

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

'Rebuke' of Israel belies U\$ support for war on Palestine

by MC12 and
a MIM correspondent
March 15, 2002

The timing was perfect. If you want to understand how Amerika pulls the strings, pays the bills and supplies the weapons to achieve hegemony in the Middle East, just trace the events of the middle of March.

On March 14, The New York Times editorialized that the Israeli army's giant invasion of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank was "unwise," "unacceptable," and even "utterly counterproductive, undermining Israel's own interests and immensely complicating American diplomacy." (1) Israel had brought some 20,000 troops to Ramallah, killing dozens, rounding up hundreds of men on the basis of age and nationality alone, cutting off water and power to the main hospital in the city, and preventing ambulances from evacuating the wounded. (2)

The choreography was obvious. "Frankly," said U.\$ President Bush, "it's not helpful what the Israelis have recently done in order to create conditions for



The Israeli army beats down the Palestinian people, as U.\$ pulls the strings.

peace ... I understand someone trying to defend themselves and to fight terror. But the recent actions aren't helpful." You know the diplomats are in charge when Bush uses the same phrase over and over. The "not helpful" comment was judged a "harsh rebuke" in the New York Times headline on page one. (1)

The Times editorial concluded: "Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, needs to realize that while Washington remains fully committed to Israeli security, it cannot accept a policy that relies increasingly on military force alone and seems indifferent to American efforts to help negotiate an early cease-fire as a

first step toward an eventual fair and lasting peace." (3) So, Israel should back out of Ramallah, so the U.\$ can get back to supporting the occupation of Palestine and the destruction of Palestinian national self-determination.

While Israel was making "facts on the
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Argentina: So what comes after the pot-banging?

by Luis Arce Borja

Luis Arce Borja is the editor of *El Diario International*, most known for interviewing comrade Gonzalo at length — an interview MIM has distributed for over a decade now. He currently live in exile.

Much has been written about the social upheaval in Argentina that began on the 19th and 20th of December and the events deserve the attention they've received. The poor masses in this country have discovered, in only a few days, that by struggling inflexibly and going beyond the legal order and the laws of the state, it is possible to topple ministers and presidents. The valor of the Argentinean masses is impressive, and their actions in the field of class struggle are an example for all of Latin America. By means of an intense struggle they toppled several presidents there. On December 21st De la Ra went out with a bang. Then, following him, they toppled the interim president Ramon Puertas. And later they made Adolfo Rodriguez Saa give up his power. A private consulting firm specializing in Argentina fixes the socio-economic context of this struggle as the mounting economic and political crisis in Argentina by pointing out that every 24 hours "more than eight thousand people" become trapped in hunger and absolute impoverishment and

more than one million people have to survive on one peso per day." (Consultora Privada Equis, published in *El Diario de Argentina*, p. 12, July 2001)

This article is not intended to analyze the elements of the economic and social crisis in Argentina, a crisis that, it is well known, is fundamentally due to: First, the politics of looting and pillaging imposed on the so-called 'Third World'

countries by the world's superpowers, especially the United States. The looting takes place by way of debt (high interest rates and means of payment), and unequal commercial and economic exchange. In the second place the crisis is due to the political vandalism of the social classes that take turns leading the State. Here, as in most Latin American countries, the social classes (big bourgeoisie and

landlords) that hold power are figureheads of international superpowers and their domestic role is limited to administering to the well being of transnational corporations. From the beginning these classes are completely dependent (politically, economically and culturally) on the imperialist countries. Historically, in more than 180 years of
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Amerika: The real nuclear rogue state

by MC206

The Los Angeles Times reported on March 10 that the U.\$ government is preparing for nuclear attacks on at least seven countries. The Bush administration's classified Nuclear Policy Review (NPR) says that the United States should be ready to use nuclear weapons in retaliation for attacks with nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons; "against targets able to withstand nonnuclear weapons"; or just "in the event of surprising military developments." The NPR names China, Iran, Iraq, north Korea, Libya, Russia, and Syria as potential targets. (1) Of these countries, only China and Russia possess nuclear weapons.

A wide range of people — from bourgeois diplomats to nuclear-disarmament lobbyists to genuine

internationalists and proletarian revolutionaries — immediately denounced the NPR as a provocation, a sure way to increase the probability of nuclear war. For example, as a prerequisite to signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, 182 countries quite understandably demanded that countries with nuclear weapons pledge never to use them against nonnuclear countries. (2) The United States has now publicly torn up that pledge — not that it paid such pieces of paper much attention in the past.

Even former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara — one of the arrogant fools who led the U.\$ war of aggression against Vietnam — correctly criticized the NPR. "[T]he basic implication of the NPR — that the U.S. reserves the right to target any nation [for nuclear attack] whenever it chooses to — is itself likely

to increase the risk for nuclear proliferation... A quote attributed to Indian George Fernandes provides some insight: 'Before one challenges the United States, one must first acquire nuclear weapons.'" (2)

North Korea denounced the NPR as "an inhuman plan to spark a global nuclear arms race" and said it would take "strong countermeasures." Bourgeois pundits were quick to take this to mean north Korea is developing nuclear weapons. (3) MIM has no idea if this is true — but we will point out that it is extremely arrogant and hypocritical for the United States to openly bully nonnuclear nations with nuclear attack and expect them not to take steps to defend themselves.

