

MIM Notes



Sept. 1-14, 2004, N° 306

Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Imperial overstretch spurs Bush withdrawal plan

MIM NOTES DISTRIBUTOR ARRESTED AT THE DNC

Police confiscate reporter camera and recorder

**BOSTON
July 30, 2004**

Boston Police arrested a MIM Notes distributor at Roxbury Community College during an event called the "Progressive Democrats Convention" on July 29th. Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich were among the main attractions as speakers. The police backed Roxbury Community College's claim that they are "private property" where MIM Notes cannot distribute on their outdoor property.

Activists with Kucinich had bombarded the public including the MIM table with flyers for their event all week. In fact, the Kucinich activists were the best organized of any activists seen on the streets this DNC week, not that we think that is all good since there should have been more radical activists around.

We showed up at 1:30 pm, and an event organizer in the parking lot told us we had not missed the action, because it was going to last till 5pm. We handed out copies of MIM Notes and interviewed the Utah Progressive Democrats Caucus, Kucinich

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KERRY TAKES "MORE MILITARISTIC THAN THOU" POSITION

In August President Bush announced a plan to withdraw tens of thousands of US troops currently stationed in other countries including Germany and Korea. Bush said this will enable the US military to respond more quickly to threats around the world. He also said this will allow the troops to remain close to family and friends longer.

While MIM doubts that either of these points will prove true, Bush's announcement shows that a section of the ruling class is worried about imperial overstretch. This is a matter of both having too few troops to do the messy work the imperialists need done and working those troops too hard and too long. As we've reported in earlier issues of MIM Notes, the US military has extended the tours of thousands of troops in Iraq—who, along with troops stationed in Afghanistan, are not affected by Bush's proposed withdrawal—hurting morale and lowering re-enlistment rates.

We can imagine the Kerry campaign secretly thanked Bush for the opportunity to steal some militaristic thunder. Kerry foreign policy advisor and former assistant secretary of state Richard Holbrooke immediately hit the radio and television talk show circuit, arguing Bush's plan would decrease the Amerikan military's readiness. Bases in Europe were needed to shuttle troops and supplies to the Middle East, he said; the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have already strained Amerikan logistics to the breaking point. He also stoked up the anti-north Korea fires in order to justify the presence of US troops in south Korea. (Ironically, the very day Holbrooke started his media blitz thousands of students marched in the south Korean capital demanding US troops leave Korean soil.)

Holbrooke also said that cutting troop strength abroad would weaken Amerika's alliances—even though a recent poll (1) found more Germans supported US troop reductions there than opposed reductions (to say nothing of the Koreans). Some

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Some Greens start 'Greens for Kerry' Cobb supporters make themselves liars

**BOSTON
July 27, 2004**

The Greens' Nader/David Cobb debacle is the fate awaiting all parties that allow themselves to become subverted in the name of "ideological diversity" and "freedom of expression" within a party. Corporations know how to use that breathing room to spread the oh-so underrepresented corporate point of view.

In the days leading up to the Democratic National Convention and during the DNC, MIM has struggled mightily to do the research to bring the truth to our readers about the foggy Greens and their "decentralized"

allegedly "democratic" procedures. To do this we attended a speech by Ralph Nader and have spoken with several Green activists. It is now clear that there is a ton of lying going on in Green circles about Nader, Cobb and Kerry.

In the fog of that sort of politics, the corporations easily carry the day. They are the status quo after all, and it is incumbent on challengers to offer a clear alternative to overcome the status quo. Confusion, fuzz, vacillation and cross-cancellation only benefit the status quo.

The story goes back to 2000 and the Ralph Nader campaign on the Green ticket for president. Reading between the lines in Nader's book, we'd say it was

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More coverage of the DNC and anti-DNC protests inside!

*Reactionary Amerikan veterans criticize Kerry,
whine for more war; MIM talks to the Falun
Gong; thousands march in pre-DNC
anti-war rally; and more!*

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Letters

Bush's reaction to Iraqi prisoner abuse is hypocritical

I am overwhelmed at hearing about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, as if the abuse is isolated

to only Iraqi prisoners.

The U.S. government is basically only concerned about diplomatic relations with Arab countries over U.S. military personnel's abuse of prisoners. Please don't get me wrong. I am sickened from what I heard happened.

President Bush has stated that the Iraqi prisoners abuse does not reflect the ways of a democracy. American prisoners are treated with just as much inhumanity and abuse. The only reason that the abuse of prisoners in Iraq is creating such controversy is because of the graphic photos.

President Bush really doesn't care about the human rights violations! If he did, he would put an end to the human rights violations in the prisons in the United States. The human rights arm of the United Nations repeatedly cites American prisons for abuses, and tortures.

Many of the U.S. military personnel guarding Iraqi prisoners were employed as prison guards in the United States, before being deployed to Iraq. What they are doing to Iraqi prisoners, is basically what is taught to them right here in America in our state prisons. If they would have been caught doing the same things to u.s. prisoners, they would have

been patted on the back for doing their job.

—A Washington prisoner,
August, 2004

The Imperial States are a global threat

There was a lot of talk about what this week's handover of "sovereignty" to Iraq meant. For the imperialists, it means another poorer state to die and slave for them.

Half a world away, there's another "handover" from the U\$ imperialists to the UN capitalists forces. Again, the future is unclear. This time we ask can the Haitians build a proletarian government that meets their basic needs and above all, offers security to them instead of the U\$?

The U\$ poses a threat [to the people of Iraq and Haiti]. Not [only] from adversarial power and weaponry, but from its inability to control what happens in its own prisons, and states. Prime example: the Abu Ghraib incident. The imperialists couldn't even control their own employees. They remain a threat, in themselves and in Iraq and elsewhere—places like Afghanistan, Somalia, Liberia.

There is a broad band of imperialist states that can harbor "terrorists" and "drug traffickers," spark humanitarian disasters, and undermine global economic

growth. They can be an immense and powerful state like Texas, where uncontrolled, corruption, conflict, chaos and communal violence by the bourgeoisie and agencies help turn states, instead of a powerhouse for the proletariat, just look at president Snake Bushit - he came from that devilish pit of breeding.

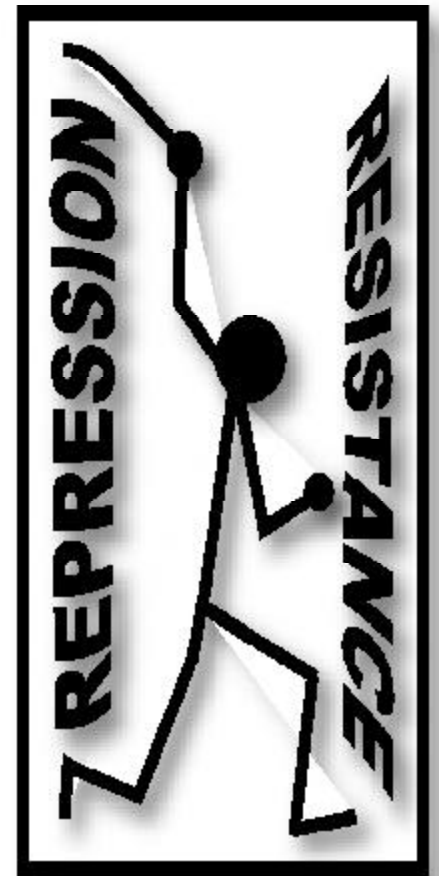
But Americans "don't do the foresight thing." They pay a terribly high price for their actions of oppression against the masses: in an overextended military, drugs in our inner cities, preventable humanitarian tragedies, and ultimately the loss of lives as "collateral damage."

—A California prisoner

MIM comments: This writer raises a good point. Not only do the Americans consciously apply a double standard to international events—according to themselves alone the right to preemptive war while denying other countries even the right to arm themselves in response to perceived threats from the United States—but the political realities of capitalism make it impossible for them to crack down on those Americans who would profit from war. The representatives of the capitalist class in Washington DC may decide its best to ban certain narcotics or the manufacture or export of certain weapons. But within capitalism they cannot prevent some opportunist from taking the risk, breaking the law and selling drugs, guns or bio-warfare agents on the black market.

It's analogous to the case of "Jack" Idema, the American mercenary accused of torturing Afghan men and leading out

his own private war in Afghanistan. Even if the United States was not giving Idema direct orders, it created an atmosphere in Afghanistan that made an Idema inevitable. The wild west atmosphere—complete with bounties for Osama Bin Laden, dead or alive—suited their interests. They cannot disown Idema; unintended or not, he is there creation.



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MIM Notes

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

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

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

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

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What is MIM?

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

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

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

PayPal censors Leonard Peltier support groups

June 2004

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and the Boston Area - Leonard Peltier Support Group were cut off by PayPal, the web based payment processing service, for violation of its "Acceptable Use Policy." In their press release the groups reported that PayPal justified the action "Designating Leonard Peltier as being 'notorious for committing murderous acts' PayPal also claims to have done an exhaustive evaluation of the LPDC & Boston sites for 'offensive' material." PayPal closed their accounts and froze all funds collected for up to 180 days.

The committees explain Leonard Peltier's case well. "An Indigenous Rights activist & prisoner of conscience, Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned for the past 28 years for a crime he did not commit. U.S. prosecutors have admitted that they did not & cannot prove that Peltier committed the crime of which he was accused. In fact, it was proved long ago that Leonard Peltier was convicted through the use of fabricated evidence & false testimony. Under nonpolitical circumstances, the courts would have

been compelled to release Peltier due to prosecutorial misconduct & a flagrant abuse of power. Instead, 28 years later, Peltier languishes in the maximum security prison in Leavenworth, Kansas."

