



## U\$. admits troops to stay in Iraq, again

Uncle Sam undertook a series of dizzying moves to confuse the public about Iraq in mid-May. Of course there are the prison torture cover-up tactics, with 1600 photos including murder and rape not released, but here we want to talk about how the government is trying to pacify the public by leading it toward its own fondest illusions.

The first move was by imperialist Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, who said that if the new Iraqi stooge regime coming in on July 1 wants, U\$ troops will leave. Powell also said that he was sure they would not leave,(1) but only some papers and outlets covered that aspect.

Powell admitted that the new regime of July 1, 2004 will be a U\$.-lackey regime: "Well, I think we have some say in who should be receiving governmental authority. We now have governmental authority under the Coalition Provisional Authority. Before we yield that, we have to have some level of confidence of the individuals to whom we are giving the country back are prepared to act in the best interest of the Iraqi people."(2) That is not to mention that U\$ military forces will continue to operate, arrest people and award contracts. It's such a dismal area that even the U\$. Government propaganda radio program admits that Iraqi sovereignty will have flaws.(3)

Powell also acknowledged that 82% of Iraqis want U\$ troops to leave now.(2) Moreover, Powell admitted that his UN speech with photos of supposed WMD sites in Iraq in 2003 was a load of manure: "When I made that presentation in February 2003, it was based on the best information that the Central Intelligence Agency made available to me," Powell said yesterday on NBC's 'Meet the Press.'

"It turned out that the sourcing was inaccurate and wrong and, in some cases, deliberately misleading. And for that, I am disappointed, and I regret it," he said.(4) The CIA and military intelligence are also taking a beating on the Iraqi prison torture, so this is a question of which of these factions of butchers is going to claim successfully to be innocent angels.

Colin Powell admitted that the Iraqi torture photos reminded him of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam. On 16 March 1968, Amerikan soldiers massacred 300 unarmed Vietnamese civilians, most of them women, children and elderly.

Yet after conciliatory statements by Bush and Powell and after some cosmetic orders to stop torturing prisoners, the truth still came out: U\$ troops are to stay in Iraq "indefinitely," according to Assistant Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz. He

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*Charles Graner, an Army reservist who works as a guard at SCI-Greene Supermax prison in Pennsylvania when he's not torturing overseas, shown with the body of an Iraqi prisoner murdered at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. We exposed torture at SCI-Greene in 1998, including naked beatings videotaped by guards, all while Graner was working there (see MIM Notes 302).*

## Activists attack biotech convention

Bay Area activists have pledged to shut down the Biotechnology Convention scheduled for June 6-9 in San Francisco. The slogan of the protest is: "No War on Iraq, No War on the Commons!" Many anti-war organizations, such as Direct Action to Stop the War, are taking leadership roles in this protest. According to their press release, "Organizers define the commons as everything needed to support healthy life on earth; from air, water, and food, to public spaces, culture, and genes."(1)

MIM supports organizing that prioritizes basic survival rights—such as the right

to healthy food and basic medicines—over the "right" to profit. Science should not be bought and sold by the imperialists. It should serve the people.

The anti-biotech activists appropriately link the biotech companies to the war on Iraq. They start off strong: "From the beginning of the anti-war movement, Direct Action to Stop the War has targeted the corporate interests behind the war — that's why we shut down the San

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**FOX, CNN, NBC,  
ETC. SHOULD  
BE TRIED AS  
CRIMINALS**

## Amerikan "Freedom of Press" overrated

Amerikans claim they support invasions like the Iraq war to foster "freedom"—yet they turn a blind eye to the absence of basic survival rights like healthy food and clean water for billions of people. These backwards concerns prioritize individualist "freedoms," despite the fact that the U\$ press is only "free" relative to the excessively repressive regimes that Amerika supports around the globe.

Two years following the September 11th attacks and 6 months after the recent invasion of Iraq, 7 in 10 Amerikans still believed that the ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was behind 9/11.(1) Even though the Bush administration had long admitted that it had no evidence for claims of a connection, the government fed media did such a good job propagating such lies that the idea easily stuck in the racist Amerikan mindset. After the United States declared victory in Iraq and after almost two months of searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) in a U\$ occupied land to no avail, 9 out of 10 people still believed Saddam had or was close to having WMDs.(2)

The fact is, while many Amerikans openly acknowledge that the war is good in that it will bring cheaper oil to the United States, it would have been impossible to gather majority support without linking an attack on the United States or at least the threat of a future attack by Saddam. The U\$ chose the safe route and utilized both. As a result over 10,000 people have died, hundreds of thousands have become refugees and the U\$ has a new colony.(3)

The propagation of false threats and lies about current events in order to stir up support for militarism is a crime against the people of the world. The Soviet Union recognized this, passing a law after WWII making it a serious crime to promote militarism.(4) The people behind Fox, NBC, CNN and all major media outlets in the United States would have been put on trial based on the crimes that they

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# Letters

## Report from Montreal May Day

### Dear MIM Notes:

The unions got together this year and held a single demo for May Day in Montreal. The overwhelmingly white crowd (I saw few Black faces and not a single recognizably East Asian or Native American one) must have been in the low five figures. Very little literature was to be found: only one group had a table, and two or three others were handing out leaflets.

The focus of the rally (and the subject of the only leaflets that I received) was clearly the Charest government, whose planned cuts in social services in Québec are unpopular. Issues of importance to people other than the local labor aristocracy were hardly represented at all. A number of people did carry signs calling for the removal of Kanadian troops from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine, but well over 99% of the signs were about the demands of bourgeoisified workers in Québec.

Tailing the thousands of labor aristocrats—figuratively but also literally tailing them, at the very end of the parade!—were the various self-styled communists and socialists, none of them especially red: the World Socialist Web

Site (Trotskyite), the Parti communiste du Québec (something like the CP=USA), the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (ditto), the Parti marxiste-léniniste du Québec (apparently a local branch of the CPCML), and some organization that supports Cuba and Che Guevara. I had wanted to talk with the Parti communiste révolutionnaire (comités d'organisation), which calls itself Maoist and which seems to be the closest thing to MIM in Canada—the best of a bad lot, shall we say. They must have been present, as they had announced their intentions to show up and had spray-painted “Let’s embrace communism!” in French on the sidewalk, but I didn’t see them. Pity. I had wanted to engage them on the subject of the imperialist-country working class, which they regard as proletarian (and exploited) while admitting here and there in their program that these “proletarians” are in the main strongly allied with the imperialists that supposedly “exploit” them.

I had hoped to get enough material for an article. Too bad there’s so little of political interest to report.

—Comrade in Montreal,  
1 May 2004

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.

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

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## Parents describe son’s treatment in California prison

*MIM received a copy of this letter along with a petition containing signatures calling for shutting down the SHU control units. Information and copies of this petition can be downloaded from MIM’s website at [www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons).*

### Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I have never written to anyone in your position before. This is my first time. But I feel you may be able to help this situation or at least you need to be aware of some very awful problems in our prison system in California.

Our son unfortunately is in Corcoran State Prison SHU confinement. He has been trying to tell us in letters about how awful they are treated, however, when he does write, he is punished even more by the guards there. He has been locked up like this for over 1 year, in a small cell 23 hours a day, no contact with anyone, no phone calls, food is slid thru the door, no exercise, it has caused him to recently be hospitalized with a mental breakdown.

We just went to visit him (no contact) 1 hour over a phone and we drove 6 hours to get there. He said that he is sure they have been poisoning his food, he said that after he would eat, he would lose his breath and could not breath right, then feel real funny in his head. He has stopped eating anything with gravy in it.

I have been looking on the internet and reading some very very disturbing things about SHU in the prisons, these letters are from other family members and also from former inmates. These facts are true I now believe my son. If you just type in California Prison SHU on the search engine, you will see what I mean.

Is there anything you can do? Please, this is cruel and inhuman punishment. With all that is going on in Iraq with prisoners there, our own sons and daughters have worse punishment here! Please help!

--Sincerely,  
**Mr & Mrs [name removed]**  
**San Marcos, CA**  
**May 11, 2004**



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

### 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.

# Maoism is the only modern road forward in Nepal

As usual, the United States is supporting backward rulers in a Third World country. The New York Times admitted on April 25th that Uncle Sam has provided \$22 million in military aid to the King of Nepal to combat the People's War underway there.

King Gyanendra dismissed Nepal's prime minister—another schemer—19 months ago. The Maoists are demanding a republican form of government. The king has also promised to restore civilian rule in a year while saying that past political leaders in parliament were too corrupt and inept to rule.

Lately the New York Times and BBC have been agitated about what is happening in Nepal. The BBC seemed to threaten openly that England would pull out its support if the king did not modernize the government to be a republic.

Like the bizarre cult around the Dalai Lama in Tibet, the king is now the beneficiary of religious beliefs. The Hindu god Vishnu is supposedly incarnated in Nepal's king. King Gyanendra came to power because of the June 2001 suicide-massacre of the rest of his family, including the previous king. This massacre is a mystery to the people, as described

in previous MIM Notes issues (e.g. MN288).