MIM is not surprised to learn that the
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Letters Wishywashy Wimps?

Dear MIM,

It has been almost six months since the WTC, Pentagon attacks and almost five months since the U.S started bombing Afghanistan. What the current world situation indicates is that there will be greater conflicts in the coming years between the "First World" and "Third World" nations. The Trotskyists will continue to insist that the workers in the imperialist countries will have to lead the world revolution. You and I know that they will continue to support imperialism wholeheartedly as the U.S and Britain continue their wars. This is because they benefit from imperialism as did most of those who died in the WTC. I am not saying that they "deserved to die".

Although their deaths were lamentable I don't see why MIM would "mourn" for them when thousands of people starve to death every day for the profits of the imperialists and to maintain the lifestyles of the WTC victims and other "First World" people (including myself).

As you may know some Trotskyists groups have been debating whether or not to call for the military defeat of the imperialists. Although many do indeed, all of them still insist that the U.S working class must lead the revolution. That, they insist is the only way to actually defeat imperialism. I don't believe that you share this position which gives you the opportunity to side with the oppressed of the world by calling for the defeat of U.S /British imperialism without any illusions in the mythical revolutionary tendencies of the labor aristocracy. So far however, you have frankly been sounding like a bunch of wishywashy wimps.

In struggle, a reader

MIM responds: MIM mourns all

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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unnecessary deaths that result from imperialism. This reader is correct that most of the people who died in the WTC benefit from imperialism. And as the reader says, their deaths are lamentable. So it is important that we put this out there to our readers: All these unnecessary deaths are the fault of imperialism. We mourn for their deaths because we can envision a society in which these deaths would never happen and instead these people would be leading productive lives contributing to the betterment of humanity.

This reader is correct that MIM takes a strong stance in support of the international proletariat as the leadership of the revolution. We know that the vast majority of workers within u.s. borders are benefiting from imperialism and are not proletarian but rather petty bourgeois. Imperialism will never be defeated by relying on these so-called workers who are actually parasites living at the expense of the international proletariat. They have a material interest in supporting imperialism. When we call for the defeat of imperialism we do not have any false illusions about the petty bourgeoisie in the imperialist countries joining the revolution *en masse*.

Within imperialist countries we have to build an anti-imperialist movement from what is at hand. This means uniting with the oppressed nations, organizing the proletariat and lumpenproletariat, and trying to recruit as many petty bourgeois individuals in imperialist countries as possible, appealing to their interests in avoiding unnecessary deaths like those at the WTC.

Ooops... those MIM bureaucrats fucked up again

A prisoner correspondent informed us that we misspelled a word in his letter published in the 15 December 2001 MIM Notes, significantly changing the meaning.

Here is what we published:

"I know some people who read the Bible read MIM Notes and I would like to say the following: Tell me, you readers of MIM Notes who believe the Bible, how can you really continue to follow Fallwell, Graham, Copeland, etc. etc.? . . . As far as I'm concerned the people who are acting as real shepherds of God are the MIM Notes staff, even though they may not believe in God, they are more compassionate towards the people, for educating them about the evil government so that they can perfect themselves."

That should read: "... educating them about the evil government so that they can *protect* themselves."

Attention subscribers

MIM now sends MIM Notes subscriptions to individuals in monthly mailings, third class mail. If you have a subscription and would like a refund for the remaining months, please write to MIM, PO Box 29670, Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670.

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.

San Francisco Police Commission turns blind eye to police brutality

On February 27 over 100 people gathered at the San Francisco Hall of (in)Justice to protest the beating of Black children by police on Martin Luther King Day (see MIM Notes 254). The attack occurred at Hunters Point, a relatively poor and predominately Black community in San Francisco.

Cops brutalized four youth between 12 and 14 years of age sitting in a car, listening to music. The pigs fondled the young girls; they beat one young boy after he asked why they had a gun to his cousin's head. The cops then refused to give out their names or badge numbers. When asked why they were doing this, one pig said "As long as you people are here, we will act like this." The police have not charged any of the kids with any crime.

The demonstration outside the Hall of (in)Justice building preceded a community speak out at the public Police Commissioners meeting. Protesters filed into the building past metal detectors and pigs, who searched bags and arbitrarily limited the number of signs anyone could carry to two.

In spite of — because of — advance warning of the large turnout planned, the commissioners held their meeting in a room with very little public seating. The commissioners were late; after waiting 15 minutes for a commission that clearly serves the pigs and not the public, the crowd started to chant "Stop police brutality in the Black community."

When the commissioners finally showed up they asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance. Most of the audience was already standing, packed into the small isles of the meeting room. At this point most of those in attendance sat down on the floor in protest, refusing to recognize allegiance to a flag that stands for national oppression.

