

MIM Notes



Feb. 1, 2004, N° 296

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

IS THE DRAFT NEXT? *U.\$.* military approaches limits

GOVERNMENT DIVERSIFIES CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Bush administration has been compelled by popular and elite opposition to diversify its campaign against civil liberties. Nevertheless, state surveillance, repression and persecution continue to intensify, particularly against foreign nationals.

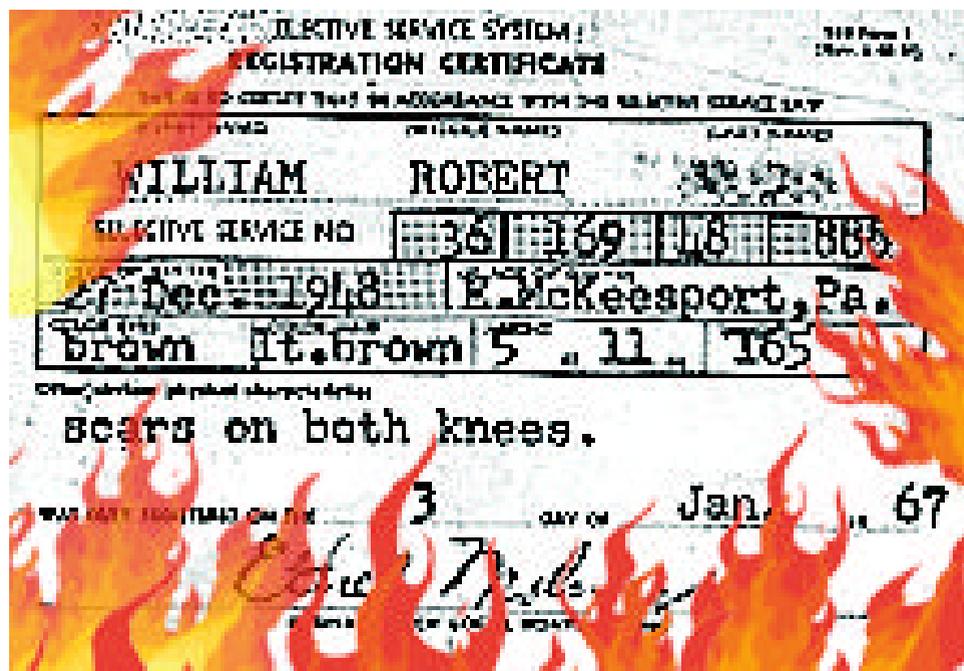
The "Patriot Act II" bill circulating last year—which would have intensified the repression measures permitted under the original USA PATRIOT Act, passed shortly after September 11, 2001—has not been introduced in Congress. This seems to be because there was substantial opposition to the bill. MIM was a leader in opposing it—last spring we delivered more than 3,100 signatures to California Senator Barbara Boxer's Los Angeles office (1)—but there were also campaigns by traditional civil libertarians as well as anti-big-government conservatives, including many Republicans.

For example, more than 200 local governments have passed resolutions objecting in one way or another to the Patriot Act.(2) Also, a group of U.\$.

Senators, including Republicans and Democrats, attempted to pass legislation at the end of last year that would have somewhat limited some of the government's new powers under the Patriot Act, including "sneak and peak" searches in which the subject is never told the search took place. The House of Representatives effectively limited that part of the Patriot Act last summer, denying it funding by a vote of 309 to 118.(3)

[This mainstream opposition to the Patriot Act was also seen during President Bush's State of the Union address, when many legislators applauded the line, "Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year," instead of the line Bush wanted them to applaud:

Continued on page 6...



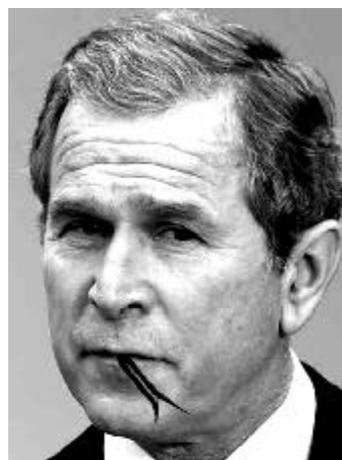
During the Vietnam War, Uncle Sam ran into problems at home when thousands of young men burnt their draft cards, like this one.

See more coverage of the war on Iraq, including an expose of Amerikkkan efforts to export pornography to Iraq, on page 5.

'State of the Union' same sad story

Last year, we wrote that President Bush used his State of the Union address to feed the public "concrete details" proving that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction—details we showed were either old fabrications or greatly exaggerated.(1) This year, Bush lapsed back into vague, hypocritical rhetoric and sophism, apparently trusting the kind of "father knows best" quasi-monarchism exemplified by Fox News to drown out persistent criticism of his arguments for expanding the war in Iraq.(2)

Last October, before the ground invasion of Iraq, Bush and co. claimed that Iraq had "a massive stockpile of biological weapons that has never been accounted for and is capable of killing millions." Two days before the invasion, Bush said U.\$.



troops were to enter Iraq "to eliminate weapons of mass destruction."(3) Then, last summer, after initial reports of weapons discoveries turned out to be wishful thinking on Bush's part, Bush backpedaled and talked about weapons of mass destruction "programs."(4) Finally, in this year's State

of the Union address, Bush could only point out "weapons of mass destruction-related program activities," a phrase that has been correctly mocked as so vague as to be meaningless.(5)

Even worse for Bush, David Kay, head of the U.\$.

Continued on page 8...

The ambitions of U.\$.

imperialism in Afghanistan and Iraq have left its military stretched to the point where its strengths and weaknesses are readily apparent. Now CNN is concerned enough that at the end of December it started a discussion of re-instituting the draft of men and women aged 18 to 26.(1)

Whether through ineptitude or intentional chutzpah, Amerikkkan rulers have done everything they can to make voluntary military service unattractive while increasing the hatred of the world's people for U.\$.

imperialism. The long one-year terms of service and the long call-ups of reserve forces have likely put a pinch on future recruitments. This can only serve to speed up the global revolution against U.\$.

imperialism. Now the U.\$.

military has gone the extra step and prevented those due to retire from retiring while also extending the terms of service of others. The Army hopes to limit retirement delays to 30 to 60 days, but there is no guarantee at the moment of how long the Army is delaying retirements. Word is "up to 90 days."(2)

To be sure, the government is offering \$10,000 bonuses to people who re-enlist for longer terms, but the killing of U.\$.

Continued on page 4...

A MIM Frequently Asked Question: “Why do you oppose democracy?”

Readers will notice that MIM talks quite a bit about Amerikan democracy—a.k.a. “dumbocracy”—in this issue. We reprint this short essay to give readers some background on what we mean when we talk about democracy and what we think of it.

If we define “democracy” as majority rule, then MIM opposes democracy in principle because we prioritize serving humyn needs —peace, healthful environment, food, clothing, healthcare and shelter. If a majority decided (as in the United States) that a minority or another country should have to do without survival “rights,” then we communists will fight that majority to the end, so we cannot say we are for democracy in principle. Survival rights are non-negotiable. On the other hand, in the distant future, majority rule might be acceptable in a world where there are already actually existing survival rights.

Exaggeration

1. The most common reason we oppose “democracy” is that it is used by conservatives (including people calling themselves democratic socialists) to exaggerate the merits of the status quo. The public is told there is majority rule again and again in situations where there is in fact none. So it is a factual question.

Conservatives believe majority rule of the world should not apply in economic matters, matters of property rights. Along with the European and Amerikan “democratic socialists” they have a history

of believing the majority rule of their country should decide what happens in other countries. For these two reasons alone, Lenin said communism was millions times more democratic than the status quo.

Imprecision

2. Many who use the word “democracy” including many foggy-minded scholars use the word to refer to something that should more precisely be called the “American way of life.” They are referring to a situation created when a country kills off the inhabitants of a continent, empties another continent for slaves and then builds its wealth. These people are largely unaware that India also has democracy, with more people practicing it there, than in the rich countries combined. Yet people starve to death in India by the millions every year.

Doesn’t work

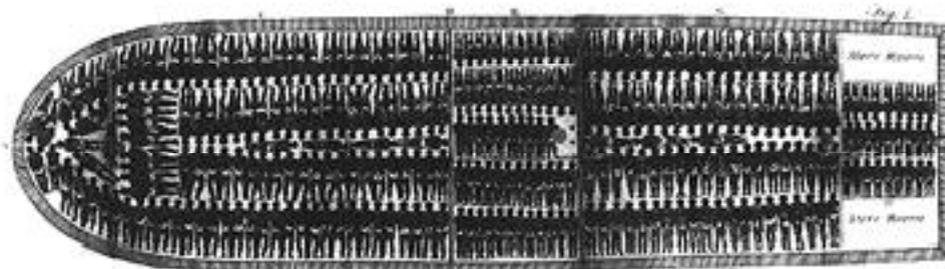
3. Democracy is a goal that often gets people excited and then slaughtered. The rich and the U.S. government spend money at home and abroad to win elections. When the Yankee imperialists and their lackeys lose elections they send in the Marines and depose elected governments or pay to subvert them. Money or guns settle the matter, not the interests of the majority.