The New York Times is also talking about the son of the current king. "Crown Prince Paras," says the Times, "is widely distrusted. A notorious drinker, he was known for carousing in Katmandu nightclubs and for being involved in four fatal hit-and-run accidents, including one that killed a popular singer. In 2000, 500,000 Nepalis signed a petition demanding that he be prosecuted. It was never acted upon."<sup>(1)</sup>

The Great Powers are so nervous that the New York Times quoted a senior Indian diplomat saying even the diplomats do not know what King Gyanendra wants.<sup>(1)</sup> Apparently the imperialists are afraid to kill off King Gyanendra and have the Crown Prince come to power. The imperialists are also afraid the Maoists would advance if the king's bond with his military is broken.

On April 22nd, the king made overtures to other sectors of the ruling class in Nepal embittered by his sacking of the prime minister in 2002. The imperialists hope to see all the semi-feudal and bourgeois elements of Nepal working together against the Maoists, but the economic organization of semi-feudalism

and dependent capitalism is never broad enough to support a general alliance of exploiters.

Both the American and British imperialist press are admitting that their stooges in power in Nepal are in a bind and that it's hard to see how Nepal can go forward. MIM can supply the answer they lack: the mode of production needs to advance in Nepal. The Maoists are right, and that's why the political alternatives seem so ludicrous. For unnamed geopolitical reasons, the British have said that it is impossible for a resolution of the People's War by violence by either the regime's side or the people's side. The US State Department has said the same thing and has also called for a better "human-rights" record for the king and military. This is all just rhetoric disguising the fact that Uncle Sam always sides with the most backward and corrupt people that can be found and then attempts to meddle in every Third World country.

We hope that the Greens and others mythologizing exotic Eastern kingdoms come down from their hobby-horses to look at reality in Nepal. The educated people and the peasants seeking land reform do not want the theocracy anymore. The Greens should not be

resisting Maoism, supporting Uncle Sam and forcing Nepal's people to live a backward life just to suit the spiritual longings of hippies and grubby yuppies covering for their career professionalism and lack of political thoroughness.

The Greens recently republished the 1957 book by Leopold Kohr titled "The Breakdown of Nations," which says repeatedly that Nepal is so wonderful because, like many other countries, it is small, and that is why it never gets aid from Washington. The book reappeared in 2001 and by 2002 proved false. Nepal receives military aid from Uncle Sam. In the year 2000, Israel and 29 countries from the ex-Soviet bloc and Third World received \$5.2 billion in military aid<sup>(3)</sup> designed to give Uncle Sam lucrative supply contracts and influence with various lackeys. Contrary to the Green political image, most of those countries are very small, with Egypt and the Philippines being the largest.

It is very possible that the imperialists are considering dumping King Gyanendra to find a better stooge. Yet, we at MIM would point out to any lackeys-in-waiting the record of supply and demand for lackeys by US imperialism. US

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## France closes its last coal mine

In April 2004, France closed its last coal mine where 400 workers had been working. At their peak, French coal mines employed 300,000 people.<sup>(1)</sup> As capitalism matured and turned into imperialism, such work was no longer necessary.

The BBC pointed out that historically there was a strong socialist and

communist influence in the mines. Miners were also active in the resistance war against Nazi occupation. All that is the past. Karl Marx considered miners part of the "productive sector" of workers producing "surplus-value" that underlies all profits, interest and rent (this last one as conceived by economists). The closing of France's last coal mines means

that is one less source of profits for the French imperialists as pointed to by Marx.

Today, the French government has pensioned off those who worked 20 or more years in coal mines. According to Marx, such pensions and various paper-shuffling jobs without a basis in the productive sector would eat into profits and cause economic crisis. Imperialism

can meet this crisis either by expanding through war into the Third World to further exploit people there or by a self-destructive process in the home country involving war and repression.

The existence of a mere 400 coal miners also proves that even if these workers had not been overpaid, there is insufficient

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## UN development goals are fading, as usual

The British monopoly capitalist newspaper Independent reported that progress toward UN goals set at the year 2000 Millennium Summit has been much slower than planned. 40 experts working for the World Economic Forum (WEF) gave world leaders a score of between 3 and 4 out of 10 for progress since 2000. MIM is not surprised, because global capitalism is not organized to meet planning goals—even those of a bourgeois organization like the UN. Capitalist development does not work for the exploited, who make up 90% of the world's population; capitalist charity also does not work.

"The proportion of hungry people is likely to increase in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia by 2015. A 'devastating' 800 million people go regularly without food around the world, including a third of pre-school age children in developing nations, the WEF said. More than half the world's countries will

fail to provide universal primary education by 2015, following a shortfall in the financial donations required to hit the target.

"The HIV/Aids epidemic is 'outstripping the bubonic plague of medieval Europe as the most deadly pandemic in history.' The first report by the WEF's Global Governance Initiative also warned that there was little evidence that the world was making a 'serious effort' to cut greenhouse gas emissions,"<sup>(1)</sup> the Independent said. The Independent should have added, "so much for the victory of global capitalism and the notion that capitalism works."

The American public has a seriously skewed view of how much "aid" it is giving the world. Most of the "aid" is simply military purchases for foreign governments and military-related contracts for American corporations relabeled as aid.

What aid that does get through destroys

Third World agriculture. Even in education, non-profit organization Oxfam has pointed out that the United States gives a total of a paltry \$300 million for education aid in the Third World where education is most lacking. In contrast, the United States approved \$87 billion for the Iraq War.<sup>(2)</sup>

The World Bank has joined in the criticism of the rich countries, as an effort to remake its image of oppression and restriction of Third World economies: "I suggested humorously the other day that if you spend \$900 billion on development you probably wouldn't need to spend more than \$50 billion on defense,"<sup>(2)</sup> said the World Bank president James Wolfensohn. He was alluding to the global \$900 billion spent on the military each year, half by the United States.

The original goals set in 2000 aimed "to halve world poverty by 2015 through education, empowerment of women, a reduction in child mortality and beating HIV/AIDS and other diseases."<sup>(2)</sup> In this

process, the World Bank is now taking up the pose of acting as the global Keynesian: capitalist pump primer.

The UN asked for 0.7 percent of the national income of the richest countries for UN goals, but only five countries answered.<sup>(2)</sup> In point of fact, even this approach will fail, because corruption and politics enter at two stages. The aid-givers turn it into contracts for their own countries' businesses. The U.S. puppet regimes that are the aid-receivers siphon off the money into Swiss bank accounts. Only socialist revolution ending exploitation can bring humyn development. If the imperialist country people could get their governments off the backs of the Third World people, there would be no need for charity.

Notes:

1. <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/politics/story.jsp?story=513620>
2. <http://www.reuters.com/locales/asia/kye-bus/news/2004/05/20040525-1n&storyID=48125>



# Activists attack biotech convention

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Francisco financial district the day after the invasion. Now that Americans are getting a true and terrible glimpse of US tyranny in Iraq, while Halliburton, Bechtel, Chevron, and others skim millions from this brutal occupation, it's time to connect the dots and expose how unchecked corporate power is the real culprit — working through groups like the G8, they usurp democracy, oppress people, and appropriate the commons both at home and abroad.”(1)

Still, this statement fails to name the “real culprit,” Amerikan imperialism. By talking about “unchecked corporate power” instead of monopoly capitalism and imperialism, the organizers coddle the illusions that imperialism can be reformed, that it's possible to go back to the “good old days” of free-market capitalism. As we describe in our review of Greens Ralph Nader and Leopold Kohr in this issue, even if it were possible to go back to those mythical days, small-scale “local” capitalism inevitably leads to concentration and monopoly. Only socialism can end capitalist exploitation, devastation of the environment and degradation of humyn health. Only the dictatorship of the proletariat can protect survival rights from those who think they have the “right” to profit from denying others those survival rights.

Some who oppose biotechnology do so from the Luddite perspective that all technology is bad. There appears to be a strong tendency towards this in the “Reclaim the Commons” movement, which openly proclaims that we must “resist biotech.” For Marxists, technology is not inherently bad. The issue is who controls technology. Under capitalism, the development and implementation of

technology is driven by profit, not humyn needs. That's why a half-dozen Viagra knock-offs have appeared on the market in the last year, while less than 1% of medicines developed over the last 25 years were for diseases like malaria, sleeping sickness, and tuberculosis, which mostly affect poor people in oppressed countries.(4)