The police then announced that the cops responsible for the brutal beatings and harassment of the youth in Hunters Point had been reassigned to other communities. Until that day, these cops had been seen driving slowly by the houses of the kids they had brutalized, further terrorizing them. The community members were clear that they wouldn't stand for these same pigs harassing and

beating kids in some other neighborhood. When it was announced that the cops had been reassigned, the audience broke out chanting "Off the Force."

But the commissioners weren't listening. At the end of the meeting they decided that the abusive officers should stay on the streets.

The protest brought out a broad range of supporters from the Bay Area including the president of the San Francisco NOW chapter, who called for the prosecution of the cops.

Clearly concerned about the public outcry, the police announced that the incident was under investigation. But, as the parents of the kids who were attacked pointed out, there should not be a need for more investigation over a month after the incident happened. There is no dispute about what happened. Many people saw the cops attack the kids; parents were kept from helping their children with the threat of being shot. Photos were taken of the kids after they were beaten and of the cops who participated. Doctors reports are readily available for the boy who was

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INS agents brutalize and murder Latinos at illegitimate u.s.-Mexico border

The U.S. Border Patrol stepped up attacks on people crossing the illegitimate U.S.-Mexico border in February. They arrested more than 200 undocumented immigrants in raids on public trolleys and busses in San Diego over several weeks. Activists with the Raza Rights Coalition have been protesting these raids and documenting the abuses.

One activist, Benjamin Prado, was arrested on February 25 while he was filming the raids at the trolley's college station. Prado was talking to someone who was injured by an agent when he was attacked by a group of about 12 agents. He was beaten and then thrown in jail and charged with assaulting the agents. After public demonstrations, and a phone calling campaign the local prosecutor's office dropped the charges and released him.

The day before Prado was attacked by INS agents, Mexican immigrant Serafin Olvera died from injuries received at the hands of INS agents in March 2001. INS agents severely beat Olivera after arresting him in a raid in Texas. One agent broke Olivera's spine with his knee. Olivera was paralyzed from the neck down and was hospitalized for nearly a year before doctors declared him brain dead and his family took him off life support February 24th. All eyewitnesses to the beating were deported before they could be interviewed.

In both cases activists are working on filing civil cases against the INS. These cases present an opportunity to expose and oppose the brutality of the particular agents involved, and the systematic violence along the u.s.-Mexico border. This is but one part of the complex system of repression that lowers wages outside of imperialist countries - and in industries dominated by "illegal" immigrants — while inflating wages in the imperialist mainstream.

Just as MIM supports reforms under capitalism to would improve oppressed-nation worker's rights and real wages through a WTO-like body, MIM uses the imperialists' "free market" rhetoric to demand a "free" labor market: One where workers could choose to work inside U.S. border without risking their lives. Under socialism, MIM would open the borders. Jobs would be guaranteed — indeed, required — for all able to work, so there would be no need to cry about immigrants stealing "American" jobs.

Note: Immigration News Briefs, Vol. 5, No. 9 - March 1, 2002. Immigration News Briefs is a weekly supplement to Weekly News Update on the Americas, published by Nicaragua Solidarity Network, 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012, wnu@igc.org

'Former drug warrior' Gray denounces Amerika's drug policies

Los Angeles

Self-described "former drug warrior" and author of the book *Why Our Drug Policies Have Failed* Judge Jim Gray spoke to an audience of 70 medical students, researchers and professionals at the University of Southern California on March 7.(1) Judge Gray echoed many of the things MIM has said over the last decade.

■Despite the rhetoric about this being the "land of the free," the United States imprisons more people per capita than any other country in the world. (Depending on whose estimate of the number of prisoners in China you believe, the United States may also lead in absolute numbers.) The more than 2,000,000 people in Amerikan prisons are disproportionately people of color, because of the racism inherent in Amerikan laws and how they are applied — or, as MIM would say, the Amerikan (in)justice system helps maintain national oppression within U.S. borders. The huge increase in the Amerikan prison population over the last 15 years is mainly due to the so-called "war on drugs."

■The "war on drugs" has not worked. The supply of drugs like heroin and cocaine has increased; drug prices have dropped. Rates of crimes associated with drug use — e.g. petty theft — have not decreased.

■Despite its obvious failure, the war on drugs continues for opportunistic economic and political reasons. As Judge

Gray puts it, the "war on drugs" is not winnable, but it is fundable. Bourgeois politicians use the "war on drugs" as an excuse to throw money at political backers. Conversely, groups which benefit from the "war on drugs" and the associated incarceration craze buy elections. The prison guard union is the biggest campaign contributor in California, for example. MIM investigated the political economy of prisons in *MIM Theory 11*. Besides being a front for corrupt parasitism, prisons provide capitalists a literally captive

market and labor force.

■There is a simple reason the abuse of drugs like heroin and cocaine remains a problem in U.S. borders: Profit. The fact that these drugs are sold on the black market drives up the profit margin — under capitalism this means that *somebody* will produce and supply these drugs, whatever the consequences to users. (Just like as long as there are restrictions on immigration, somebody will make money smuggling people across borders — whatever the risks to

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Yahoo! earns its name in Nepal news

On March 5th, Yahoo! published a stupid article on the situation of wimmin in Nepal.