Just as the imprisonment of Leonard Peltier is a political act of social control, these actions by PayPal are also political. While the capitalists roam around the world stealing resources and exploiting the labor of Third World peoples for profit, activists fighting imperialism are stopped from raising money for their work.

"We consider this policy & PayPal's actions to be an attack on our political beliefs, interference with our right to participate in the 'democratic' political process, & an intentional effort on the part of PayPal & its parent company eBay to interfere with our (and your) constitutional rights. Such corporate actions—as taken at the behest of the U.S. government, or not—are an affront to activists everywhere & threaten our basic freedoms."

MIM is reminded of our interactions with the web search agent Google in December of 2002 when they pulled

educational events on 22 July. This event was in San Jose, hosted by the Barrio Defense Committee, and focused on the recent settlement agreement around a lawsuit brought by a SHU prisoner against the Department of Corrections, Castillo v. Alamida.

The event opened with a former SHU prisoner describing conditions he called comparable to the torture of prisoners in Abu Ghraib. This included 3 minute

MIM ads with a bullshit justification about a policy of refusing advertisement of websites that advocate against an individual, group or organization. (Among the MIM ads pulled was one for a review of the movie Star Trek: Nemesis.) Google freely runs ads from the Democrats and Republicans which attack each other, along with ads from the U.S. military and other government organizations. Google also singled out a few keywords in our ads as improper including "oppression of children"—taken from documents *opposing* the oppression of children.

MIM agrees with the Peltier committees that we should use capitalist institutions like Google, eBay and PayPal to aid our work and fundraising. But clearly we can't count on them, in fact we need to build independent institutions of the oppressed that we can rely on wherever possible.

Notes:

<http://www.peltiersupport.org/Welcome/Boycott.html>

showers every other day, half the food given to prisoners outside the SHU, guards placing bets on fights between prisoners, little to no exercise time (even though the law mandates 10 hours per week), and virtually no resources to help prepare prisoners for the streets. This man reported the difficulty he experienced socializing when he got

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Prisoner, lawyer discuss settlement with California prisons

Some gains made; many abuses continue

The United Front to Shut Down Security Housing Units (SHU) held the second in a series of California-wide

WANTED: English-speaking prisoners to receive radical literature

by PIRAO chief
July 17, 2004

We have a five digit figure of radical books and magazines that in some cases we must give or in most cases should give to prisoners. Although we have the largest prison operation of its kind, we need more large prisoner lists—from any English-speaking country. If you can assemble a list of prisoners who would read radical literature, please send it to us. We plan to unload this material this year.

Likewise, if you can assemble money for the postage to mail books & magazines, contact us. We're looking for people who are new to MIM to step forward, not people who have worked with us before. We aren't trying to tire out or bankrupt all our supporters, which is why this message goes into the public.

Contrary to what many people believe and expect, the major bourgeois foundations have never been any use in assisting us with prison literacy projects. We've even had proposals that we can say contain a design of self-defeat for funding this activity. By encouraging people to dream of manna from heaven instead of getting the economics of activism from the ground up, the imperialists accomplish much more than

their piddling donations to a few controlled "progressive" foundations could ever accomplish.

To those who would say they can donate to non-profit organizations for a tax deduction, I would say you have a point, but not really. If you give \$1000 to a tax deductible charity and manage to get \$400 back from the government in taxes for argument's sake, then you have given \$600. The question is whether your money actually went further than if you gave MIM \$600. Since MIM has no paid staff, the answer is no, your money does not go further with one of those non-profit organizations paying for staff, office-space, phones etc.

I have to warn people that we are not good at "have it your way" like Burger King. We get people writing to us with specific requests as if we are going to go to a bookstore and buy every individual item they ask for. That's not possible. We are looking for people who want to read radical literature in prison. Unfortunately, it is literature with a disproportionate share of material about the United States, but we do have some variety.

So the first question is whether we can find prisoners who want to read radical

literature—with a range from progressive to revolutionary and Maoist. The second question is what the prisoner, organization organizing the prisoner or group inside a prison wants. We do not have enough of Marx, Lenin, Mao, Black Panthers or Malcolm X or anything else to be able to promise people that they would get exactly the books they want, but we will try as best we can to take into consideration general requests—political economy, Black or whatever topic/fill in the blank. We can pretty much guarantee that prisoners will NOT get EXACTLY what they want.

On other subjects—we see a lot of backlog cleared for the web page. That's good news. We've added help from some new people, but we need still a few more. There are also plans in the works to make it easier for more people to participate in discussion and MIM work. So again, we know people are frustrated, but there is a backlog of stuff we've had to get done and we do think about how to make it easier to work with us.

Demographic data for police-state repression

The US Department of Homeland Security recently asked the Census Bureau for a list of how many people of Arab descent live in each ZIP code of the country and a list of cities with 1000 or more people of Arab ancestry. The Census Bureau gave it to them. When the Census analyst's supervisor realized this could be a political problem later, she asked Homeland Security—after the information was already turned over—what they had wanted it for.

The response was laughable: "My reason for asking for U.S. demographic data is to aid the Outbound Passenger Program Officer in identifying which language of signage, based on U.S. ethnic nationality population, would be best to post at the major international airports. Some cases this would identify multiple copies needed of a specific language sign versus other cities only one copy."

We want to clarify a couple points. First, if Homeland Security wanted to know what language to make signs in, they could have asked for data on what language people speak at home, which Census also collected in 2000. And if they wanted information for airport signage, there was no reason to request data at the ZIP code level, because city or county data would be more appropriate.

Second, if Homeland Security was more adept at data analysis, they could have compiled their own lists from the data available to the public on the Census website. So it's not as if Census provided them with some dark and dirty classified analysis. That was not the case in WWII, when the Census Bureau used its brand-new mapping capability to provide the War Department with information about where people of Japanese descent lived on the West coast, for use in rounding them up for internment. At that time, only Census could have provided the analysis.

What do we learn from this? First, Homeland Security is using ethnic profiling to target communities based on their ancestry composition. This is not surprising, though of course they would have preferred to be able to deny it. Second, demographic data collected by the state will be used by the state for its own purposes. We at MIM sometimes use Census data—such as incomes by "race" or unemployment rates—but we never kid ourselves that such data is untainted by politics. We just know that the imperialists have reasons to try to make it both accurate and available, and we take advantage of that.

Those civil rights and privacy groups that are pressuring the Census Bureau to limit such activity are doing a good job of exposing these practices, but trying to keep the government's demographic data out of the hands of the repressive state apparatus is a losing battle. On the other hand, a campaign to boycott Census data collection efforts—just like boycotting national elections—could be justified.

Source: Electronic Privacy Information Center, www.epic.org, has the original emails back and forth from Census and Homeland Security, and some of the data files, on their website.

Kerry and Vietnam Vets

A tale of two rallies

BOSTON, July 28, 2004—In the early evening Wednesday on the sidestreets leading to the Democratic Convention, a group of early high school age students approached silently, followed by an equal or greater number of cops on bicycles.

About 10 minutes later, a different group showed up and they could be heard from blocks away. However, cops did not follow these boisterous demonstrators. Only those cops already standing on the corner as the demonstrators passed would intersect with the demonstration. As the demonstrators passed, at the last intersection before the left turn to the thoroughfare leading to the Fleet Center the police just shut their truck door to get out of the way.

About 150 demonstrators this summer day in 2004 were chanting “Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Kerry.” It was mostly Vietnam Veterans (late middle-aged white men) and a sprinkling of twinkies. The chant echoes that of anti-war militants from the 1960s who chanted “Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh is going to win!” The chant referred to the fact that the leader of the Vietnamese resistance war was going to physically defeat U\$ troops. Just as the demonstrators in the 1960s predicted, that

is what happened. Unfortunately, there is still a portion of Vietnam Vets who don’t get it. They can be found at the backbone of reactionary organizations advocating things like genocide and nuclear war, which is what they would have gotten had the United States “tried” any harder to win that war, since Mao had nuclear weapons and a people willing to fight U\$ aggressors if given the chance. This never stops reactionary Vietnam vets from saying the United States didn’t “try hard enough” to win in Vietnam.

What these particular vets are trying to do by chanting “Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Kerry” is to name presidential candidate John Kerry a traitor or communist, just because Kerry changed his mind after serving and took an active political role against the Vietnam War. It’s classic scumbag red-baiting tactics on behalf of genocide and nuclear war.

We interviewed a handicapped woman from Oklahoma who is an official Kerry delegate on the veterans against Kerry demonstration. She restricted herself to saying that they have a right to demonstrate. There is an interesting point here, because many of these same

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Police closely followed this protest by silent youth at the DNC (right), while ignoring the protest by Amerikan veterans against Kerry (above).



Some Greens start ‘Greens for Kerry’

Continued from page 1...

clear that Nader believed Greens had gone soft after the Bush election and were throwing up procedural roadblocks to a future Nader campaign—essentially because as MIM has said, too many Greens are just moonlighting Democrats. Because of this softness and Democratic Party attempts to bribe the Greens, Nader knew he would have to get on the ballot himself and could not count on the Greens to put themselves on the ballot—pathetic indeed for a party interested in the electoral process and which received as many votes as Nader did in 2000.

During the Democratic National Convention in Boston, MIM interviewed a Nader campaigner who contradicted what the Massachusetts Rainbow-Green Party said, namely that they endorse the Cobb campaign and not Kerry in states where the Bush/Kerry result is close. The Nader campaigner also believed that Cobb supporters are supporting Kerry. (.wav format, 700kb)

An example is on the votecobb.org website. On June 25th, the Cobb admin for the website said, “Peter Camejo has said that David’s website tells people to ‘vote for Kerry.’ That phrase does not exist on this site.” Then as of July 27th, the second article on the home page says plainly “Vote Kerry and Cobb,” in reference to the strategy of voting for Cobb in most states while voting for Kerry in swing states. It goes to show

how dishonest the Cobb campaign is. Anyone involved in politics much can see that this whole result was inevitable from the way the Greens went about their politics.