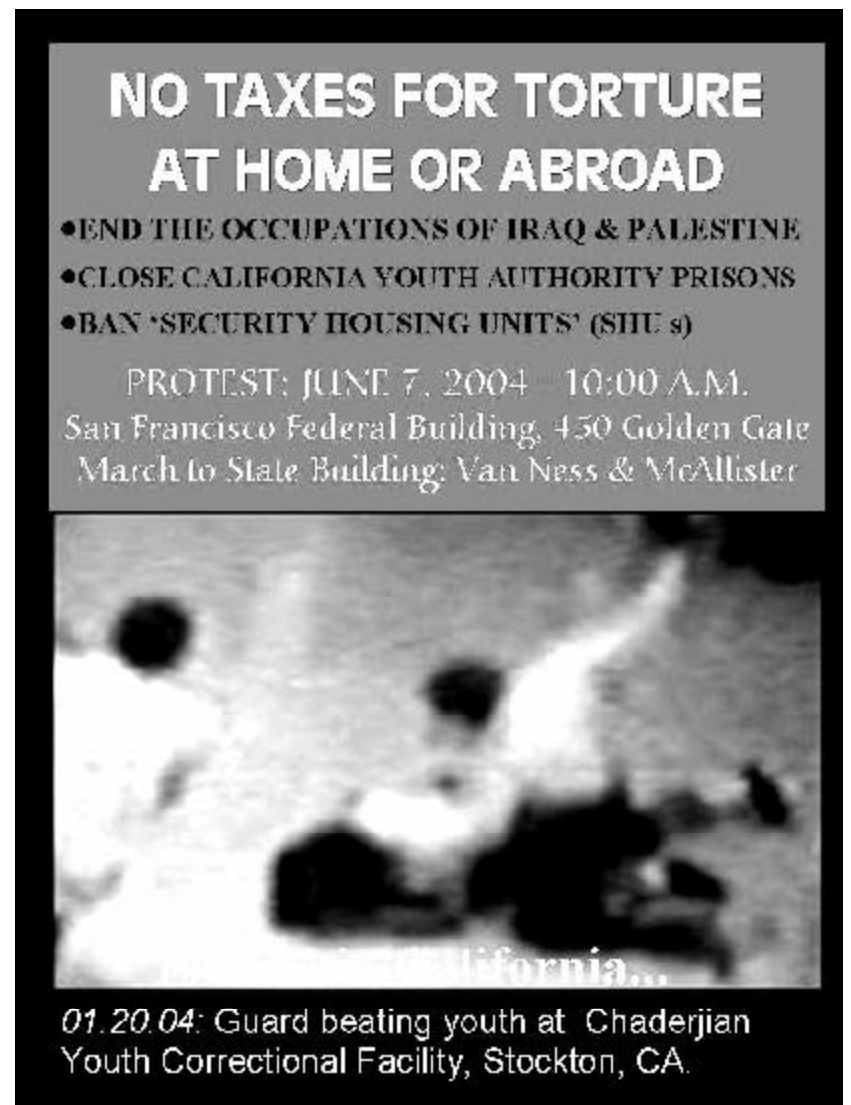
This campaign around the biotech summit is an example where we Maoists are tactically on the same side as the Luddites. In terms of their protest's main message—placing people before profits—the Luddites are correct relative to the Monsantos of the world. However, pre-scientific back-to-nature mysticism cannot defeat imperialism in the long run. In some cases, this neo-Luddism glorifies backwards economic conditions in the oppressed nations—at the same time taking the material wealth of the imperialist countries for granted, as if that wealth appeared out of thin air, instead of being created by the toil and sweat of oppressed-nation workers.(5)

Rather than opposing science and technology per se, MIM accuses Monsanto and the like of being props in a system that prevents the masses from becoming scientists.

Monsanto and similar biotech companies are actively working to ensure profit at the expensive of survival. Delta & Pine Land Company and the US Department of Agriculture secured a patent for “a genetic engineering technique that disables a seed's capacity to germinate when planted.” Obviously companies are interested in such technology to force farmers to buy seeds each year.

Capitalists have little interest in calculating long-term risks and benefits. So what if we might cause a massive famine in fifty years, they think, we'll make huge profits in the next five years! Already, weed resistance strategies backfire by producing and spreading genes that make weeds tougher to control. From the point of view of the multinational corporation, having to buy new technologies to deal with the problem just created guarantees a constant flow of business.(2) The anarchy of production also makes it difficult for capitalists to plan for the long-term consequences of their new technology, if they wanted to.

Ultimately the “Reclaim the Commons” movement is stuck in petty-bourgeois politics. Their goal is to demonstrate alternatives to biotechnology under capitalism: “we want to teach and demonstrate sustainable, life-affirming alternatives to biotechnology and corporate power in general: organic food, community gardens, water reclamation, urban transformation, a gift economy, and so much more.” They are promoting individualist solutions to a systemic problem: “We need to get off the corporate grid, exercise democracy



## Maoism is the only modern road forward in Nepal

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imperialism bought off Saddam Hussein and then killed off his sons and imprisoned him. The CIA put Panama's Noriega on payroll and now he sits in US prison. Osama Bin Laden received every military training and resource he could get and now Amerikans chase him around the globe. Countless other Amerikan lackeys have died ignominious deaths. The truth is that Amerika has nothing to offer Nepal. Getting involved with Uncle Sam politically and militarily brings nothing but grief to a country.

Notes: 1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/25/international/asia/25NEPA.html?pagewanted=2>

2. <http://www.reuters.com/locales/news/Asia/News/04/25/0404250130>

3. Statistical Abstract of the United States 2002, p. 792.

outside of party-driven, corporate-funded electoral machines, live sustainable lives, and create just and thriving communities amid the corporate-controlled world!”(3)

Promoting ecologically sound practices is good, but the Reclaim the Commons movement openly rejects all biotechnology while offering no sound strategy for getting the world to a place where ecologically sound practice is possible for the majority of the world's people.

MIM differs with this movement in two ways. First, we do not oppose biotechnology on principle. We oppose corporate control of biotechnology, but we support proletarian use of biotechnology for the good of the world's people. We might favor genetic modifications. We only oppose the process by which some who gain much more from the risks decide for the rest of us how much is an acceptable risk. Change is permanent and any course of action or inaction involves risks.

Second, unlike the petty-bourgeois activists who want to offer Amerikans a chance to eat organic food and set up community gardens, and “get off the corporate grid,” MIM sees that the only way to feed the world's people is to overthrow capitalism which perpetuates an uneven distribution of resources. There is enough food in the world to feed all of the people, yet still people starve to death. This is very clear uneven distribution, and the biotech corporations

work with the imperialists to maintain this profitable situation, at the expense of millions of deaths every year from malnutrition.

The malnourished people of the world do not have the luxury of living sustainable lives. Their only option is revolutionary struggle against the imperialists.

Notes:

1. Reclaim the Commons press statement, May 19, 2004.

2. MIM's review of the book Farmageddon by Brewster Kneen, available at our web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/enviro/kneen.html>

3. Reclaim the Commons web site: <http://reclaimthecommons.net/article.php?list=type&type=6> Also very relevant is our review of the Rice Genome project in MIM Notes 261.

4. “Doctors Without Borders fight for Access to Essential Medicines,” MIM Notes 264, 15 Aug 2002.

5. Witness the “really free market” celebration, where activists plan to give things away, ranging from food to “smiles.” They consider this “really free market” to be a template for alternate economic organization. Where the food, clothes etc. they plan to give away come from—or whether people can live on “art” and “smiles” alone—they do not say.

# Preparing for the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat

## *Combating subjectivism in all arenas*

*This is the last in a series of articles on subjectivism. The first (in MN301) covered drugs, music and art; the second (MN302) discussed love, sex and friends. This series was excerpted from a longer article that can be found on our website, at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/subjectivism1.html>.*

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.

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.

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, we turn to the last of several examples of subjectivism discussed in these articles.

### VII. Tone

Many times MIM has been taken to task for its tone, many saying we are “infantile” or childish. This takes us to

the next question—if you don't like liking some things produced by imperialism, what should we like instead? In the imperialist countries, but also in the Third World, at least partially dominated by the same imperialist superstructure, we grow up bombarded with false messages. Yes, it starts as a child.

Janet Jackson revealed her breast on TV during the football game called the Super Bowl. This outraged stable bourgeois family people everywhere and caused a furor of call-ins and letters, but a CNN poll also showed that Americans know that violence should be our first priority not porn. Where are all these parents complaining about the cartoons their kids watch on television and the video games they play, where living creatures and people easily get shot down 50 in a minute? What cave do they live in that they don't know about violence on television? Maybe in some countries Nipplegate would be the worst thing on TV. It's a sign of how screwed up things are that it's far, far from true in the United States. People who like certain cartoons and video games need to learn that the sources of that liking are profiteering militarists. MIM has pissed off countless teenagers for dissing their video games.

So what MIM does is substitute new emotions for old ones. We seek to get people to go back to the things they believed as children and make sure that they all make sense. Good and bad have been confounded such that people somehow hate it when someone “anti-

patriotic” says that Iraqi people should not die for the gasoline in the SUV. The people saying these things often times have a seventh grade level education—and we are not even attacking them when we say that. We are pointing out that we in the imperialist countries—above all the USA of course—can see that the emotions at the simplest levels are wrong. Speaking in an even tone and language fit for graduate school seminars is not going to help counteract basic brainwashing problems.

This is also related to the question of the stage of our revolution. It never does any good to avoid the truth except in tactical situations where the enemy is in hot pursuit. If a cop is chasing you down the alley and a senior citizen volunteers that you “went that way” when you really went this way, that's a good lie. On the other hand, we cannot lie about tone or exploitation issues in public.

When Mao said that “without a People's Army the people have nothing,” he wasn't kidding. He also wasn't kidding when he said imperialist countries would have to go through long periods of time without armed struggle. In other words, he expected in ordinary times for people in the imperialist countries to have nothing. No armed struggle against imperialism, therefore, nothing.