The article cited the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) which apparently said that the Nepalese monarchy has not had a chance to pass a new law more tolerant of abortion. The blame goes to the Maoist guerillas for making the monarchy too busy, so the article says.

No where does the article mention the Maoist stance on abortion or how Maoist China performed the best amongst all countries of its level income per head—the vast majority of countries in the world—when it came to maternal and child mortality. The progress under Mao meant that tens of millions of infants in India and elsewhere died each

year for not keeping up with communist China—the regular and sustained bloodbath of the world's capitalist status quo.

"Nepal has the fourth highest maternal death rate in the world, with 539 women in every 100,000 of reproductive age dying from pregnancy-related complications each year, compared with seven annually in the United States. United Nations agencies estimate that half of these women die from unsafe abortions."

Then they wonder why there is a Maoist revolution.

Note:

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=655&u=/oneworld/20020305/wl_oneworld/1032_1015329043

Argentina: So what comes after the pot-banging?

running the State they have been unable to structure even a national bourgeois project. They've only been concerned with preying upon the wealth of the country and super-exploiting wagers. Their incredible profits don't depend on developing a productive system, but on looting, theft, bribery, contraband and other crimes that originate with in the State.

What is this article about?

The point here is to analyze the trajectory and the political course of the process of struggle that began last December 19th and 20th and that remains vigorous today. Essentially we want to make some comments about the spontaneous character of this movement. Along with this, we want to investigate its political perspective and determine if this movement can go beyond toppling presidents and other government officials.

Is the force of this movement capable of generating a fundamental change in the State, in political rule, and in the relationship between the social classes in Argentina?

Lenin notes that the spontaneous movement of the masses represents the "embryonic form of their conscious movement" and a "type of waking of the revolutionary consciousness of the masses." At the same time, Lenin noted that while never underestimating the importance of the spontaneous element, this element is insignificant without partaking in a process of consistent struggle for political power. For his part, Frederick Engels, while talking about the conscious and the spontaneous struggle pointed out (on September 21, 1871) that revolution is a supreme act of political consciousness and that this is due to "education about revolution", that without which, "on the day after" the workers and other oppressed masses will "have been victims of deceit." The theoretical conclusion, from the point of view of Marxism, on the spontaneous movement in Argentina or anywhere else in the world is that this type of struggle, no matter how much energy and selflessness is expressed by its participants, does not in itself have a genuine position towards power and its immediate future will be to squander its forces and to debilitate popular protest. This type of eclectic, directionless movement will lack the steadiness required not only for winning even modest political goals but also narrow reformist goals.

The frailty of the spontaneous movement (its lack of consciousness) will place it on the sidelines of the genuine struggle for the political power of the State. So long as there is no broad relationship, no insoluble unity, between the conscious element (i.e., revolutionary organization) and the spontaneous movement, the workers' struggle and their mobilizations will no doubt have spectacular effects — but these will be

chance events and will be incapable of transforming into the strategic movement of the oppressed. Latin America is remarkable in producing dozens of concrete examples regarding the spontaneous mass struggle and its objective difficulty in uniting with the conscious element. The movements that were on the margin of the conscious element eventually lost the popular perspective and were finally manipulated and used for the benefit of this or that big-bourgeois faction or else to endow the electoral process with a carnival-like tempo. Ecuador is a good example of this. In 1999 the reactionary government of Yamil Mahuand was overthrown by a popular indigenous insurrection. The masses formed a "Popular Parliament" and "the People's Congress." A so-called "Junta for National Salvation," that did ultimately did not save anything and that relied on the participation of a group of military officials that were innocently labeled by some as "patriotic nationalists." (Later these officials backstabbed the masses and went on to take turns leading the government). The collapse of Hamuand did not in the least affect the State or the classes that lead it. Quietly, the toppled president was replaced by another and now, in 2002, the peasants and other popular classes remain as poor and exploited as in 1999. Not so much as the memory remains of their "Popular Parliament" and all the other "popular" flair that was organized in the clouds (without so much as touching State power).

In Ecuador as in Argentina today, the fundamental problem has to do with knowing if there is an organization capable of contributing to the development of the conscious element in the mass movement. In contrast to the desperate revolts that now and then spontaneously erupt, the conscious element rises out of the long road of theoretical and practical exertion in the arena of class struggle. The conscious element is not abstracted from thought or from political discourse. It has to do with the revolutionary theoretical aspect that only a genuine proletarian Party is capable of delivering to the masses. Only a revolutionary organization can transform the spontaneous movement into a formidable weapon to liquidate exploitation and imperialist domination. Consciousness of the struggle for power and definite systemic change arises exclusively from a vanguard that is theoretically and practically disposed to organize and lead the masses towards class confrontation with the bourgeoisie, the landlords and imperialism.

