



DRAFT LOOMS

Stop it before it starts!

**U\$ MEDIA
SOUNDS THE
ATTACK ON
THIRD WORLD
MADRASSAS**

**Amerikan terror
schools overlooked**

One of the common complaints of the New York Times in its drumbeat for war is that the Arab and Afghan peoples support religious schools called "madrassas" too much.(1) MIM conducted an investigation into the problem of religious schools in the United States.

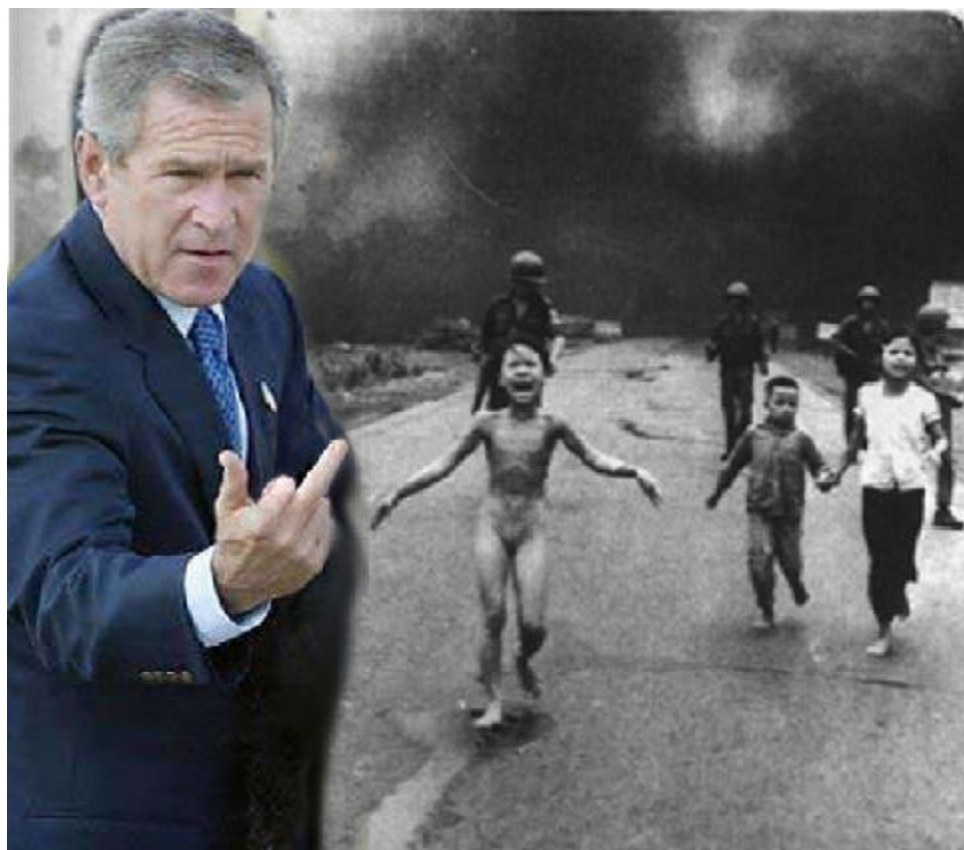
"Boys, raised without fathers, were sent to religious schools, or madrassas, taken away from daily village life and away from the influence of women,"(1) says the New York Times. What a shock: the New York Times apparently has seen no gender segregated schools in the USA. Nor has it thought of the interpenetration of the military with countless schools in the USA.

The Boston Globe—owned by the New York Times—is another paper hammering on the madrassas. "Since the Sept. 11 attacks, madrassas in Pakistan and Afghanistan have achieved global notoriety for producing thousands of young men dedicated to holy war."(2) The Boston Globe goes on to call for the Indian government to interfere in India's madrassas.

It's hard to know who started it, the government or the New York Times, because the two have inseparable approaches to foreign affairs. "Secretary of Defense" and nutcase Donald Rumsfeld put it this way in an October 16th 2003 memo: "Are we capturing, killing or deterring and dissuading more terrorists every day than the madrassas and the radical clerics are recruiting, training and deploying against us?"(3)

We won't bother mentioning other

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**THE WRITING
WAS ON THE
WALL EVEN
BEFORE
FALLUJAH**

**How we know the
draft is coming**

by mim3@mim.org

The final piece of the jigsaw puzzle of military recruitment in the United States is in. Retention rates in the military will be too low to sustain the imperialists' vision of the world, so the draft is coming unless there is a desperately radical struggle that develops soon—something we find unlikely but which we support nonetheless. The Amerikan anti-war struggle will develop, but later than it should most ideally.

A survey of over 1000 spouses at military bases in January and February 2004 indicates that half believe the military will have problems recruiting as current enlistments expire. This figure came at a time when 64% said the war was going well in Iraq and Bush was receiving approval ratings in the 60s percentage-wise from the military spouses.(1) Half of the spouses expect there to be "major" problems with recruitment in the near future as people refuse to re-enlist after their terms are up and new recruits dwindle for the mercenary army. 21% of all spouses were already saying they had wished their spouses had made another career choice. Only 39% were certain their spouses would re-enlist when their terms were up.

According to USA Toady, the Army fell 4% short of its recruiting goals in the first half of fiscal year 2004.(5) This number is likely to drop further as the soldiers who just had their term in Iraq extended come up for re-enlistment.

It is not reflected in the press or the

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Is Iraq the new Vietnam?

This question, which the Amerikan media dismissed offhand before the renewed invasion of Iraq, now seems to be the question du jour on editorial pages and weekend talk shows. As we discuss below, most of the pundits asking the question have hidden, pro-imperialist agendas, which keeps them from getting to the truth about Iraq or Vietnam.

First, though, we will repeat what MIM has been saying for more than a year: "Is the war in Iraq like the war in Vietnam? Yes and no, but mostly yes."

Of course, to understand the answer, one has to understand the question. Pro-imperialist "experts" of various flavors have their own ideas about the lessons of Vietnam, which color their answers.

For example, the "stab-in-the-back" militarists insist Amerika lost in Vietnam because civilian politicians withdrew support from the war. Thus they might answer, "Yes, Iraq is the new Vietnam,"

to encourage Amerikans to not make the "mistake" they made in Vietnam and "stay the course" in Iraq. Other militarists may answer "no," because they have illusions about the role China or Russia played in Vietnam, or because they feel the Amerikans now have an overwhelming technical advantage—although they also had an overwhelming technical advantage in Vietnam, and the house-to-house fighting now raging in cities like Fallujah is a matter of small arms, sledgehammers, and sweat, not Apache helicopters.

Democratic "critics" of the war answer "yes, but..." to opportunistically blame the Republicans for getting Amerika into another "quagmire" without getting labeled "soft on defense" in return. The mercenary eggheads at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government quoted in the April 16 Boston Phoenix adopt this

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Letters

Refuting the bourgeoisie, point-by-point

Dear MIM:

I am a 19 year old university student in Australia. I look to your site as a theoretical and practical guide in many respects, particularly with my studies as my majors are politics and history.

What I am up against now is a project on the Great Leap Forward, with a lecturer who is obviously some kind of bourgeois opportunist, heavily critical of Mao. I can tell this because of the set reading for my presentation, a chapter called "Capable women can make a meal without food" in the book "Wild Swans" by Chang.

I have two theories on why MIM has not written a review of this book.

1) Its credibility is so lacking that you chose to just ignore it.

2) Nobody has written a review of it yet because resources are stretched or the book hasn't come to your attention.

I wish also to thank you for your excellent information regarding the great leap forward in the sections "Myths about Maoism", as well as the reviews of MacFarquhar and Becker as well as the Black Book of Communism.

Socialist greetings!

Web Minister replies: I checked around and we do not have a review of "Wild Swans" available. At MIM we do consider it our job to rebut and criticize all of previous reactionary thinking. We

consider it a means of setting up the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat.

This also gives me a chance to say that we are quite a bit behind in all our work. I have not even posted all the material we have available on our website in addition to the fact that articles such as about "Wild Swans" have not been written yet.

Our general response is that the capitalists have spent money and created markets for many full-time writers slinging mud or spinning half-truths about Mao. Journalists and fiction writers are especially apt to tell one story and think they have given us a comparison of capitalism and socialism or even the Great Leap strategy versus other strategies of socialist advance. Although we could also write a lengthy fiction or journalist story on the life of Jeffrey Dahmer, the Amerikan cannibal, we would not claim it to provide an overall insight even into Amerikan decadence. It is the bourgeoisie that must glorify individual stories and lifestyles as a substitute for class analysis and comparisons of social systems overall, because the comparison of capitalism and socialism at the overall level is always going to be more favorable to socialism.

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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For general correspondence, contact:

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

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What is MIM?

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

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

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

Phony Iraqi Communist Party supports occupation of Iraq

The real debate is here

by MC5
April 11 2004

Yo, reader. Yes, you there. Tell us why you are still paying attention to Democrats and Republicans. We calling ourselves communists have more differences than the Democrats and Republicans.

It's not that the Democrats and Republicans give you more accurate inside information on the wars they are carrying out, so don't tell us you listen to them for that. The Democrats and Republicans both said Saddam Hussein had and would use weapons of mass destruction. He did not use them in 2003 and now you have to ask yourself why.

They told you the Amerikans were bringing "freedom" to Iraq, but the recent violence in Iraq came after the Amerikans

shut down a newspaper there opposing the Amerikan occupation.(1) These Democrats and Republicans said the Iraqis would appreciate what Amerikans did in the occupation. So, tell us again, why are you getting your information from them?

MIM told you before the war about weapons of mass destruction and we got it right. When Bush said the war was over, we did a 60-point headline saying "The War Is Not Over." Again, we got it right, and the president with all his billions spent on intelligence got it wrong.

Now look at us communists. We've got something to argue about. Kerry voted for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and co-authored the Patriot Act in the Senate. Bush carried out the wars and signed the

"Patriot Act." Those are the top two issues since 2000.

Meanwhile, the "Communist Party USA" supports the occupation of Iraq. You heard right. While MIM is supporting U\$ withdrawal and believes the Iraqi liberation fighters have justice on their side, the "Communist Party USA" is supporting a sister party in Iraq that actually has a seat in the U\$ occupation government. Imagine that: a "communist" party serving as a U\$ lackey in a military occupation.