So when people call us “childish,” because we use a tone hostile to bourgeois ideology, we say, “thank you, can I please have another.” Children are oppressed and our greatest hope. We

have a press here and the example of that in history is still Engels in Germany. It's an aim at some kind of influence. Because our press is not connected with our own armed struggle, wild success might attract a kind of diluting influence as seen in Engels's circles when he died. If our tone or the rareness of our line alienates some people, so be it. We have a number of problems in trying to have people associate anger with the appropriate targets.

It's important to understand that the white man in particular has no reference point as an animal putting his emotions in line with the international proletariat. We have no armed struggles to teach us the militant anger and determination that goes with opposing the enemy. If we do not use tone in the proper context, we are handing over the determination of anger, sadness and pleasure to the bourgeoisie. If we do use the proper tone in contexts that children may encounter, we may in fact teach those children something. If some people are too ideologically old to relearn when to be angry, sardonic, dismissive, etc. and when not to be, then we have to write them off.

Note:

1. Leon Trotsky, “Communist Policy Toward Art,” <http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1923/tia23.htm>
2. Leon Trotsky, Revolution Betrayed, 1936, <http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1936-rev/ch07.htm>
3. [www.2changetheworld.info/docs/art-03-en.php](http://www.2changetheworld.info/docs/art-03-en.php)

# *France closes its last coal mine*

*Continued from page 3...*

material basis for the formation of a French proletariat. There is not enough of the kind of people left of the type Marx was talking about to even talk about a French proletariat. As it stands, the French minimum wage places all of legally working France in the top 10% of income in the world. Coal miners did even better than that.

Since more than 80% of France's electricity comes from nuclear power, there is no need for coal.(1) “Electricite de France” already obtained 35% of its revenue from the electricity market outside France and it was aiming for 50%.(2) in a typical process of imperialist globalization.

France has practically exhausted its own resources for uranium extraction. What exists is of such poor quality it is not economic to mine it.

Traditionally, France has obtained uranium from Gabon and Niger, two Francophone ex-colonies in Africa. As is typical for neo-colonialism, France sends troops to uphold its interests as the

situation requires.

While there were 400 coal miners in France, there were 3000 uranium miners in Niger in 1990 and fewer now, but still more than 1000.(3) After using up its own uranium ores, France also used up most of Gabon's. So it is that coal's replacement employs more productive sector workers in the Third World than coal did in France.

In their heyday, Gabon and Niger provided for a French state-owned company called COGEMA that supplied 25% of the world's enrichment and conversion of uranium supplies. The French company also sold over \$5 billion in uranium in 1999, with half the ore supply coming from Niger alone. Now France can also obtain uranium from Australia and other places, but the point remains that French productive sector work has declined.

COGEMA has 20,000 people total spread out over 30 countries.(4) That is much less than France's coal industry at its peak and many of those COGEMA workers are not in the imperialist

countries. COGEMA is a conscious scheme of the French imperialists to see to France's energy and weapons needs. In 1999 for the figures above, the French government owned 82% of COGEMA.

There could hardly be better proof of MIM's line that imperialism has become entirely parasitic except for a few exceptions such as Russia. As we pointed out in MIM Theory in 1997 (available on the Internet), “By now we can say China's exports alone involve more industrial workers than the total of all industrial workers in France, Germany and the ‘United Kingdom’ combined.”(5) At that time, COGEMA was wiping out the last of the French miners by replacing them with uranium miners in Niger.

Since 1997, the pace of parasitism has increased. The exports of China just to the United States increased from \$62.5 billion in 1997 to \$102.3 billion in 2001.(6) The industrial workers are in China and the rest of the Third World. The consumers are in the imperialist countries.

99% of those calling themselves “Marxist” in the imperialist countries have

yet to catch up to these economic facts of life. They prattle on and on about the economic demands of “workers” in the imperialist countries, only to end up obtaining them stock accounts and new excuses for wars on countries with the energy supplies.

Notes:

1. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3651881.stm>
2. <http://www.info-france-usa.org/intheus/nuclear/n2f2/spring2002.asp>
3. “The French Desire for Uranium. . .” [www.acdis.uiuc.edu/homepage\\_docs/pubs\\_docs/PDF\\_Files/Peder%20OP%20Folder/peder.pdf](http://www.acdis.uiuc.edu/homepage_docs/pubs_docs/PDF_Files/Peder%20OP%20Folder/peder.pdf)
4. <http://www.cogema.com>
5. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/imp97c4.html>
6. Statistical Abstract of the United States 2002, p. 796.

# Amerikan Green thought reviewed

## 'Small is beautiful' is not an option in imperialist countries

**Ralph Nader**

*Crashing the Party: Taking on the Corporate Government in an Age of Surrender*

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002, 383pp. pb.

**Leopold Kohr**

*The Breakdown of Nations*

Foxhole, U.K.: Green Books, 2001, 256pp. pb.

On April 8th, MIM Notes asked the Nader campaign for an interview (see sidebar, page 9). As of April 24th, there has been no response from the Nader campaign, so here we will review his book and another from his general line of petty-bourgeois thinking by Leopold Kohr. Kohr's book came out in 1957, but it is at the root of recent "small is beautiful" thinking. A search of his name and "Green Party" at Google turns up 41 entries.

The petty-bourgeoisie is that class between the proletariat and the imperialists which traditionally included professionals that worked for themselves—doctors, lawyers, journalists and even priests. At a raw level, Nader is a lawyer and he is the only candidate for president who will oppose "tort reform," which is the movement of the productive sector industrialists against a faction of the unproductive sector called trial lawyers. The industrialists would like limits on how much consumers can sue them for, while Nader-type lawyers point out that there is nothing else in the capitalist system restraining the industrialists from harming customers for profit.

Organizations Ralph Nader started as a consumer advocate have served as launching pads for his presidential candidacy. In 2000 he took 2.7% of the vote and cost Gore the presidency while saving one Senate seat for Democrats in Washington.

What makes Ralph Nader so unusual is that he is a hard-driving petty-bourgeois. Most people from the traditional petty-bourgeoisie think they are doing well if they do a charity walk-a-thon or attend a couple anti-war demonstrations per year. In contrast, Ralph Nader is reportedly threatening the Kerry campaign with havoc unless Democratic Party nominee Kerry actually opposes the war on Iraq—something Kerry will actually have more political room to appear to do after June 30th. For most of the petty-bourgeoisie using "freedom" to complain a couple times a year is self-satisfying. The difference is that Nader takes these complaints to the top, digs in and points out consequences to the imperialists for ignoring him.

The weakness in Nader's approach on the political level is that as Lenin

explained, the traditional petty-bourgeoisie is allied with the imperialists. Most of Nader's would-be followers are uncomfortable with going to the imperialists and saying, "this is a stick up. . . so hand over your votes." Countless liberal Democratic dogs have stopped giving to charities, because Nader once worked for them or served as their publicity front—all because Nader cost Gore the White House in 2000.

### Nader and the labor aristocracy

Coming from the Democratic Party, Nader sports the usual slogans about the degradation of the labor aristocracy in the United States that MIM has proved false for 18 years now and which people rebutted before MIM as well. Typical is "The majority of Americans have been falling behind, notwithstanding twenty years of economic growth: losing ground in real wages, losing ground in home mortgage payments, health care, and consumer debt." (Nader, p. 107)

It's not that the Amerikkkan labor aristocracy could not face a deteriorating economic situation. It's just that it has not happened yet since World War II, as MIM most recently proved in MIM Notes 298. Thus for a strategic length of time, we at MIM are attacking the economic demands of the labor aristocracy, because it is tied to imperialism. After the labor aristocracy has faced some real devastation, we can talk about re-analyzing the class structure.

With his views, it's not surprising that Nader spent much of his time in 2000 chasing after labor bureaucrats for endorsements. United Autoworkers (UAW) president Steve Yokich flirted with Nader for example, and Nader won a number of smaller union endorsements in 2000 outright.

Along with the labor bureaucrat-chasing comes the territory of bashing GATT and NAFTA, which Nader does more than the Republicans and Democrats. Nader has no compunction about lashing other countries in the name of economic protectionism, in such a way that stirs up war sentiments among the labor aristocracy. Nonetheless, Nader also agrees with MIM that international treaties should be a focus of struggle to lift standards up globally. It's just that he talks about lifting up while also partitioning the world at the same time. The labor aristocracy he is catering to tends to demand higher tariffs to protect their high-paying jobs.

By the terms of NAFTA, the United States is supposed to allow Mexican truck drivers on U\$ roads. This has not really happened the way it was supposed to: "The Teamsters were very concerned with the NAFTA agreement to allow eight-dollar-a-day Mexican truck drivers in heavy, poorly maintained rigs to take their cargo throughout the fifty

states." (Nader, p. 144)

Meanwhile, Nader admits that worker pension funds have \$5 trillion in assets in the United States. (Nader, p. 150) He does not see that as bringing Americans into conflict with the world as MIM does, but rather as an opportunity for workers to operate capitalism. Nader even managed to work in a chant for "small and medium-sized businesses that practice their belief in sustainable economies" (Nader, p. 151) in his speeches.