Those who believe that the internal dynamics of a spontaneous movement can, in and of itself, generate the conscious element are mistaken. Neither in theory nor in practice will this ever happen. It's no big thing when different left organizations in Argentina holler and proclaim on their red banners that the pot-banging and nationalist demonstrations

will cash out in an inevitable "revolutionary situation." We should not wait around for the consciousness and direction of this movement to spring forth from the spontaneity of the masses. In the best cases, depending on the objective circumstances of the moment, the spontaneous movement will typically produce economist councils and leaders. Without the direct guidance of an organization (a revolutionary party), the spontaneous movement will continue to navigate the sea of confusion. And while there is no qualitative change in the ideological, political and organizational orientation of the workers, the actual spontaneous movement in Latin America will continue to unfold sporadically (here now, gone tomorrow) as a phenomenon inherent to the intensifying systemic and state crisis.

By means of the spontaneous mass struggle, as is the case in Argentina, it is possible to shake-up the leading classes. It is also possible to topple presidents and ministers but you can't even dream of disempowering the landlords and the bourgeoisie. Another overtone associated with the struggle for power has to do with the elements fundamental to social struggle and of the historical process of the class struggle. Here we are essentially establishing the problem of revolutionary leadership (the Party), and the problem of People's Army and of the United Front of the oppressed classes. Only by employing these three instruments along with a correct political and military strategy can the workers and the other oppressed classes (both in theory and in practice) set before themselves the task of annihilating the State, exploitation and imperialist domination.

It's far-fetched to believe that the oppressed can tear power away from the powerful by means of spontaneous movements and by using, of all weapons, kitchen pots and pans. In the struggle for the political power of the state, pots and pans (a great invention of the mobilized masses), can play an interesting role by sounding-in the mobilization, but will be insufficient to stop the State's repressive forces—forces that shoot to kill whenever the stability of the State and the system are endangered. In countries that are dominated by the world economic powers and by a decadent ruling class it is impossible to conceive of altering the social position of the poor without first liquidating the State's repressive apparatus (the armed forces, the police and paramilitary groups). This is in addition to abolishing the bourgeois parliament, judicial power and other institutions administered by the ruling classes and imperialism. Fundamental change in the plight of the oppressed in the poor countries hinges on a violent struggle for state power (call it armed struggle, people's war or insurrection). Because of its strategic scope, this struggle cannot be left up to the spontaneity of the masses. Either the spontaneous struggle gets consciousness

and political direction or it will end up dispersing popular struggles.

Peaceful "pot-banging" and the crisis of political direction

The spontaneous character of the movement in Argentina has endured and its greatest weakness (the absence of revolutionary direction) has deepened in the days following the 19th and 20th of December of last year. We can surmise that within this mass movement the manifestation continues of a majority opinion that bows to spontaneity and that sets itself up against political violence and keeps a distance between the political organizations in the country. For example, a message sent (on January 2002) by unemployed laborers to the leaders of the mass movement explains how any type of "political suggestion from the outside" must be rejected while they proclaim themselves partisan towards the horizontal development of organizational problems and for plain "autonomy towards any external organization." In the same sense the leadership of the mobilizations in Argentina has begun an intense propaganda campaign (through the internet and other media) to institutionalize "peaceful pot-banging" as a form of struggle against the State. (Don't be manipulated...peaceful pot-banging. Say no to violence!—Statement on the web page of "Cacerolazo").

This movement's mistrust towards parties and groups that consider themselves on the left is the logical effect of the backwards conduct of that left — that before and during the upsurge of the December mobilization remained looking up at the clouds and waiting for a ray of light to illuminate the elections. In Argentina, as in most of Latin America, the self-proclaimed "Marxist-Leninist", "Maoist" or "Guevaraist" etc. groups have, for many decades, been out of sync with the popular struggle. The workers spontaneous struggle has eclipsed them and their small role is now limited to organizing the famous "broad electoral fronts," setting up points of unity with cats and dogs, and hollering along with any slogan about how this or that official should get out. This left does not approach the masses with intent to lead them, but only to manipulate them and separate them from the conscious struggle for power. For example, in a war of communiques between the Party for the Liberation of Argentina (PL) and the Revolutionary Communist Party (PCR) the latter is accused of characterizing the instigators of the December upsurge as "elements at the service of state intelligence." PL also claims that the Communist Party of Argentina (PCA), the United Left, the Socialist Worker's Movement and other organizations seek to cloak the country's crisis by means of an electoral or parliamentary solution.

It is clear that political consciousness will not fall from the sky, and much less

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Review: Che Guevara on African struggle

Ernesto Che Guevara

The African Dream: The Diaries of the Revolutionary War in the Congo

New York: Grove Press, 1999, (2000, English translation), 244pp.

These diaries are about the military operation of Che Guevara and approximately 200 Cubans in the Congo in 1965. Che sought to give battle to the Belgian and Amerikkkan colonialists and neo-colonialists. The owners of the diaries only released published them in 1999, because Cuba's role in the intervention in Congo was a secret. When the diaries came out in 1999, they were hot news because Che saw himself as serving as a military assistant to young Laurent Kabila, who finally did come to power in the 1990s before his assassination in 2001.