Now that's a real difference. MIM says the nationalist liberation fighters in Iraq are right and the "CP-USA" supports the opposite side. So, my decadent Amerikan readers, if you are looking for sports as in Bush/Kerry contests, we'll give you

sports. By now you should be bored to death with Bush/Kerry. Pay attention to some people with some real differences. Sometimes their website has more readers; sometimes ours—and you thought all that splitting among so-called communists was for nothing.

See here what we are saying about the phony "Communist Party USA." Listen to them explain that the genocide in Iraq was worth it, because their buddies in the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP) are now distributing a newspaper there under U\$ auspices: "While the bad news of the genocidal impact of the U.S. war and occupation in Iraq permeates throughout the world, the chunks of gold and hope are found in the ICP's heroism and

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Preparing for the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat

Combating subjectivism in all arenas

This is the first in a series of articles. Further installments will address the topics of love, sex, friends, sectarianism and chauvinism.

I. Cigarettes II. Drugs III. Music and art IV. Love

I'm going to talk about subjectivism and its relationship to our communist goals by giving a bunch of examples of subjectivism—the belief that what one feels or likes is true or supreme. What's most important is not the individual evils of subjectivism, but understanding the overall approach that we as Maoist scientists apply to everything. We at MIM are not saying we have some long list of behaviors that we tack on to the end of the "Ten Commandments." It's not our point to bring attention to hypocrisy in individual behavior—and this is something that we from Christian, Jewish and Islamic cultures have to watch out for. (Buddhism has a little better intellectual material to work with on this question.) We Maoist scientists are interested in the underlying causes of behavior.

Anyone who thinks s/he does not have something that s/he likes that is tainted by oppression is just wrong. As Marx and Lenin warned us, even after overthrowing the social system of capitalism, its corpse would continue to rot among us. There is no way that revolutionaries arising from capitalist society can be instantly pure even after revolution. It's not a leap into Heaven. Communist purity is not going to happen in the lifetime of the revolutionaries who create the dictatorship of the proletariat unless lifetimes get a lot longer.

In all likelihood, the revolution will be successful only through the efforts of

"hypocrites" envisioning future generations growing up with better social influences than they had. Understanding this is part of understanding materialism, as when Lenin said revolution is always made with the imperfect social material at hand, not by divine perfection of humyn consciousness first. When one critic said Mao sought "revolutionary immortality," he was not all wrong. Parents and teachers seek influence on future generations, and Mao simply took that to a whole larger level and asked to be remembered only as a teacher.

A persyn could not like a whole list of bad things that most other people have as vices, but even then there would have to be something. Everyone has a vice. No one is a 100% pure. Hence, MIM has acted to push aside the politics of putting lifestyle first. Whoever comes up with the idea that a party should set up a list of lifestyles to condone or not condone is setting up a huge Liberal fight to divide the party. We have to come up with a list of bad things, but our attack has to be on the causes, not the bearers of those bad lifestyles. With these warnings, I turn to several examples of subjectivism.

I. Cigarettes

We've all seen the teenager lash into parents saying: "what do you mean I can't smoke? You smoke, you hypocrite!" So the truth is some parents smoke and forbid their children from smoking. Yet, this is an example of a pseudo-rebellion by the teenager, a rebellion on behalf of the right to make profits for the multinational tobacco companies.

More than in any country in the world at the moment, comrades in the United States will have to conquer subjectivism and still make revolution despite

hypocritical feelings and behaviors. The smoking parent who cracks down on his or her children is right. It means this: "I know I have had my subjective feelings, my very emotions and psychology conditioned by the cigarette companies and I know I am addicted. However, I know that in a better world it would not be that way."

In contrast, when medical researchers discover that smoking is poisonous, principled Trotskyists such as the Spartacist League go so far to oppose "totalitarianism" that they will publicly defend the right to smoke in public (and thus contribute to the death of more people, both the smokers and those in contact with them). These Spartacist League members contribute to a rebellion against science and for bourgeois individualism and tobacco company profits. They take the subjective state of the smoker and "respect" it. That's part of their idea of "freedom" and "opposing totalitarianism."

When the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat led by us Maoists gets to power, the cigarette company executives who put those toxic chemicals in cigarettes and resisted medical science in the court system will be lined up and shot as a small repayment of their blood debt to millions killed by smoking. Those cigarette company executives who conquer subjectivism will know they should be shot to set a good example for the future.

II. Drugs

The same is true of drug addiction. How many times have we seen established bourgeois people look down on heroin addicts? Oh how terrible to be in such a state of control by the drug, we hear. Yet most of these same people turn around and say that life is a short experience to

enjoy as it is. They get their jollies from something else short-term and damaging to society in many cases.

The fact is that many heroin, cocaine and crack addicts will say that they have a profound experience of pleasure from their drugs. MIM has no need to deny such subjective statements. Post-modernists and bourgeois individualists need to deal with that—and we can't imagine how they do in their own twisted minds—but we at MIM say, "sure that feels good to you, but where did that desire for that kind of pleasure or pain-killing come from?" The answer is a combination of profiteering drug dealers and a corrupt government defending the profit-system leaving people alienated from their own lives.

III. Music and art

Music is another battleground against subjectivism. For some people, music is the highest motivation. For others it's a second or third place source of motivation. At MIM and its circles we've had more than one persyn have to get involved in throwing out reactionary music tapes, starting with Guns N'Roses. When we oppose Guns N'Roses and say most of it should be banned, it's not that we don't know we're going to be unpopular. We know it, because right now the bourgeoisie controls the superstructure and encourages everyone to be subjectivists and not unite on an objective basis to challenge bourgeois rule. Hell, our reviewer on our web page "likes" Guns N'Roses, so how could we not know about the resistance we face right now? The question is do we wish we lived in a society where popular songs were not about sick people burying their girlfriends in their backyard. Do we wish we could

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DRAFT LOOMS

Stop it before it starts!

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jubilant of the Iraqi people, but in fact, the Iraqi people have already landed a huge politico-military blow against Uncle Sam in one short year. If imperialism depended on English imperialism as the lynchpin globally and not Uncle Sam, such a blow landed under Maoist leadership could have been the turning point to bring down the whole global capitalist system. It is the combined imperialist strength of Uncle Sam and others that makes this a protracted struggle of generations.

Both Bush and Kerry will try to sidestep the draft issue leading up to elections in November 2004. In 2005, the push for the draft will be on.

MIM does not generally like being in the fortune-telling business, but our record on Iraq is clear relative to both the Democrats and Republicans leading the USA. We think we deserve greater credibility than these bourgeois politicians always catering for votes and corporate donations. We told the public the truth about WMDs, the likelihood of Iraqi resistance and why it is that only sending dead Americans back in body bags changes the political balance. The peace movement did not succeed, because of its petty-bourgeois basis. On all of this we are right and our printed record can be checked against any political leader with access to inside information from intelligence agencies spending 11 digits a year in dollars. Now we tell you this: the draft is coming, so fight now to prevent it and gain political experience for upcoming battles.

Military illusions

1) The crumbling of military illusions and the manipulation of the military for political gain are the reasons the draft is coming. The loose situation in Fallujah and Afghanistan benefits a political agenda that says more troops are necessary in Iraq and therefore a draft. The rulers will make it appear that the demand for a draft came from the situation itself, not any particular military official or the president.

Keeping control on the ground for contractors to do their business in Iraq cannot be done with Predator spy planes alone. Even driving about expensive tanks eats up fuel. Putting unemployed or potentially unemployed people on the ground of Iraq seems a cheap solution for the rulers.

2) The military thinks that Iraq has much less population than Vietnam did and GI Joe is much better technically

equipped. In fact, the longer the troops stay there, the more experienced Iraqis will get in fighting, while Americans rotate in and out. Johnson had 500,000 Americans in Vietnam at the peak. The military thinks it has already reached that level in Iraq, proportionately speaking, and its illusions about the Vietnam War say that China and the Soviet Union were the reasons for failure there. Bush will believe his own rhetoric about a “small minority” of “terrorists” and “thugs” fighting, (600 killed in Fallujah alone in one week) because certain Americans never realized it was not “outside agitators” doing the fighting in Vietnam. This confidence in victory in Iraq will lead to the draft.

3) There has been talk in Congress about raising pay and improving mail delivery to improve retention.(2) This angle will fail miserably. That fact will also point to the draft.

Neo-conservative illusions

1) The neo-conservatives believe correctly that a portion of rural white U.S. society is dumb enough to believe that September 11th 2001 is connected to Iraq. For many in the rural areas and even some in the suburbs, it is difficult to distinguish Third World or rich Arab peoples in general. Iraqis, Saudis, Muslims—it hardly matters, because a solid 30% of the whites is of the Crusader mentality. In the military that figure is 37% evangelicals based on the spouses’ poll—a plurality.

Making use of the attack on American soil and the rural whites correctly referred to as “hamburger meat” by one self-described politically incorrect humorist, the neo-conservatives erred in thinking they can transfer that into making Iraq a Japan or Germany. They really have no idea how FDR, Truman and Eisenhower did it. After filling their heads with Ann Coulter, it’s a wonder neo-conservatives know anything. The truth about “hamburger meat” only led the neo-conservatives to make an error related to thinking Iraq is not Vietnam.

2) Neo-conservatives told the public that Iraqis would roll over and play dead. They told this tale partly to get the war started. This suited the Zionists and apocalypse-centered Christians.

The rulers do not know why their repressions in Iraq and Afghanistan fail while they succeeded in Japan and Germany. This is the central hit-or-miss proposition of bourgeois dictators everywhere. The vast majority of bourgeois authoritarians fail in their missions for reasons they do not know.

They repress and repress and get no where, unlike Lenin, Stalin and Mao. In Iraq and Afghanistan, even though the United States represents a more advanced mode of production, Uncle Sam is not able to bring progress and therefore stability and peace on American terms.

3) Afghan warlord Dostum is kicking up a storm as we write this. Mao had a solution for warlords in China. The neo-conservatives think they do in Afghanistan, but they do not. The imperialists have no idea how to bring progress and hence stability to Afghanistan. That means they will try to employ more troops. That means the draft.

4) The single greatest hope of the neo-conservatives is this: they believe they negotiated with Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden in the past, so why is it impossible to strike up a deal with Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in Iraq now they wonder. If there is such a deal, the military resistance should roll over and play dead (they think) and the draft won’t be necessary.