Purging parties leads to clarity and honesty. Not purging parties results in immediate duplicity as when corporate politicians take them over and claim they have not. These corporate politicians can easily form their own parties; yet the foolish Liberals believe they should allow all points of view in their party instead of purging those who disagree with their main points. The Greens should realize that there is no issue of “repression” yet when they do not hold state power. The corporate point of view is not underrepresented.

The Greens’ picking someone like Cobb—who the public has never heard of—is a dream-come-true for the corporate parties. It shows that even a pile of disaffected Democrats can do no better than to put someone forward that is unknown in a bourgeois electoral sense and also ambiguous in response to Kerry. MIM is not the only one to notice this. The mainstream press has also reported it.

Thanks to the lack of purging in the Green Party, there are now conflicting cross-currents.

1) We have the Democrats pushing for Kerry in the Green Party.

2) There are Greens who deny pushing for Kerry out of fear of legal repercussions via campaign laws.

3) There are Greens pissed off as hell that this all happened but who have to put up a solid front for the benefit of their party. They may even find themselves in the position of having to lie on behalf of their party’s maneuvers for Kerry.

A party should stand for something. That is how to encourage political participation in the imperialist countries. The clouded politics, lying and corporate maneuvers mean that the Green political spectrum has been disenfranchised by the Greens’ own organizational political line. People can dedicate their time and money to a Green party and have it end up supporting Kerry anyway. That is real disenfranchisement of the real Greens.

MIM opposes Kerry, Cobb and Nader. Yet we have self-interests in these contests. The lack of political clarity of Greens makes it harder for everyone else working outside the two main parties. It becomes impossible to draw political lessons from political activity when a party does not stand for anything to begin with. We cannot draw a contrast with Greens when the Greens themselves are all over the political map. Meanwhile, people such as our friends the imperialist-country pacifists have no party to go to.

On the other hand, MIM and its circles do benefit from these ugly and negative

Green organizational experiences vicariously. From watching the Greens and seeing what happens without purges and also from seeing what the Democrats are willing to do to subvert their competitors we learn lessons of a universal nature. Anyone reading Nader’s book and hearing about his difficulties getting on the ballot who did not realize that the Greens became weakened after Bush’s election in 2000—count yourself naive and politically inexperienced.

Note:

Sources saying Cobb won’t run in states with close Kerry/Bush races: http://news10now.com/content/all_news/?ArID=24466&SecID=83 ; <http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0721-02.htm> ; <http://www.registerguard.com/news/2004/07/27/ed.edit.nader.0727.html> ; “When pressed, Cobb admitted that different rules apply in the swing states. ‘John Kerry is a corporatist and a militarist,’ Cobb said. ‘But if you live in a swing state, hold your nose and vote for Kerry.’” <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/5518334/site/newsweek/>

A pro-Cobb writer believes that Greens are better served by him: <http://www.counterpunch.org/reiter07202004.html>

Nader supporter on how Greens wanted to start too late in 2004. (.wav format, 460k)

MIM's report on the pre-DNC anti-war rally

BOSTON, July 25

Protesters marched past the Fleet Center, site of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) despite FBI and police harassment before the event and a police-state atmosphere that included the threat of random bag searches on public transportation. Organizers insisted on their right to march past the DNC and succeeded in securing a permit just hours before the scheduled start time.

Police presence was heavy, but (from what we saw) police did not obstruct the permitted rally or march. We did not see any bags searched during the march, and many groups set up literature tables unhindered. MIM suspects some of the more draconian "security measures" that did not materialize were leaked to dissuade people from attending. Another reason to "dare to struggle:" the cops might be bluffing.

On the other hand, bags in the subway had been searched and the actual DNC had not started yet. We saw plenty of police harassment and obstruction during the DNC (see the article this issue on the arrest of a MIM notes distributor).

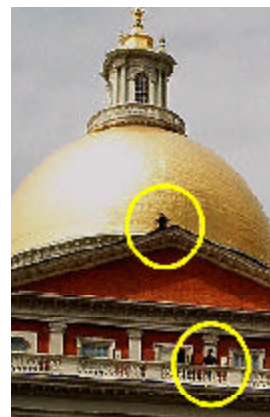
The march passed by the Massachusetts State Hall, a beacon of Amerikan liberty that served as an observation post for cops with binoculars.

The march went by, but did not enter, the infamous "protest pen" set up by the City of Boston as a "free speech" area. This pen was surrounded on three sides by metal barricades topped by razor wire and covered by an abandoned rail line (seen here with police). Organizers sued to have the pen dismantled and a better site chosen, calling it an "internment camp." A judge denied their request, at the same time noting, "One cannot conceive of what other elements you would put in a place to make a space more of an affront to the idea of free expression than the designated demonstration zone."

The overwhelming majority of protesters agreed that Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry was complicit with Bush in the war on Iraq. A

speaker at the kick-off rally pointed out that Kerry has called for more U.S. troops in Iraq, increased funding for Special Forces, and believes the occupation of Iraq should continue for the rest of the decade. However, even though the "anybody but Bush" crowd stayed away from this march, there was still a range of political trends present. Electoral politics was by no means absent. Some marchers were DNC delegates, hoping to influence the Democrats' program "from the outside." Others supported third-party candidate Ralph Nader (see other articles in this issue about the Nader campaign).

MIM supporters passed out about 600 copies of MIM Notes. The response was generally encouraging, although a not-insignificant proportion of protesters still dismissed the paper out of hand. Several said, "I'm not a Maoist, so I don't want it." Hey: If you're not a Maoist, you should want it! (And you're who we're writing for. Only a miniscule portion of MIM Notes readers considers itself Maoist—or Communist, for that matter.) As we've written before, a progressive outlook requires non-stop efforts at self-improvement. Those in the anti-war movement need to look around and see what is working and what isn't. Pandering to the usual liberal electoral claptrap is decidedly not working—last we checked U.S. troops still occupied Iraq and Afghanistan while the draft still looms on the near horizon.



Police surveillance on roof of Massachusetts statehouse.

This was arguably both the most interesting and most correct sign at the pre-DNC rally. Indeed, the Iraqi people's resistance is the principal factor undermining support for the war among Americans and stretching the U.S. war machine towards its breaking point.

There is an interesting parallel between the trial of Saddam Hussein and the trial of Jack Idema, the "former" U.S. Green Beret charged with torture in Afghanistan. (The capture of Idema was



the cover story of the August 1st issue of MIM Notes handed out at the march.) Both argue that they committed their crimes with the support of the United States. Although both are trying to exonerate themselves, the tribunals in Iraq and Afghanistan should investigate these

links thoroughly. That would be in the best interests of the Iraqi and Afghan peoples and be sign of true sovereignty. We are skeptical that either tribunal will uncover full U.S. culpability in these cases, as they have been set up by U.S. puppet governments.



Barriers to keep protesters from the site of the DNC



The "protest pen."

MIM NOTES DISTRIBUTOR ARRESTED AT THE DNC

Continued from page 1...

delegates and even a pair of pre-voting age kids carrying signs to repeal the "Patriot Act" and some others. We asked many of our interview subjects if they were aware Kerry had co-authored the "Patriot Act" and we asked them to tell us what they believe they can accomplish as individuals inside the Democratic Party that they can't accomplish outside it.

The trouble started when the director of the center came outside to tell us we were on private property. We told him more than once that he had invited the public to his building, and not only that, with big-name speakers and that he was not entitled to apply usual rules concerning "private property" in that context. We explained further and repeatedly to the Boston Police that such a claim does not

even fly in shopping malls, never mind publicly-funded colleges hosting multiple public figures. This was a classic case of wanting to "have it both ways." If Roxbury Community College had wanted a private event, it should have organized it "invitation only." Once the RCC invited the public, that public does not surrender any free speech rights on RCC grounds.

A red-tag delegate to the DNC had gone in the building and come out as she had promised to interview with MIM Notes. Just as MIM Notes finished that interview, Boston cops assembled on the city sidewalk some meters away to prepare to arrest the MIM Notes distributor.

The RCC and Boston cops had asked us to leave RCC property and go onto

city streets, but there was no way that MIM could have covered the city sidewalks efficiently to hand out newspapers, because people funnel in from the sidewalks covering hundreds of yards to the doors leading into the convention. This is MIM's second run-in with RCC, and Northeastern is also under the impression that it can invite the public and then disinvite them when they hand out newspapers. That's why we need to take the legal offensive to get this squared away in Massachusetts. MIM Notes absolutely relies on being able to get out its newspaper at big-name political events. We are looking for legal help obtaining restraining orders on college administrations in the Massachusetts area.

If you saw MIM handing out papers at RCC, we would like to hear from you as a witness at bosmim@mim.org.

Had the issue stayed at the level of what college administrations can and cannot do in inviting the public, it would have been a ho-hum case that we nonetheless needed to win and follow-up on in agreements with colleges in Massachusetts. The Boston Police were wrong in interpreting the law in RCC's favor, but the whole arrest became another matter when Boston Police forcibly took the recorder/camera with the day's interviews and the evidence from the arrest.

MIM is currently pursuing return of the digital recorder via legal means. The fact that police took the recorder is an outrage to all journalists and photographers.