Kabila

The picture that Che paints of Kabila is someone like many other "revolutionary" leaders who spends much time in diplomatic consultations with African heads of states. In fact, Kabila did not visit the front of the armed struggle and constantly showed up late or never to promised meetings with Che. It was apparently mostly Kabila's job to keep aid flowing to the front.

Nonetheless, of all the people he met in the Congo, Che found himself most impressed by Kabila and he said in January 1966: "The only man who has genuine qualities of a mass leader is, in my view, Kabila." (p. 244) At the same time, Che believed Kabila was not quite serious enough for a revolutionary, "he is young and it is possible he will change." (p. 244)

Che's opinion: fiasco

In Che's own opinion, the adventure he led in the Congo was a fiasco. This book is an unvarnished account of what he saw as flaws in the Congolese and Rwandan revolutionaries he met.

In fact, in the difficult terrain of the Congo, Che came to conclude that even "good" Cubans with prior experience in the Cuban Revolution were not good enough to serve in the Congo. He repeatedly said he'd rather have 6 or 8 "super-humans" to start with than hundreds or even thousands of troops who would end up getting sick, running in battle and shooting each other down.

Che's military strategy for revolution starts with the assumption that conditions for revolution are overripe and all that is needed is the stout example of heroic leaders—what he called "armed propaganda." The first group of 8 comrade revolutionaries is a "foco," and "focoism" is Che's theory; however, there is not much theory to this book. Most of it is simply an account of what Che experienced in military operations in the Congo. He gives us details of ambushes and base defenses including some of the gory details of injury and death, drinking bouts of various troops, tropical diseases,

the food and the constant ideological struggle of revolutionaries required to continue with the armed struggle and not degenerate politically. It is perhaps this last existential strain that Che covers in the raw that continues to give Che some appeal to youth today. Even in bourgeois history there are heroes and Che encourages others to become one.

Sino-Soviet split

Che kept quiet about the Sino-Soviet split in the book and he often mentioned the Russians and Chinese together. There is much speculation about where Che stood in relation to Castro, Mao and other figures. Much of what Mao said about "People's War," Che put into a book of his own on military strategy. In both military matters in the Congo and in economic matters in Cuba, Che distinguished between "moral" incentives and "material" incentives. At the beginning of the Congo adventure, the threat to send someone back to Cuba was Che's moral threat to keep discipline amongst the soldiers. He also talked about not letting troops have weapons until they earn their "state of grace." (p. 242) The odd thing about Cuba's role is that while Khrushchev in the Soviet Union was calling for "peaceful transition" to socialism, Castro always supported him. At the same time, Castro was making speeches about Mao being a "fascist." (See our web page.)

It was apparent to Che in the Congo that the Chinese had supplied the various revolutionary groups. They had the material they needed, more than what they used when it came to weapons. It was one of his major complaints that the Congolese in particular did not like to fire their weapons, especially in battle while weapons were pointed at the enemy.

In fact, by the end of the book, Che was arguing that strings should be attached to aid, because according to Che, the Congolese did have adequate weapons to fight. In fact, in a very unusual turn-about, the revolutionaries had more advanced weapons than the Belgian mercenaries and Black troops setting up the regime. (p. 229) Despite higher technology weapons and great monetary support, Che said that the Congolese revolutionaries lost from superstition and lack of motivation. Their leaders spent money from abroad on wine and wimmin while staying in hotels and traveling at the expense of China and other countries. (p. 128) Che said this had the effect of detaching leaders from their front lines.

"They [the Africans—ed.] cling to me when they feel hard up and certainly won't pay me any attention if the money is flowing freely," (p. 129) said Che. It raises for MIM the question of why Che picked the Congo to go to if the situation was going to come down to attaching strings to aid.

Che's lack of political economy

At the end of the book in an epilogue, Che backed up from the details and

explained that there was no land hunger in the area he was fighting. (p. 223) Peasants supported his struggle more as a matter of tribal history. Certain tribes backed certain political leaders and sought military protection from other tribes. Kabila had the backing of one region in the Congo and peasants in that region would often treat the soldiers well. On the other hand, when his troops lost battle and could not protect peasants, the peasants criticized him. Thus, the political capital of the revolution could be squandered by an incorrect approach to revolution.

From his conclusion that the industrial workers — the tiny number that there were — were satisfied and not revolutionary (p. 238) and from his observation that the peasants suffered no land hunger, Che said that more serious thought had to go into making revolution in African conditions. (p. 224) He suggested that the petty-bourgeoisie would have to come into play and lead the revolution, but even the middlemen of trade were hardly very developed.

Throughout the book, Che explains that the Cubans picked to go to the Congo were all Black with the exception of himself. Yet Blackness did not guarantee mixing of Cubans with Africans and the Cubans came to regard it as a mistake that they sent all Blacks. So, there was

no land hunger; troops did not believe they would be fighting the Amerikkans and race was not a sufficient motivating factor either. For Che it was already clear cut that Belgian and U.S. imperialism had to be fought in the Congo, but for the Africans he met, it was not so clear, and Che himself admitted this. What MIM does not understand is how a stout military example could overcome such a complete difference of opinion on goals. Again and again he pointed to a lack of leadership amongst the Africans and a terrible disorganization (e.g. p. 90), but it is also clear that the goals of the Africans were much different than his, and we doubt that any number of successful ambushes and battles could have changed that.