We Maoists have read history and see that people have to be prepared to fight a people’s war for their destinies. Some people in the imperialist countries see the

facts but do not draw the same conclusions. They know “democracy” is not working in practice, but they downplay the problem or try to reform the system.



Widespread hunger and transcontinental slavery are two of “democracy’s” accomplishments



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.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

People who want to receive newspapers should become sponsors and distributors. Sponsors pay for papers, distributors get them onto the streets, and officers do both distribution and financial support. Annual cost is: 12 copies (Priority Mail), \$120; 25 (Priority Mail), \$150; 50 (Priority Mail), \$280; 100, \$380; 200, \$750; 900 (Express Mail), \$3,840; 900 (8-10 days), \$2,200. To become a sponsor or distributor, send anonymous money orders payable to “MIM.” Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

Most back issues of MIM Notes are available free on our web site. The web site contains thousands of documents, with ordering information for many more.

MIM grants explicit permission to copy all or part of this newspaper for any reason, as long as we are credited.

For general correspondence, contact:

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

What is MIM?

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

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

Profit-friendly NY smoking ban has no teeth

by MC45

The bar “Damos” in upstate New York may be the first to receive a waiver of the state’s restaurant and bar smoking ban. The state is allowing Damos’ customers to smoke indoors since the bar’s owner reported that his business was down 40%, and he was supporting the bar with his retirement savings and social security payments. MIM wants to know: if the state is going to grant exceptions to the smoking ban every time a restaurant or bar is about to go under, what’s the point of the ban to begin with?

MIM supports measures like banning

smoking in public places as partial reforms under capitalism. Under socialism, profit from peddling cancer will be banned altogether. For us this is the whole idea of a ban on smoking in bars or restaurants. In other words, when the ban starts to put smoking-dependent proprietors out of business, that means it’s working. If these capitalists really can’t succeed without getting people together to promote cancer, we want them to find something else to do with their money. (The Damos case is especially interesting from this perspective. Clearly the owner is not

depending on the bar to survive—and before he started losing money he had only one part-time employee—if he has government and private retirement benefits to pay into the bar’s coffers. This is a case where pure profit is driving the exception to the smoking ban.)

A smoking ban is just part of an elementary platform on public health, as is a ban on profiting from meat, alcohol and candy bar production at the expense of people’s health. We communists are the most resolute supporters of the people’s right not to be poisoned by their environment; you won’t see us backing

down on these questions to win the support of capitalists. A dictatorship of the proletariat—socialism—will be necessary to fully ban profit from products that harm public health, because such will demand placing the good of the majority ahead of the well-funded interests of capital. When our post-revolution policies push some people out of health-eroding jobs, we will move them in positions that contribute to the social good.

Source: New York Times 13 Jan., 2004. For MIM’s program under capitalism, socialism and communism, see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/pcongres.html>

Reports of California prisonrat corruption go mainstream

In January the Los Angeles Times ran a few stories exposing the California DOC “code of silence,” which protects guards who abuse prisoners and engage in corruption. The San Francisco Chronicle also picked up on the story. We’re pleased to see this story reaching the pages of the mainstream media and we hope that people will take this as a call to action. It is clear the Department of Corruptions will not reform itself.

The basis of these stories was a report on the California DOC by John Hagar. Hagar was appointed to monitor Pelican Bay prison’s progress in complying with court orders specifying reforms. He was appointed after the U.S. District Court found, in 1995, that poor medical care and guard brutality violated the civil rights of Pelican Bay prisoners. Last year, in a federal trial, two Pelican Bay guards were convicted of beating prisoners and setting up the stabbing of an inmate. Federal prosecutors gave the state corrections officials evidence that at least three guards lied under oath during the trial, but the department shut down its investigation into this misconduct. Hagar spent the last six months investigating why these cases were shut down and this report is his findings.

Code of silence exposed

Hagar’s report exposed the “code of silence” and the leaders who “neither understand nor care about the need for fair investigations.”(1) For years California Prisoners have been reporting in the pages of MIM Notes that their attempts to legally appeal corruption and abuse are met with resistance, lost paperwork, and retaliation. This report brings the truth of the prisoner’s claims to an even broader public.

As the Times reported, “Hagar’s report, still subject to review, amounts to a sweeping indictment of the department’s ability to police itself, and recommends criminal charges against former Corrections Director Edward S.

Alameida and a high-ranking deputy.” Further, “[h]e concluded that Alameida was moved by union meddling to improperly close a perjury investigation of two guards at Pelican Bay State Prison, then conspired with others to conceal his actions. Alameida should be charged with contempt, and Thomas Moore, former chief of investigations, should be charged with perjury for lying in federal court, Hagar said.”(1)

Alameida resigned as Director in December, and it now looks like he took the fall for the department so that they will be able to claim things have changed. But he remains on the department payroll and will resume working in an unspecified post after an extended vacation.(1)

This report comes at the same time the State Senate has convened hearings on mismanagement and cover-ups in the DOC.

According to the Times, “Hagar’s report included other episodes of what he described as improper union influence, including a department decision to pay for the legal defense of an officer who shot and wounded an inmate at Pelican Bay.”(1)

A Union vice-president stated that he agreed with the report’s findings that the prison investigations are a problem. But his view is that there are too many charges resulting from these investigations, making things out to be important when they should not be.

The Chronicle summed up the report as “[a] sweeping summary of corruption and cover-up among high-level administrators, Hagar’s 71-page report depicts a department that has lost control of its efforts to police rogue correctional officers, in part because of the influence of the state’s politically powerful prison guards union. The result, according to Hagar, is a systemic code of silence ...”(2)

We’re pleased to see this information come to light, but we note that Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposed budget

eliminates the independent state agency that investigates prisons. While we don’t think that agency is going to solve the criminal injustice system problems, this decision, in light of the tremendous funding given to the DOC, reveals the government’s priorities and lack of interest in doing anything remotely in the interests of prisoners.

Folsom prison riot cover-up

In January KCRA Channel 3 reported that it had obtained documents that demonstrate “Folsom Prison officials intentionally allowed an April 2002 inmate riot to happen and that those same officials then launched a cover-up.” It goes on to report, “[t]he documents show that a group of current and former Folsom State Prison supervisors and staff presented their allegations before two state senators. Included in that group is Evette Pieper, the widow of Capt. D.F. Pieper—a custody captain who committed suicide during the investigation into the riot.”(3)

KCRA did some further digging and got a copy of the Inspector General’s investigative report on the riot: “In it, investigators point out there were ‘substantial irregularities’ in the prison’s own internal investigation of the riot, and that those reports ‘contained statements contradicted by other information.’ The report even shows the warden ordered an ‘...audio portion of the riot videotape to be removed.’” No surprise to those who understand that the criminal injustice system is all about protecting it’s own, the Inspector General’s conclusion read: “This investigation did not reveal criminal misconduct.”(3)

As KCRA explains: “Evette Pieper says state senators need to dig deeper. She says her husband left a suicide note behind, saying he did what he did because of extreme pressure during a cover-up. She says the Office of the Inspector General’s official report even lends some credence to her claim. The report points

Continued on page 7...

MAOIST SEMINAR A FIRST IN EX-USSR

The Russian Maoist Party reports that it held a seminar on Maoism in commemoration of Mao’s 110th birthday. It was the first such legally held seminar in the ex-USSR.

The Russian language is the fifth largest in the world with 320 million or 5% of the world’s people speaking it. For this reason alone, the seminar would be highly significant. MIM and the RMP make Russian language documents available on our respective web pages and the RMP has agreed to participate in our forthcoming DVD.

From MIM’s point of view, the seminar is also important in showing that Maoists representing exploited white people can arise. Not all white people in the world are exploiters and to conduct agitation and propaganda among those white people who may be unclear how U\$. imperialism really attained its wealth is a distinct task unto itself.

Chairpersyn Dar Zhutayev delivered an extensive report on the basics of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Comrade Oleg Torbasow also delivered a report, one on the task of bringing Maoism into the Russian language. According to Zhutayev, “The evening began with ‘The East Is Red’ and ended with ‘The Internationale.’”

Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica Almanac* 2003, p. 723.

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

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

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

DRAFT NEXT?

U.\$. military approaches limits

Continued from page 1...

U.\$. imperialism; yet protracted occupation is what the U.\$. imperialists want to re-order the Middle East the way they re-ordered Japan and Germany after World War II. The imperialists believe they can accomplish more of their goals the longer they are able to keep troops in the Middle East.