MIM Notes censored at Corcoran State Prison

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is battling censorship of MIM Notes at Corcoran State Prison in California. MIM Notes is a newspaper reporting on events around the world from an anti-imperialist perspective. It includes two pages written by prisoners across the US reporting on conditions behind the bars. MIM faces censorship in many prisons across the country including of our newspaper, our theory journal (MIM Theory) and of political books that we send to prisoners.

In this case the reasons given for the censorship have changed over time and include: that MIM advocates violence and can disrupt prison programs, and that the paper has letters from prisoners and thus establishes unauthorized communication between prisoners. Both of these justifications are just a cover for the prison's fear that MIM Notes is providing revolutionary education and organizing prisoners to fight for their legal rights. In this country that claims to have free speech, MIM's so-called rights are being denied by the Criminal Injustice System to suppress anti-imperialist views.

One prisoner at Corcoran is leading the fight against this censorship. He updated us in June: "Just to let you know the latest on my prison appeal, regarding censorship of MIM Notes in Corcoran, I have 2 appeals out. In one, the prison states that MIM advocates violence and can disrupt prison programs. The other states that the paper has letters from prisoners and thus establishes unauthorized communication between prisoners. In neither case did they contend or cite a rule violation as the cause of censoring. I will take the appeals to the director in Sacramento. They are using flimsy reasoning to deny us the paper and I anticipate winning the case. Many other leftist pro-revolution materials are being received and no objections are made."

In February MIM sent a letter to the Director of Corrections, as well as Warden Adams at Corcoran responding to a letter we received from the Warden justifying the censorship of MIM Notes. We wrote:

"[W]e believe this censorship is a result of inappropriate bias against MIM's

ideological beliefs. ... On December 8, 2003, we were notified by Warden Derral G. Adams that material, specifically the publication MIM Notes, would not be allowed to its intended recipient because federal case law says that institutions can censor such publications like ours if they are a risk to institutional security.

"Warden Adams' ... appears to disagree with MIM's characterization of prison conditions as 'unjust and brutal to prison inmates.' The California Code Of Regulations (CCR) Title 15, sec: 3135(b) states: 'Disagreement with the senders or receivers apparent moral values, attitudes veracity, or choice of words will not be used by correctional staff as a reason for disallowing or delaying mail. Correctional staff shall not challenge or confront the sender or receiver with such value judgments, nor shall such value judgments be considered in any action affecting the correspondents.' ...

"Warden Adams cites the regulations correctly, but does not state how MIM Notes 'incites violence' or is 'otherwise reasonably deemed to be a threat to

legitimate penological [sic] interests.'" The Supreme Court [has] insisted that an individualized determination be made that a publication violates the rules."

MIM Notes is being targeted for censorship as a publication advocating liberation for the world's oppressed. The prisons in Amerika are a key tool of social control, particularly targeted at oppressed nations within U.S. borders. The vast majority of the population in long term solitary confinement cells like those at Corcoran are Mexican. Blacks are also disproportionately represented throughout the prison system. The prisons offer virtually no educational programs but put staff time and money into censorship of literature sent free to prisoners from organizations like MIM. We can not stand by and allow this to happen. Please send protest letters to Warden Adams at the address below, and send MIM a copy of your letter:

Warden Adams
PO Box 5248
Corcoran, CA 93212

Prisoner, lawyer discuss settlement with California prisons

Continued from page 3...

out of prisons, going straight from isolation to the streets. He also described the health consequences of the SHU including vision problems because of the constant dark, and headaches when exposed to sunlight. On top of all this, the guards are abusive, trying to mentally break down the prisoners.

Charles Carbone, a lawyer with California Prison Focus, was the keynote speaker at this event. He has worked on Steve Castillo's lawsuit against the DOC for the past two years, a case that has been around for 9 years. Castillo has been in the SHU for 10 years and is a very proficient jailhouse lawyer.

Castillo's case made three claims.

1) The SHU denies prisoners equal protection because it allows discrimination against Latino prisoners. 60% of the SHU prisoner are Latino.

2) Long term SHU confinement (5+ years) is cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment.

3) Gang validation regulations are used as retaliation and not based on real evidence.

The Department of Corrections was worried about this case. They filed five separate motions to get the case dismissed, an action that is very unusual for a department that can count on the courts to defend it.

In spite of the strong legal and moral arguments on Castillo's side, Carbone described an injustice system that was certain to rule against them. Prisons are given wide reign to create and enforce policies as they see fit, and the courts back them up. As Carbone himself explained,

"the legal process is very flawed when it comes to social change."

In spite of this likely loss at trial, the DOC offered a settlement to Castillo. They wanted to buy some peace, a reaction Carbone attributed in no small part to the widespread protests against the SHU both behind bars and on the streets in California.

The settlement, which will be finalized at the end of August, included four major points:

1. The process of validating prisoners as gang members and thus giving them an indeterminate SHU sentence must now include informing the prisoners of all evidence against them and giving them a chance to challenge this evidence. This includes presenting all evidence every 6 years that a prisoner is up for inactive review while in the SHU.

2. The department can't rely on confidential informants just naming names. If an informant claims Jack is a gang member, he must provide evidence of what he personally knows Jack did on behalf of the gang. In the past confidential informants just naming names was a favorite way of validating people as gang members. This "evidence" was very difficult to challenge and easy to falsify.

3. Corrections officers must explain why they think evidence demonstrates that a prisoner is a gang member. It is no longer sufficient to say that signing a get well card or talking to someone in the library constitutes gang membership without offering some reason that this shows the prisoner is in a gang.

4. A \$20,000 litigation fund for prisoners challenging gang validation was established. This fund will be

administered by California Prison Focus.

This settlement is not retroactive, so current SHU prisoners will not benefit until they are up for inactive review.

Of course, Carbone noted that the DOC can still follow these rules and continue to validate prisoners as gang members for whatever political reasons they want. But the value of this settlement is twofold. First, it achieves some wider education about the unjust policies used by the DOC and forces some changes to these policies, and second, when the DOC screws up and fails to follow these procedures, the court still retains jurisdiction over the case and can hold the DOC in contempt. Activists both behind the bars and on the outside will be monitoring the DOC closely.

One audience member asked why we can't just go to court and prove the SHU is cruel and unusual punishment. Carbone explained that this argument was used with the Three Strikes law and failed because it is difficult to prove this punishment is "unusual" when it is normal practice in many states. With control units so widespread in the criminal injustice system, it is true that torture is not "unusual" in Amerikan prisons.

Carbone is a lawyer with a clear sense of the limitations of the legal system. During discussion he stressed that legal battles are only one part of the larger battle to shut down the SHU. We must keep pressure on in the streets, in the media, and through educational forums like this one.

A discussion of the recent prison agreement signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in California exposed the prison system as a tool of social

control. This agreement states that guards will not be cut unless the prison population is cut. This directly pits the white population of the central valley, where most of California's prisons are located, against the oppressed nations housed in the prisons. The white guards enjoy high salaries and a nice standard of living, but only if the prisons continue to lock up tens of thousands of Black and Latino men and wimmin.

After the event MIM spoke with a Latina womyn whose son was being released from the California Youth Authority (prison) the next day. After five years in CYA (from age 15), she was worried about how he would function on the outside. He was given five years parole. As Carbone noted, parole is designed to fail so that people will be locked back up again. This womyn became active in the prison movement after her son was locked away, and she described her disillusionment with the Amerikan system that she used to believe in. After five years fighting the CYA she was saying clearly that the only answer is revolution.

Many people at this even in San Jose recognized the limitations of fighting for reforms to the criminal injustice system. This is why MIM puts our agenda of taking down imperialism front and center as a part of any of our reformist battles. We don't want to mislead people into thinking that shutting down the SHU will fix the system. But we see battles like this one as necessary under capitalism, to expose the injustice and fight for better conditions for the two million people behind bars in Amerika.

Monthly Cali. SHU protests continue, gain new allies

Former prisoners step forward, speak of their experiences

August 7 — MIM and RAIL held our regular San Francisco monthly protest to shut down the prison Security Housing Units (SHU), a part of the state-wide protests of the United Front to Shut Down the SHU. At our regular location, in downtown San Francisco, we once again found support among the tourists and former prisoners who pass through the area. We were joined by two former prisoners who came to the protest to help fight torture in prisons. The group of protesters had a literature table with a few people asking passers by to sign the petition, people walking around with posters encouraging people to come over to the table, and roving petitioners approaching people on the sidewalk. In the two hour protest we gathered more than 60 signatures and distributed a many copies of MIM Notes and the MIM pamphlet on the SHU.

Relatives of prisoners, and former prisoners, were quick to stop and sign the petition, thanking us for protesting prison torture. Several people commented on the similarity between what happened in the Amerikan prisons in other countries and Amerikan prisons at home, eagerly taking a copy of the August MIM Notes which had a cover story exposing Amerikan prison abuses in Afghanistan.

One of our new allies, who has seven years of experience with the California Department of Corrections, agreed to an interview after the protest. He said that he's never spoken out about the abuses he's endured, but he was compelled to do so when he saw that MIM was fighting prison torture and focusing on the

same kinds of issues he is fighting: "Your Maoist Internationalist Movement is dealing with the CDC now on a level that is consistent with what I'm going through, torture."

Our new ally, who we will call John, has been in and out of prisons for years, never on the streets for more than a month in a year. His revolving door experience with the prisons is typical of the injustice system that is not set up to rehabilitate people or offer them alternatives but instead encourages recidivism. The problem started when he was young, in the juvenile system. Instead of trying to help John, they released him at age 16 and told him to move out of the state and not come back until he was old enough to be charged as an adult (because they assumed he would be back in the system).

