting Al Qaeda for U.S. support in its conflict with India.(2) This is a problem built in to imperialism: major powers look to defend their interests by any means necessary, while bourgeois nationalists from smaller countries look to cut deals with the major powers to their benefit and to the detriment of their neighbors.

Notes:

1. Including George Mitchell, later chair of the "evenhanded" Mitchell Commission (pp. 181-184).

2. MIM Notes 260, 15 June 2002.

I\$rael rattles Amerikan-made saber Tough tactics divide reactionary camp

Continued from page 1...

resistance (which Yaalon has to call "hatred and terrorism" for propaganda purposes). A police-minded, repression-based approach to security will fail. However, Yaalon fails to see that I\$rael's strategic interests are inherently contradictory. I\$rael cannot live in peace as long as it occupies Palestinian land and denies Palestinian national rights.

The I\$raeli military claimed the goal of the recent raid in the Gaza strip was to destroy tunnels used by Palestinians to bring weapons in from Egypt. Even assuming such tunnels existed this is a hypocritical justification. It shows that I\$rael denies the Palestinians basic bourgeois-national rights that I\$rael enjoys. I\$rael can import billions of dollars worth of military machines including from the United States, but the Palestinians cannot import small arms from Egypt? Readers will be forgiven for thinking that the Palestinians could import such weapons from I\$rael or the United States—provided they accepted the important political strings attached.

Of course, there is little reason to take the I\$raeli military at its word. Such tunnels may not exist—or may have an entirely different function. The BBC documentary "The Killing Zone," for

example, shows house-to-house tunnels the Palestinians made to avoid incessant I\$raeli sniper fire, which kills scores every year. The I\$raeli military's press office claims those killed were either combatants or dangerously close to combatants, when it comments at all. A closer examination of the facts in most cases shows this to be a lie.

For example, during the recent invasion of the Gaza strip, I\$raeli missiles killed eight and wounded seventy. The I\$raeli military said the attack was a "targeted killing" (their words) aimed at a few militants in one car. It claimed it did not fire into a crowd—a story not consistent with the number of casualties. Eyewitnesses say I\$raeli helicopters fired two missiles. After the first missile hit the car, a crowd gathered. Then the second missile struck, causing most of the casualties.(2) This is consistent with separate incidents described in "The Killing Zone." In one case, according to international observers protecting Palestinian children on their way to school, I\$raeli sharpshooters would shoot a child in the leg. Then, when the observers left to take the child to the hospital, they would shoot the next child in the head.

Notes:

1. Washington Post, 30 Oct 2003.

2. Associated Press, 23 Oct 2003.

Widow of Chiang Kai-shek dies at 105

Continued from page 1...

the international spokesperson for the Nationalist regime during World War II. She is arguably more famous in China for her virulent anti-communism.

Many American obituaries praised Madame Chiang, but a large number of them also criticized her as a dictator who loved power and money. Some even admitted the Communists were an improvement for China over Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist government. These obituaries did not fully acknowledge the United States' role in propping up the corrupt Kuomintang regime, however.

The Americans viewed the Chiang regime as an alternative to the growing Communist forces. In 1938 Time Magazine named the Chiangs man and woman of the year. President Bush issued a statement upon learning of her death: "Madame Chiang was a close friend of the United States throughout her life, and especially during the defining struggles of the last century."⁽¹⁾

Chiang Kai-shek ruled most of China from the mid-twenties to 1949, when the Communist-led revolution drove the nationalist regime from the mainland to exile on Taiwan. Madame Chiang was fluent in English—she went to school in America—and served as her husband's envoy to the United States. She helped persuade the U.S. Congress to give the Kuomintang money to fight against Japan during World War II. The Nationalists used some of this money to fight the communists, and leaders expropriated much of it for personal use. This is no surprise; America has a long history of backing mass murderers, military dictators and thieves in government.

After 1949, the United States maintained strong ties with the Nationalists' "Republic of China" on Taiwan. The United States denied the mainland People's Republic of China membership in the United Nations until 1971 and delayed formal recognition until 1979. On Taiwan the Nationalists ruled with a notorious iron fist. After her husband died in 1975 Madame Chiang moved to New York City.