MIM cannot confirm the analysis of the Associated Press on this question, but the general questions raised in the following quote are correct: "Back-to-back wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have stretched the Army thin. Nearly two-thirds of its active duty brigade-sized units are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. When the troops currently in Iraq rotate out this spring, the U.S. plans to lean heavily on the National Guard and Reserves for replacements. The Pentagon said Wednesday that the number of U.S. military reservists called to active duty jumped by more than 10,000 in the past week."(3)

The U.\$. army served as a "rent-a-cop" and Japan the "cash register" to pay for it in Gulf War I, and the truth is that the U.\$. military is not 1.4 million people who are going to fight to the death in any politico-military situation. They are 1.4 million rented people, people who will often complain about one-year terms abroad. There are only so many rural white kids thrilled to go off to war no matter what Bush says the reason is. The more people the Pentagon needs, the less pliant the people available will be—not so much for political reasons of opposition to war and empire, but for simple selfish reasons limiting how long one is willing to serve in the military in exotic but unfriendly places and at what salary. Bush's greatest ally right now in military recruitment is the unemployment rate.

It would be a mistake to fail to give the proper tactical respect to the U.\$. military, but we should also understand the longer term forces acting on the U.\$. armed forces. Long before anyone faces 1.4 million armed people in the field, the U.\$. forces acting outside U.\$. borders for the oppression of Third World people will be soundly defeated.

MIM would warn that the situation of the U.\$. rulers is not exactly the same as the British. There is a lot more room in the U.\$. force for shifting people around into different roles, because of the size of the force relative to its obligations. The talk of the military's difficulties may be aimed at Congress's budget deliberations and it may encourage attacks in Iraq that the rulers would like to see there instead of elsewhere. We should not forget that Bush said "bring them on" as in "bring it [the fight] on" in response to questions about U.\$. enemies in the Mideast and Iraq in particular. That could be pure

macho ineptitude pandering to certain Bubba-type voters or it could reflect the flawed calculation that the United States would rather fight in Iraq than at places like the World Trade Center.(4)

The very size and complexity of the U.\$. military relative to the British one allows the British to shift around troops without drawing international attention. The stretched situation of the British military is much more important for political reasons than for logistical reasons on the ground in Iraq or Afghanistan. At times, the U.\$. imperialists may want to cover for the weaknesses of its ally and at other times, it may want to see the British contribute combat troops in proportion to their population. That's a question concerning relations among imperialist countries who are not bound by a selfless ideology.

In addition, the British situation is objectively more developed than the U.\$. political situation for other reasons. One is that England has its own oil and it is difficult to persuade the English labor aristocracy that it is completely necessary or beneficial to serve as the tail on the Amerikkkan dog in the Middle East. Secondly, the anti-war movement in England has already demonstrated its strength with a much higher portion of demonstrators than in the United States. 2.5 million out of 60 million in England demonstrated simultaneously against the war. In contrast, with 290 million people, the United States may have had only the same 2.5 million demonstrators at the greatest point of upsurge.

In MIM Notes 290, "Britain faces quasi-revolutionary opportunity," MIM explained how, absent logistical cover from the United States, the British military is operating at its limits. Although the same general reasoning process applies to Uncle \$am, the development of the revolutionary situation is not as far along.

As proved by the success of Paris Hilton in the reality television show that gained higher ratings than Bush did talking about Saddam Hussein's capture, Amerikkans may be more nationalistic than the European imperialists, but skin-deep beauty is still deeper than any notion of group—whether nation or class—in the United States. The selfish and narrow concerns that drive men to pornography, video games and drugs are an excellent defense of the status quo of bourgeois society, but they limit the ability of imperialism to go on offensives to re-order the world. Most young men would prefer to stay at home and watch Paris Hilton on TV than join military operations in Afghanistan. That is the particular nature of how U.\$. culture relates to its military strength.

Hot air can only go so far. Tony Blair of England said that England would have

had to invade Iraq if the United States did not. However, reality is that England would have to pare down its ambitions or work out a new deal with French, German and Russian imperialism if it were not for the U.\$. imperialists. The British military simply does not have the ability to do all that the United States covers now and for the foreseeable future the same is true of any other combination of imperialists. Only Amerikkkan imperialism can fill the role it does right now and the Iraqi people have already started to expose the limits of U.\$. power. This gives us a slight inkling of how the end of imperialism may

come about.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/ALLPOLITICS/12/29/timep.draft.tm/>
2. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/01/05/army.delay.reut/index.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle?type=domesticNews&storyID=4076094>
3. <http://cnn.netscape.cnn.com/news/story.jsp?floc=FF-APO-1107&idq=/ff/stoory/0001%2F20040107%2F194828439.htm&sc=1107>
4. http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-07-02-bush-iraq-troops_x.htm



What is militarism?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amerikkans export their pastime Iraqis freed to drool and whore

Thousands of Iraqis and hundreds of Amerikkans are dead from the latest round of the Gulf War, but the only “freedom” the Iraqis have so far is the freedom to buy pornography and see prostitutes—this admitted by the bourgeois media which has reported on Amerikkkan shootings of anti-U.S. demonstrators and Iraqi journalists.(1) Under Saddam Hussein, prostitution was illegal while effectively available to the rich. Now there are popular pornography publishing houses making a fast buck and ordinary Iraqi men also have the USA to thank for their freedom to utilize the services of prostitutes.(2)

At least when it comes to the oppression of wimmin, Amerikkans can say they are no hypocrites. George Bush’s television interview on the capture of Saddam Hussein received fewer television viewers than a competing special featuring Paris Hilton of pornography video fame.(3) Now there are men in both the U.S.A. and Iraq who can say the war was never really about weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein, or even oil: for many apolitical men, it’s about sex, because everything

is about sex and trying to talk politics with them is almost a waste of time.

Paris Hilton is the “socialite”—polite language for parasitic playgirl—heir to a multi-million dollar fortune. Her sex acts on video have stirred up the world’s pornographic fascination concerning the availability of a rich white man’s daughter. There seems to be some dispute as to whether Paris Hilton knowingly posed nude or gave proper permission, and that’s all that was necessary to make the video of Paris Hilton extra special.

While many suspect that oil is the reason for the war on Iraq, we have to admit that Iraqis have gained some Amerikkkan-style freedom. The pornography and prostitution allowed in Iraq today are the first signs of respect by Amerikkkan men for Iraqi men. Just to show the Iraqis how special pornography is and to add to the taboo excitement of it all, the British arrested two of their own troops in Iraq for owning pornography in Iraq, one for child pornography and one for adult pornography.(4) Meanwhile, one Iraqi accused U.S. troops not just of owning but distributing pornography to Iraqis free

on laser disc.(5) It makes us think that maybe R Kelly took the child pornography charge as part of a team contribution called for by the U.S. military, because he subsequently dedicated a song for the troops in Iraq. OK, we’re just joking, but it shows how impossible it is for Amerikkka to do anything, even supporting its troops, without a heavy pornography undertow. (Even if R Kelly is innocent of child pornography, there is no doubt he is making adult pornography a part of his profession.) Every arrest of pornography producers under capitalism only restricts supply and causes the price to go up. The rise in price may even come with a rise in demand thanks to the taboos violated by those willing to risk arrest. In any case, as the price goes up, the people willing to supply the product also increase. Capitalism can in no way break out of the cycle.

As an attempt to placate the people of Iraq into accepting the U.S. colonial administration, the pornography/prostitution strategy is bound to bring some converts while antagonizing others. On the whole, we do not believe such a

strategy can work where a people’s economic livelihood is at stake as it is in Iraq today.

Notes:

1. http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Articles7/Fisk_US-Censorship.htm; http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Articles8/Fisk_Iraq-Censorship.htm; A newspaper closely linked to British military intelligence has reported it all. There is no dispute of fact: “Two months after ‘liberating’ Iraq, the Anglo-US authorities have decided to control the new, free press.” www.independent.co.uk

2. See for example New York Times 17Dec2003. Newspapers and television media throughout the Third World have been criticizing the united States for the spread of pornography and prostitution in Iraq.

3. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/SHOWBIZ/TV/12/18/offbeat.hilton.bush.reut/>

4. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2968472.stm>

5. Associated Press (AP) reprinted here: http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Dec/12132003/nation_w/119583.asp

2003: A big year for pornography

The fact that Paris Hilton’s appearance on a reality television show had higher television ratings than Bush right after the capture of Saddam Hussein (1) shows that young men in the USA have taken pornography to a whole new level. After September 11th, 2001, it was a source of some embarrassment that nakednews.com had to stop operations for a few days. The viewers realized that maybe their grip on politics was not what it should be and that at least for that moment, nakednews.com would not do. By the end of 2003, the pornography consumer openly ditched politics for Paris Hilton.

It is actually a return to “normalcy” that less than three years later, Bush captures Saddam Hussein and the under-40 crowd changes the channel to Paris Hilton. That is a huge political watershed moment. It’s tempting to say that when Amerikkans are watching their porno videos at least they are not lapping up Bush-league propaganda. The government has tried so often to link Saddam Hussein and his sons to unrestrained sexual appetites indulged in luxury pads that then become the subject of tabloid story after tabloid story. Yet, now it is difficult to tell if this was just a way of getting the attention of readers. There is obviously good money to be made in telling and re-telling the stories of the sex lives of men who supposedly procured wimmin at will.