John has a problem with drugs and alcohol, a problem that continued behind bars. He has been clean and sober since his last release, but in the past his drug addiction led to minor offenses like petty theft, or drug possession, which got him locked back up again. A system focused on rehabilitation would offer John services to help him get off drugs, but instead he was rejected for a program because of his parole status. As John states "it's not about rehabilitation, it's about warehousing."

John speaks of harassment by the San Francisco Police, the prison guards, and the entire DOC which are all part of a system that is set up to target people like himself. He says the prisons "politically speaking, are a mess ... the [guards union]

are very powerful, too powerful for anyone to mess with." He spoke of fights set up in the prison by the guards, attacks on himself and others. Many people talk about prisoner gangs, but John speaks about the prison guard gang, "The Green Wall Mafia, a gang of guards which is about a code of silence." They won't let anyone speak out about the abuses within the prison. "The [prison guards union] is politically impossible to touch...San Francisco won't fuck with them, the court system won't fuck with them."

John is concerned that the police or the DOC will try to kill him because he won't conform and he wouldn't play their games in the prison. He talks about "the California DOC, Prison Industries Authorities, CCPOE [prison guards union], the private prison firms are all interconnected, it's all a game, it's all about money."

He is homeless now, the typical condition of released prisoners, who have no resources when they get out, and no support or opportunities for employment. John is living in a homeless shelter which has a curfew of 7pm every night. He is clean and sober because when he was paroled just over a month ago, his sister (who we will call Sophia) told him they were both going to go clean and sober together starting that day.

John and Sophia are part of the Cheyenne indigenous nation. This is one of the First Nations that wiped out General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. As they say, they've had a bad deal of it from the beginning. Sophia says "that's why we're on their shit list from

the start." This nation, which has supposedly autonomous land surrounded by Montana (a.k.a. a reservation), is fighting the government about fiber optic cables run through their land without their permission. John says the government claimed "eminent domain" which means it can do whatever it thinks is necessary on what it considers federal land, even though "we're supposed to be autonomous." But this is like Amerika running fiber optic wires through Canada without asking the permission of the Canadian government. First Nations deserve the same independence granted to any other sovereign nations, not to mention restitution for the history of genocide.

On the streets and clean now for over a month, John and his sister are committed to staying clean and out of prison. They support each other every day spending their spare time before curfew together, and speak of getting an apartment together some day. But they laugh mentioning San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's "Care Not Cash" program which made it harder for Sophia to get a bed in a shelter, limiting her stay to seven days and not telling her when her time had run out. The odds are all stacked against John and Sophia, who both have prison records. But they are determined to fight back and are excited to have hooked up with MIM so that they can get involved with the campaign against torture in prisons. John noted that staying busy doing work like this is what will help him stay clean and sober.

What is militarism?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Did you know?

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

www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Pope condemns feminism

On August 1, the Vatican released a statement against feminism. That the Pope doesn't like feminism isn't news, but the Vatican's summary of the problems with feminism is interesting, giving feminism a very materialist spin.⁽¹⁾

For example, the statement says, "A first tendency is to emphasize strongly conditions of subordination in order to give rise to antagonism: women, in order to be themselves, must make themselves the adversaries of men. Faced with the abuse of power, the answer for women is to seek power."

MIM agrees with this partial description of feminism. Politically, however, it is a mistake for wimmin of oppressed nations to concentrate principally on opposing the men of oppressed nations, because imperialism is the first-order problem that both men and wimmin of oppressed nations face. However, as a statement of the principle of gender oppression and the correct response to it, we agree.

We also agree with the description of the "second tendency," which the Vatican says goes like this: "In order to avoid the domination of one sex or the other, their differences tend to be denied, viewed as mere effects of historical and cultural conditioning. In this perspective, physical difference, termed sex, is minimized, while the purely cultural element, termed gender, is emphasized to the maximum and held to be primary."

Right. That is: while there are biological differences of sex, what matters most, and what is within the realm of the social

control of humanity, is how we socially organize people. We need to accord social roles to people based on their biological sex about as much as we do based on their genetic tendency to be tall or short.

Where does this lead? "This theory of the human person, intended to promote prospects for equality of women through liberation from biological determinism, has in reality inspired ideologies which, for example, call into question the family, in its natural two-parent structure of mother and father, and make homosexuality and heterosexuality virtually equivalent, in a new model of polymorphous sexuality." And further, "According to this perspective, human nature in itself does not possess characteristics in an absolute manner: all persons can and ought to constitute themselves as they like, since they are free from every predetermination linked to their essential constitution." This is similar to Mao's statements about humyn nature, except the idea that individuals can "constitute themselves as they like" is more a statement of a communist ideal than a reality under conditions of inequality. Still, we agree that humyns should not be considered fixed by an "essential constitution."

Ultimately, the Pope is upset because this threatens the patriarchal power of the Church. As the statement says: "This perspective has many consequences. Above all it strengthens the idea that the liberation of women entails criticism of Sacred Scripture, which would be seen as handing on a patriarchal conception of

God nourished by an essentially male-dominated culture. Second, this tendency would consider as lacking in importance and relevance the fact that the Son of God assumed human nature in its male form." Right. We are not persuaded of the importance of the "fact" that Jesus was supposedly male. On the other hand, the fact that the Church says God is male is of enormous importance.

Amerikan pseudo-feminists were quick to say that the Pope was going too far in this characterization of feminism. The Washington Post reports that Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, said: "The demonization of feminism is most disturbing. It takes extreme positions that may have been historically held by five people and casts them as if they were held by every woman. The feminism I know is all for partnerships and is all for empowering both men and women. The feminism I know does not ignore the fact that there



are sexual differences."⁽²⁾

Maybe the Vatican statement will help motivate pseudo-feminists to keep selling wimmin short. But MIM is not afraid to say we favor complete equality between men and wimmin.

Notes:

1. The Vatican posted the full statement at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20040731_collaboration_en.html
2. Washington Post 1 Aug 2004, p. A16.

Talking with the troops at Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg, NC

The mood at Fort Bragg seems sullen. Few people wanted to talk, even before they knew MIM Notes is communist. In one case, MIM Notes spoke with one soldier just back from Iraq who just stared straight forward and said "I don't want to talk about that." In an odd way, it was also like talking to some Arab youth in Amerika who also had opinions, but are afraid to say anything right now.

We spoke with another soldier who had toured all over the world except Iraq and said he had read MIM Notes before. He chided us "it would be a whole lot better if people would just vote." This same soldier told us that most of his military buddies "don't care at all" about politics yet and he told us this disturbed him greatly. With regard to the vote and freedom we responded that the United States does not bring freedom to other countries and in fact has the highest imprisonment rate in the world. "You don't have to tell me that. I know," said our critic. He went on to say there is the freedom to leave the country (and this led to a discussion of US "aid" to other countries and u.\$ backing for dictators). We pointed out to this patriot that George Washington stayed, fought and changed America.

The critic of MIM went on to say that the soldiers in Iraq should fight harder to get done sooner and come back. (You can hear part of our interview on our website: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/fortbragg07162004.html.) However, his military comrade said, "the main thing is that everyone comes home

as soon as possible as safely as possible."

We spoke with two people who were not happy at all about the Iraq War. (You can also listen to the interviews at the same website.) Something we heard from these two and another womyn soldier in a family with multiple members in the armed forces was not so much concern for themselves as concern for their families. They did not like the idea that some of their relatives might fight and die in Iraq.

Our longest conversation was with an Army soldier who actually had many revolutionary views already. According to him, the United States is going to break up into pieces regionally. He said there were too many cynical special interests getting their piece out of the military from underwear contracts to Iraq contracts. He recounted how "war f*s people up" and went on to tell us about a World War II veteran in the area who still wakes up in the middle of the night. Oddly, no one made a point of Abu Ghraib or prisons in Afghanistan, but we found soldiers reading MIM Notes on the subject. In Amerika, we have a heavy duty. Depending on the outlook of recruitable youth of this one country with 5% of the world's population, the transition to a world without imperialism will be more or less bloody. In fact, it may turn out that anti-militarist work could make the difference between species survival and species destruction. Most of the rest of the world can already see it, so we have to bring internationalist perspective to places like Fort Bragg.

Imperial overstretch spurs Bush withdrawal plan

Continued from page 1...

German bourgeois politicians have expressed concerns that U.\$ base closures would cause some Germans to lose their jobs. This is the same twisted dynamic that drives the discussion of base closures in the United States and in itself is enough to show the economic and moral bankruptcy of imperialism. There are so many things around the world that need doing—hungry to feed, sick to treat and cure, homeless to shelter—yet the only jobs the bourgeois leaders of Amerika and Germany can create are tied to the predatory Amerikan military.

Military overstretch is the hot potato issue of this presidential campaign. Neither candidate can talk about reinstating the draft, despite the fact that the military's "stop-loss" amounts to a draft (restricted to those who volunteered for the military) and calls by some Congresspersyns for an official draft. Instead, each tries to sell Amerikan voters their own snake-oil scheme on how to preserve Amerikan military dominance without instituting a draft. Bush apparently

is still pushing "Secretary of Defense" Don Rumsfeld's "transformation" line: the idea that high technology can solve the U.\$ military's problems. This was the idea behind the Iraq war—and the "success" of which can now be seen on the streets of Fallujah and Najaf. Kerry wants to up the number of special forces (look to Afghanistan to see the success of that approach) and promises help from Amerika's allies. Of course, it takes two to tango, and more and more of Amerika's allies appear happy to let Unkle Sam do the heavy lifting in Iraq.