Born to a wealthy family in China, Soong Meiling was the daughter of a Christian Missionary. Her husband, Chiang, converted to her religion. Both used Christianity in their anti-Communist propaganda. Many obituaries in the western press discussed Madame Chiang's religion as if it was a progressive force in China. An NPR interview asked whether her Christianity was a democratizing influence in China—a laughable question, typical of bourgeois media that dismiss the class struggle.

Soong Meiling was the youngest of three daughters in her family. Her middle sister, Soong Ching-Ling, married Sun Yat-Sen, leader of the revolution that overthrew China's last emperor. Her oldest sister, Ai-Ling, married into a

wealthy banking family. There is a saying in China about the Soong sisters: One loved money, one loved power, and one loved China. Soong Meiling (Madame Chiang) was the one who loved power. Soong Ching-Ling, who split from the family to side with the Communists, was known as the sister who loved China. This saying makes it clear where the Chinese masses' sentiments lie.

In 1943 Madame Chiang addressed the U.S. Congress and received a standing ovation in response to her appeal for support in the fight against the Japanese. At a dinner at the White House with President Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor she was asked how she would handle a strike by coal miners. She drew a fingernail across her neck to indicate her severe and violent response to opposition.⁽²⁾

Under the Chiang government the Chinese people suffered poverty and repression. Chiang Kai-shek himself is known for earning millions from the opium trade and selling U.S.-supplied materials intended for the fight against the Japanese. President Truman estimated Chiang and his cronies filched \$750 million of the aid provided by the United States. It was the corruption of the Nationalists that led millions of Chinese people to join the Communist party, or at least support their revolutionary struggle. Even the Chinese petty bourgeoisie proclaimed that the Communists had to be better than the Nationalists.

The people in every town the Communists passed through affirmed the Communists' reputation for impeccable conduct. By the time the Communists ran the Nationalists out of Shanghai it was a nearly bloodless battle; the Communist forces swept across the remainder of



country to take power. The Communists quickly stabilized the currency, eliminated corruption, and put an end to prostitution and drug addiction.

Notes:

1. Taipei Times, October 26, 2003
2. Straits Times, October 25, 2003

Letters

Continued from page 2...

and county level officials would often be variously educated peasants, there is some reason to doubt that they could do a job even as well as the U.S. Census Bureau.

For this reason, we at MIM do not completely discount our critics using this sort of method. We only ask that they remember to use the same one when estimating capitalist deaths. Moreover, if our critics would say Mao "killed" tens of millions, then we want to hear how many millions they say Clinton "killed" also. For these reasons, MIM has focused on refuting the ridiculous anti-communist propaganda of the bourgeoisie while viewing with a more tolerant eye the people wanting to estimate various causes of death.

For us there is no line to be drawn that defines the correct number of executions. We cannot say, for instance, that if fewer than 1 million people were executed in Communist China the revolution was good but more than 1 million is bad. Instead we need to look at the whole period of Chinese Communist rule, including the executions, and determine if it was overall correct and revolutionary or not. We can study information about the executions in China to learn that they were carried out against a small minority of reactionaries, including a number of landlords who were killed after public trials by the peasants who had suffered rape, murder, torture and starvation at their hands prior to the revolution. But we can also state that even Mao admitted some people were killed who should not have been. And we can look at the context of these executions to see the tremendous advances the Chinese people were making during this period, including in the area of criminal justice and building a society of revolutionary participation by the masses.

The bottom line is that it is not possible to separate the historical question of numbers of people executed from the moral question of balancing lives saved against lives lost, as you put it. Executions are carried out in a political context. If the United States only executes a handful of people each year this does not make these executions morally or politically correct. The imperialist murderers (a.k.a. capitalists) are in no position to be carrying out any executions.

Further, when debating reactionaries on these questions we have to force them to address the questions on our terms. If they want to talk about blame for numbers of deaths they should be forced to address the deaths caused by imperialism around the world (see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/impkills.html>).

**IMPERIALISM
KILLS
MILLIONS**

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

Oregon good time threatened for revolutionaries

Some of your written materials have recently been shown to me by a fellow inmate here at [this prison]. Your letter asks for feedback so I thought I might write to you with some thoughts, ideas and opinions.