The next image from all this that comes

to mind is a military juggernaut moving forward and crushing all underfoot, while most of the staff of the juggernaut pays no attention, because it is too busy with pornography. The Amerikkkan military can accomplish quite a bit with some degree of efficiency even while most of the country continues in its oblivious and privileged existence.

By coincidence, at the end of 2003, the bourgeois media did some thorough news stories that show how pornography gained mainstream acceptance in the United States. At \$10 billion a year in business, the porno business is equal to the music industry or the non-porno big-screen industry.(2) Especially noteworthy is how pornography videos are the key to some cable television and hotel profits—not in the adult entertainment production industry, but in “mainstream” businesses catering to pornography consumers.

CBS reported it this way: “Last year, Comcast, the nation’s largest cable company, pulled in \$50 million from adult programming. All the nation’s top cable operators, from Time Warner to Cablevision, distribute sexually explicit material to their subscribers. But you won’t read about it in their annual reports. Same with satellite providers like EchoStar and DirecTV, which is owned by Hughes Technology, a subsidiary of General Motors.”(2) It appears that DirecTV would be in the red without pornography of about \$500 million in

revenue a year.

The days are long gone when it was useful to think of pornography as some “deviant lifestyle” to be corrected by pre-political lifestyle practices such as advised by Christian preachers. Many of the largest corporations in Amerika would be sunk without pornography. “Hilton, Marriot [sic], Hyatt, Sheraton and Holiday Inn [...] all offer adult films on in-room pay-per-view television systems. And they are purchased by a whopping 50 percent of their guests, accounting for nearly 70 percent of their in-room profits. One hotel owner said, ‘We have to have it, our guests demand it.’”(2)

That level of economic organization is not something that a trip down to the local synagogue or Christian church is going to take care of. Capitalism is another reason that gender oppression is a system, not a lifestyle. If one cable company or hotel tried to do the “right thing,” another would come along and make the profits from doing the “wrong thing.” Hence, no single individual’s choice really matters in a profit-system.

The pornography industry now lobbies the California legislature, and among other things, lobbyists point out that adult entertainment brings California 12,000 jobs.(2) For that matter, all other entertainers have to compete; thus, Britney Spears and the “Friends” television show have made obliging references.(2) To restrict our view of

pornography’s influence to the direct employees of adult entertainment companies would be a big mistake.

The biggest possible blow to pornography is not the same old religion, Christian, Muslim or any other. Those religions have been around for thousands of years without contributing to the solution of the oppression of wimmin. The biggest blow to pornography will come with socialist revolution. When it is legally impossible to make profits or spend ill-gotten money, it is pornography and drugs that will suffer most. Mao already proved that by successfully abolishing thriving drug, prostitution and pornography trades in China (1949-1976). Taking away someone’s “right” to make profits from pornography is indeed an act of dictatorship at this stage in history and until the day no one would think of making money that way. That’s why people who want an end to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prostitution, drugs and pornography should support the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/SHOWBIZ/TV/12/18/offbeat.hilton.bush.reut/>

2. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/21/60minutes/main585049.shtml>

Open letter Shut down all Control Units!

This letter describes MIM's ongoing petition campaign against so-called Control Unit prisons.

Dear prison organizer,

As we fight to eliminate the oppression of all groups of people, the Maoist Internationalist Movement has consolidated its efforts to improve the condition of prisoners in the United States into a nationwide campaign. This campaign focuses on a particularly repressive and growing aspect of prisons in this country: the control units. We need to expose and fight the brutal conditions facing so many prisoners across the country housed in control units. We invite you to join us in demanding the elimination of all control units in prisons in the United States. We are circulating the petition below and asking that prison activist organizations, as well as anyone who supports basic human rights for prisoners, to add their signature to it. We will also be expanding this campaign to gather information and resources and raise our voices against control units across the country. If you would like to get involved

further, please contact us at the address below.

For justice,
Maoist Internationalist Movement

Shut down all Control Units

Control Unit prisons confine people to small cells in isolation for long periods of time. These prisons were first officially used in Alcatraz and then in 1972 in Marion, Illinois to house prisoners who were "institutional problems" or "too dangerous." Since then the idea has spread, and control units have become a common tool of repression throughout the American prison system.

These control units are used for the political and social control of prisoners already locked in secure institutions. They target Black, Latino and indigenous people who are a disproportionate part of control unit populations (relative to their already disproportionate representation in prisons in general). Control units go beyond the usual constraints of maximum security

prisons. Better defined as a prison within a prison, control units are used to defeat prisoners' revolutionary attitudes, organization, militancy, legal and administrative challenges, and anything else the prison administrators deem objectionable. While conditions vary from prison to prison, the goal of these units is always to achieve the psychological and physical breakdown of the prisoner.

Control units have various names such as Adjustment Center, Security Housing Unit (SHU), Maximum Control Complex (MCC), administrative maximum (ad-max), Intensive Management Unit (IMU) and administrative segregation (ad-seg). Prisoners spend years of isolation in tiny cells, usually 6 by 8 feet for 22 - 23.5 hours a day. In some cases the long term isolation is complete, in others it is small group isolation; both conditions are tremendously damaging to humans. The short time that they do spend outside their cell is within a cement or chain link "dog pen" that lacks any kind of equipment and proper space for physical exercise. Participation in programs such as religious

services, educational programs, work and job training, congregate dining and exercise are all prohibited. Medical care is also greatly limited.

Prisoners are usually placed in control units as an administrative measure, with no clear rules governing the moves. This makes it virtually impossible for prisoners to challenge their placement.

Control units are designed to dehumanize inmates through sensory deprivation. The United Nations has put forward clear guidelines for the treatment of prisoners. The Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (1990) states: "Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as

Continued on next page...

GOVERNMENT DIVERSIFIES CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIVIL LIBERTIES

"You need to renew the Patriot Act.]"

In response, the administration has narrowed its legislative agenda, and pushed ahead with some measures that are less politically sensitive—including some by administrative fiat.

For example, in January the Department of Homeland Security implemented a new fingerprinting and photographing program for adults entering the country from most countries (exempting those coming from countries that don't require visas, which are mostly European).(4) The "biometric" data collection supposedly allows immigration police to check entrants against databases of potential terrorists. In practice, it amounts to a giant data collection effort to allow widespread surveillance of foreign nationals—an estimated 24 million per year.(5)

Although comprehensive new legislation may be stalled, the administration has made some progress in the courts, especially regarding its treatment of foreign nationals. Most recently, the Supreme Court ruled that the administration may withhold the identities and charges against the hundreds of mostly Muslim men rounded up and detained in the weeks and months after September 11. Most of them ended up deported for reasons unrelated to "terrorism," and the administration doesn't want people to know who they were, what they were charged with, how they were treated, and other embarrassing information. This is not surprising, given that the court previously approved of closed-door deportation hearings for the

detainees.(6)

Both the immigration policy and the detainee decision represent the tendency to separate U.S. citizens from others in terms of legal rights—which has been the most visible pattern since September 11, and one of the reasons the American public has not protested more against increased government repression. For example, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York ruled in December in the case of Jose Padilla that Bush cannot declare an American citizen an "enemy combatant" and hold him indefinitely in military custody.(7) However, the detention of foreign nationals as enemy combatants has been allowed to persist.

Other moves against foreign nationals include crackdowns on informal money transactions used to send money back home to immigrants' families. In New York, federal prosecutors have brought charges against dozens of people from the Middle East and South Asia for the unlicensed transactions which used to be extremely common. The new enforcement has a nice side effect for banks, as the amount sent back to Pakistan though U.S. banks increased from \$300 million the year before September 11 to \$1.2 billion last year.(8)

The government won some legislative gains for repression, as in a little-noticed part of the intelligence authorization bill, which gave the FBI new power to demand some business records secretly and without a court order. The law expanded the definition of "financial institutions"—which are covered by new

power—to include many private businesses, such as travel agencies and pawnbrokers.(9)

One ominous development in the war on civil liberties has been the increasing role of private companies in the repressive apparatus. For example, the company Kroll has released a new product called "TruAlert," which it calls a "USA Patriot Act compliance solution," part of their "suite of risk detection products." The product allows qualified financial institutions access to government databases for purposes of verifying "compliance" with anti-money laundering and other so-called anti-terrorism provisions. Their press release says the product "helps ensure that you do not engage in transactions with 'enemies' of the United States, which is accomplished by crosschecking the name of an individual against the US Treasury Department Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list."(10) Kroll's stock (KROL) has increased in value by 137% since September 11, 2001, including a 40% spike in September 2001, while most of the stock market was dropping.(11)

To help stem the tide of opposition, the InJustice department has launched a publicity campaign, under the freedom-equals-slavery style name of "www.lifeandliberty.gov." On this website, the government claims that the Patriot Act merely "took existing legal principles and retrofitted them to preserve the lives and liberty of the American people from the challenges posed by a global terrorist network." The word

"retrofit" just means to modernize something, which falsely implies that the government has not increased its repressive apparatus through the Patriot Act, but rather just improved its efficiency.