Che does not claim that he knows all the relevant leaders in the Congo and he also openly says he does not have the answer to how to adjust to the concrete conditions in Africa. While we disagree with Che's "foco" theory because it can only work in conditions where there is slight military resistance and conditions are ripe, we also don't think he should have been silent about the split between the U.S.S.R. and China. This book makes very limited claims and seems quite reasonable: For this reason it cannot be strongly condemned or supported.

Mexican people fight for land

by a prisoner in NJ

More than 4,000 small farmers in San Salvador Atenco, Mexico are protesting the construction of a new international airport on their land. San Salvador Atenco is northeast of Mexico City. During a protest on January 14, pro-government goons beat the protestors and fired shots into the air. (1)

The government offered the protestors a small amount of money (based on the land's agricultural value, not its value as commercial property), which the farmers refused. "But San Salvador's residents say this fight is not about money. They simply want no part of [the Mexican government's] vision of progress." (2)

The Mexican government says that the new development will bring jobs and an increased standard of living to the farmers. The farmers aren't buying it. "Ezequiel Hernandez, a 27-year-old land owner, says that as Mexico City continues to creep closer to his village, he wants no part of the new factories opening nearby. They pay \$8 a day, Hernandez says, and barely give their workers time to go to the bathroom.

"We want our land and our freedom,"

he says. "The government wants us to be taxi drivers and luggage-handlers." (2)

The January 14 attack is just a small part of the violence the neo-colonial Mexican state uses against the oppressed and exploited every day. The "development" the Mexican government and its Amerikan masters are pushing serve only the Mexican elite and foreign — principally Amerikan — imperialists. Internationalists in the united States have a responsibility to fight u.S. imperialism in Mexico and stand united with the Mexican people in their fight to get their land back.

These small farmers are willing to fight. "Men, women, even children, we all have our machetes. The whole town is armed," said one farmer. "We will not sell."

"Our land was bought at the price of our ancestors' blood," said another. "It's with the price of our own blood that it will be defended."

Notes:

1. Weekly News Update on the Americas #625, January 20, 2002.
2. Houston Chronicle.

Thieves, spies and murders: running the U\$. government

George Bush appointed former admiral John M. Poindexter to head the Pentagon's new Information Awareness Office. Poindexter was national security adviser under Ronald Reagan from 1983 to 1986, when the U\$. government illegally created and supported the terrorist "contras" to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. The United States was secretly selling arms to Iran and using the profits to supply the contras in Nicaragua. Poindexter, along with his subordinate Oliver North, was forced out of office after this scheme became public in 1986. He was convicted of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and destruction of evidence in 1990, but the conviction was overturned on a technicality on appeal in 1991.(1)

Poindexter was also the mastermind behind a disinformation program aimed at destabilizing Libya's Muammar Qaddafi in 1986. He wrote false reports in the foreign press about an impending conflict with the United States. This strategy backfired when the Wall Street

Journal picked up the story and the Poindexter lies were revealed.(2)

This trustworthy man has now been appointed to a job which is supposed to "counter attacks on the U\$." As The Guardian reported "You want to know what that is? Think, Big Brother is Watching You."(1) This agency will supply federal officials with instant analysis of what is being written on email and said on phones across the United States.

Anyone who thinks the U\$. government doesn't spy on its citizens has their head in the sand. The creation of the Information Awareness Office is just a more open opportunity for the government to gather intelligence now that it has created sufficient fear in the American public to allow for violation of even the most basic of civil rights. Activists in particular should be careful about their e-mail and phone conversations. Always assume the government is listening and give them as little information as possible.



Poindexter (center) with Schultz (left) and Weinberger (right) in the Reagan days.

Poindexter is not the first prominent figure from the Iran contra scandal to be appointed to a post in the Bush administration. John Negroponte, US ambassador to Honduras during the contra war, is now US ambassador to the United Nations. Otto Reich, who headed domestic operations to smear US opponents of the contra war, is assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs. And former assistant secretary of state Elliott Abrams, who

pled guilty in 1991 to two misdemeanor counts of withholding information from Congress, directs the National Security Council (NSC) Office for Democracy, Human Rights and International Operations.(3)

Notes:

1. The Guardian, February 18, 2002.
2. Christian Science Monitor, March 1, 2002.
3. Weekly News Update on the Americas, Issue #631, MARCH 3, 2002, wnu@igc.org.

'Rebuke' of Israel belies U\$ support for war on Palestine

Continued from page 1...

ground," the Americans — politicians and media — were criticizing the actions, asking for Israel to back down a little. Combining military strategy and diplomatic maneuvering, what Israel and Amerika were doing was creating something for Israel to stop doing. Then Amerika could say they took a stand against Israel, just as Vice President Dick Cheney toured Arab countries coercing support for the next phase of the war against Iraq. When Israel grudgingly said it would pull out of Ramallah, their "concession" was just to go back to the situation before the invasion — except for the loss of life and the destruction of Palestinian property and public infrastructure, which cannot be replaced.