First of all, I'd like to applaud your efforts at organizing and implementing real change. When I was first incarcerated I was surprised that I didn't see more groups like yours with good information and ways to implement them at a time when it is most needed. We do indeed face significant opposition in organizing people behind bars. In Oregon, inmate-to-inmate correspondence is allowed but is more closely monitored than regular mail. I don't know if California is different but I am guessing it is.

At this facility our security have a zero tolerance for what they consider to be "unauthorized organization" and it seems a regular meeting of USW leaders/supporters would definitely fit their definition of one. I believe this is unfair and oppressive at best, however very little can be done to change operational rules from the inside.

Myself being one of the people who receive good time/earned time credit am reluctant to lose that. As such I do everything I can to work within the system when possible. I may have a chance at early release as well, in 12 months. If I don't get let out then, my next date is in 32 months. And finally, should I lose all my good time, my maximum date is in 41 months. I'm not trying to spend one more second locked up then I have to. I think this may be one of the problems you guys will find in attaining more members. People like myself don't want to or can't afford to attract attention to themselves. Maybe this is no excuse not to get involved but I have a family who needs me. I think a lot of people get caught in the trap of how much time they have left. People who are short don't want to become involved because they are leaving soon and lifers are depressed and unwilling to put effort into prison reform. Maybe I am making over-generalizations but that seems to be a problem to me.

Your list of short term goals seems to be reasonable and well thought out. Your long term goal will require more effort and man power as well as financial support.

I do agree with you whole-heartedly that censorship is one of our primary enemies in the struggle for true prison reform. We need access to real information besides what prisons are required by law to give us. Many useful books and publications are denied to us under the guise of being a "threat to the safety and security of the institution," I hope to see that change.

Perhaps this letter isn't exactly helpful, but I hope it provides some insight for you guys.

Sincerely,

— an Oregon prisoner, October 2003

MIM responds: We have received your letter with feedback on MIM's efforts to organize in prisons. We have not added you to our mailing list since you are wary of being associated with MIM. But we are sending you this response, and if you would like to receive a free subscription to MIM Notes just let us know.

The points you bring up are very relevant, and important for our comrades behind bars to be thinking about. We will continue to organize in prisons, where we find significant support for our revolutionary program within

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

u\$ borders. The contradiction of the u\$ prison system is that it is the blunt repression of oppressed nations that both makes it hard to organize in prisons while making prisoners more interested in organizing against the system. So we must work with the one to struggle against the other, for in the end the masses have the power, not the imperialists.

That said the power exerted over prisoners within u\$ prisons is obviously real and limiting. This power comes in the use of the carrot and the stick. As you point out, people are rewarded for staying in line with good time. One can also gain favor from prison guards by snitching on others who aren't staying in line. The use of the stick is at least as strong through tools like the Security Housing Units to straight up beatings and abuse that guards can get away with in the confines of these isolated societies in prisons.

For revolutionaries behind bars, you must weigh your options. You are much more valuable and will likely be much happier on the outside, if you can stay active once you get out. If putting off open political work for a year means you can get out and do work on the outside at the end of the year instead of waiting 4 years then you could probably justify staying low key for a year.

Organizing in prisons is a challenge and involves taking risks. It is up to each of us to weigh the risks and rewards of our options and do what will best serve the cause and the interests of the people.

Georgia prisoner remembers Safiya Bukhari

Former political prisoner, leader of the Black Liberation Movement, founder of the New York City Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition and Co-Chair of the Jericho movement, Safiya Bukhari died from heart failure on August 24, 2003 in New York City. Safiya was 53 years old. She was herself a former political prisoner.

I was impressed by her sincerity, her commitment and her burning energy. She was a descendent of slaves and she inherited the legacy of neo-slavery. She believed that struggle was the only way that African people in America could rid themselves of oppression. As a Black woman struggling in America, she experienced the most vicious forms of racism, sexism, cruelty and indifference. As a political activist she was targeted, persecuted, hounded and harassed.

Because of her political activities she became a political prisoner and spent many years in prison. But she continued to believe in freedom, and she continued to fight for it. In spite of her personal suffering, in spite of chronic, life threatening illnesses, she continued to struggle. She gave the best that she had to give our people. I pray that her sisters and brothers, who continue to walk on this planet, will honor her memory by continuing her work, by continuing her struggle, and refusing to quit until all oppressed people and all political prisoners are free.