The government has shown no evidence that the repressive measures instituted since September 11, 2001 have made people safer. MIM accuses the U.S. government of perpetrating terrorism in the name of fighting terrorism, and calls on people everywhere to organize against the growing repressive power of the imperialist state. Clearly, for the victims of this repression, the world has become less safe. But for average Americans, too, their government's belligerent aggression and warmongering increases the threat of all kinds of war and violence. Opposition to the war on civil liberties is a vital part of our internationalist duty to oppose imperialist militarism, which threatens all of humanity. Get involved! Visit MIM's website at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/>.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/PatActRally.html>
2. Buffalo News 16 Dec 2003, p. B2.
3. St. Louis Post-Dispatch 26 Oct 2003, p. B3.
4. <http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit>
5. Christian Science Monitor 6 Jan 2004, p. 3.
6. New York Times 12 Jan 2004, p. 1.
7. Washington Post 6 Jan 2004, p. A10.
8. Newsday 5 Jan 2004, p. 3.
9. Washington Post 4 Jan 2004, p. B6.
10. Mortgage Mag, 7 Oct 2003.
11. <http://finance.yahoo.com>

December 2003 Central Task Report

MIM's central task:

"To create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power."

by PIRAO Chief,
January 6, 2004

Recent months see a big increase in MIM Notes distribution, but December is a month when many activities grind to a halt for the holidays. The most encouraging number in this report is the increase in pages taken per day. As MIM expands its readership, we expect that ever-wider circles of people will have slightly less serious interest in politics and thus read fewer pages per reader. 60% growth in pages taken is a good number as we widen our readership.

Summary statistics comparing December 2002 and December 2003

	Dec 2002	Dec 2003	Change
Number of different computers MIM served	24,785	44,175*	+78%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2,182	3,492	+60%
MIM data transferred (megabytes per day)	143.1	101.6	-29%
MIM Notes (English) printed copies compared with pre-911=100		222	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100		222	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100		47	
Number of Art page users	8,928	5,446	-39%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	4,309	4577	+6.2%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	222	748	+237%

*This report excludes all art, and most robots and developer hits for 2003 but not 2002.

Control Units! California corruption

Continued from previous page...

such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants." The United Nations Human Rights Committee has further stressed the obligation of the state to treat prisoners with dignity and allowing them all rights set forward in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which the United States signed in 1977).

Control units are physical and mental torture and they very clearly violate the human rights of prisoners. They systematically target prisoners who are challenging the legal system and other manifestations of state authority. We, the signatories of this statement, condemn these units and demand that the United States abide by the UN principles it claims to uphold. We call for the elimination of all control units in prisons in the United States.

Send your signature to MIM at mim124@mim.org or MIM, PO Box 40799, San Francisco, CA 94140

For more information on U.S. imprisonment, Control Units and other repression in Amerikan prisons see: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Continued from page 3...

out two men, who admitted they didn't follow the proper procedure that could have prevented the riot, were promoted, while her husband and another supervisor—both cleared of wrongdoing—were demoted."(3)

MIM is in favor of using the bourgeois legal system when we can, to expose and fight the criminal actions of the injustice system. But we know that this won't end corruption and abuse. We hope that all this mainstream press will lend strength to our ongoing campaigns to fight corruption and repression in the criminal injustice system. We will take advantage of the opportunity to put forward other examples of these problems, such as the Security Housing Units and their corrupt and biased classification system, the Three Strikes Laws, and other systematic tools of repression.

Notes:

1. LA Times, January 16, 2004.
2. San Francisco Chronicle, January 16, 2004.
3. KCRA, January 9, 2004.

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.

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

**IMPERIALISM
KILLS
MILLIONS**

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

'State of the Union' same sad story

Continued from page 1...

the end of the last (1991) Gulf War, and I don't think there was a large-scale production program in the nineties." (3)

The only concrete report of possible weapons of mass destruction-related programs MIM has seen was in a detailed review of the post-invasion inspections by the Washington Post. (6) According to reporter Barton Gellman, the former head of Iraq's nuclear program, Khalid Ibrahim Said, was working on a conventional weapon: a "rail gun," which uses electromagnetic pulses to accelerate a small object to very high speeds. Iraq had declared Said's device to the International Atomic Energy Agency as an "air defense" project. U.S. inspectors suspected measurements taken from smashing objects together at high speeds could be used for atomic weapons design. However, they found no evidence of the necessary experiments. A "Western physicist" Gellman interviewed believed Said used the gun for general training. "It's basic science. There's no relation to actual [bomb] design and fabrication."

The take-home message of Gellman's review was "investigators have found no support for the two main fears expressed in London and Washington before the war: that Iraq had a hidden arsenal of old weapons and built advanced programs for new ones." (6)

The Washington Post article contains several anecdotes describing how the Iraqis—understandably and predictably—gave the false impression that their weapons programs were more active than they were. First, faced with an invasion apparently unstoppable by further diplomatic concessions, the Iraqis wanted to make Washington think twice about the cost of war. As former U.N. arms inspector Hans Blix explained, "You can put a sign on your door, 'Beware of dog,' without having a dog." (6) Second, Iraqi scientists may have been making exaggerated claims to the central government to justify spending on their pet projects—in much the same way the biology and public health departments at American universities have jumped on the "bioterrorism" bandwagon. American spies reading their reports could be just as fooled as the central government.

These anecdotes illustrate the futility of a policing approach to the problem of "terrorism," something MIM has repeatedly pointed out since September 11. (7) America's "we're the cops of the world" approach to security—upheld by both Republicans and Democrats—has not brought global peace and security in the past and cannot bring it in the future. Instead, what's needed is an approach that addresses the root economic causes of conflict among nations.

Who's violent? Whose violence?

President Bush began his speech with a howlingly silly declaration that shows the bankruptcy of the imperialists' ideas

about peace and security. "Hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women," said Bush, were "delivering justice to the violent."

As if the U.S.-imposed sanctions which killed hundreds of thousands of Iraqis since the 1991 Gulf War were not violent.

As if the invasion of Iraq was not itself violent.

As if Bush did not immediately threaten countries that do not play by America's rules with violence: "For diplomacy to be effective, words must be credible, and now no one can doubt the word of America."

Neoconservative Irving Kristol—whom George Bush recently awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest U.S. civilian honor (8)—anticipated Bush's point in more forthright language: "In truth, the days of 'gunboat diplomacy' are never over... Gunboats are as necessary for international order as police cars for domestic order." (9)

We at MIM are not pacifists. We believe it is possible to use violence to prevent violence. But the kind of violence Bush and Kristol advocate cannot reduce violence. Such "gunboat diplomacy" could not prevent two world wars and dozens of local conflicts that killed over 100 million people in the 20th century.

As we wrote in our "Statement of principles regarding the Iraq War:" "Bush's violence is partly fear-mongering panic about weapons of mass destruction. Yet weapons of mass destruction are merely a symptom. Bush's supporters often say 'guns don't kill people; people do.' There are reasons people create weapons of mass destruction and use them as in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Bush has never addressed the causes of war except by making them worse.

"What Bush does is a perfect example of reactionary repressive violence. It whips up a furor over a symptom and claims to tidy up after the problem. Fascism can also be seen as one huge effort to tidy up the problems created by capitalism, but fascism cannot succeed because it cannot let itself know the sources of its own existence. In contrast, Abe Lincoln also used repressive violence, but Lincoln's violence ended up being progressive repressive violence, because Lincoln had a plan to eliminate slavery and other causes of conflict. Lincoln used violence against a cause of violence. Bush uses violence that will only inflame the world's people more. People who understand this will readily understand how it is that Stalin violently repressed so many people but still the life expectancy of his people doubled. ...

"At first glance the question of war and peace may seem to divide neatly into moral and tactical questions. That is wrong. Israel is not at peace; that is a scientific fact. The United States spends more money on the military than the rest of the world combined and it has the world's largest economy; yet the United

States is subject to terrorist attack from people who could pick easier targets if they were opportunist. These are also scientific facts and they indicate something about the approach of Israel and the United States." (10)

"Bush tries to address moral concerns by saying Uncle Sam will try to make the war as short as possible and leave Iraq in a happy democracy better off than it was before the war. People with a knowledge of Iraq or any Third World people's love of self-determination know why the United States is hated there. It may seem to be a 'tactical' question as to whether Bush has the capability to bring about 'democracy' in Iraq, but in fact, moral and tactical (instrumental) questions are merged. We often hear that ideological dispute is messier than scientific dispute, but in this case, the morality of "world peace" is uncontroversial. The science of how to bring that about is controversial." (10)

Did he really just say that?