Both Bush and Kerry want to appear to be doing everything possible to make a draft unnecessary. Yet we warn our readers that the economic system that caused the wars against Iraq is still in place. The for-profit motivations to trade in weapons of mass destruction are still there. Capitalism cannot bring real long-term stability no matter how many troops are moved around or Security Council resolutions end up passing.

Notes: 1. <http://www.time.com/time/europe/eu/daily/0,13716,436088,00.html>

Maoists meet the Falun Gong at the DNC

**BOSTON
July 28, 2004**

We hope you like our coverage of the Democratic National Convention. Part of the convention includes the negative comments MIM received and we'd like to tell you about some of them.

As MIM handed out thousands of copies of the August 1 MIM Notes featuring a lead story on US torture of prisoners in Afghanistan, a few people said that the Afghans "deserved it after what they did to us."

Such reasoning obviously is part of an endless spiral of violence with no great goal. We told them that they had the wrong people, that Osama Bin Laden appears to have escaped anyway and that children tortured in Iraqi prisons by Americans had done nothing to Americans.

We also had to explain to a few people the difference between Mao and Deng Xiaoping, namely that Mao wanted to win students over with his lofty goals and political zeal while Deng used bureaucratic methods such as locking students into cafeterias in 1966 and shooting demonstrators in 1989. We hope to persuade our readers that Mao's method of political disorder combined with political zeal was the right approach. We even had one older Kerry delegate admit that Americans were pro-Deng until 1989, so there should be no reason for Americans to try to blame Mao for Deng.

MIM is used to ignorant comments, usually very short ones that their makers cannot back up with a factual argument. In contrast, the Falun Gong present on the Boston Common July 28th told us that they found all Americans to be

compassionate and in solidarity with the Falun Gong. So while MIM found very many people relieved to see that communists are still active—partly as a check on the state of American political conditions—the Falun Gong reported more universal love from the population.

Before we spoke with the Falun Gong, we had a pair of people show a real human interest in what happens when Maoists cross paths with the Falun Gong. The Falun Gong was staging a very graphic art exhibit of Chinese torture enacted by Chinese with convincing costumes and blood. The exhibit followed a march against Jiang Zemin. We told one person interested in our opinion that we wished the Falun Gong would not do this exhibit in the United States or England, that they could probably do it in 200 countries without provoking war but that there is already a war climate against China in the United States that exists among a portion of Americans.

Later, MIM went further and went to talk to the Falun Gong to tell them about some comments we received and also our own experience as Americans. We came prepared to ask the Falun Gong if they did not believe this exhibit is contributing to a war atmosphere against China. When the Falun Gong spoke of human rights, we asked them if the war against Iraq did not come couched in terms of Saddam Hussein as a dictator violating human rights. When they said China was worse than Iraq, we asked if that did not justify Americans in thinking war against China was more just than war against Iraq.

The Falun Gong stressed that it does not advocate war or violent means. You can listen to their full response on the web

Once we realize that we are in the realm of politics and human frailty, we realize that we cannot ask politicians to be god-like.

at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections/falungong.html.

We stressed that many people could look at these exhibits and not take them the wrong way, but there would be a portion of Americans who already have reasons they want a war with China. We said there are some already upset about trade. Other really backward Americans believe China is taking over California and still others would like to go to war with just about any country still calling itself communist.

We're happy to have had a reasonable discussion with the Falun Gong. We had advocated including Afghan and Iraqi prisoners in their exhibit to make the message clear if they want to oppose all prison torture. That's part of why we offered that if they came with us they would see some of these comments about Afghan prisoners and about China, made by the same Americans who support the exhibit on the prisons in China. These Americans believe the "other guy" is to blame for human rights violations and "human rights" rhetoric is just a mask for their aggression.

We also tried to convince the Falun Gong that they are political and they should just go all the way in their politics, even though politics is inevitably "dirty." After all, they talked to us about Chinese trade, what the Chinese embassy did to threaten certain US localities with a reduction of trade and how the Chinese bought off some countries globally to keep them from voicing solidarity with Falun Gong. To us, it would seem that coming up with a strategy to counter trade and embassy moves is political, not just something spiritual. Since they are already thinking along those lines, they should just go the whole way into politics. Once we realize that we are in the realm of politics and human frailty, we realize that we cannot ask politicians to be god-like. We are confident that when they compare politicians objectively, they will find that Mao was the greatest politician in the Third World since World War II—for doubling China's life expectancy, bringing universal education and health-care and eliminating foot-binding and restrictions on divorce.

Kerry and Vietnam Vets A tale of two rallies at the DNC

Continued from page 4...

troglodytes do not support the First Amendment as evidenced by their calling people traitors with regard to the Vietnam War.

This particular Oklahoma delegate while opposing the draft went on to support a larger military as Kerry has said by calling for a doubling of "special forces." In her discussion of this we can almost hear her saying there is no other way to employ the people of this country without a military to absorb everyone. To MIM, this is an example of how this country has ruined itself—by hiring too many troops, cops and prison guards. And to do what? Fight fascism? End slavery? Quite the contrary, we have slave labor in our prisons. No, there is no great goal in hiring all these repressive personnel that is going to move forward America or the planet. It's simply making up for what is wrong with our economy. If the

Democrats and Republicans cannot think of anything productive for people to do other than join the military, build more prisons and follow kids around on the streets, we'd suggest they hand power over to us and we'll get the economy moving on serving global human needs and undertaking scientific and technical research.

The problem with a lot of these reactionaries is that they don't know what a real job is anymore. We'll show them how to organize real jobs and they won't have to spend all their time campaigning for candidates to lock up more people in the United States while getting overtime gravy at Abu Ghraib.

The whole demonstration by these particular vets and all their bitter involvement in politics is just another great reason never, ever to volunteer for the US military, because if you do serve in the military like Kerry did, the troglodytes

will criticize you and dishonor your service within their own reactionary logic if you ever decide some day that perpetual war is not a good idea. In fact, these particular genocidal maniacs are so political that they would rather support Bush and Cheney who did not serve in Vietnam at all, so it goes to prove what the founding fathers of the United States said about

how a country with too many veterans goes down the drain as exemplified by the European countries of the 1700s which had too many wars. It's not that these vets can possibly say Bush & Cheney did better service than Kerry. What they are saying is purely political—that they did not get enough war.

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.

Texas monopolizes prisoner skills

Regarding the information you sought concerning the money Texas Dept. of Corrections makes off of prisoner slave labor: In the furniture factory we are constantly being forced to fill orders paid for by TDC employees. The factory will refinish, upholster and even rebuild items brought in by greyshirts and administrative employees. These items range from bed frames to complete bedroom and dining room sets. Do we, the workers, receive any benefits for our labor and efforts? Absolutely not!

What really sucks is that those inmates able to work on some sort of craft, e.g., leather, woodcrafts, art crafts, etc., are allowed to make work contracts with TDC employees, but are prohibited from establishing work contracts with outside businesses who could market the prisoners' crafts. Instead, the prisoner is forced to either sell his wares to TDC employees, or mail them home, hoping their family can find buyers. Is this fair? I think not.

I know of a fellow, a Catholic, who wrote a book and had it published. TDC punished him for this. Is this justified? Hell no.

In my situation, I am a tattoo artist, yet I'm not allowed to work my craft to keep myself in much needed personal hygiene stuff. TDC won't supply me with these items either. Instead, if I'm caught tattooing, or with paraphernalia, I am punished, locked up, loose good time (not that good time really matters).

—A Texas Prisoner, April 2004

MIM responds: This prisoner wrote in response to our request for information exposing the exploitation of prisoner labor in Texas. This information shows that it is not only unskilled manual labor, but also skilled craft labor, that Texas prison officials exploit for their own gain. We encourage others, in Texas or elsewhere, to help us expose these practices to other prisoners and to the outside world.

Political repression in Texas

Though it has been a minute since I last wrote to MIM, know that my mind and heart stays securely focused on the revolution to come. Nature dictates it and the masses want it. These past few months I've been battling with my oppressors, which has gone to the physical, where I was placed in isolation for a while.

It all started with one arrogant officer throwing my literature away during an annual unit lockdown. The pigs reason to justify this was that the literature was old. And they didn't hesitate to throw away my MIM Notes, even a MIM Theory (the date was 1996), some Panther papers, as well as various magazines. Then I get hit with a bogus disciplinary infraction and sometimes some things make you wanna holler.

In the end I got caught up and landed in lockup. But while I was there I was grateful to receive encouraging news in he recent MIM Notes, especially your stand to shut down all control units (here in TX they are called high security). There are other interesting articles as well that explain and inform from another point of view aside from those capitalist media puppets who wish to be called respected journalists.

In the meantime until the overthrow of imperialism I'm feeding these hungry young soldiers food for the mind in Marxism-

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Leninism-Maoism as given by MIM. And you know Malcolm X, George Jackson and Black Panther Party never go out of style here in these dungeons.

Our concern right now is the outlawing of pornography to come next June 2005. Because I know if they get porn out of the system, the pigs will target radical literature next. Then we will be stuck with trash like Stephen King and Anne Rice.

The imperialists aren't playing games and we communists shouldn't either.

—A Texas Comrade In Struggle, June 5, 2004

MIM responds: You are right that we need to oppose all forms of censorship in prison. Of course, they are already going after revolutionary lit, like your old MIM Theories! The porn crackdown just gives them more opportunity to provoke people and target them for lockdown.

MIM over CP-USA in South Dakota

Just received first issues of MIM Notes. Hungrily await more. I understand that with the kind of activism you are doing comes many sacrifices. Know that at the very least you are empowering those who feel they have little hope — this is in itself a sort of revolution. Thank you; your work is greatly appreciated at this end. Convicts, some hardly able to read, are discussing dialectics in the rec yard. Something beautiful is happening. Also know that I have since canceled my subscription to People's Weekly World.