MIM has to admit that the resistance in Iraq is not proletarian-led. Nonetheless, we do not believe this critical neo-conservative assumption that the Iraqis can be bought out will prove correct. This appears to be a miscalculation. Easing the sanctions and spending U.S. tax dollars will not create the bridge of stability to a future where Iraq pays for its own quietude. Already the New York Times has reported on cooperation among Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites to kick out the Amerikkans. Economic reality says that they will be better off sharing their resources among themselves rather than among themselves and the Amerikkans.

Democratic Party illusions

1) Led by Ted Kennedy and the European-sympathizing imperialists, one wing of imperialists wishes the 2003 war on Iraq was through the UN. Some continue to believe there might be a way to coax the UN back in, which concretely means getting Russian, Chinese and French troops on the ground followed quickly by Indian troops and others.

At this point, as Kerry said about Bush making things “harder” for military success, the UN is not likely to get involved. Most of the rest of the world does not want to cover for the United States and has no interest in sanctioning U.S.-led pre-emptive strikes. The global imperialists would have to make a hell of a deal to salvage Iraq and we do not think it is likely. It is more likely that the rest of

the world’s bourgeoisie realizes that Uncle Sam cannot salvage the situation. Without UN troops, the draft for Americans is more likely.

2) Although many wishy-washy anti-war people belong to the minority Democratic Party, even the minority Democratic Party is divided on the draft. That’s why it will go through. The anti-draft members of the Democratic Party will look the other way as the leaders let the draft through. After all, the Democratic Party never took a clear stand against the war and even most Democrats who opposed it want to stay and “finish the job” now.

One place where one can see the growing trend of calls for the draft is in the website called democraticunderground.com. Because Democrats do not have the spine to oppose the war, many are now clamoring for a draft.

3) The pseudo-feminist wing of liberalism has representatives in Iraq and Afghanistan trying to teach Iraqis and Afghans how to live the pseudo-feminist lifestyle. They think they know how to bring advance in the wake of U.S. repression. They don’t. They’ve been attacked by the Iraqi people, and rightly so, but in no way will the pseudo-feminists be able to bring progress in Iraq or Afghanistan or the desired stability and hence a reduction of troops according to imperialist wishes.

Labor aristocracy illusions

1) The labor aristocracy is used to telling white lies on a daily basis to win its share of super-profits. When Bush told the country clearly in public several times that he planned on a 15 year or more occupation of Iraq, the labor aristocracy did not listen and did not believe him once the casualties started. When Bush and Rumsfeld kept talking about Japan and Germany after World War II, the hamburger meat did not stop to think troops are still there in Japan and Germany, today—sixty years later. After all, the labor aristocracy trusts Bush enough and Paris Hilton was about to appear on TV, so the labor aristocracy did not have time to go into the politics and history.

Since the neo-conservatives told the labor aristocracy that Iraqis would greet them cheering with roses and rice, the labor aristocracy filed away any thoughts contrary to the war. This same labor aristocracy is now to be found wondering when its children will come back from

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U\$ military budget would have angered Amerikan ‘founding fathers’

This article originally appeared in MIM Notes 247, 15 Jan 2003. We reprint it here for those who missed it the first time; it complements this issue’s articles on the draft and Amerikan madrassas.

There is a terrible dispute afoot in the world about the U.S. military budget. Some contend that the U.S. military budget each year is only more than the next 10 closest countries combined. Others say 13, 15, 25 and some say the whole world combined spends less than the United States on the military. A writer in Pakistan said, “Americas commitment to peace is best exemplified by the fact that its annual military budget, at \$360 billion and counting, now exceeds the military budgets of the rest of the world combined. You can’t get much more committed to peace than that.”(1)

Despite the obscenity of U.S. military power, yahoos like neo-Confederates Senator Trent Lott, Attorney General John Ashcroft and President George W. Bush cling in an irrational way to their militarist ideas. Through organs like the “conservative” Weekly Standard they still speak in praise of “peace through strength.”(2)

Rednecks supported these yahoos for decades and now the U.S. military is by far the strongest. So why is it that we still have war? And why are civil liberties more trampled than ever in the United States? It seems that “peace through strength” could not be more false.

Here is what the Amerikkkan founders said in the “Federalist Papers,” a collection of essays defending the U.S. Constitution that conservatives usually claim to uphold. “The safety of the people of America against dangers from ITAL foreign END force depends not only on their forbearing to give ITAL just END causes of war to other nations, but also

on their placing and continuing themselves in such a situation as not to *invite* hostility or insult; for it need not be observed that there are *pretended* as well as just causes of war.”(3)

The Amerikan reactionaries have focused on the latter part of the above statement, the fact that in modern times, military weakness invites attack. Yet, now the United States is the undisputed military power of the world and according to the Bush administration itself, we are in a long “war on terror.”

Logic says that there are now countless countries—more than 200—that are easier marks than the United States to attack. That leaves only one conclusion: that the war Bush says the United States is in is not an opportunist war of “pretended” cause. Rather it is a war where the United States gave “just causes of war to other nations.”

Whether today’s reactionaries know it or not, that is where their logic leads. Those are the assumptions behind their views—that weakness invites opportunist attacks. Conversely if the United States is strong, we must conclude that the attacks from much weaker powers that have much weaker potential targets than the United States have a basis in just cause. That is part of realism.

Instead of concluding that their thinking is wrong and their leaders incompetent, the Amerikkkan redneck votes fear and fear alone. The “founding fathers” warned repeatedly on the danger involved in a permanent military built on the basis of fear.

“The violent destruction of life and property incident to war, the continual effort and alarm attendant on a state of continual danger, will compel nations the most attached to liberty to resort for repose and security to institutions which have a tendency to destroy their civil and

They believed something was wrong if a country couldn’t summon an army for two years, get a job done and then disband it.

political rights. To be more safe, they at length become willing to run the risk of being less free. The institutions chiefly alluded to are STANDING ARMIES and the correspondent appendages of military establishments.”(4)

The “founding fathers” believed something was wrong if a country could not summon an army for two years, get a job done and then disband it. Once a nation formed and demonstrated its strength, the “founding fathers” believed that other nations stood up and took notice.

The U.S. military is the most powerful in the world having spent 12 digits a year for decades at a time. Its existence goes way beyond what the founders envisioned for the United States. Yet, still there is no peace.

Long ago it was time to conclude that our leaders do not have a working plan for peace, even with the strongest military in the world at their disposal, not to mention the world’s largest economy. Rather than surrendering more freedoms and more money while suffering ever higher tech atrocities it is time to throw the dopes out and find leaders who know how to make peace.

Notes:

1. http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_13-12-2002_pg3_8; This is also the impression of the mainstream Kanadian press. Bush friend Paul Martin slated to be a future Prime Minister of Canada says as much, e.g., 29 Nov 2002, Ottawa Citizen, p. a9. Others say U.S. military spending is only more than the next 25 nations combined, e.g., <http://www.globalissues.org/Geopolitics/ArmsTrade/Spending.asp>

2. <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/001/842sqsk.asp> In case anyone dares to question MIM’s facts on U.S. imperialism again, we suggest reading the Weekly Standard’s Max Boot. He admits it all, dredging up a series of Amerikan provocations and usurpations from 1945 to 1991. “The reality was a good deal more sordid. What did containment entail? It meant support for the Greek colonels, the Argentine generals, the shah, Pinochet, Marcos, Somoza, and other unsavory characters who were in ‘our’ camp. It meant helping to overthrow rulers, such as Mossadegh in Iran, Arbenz in Guatemala, and Allende in Chile, who were seen as drifting toward the other side. It meant major wars against North Korea and North Vietnam. It meant invasions of the Dominican Republic and Grenada. It meant support for anti-Communist guerrillas in places like Cuba (the Bay of Pigs), Angola, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan.” Boot only left out that Allende and Arbenz won elections and the U.S. imperialists put in a king to replace the parliamentarian Mossadegh. Boot is referring to U.S. destruction of parliamentary democracies in Greece, Iran, Guatemala and Chile.

3. Federalist Paper #4 by John Jay.

4. Federalist Paper #8 by Alexander Hamilton.

Continued from previous page...

Iraq and the war will be over. It did not listen to Bush and now it vacillates somewhat. The decrease in labor aristocracy enthusiasm among volunteers for the military means that the draft is more likely to follow.

2) The labor aristocracy thinks it can class struggle against the government for higher military salaries indefinitely—even threatening not to fight or support fighting in Iraq. The imperialists will run much red ink, but the draft will still come.

Take action!

For anyone aged 18 to 26 or with children or grand-children that age or about to become 18, we recommend that you take action now against the war. It is much harder to stop the draft after it has already taken shape and once it takes

shape, the movement will be in better shape if more people get political experience now. Anyone can start out the way the people in Tallahassee did—by copying some fliers and arranging a honk-a-thon for people to honk to oppose the war.

Activists paying attention to Congress have noted that the draft will have no college deferments and wimmin will go this time. Already the federal money is in motion to set up the draft boards.(4) There is talk of mandatory “homeland” service for young people, but MIM finds it more likely that a small percentage of the 18-26 age group, maybe even disproportionately the 18-22 age group will be called up for war duties in late 2005.

Activists can try to push Kerry and Bush against the wall during their

presidential campaigns. Feel free to heckle them if need be to ask the question whether they support the draft or not. Currently they believe they have the right to risk all our lives for their vision of oil and contractor profits. They are wrong and you are right. The survival rights of draft-age people and Iraqis come before oil, contract profits or even the dubious “democracy” that Bush is yammering about.

Notes:

1. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/vault/stories/poll_militaryfamilies.pdf

2. www.house.gov/hasc/openingstatementsandpressreleases/108thcongress/04-03-24stewart.pdf

3. See Bush mention Japan and Germany and also say the troops will stay

as long as necessary as to bring “democracy” to Iraq <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/iraq/20030501-15.html>. In another speech, he said it again, “We must fight this war until the work is done.” Then he mentioned Germany and Japan again. “The United States did not run from Germany and Japan following World War II. We helped those nations to become strong and decent, democratic societies that no longer waged war on America. And that’s our mission in Iraq today.” <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031009-7.html>

4. Some related plans are published here: www.sss.gov/perfplan_fy2004.html Thanks to Sophie Lapaire.

5. USA Today, 16 Apr 2004.

Amerikan terror schools overlooked

Continued from page 1...

newspapers like the USA Today, where an internal investigation found that Jack Kelley fabricated a story about student-terrorists at a Pakistan madrassa.(4) MIM has known for a long time that reporters at major newspapers doing stories about foreign affairs find it far easier to confirm and embolden the imaginations of the Pentagon and State Department than to figure out what is actually happening in the world.