The remainder of Bush's speech was filled with macho posturing and head-up-his-ass laissez-faire capitalist canards. For example, Bush chided Iraqi liberation fighters for "[running] away from our troops in battle [and attacking] from the shadows." He apparently forgot that the American colonists who took up arms against the foremost military power of their day "did not fight ... like a regular army, only like savages, behind trees and stone walls and out of the woods and houses." (11) Bush also touted "the system of private medicine that makes America's health care the best in the world"—a patently false claim, seeing as the United States as a whole ranks 29th in healthy life expectancy (behind Japan, France and Greece, e.g.) and the infant mortality rate for Blacks in Boston (24 per 1,000) is ten times that of Sweden, five times that of south Korea, more than twice that of the Ukraine, etc. (12)

This raises the question of whether Bush and his cronies actually believe this stupidity or just act like they do. On the one hand, the imperialists need objective facts for their own planning. Bush's machismo may just be "pandering to certain Bubba-type voters," (11) while the imperialists' real reasoning remains hidden in smoky back rooms. In the words of a quote attributed to Irving Kristol, "There are different kinds of truths for different kinds of people. There are truths appropriate for children; truths that are appropriate for students; truths that are appropriate for educated adults; and truths that are appropriate for highly educated adults, and the notion that there should be one set of truths available to everyone is a modern democratic fallacy. It doesn't work." (12)

On the other hand, the corruption of the American electoral process may give preference to leaders who excel at self-deception and pandering. Limited

internationalist experience, pro-imperialist policies and stubborn chauvinism can be a real plus in November.

Either way, American "dumbocracy" cannot produce leaders with the vision or fortitude necessary to break with the imperialists and put forward international answers to problems of poverty and war. Americans need to break with rulers who take chances with future September 11s and nuclear war.

—MC206,
26 January 2004

Notes:

1. MIM Notes 276, 15 February 2003.
2. See e.g. MIM Notes 274, 15 January 2003, and MIM Notes 285, 1 August 2003.
3. "Kay: Lack of Iraqi WMD Requires Review," Associated Press, 25 Jan 2003.
4. MIM Notes 290, 1 November 2003. Former U.S. chief inspector David Kay called Bush's announcement that the Americans had found two mobile germ-weapons labs a "fiasco," "premature and embarrassing." The labs turned out to produce hydrogen for observation balloons. See (6) for more details.
5. One blogger wrote, "A cheese-food product is closer real cheese than 'weapons of mass destruction-related program activities' are to real weapons." (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/Default.aspx?id=3449870&p1=0>) Another commented, "This isn't just moving the goalposts, it's attaching the goalposts to a booster rocket and shooting them into the Sun." (<http://nielsenhayden.com/electrolite/archives/004564.html>)
6. "Iraq's arsenal was only on paper," Washington Post, 7 Jan 2004.
7. See e.g. "Why the U.S. terrorist faction cannot win," MIM Notes 246, 15 November 2001; "U.S. military budget would have angered American 'founding fathers,'" MIM Notes 276, 15 February 2003.
8. The Jerusalem Post, 15 Aug 2002.
9. Quoted in: Noam Chomsky, "Middle East Illusions," New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003, pp. 8, 171.
10. MIM Notes 279, 1 April 2003.
11. Attributed to an anonymous British infantryman after the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, quoted in Tim O'Brien's novel, "The Lake of the Woods."
12. For healthy life index and international infant mortality rates, see <http://www3.who.int/whosis/hale/hale.html> and http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/OVERVIEW/CHILD_HEALTH/Mortality_Rates_00.pdf. For Boston, see http://main.wgbh.org/ton/programs/6945_02.html.
13. See "Draft next?" on page one of this issue.
14. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irving_Kristol.

Now you see it, now you don't *Bush on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq*

Before the ground invasion of Iraq began

"The Iraqi regime . . . possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons."

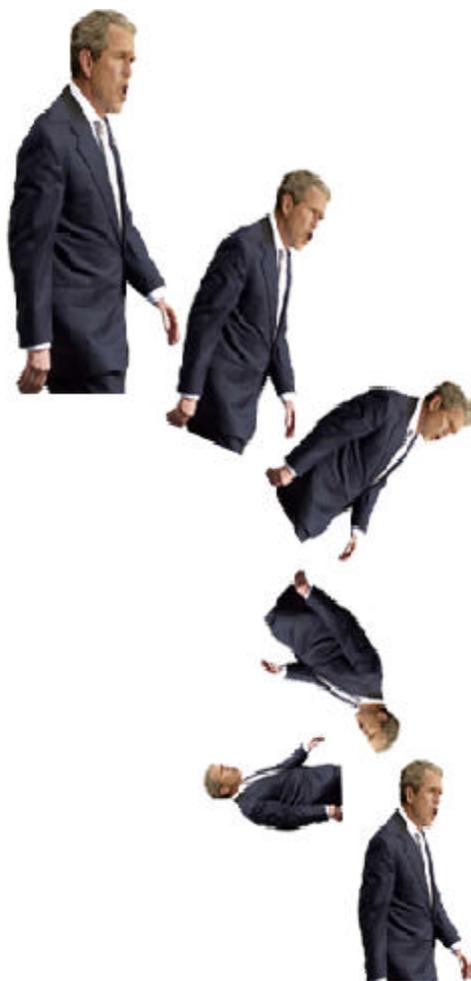
—Cincinnati, Ohio Speech, October 7, 2002

"Our intelligence officials estimate that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agent."

—State of the Union Address, January 28, 2003

"Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."

—Address to the Nation, March 17, 2003



After Amerikan inspectors found no weapons of mass destruction, no stockpiles of chemical or biological weapons, and no advanced nuclear weapons program

"Let's get the words right. I said Saddam had weapons of mass destruction and he used them. Which he did. And second I said he was a gathering threat. And that's an important distinction."

— 13 October 2003

"Already the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations."

— State of the Union Address, 20 January 2004



Notes: The first three quotes are part of a collection assembled by none other than Richard Nixon's former lawyer John Dean, a big player in the Watergate scandal. <http://writ.news.findlaw.com/dean/20030606.html>. We cite them more completely in our article, "George Weasel Bush getting away with murder," in MIM Notes 290. The fourth quote is the Associated Press reporting Bush's response to the question, "should [Amerikkans] feel deceived about his rationale for the war because no weapons of mass destruction have been found in the six months since major fighting ended?"

Nero got out his fiddle **Amerikans get out their 'clickers'**

As we discuss elsewhere in this issue (1), Paris Hilton's reality show drew more viewers than President Bush's address on the capture of Saddam Hussein. Apparently Bush had trouble holding viewers with his State of the Union address as well—even though all five major broadcast networks carried the address live. The Fox network drew the most viewers, largely due to the preceding "American Idol." However, a whopping 66% of "American Idol" viewers turned Bush off. Of the 29 million who watched the vapid singing competition, only 9.9 stuck around for the President's speech. The Washington Post remarked that this performance "should have gotten him canceled the very next morning." (2)

Such reports signify a return to decadent "normalcy" for Amerikans. Contrast the bonanza ratings for shows like "My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé" and "The Bachelorette" with this article, which we wrote the day after September 11.

For the second day in a row, the Kanada-based NakedNews suspended its newscasts with naked announcers at nakednews.com. The web site

advised people to tune into television and radio broadcasts.

Somehow it was easy for North Amerikans to enjoy openly pornographic newscasts when the people dying in the news were in the West Bank or northern Korea. So easy, in fact, that nakednews.com became the top news source for males in the 18-34 age group. Now that the news would be covering dying in New York and Washington, D.C., the pornography/bourgeois news industry pulls the plug.

Meanwhile, in sports, the headlines all read how baseball and football games have been postponed. The September 12 USA Today web page includes a headline reading "Lopresti: Ballparks sit empty in nation with its soul ripped out."

MIM points out to the North Amerikan citizens that it is better late than never to come to grips with global violence, but if it was indecent for NakedNews to make money off the World Trade Center bombing, it was also indecent for it to make money off deaths of Palestinians in the West

Bank. Furthermore, Israelis have bombed several Palestinian buildings and turned them into rubble and we did not see the USA Today say, "ballparks sit empty in nation with its soul ripped out."

The belief that the lives of one nation's citizens are somehow more valuable than another nation's citizens is something called "national chauvinism." National chauvinism is a general problem that has to be eradicated for a peaceful world to exist, and that is only possible under communism.

The fact that Amerikans have returned to their bad habits is a sobering one for people with an internationalist viewpoint. The kernel of internationalism can be expressed in Christian terms as the "golden rule." It means placing oneself in the shoes of the "other guy." As long as the principle of internationalism applied as a "golden rule" among nations is ignored, we will be stuck in "what-goes-around-comes-around" terrorism and war.

In every way, the Amerikan rulers and

the majority of the Amerikan public that backs them—actively or passively by changing channels when politics comes up—are "asking for it." It's clear that Amerikkans respect nothing but force—not international law, not the treaties they signed, not the United Nations and not the "humyn rights" they often speak of. The trouble is that these war-mongers impose their terrorism-generating system on the rest of us in North Amerika.