A Marxist-Maoist study group is needed [at this prison]. Many after having viewed your paper express interest in gaining a deeper understanding of their incarceration and the underlying causes of oppression in general. Another prisoner and myself are willing to take leadership/instructional roles, only we're not sure where to start. Does MIM follow a study group format?

I am enclosing an article on Native Amerikan prisoners and imperialism. Feel free to edit for grammar, clarity, politics, etc. I am still young, but as I mature, become more educated and familiar with the MIM party line my writing will improve.

—a South Dakota prisoner, July 2004

MIM responds: It's great to hear that MIM Notes has so inspired you to organize and start a study group. We sent a flyer on how to start a MIM study group and an article from MIM Theory to get you started. Keep us posted on your progress, and keep sending articles, and we'll continue to send you literature for your study group. We look forward to working with you.

Repression in Oklahoma SHU

I am a female Segregation Housing Unit (SHU) inmate, and this is my fourth time on Administrative Segregation (A.S.). I have spent a total of eight years on lockdown. As of May, 2004 I have been on SHU for one year and seven months, for an alleged battery without a weapon on another inmate. The

inmate that I battered has a paper filed on me that keeps us separated on a yard divided from mine by a brick wall.

Nail clippers are not allowed in this facility, so I am charged \$2.00 to see the doctor and fill out a form, and \$2.00 to use the clippers. This leads me to ask where is the money that is supplied to run this facility? Has it been reduced? Even as an indigent inmate, I must pay for any doctor visit, plus medications.

Where does inmates' money go and what is it used for? Starting May 3, 2004, we are going to be charged for any form we need for in-house mail. We are charged for copies of cases from the law library, legal-sized envelopes to mail to the courts, etc. Being on the SHU it is almost as if I am cut off from the world completely. I have no resources to raise hell about injustice.

At this prison, slave labor is in full effect. Inmates work at a plant called Oklahoma Corrections Industries. They handle Department of Motor Vehicles-related paperwork. They're paid a few cents an hour, according to how many huge boxes they sort through.

There are 37 rules for the SHU that we must comply with or have our exercise (which is a right) terminated.

[From the prison's handout, these rules include:

"9. Materials will not be allowed to hang over the cell door to obstruct observation. ...

"15. Magazines, newspapers, and catalogs are not allowed for DU/PI/PD/TD/TS inmates. ...

"17. Library books cannot be traded between inmates, left outside of the cell, or placed in the windowsill. ...

"22. Inmates are subject to urinalysis testing at any time. ...

"30. All inmates shall be allowed one hour of exercise outdoors, weather permitting, five days per week. The Shift Supervisor may cancel outdoor exercise for security reasons. If exercise is indoors, inmates will be restrained in belly chains, hand cuffs, black box, and leg irons ..."]

If an A.S. inmate receives a misconduct for not having our shirts tucked into our pants, we must spend more time on A.S.

Your Notes are an informative inspiration. I am now being transferred to another yard. I will fight for my beliefs if I am sent to hell.

Sincerely,

—an Oklahoma prisoner, 5 May 2004

Three Strikes and the Walking Dead

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, felt that slavery was a moral wrong. Yet, unlike George Washington, the first President, who freed over 200 of his personal slaves at his death, President Jefferson believed that if the African slaves of the United States were freed, they would rise up and seek revenge on their former masters. History has proven that Jefferson's fears were unfounded; on the contrary, it was the freed slaves of America that suffered persecution for decades after they were freed.

The proponents of the draconian "Three

Strikes" law have tried to terrorize the people of California with doomsday scenarios, of thousands of violent, bloodthirsty felons being set free to prey on a helpless society. These fears are also unfounded. Currently, there are five to six thousand three-strikers in prison for 25 years to life; none of the men/women who would be affected by the Amendment are in prison for violent crimes. The irony of the law is that some of the so-called violent or serious crimes are 10, 15, 20, and even 30 years old. Yet, the law was written to get around outmoded ideals such as the United States Constitutional guarantees against double jeopardy, ex post facto violations, and, most importantly, cruel and unusual punishment meted out for minor crimes (many of them misdemeanors prior to 1994). Men/women, whose average age is 40 years old, being sent to prison for the rest of their lives is especially evil when the average life expectancy is 63 years for Blacks and even lower for Hispanics, which make up the vast majority of those sentenced under 3 strikes.

In the months before the November 2nd election, there will be those who will lie, twist the truth, give the public another does of

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.

disinformation, as they did to get the law passed in 1994. After the death of an innocent little girl, the public was led to believe that violent felons would receive 25 years to life; while in reality, people were sent to prison, and are still in prison, for petty crimes—e.g., a drug addict having drugs worth no more than \$2.00 in his pocket, shoplifters, petty thieves, and those who failed to register as drug offenders.

Even our new Governor in one televised debate acknowledged that “the wool was pulled over the eyes of California voters,” concerning the three strikes law. But now he has put on the mantle of all the other career politicians, trying to justify an unjust law by saying it prevents violent crime. While violent crime rages in our cities, those of us who are the peacekeepers in prison, model inmates, wait to die slowly, for minor infractions. People convicted of 1st degree murder are eligible for parole in 17 years, and for 2nd degree murder, parole is available after 12 years. But those sentenced for what we may do in the future must serve 25 years before we are eligible for parole; if parole is granted most of the men and women will be 70 plus years old. So in reality it would have been more humane and much cheaper to send all three-strikers to death row, because most of us will die in prison, our children grow up without mothers or fathers. As Jefferson feared, another generation may be worse without us who belong to the ranks of the walking dead. It will be virtually impossible for a 70-year-old woman/man on being released after 25 years of prison to find a job. The public will have to care for us with welfare, SSI, etc., when our productive years have been wasted. None of us have killed, raped, robbed, high jacked, assaulted, or maimed anyone. Yet, our lives are forfeit simply because like Jefferson, the powers that be are more worried about admitting a mistake than acknowledging the unjust wrongs of this law.

Revenge is frowned on in the American system of justice. Mike Reynolds, a grieving father whose daughter was killed in a senseless act of violence, has done just that. He has avenged the death of his daughter by writing and vigorously promoting a law that punishes minor crimes with a life sentence. It would be the same if the family of victims in Court proceedings were allowed to sit on the jury during trial.

In interviews Mr. Reynolds makes statements such as “keeping even non-violent strikers in prison is saving lives.” Or that the Hillside Strangler, who killed 19 women, if the law were weakened would only have been convicted of one murder—which is blatantly false, yet these are the kinds of scare tactics that are being used to bolster the law. Mr. Reynolds says that “a few may not deserve life in prison, but the courts will weed them out.” But in truth, the law has in fact tied the

hands of the Courts.

In conclusion, we that are sentenced to die implore the voters of California to spare our lives, give us the chance to serve some useful purpose in the life that’s left to us. The district attorneys, prison guards union, and the police have a vested interest in keeping prisons full to capacity — which is nothing more than job security! What does it say of a nation that has turned the misery of its citizens into a cottage industry? We that are sentenced to die are also shocked and saddened by images of murder and violence. We too believe that if our crimes were that type, then the punishment should fit the crime and there would be no argument from us. But this law is wrong and unjust: we strikers are in our desperate hours, praying that the voters of California will see the injustice of the three strikes law.

— A California prisoner, Pleasant Valley State Prison, July 2004

3 strikes and Child Protection Act of 2004

In the upcoming elections of November there is a proposed change in the infamous California 3 Strikes Law. The proposed new law is designated as the 3 Strikes and Child Protection Act of 2004 and will be voted on in November. Once again, the politicians, professional jailers, and prison-keepers are attempting to mislead Californians, as well as distorting the facts.

If this new law is approved by California voters there will not be a release of violent or serious offenders. The newly proposed law states this clearly. What the passage of this law will do is eventually release prisoners who were sentenced under the existing draconian 3 Strikes Law. Again, this law will release non-violent, non-serious offenders only. It also increases the severity of punishment for crimes against children. It may also be pointed out that many prisoners who are in prison under the current 3 Strikes Law have already served years in prison.

The people of California are being asked to right a serious wrong in November. Many prisoners were sentenced for relatively minor non-violent, non-serious crimes. The resulting sentences were often as long, or, in some cases longer than received by individuals whom were actually convicted of murder and other heinous crimes.

There are people in California who value their pizzas, or CDs, to the point of agreeing that the theft of such articles justifies sentences of 25 years to life, or more. Others feel that the theft of golf clubs would also merit such sentences.

Courts, state and federal, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have ruled that the 3 Strike Law as applied in California, is not “Cruel and unusual punishment!” It is possible that these

courts would not consider boiling a prisoner in old as “cruel and unusual punishment.” These views can not be a true representation or reflection of most Californians idea of justice. The California 3 Strikes Law violates every principle of the punishment fitting the crime, politicians and lawyer’s sophistry notwithstanding.

Finally, we can address the myth that the extremely harsh 3 Strike Law of California has reduced the crime rate. Statistical data is available that shows that counties that have employed the 3 Strike Law less than Los Angeles or Sacramento counties, (which have employed the law more than other counties) have actually had less crime, rather than the opposite, as politicians and prisoner-keepers would have the public believe.

It is beyond the scope of this writing to produce lengthy statistical data - it is out there and available if one cares to look for it. To bring this myth to a close, it can be asked, how is it that other states with no 3 strike law have actually had their crimes rates reduced more than California or other states with some form of this law.

It is the hope of many that the people of California will not be duped by posturing politicians, professional jailers and their minions into not approving this act of justice on the November ballot.