### Petty-bourgeois internationalism

"Communism . . . is considered non-aggressive in Yugoslavia."

—Kohr, 1957 (Kohr, p. 29)

In a few words, petty-bourgeois internationalism is "small is beautiful" equality of nations. There is really no such thing as petty-bourgeois internationalism, because its underlying economic basis is a mirage. Nonetheless, Kohr especially and Nader to a lesser extent try to convince us there is non-imperialist and non-proletarian internationalism.

In Nader's case, there is going to be a big stink about Iraq between him and Kerry. The proof that Nader is no real internationalist despite his Green "peace" image is Afghanistan. Here is how Nader would have handled 911: "Maybe another more focused approach by a multilateral corps of commandos, equipped with knowledge of language and tribal cultures and utilizing bribes and spies, may have worked better to bring those culpable to justice." (Nader, p. xiv) Thus Nader says he would have tried to find more international legitimacy for a more "multilateral" approach, presumably through the UN, to attack Afghanistan. This is what will allow Kerry to say there is no difference between Kerry and Nader in principle.

The confusing thing then is the rhetoric we hear from the Greens and Nader in particular. Here is what radio populist and Texan Jim Hightower said that Nader endorsed: "It's time for us to get on the side of the impoverished and oppressed peoples of the world, rather than continuing to plant our flag alongside dictators, monarchists, corporatists and other elites that prosper on the misery of the increasingly angry Third World majority." (Nader, pp. xvii-xviii) This is the sort of statement that the left-wing of the traditional petty-bourgeoisie makes but without intention of sounding Maoist.

For how these Greens and petty-bourgeois populists intend to accomplish their goals, they imagine a "decentralized" economic and political world as the Green Party platform says. In other words, the petty-bourgeoisie harkens back to a mythical and idyllic settler past of "America," when every white individual seemed to count, because each could take his or her shotgun and

join up with like-minded people to bring down a whole government.

In those "good 'ole days," the traditional petty-bourgeoisie imagines that there were no mega-corporations like there are today. Likewise there are no mega-governments supporting those mega-corporations in the Nader/Green/Libertarian fantasy. The fundamental reason it is difficult to engage these people in serious politics is that they revert to a political self-image of Amerika rooted in a settler-past that has not remotely existed for more than 100 years. It is like overweight people who look in the mirror every day, but forget their weight in reality and only think of themselves when they were younger and lighter.

### Petty-bourgeois economics

"The trouble with corporate capitalism in the United States is that there is a lot of capital but very few capitalists"

—Nader, p. 312.

"A good place to start is the Social Venture Network, which consciously strives to inject civic values as the framework for their successful midsize business."

—Nader, p. 315

"Just how did the power of creeping corporatism over the past two hundred years take an artificial legal entity chartered by the state, called the corporation, and have it endowed with the rights of real human beings plus privileges and immunities denied human beings?"

—Nader, p. 316

"Many full-time family farms cannot make a living in a market of giant buyer concentration and industrial agriculture."

—Nader, p. 329

"A frown on his forehead may mean a cold winter for 165 million people. A word from his lips may stop trains and arrest the wheels of hundreds of industries. It may deprive us of gas and light. A single gesture of John L. Lewis or of any of a number of important labour leaders may spell catastrophe to the nation."

—Kohr, p. 94

"Small is beautiful" does have a role to play in "appropriate technology" in the capitalist-dominated Third World. However, Nader focuses most of his material on the United States; Kohr focuses all his material on Europe and the United States. In the places they exclusively discuss, the economy has reached the mega-corporate stage that Lenin called "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism."

There is no progressive role for Green, Nader or Libertarian ideology to play in the imperialist countries. While it is inevitable that a proletarian-led movement will have petty-bourgeois currents such as that of the Greens, these petty-bourgeois currents are currently dominating the proletarian movement in

*Continued on next page...*

# Where Nader shows some wit

As a hard-working but famous and more mainstream activist, Ralph Nader has experienced a small fraction of what communist activists face on a day-to-day basis. Somehow the State of Massachusetts believed its police had the legal right to arrest him for talking to the press at a presidential debate in 2000 for example. This goes on daily in political activity, but with the only difference that Nader is more famous than most people.

Nader was on public property, and even so, he had a pass and obvious reason for his presence and the state cops still told him he had to leave. It goes to show that some bureaucrats in charge of the police do believe that they own the public's property and can decide what goes on politically on that property. That is directly counter to the principle in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

This again goes to the self-image of Amerika. Amerikans who never use their supposed rights to organize and speak out against the two parties of the mega-

corporations do not know what Ralph Nader and MIM know about reality. Amerikans who do not try it out seriously are apt to either believe what they learned in civics classes in elementary school or fail to apply principle to concrete situations.

Ralph Nader is also very helpful to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party that might otherwise be more naive. "Long, long ago, politicians realized this. Show me a politician who does not flatter the people and I'll show you one who is out of a job. It comes with the territory and has many faces. Violate this tradition and the press will pounce." (Nader, p. 55) As far as MIM is concerned, Nader has stumbled on a great reason for having only one party. When we meet with doctors, we expect to gain knowledge of our health and what to do to improve it; when we meet with teachers, we need to learn where we stand in our educational progress; but somehow when we meet with politicians, Amerikans do not want

to learn about political things, except for the politicians' knowledge of why the babies in our neighborhood are especially most kissable and our hands most worthy of shaking.

One thing we disagree with Nader on also stems from a fundamentally correct analysis. Nader said he felt compelled to run to give the press something to cover in terms of the "horse-race." (Nader, p. 140) He is referring to the fact that the media does not like to cover political issues in themselves, but more candidates and personalities in power. Later he quotes Chomsky to the effect that soundbytes coverage for television news favors the status quo, because it is never in depth enough to amount to any real political understanding. (Nader, p. 148) For Nader, running for president was an option. In contrast, we believe in running our own media. That's one difference. If Nader does succeed it will be because of various non-profit media operations that arose to support him.

In contrast, Nader sees his strategy as tapping into free media, a mistake underlying many stunts that progressive people pull to get attention. "No matter how long or extensively you campaign in every state of the union, no matter how large your audiences become, you cannot reach in direct personal communication even 1 percent of the eligible voters. In essence, you don't run for president directly; you ask the media to run you for president, or if you have the money, you also pay the media for exposure. . . . Since the media controls access 99 percent-plus of your audience, it is not shocking that 99 percent of most candidates' strategies is born and bred for media play." (Nader, p. 155) It is true that currently politicians must manipulate perceptions. However, it is not true that the people themselves can move forward with such bad information as flows from perception manipulation. When progressives cater to the mega-corporate media, they gain nothing.

## Amerikan Green thought reviewed

From previous page...

all the majority-exploiter countries and they are in fact inclined to dangerous backward-looking solutions that cannot work economically.

There is a reason that industrial agriculture has taken over and the family farm is almost entirely gone. There is also a reason mega-corporations exist. If it were more profitable to respect Nader's backward-looking vision of democracy, the mega-corporations never would have formed. Kohr cited a study from 1919 that said profits declined with corporate size (Kohr, p. 169)—in which case we would not have seen corporate take-overs and we would have seen all the money made in spin-offs; hence, we would not have to hear Nader and Kohr complain about mega-corporations in books. Obviously no such thing happened and Kohr's statement is just another example of delusion.

What is more, what Nader calls "democracy" in fact never existed either. He ran in 2000 with a First Nations running mate. Surely he cannot mean that a country should kill off its First Nations and import a continent of slaves to get started. "Democracy" sucked then and sucks even worse now.

### Petty-bourgeois utopianism

"Chapter Eleven 'But Will It Be Done?' No!"

—entirety of Chapter 11 in Leopold Kohr's book *Breakdown of Nations*

"The dark ages of medieval times were even in their war aspects more advanced than our modern age with all its peace desires and its smug detractors of

medieval backwardness."

—Kohr, p. 80.

"Smallness is not only a convenience. It is the design of God."

"We are happy begging, and furthermore we are not used to work."

—Kohr, quoting *Tibetans he defends against their joining China*, p. 154

"Ninety percent of our intellectual miseries are due to the fact that almost everything in our lives has become an ism, an issue."

—Kohr, p. 123

The petty-bourgeoisie is constantly threatened by the "collectivism" and "totalitarianism" of both the imperialists and the proletariat. It is prone to illusions about individuality, as if people can live on islands separate from each other and breathe separate air. Kohr even says that 90% of "issues" would disappear if we all learned to decentralize properly. Evidently relating to other people is too much burden for this sort of complacent petty-bourgeois which we so often find burdening our movements against war and pollution.

It's common in the United States to hear that proletarian ideology called communism is utopian. In actual fact, Marx outlined intermediate stages on the way to communism and there are now the examples of the dictatorship of the proletariat seen in the USSR under Lenin and Stalin and China under Mao. The petty-bourgeoisie may not have liked Stalin and Mao but they existed. In contrast, what Kohr and the Greens are talking about in their "decentralization" platform plank for imperialist countries has

never happened anywhere. Kohr had the decency to admit it in chapter 11.