Organizations such as the National Review condemning the madrassas are complete hypocrites in favoring Christian schools in the United States. That's obvious. The Crusader bible-thumpers that constitute about 30% of the US population need no explanation. The New York Times hypocrisy is that it advocates war on the madrassas without advocating war on the religious schools and Pentagon here. It's an example of how the Zionist agenda (filtered through neo-conservative intellectuals) dovetails with the bible-thumper agenda.

After the steady drumbeat for war on the madrassas, at least the New York Times also reported the U.S. bombing of a madrassa.(5) We can say the New York Times got what it wanted.

There are many colleges in the USA where 10 or 20% of the cars in the parking lot will have Defense Department clearance. Air Force ROTC itself says it has detachments in nearly 1000 colleges.(6) We can't help thinking that Bush sees the war in Afghanistan and Iraq as partly like a semester abroad program for rural white youth.

Since the turmoil of the 1960s, an increasing number of colleges have become outright extensions of the Pentagon. Rather than a series of articles on madrassas, the New York Times should be directing its attention to how the government finds war to be the solution for all problems.

The American revolutionaries who wrote the Bill of Rights all knew about the problem of having standing armies. The most militarist of those revolutionaries managed to stave off an amendment banning permanent standing armies. Hamilton in the Federalist Papers acknowledged popular opinion at the time this way: "The people of America may be said to have derived an hereditary impression of danger to liberty, from standing armies in time of peace."

Yet even while holding out for federal power and the possibility of a standing army, Hamilton never imagined the situation today of having a huge military with a budget bigger than the economy of most countries year after year. "Schemes to subvert the liberties of a great community REQUIRE TIME to mature them for execution. An army, so large as seriously to menace those liberties, could only be formed by progressive augmentations; which would suppose, not merely a temporary combination between the legislature and executive, but a



The sign reads: "Bible Factory Outlet" As long as capitalists can make a profit, they don't care if people are made dumb. Christian bookstores abound in the Bible Belt of the South and Midwest, but even in cities ranking in the top 100 in size such as Chattanooga, TN, there is not a single real bookstore to be found, just endless rows of churches.

continued conspiracy for a series of time. Is it probable that such a combination would exist at all? Is it probable that it would be persevered in, and transmitted along through all the successive variations in a representative body, which biennial elections would naturally produce in both houses? Is it presumable, that every man, the instant he took his seat in the national Senate or House of Representatives, would commence a traitor to his constituents and to his country? Can it be supposed that there would not be found one man, discerning enough to detect so atrocious a conspiracy, or bold or honest enough to apprise his constituents of their danger?"

It's astonishing, but in Hamilton's day it was very difficult to obtain the funding and men willing to serve in a standing army. George Washington had a hard time of it even in emergency. Today the economy has advanced and indeed there has long been an army "so large" as to have the ability to "menace" "liberties." Hamilton imagined that before enough time for the militarists to plan an attack on liberties had passed, the military would be dissolved anyway. Hamilton would have no choice but to conclude that indeed Congress today has long been full of "traitors" for their continuous excuses for funding the military.

What Hamilton understood very well was that having too many troops in a country over a long time created pressure on the economy and public opinion. Even having too many military veterans in a society could make that society the kind of place no one wanted to live in. That's all written in black and white even by the most militarist white people of that day, who would be considered wild-eyed hippie-anarchist-peaceniks today. There

is no way that the "founding fathers" could ever imagine that military schools would penetrate into every nook and cranny of society in the "United States."

Yet, that's not all. Where there are not ROTC courses substituting for what people should be learning in college, there are religious courses filling in, just as in madrassas. The difference of course is that in many Islamic countries, the people are poor and have no choice in educational matters other than madrassas. Here, religion has taken such a hold that students actually choose to go to religious colleges. One might well ask which country is more fanatical, the one where there is no choice but madrassas or the one where a large portion of a well-funded education is madrassas.

Among the goals of the madrassas in the United States is to make people ignorant of biology. 29% of Americans say they are conservative Protestants, a.k.a. bible-thumper fodder. The colleges they support come up with replacements for teaching evolution in school. One replacement is "intelligent design,"(7) and of course they aren't talking space aliens but god.

The most conservative of the Christian colleges stress that they have the highest probability of keeping students born-again upon graduation. The defection rate from born-again Christianity is apparently highest at public schools but also fairly high at some Catholic and Protestant schools.(8) We can say that these evangelical colleges have students self-selected to be stupid and narrow. There's no other explanation for why higher education so tends to eradicate religion.

In March, the federal government told the state of Montana that the "no child left behind law" does not require teaching

Darwinian evolution. It left open the door for "intelligent evolution;" even though Montana asked if it was required to teach intelligent evolution. It's amazing this idiocy goes on and the anti-communists have the nerve to say Mao politicized science. They attack Stalin for supporting Lysenko, who at least was a scientist good with plants. These Christians in the United States are supporting "god" instead of biology at a time when the knowledge of evolution and genetics is much better than in Stalin's day.

As in China under Mao, the government in the USA is making decisions on what to fund. In the USA's case, the wrong decision has been made to fund teaching of "intelligent design." On the other hand, there is no way around the fact that such decisions end up being made politically. A majority of the US public wants to teach children fairy-tales about the origins of species.(9)

In March, the Ohio Board of Education voted to allow Christian creationist teachings to criticize Darwin's theory of evolution in biology classes. There is an excellent explanation of the politics behind that in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.(10) Theocratic conservatives in Iran's Islamic Republic, er, at the National Review have also called for teaching "faith-based" "science" against Darwin.(11)

One in ten Americans attend private schools. 85% of those students are in religious schools.(12) There are 7.6 million Catholic school attendees.(13) The college situation is also bad in the United States. In the years 1990 to 1996, college enrollments grew fastest in religious colleges: "Undergraduate enrollments at religious colleges grew by 11 percent from 1990 to 1996 and continue to climb, according to the U.S. Department of

Phony Iraqi Communist Party supports occupation of Iraq

Continued from page 3...

courage in getting out their newspaper. It is certainly good news for all progressive forces and freedom of the press lovers the world over.”(2) Oh yes, they’re saying thank Bush, because now the ICP can distribute its paper openly in Iraq. There is no way Bush could find better lackeys to prove that there is free speech in Iraq.

Rumsfeld had his favorite Iraqi exile lackey to bring back to Iraq in the invasion. The “CP-USA” had its favorite lackeys to help out Bush. The CP=U\$A says, “Iraqi communists exiled in London are a vital conduit for accurate information from inside the country. The party has established a formidable reputation for being exceptionally well-informed about developments inside Iraq, among the military and security apparatus and among opposition groups.”(3)

Don’t be fooled by the CP=U\$A rhetoric about opposing the U\$ war. It’s that rhetoric that makes you think the CP=U\$A is no different than MIM. The ICP sister party of the CP=U\$A has one of only 25 seats in the top Iraqi body of the occupation regime. Bush=Bremer=ICP=CPU\$A.

There is no factual dispute about this. Again we quote the CP=U\$A: “The ICP is opposed to the present armed actions. It estimates that political struggle can end the occupation and armed struggle cannot. Those conducting the armed attacks, the ICP says, consist of Baathists trying to restore the dictatorship, international

groups the ICP characterizes as ‘terrorist’ seeking a new reactionary dictatorship, and criminal elements released from prison by Saddam.”(4) Yes, you read that right. The CP=U\$A and ICP are echoing the Bush administration to a “t”. They oppose the liberation fight of the Iraqis together as a united front.

In the same article, the CP=U\$A openly tells you that the U.S. Government put the ICP in the Governing Council of Iraq: “the U.S. recognized the council had to have considerable popular support and at the last moment gave in to demands to include the ICP.”(4) 25 seats up for grabs from Uncle \$am and Uncle \$am reserved one for “communist” lackeys in Iraq. That was no elections, no revolution, not even a coup—just Uncle \$am putting someone in the government.

It’s not a surprise to MIM at all. The CP=U\$A and its sister parties internationally have been serving imperialism ever since Stalin died. This is the party that supported Khrushchev and Brezhnev and did not change its tune even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. They are still denying Mao’s thesis that a bourgeoisie in the party came to power and restored capitalism! Yet, there is no explanation of who did restore capitalism from the CP=U\$A. That organization simply does not care. The leaders are cynical scum and their followers are as directionless as jellyfish. They end up cheerleading for the Amerika-first faction of Perot, Buchanan, Nader and Kucinich, because they are not truly for the

international proletariat, just the Amerikan labor aristocracy’s interests, including the interests of the imperialists in Iraq.

Also supporting the CP=U\$A is the internationally influential phony communist party called the Workers’ Party in Belgium (PTB). The CP=U\$A is the first party that PTB links to on its web page for the U\$A.(5) The PTB is a party claiming to uphold Stalin but not Mao. It provides a lot of camouflage for the CP=U\$A types. Belgians! Demand that the PTB break with the ICP and CP=U\$A! Shame on the PTB for linking to the CIA outfit called the CP=U\$A!

That’s not all, not at all, because there are a lot more political debates among those calling themselves communists. Except for MIM, the other parties calling themselves communist actually believe those Amerikan civilians in Iraq are 90% exploited people, not exploiters profiting from the misery of Iraqis set up by Amerikan sanctions and bombing. One organization even calling itself “Maoist” lately criticizes us saying that our approach to Amerikan civilians even justifies “terrorism.”

So you see, dear reader, the so-called communists do not agree with MIM even about what class Amerikan people are. The other so-called communists are bleeding with sympathy for the Amerikan contractors in Iraq, many of which turn out to be “ex-” CIA and special forces, which is not surprising given what a large portion of the U\$ population has such links.

Yes, those other so-called communist organizations actually think that tourism in Iraq is good for international socialism. Meanwhile, we at MIM do not think it’s going to come about by sending the exploited to Iraq as civilians to join up with the exploited there. That’s a pipe dream of all the other organizations that do not realize that those civilians there are profiteering on Iraqi misery.

We call on every honest communist to condemn and boycott the “CP-USA” until the Iraqi Communist Party withdraws from the occupation government and assists the liberation forces. Every communist must ask every party where it stands on the contractors in Iraq. MIM says they are the enemy of the Iraqi people and the international proletariat. It’s plain as day, but oddly enough, you won’t find any other “Marxists” inside U\$ borders saying it.