Internationalists cannot delude themselves into thinking that Amerikans can be cajoled into respecting the non-negotiable survival rights of other peoples without confronting Amerikan chauvinism. The Amerikan habit of thinking of other peoples as "second class world citizens"—if that even—is too deeply ingrained. Like the beginnings of the unfinished struggle against Amerikan racism born in the era of slavery, this way of thinking will only be changed in the course of revolutionary action, overthrowing the oppressors and righting historic wrongs.

Notes:

1. See pages 3 and 5.
2. Washington Post, 27 Jan 2004.

Washington USW wins fight against cell window covers

We of the United Struggle from Within (USW), Washington State prisoners would like to extend a letter of thanks to persons involved in being instrumental in having the magnetic place mat covers removed from the IMU cell windows.

The 3 foot by 1 foot magnet covers were being used to cover the metal cell doors in the IMU living pods. The covers were magnetically attached to the metal doors for easy access for staff to pull off and cover the windows of inmates cells so they could not view out and witness incidents occurring in these units. [MIM adds: This allowed staff to abuse prisoners without fear of any witnesses.]

I am ecstatic to report that the covers are no longer on the doors in the units. I only know that they have been removed recently. There has been no official notification posted as to why the magnetic covers were removed. [MIM Notes printed articles on this battle calling on people to send protest letters to relevant administrators.] It is only due to the efforts and contributions of outside support that we won this victory. This letter is to acknowledge those who helped, with sincere thanks and humble appreciation.

It is only through your involvement that immediate change came about. I had challenged this practice and had exhausted all administrative remedies without success. Those housed in the IMUs now and in the future will come to know how important this change is in the interests of justice for us all. Your help and support has reinforced my commitment and dedication to the momentous struggle, it has also affirmed my faith in the statement "one person can make a difference."
- Washington USW leader, January 2004

Fixing Our Own Problems

We are the Revolutionary Latin Kings from NYS and NYC for many will be picked but only a few will be chosen to fight the struggle for what we stand for as a whole.

I would like to shout out all my true concrete Lions that's in the feds holding it down, and you all know who you are. My salute and prayers towards you will remain inside my mind, body, and soul forever & ever. I, King Storm, come to you all worldwide to inform you of a few things that's been going on from the East Coast. I am coming to you from Southport Correctional Facility inside a Special Housing Unit. I been inside the box for almost 4 years now for fighting against oppression and abuse.

Right now the unity among us in prison isn't there how it use to be. Every organization on the North, South, East and West doesn't want to bring the peace among ourselves because we are all focusing on the wrong path of direction among ourselves of racialism. But if you ask me we all are color blind. But if we all shut off the light switch together, then we all become equal as one solid color. So let's stop fooling each other and let us bring the unity & love among ourselves and let us also truly focus on our

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

real enemies that's oppressing our comrades as well as our family. I also understand that all organizations go through their own trial and tribulations. But we all have to put all that to the side and focus more on the world of imperialism of what's been going on around our cypher towards the united snakes of amerika...

Right now the New York State is starting to take back every thing that the prisoners from the Attica riot died for, little by little in all the prisons from college education to now vocational programs. I truly feel sorry for all the comrades that sacrificed their lives in Attica. And now without the unity showing among ourselves, we are now starting to lose our programs, and now I am starting to see that the Attica prisoners died for nothing because the unity isn't standing like it use to be. So I'm bringing out this message to all comrades worldwide to let you know that we al have to stop fighting against each other as well as stop living as racial prisoners among each other because if you don't, then you rather say that you lost the battle against the united snakes of amerika and among yourselves too.

Whenever you write to publish anything in MIM Notes, use a fake nickname OK. Much love & respect from a Brother to another! Revolutionary 4-ever,

—King Storm, New York, December 2003

MIM adds: We support this comrade's efforts to unite the different nations and organizations behind bars against the common oppressor. The call for a color blind approach is progressive for our Under Lock and Key organizers, as prisoners are overwhelmingly oppressed. Prisons reforms will also disproportionately benefit oppressed nations. What MIM opposes is facile "Black and White Unite and Fight" sloganeering that covers up white supremacy. A "color blind" approach which claims that all peoples are equally oppressed will lump together oppressed and oppressor groups and delay the liberation of the former.

Prisoners need support immediately

In a previous issue of Under Lock & Key we ran a proposal for a program called Freedom Brothers, and asked the author about the effectiveness of the Prerelease program in NYS prisons. His response:

Some of the resource programs Prerelease teaches no longer exist but if it does exist, when that parolee or ex-con finally do go to them asking for help, they don't get that immediate help they are asking for. In some cases they are put on a long waiting list, forcing that ex-con to do whatever. On average, most inmates will not remember everything that Prerelease teaches. It would be luck if an inmate remembers half of what

Prerelease teaches even if that inmate really needs that program...

The information that Prerelease gives again is good, but how good is it? Prerelease needs to find a program to teach about that will fully understand that we are prisoners who just got out of prison and we need help NOW, not in 2 weeks or 3 days.

I do feel that a lot of prisoners do try to pay attention to what is being taught, but Prerelease can not get you fully prepared for that rush you will feel in the head the day the gate opens. It is at that moment that most inmates put in their mind that they would like to leave jail behind, and mentally they do, along with everything else. It is from this point on that inmates need help from someone on the outside. Read the enclosed letter. It will show you how I am helping an ex-prisoner who I've never seen... I don't do this to get paid. I do it to help shut down this place.

Anyway, MIM, I still stand by the plan I gave you... CA and NY needs a program just like that.

—a New York Prisoner, December 2003

MIM responds: We are working now to build these networks of released and incarcerated prisoners so that support is available as soon as comrades get out. Please send your ideas and resources to help build this project.

California Censorship of BPP literature

I just received your Dec 9 letter. Your letter states that you sent separately a "copy of Seize the Time and the MIM BPP pamphlet," and "MTG and the questions for the study group." I have recently received (yesterday) two different manila envelopes from you; one contained Seize the Time but there was nothing else enclosed (no MIM BPP pamphlet), and the other only contained MT5 (no study questions, etc.).

I currently have a lawsuit pending in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Calif, regarding the deliberate deprivation of published material without notification (a CDC 1819 form) or penological justification and I just filed a supplemental pleading and a motion for a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary interference with my mail.

—California Prisoner at High Desert State Prison, December 2003

MIM adds: This prisoner sets a good example. We need all our comrades behind bars to be on top of fighting censorship and notify us when you do not receive literature we sent.

White supremacy and censorship in Cali.

Presently, this slave kamp's in a state of chaos and shock at the event that occurred 3 weeks ago. See, usually the neo-nazi prisoners (i.e. Aryan brotherhood, skinheads,

kkk, etc.) and the prisoncrats enjoy a very close relationship. They both exist upon an ideology which is racist in root and anti-all right. So, it is very common for them to work hand in hand to maintain white supremacy behind the walls. But every now and then one of their nazi henchmen turns on them.

This occurred in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) with a nazi prisoner managing to stab three kops with knives that one of them (kops) gave them 9 times out of 10 for "us". So now, we've entered the retaliatory stage where they make a show of dealing with all equally via dogging every prisoner. They seem to be madder at the darker prisoners for not being the ones that harmed their fellow kops, than at them that actually did the incident! Confuses the orderly running of a white supremacist foundational prison, if you know what I am saying.

As to the policy on receiving mags, books and papers, in SHU they are saying that, due to fire safety hazards, newspapers aren't permitted. Magazines and books must come

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.

from the publisher or bookstore, no other sources. Guess they aren't aware of the historical realities of prisoner resistance movements. They begin via realization of their common plight which is kop induced oppression and then the thoughts begin on how to confront it. At this point, they have taken their lumps relatively quiet, but being as I comprehend the dialectical science of change, I see a total resistance right around the corner!

— a CA prisoner at Lompoc, November 2003

Class action lawsuit in California

A quick update on the developments here and to second the sentiments of the comrade from NPPAC who correctly points out that we have an obligation to not diminish these few pages into mere complaint columns!

While it is important for individuals to have a sense of what's going on around the nation. But it's equally important to know what action is being taken to remedy the complaints put forth. Because words without action are empty. This note is to update rads on the progress to development here and to put forth specific actions that can be taken to advance this particular task.

I arrived at Corcoran SHU in August of 2000. After spending over 10 years in Pelican Bay's control unit. After speaking to a lot of prisoners here I was able to determine that the conditions were ripe to attempt to pull together a multi-racial/multi-national coalition to perhaps begin to bring some challenge to the inhuman conditions that many of today's prisoners believe they are powerless to change. But in reality it is quite the opposite, prisoners can be quite powerful in affecting change to the conditions of which they are forced to live/dwell under.

Certainly prisoners must do more in terms of coming to grips with dynamic history of the prison movement of the 60s and 70s, and how the state was so effective in its efforts to squash that movement and isolate its influence oppression of this sort only advances via our default, so to the extent we as a prisoner class cease our demands for fair and equitable treatment under the law, we open the door to invite in state repression.

However, we must not cease with mere demands or empty actions, we must as a class continue to evolve and expand our consciousness, and understand that struggle evolves from one stage to the next with ever increasing consciousness of the wicked machination of the state.