The closest thing to Green paradise should have been Yugoslavia with its "local control" and lack of mega-corporations. Under Tito, Yugoslavia was against Stalin and supposedly against Western capitalism too. Yet it was Yugoslavia that broke down into at least four ethnicities just as Kohr advised all medium and great nations to do. (Yugoslavia would have been considered medium by Kohr.) Then Yugoslavia had the greatest bit of ethnic cleansing in recent history—all because "local control" and decentralization had contributed to unhealthy and unrealistic perceptions between neighbors living only a few miles apart. With such massive delusions, the petty-bourgeoisie is too stupid and provincial to figure it out.

Kohr died in 1994, but there is no mention of Rwanda's genocidal violence that year by his followers who wrote forewords to the new edition of the 1957 original. Rwanda is another example of high-energy but small ethnicity slaughter.

It was the smallest U\$ states that voted for Bu\$h and it was the cities that polled most consistently against the Afghan and Iraq wars. If Kohr wants to talk about urban crime rates, (Kohr, p. 54) he should not forget to count the mass murders carried out to thrill rural white yahoos and their imperialist brethren. Any Green should also know that city dwellers also use less gasoline.

In U\$ politics, Ralph Nader talks as if corporate power were a recent thing, with the tide turning in the late 1970s. (Nader, p. 22) He is most famous for his work on

consumer safety, namely cars. His book *Unsafe at Any Speed* came out in 1965. He also championed air-bags. Nader concluded from his experience that "the system worked—government responded to an engaged citizenry, and the fatality rate declined from 5.6 deaths per hundred million vehicle miles in 1966 to 1.6 in 2000." (Nader, p. 19) His idea is that somehow government was still manageable enough in the 1960s and 1970s to have to face civic movements and adjust.

Today he talks about mega-corporations and their Washington lackeys as if they did not exist in the 1960s. He points out that "in about 90 percent of the 435 congressional districts, there is one-party rule. So choice is effectively denied to a vast majority of voters." (Nader, p. 9) Yet, that has been the case at least as far back as 1964 when 86% of the House won re-election.

These Nader/Kohr ideas are all utopian diversions of a class that is not the master of capitalism and not willing to support socialism. Stuck in-between, the petty-bourgeoisie evades and lives in a complacent world with a flattering self-image.

If there is capitalism allowed, there will be a surplus. That surplus will accumulate disproportionately in certain hands. Those business leaders will 1) hire their own states as in private armed guards wherever necessary; 2) bribe the state and corrupt it on behalf of rich people's interests; 3) acquire other businesses and become larger. S/he who says "capitalism" also must inevitably say "mega-corporation."



# Hooters parasitism reaches spectacular levels

The Amerikan restaurant chain Hooters is now spreading globally. Hooters features wimmin servants hired for their looks and willingness to insinuate toplessness. On May 20th, there were 620 news items on Hooters at Google News. By comparison, Britney Spears had 2310. "Malnutrition" had 1610.

One of the Hooters articles is about the spreading of the suggestive Hooters t-shirts. High schools in California are banning them,(1) something we agree with in spirit but see as too little, too late. Working for bans in the United States only backfires and produces hypocrisy. If a ban is enacted, it usually means that a friend of the banning authority is making money in the same business. Selective banning is just a form of business competition under capitalism—a form of competition that leads to fascism. Under the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations, there won't be a Hooters anymore, or any business like Hooters.

Another scandal involves a California man who secretly videotaped Hooters job applicants while they changed into scanty uniforms. He's in a West Covina, California jail now.(2) Given the way pornography works, this scandal will probably benefit Hooters.

At the same time, there is a whole Hooters Golf Tour in Florida.(3) That makes good business sense, because the Hooters airline started to cater to golfers.

In case anyone was wondering, there

is even a Hooters Iraq connection. A Bay City waitress recently volunteered to go to Iraq, Afghanistan and other places to entertain troops for three weeks.(4) Unless underage, Hooters waitresses identify with male ideas of pleasure, and we consider them to be gender oppressors using their sex appeal for "jobs" and boosting war morale in Iraq.

Many of the 620 articles about Hooters are about newly-opened franchises. Hooters claims to have "locations throughout the United States and the world, and revenues approaching \$1 billion annually."(5)

Proletarian-minded people are always amazed at the things U\$ imperialism comes up with. We could even characterize the whole country as a "Hooters economy." It would absolutely collapse without pornography at this point.

It's not a secret that under capitalism sex sells, but a billion-dollar business like Hooters can only arise if there is something to sell. In the case of Hooters, it is the restaurant business, which relies on food inputs from super-exploited workers receiving less than U\$ minimum wage. The strength of U\$ imperialism's agricultural sector is legend, but it arises on the backs of oppressed and exploited migrant workers of Aztlán.

It's important to understand that without those migrant workers providing cheap food inputs for Hooters, Hooters waitresses would make no money as waitresses and would end up competing

with Playboy Magazine and the like instead. The restaurant business would not be able to make a profit, and people would have to focus on spending their money buying food, not paying for Hooters services.

Hooters is especially remarkable to us Marxists, because we are interested in the distinction between hiring butlers and chefs at home and hiring servants who please other customers for profit after the investment of capital. What used to be a luxury service for millionaires is now waitresses for everybody in the imperialist countries. Hooters is the quintessential waitress business, because it is clear that Hooters is gaining advantage from its waitresses; that is really what makes Hooters stand out.

To us at MIM, Hooters is not just sexism. After all, it is a huge chain making lots of money. Hooters is a prop of the system, an example why pornography is a system, not a lifestyle. While some preach lifestyle reform, others are making billions producing degraded lifestyles. It's a very uneven battle that only fools will try to win under capitalism.

Hooters is also parasitism. Like sales work, advertising is quintessentially unproductive sector labor with no ambiguity. In Hooters above all, but in many other places, waitresses are there as advertising. They are to attract customers, the same as in topless bars, which often do well too. What we Marxists call surplus-value is waiting to

be uncovered in the food and drink or the standard aspects of airline transport, but someone has to help sell them first before a profit can be made. The labor went into the food, disproportionately in Aztlán by migrant farmworkers. The people helping to sell it are Hooters waitresses.

It's tempting to be "moralizing" and say Hooters waitresses and topless bar matrons are "exploited," but they are not by Marxist definitions. They are "degraded" by their own ideas of pleasure, but in class terms we say people working in advertising like Hooters waitresses are a kind of parasite. It's not that we want Hooters waitresses to have higher wages. We MIM communists want to distribute food to the hungry of this world and we want Hooters-type services abolished. There are important needs to be satisfied and so the zeal in setting up multinational businesses like Hooters is misplaced.

Notes:

1. [http://www.contracostatimes.com/ml/cctimes/news/local/states/california/counties/contracosta\\_county/cities\\_neighborhoods/san\\_ramon/8711319.htm?1c](http://www.contracostatimes.com/ml/cctimes/news/local/states/california/counties/contracosta_county/cities_neighborhoods/san_ramon/8711319.htm?1c)
2. <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/US/West/05/15/hooters.arrest.ap/>
3. <http://www.floridatoday.com/!NEWSROOM/sportstoryS0519HOOTERS.htm>
4. <http://www.ksat.com/news/3322173/detail.html>
5. <http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?view=NewsView&newsId=2004210808&newsLang=en>

## U\$. admits troops to stay

*Continued from page 1...*

even left open the door that they may increase in number in 2005.

People paying close attention would have heard Wolfowitz admit that there were no "rules" for treatment of prisoners. Likewise, they would have heard that he did not expect any UN or European troops until after the violence in Iraq subsides. He even gave unexpected praise to the thousands of Iraqi urban fighters: "They seem to have a dangerous capability for urban guerrilla tactics."(5)

In remarkable flexibility for U\$ imperialists, they cut occupation troops in Korea by 10% to move them to Iraq.(6) This sort of move is bound to incite backward members of Congress opposed

to Korean "communism" to ask for the draft.

Notes:

1. <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040514.wpowe14/BNStory/Front>
2. <http://www.scoop.co.nz/mason/stories/WO0405/S00180.htm>
3. <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2004/5/353B79D9-4DA2-4EFC-93CE-A62FF304EC92.html>
4. [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2001931010\\_iraqidig17.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2001931010_iraqidig17.html) <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/32505.htm>
5. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-05-18-wolfowitz\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-05-18-wolfowitz_x.htm)
6. <http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20040518/topstories/52561.shtml>

## FOX, CNN, NBC, ETC. SHOULD BE TRIED AS CRIMINALS

*Continued from page 1...*

committed in the last year alone, if we lived under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Of course, these media outlets are only mouthpieces for a state that is itself the biggest militarist organization on the planet.

The elimination of nuclear weapons from the planet and other questions of survival must come before individualist concepts of "freedom." That said, freedom of speech and the press will be far superior under the dictatorship of the proletariat than it is under the current dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.(5) Presently, "freedom of the press" is based on the ability to pay (though the Internet has leveled the field a bit for those with computers). This means that the oppressed are not represented, and that the press mouths the various interests of the oppressors who are the minority of the world's population. Turning the tables will require the repression of the dominant media outlets, just as socialism will require the repression of the dominant

classes. To reject such repression on the basis of "freedom of the press" is to stand in favor of the status quo of murder, starvation and potential nuclear destruction, not to mention the silencing of the voices of the majority.