Notes:

1. If you did not hear about this, count yourself in a cave. Here’s one source: USA Today 01Apr2004, p. 13a.

2. We are quoting from the “CP-USA”’s own newspaper, People’s Weekly World, April 26, 2003 <http://www.pww.org/article/articleview/3336/1/159/>

3. <http://www.pww.org/article/view/2848/1/135/>

4. People’s Weekly World February 21, 2004. <http://www.pww.org/article/articleview/4819/1/203/>

5. <http://www.wpb.be/links.htm>

Terror schools...

Education. At public schools, undergraduate enrollments increased by 4 percent during those years. Enrollment at nonreligious private institutions rose by 5 percent.” (14) The most reactionary group of born-again madrassas constituting the 104 colleges of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities have enrolled 1% of U.\$ college students and grew 47% in enrollment in the 1990s.(15)

Notes:

1. <http://www.williams.edu/AnthSoc/wamp-nyt.htm>

2. http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2004/04/04/rumors_of_jihad/

3. http://www.disinfopedia.org/wiki.html?title=Rumsfeld_Memo_16_October_2003

4. <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2001/09/27/schools.htm>

5. <http://www.cursor.org/stories/oldnews.htm>

6. <http://www.afrotc.com/colleges/> A list of Army ROTC schools is here: <http://www.armyrotc.com/schools/index.htm>

[/www.armyrotc.com/schools/index.htm](http://www.armyrotc.com/schools/index.htm)

7. <http://slate.msn.com/?id=1006213#ContinueArticle>

8. www.sbuniv.edu/~khopkins/WhyStatistics.pdf

9. <http://www.missoulain.com/articles/2004/03/11/news/top/news01.txt>

10. <http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/107926172824530.xml>

11. <http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/west200404010900.asp>

12. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/2001330.pdf>

13. www.ncea.org/newinfo/faq/

14. www.freep.com/news/education/

15. From: www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030908-121538-4058r.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.

Sham 'transfer of power' in Iraq: deja vu all over again

By MC12

In 1969, US President Nixon proposed "Vietnamization," which the New York Times described as "the process whereby United States forces are to turn over an increasing share of their part of the war effort to the South Vietnamese." (1) The point was to leave behind a puppet government with a surrogate army of locals to do the fighting and dying — always the dream of colonialists, who want the profits and power they get from occupying foreign countries without having to shed their own cowardly blood for it.

That is the goal in Iraq, too, of course. But one problem for Amerika is there is no government to even nominally take over when the "transfer of sovereignty" takes place. In both cases, it is important to note, the Amerikan plan was not to leave or give up control, just shift the burden of the war to local surrogates. A study by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1970 reported that "a substantial American involvement would still be required in South Vietnam" if the policy was to succeed. (2)

The paternalistic, colonial mentality that prevails in the rhetoric about Iraq was also apparent in Vietnam. Nixon described

"Vietnamization" as a sort of therapy for the over-generous or overzealous Amerikan personality. He said on Nov. 3, 1969: "We Americans are a do-it-yourself people — we're an impatient people. Instead of teaching someone else to do a job, we like to do it ourselves. And this trait has been carried over into our foreign policy." Instead of following this altruistic impulse, however, Nixon said Amerika should transfer the responsibility to the Vietnamese, so the poor, dependent colonial subjects could learn to help themselves. He said, "The defense of freedom is everybody's business — not just America's business. And it is particularly the responsibility of the people whose freedom is threatened. . . . Under the new orders, the primary mission of our troops is to enable the South Vietnamese to assume the full responsibility for the security of South Vietnam." (NYT 11/4/69, p. 16.)

When you consider Amerikan optimism about Iraq, it's good to go back and look at what the propagandists said about Vietnam. The New York Times editorialized in, 1969: "Most military men agree that that South Vietnamese can be prepared to take over all but helicopter operations — with, perhaps, some



President Richard Nixon had it all figured out. Wrong.

American logistical and continuing air support — in less than eighteen months." (NYT July 28, 1969, p. 30.) In Vietnam, of course, the strategy was a dismal failure, as the Vietnamese went on to defeat Amerika in a rout by 1975.

The situation in Iraq is different than Vietnam. But some things seem not to have changed, especially Amerikan

arrogance and over-confidence, the colonial/imperialist mentality, and the drive to conquer Third World countries to try to keep the empire alive.

Notes:

1. New York Times, 16 Nov 1969, p. 2.
2. New York Times, 2 Feb 1970, p. 1.

Is Iraq the new Vietnam?

Continued from page 1...

line. Unilateral US intervention was a mistake and created all the violence we're now seeing in Iraq, they say, but getting out will only make things worse.

This stubborn ignorance shows that even Amerika's self-styled "best and brightest" have no clue what it will take to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction and end war. They cannot connect the obvious dots: Amerikan meddling in Afghanistan 25 years ago led to the World Trade Center Bombings; Amerikan support for Saddam Hussein during the Iraq-Iran war backfired when he got too big for his britches (as happened with numerous other puppets like Noriega); etc. They are surprised and outraged that "they" (the oppressed masses) hate "us" (parasitical Amerikans), while overlooking Amerikan support for repressive regimes in the name of Amerikan profit. They don't understand that their ham-handed, repressive response to "terrorism" will only create more "terrorists." That's all it's ever done in the past.

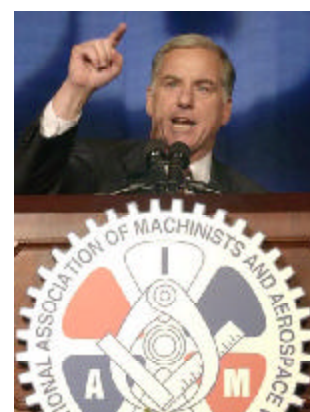
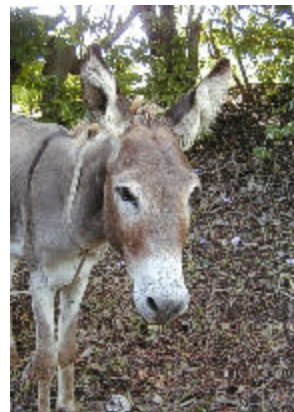
Furthermore, by their own reasoning, the fact that they didn't "move heaven and earth" (as President Bush would say) to stop the invasion indicts them. If Amerikans and the rest of the world are now less safe than before the invasion, as these Democratic "critics" argue, why were they content to wait in the wings and trade power with the Republicans and the more militarist Democrats? Peace-loving Amerikans need to break with

these learned fools and their pragmatist electoral dogma.

Then there those who fake left to run right. These folks appear to agree with MIM that US intervention in Vietnam was unjust and doomed to failure. But then these slimy pundits say, "No, Iraq is not at all like Vietnam," and parrot the Bush line as justification. Vietnamese resistance to Amerikan intervention was broad and just (or at least understandable) on nationalist grounds, but the resistance fighters in Iraq are isolated, they say, and just a bunch of "riffraff." Diem was a puppet and a boob, but Ahmed Chalabi is a true Iraqi nationalist and clever leader. (1) These smartasses play an important role building support for US imperialism: undermine and confuse opposition to the war while providing the Amerikan warmongers an "humanitarian" façade. It's a role they play with gusto.

So what are some of the similarities that MIM sees between Iraq and Vietnam?

1. They are both imperialist wars of aggression, launched under the cover of "liberating" an oppressed people or "keeping the peace." The stated reasons for the recent Iraq ground invasion keep changing, as each is debunked in turn. First it was weapons of mass destruction; then it was the well being of the Iraqi people; now it's combating "terrorism." But as soon as Bush, Cheney, Pearle and Wolfowitz started shooting their mouths off after 9/11, MIM warned that the imperialists' own system was driving them



Peace-loving Amerikans need to break with these learned fools and their pragmatist electoral dogma.

to war in Iraq, and they were looking for a handy justification. The Amerikans' push to retain and expand control of middle-eastern oil was one of the deeper reasons for the war. In particular, the United States wanted a puppet regime that would act as a permanent US military base in the region, to replace politically sensitive bases in Saudi Arabia.

For that matter, Iraq isn't the "new" Vietnam; it's the latest. Since the end of the Vietnam War the United States has waged war covertly or overtly against Nicaragua, El Salvador, Lebanon, Libya, Panama, and Afghanistan, to name a few. These wars are all battles in the ongoing World War III between the imperialists and the oppressed nations.

2. As a corollary to 1, the peoples of Iraq have an interest in uniting to kick out the Amerikans on the grounds of national

self-determination, just as the Vietnamese did. The Amerikans' claims that they are bringing democracy and freedom to Iraq are a bad joke, coming on the heels of reports that Amerikan soldiers are shutting down newspapers, firing on demonstrators, and bombing mosques. Furthermore, as we note in this issue's article on the impending draft, "Economic reality says that [Iraq's Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites] will be better off sharing their resources among themselves rather than among themselves and the Amerikkans."

3. As in Vietnam, the reactionaries have serious illusions about their own strength (which they overestimate), popular support for their puppet regime (close to nil), and the nature of the resistance (which is not limited to a few "thugs," as

Continued on next page...

Preparing for the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat

Combating subjectivism in all arenas

Continued from page 3...

get a rush like we get from Guns N' Roses but some other way? Again, for those conquering subjectivism and preparing the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat, the answer is "yes." We don't think it's necessary that music have that sick component, so we're for revolutionizing it.

Leon Trotsky said some good and bad things about art, but the bad things were mostly a concession to Liberalism and that is how Trotsky is known relative to Stalin and Mao. Trotsky did say this: "During the period of revolution, only that literature which promotes the consolidation of the workers in their struggle against the exploiters is necessary and progressive. Revolutionary literature cannot but be imbued with a spirit of social hatred, which is a creative historic factor in an epoch of proletarian dictatorship."⁽¹⁾ MIM is OK with that line from Trotsky, but we will note that he says revolutionary art is necessary and progressive, but he does not say the dictatorship of the proletariat is going to attack and ban reactionary art.