— a California prisoner, June 2004

MIM adds: We have received many more articles from our comrades behind bars urging people to vote to modify the California Three Strikes Law in November. MIM believes the proposed new law does not go far enough, and it contains some significant errors, including keeping the Three Strikes law in any form, and specifically leaving “serious felonies” (non-violent) under the Three Strikes law (see MN304, July 2004). But any decrease in imprisonment would be progress. We just need to be careful not to advocate in favor of this ballot proposition as if everyone not covered by it deserves the criminal injustice they receive. Decreasing the application of the Three Strikes Law will be progress, but it will not stop the ongoing injustice of the system.



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?

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.



Bush reitera lo mismo: es posible un aumento de tropas en Irak

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

El 24 de mayo, Bush salió en la tele con fin de preparar al público para las semanas y los meses que tocan en Irak. "Nuestros comandantes han estimado que menos de 115,000 tropas resultarían suficientes en este momento del conflicto"- dijo Bush. "Dado el reciente crecimiento de la violencia, mantendremos el actual nivel de tropas- 138,000- por el tiempo que sea necesario".

"Si los comandantes necesitan más tropas"- dijo Bush,- "las mandaré". (1) El mismo día el senador demócrata Joe Lieberman se puso del lado del presidente diciendo en el CNN que la guerra en Irak era "una prueba generacional". En vez de señalar que esta guerra ha fomentado el odio hacia el imperialismo estadounidense, Lieberman declaró que habría más ataques en el suelo estadounidense si las tropas no se quedan en Irak.

Mientras tanto, los senadores Hillary Clinton (D-NY) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) hicieron un llamado abogando por unas "fuerzas militares más amplias". Hillary Clinton expresó dudas en cuanto al financiamiento de las mismas pero dijo que no había otra opción. (2) Es posible que Graham vea la guerra como una oportunidad de trabajo para los blancos jóvenes rurales de su estado, ya que Carolina del Sur ha perdido muchos puestos de trabajo, pero se niega a implementar cambios.

Los múltiples escándalos alrededor del tema de torturas de los prisioneros en Irak y Afganistán significan que otros imperialistas como la ONU están en una mejor posición para negociar. En este momento los gobernantes estadounidenses están tratando de aparentar flexibles ante el público. Nosotros pensamos que esta apariencia se dirige más que nada hacia la opinión pública estadounidense, y no tanto hacia otros líderes estatales.

La diplomática de Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, dijo que apreciaba el reconocimiento del valor de la ONU por parte de Bush el 24 de mayo. El hecho de que Bush está dispuesto a fomentar las ilusiones de la población electoral demócrata indica que existe una unidad bipartidista.

El MIM anticipa la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones a menos que los iraquíes u otros luchadores del Medio Oriente obtengan una enorme victoria militar o a menos que haya una desesperada lucha radical en contra del servicio militar

obligatorio durante los meses que vienen. Por el momento parece que la posibilidad de sacar a EE. UU. de Irak es mejor que nunca: 1) Bush está "recibiendo palizas" a nivel internacional y hasta cierto punto dentro de EE.UU.; 2) Bush y Blair aparecieron ante la ONU buscando una bendición para la ocupación. Hay que enfatizar que si bien es cierto que EE. UU. están recibiendo palizas militares y latigazos verbales por parte de la opinión pública internacional, y que pronto Bush se enfrentará a las elecciones, es posible que dicha búsqueda del apoyo de la ONU tenga como su meta una consolidación de la opinión pública estadounidense con respecto al tema del servicio militar obligatorio. A los imperialistas les gusta decir que ellos "hicieron un intento" con la ONU y fallaron, de modo que necesitan implementar un servicio militar obligatorio. (Desde nuestro punto de vista, no importa si el Tío Sam decide arruinar el país mediante gastos de déficit para expandir las fuerzas militares o implementar el servicio militar obligatorio. De cualquier manera el imperialismo estadounidense está condenado a ser parte del basurero de la historia. Cuanto más luchan los iraquíes y los afganos, menos eficaces serán los mercenarios que llevan a cabo reclutamientos.)

Los imperialistas jugarán las cartas de la ONU. Otra carta podría ser la Liga Árabe, una asociación de lacayos gubernamentales árabes. El 23 de mayo, los lacayos árabes sugirieron la idea de mandar tropas a Irak como parte de la fuerza internacional respaldada por la ONU. (3) Un milagro diplomático llevaría tropas árabes a Irak, y Bush podría lanzar un grito de victoria para las elecciones de noviembre.

Nosotros pensamos que es muy probable que todos estos esquemas se implementen con el fin de demostrar al público estadounidense que Bush "hizo el intento", y de darles a los senadores Clinton y Lieberman las excusas que necesitan para respaldar diseños más agresivos. Es posible que Inglaterra sea uno de los pocos países que se nieguen a contribuir muchas tropas a los imperialistas estadounidenses. Un 66% del público electoral inglés se opone a que se manden ni siquiera 3000 tropas más a Irak. (4) Los imperialistas estadounidenses carecen de personal militar hasta tal grado que no son capaces de continuar sus operaciones ofensivas contra Irán, Siria o Corea del Norte. Cuatro hechos sobre los movimientos de tropas enemigas y la "estructura de sus fuerzas" demuestran porqué la capacidad militar de los imperialistas ha llegado al extremo, dada la ausencia de un reclutamiento militar obligatorio.

En primer lugar, las tres divisiones

(alrededor de 50,000 soldados) recientemente retirados de Irak están clasificadas como "no preparadas para luchar". (5) Hasta que no se reemplace o se repare su armamento, en lo cual se tardarán unos cuantos meses, estas tropas no estarán disponibles para su uso en el extranjero. Estas divisiones han sido reemplazadas por reservistas y guardias nacionales. Con menos entrenamiento y un armamento inferior estos soldados serán menos eficaces.

En segundo lugar, el enemigo ha tomado la decisión de retirar sus tropas del Corea del Sur para mandarlas a Irak, y no es para que los soldados del frente coreano obtengan una "auténtica" experiencia de combate. (6) La desesperación del enemigo es suficiente para que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

En tercer lugar, EE. UU. han empezado a buscar miembros de la Reserva Individual, en otras palabras, soldados que durante los últimos ocho años han estado en servicio activo o pasivo. Están sujetos a la posibilidad de una movilización a base de aviso, aunque no estén pasando por un entrenamiento junto con la guardia activa o unidades de la reserva pasiva. (7) Si bien los funcionarios frecuentemente se han negado a dar de baja a personal militar en servicio activo de acuerdo con el programa "paremos las pérdidas", una activación de la Reserva Individual es el último paso que el gobierno puede dar para incrementar el número de tropas, si se evita la introducción del servicio militar obligatorio. En cuarto lugar, EE. UU. también están planeando mandar a Irak sus unidades de entrenamiento de la fuerza de oposición ("OpFor"). (8) OpFor son los mejores soldados de las fuerzas militares. Su trabajo consiste en entrenar nuevas unidades de acuerdo con los estándares más altos. La presencia de estas unidades en Irak significa que los reclutas recién entrenados no tendrán ni idea sobre cómo pelear, de modo que logros a largo plazo (algunos de los mejores soldados de las fuerzas armadas en Irak) resultan en pérdidas a largo plazo (reclutas no entrenados serán aplastados como moscas el año que viene, y sus compañeros fastidiados o indispuestos a luchar terminarán matando a oficiales).

Estos cuatro hechos indican que EE. UU. no tienen el personal adecuado para llevar a cabo sus planes, lo cual implica la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones, independientemente de que facción imperialista obtenga el poder estatal. El servicio militar obligatorio no es más que otra forma de opresión de los jóvenes, aún en países imperialistas. Los imperialistas estadounidenses se han dado cuenta de que no obtendrán apoyo material de los imperialistas alemanes y franceses, y ni siquiera de la ONU. Los socios de un crimen con derechos iguales se respetan a sí mismos. Así que EE. UU. implementarán un reclutamiento obligatorio: los problemas

presupuestarios apuntan a la misma posibilidad.

El capitalismo promociona una actitud de "vivir en el momento". Este hecho envenena el razonamiento capitalista en cuanto a la guerra. Esta es una de las múltiples razones por la cual el MIM tiene confianza estratégica en el proletariado mundial. Los imperialistas siguen cometiendo errores en esta guerra (9) debido a una sobreestimación de su poder y no pueden admitir la verdad- el hecho de que su imperio está construido sobre el sudor y la sangre de la mano de obra tercermundista robada por los imperialistas.

Sin considerar el insano tratamiento de los prisioneros y los abusos de los civiles documentados en previos artículos de MIM Notes, está claro que nuestros enemigos están extendidos más allá de su capacidad y están cometiendo errores. Si se suman sus cálculos erróneos de fuerzas militares y sus atrocidades contra el pueblo de Irak, se obtendrá un resultado claro: los imperialistas perderán la guerra en Irak. Cuanto antes sea la derrota, mejor para todos nosotros.

Estos hechos confirman la predicción del MIM de que los países imperialistas desesperadamente necesitados de recursos tercermundistas, terminarán expandiéndose más allá de su capacidad e involucrándose en difíciles guerras por recursos tercermundistas. El enemigo está cometiendo graves errores diarios. Pero nuestra victoria no será rápida: desafortunadamente, los imperialistas matarán a muchos proletarios antes de que sus errores estratégicos se manifiesten en sus propios países. Tenemos que minimizar nuestras pérdidas hasta el máximo grado posible mediante la organización de una resistencia a la guerra. No tarden en oponerse al imperialismo: la vida que Uds. salven puede ser la suya.

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