—a Georgia prisoner, 8 October 2003

RAIL adds: Safiya joined the Black Panther Party in 1969 after witnessing a BPP member being beaten by police for selling the BPP newspaper on the street. She later joined the Black Liberation Army (BLA) and spent close to nine years in prison for activities on behalf of the BLA. While in prison and after her release, she continued to fight tirelessly for the rights of prisoners and the oppressed. Safiya was a strong ally in the struggle against the injustice system and against imperialism as a whole. Having worked together to expose oppression in u\$ prisons we can attest to her revolutionary spirit and effective organizing work. RAIL expresses regret at the loss of this friend of the people.

Notes: <http://www.thejerichomovement.com/bukhari.html>

Stamps stolen in NY

Reading pg. 10 of you April 1st issue, It is true what the inmate said that New York State prisoners are not allowed to send stamps in envelopes and for any reason that envelope happens to come back to the facility, that inmate will be in a lot of trouble.

— a New York Prisoner, September 2003

I am writing you to inform you that today I received your letter stating that you never received my 30 stamps and my manifestation about the ALKQN... The mail room clerks at this facility always censor our mail from Monday to Friday and they always get away with it.

I want you to know that these employees and the CO's here are getting away with murder by abusing their authority towards us because we are in the box and every time we come out our cells to go to recreation they always put shackles around our waist and once they do that, that's when an asshole CO will jump you with other CO's just because you're Black or Hispanic. In this facility there's a lot of racist CO's who wake up always on the wrong side of the bed and then take it out on us because of what we are, represent'n revolutionary...

I want the whole world to know that I am a revolutionary Latin King from the East Coast NY and every King in New York City and State knows me by the name King Storm and I'm not scared to tell the world how proud I am to represent my holy crown and my beloved nation to the fullest degree that no outsiders can't reach. I will refuse to let the united snakes of amerika break me down physically and mentally as well as spiritually because they will never take my crown away from me because my crown is carried within my heart, mind, and soul.

So if any Rey's reading this MIM Notes, please let it be known that we need to stop fighting among each other and lets bring it back how it use to be with love and unity so that everybody doesn't have to look at us as gangs which we know we not.

Amor de Rey

—King Storm, October 2003

MIM adds: Another new comrade from New York sent some stamps to support us with his

first letter which came to us opened and stapled shut with no stamps inside.

California State Prison on lockdown

I am writing this short letter to let you know that I just received my first 3 issues of MIM Notes. Thank you for sending me these truthful papers, I thought I'd never receive them because it's been a while since I've heard anything from you.

I appreciate everything you are doing and continue to do for prisoners and the truth and light you're bringing on such a dark environment (prisons). Keep up the good work and I'll be a supporter for life.

I have a few things to update you about the current situation here at CSP SAC prison. The C-yard I'm on went on lockdown Sept 29, 2003, due to a black man stabbing a Corrections Office (CO) in the eye and messing his face up pretty bad. The CO wasn't well liked and caused a lot of problems and searched cells just to be doing it even if your cell already had been searched. The convict who stabbed the CO was beaten

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.

pretty bad and put into ad-seg. The guard may not (will not) return to work. However, every race was placed on lockdown status, pending cell searches and whatever these corrupt people want to do. However when they are done searching all crip prisoners are supposed to be on lockdown because the prisoner was alleged to be affiliated with crips.

The conditions here are not getting any better. They continue to take from us in the belly of this beast. They took the weights, the family visits, the camera for taking pictures, no walking to the chow hall, cell feeding and food is cold when you get it. Took tobacco, lighters, blue clothes, now everyone wears pants and shirts that say CDC prisoner. Don't want you to have your hair but 3 inches, no beard, just mustache. Now they are supposed to be taking packages and a few other things. These people continue to take, we will have to struggle and fight for everything all over. They just recently took razors too.

— a California prisoner, October 2003

MIM responds: We remind prisoners on our mailing list to keep writing to us even when you don't get MIM Notes for a while. Sometimes our mailings are delayed due to financial and logistical problems, but we need you to keep writing to us so we know if we are being censored, and so that we can continue to work together.