Prisoners being the lowest class in the capitalist social strata - they are easy to manipulate and exploit due to their low level of consciousness and social reasoning.

In 2002 our multi-national coalition attempted to file a "class action" law suit bringing challenge to every aspect of life inside the SHU at Corcoran.

We immediately met resistance and hostility from the court: dismissing the "class action," magistrate Judge Snyder ordered the class to file their own individual actions because she said prisoners could not represent the interest of the entire class, and she declined to appoint counsel, sensing the difficulty she knows prisoners will have trying to prosecute individual claims.

However we were determined to move forward in 2002. We filed our first amended complaint individualizing the claims.

Judge Snyder claimed she could not understand the nature of the proceedings and holding the complaint was too lengthy and directing me to file a second amended complaint, which was done in September 2002. This time Judge Snyder permitted us to proceed on some issues and attempted to dismiss what we believe are the most vital issues. We chose to file a third amended complaint, which addresses the following issues:

(a) Constant illumination - alleging the policy of keeping the cell lights on 24 hours a day is nothing but a form of torture.

(b) Outdoor exercise - the policy of permitting prisoners less than 10 hours per week violates the constitution's 8th amendment.

(c) Lack of adequate outdoor clothing - The practice of forcing prisoners to attend yard in the coldest months of the year with nothing more than a thin jumpsuit and a jacket that must be shared by 98 other prisoners, is cruel and unusual punishment.

(d) The lack of clean sanitary clothing - The practice of providing dirty, torn and unsanitary laundry violates the constitution.

(e) The lack of clean sanitary conditions in the SHU - The practice of not cleaning the housing units are inhumane and cruel and unusual.

(f) Hygiene - The practice of providing no cleaning supplies, toothpowder and other essentials violates the constitution.

(g) Deprivation of property - The practice of arbitrary cell searches taking personal property without class violates the constitution.

(h) Medical care - The practice of continued deliberate indifference to serious medical needs violates the constitutions.

(i) Lack of adequate appeals process - The practice of not responding to prisoner appeals violates right of access to the courts.

(j) Due Process - The policy of not providing due process when validating prisoners as so-called gang affiliates violates the constitution.

(k) Equal protection - The practice of equating historical and cultural literature with so-called gang activity is discriminatory by nature.

(l) False and fabricated information - The practice of using false and fabricated information to validate prisoners as so-called gang affiliates violates the constitution.

Prisoners should also write to Judge Snyder urging her to certify this case as a class action because the issues here do not only affect the Plaintiff but the entire population here in the SHU.

MIM supporters on the outside can also flood Judge Snyder with requests to certify this case as a class action and to have the courage to look deeper into the corruption at Corcoran state prison.

It is obvious from many of the rulings that Judge Snyder has issued in this case that the u.s. District Court for the Eastern District of California at Fresno sits in protection of the Human Rights abuses that have gone on here since its opening in 1988 and it openly discourages prisoners from bringing challenge to these violations.

If Judge Snyder is persistent in her denial to give us class certification we are asking that prisoners flood the court here with the same issues presented in A-P in complaints of their own, until our issues are taken seriously.

Again, we recognize that prisoners must do more to secure fair and just treatment from their captors. And I submit that with the efforts of USW and NPPAC we are well on our way towards steps of unified action, the key is persistence, creativity and endurance. Staying focused on the task at hand and doing what we can do to advance the cause.

We are also asking that supporters aid us with donations of paper, envelopes and updated case law. The prison's library is not equipped with recent case law. Stay tuned to ULK for updates as we press this case forward.

Write to:

Sandra Snyder, Magistrate Judge
U.S. District Court
Eastern District of California
1130 O Street Rm 5000
Fresno, CA 93721-2201

— a California prisoner, December 2003

Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

Books for Prisoners: This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

Shut Down the Control Units: Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

MIM's Re-Release on Life Program: This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



El Tío Sam no siempre sabe

El lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva en Irak: una revelación para luchadores que llevan las de perder.

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

A menudo oímos la aserción que la lucha política es inútil porque cada año el Tío Sam gasta miles de millones de dólares con el fin de espiar a todo el mundo a través de satélites y submarinos. Los medios de comunicación árabes dijeron que el Tío Sam sabía de qué color era la ropa interior de Saddam Hussein. Hace poco el sitio de Internet "marxists.org" (1) dijo que era posible identificar cada computadora por medio de equipo colocado en servidores remotos. Semejantes argumentos apuntan a la idea de que cualquier tipo de lucha contra el Tío Sam es futil y que, por lo tanto, hay que unírnos a la lucha propagada por el Tío Sam y respetar sus reglas del juego; sin embargo, el lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva (ADM) revela el fallo de asumir una actitud liberal hacia el tema de la lucha y seguridad.

Diez meses antes del discurso equivocado sobre el Estado de la Unión

en el que George Bush citaba pruebas falsas sobre la supuesta venta de uranio por parte de Níger a Irak, la CIA le dijo a Bush que dicha información era falsa. Aparte de la CIA, un embajador también informó a la administración Bush que esta información no era cierta. Esto significa que hasta la posesión de información correcta no garantiza el uso de la misma. (2) La administración Bush ha emitido un sinfín de otras declaraciones falsas sobre la naturaleza y la justificación de la guerra contra Irak. (3) Basándose en fuentes de información estadounidenses, Tony Blair declaró que Saddam Hussein estaba listo para utilizar ADM 45 minutos después de un aviso algo que jamás sucedió. (4)

Los estudiantes probélicos y los que asumieron una postura neutral desconocían el hecho de que el archivo de inteligencia compuesto y utilizado por el gobierno británico con el fin de justificar la guerra contra Irak, provenía en gran parte de un trabajo no citado de un estudiante estadounidense disponible para el público. (5) En nuestro periódico

MIM Notes 274, criticamos a un estudiante quien asumió la típica postura monárquica que justifica la apatía y la falta de lucha contra la guerra. Según el estudiante, "Basamos nuestras opiniones sobre la política externa e interna en la información que recibimos de coberturas parciales de medios de comunicación, opiniones de nuestros amigos y preguntas de nuestros profesores. Bush basa sus opiniones en datos secretos de inteligencia obtenidos a través de múltiples fuentes, estimaciones nacionales de altos funcionarios de servicios de inteligencia y consejos de expertos. Si ni siquiera él tiene la información completa, nuestro entendimiento de la situación equivale a una pieza insignificante del rompecabezas". Resulta que a alguien le entraron ganas de tomarle el pelo a la administración Bush mediante una falsificación de documentos sobre los programas de armas nucleares de Irak; éstos fueron utilizados por Bush con el fin de promover su plan bélico contra Irak diseñado antes del año 2000. Resulta, por lo tanto, que la posesión de inteligencia secreta fue un impedimento más que una ventaja. La mera posesión de la información "completa" no garantiza el uso correcto de la misma.

Los luchadores por la justicia que llevan las de perder deberían tener en cuenta que un acceso a todas las fuentes de información no garantiza el uso de las mismas por parte de los que los que están en el poder. De hecho, el capitalismo corrompe toda la producción del conocimiento, desde el conocimiento de medicinas cuyas ventas se someten a fines lucrativos hasta los análisis de la eficacia de sistemas de armas adquiridas por el Pentágono. Como ya hemos mencionado en la sección sobre la seguridad en nuestra página web: "El imperialismo estadounidense de ninguna manera se puede permitir el lujo de filtrar la información correcta y separarla de la falsa." En este sentido, el MIM ha señalado que la acumulación de información proveniente de una fuente no garantiza que el propósito de dicha fuente sea el de desviar información.

Los imperialistas buscan un conocimiento que les otorgue ganancias individuales. Como consecuencia, los imperialistas jamás podrán alcanzar la capacidad que tiene el proletariado para encontrar la verdad. Aunque los gastos monetarios de los imperialistas en servicios de inteligencia sobrepasen los del proletariado, los imperialistas son incapaces de usar la información obtenida, y si la llegan a usar, entran en conflicto con otros imperialistas cuyos intereses de propiedad y agendas políticas son distintos. Por esta razón, cualquier tipo de lucha que dificulte el espionaje de los oprimidos y explotados por parte de los imperialistas es siempre justificado. Como ya hemos mencionado en nuestra reseña del sitio marxists.org, "Hay múltiples razones para no someterse: 1) Existe la posibilidad de aumentar el costo del enemigo ya que cualquier forma de espionaje correcto cuesta. 2) Una vez que se obtenga información, el enemigo tiene que separar la información correcta de la falsa. 3) Puede que el enemigo no haga nada."

Fuentes consultadas:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/links/marxistsorg.html>

2. http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/World/iraq030616_uranium.html; también véase <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,972651,00.html>

3. Véase por ejemplo <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43615-2003Jun11.html>

4. Para leer el testimonio de un exoficial de la CIA véase: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89923,00.html>; véase también <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89649,00.html>

5. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,970035,00.html>

¿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, existiera 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