Notes:

1. Washington Post. 6 Sept. 2003. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A32862-2003Sep5?language=printer>
2. Gallup Poll. See MIM's article: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/falseconscious.html>
3. See RAIL's Imperialism Kills project: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html#iraq>
4. Our Foreign Policy. Stalin, Molotov, Litvinov. Co-Operative Publishing Society of Foreign Workers in the USSR, Moscow-Leningrad. 1934. p.19.
5. See MIM's Resolution on "Free Speech" under the dictatorship of the proletariat at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/freespeech.html>

### What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

*Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq> and get real answers to these and other questions.*



# Nader campaign ignores interview request from MIM Notes

## Dear Ralph Nader or His Official Campaign Spokespeople:

We are writing to you from MIM Notes, an independent newspaper of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. We seek your written or spoken answers for interview questions that can be answered by Ralph Nader or his spokespeople. You can send us back a written message or an audio file to place on our website.

Our website garners over 50,000 people a month and we estimate that several hundred people will read our interview of Nader or his official spokespeople each month. Your interview reply will go on our web page uncut and unedited, but we will reserve the right to rebut anything we believe to be wrong.

We propose to interview you in three parts: 1) prisons 2) international trade 3) the nature of capitalism. If you complete any part, please send it along to our web page minister, mim3@mim.org

### I. Prisons

1. Neither the Democrats nor the

Republicans talk about the fact that the United States is the world's leading prison-state per capita. Yet, we notice even in your book you speak of a "free" country in the United States. What is your explanation for how this state of affairs came about that the United States is the leading prison-state?

2. We notice that your "issues" section of the web page opposes the "war on drugs." Were you aware that if the United States released every single drug offender from prison, the United States would still be the world's second-leading prison-state percentage-wise? Is there anything else you can see doing to resolve this situation besides your position on the "war on drugs"?

### II. Trade

1. We saw you on Bill Maher's TV show recently bashing international trade agreements. Your web page mentions "pulling up" standards. Yet 21 out of 23 of your "issues" are US issues. Is not the

point really not to bash GATT, WTO etc. but to call for international work standards in terms of a global minimum wage, global child care regulations and global workplace safety? Can you expand on how you see standards rising? Is it really possible with just a US-centered approach?

2. Are you not afraid that without a bottom-up international approach, you will be inflaming chauvinist anti-immigrant and pro-war sentiments against other countries when you talk about NAFTA, WTO and China?

### III. Decentralized capitalism

1. We read your book and see you believe that it is possible to have a capitalism of smaller economic entities instead of giant corporations. Can you point to any society in the world that does what you are talking about? In what country if any does your vision of democracy succeed in regulating capitalism, so that it does not get to the

stage of corporate power we see today? How would you rebut us followers of Marx and Lenin who see the concentration of corporate power as inevitable under capitalism?

2. Do not corporations amass concentrated power in the pursuit of profits? If the world is not composed of the small businesses accountable to people that you advocate, is it not because such companies are not profitable? How would these corporations come to exist as they are if they were not profitable?

We thank you for your reply to these issues and any other challenges you would like specifically to throw the way of communists or followers of Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao in particular.

*We had planned on follow-up questions about whether he was planning on trading his candidacy for some Democratic Party concessions on judges etc. However, we received no reply from the Nader campaign.*

## Green review

*Continued from page 7...*

The proletariat also has its perspective, created by these mega-corporations. The proletariat does not reject centralizing technology and communications that actually brings the proletariat together. Nor does the proletariat have any interest in divvying up capitalists into small and medium businesses so that they can remerge again—justifying wars all along the way as a form of business competition.

What the petty-bourgeoisie seeks goes against the interests of the other classes. It fantasizes about some third option that does not exist. The realities of class and national struggle stem from the situation of economic surplus in society. Thousands of years ago, small economic and political units could not scrape together the economic surplus to support an armed force to attack another tribe. By the time such a force travelled to the other tribe and found its members, it might be out of food supplies already. In such a low-surplus situation, staying alive was a full-time job. If some tribes did accumulate a little surplus, they could go make war on other tribes, but the gains would not be that great, again because what was possible to steal depended on the economic level of the tribes being warred upon. In such a situation of low-surplus, large corporations and states do not arise! If all such tribes mystically signed a piece of paper saying they were united in one administration across thousands of miles it would not have mattered: they would not be able to mass

an army to go attack somebody. So Kohr misses the actual economic root cause of great power malevolence.

Contrary to Kohr, it is not the size of the states as administrative units that determines the facts of war. It is the economic surplus available determining administrative size and thus the war situation. The proof of this is that Al Qaeda and similar organizations have no state size at all, but they do have access to resources and they can thus carry out wars at great distances considered inconceivable by medieval rulers and still inconceivable to some small states.

It is also that economic surplus that makes wars among existing small states today more deadly than ever. May we remind the Greens of the Croats, Serbs and Albanians in just one example? Fascist ideology is alive, well and practiced in ex-Yugoslavia, thank you Greens, and in no small part because of illusions spread by you and your ideological forebears. Contrary to Green theory, it was the breakdown of their beloved Yugoslavia into smaller pieces that saw all the violence break out. That war also had a lot to do with popular perceptions of economic surplus.

Today there is no choice but for large economic and political organizations, especially under capitalism. Kohr is correct obviously and in a tautological way, that we have found no CEOs, no managers and no dictators mentally capable of uniting the world, because such a task is immense. Kohr's followers are pointing to how digital technology has helped people communicate, but we are in fact running out of time for the people to come up with ways to centralize in ways easily perceptible to the limited humyn mind. MIM does not question that there is a huge challenge in front of us as a species. That does not mean that

wasting time on petty-bourgeois dreams has any possibility of contributing to global peace.

The capitalists have found it pays to have these large organizations and support states that protect their global interests. Those states in turn have to be large and can be large because of the surplus of food, shelter and clothing under capitalism. Not everyone has to work directly on the necessity commodities of life: some people can form the parasitic strata of the state itself, including armed forces and guards who do nothing else but serve political goals.

Ultimately, it is the economic surplus in society—and not even the particular types of companies that form—that is at the root of larger economic and state organizations. Unless the petty-bourgeoisie can find a way to make the whole world less productive and stay within those bounds, there is no hope to turn-back-the-clock to earlier economic times and smaller nation-states. If the petty-bourgeoisie should decide to deal with that reality, instead of spreading massive delusions that only speed up the urgency of war and fascism, the proletariat is waiting for new allies.

## 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.

## 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-Lease 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

### Wastelands: prison control units

When exploring the ethical implications of some socially sanctioned institutions, it is understandable how society at large might not invest due attention to human rights questions that arise based on the severe conditions within prison control units. After all, the ones who are affected may not be society's most beloved individuals and may even be regarded as deserving of less than compassionate treatment.

This logic, however, does not fully encompass the extent of the issues that control units present. Practically speaking, these types of environments inevitably serve as breeding grounds for a wide range of psychological disturbances. What the average person might not realize is that these disturbances manifest themselves in behavior and it is precisely for this reason why people who don't care should.

One specific dynamic that is universally present in inmates who endure long-term isolation is social starvation. Not being exposed to regular social situations creates a profound loss of touch with the world from which they came - the world that bore them. This severed connection can lead to distrust (to the point of extreme paranoia), introversion, and a distorted path of normal, healthy social development.

Anxiety, insecurity, and ultimately, resentment, are also common elements that contribute to an individual's alienation from their community. In fact, isolation is the antithesis of the concept of community and is, in itself, implicative of cruelty and abandonment.

The very term "control unit" is an irony. Yes, while an inmate is housed in one of these places he is under control. However, it is this very "control" that precipitates a wholly negative change in one's character. The inherent coldness of such a barren place demonstrates a disregard for the monstrous effects such a cruelly oppressive environment creates. Instead of nurturing improvement and growth, it actually fosters hostility. It is insanely counterproductive.

Long-term isolation forces inmates to construct elaborate coping mechanisms to deal with the psychologically crippling conditions. It requires an emotional detachment, which is a precursor to antisocial behavior and is not in any way healthy or helpful.

It is for this reason that the notion of control units being effective deterrents to future, disruptive behavior is absolutely illogical to a laughable degree. These coping mechanisms become so entrenched into one's personality, that it

completely alters their entire psyche. The process is allowed to continue for so long, that inmates become accustomed to isolation at a hefty expense to their emotional well-being.

Strangely, it can become a perverse measure of mental strength - being able to withstand the crushing weight of isolation as a show to "prove" they cannot be broken, when in fact, this contempt may be evidence that they have already been cruelly affected. It amounts to no less than psychological mutilation - a perpetually self-defeating attitude.

It is difficult to believe that control units have any redeeming qualities. The fact is this: nearly all inmates housed in control units will re-enter prison populations, or in many cases, will be released directly back into society.

Human beings are known for being products of their environments. So what do you get when you subject a person to inhumane conditions and an utterly complete lack of compassion? It appears to be as simple and reliable as working out a mathematical equation. It seems though, if you don't get the answer you were looking for, why would you stick with the same formula?