Then weaving in the concept of the party as the dictatorship of the proletariat the way Rosa Luxemburg did against Lenin, Trotsky said: "Art must make its own way and by its own means. The Marxian methods are not the same as the artistic. The party leads the proletariat but

not the historic processes of history. There are domains in which the party leads, directly and imperatively. There are domains in which it only cooperates. There are, finally, domains in which it only orients itself. The domain of art is not one in which the party is called upon to command."⁽¹⁾

Later, Trotsky would develop this line further to its logical conclusion and oppose the dictatorship of the proletariat as "totalitarian." "No less ruinous is the effect of the 'totalitarian' regime upon artistic literature. The struggle of tendencies and schools has been replaced by interpretation of the will of the leaders. There has been created for all groups a general compulsory organization, a kind of concentration camp of artistic literature."⁽²⁾ The Cold War machine picked up and echoed every Trotsky criticism supporting subjectivism.

In his same major work Trotsky said about Stalin: "In the process of struggle against the party Opposition, the literary schools were strangled one after the other. It was not only a question of literature, either. The process of extermination took place in all ideological spheres, and it took place more decisively since it was more than half unconscious. The present ruling stratum considers itself called not only to control spiritual creation

politically, but also to prescribe its roads of development. The method of command- without-appeal extends in like measure to the concentration camps, to scientific agriculture and to music. The central organ of the party prints anonymous directive editorials, having the character of military orders, in architecture, literature, dramatic art, the ballet, to say nothing of philosophy, natural science and history."⁽²⁾

Trotskyists of our day continue the theme that art and politics are separate, that barbarians fail to recognize why artistic subjectivity cannot be subject to the dictatorship of the proletariat. Bob Avakian said for example, "art plays a crucial role in precisely this—the forging of new outlooks. This is true whether the subject matter of art is explicitly political or not.

"It is not difficult to understand why there has been a historic tendency among Marxists to confound art with politics per se, and particularly with political agitation and propaganda."⁽³⁾ So here Avakian defends art that is not explicitly political and creates the space for art for its own sake, and seeing art as apart from politics as Avakian's ideological ancestor Trotsky did. Art is not agitation, but the substance of artistic skill itself is subject to an all-round dictatorship of the proletariat.

Otherwise the bourgeoisie will rule.

What all Liberalism including Trotskyism has in common is the common attack that we Marxist scientists missed the point. For them, it's what people "like" or "don't like" and supposedly us square and retro communist scientists don't get it—even when the MIM reviewer admits to liking Guns N' Roses. Resistance to MIM's music line is reminiscent of the same pseudo-rebellion by teenage wannabe smokers.

When we tell the Liberals there has to be a party or body of scientists deciding what is good or bad for society in terms of art and music, they say, "who are you to decide?" We should throw back in their face, "who are you to decide that mega-corporations should decide?" The whole question of "totalitarianism" is based on an illusion that someone is not deciding currently.

Our critics' approach denies that in science, someone always does decide. For that matter, Einstein's theory of relativity is not up for a vote based on what people "like." In economics, these same subjectivist people are apt to believe that they are really making individual decisions under capitalism when in reality it's the boardrooms of corporations, the Pentagon and the White House making the major decisions and letting individuals pick within their boundaries.

Is Iraq the new Vietnam?

Continued from previous page...

they claim). These reactionaries have started to believe their own press releases—in part because of everyday bourgeois corruption and careerism (the bosses like it if you tell them what they want to hear). Those who avoid this mistake still do not grasp the deeper issues and merely quibble over tactics—witness those Democratic "critics" who are now among the most militant in calling for more imperialist troops in Iraq.

4. The Amerikan media serves as a mouthpiece for the Amerikan government. Contrary to the myth created by the "stab-in-the-back" militarists, the Amerikan media was not critical of Amerikan involvement in Vietnam in the early sixties and largely served to re-issue Kennedy administration press releases. Even after some reporters in Vietnam could no longer stomach the obvious disconnect between Washington's statements and reality in the field, they did not question the underlying rationale for the war (e.g. "South Vietnam" was a viable "nation").

The situation is even worse today, as fewer Amerikan media companies invest in international correspondents. Most of those in Iraq now fly in for a few weeks on Pentagon-sponsored junkets and live in the "green zone" or are "embedded"

with Amerikan troops. Few muster the courage to ask even the obvious questions.⁽²⁾

We agree with Howard Zinn's observation: "I think the press has been shamefully negligent in not asking fundamental questions.... They will ask, 'Did Iraq have weapons of mass destruction?' They will not ask, 'Well, what if Iraq did have weapons of mass destruction, would we be justified in going in and invading another country, because they, among many, many other countries in the world have weapons of mass destruction?' Or you'll find the press saying, 'It was wrong because we had to do it alone.' You mean if we had allies in a war that was fundamentally immoral and illegal that would legitimize it? So I'm finding a similarity [between Iraq and Vietnam] in the basic lack of analysis and lack of fundamental questioning that is going on in the media."⁽³⁾

The biggest difference between Vietnam and Iraq is in the subjective forces. The Vietnamese revolutionaries were greatly influenced by Maoism, especially as it applied to the class struggle within Vietnam (peasants against landlords, comprador capitalists and corrupt puppet politicians) and military theory (protracted people's war). The Vietnamese also had decades of hard-won experience fighting guerrilla wars

against imperialist invaders, from the Japanese to the French to the Americans. The Iraqi fighters are quickly gaining such military experience; this difference will disappear with time. If the Iraqi resistance fighters go on to take up proletarian internationalism and thus strengthen the unity of the oppressed peoples of Iraq—then the imperialists will really be forced to take increasingly desperate measures. Peace-loving Americans must take action now—by organizing to stop the draft before it starts, by organizing to stop Patriot-Act style measures, by organizing in support of oppressed peoples fighting for their self-determination—to try and avoid a disastrous escalation of imperialist war later.

Notes:

1. See e.g. Hitchens' comments in the Boston Phoenix's cover story of April 16.
2. We mention one small exception. During a recent press briefing in Iraq, an Amerikan general praised the occupation regime for fostering a free press and chided Amerikan journalists for not visiting Fallujah to get the "real story." A journalist responded by asking the general why Americans had not let him into Fallujah, although he had been asking for days. Nobody asked the general to comment on the occupation regime shutting down Iraqi newspapers, however.
3. Boston Phoenix 16 April 2004.



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?

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Lifers in NY want Good Time

Greeting Comrades!

I am a prisoner in the state of NY doing 25 years to life. I've been involved in a few lifers programs here in the facility and one of our main goals is fighting for good time for lifers. It seems like we are not getting too much support from organizations around the world. I'm asking why, if we are part of the struggle, that is going on?

I read your (MIM) forms you sent out talking about what your organization is about and I'm feeling what you're fighting. I am also a great admirer of communism and also feel that it would be a way better life for our people to live.

[I] would love to help your organization in any way I can. I have no money or stamps right now to donate. Right now I am in the SHU for 15 months. I'm sorry.

Power to the people,

—a New York Prisoner, March 2004

Family contact in NY

This facility has just enforced an unconstitutional (8th, 14th Amendments) policy. This facility does not allow prisoners to hold their children during the visiting hours. This policy is in direct violation of the Directives. Due to your organizations concern for prisoners, I only ask for a simple solution.

Can you please call this number and express your complaint that the policy being enforced by the staff at Great Meadow Correctional Facility is unconstitutional and in violation of Directives.

Phone: (518) 457-1993 - this is the number for visiting room related Complaints.

This type of action should not be tolerated, it's a further form of breaking bondage with family, slave trade tactics!

—a New York Prisoner, March 2004

Help Build Prisoner Re-Release on Life

Regarding the Serve the People Prisoner Re-Release on Life Program; I believe that what is most important is providing ways for ex-prisoners to meet their basic needs — food, clothes and shelter, and these things can be obtained through being gainfully employed. No man (or woman) wants a hand-out, so by helping to provide ex-prisoners with employment, they will not only be able to provide for themselves, but also they will feel more independent, raising his/her sense of self-worth (self-esteem), rendering them more productive, and a greater asset in the struggle. Keeping ex-prisoners involved in the struggle should prove to be an easy matter.

Anyone who has been in prison, and once released, turns their back on the struggle, was not really conscious regarding revolutionary struggle from the beginning, but was only involved in such activities in order to pass time. I don't believe that a person in this imperialist country can be more oppressed than its prisoners. Once aware of true/correct revolutionary ideology and theory (Marxism-Leninism-Maoism), and they are given stable avenue in which to practice those ideologies and theories (actually BE revolutionaries and not merely ideological strugglers), then I'm confident that they will not only stay involved once released

from prison, but will prove to be valuable assets.

With the Re-Release on Life Program, MIM will establish a sense of legitimacy in the eyes of ex-prisoners because they will see that MIM is walking the talk and that they are really here to support the people. Revolution in and of itself is illegal, so there's no way to keep a revolutionary out of trouble, but keeping them out of non-revolutionary situations entails continuously raising their level of consciousness and directing that energy towards revolutionary goals through study groups, workshops, MIM volunteer work, assisting USW leaders, etc.!

—A New York Prisoner, April 2004

On the "Serve the People Prisoner Re-Release on Life Program" you asked me for input on "How to provide for people when they get out to keep them out of trouble & involved in the struggle?" Well, my Bro & Sis, coming from a brother who's been here multiple times, the biggest worry & downer for people coming home is, where they gonna live? As we speak we have a comrade about to go home in 2 days. A GOOD brother who's been striving to stay clean and involved in positive organizing. He doesn't know where he's going to live and the stress has gotten to him severely. The system won't help him cuz he's maxing out (no parole) so he's assed out. His first steps are to go get drugs to sell to provide for himself a place to stay, second to get high to get his mind of the problem, BOOM, then what, he's back to his old cycle. We all have a common understanding that this capitalist system is exploiting our people in many ways, prison is ONE. I hate to say it, but the system has his deck set up to lose and come back to get them more money.

What do we do to break the cycle is the question? We need to set up housing, temporary housing for Bro & Sis, just coming out of jail, that will show we don't just talk about giving back to our community be we doing it! And a comrade sees that Love, it will encourage him/her to show love to the next. We must first revolutionize the way we live as a community before we revolutionize the existing order of things. Second, to get them out of the temp housing they need a job to provide 4 his/her self. A job placement program, we find the jobs, teach them bro/sis how to talk in an interview, help them with resumes and transportation. Through all of this process is where you encourage the comrades to get involved in the struggle, you don't ever want to force feed someone cuz it will backfire. We need people who do this from the heart, not cuz they obligated. Well my Bro & Sis, I close this letter for now until the next time.