California: guards assault another prisoner

On October 10 these pigs did a coward move on a comrade. They been calling him out of his name for the past month, and doing things to his food. He's in the hole for a battery on a pig so they hate that, they want to be the only ones giving out beatings. Anyway, when the pigs were bringing him back to his cell from the shower and the pig said "I'll take the cuffs off you." The one pig went inside of his cell and took the cuffs off, I'm not sure but I think the pig hit the prisoner then the prisoner put hands on him real proper, he shouldn't have taken the cuffs off and gone in his cell.

They should have let the prisoner in the cell, made sure that the door was closed, then let the prisoner put his hands through the small hole in the door like they do all the other prisoners. Anyway, all the other pigs at the door went in the cell also and started beating on the prisoner. They cuffed his hands and feet and put them together, then picked him up by his hands and feed and took him out of the unit.

I'm sure when they got in a blind spot they beat him again with the cuffs on, that's how they do things around here. When they took him out of the pod they had his t-shirt over

his head so I couldn't see his face, but I saw all the blood on the t-shirt. They never brought him back but I heard they moved him. I gave him your address a few days before this, but I'm sure the pigs lost his property somehow.

— a California prisoner, October 2003

Exposing the California SHU system

I was glad to hear about your work to try and abolish control and SHU units. As a person who has spent many years in these type of units, I know first hand that they serve no purpose, other than punishing prisoners severely. The CDC covers themselves by saying that prisoners conduct that endangers the safety of others or the security of the institution shall be housed in a SHU. Of course this makes sense in the abstract. However, the criteria is not that rigorous. The disciplinary process for offenses that warrant SHU terms is a joke. The hearings are set on a "preponderance of evidence" standard. These hearings are a kangaroo court system, and you can only appeal to the same staff that has already decided you are guilty.

Moreover, the CDC decides for themselves which prisoners are a threat to the "safety and security" of the institution. This term is a cover-all term and is not defined. They use this term "safety and security of the institution," any time they wish to deny any privilege or right that a prisoner has by law. The CCR Title 15 allows the CDC to nullify any legislation, simply by coining this term. The worst case scenario is when the CDC gives prisoners indeterminate SHU terms for being so-called prison gang members. Once the CDC decides you are a prison gang member, the only way you can be released from a SHU unit is by "debriefing." Which in turn makes that person an informant. In the prison society informants are despised second only to child molesters. So in all, if ten CDC terms you a prison gang member, for you to be released from the SHU you must risk your life by informing on other prisoners. To say nothing of your integrity, or the fact that you may not even have any information to de-brief.

Further, the criteria for being a gang member is far too easily met. Things like "confidential information." Any inmate could tell staff that a prisoner is a gang member and that will be used against that prisoner. Or "association." For example if I decided to play a game of chess with a validated gang member, I would then be deemed a gang member. This is clearly a method the CDC uses to remove any prisoner they feel is a threat.

Again...these units are designed strictly for punishment. Total sensory deprivation.

Furthermore, the rules change in prison society for prisoners in these units. All prisoners must follow two sets of rules. One outlined by the CDC, and secondly, and more important, are rules set out by other prisoners. These units condition prisoners to become more violent, and less forgiving than normal. When a person is incarcerated, they take an evolutionary step backwards. A more war like and less tolerant, almost animal society, and these are people who may have violent tendencies to begin with.

For the most part, the units make prisoners worse. So what purpose do they serve? And for the benefit of whom? I cannot see a prisoner that would be able to interact with people in society at any normal level after being exposed to long term SHU housing. When a person becomes powerless over their own life, that person only has two choices. One, submit and two, act out. Most people will not submit, so they act out. Either choice does no one any good. Not the prison administration, and certainly not the prisoner. Common sense would dictate not to kick an already violent dog.

— a Corcoran prisoner, September 2003

California SHU lacks health care

I just wanted to let you know of an issue that's affected me firsthand. My four years in the SHU I've seen a deficiency in the mental health programs for us back here in the SHUs.

I know that its frowned upon by fellow inmates if you are CCCMs, but hey, there is some need for this program for some individuals. That's reality. The CDC likes to hand out "Hot-Meds" like it's Halloween but refuses to couple medications with psychotherapy which plays a tremendous role in rehabilitation or curing a mental illness. SHUs have a severe lack of resources in this matter, and it has a tremendous impact on those directly involved.