That's not how progress is made. Reexamination, acknowledgement of mistakes, and the redressing of faults are the key to a healthy, moral society.

- a prisoner at Walpole MA in the Department Disciplinary Unit, March 2004

### Letter to California Senators: Prison abuse must be stopped

I am a hostage of the California Department of Corruptions. I sent this letter out as a personal challenge to Senator Jackie Spier, Senator Gloria Romero, and Senator Bruce McPherson, concerning the abuse within these prison facilities.

I came here to California Correctional Institution on March 27, 2003. My release date was August 23, 2004. On April 8, 2003, Lt. J. Lundy threatened to plant a shank on me in order to give me more time. I wrote a complaint and I also sent a copy to a judge and an attorney to cover my butt in the event he made good on his threat. And ever since then, I've been having problems. 115's have been falsified against me to give me more time. My original date has been changed because of the retaliation and the corruption within this institution. On October 1, 2003, I was physically attacked for initiating a court action

against Lt. Lundy and his subordinates. They then conspired to cover up the attack by falsifying reports.

The guards have abused their authority and stripped away my freedom to prove to me and others not to "fuck with us or we'll fuck you over." They have proven to me that they can do that. Now, can you prove to me that they can't get away with it?

I've been placed in isolation in a small cell approximately 24 hours a day with the exception of a shower and, when permitted, a dog cage outside. All because of their abuse of authority and lies. I've repeatedly asked for an Internal Affairs investigation which has repeatedly been denied. It's obvious that there's a conspiracy to cover-up misconduct by these rogue guards.

Senator Spier, you stated in the L.A. Times (January 17, 2004) that the Associate Warden of Folsom Prison asked for protection. If he's asking for protection, then what do you think I need?

### 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.

And others like me? I can name many incidents that can clearly show a pattern of abuse and cover-ups. For instance, there is a gentleman waiting on trial right now because of the abuse and falsified reports. There is also a disabled gentleman sitting in isolation because of falsified reports. The police here sprayed him down with tear gas all because he wanted to speak to a Sergeant because he was being denied medical attention. Guards show a lack of training and an overreaction to inflict pain because of the fact that they know they'll get away with it.

Misconduct is rarely reported and often covered-up. Many inmates are illiterate and do not know how to write a complaint and that's a big factor in the guards doing what they do. They assumed I was illiterate but now I'm a political threat because I can read and write. Illiteracy plays a big part in the abuse.

The abuse has been going on for so long that now guards feel secure and comfortable doing it. That security comes because of the fact that places like Prisoners Rights Union, Office of the Inspector general, Prison Law Office, ACLU and other places that are intended to assist us, don't. We are being abused and killed by the same people who are sworn to uphold the law. We are sent here as punishment for whatever crime we may or may not have committed but we're not sent here to be punished. Article 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture prohibits "physical or mental pain and/or suffering inflicted to punish." The United States Constitution 8th Amendment also prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment."

So here we are at the cross road. You speak out against the abuses. I'm trying to do something about it. My question is: what will you do about it? Pelican Bay isn't an isolated incident. The problem is within all of the institutions. The CDC is the problem. The CDC's top officials block investigations which allows them to get away with it. By failure to discipline the officers, failure to follow up on complaints, failure to investigate misconduct, failure to properly train guards, failure to fire guards when it's necessary, the CDC is a failure. So what's correct about the Department of Corrections? Nothing.

I can tell you things that go on here that will shock the conscience of mankind.

I've seen dogs get treated better than we are here. Is this the intended message you want to send to the public? That there is no rehabilitation, just humiliation, torture and annihilation by ways of inhumane conditions for which people, human people, are forced to live because no one wants to do anything about it?

I will fight this for as long as I have to and do whatever it takes to see justice prevail. With or without your help, I promise you a change. Without your help, it'll take a little longer but I've learned patience, especially from being in isolation. If you could only see with your own eyes what goes on here, it would make you sick. There are people who belong here and many who don't, but no one should be abused. The abuse doesn't discriminate, though. It reaches out to who's available. Under the United States Constitution, 14th Amendment, it states in part "equal protection" for all under the law. Inside these walls, not only does an inmate suffer but so does society. A prisoner being abused carries hate and animosity with him and sooner or later, he lets it out and in turn hurts someone that doesn't deserve it. Then society asks, "Why did he do that?" You have the answer but you're ignoring it by ignoring the problem.

As law makers, you're able to change it, to correct the wrong. I'm just one voice, but I'm going to make it one loud voice. The truth does hurt but we must face it in order to make things right. A just society is a society with justice for all, not the selected few.

— A California Prisoner, March 2004

## NY SHU full of Non-Violent convictions

Now, to give you a list of things that's going on in Upstate Correctional Facility (NY). This prison was built under the eyes of the government for "violent prisoners" (yet it's double cell) in 1999... It's 2004, and the majority of the SHU (isolation cells) is filled with drug tickets, medium prisoners who only have 30 days, and other "non-violent" cases. Therefore the way they're keeping us in this box (SHU) system is just to keep it full. So what is it really for?

Then you have programs established in SHU that are only beneficial to the economy in the colony of Malone, New York! Give jobs to these people who don't

care about the prisoners per se (example: nurses, educational staff, counselors, etc.) They have a cell study program established in SHU. I haven't seen the school teacher in a month and when they do come around they have nothing educational to give me, but have Donald Goins books, etc. The things that have kept our kind down for centuries. Ignorance is power over our kind. Then you have a ASAT workbook program, and it's not established for the well being of drug addicts. Let me point out just what I'm going thru. I have been in SHU for 27 months, and the reason I came into SHU was drug related tickets.

—a New York Prisoner, April 2004

## Oregon punishes hunger strikers

First, much love to my folks who stand strong at EOCI in Oregon. Brother X is in the hole on charges of starting a hunger strike. The convicts at Snake River in Oregon just finished a food strike last month in March. It was beautiful to see Black/White/Asian/Mexicans stand together - no one on 2 side except rape-o's and medical went to chow - we can understand medical, they had to eat. Since then officials from Salem have made some changes, however we have a long way to go before we are treated as human beings out here. But here at SRCI we have started to understand we have to stand united against the system.

—Another Enlightened Brother of the Struggle, April 2004

## Intensive Management Units: Behavior Modification or Psychological Subjugation?

From inside of this beast called the Prison Industrial Complex, I find that the agenda upon which its foundation was laid is being fulfilled to our detriment. I find that Black Men are not only being physically arrested but they are also being developmentally arrested, their psychological, spiritual, political and cultural development confined and suppressed to the point of retardation. But what transpires behind these steel curtains is only a replica of what transpires out there in so-called free society on a smaller scale.

Prisons were constructed from the

recesses of man's mind yet Man's mind has become subject to prison cells, the very atrocity born of his incomplete thought. I've watched prison cells cause man's mind to regress to the point where he becomes primitive in his application of thought to this reality.

I've witnessed confinement to a cell for 23 hours a day in Intensive Management Units (IMU), sensory deprivation, and the deprivation of human contact cause my brothers to become so consumed by emotions that it distorts their ability to conceive reality. At this stage they lose the faculty of progressive thought and this causes them to become perceptual beings instead of conceptual beings, making it hard for them to grasp concepts that transcend their confinement.

This causes them to fall down on all fours psychologically in regression designating for themselves a cave of ignorance as a domicile where ambition is imprisoned. They're cast out to the peripherals of reality and held hostage there, never pondering the full extent of their inherent potential, therefore never becoming cognizant of the duality in man's nature. Man can exhibit the highest manifestation of life on earth, or he can exhibit the manifestation of an animal in human form, yet it is not a cell that keeps man confined or imprisons ambition.

Physical freedom is concomitant with, and a product of, psychological liberation. These two elements, physical freedom and psychological liberation, are procured through abstract intellectual concepts, not physical precepts. The ability to grasp abstract intellectual concepts and apply them to one's plight frees the prisoner and the lack of ability to grasp abstract intellectual concepts and apply them to one's plight imprisons the free man.

In light of this reality, sensory deprivation becomes self-realization, for it alleviates sounds, smells and circumstances that redirect man's attention from self, causing estrangement between the physical and the intellect and the deprivation of human contact becomes the introduction to self because it forces man to contemplate self.

It is time that our brothers and sisters overstand that in order to transcend our perceptual confinement, we must elevate our conceptual consciousness! Then and only then will we taste psychological liberation and embrace physical freedom.

Uhuru SaSa (Freedom Now)

—a Washington prisoner, May 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.\$ 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.

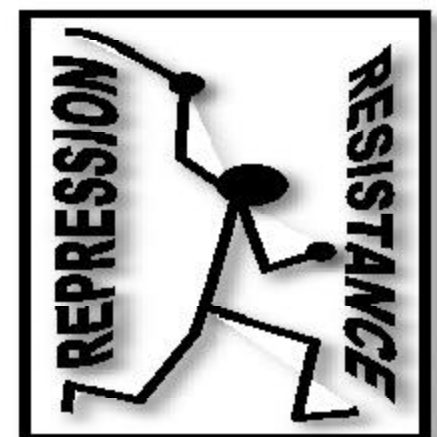
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

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.