Revolutionary Greeting to all,

—a New York Prisoner, April 2004

MIM responds: As our readers can see, the need for the Re-Release on Life program is great. We are currently soliciting resources in the forms of housing and job opportunities. We are also exploring different options for providing treatment for addictions and planning ways to immerse comrades in the struggle upon their release. This is particularly urgent in NY and CA, but wherever you live there are prisons nearby and there is the need for such a program. Get in touch with MIM to begin building it.

Walls of Destruction

Take off your shoes, socks, and shirt. Now take off your boxers. Squat, spread your cheeks and cough. Again, cough. Louder!

Imagine that, but it's security, or is that the abuse of authority? Okay, now let's walk in and see Corcoran-SHU. Wait, listen—did you hear that? "Ahh! I can't take this anymore! Why! Why!" Don't worry about him, he's a killer or he's serving life for stealing only because it's the Three Strike Law. It's understandable, it just "makes society safer." He's just a low life, he has no education, he's a drug addict. Just another criminal off the streets or is he a perpetrator? That's what the news says, doesn't it? No, let me tell you who that person is. He's a J-Cat, a term used by inmates but deriving from prison psychologists. It means Category J, which is an inmate who's normal mind state has deteriorated from stress, anxiety, misery, psychological disorders, all due to external influences.

This place is called the Department of "Corrections." I wonder how a place can drive a man insane when it's supposed to correct him. Here's the government's all time favorite word: rehabilitation. But once again, how can such a place

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.

do such dehumanizing things to people? This place is not for rehabilitation but for psychologically destroying the minds of the people it holds captive.

The people in here lose their normal state of mind. It becomes so weak that whatever the guards wish is their command. Prisoners not only tell on inmates in hopes of their time being shortened, but they also tell lies which will satisfy the guards assumptions of the living functions in prison. How can that possibly be rehabilitation? People are so blind to see it. They think these places help society, but in reality, it's psychological torture. It makes strong men so weak that they are, in reality, mentally crawling on the floor, begging for a taste of that sweet apple pie that is on the outside world and they are willing to do what it takes to taste the pie.

I am a person who believes that for every action comes a reaction and that every unjust crime should have a punishment. While I do believe that it should be imprisonment, there should be treatment and training with true correction and not just all education and training either a few or none and all. To top it all off, after serving time and supposedly paying dues to society, prisoners lose their right to bear arms but we're still supposedly a threat to society. Or better yet, we gave up our rights. If a place which didn't breed hatred, anger, and pain instead gave righteous programs to us, programs guaranteeing jobs with good surviving pay then we would have no reason to rob, steal, or even kill.

— A California Prisoner, April 2004

California moves to take away appliances

On December 30, 2003, the California Department of Corrections (CDC) issued an amendment to several sections of Title 15 of California Code of Regulations to incorporate into the directors' rules of provisions regarding prisoners statewide vender packages program with the intentions of implementing immediately. One of the sections of Title 15 to be amended is Section 3044(9)(4)(G). What Sacramento is attempting to do is take all appliances (radios and televisions) from all SHU prisoners. Sacramento's justification for this attempt is to comply with Governor Terminator's budget cuts which, you can be sure, us prisoners will be the first to experience.

According to the CDC's fiscal impact statement, taking our appliances will supposedly save the state nearly \$2 million. Although how this is supposed to save the state nearly \$2 million was unexplained. I think what's really being stated through their unscientific fiscal impact statement is that by taking our televisions and radios, this will be one of the many methods of insuring the continuance of the overpayment of these prison guards and prisoncrats at our expense. And we all know too well when many of these SHU prisoners are released to general population and order another radio or television, the CDC will be more than happy to collect another 10% of inmate welfare fund from the prisoners as well as its usual kickback from the state prison's chosen vendor.

Past experiences with the CDC's tactics of taking away our once hard earned and fought for rights clearly demonstrate to us that similar stunts as this one are usually not implemented at one time but are generally implemented here and there, slowly, with the purpose of avoiding mass resistance. Unfortunately and quite shamefully to us prisoners, this tactic of theirs has proven very effective. Should this proposal concerning our televisions and radios be implemented, it is most likely, although not certainly, that they'll begin their confiscation campaign with the SHU facilities furthest South and work their way North.

That is, if we let them.

On March 5, 2004, which has come and past, the CDC's Regulation and Policy Management Branch held a public hearing regarding suggestions, complains, etc., pertaining to this proposal. What came of this is uncertain as of the present time.

Any complaints or a copy of the proposal can be obtained from:

Rick Grenz, Chief
Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RPMB)
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Through a united struggle from within, this can be prevented.

— A California Prisoner, March 14, 2004

Censorship Victory

I wish I could have responded sooner but my struggle against censorship has meant sly threats, appeals forms disappearing, and withholding my mail. In September, you sent me a 60-page print out of Mao and Lenin's stand on property and state but I was only given 20 pages. The other 40 pages I either had to send home, back to you, or destroy and since I am indigent, I had no choice but to let these pigs get away with this injustice.

Suffice to say, I took it to Sacramento where my appeal was granted for once. Then, all of a sudden, I was being moved to different blocks. I'd be in one building for a period of 3 to 5 days, then be told to pack all of my stuff because I was going to another building. So I filed another appeal for harassment and retaliation, plus cruel and unusual punishment. The moves have stopped. The pigs are not fucking with me at all! It seems like a dream but I know as soon as they get a chance, they will turn a dream into a nightmare.

— A California Prisoner, February 2004



Prison industrial complex and imperialism

Let us be honest with ourselves. We don't actually believe we're American. Though some value their U.S. citizenship, we are not the true beneficiaries of America's empire. If we were actual Americans, we would see ourselves reflected in the movers and shakers of this society. The fact that we don't unveils our second class status. In truth, we are only allowed to subsist so long as we remain fragmented, indoctrinated and conform.

One place where we do see ourselves reflected is in the prison industrial complex. Let us be courageous and face this reality, then begin to investigate why the numbers of the internal colonies continue to grow in these oppressive institutions. We need to reevaluate those reasons that perpetuate our current oppression which will require us to reexamine the entire effect of the justice system, from the legality of the institutions that enforce laws to the definition of crime.

This should inevitably bring us to the realization that we live under imperialistic conditions. Like all imperialist societies, do not doubt that white America's primary interest is to ensure its mental and material domination over its internal colonies. One way this is effectively accomplished in our time is by the "prison industrial complex" (PIC) which is directly derived from the "reservational military complex." Both are off shoots of the justice system.

Let us finally admit that the justice system is not designed to counter crime. One analyst accurately described the justice system as operating with a policy of "Pyrrhic defeat," a term that derives from an academic study of Pyrrhic victory, "a victory in one battle that cripples the winning army to such a degree that it cannot win the war. . . It loses against its professed targets but yields such benefits to those in power that it amounts to success." The fact is, the justice system does not want to eradicate crime because of the larger benefits of national oppression. If the justice system did want to reduce crime, it would simply do those things that actually amount to reduction like cure poverty, provide adequate education, decriminalize drugs, etc. So if we can infer that the main function of the justice system is not to reduce crime, then its only serviceable purpose must be to perpetuate itself and imperialism as each is dependent on the other.

Imperialism cannot exist without the maintenance of a massive PIC to serve as an effective deterrent against opposition. (I.e., prisons serve to disenfranchise, marginalize, intimidate, and terrorize its internal colonies and opponents or potential opponents.) And the PIC can not exist without imperialism which only flourishes by way of exploitation, oppression, neo-colonialism, classism and racism.

From their imperialistic viewpoint, the justice system and PIC have indeed accomplished their goals. First, they established a system that would disadvantage their internal colonies to such a degree that they are unable to completely compete.

Secondly, they created an industry (the PIC) that would be self-sustaining.

Here in California, the state opposes and defines other forms of nationalism, be it Mexican, Indian, African and/or socialism as criminal or terrorist to justify the prevalence of its PIC. In this way, the PIC serves to "legitimately" exterminate any independent progressive political or economic development of its internal colonies. This becomes an undeniable fact when we recognize that prisons are efficient tools of division. Prisons serve to remove certain segments of society, to sever families, to subdivide ethnicities and to marginalize classes.

When we look at the racial make up of prisoners, it becomes apparent that prisons are the means by which imperialism warehouses, exploits and oppresses its internal colonies and the poor. Thus, from a functionary analysis, we can conclude that prisons play a fundamental part in America's imperialistic policy and this policy is legitimately achieved by laws.

We must admit that every facet of law and its enforcement is about protecting white national interest. Therefore, laws are the tools for socio-economic and political domination of one class/nation over another class/nation. This becomes particularly true when we acknowledge the arbitrary selective application of defined notions of criminality.

Crime is a term used to describe actions that defeat the ruling classes' power and influence. (As America is not per se opposed to certain acts, only whom and what those acts are against.) It is no secret that most crime results from the grossly disproportionate distribution of means and material. That is, most crime develops under specific conditions, not due to a frame of mind but due to material conditions that give rise to a frame of mind. Indeed, economic disparity is the causation of social divisions called "classes" and any aggressive activity, economically motivated by the impoverished classes can be interpreted as "reactionary" against oppression via imperialism. So it is not by coincidence but by design that the internal colonies and impoverished classes are categorized as criminal. Just as it was criminal to be Indian under the "reservational military complex," the state continues to label those it considers undesirable as criminal. Only now, imperialism cannot be so blatantly discriminatory so it utilizes weaknesses in our communities, like poverty, to maintain its authority.

We can concede society from an economic perspective that where imperialism creates industry (PIC), the primary objective for that industry is growth. As the middle class and labor aristocracy clamor for more police, laws and prisons, that growth is occurring before our very eyes. Leaving the internal colonies and the impoverished classes faced with a prison pandemic which can only be countered by a massive education campaign and a united bloc.

We need to shed this passive second class status and gloriously arise to face the sun. If we're burnt at first, it is because we have been bowed for too long!

— A California Prisoner, March 2004



Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



California: Boicot dirigido por mexicanos y prisioneros del Alojamiento de la Unidad de Seguridad (SHU) que se unen a la lucha.