A newspaper articles was just published on the rash of suicides that have occurred here in a matter of weeks in between. Something along the lines of six suicides within two months. And to add another, my homeboy just hung himself on 10/2/03. These foolios didn't, couldn't or wouldn't help him. SSU did their "little" investigation and told everyone that it was our fault. That we should have said something. Like the psych couldn't realize what was going on inside the guy's head with all their training and schooling. He was pulled out of his cell four days in a row to talk to the psych, to try and get some help. On the fifth day he was pulled out of his cell with a rope around his neck...dead.

Somebody from Sacramento came about a week after that happened and was interviewing people in our section to, I guess, try and get an understanding of the circumstances that

led up to my homeboy's suicide. He had pulled out about four people before four sergeants hustled him into the office bombarding him with questions like "who are you", "what are you doing here," and "who sent you." So it appears that Sacramento slipped through without their usual alerting of someone coming down. And them being able to prepare for them.

The SHU is no joke. Or even the Ad-segs. If you're unlucky enough to end up in a SHU or ad-seg where the cops are "brothers" and "do things their way" it's like you're up a creek without a paddle. I mean look, they have total control over you. They control what you receive, your mail, food, just about everything. The only way you can get something out with no roadblocks is to send it out with a homeboy who is paroling or take it "to the hoop" when there's a transfer to another yard, building or facility.

I've received three copies of MIM Notes. I think they were my first issues to test the censors. Well, they made it through. So keep 'em coming, they're being circulated in here. I'm getting good reviews so far from the guys.

— A CA prisoner, October 2003



What is internationalism?

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on US 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.



Planes yanquis para Palestina; Una “ruta” hacia ningún lado

El 30 de abril, EE.UU. y sus socios la Unión Europea, la ONU y Rusia entregaron a líderes israelíes y palestinos un nuevo plan de paz “Mapa de Rutas”. Según la publicidad exagerada, este nuevo plan requerirá iguales concesiones tanto de parte de Israel como Palestina. De hecho, el “Mapa de Rutas” reitera las fallidas propuestas anteriores. Específicamente, el plan requiere que los palestinos renuncien incondicionalmente la lucha armada pasando por alto el simple hecho de que la presencia de asentamientos israelíes atestigua el carácter agresor de este país cuya superioridad militar es indiscutible.

Algunos neoconservadores y zionistas creen que el “Mapa de Rutas” es diferente porque la situación geopolítica ha cambiado. Según ellos, la reciente guerra contra Irak ha demostrado al mundo que cualquier resistencia a EE.UU. es inútil. Los pueblos oprimidos como Palestina deberían “tragarse la pastilla” y aceptar las pocas migas que el Tío Sam decida otorgarles. Estos argumentos ponen de relieve el tipo de “paz” que desean estos promotores bélicos- una dominación segura por parte de los opresores sobre los oprimidos. No se quiere indagar de una manera justa sobre las causas del conflicto: en este

caso, el derecho no consumido de los palestinos a una autodeterminación.

La “paz” que dichos promotores bélicos buscan no es más que una quimera. Al igual que en el caso de las “exitosas” operaciones encubiertas en Afganistán durante los años 80 que llevaron al 11 de septiembre, y en el caso de las “exitosas” acciones militares y políticas por parte de Israel contra la primera Intifada palestina que dio como resultado el levantamiento actual, las guerras que se están llevando a cabo en Afganistán e Irak causarán más tragedias y guerras. Los americanos necesitan rechazar a sus líderes ya que éstos han resultado incapaces de encontrar una solución justa al problema de la paz y seguridad. A largo plazo, semejante rechazo corresponde a los intereses de los propios americanos, sin mencionar los intereses de la humanidad entera.

Como parte de nuestro servicio público adjuntamos una reseña de la guía de propaganda publicada por el periódico proisraelí Wexler Analysis. Mientras que en privado se reconoce que los asentamientos israelíes en Palestina son el “talón de Aquiles” de Israel, la guía intenta echar la culpa a los palestinos por el inevitable fallo del “Mapa de Rutas”.

La máquina de propaganda proisraelí: un vistazo más allá de la cortina.

Hace poco la Intifada Electrónica publicó una copia del filtrado “manual de comunicaciones” para los aliados de Israel en EE.UU. El manual aconseja mantener vivo a Saddam Hussein como un títere por lo menos durante un año, así como expresar simpatía a favor del pueblo palestino y culpar a la Autoridad Palestina por la pobreza de la nación. El Wexner Analysis reconoce además que los asentamientos israelíes en los territorios palestinos son el “talón de Aquiles” del lobby proisraelí sosteniendo que la mala noticia en cuanto al “Mapa de Rutas” es que los americanos esperan que Israel, y no solamente Palestina, cumpla las disposiciones del “Mapa de Rutas”. Las 17 páginas del Wexler Analysis están disponibles en <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article1395.shtml>. Abajo imprimimos algunos extractos escogidos seguidos por nuestras respuestas.

¿Porqué los EE.UU. sigue necesitando a Israel?

“Dados el sentimiento global antiamericano y todas las protestas y manifestaciones, estamos buscando aliados que compartan el compromiso que profesamos hacia la seguridad y el fin del terrorismo y que estén listos para anunciarlo. Israel es uno de tales aliados.” (pág. 1)

MIM responde: Si EE.UU. de verdad busca seguridad, debería poner alto a sus guerras de agresión y adquisición. Una política bélica contra la mayor parte del mundo de ninguna manera contribuye al intento de promover la paz interna.

Sobre Saddam Hussein.

“El día que permitamos que Saddam asuma su lugar en el basurero de la historia será el día en que perderemos nuestra arma más fuerte en la defensa lingüística de Israel” (pág. 4)

MIM responde: En otras palabras, conservemos la jerga de los tiempos bélicos como una excusa para seguir con la ayuda militar americana.

Sobre los asentamientos.

“La SEGURIDAD” vende. La seguridad se ha convertido en un principio fundamental para todos los americanos. La seguridad es el contexto que permite explicar la necesidad que tiene Israel de garantías hipotecarias y ayuda militar, y la razón por la cual le es imposible a Israel renunciar a la tierra. Los asentamientos

son nuestro “talón de Aquiles”, y la mejor respuesta (que, sin embargo, es bastante débil) es la necesidad de seguridad creada por esta salvaguarda”. (pág. 3)

MIM responde: Los asentamientos de la Franja de Gaza y la Rivera Occidental violan el derecho internacional, así como una serie de resoluciones de la ONU. Su presencia y la defensa de los mismos por parte de las fuerzas armadas israelíes trasgrede la seguridad del pueblo palestino. Los palestinos son incapaces de viajar, trabajar, ir a la escuela, comprar comida o buscar ayuda médica sin tener que pasar por los controles israelíes. Un genocidio de los palestinos sería un precio demasiado alto que habría que pagar por la seguridad israelí (y que, de hecho, mina la seguridad israelí, al igual que las aventuras militares de EE.UU. que minan la seguridad estadounidense).

Un servicio falso a los palestinos.

“Hay que hablar sin parar sobre su entendimiento de la ‘lucha palestina’ y un compromiso de ayuda. De acuerdo, esto sí que es un doble estándar (nadie espera ninguna acción proisraelí de parte de los palestinos) pero así son las cosas”. (pág. 3)

MIM responde: Israel posee un estado y unas fuerzas armadas que ayuda a quitarle al pueblo palestino su propio estado mediante 3 mil millones de dólares estadounidenses al año. Encima de esto, ¿Israel busca elogios de parte de un pueblo cuyos pescuezos pisa?

De todas formas, no es cierto que “nadie espera nada proisraelí de parte de Palestina”. El gobierno estadounidense siempre ha insistido en que los palestinos reconozcan a Israel y su seguridad antes de que empiecen negociaciones de paz, sin importar el hecho de que hace tiempo que sus lacayos favoritos como Yassir Arafat en teoría hayan accedido a estas demandas.

Sobre Mahmoud Abbas.

“El surgimiento de Mahmoud Abbas como el nuevo Primer Ministro palestino no pudo haberse dado en un peor momento. Su toma del poder parece legítima. Es una cara fresca, una cara bien afeitada, por decirlo así. Habla bien y usa vestimenta occidental. Quizás hasta tenga deseos verdaderos de paz.” (pág. 13)

MIM responde: Este tipo de aserciones es la misma habladuría racista que Israel utiliza para justificar el hecho de que su propia “seguridad” se mantiene a costa del pueblo palestino. La verdad es que el lobby proisraelí no quiere una paz justa más que el gobierno israelí.

¿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