12 de Diciembre

Activistas latinos sostuvieron un boicot en todo el estado de California para protestar la decisión tomada por el gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger el 3 de diciembre de revocar la ley de licencias de conducir que hubiera otorgado el derecho de conducir a los llamados inmigrantes ilegales. Iniciado con la intención de demostrar el poder económico de los latinos en California, el boicot que sólo duró un día, se convirtió en una huelga económica en la que los latinos del estado se quedaron en casa en vez de ir al trabajo o al colegio, y se negaron a ir de compras.

Una tercera parte de la población californiana es latina y las industrias del estado cuentan con la mano de obra latina, cuya contribución a la fuerza trabajadora asciende a un 45%, sobre todo en trabajos pesados y de poco pago que otra gente no quiere. De las nacionalidades latinas en California, los mexicanos constituyen la mayoría abrumadora— un 80% según los resultados del censo del 2000. (1) Comparada demográficamente, esta huelga fue compuesta en su mayoría por líderes y participantes mexicanos, poniendo en evidencia el nacionalismo mexicano acompañado de banderas mexicanas volando al viento en las protestas y en las calles del estado.

Los colegios en distritos densamente poblados por latinos reportaron una dramática ausencia de estudiantes; algunos negocios cerraron sus puertas en solidaridad con la acción, y muchas calles llenas de tiendas carecían de consumidores. El periódico Fresno Bee reportó que la ausencia en el condado de Fresno costó a los distritos escolares aproximadamente 500,000 dólares. Es difícil acertar el impacto económico sobre las tiendas, pero juzgando por la ausencia de estudiantes en colegios públicos a través del estado, la participación en el boicot aparenta ser extensa. Varios negocios entrevistados por principales medios de comunicación cerraron sus tiendas debido a su reconocimiento de la contribución por parte de la mano de obra barata de los inmigrantes a sus ganancias monetarias. La pérdida económica a causa de un solo día del paro, aunque sea durante una temporada festiva, no es nada comparada con las posibles pérdidas a las que se enfrentarían los negocios si perdieran sus trabajadores. Esta decisión sin duda alguna también fue impulsada por el punto de vista práctico de algunas compañías que sabían que la mayoría de sus trabajadores planeaban apoyar el boicot faltando al trabajo.

Las demostraciones que tuvieron lugar a través del estado, fueron formadas por grupos de huelguistas latinos y algunas personas de origen no latino que se unieron en solidaridad. En pueblos con un gran número de habitantes latinos como Fresno y Santa Rosa cientos de protestantes salieron a las calles. En Sacramento, enfrente de la casa del estado, cientos de protestantes latinos hicieron poco caso a la lluvia para unirse a la lucha. El llamativo grupo recibió mucho

respaldo por parte de carros que pitaban en apoyo de los carteles escritos pidiendo licencias de manejo y derechos iguales a los inmigrantes latinos.

La gran mayoría de participantes en las demostraciones públicas fueron personas mexicanas, siendo algunas de ellas residentes legales y otras ilegales. La frontera imperialista entre U.S. y México refuerza el robo de latierra mexicana por parte de EE.UU. y mantiene a la gente en México, y en todos los países de América Latina, en pobreza convirtiéndola en un blanco perfecto para la explotación. La llamada inmigración ilegal provee al estado de California con la mano de obra barata que se utiliza en los campos y en otros trabajos mal pagados y destructivos para la salud física que los americanos blancos no quieren. Al mismo tiempo, corporaciones americanas tienen la libertad de poner fábricas al otro lado de la frontera y mantener sueldos bajos, porque los trabajadores mexicanos no pueden cruzar la frontera para competir por los mismos trabajos con ciudadanos americanos.

El MIM respalda dicha huelga económica siendo ésta un ejemplo de una lucha obrera correcta en contra de la explotación que es parte de una larga lucha de liberación nacional. EE.UU. es el país que está ocupando ilegalmente las tierras mexicanas; los americanos son los inmigrantes ilegales que masacraron a poblaciones indígenas para robarles su territorio. La lucha por el derecho a licencias de conducir es sólo una pequeña batalla en una larga pelea por una abolición de fronteras imperialistas y una liberación nacional de los pueblos oprimidos del mundo.

Convocado por la Asociación Política México-Americana con su base en Los Ángeles, el boicot no obtuvo ningún respaldo por parte de sindicatos laborales. Es posible que, dado el corto plazo de la convocatoria, los organizadores de la protesta no hayan solicitado ayuda sindical. Pero no nos sorprende el hecho de que los sindicatos no hayan sido representados en las demostraciones dominadas por la presencia de inmigrantes mexicanos. Los sindicatos americanos tienen una larga historia de oposición a los trabajadores inmigrantes y de organización por los derechos de trabajadores blancos en detrimento de las naciones oprimidas. Los sindicatos americanos respaldan el cierre de las fronteras por miedo a perder puestos de trabajo que pueden pasar a manos de inmigrantes o pueden ser transferidos a otros países. Dichos sindicatos luchan para mantener el alto nivel de vida del que disfrutaban los ciudadanos de este país a costa de los países del tercer mundo. Los trabajadores del tercer mundo son explotados por corporaciones americanas que traen las ganancias a casa y las comparten con los trabajadores americanos en forma de sueldos más altos y beneficios. Los inmigrantes ilegales dentro de las fronteras americanas se enfrentan a semejante explotación.

Manifestantes del Alojamiento de la Unidad de Seguridad se unen a la protesta.

Una demostración en frente del Departamento Correccional de California en Sacramento (CDC), convocada por el Comité de Defensa del Barrio, una organización comunitaria en San José, atrajo la atención de gente a las unidades de máxima seguridad (SHU) de las prisiones de California, cuyas celdas de tortura se usan para encerrar a muchos prisioneros latinos en confinamiento solitario por tiempo indefinido. Estas sentencias se aplican a supuestos miembros de pandillas, pero los criterios que definen a miembros de pandilla ponen bajo sospecha a todos los latinos. Tanto una conversación en un área de recreo de la prisión como un tatuaje o una dedicatoria en una tarjeta de cumpleaños, bastan para tachar de sospechoso a un prisionero. Los prisioneros activos políticamente llegan a ser blancos de estos criterios, de modo que se les retira de patios de recreo para que no puedan influenciar en y educar a otros prisioneros. Un líder del Comité de Defensa del Barrio explica que “Juzgando por los resultados del proceso judicial (llevado a cabo por el senado del SHU) el 15 de septiembre del 2003, el costo estimado de mantenimiento de una persona en el SHU vacila entre 60,000 y 70,000 dólares, lo cual implica un gasto inútil de millones de dólares. Steve Castillo ha estado en el SHU por ocho años sólo por ser abogado. Hugo Pinell lleva un sinnúmero de años en el SHU por sus ideales políticos! John Martínez fue encerrado en el SHU por cuestionar la brutalidad en Corcoran! Francisco Cesar Villa está en el SHU por pedir el número correcto de zapatos! José Luis Avina y Eddie Bustamente están en el SHU por participar en una huelga de hambre en 1999 en la prisión de New Folsom. Al fin y al cabo, el único remedio que queda es organizar a gente afuera de las cárceles para poder llevar a cabo cambios fundamentales y cerrar las unidades de máxima seguridad.”

Los manifestantes que se reunieron enfrente del CDC marcharon a la casa de estado para unirse a la demostración. Los huelguistas firmaron una petición circulada por el MIM para cerrar las unidades de máxima seguridad, y muchos hablaron de sus experiencias personales o sus parientes que están encerrados en esos lugares.

Un pequeño grupo de activistas le entregó una carta a la Senadora Gloria Romero, presidenta del Comité del Senado Selecto encargado del Sistema Correccional de California, exigiendo un cierre del SHU. Hacía unos meses, Romero había tenido un proceso judicial para investigar las unidades de máxima seguridad (véase MN 289), pero desde entonces los activistas no habían obtenido ningún tipo de información.

Romero no se encontraba en su oficina pero su representante Rocky Rushing, quien accedió a hablar con los activistas, explico

que el CDC se había reunido con el Comité la semana anterior justo para informar sobre el “progreso” respecto a las demandas presentadas en el proceso judicial. Deducimos que el CDC no iba a implementar ningún cambio. El CDC accedió a hacer unos pequeños cambios en el proceso de implementación de criterios que establecen la definición de “miembro de pandilla”, lo cual haría posible que los presos argumentaran y cuestionaran las evidencias presentadas. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las evidencias se mantiene en secreto, y el CDC no hizo ningún caso de las respuestas de los presos, de modo que estos cambios no tienen ningún sentido. El CDC también accedió a hacer algunos cambios en el programa del SHU. Pero estos cambios también son insignificantes ya que se enfocan en la educación sobre pandillas y en terapia. De esta forma, el CDC puede pretender que el SHU en realidad está solucionando el problema de las pandillas en las prisiones de California, en vez de proveer los medios necesarios como bibliotecas, educación y programas de recreación.

Los activistas solicitaron información al representante de la Senadora Romero sobre las demandas entabladas por familiares y amigos de los presos en el reciente proceso judicial (es decir, sobre las promesas de la senadora). El representante respondió que esta responsabilidad había sido relegada al CDC que se encargaría de revisar todas las quejas, y que para este propósito el CDC había recibido la transcripción del proceso. ¡Además informó que el CDC sostenía que todos los problemas habían sido solucionados! Claro está, los organizadores del SHU no vieron a ningún representante del CDC en el proceso judicial, en el cual alrededor de cien personas dieron su testimonio sobre los horrores del SHU. Quizás lo más relevante fue la afirmación del asistente de la Senadora Romero que expresó la esperanza de poder organizar otra reunión con representantes del CDC y la gente preocupada por el estado del SHU, para que en caso de que el CDC se negara a implementar cambios, los participantes de la reunión podrían sentirse incluidos. El MIM deduce que el asistente de la Senadora Romero no cree que el gobierno tenga poder sobre el Departamento Correccional de California. Puede convocar reuniones pero no puede exigir cambios. Esto no es ninguna sorpresa, ya que el presupuesto del CDC no ha sufrido ningún cambio o recorte a pesar de los grandes recortes presupuestarios y extensas negociaciones entre varias ramas del gobierno de California con el fin de aprobar un presupuesto equilibrado.

El MIM sabe que un verdadero cambio en el sistema de justicia criminal no provendrá de un Comité del Senado. Pero seguiremos explorando todas las direcciones posibles a medida que vayamos peleando por reformas que puedan mejorar las vidas de nuestros hermanos y hermanas tras las rejas, mientras nosotros sigamos educando y organizando a la gente para acabar con el sistema imperialista.