The strategy was backed up by a United Nations Security Council resolution suggesting that there should be two states, Palestine and Israel, side by side.(4) This is what former President Clinton said he was offering when the U\$. tried to get Yassir Arafat to accept a "state," that would have existed in permanent subordination to Israel, including Israeli settlements within its borders. U\$. cynicism in the use of the U.N. insults the intelligence of Palestinian supporters, who know that previous U.N. resolutions unambiguously require that Israel unconditionally end the occupation begun in 1967. Every day Amerika pours money and weapons into Israel without honoring that requirement makes a lie of all American claims to support a just solution to the war.

San Francisco protest

Fortunately, the American-backed Israeli aggression has many active critics, including in the U\$.A. On March 13, hundreds of people marched in

downtown San Francisco to protest the escalating Israeli massacre of Palestinian people being financed by the U\$. government. Many people carried signs demanding an end to the occupation and an end to U\$. aid. There were also more pointed signs opposing the massacre being carried out against Palestinian towns and refugee camps, including one carried by a Palestinian woman which showed a picture of a young boy sitting in his house on the ground next to blood splattered across the floor and walls from the murder of his father by Israeli troops. The sign asked "Would you be surprised if this boy became the next suicide bomber?" Another poster passed around featured photos of the extra-judicial killing of a Palestinian man in custody by Israeli police. Death and destruction are daily realities for the Palestinian people, but the violence in March truly has escalated to horrific proportions.

According to the flyer distributed by the Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee at the rally "In the past 2 weeks, Israel has launched a massive assault in which 20,000 Israeli occupation forces have invaded Palestinian towns and refugee camps. More than 150 Palestinians have been killed in the last week, most of them unarmed civilians. Over 1,160 Palestinians have been killed and 18,307 Palestinians have been injured in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since September 29, 2000..."

"Since September 2000, 5 medical workers have been killed, over 130 injured, and 71 ambulances (68% of the fleet) have been attacked by the army. In one case on March 8, Dr No'man, director of Yamama hospital, left the hospital after prior coordination with the Red Cross and Israeli army. He was shot at by Israeli forces near the hospital, and returned inside. After further

coordination with the Red Cross and with the Israeli forces headquarters he was given permission again to leave the hospital, and promised safety. Outside the hospital he was shot dead, in his car, by Israeli forces.

"Israel's latest tactic [is] arbitrarily rounding up hundreds of men and boys (ages 15-45) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and holding them in makeshift prisons. In the refugee camp of Dheishe and town of Qalqilya, specifically, Israeli forces arrested over 1,000 young men and boys who were forced to take off their shirts and jackets before being handcuffed, blindfolded and placed in prison camps."

The day before the rally this MIM reporter watched a young woman tear a flyer off a pole in Berkeley. The flyer called for an end to Israeli aggression against Palestine, stating that it was written by a Jewish person. The woman told MIM she tore down the poster because she did not like to see things like that from people who have never been to the Middle East and know nothing. When asked how she knows who put up the poster she replied "I just know." This is ridiculous since there are clearly many people from the Middle East, even some from Israel, who would agree with the flyer.

This is not to mention that this woman (who walked off before any more discussion could be pursued) would most likely claim to have a valid opinion about the holocaust and many other historical events in spite of never having been there. People do not need to experience the Israeli occupation of Palestine, or the current massacre in Palestine, to know it is wrong. But those supporting the occupation should be clear that they currently have the power in this country. The media reports from the perspective

of Israel and the U\$. state department. The only source of news about what is really going on in Palestine is alternative media. When someone tears down a poster because she disagrees with it she is making a statement not only about the poster but also about her power to silence opposition to her views, and her belief that if people see the poster they will be unable to distinguish truth from lies.

Amerika makes it possible

The San Francisco protestors are correct to target American support for Israel as the principal source of the imperialist problem in the Middle East. Whatever the Israeli government's aggressive intentions, without American support the scale of their domination would severely be limited in the short run, and ended much sooner. American hegemony over the Middle East has expanded greatly since the collapse of the Soviet Union, leaving Arab countries with limited ability to manipulate competing imperialist powers. That is why some notable governments, such as Egypt and Jordan, are kow-towing to the U\$. position against Iraq.(5) With Arab governments dependent on American aid and economic support, and hemmed in militarily, the imperialist machine is tightening its grip on the Middle East people and resources.

Notes:

1. New York Times 14 March 2002, p. A1.
2. New York Times, 13 March 2002, p. A1; 15 March 2002, p. A9.
3. New York Times, 14 March 2002, p. A30.
4. All Security Council resolutions are online at <http://www.un.org/documents/sres.htm>.
5. New York Times, 14 March 2002, p. A19.

New and traditional missionaries rush to “help” Afghanistan

Three-quarters of Amerikan public is unfavorable to Islamic countries

Two in three Americans interviewed by CNN/USA Today/Gallup said that the Muslim countries would be better off if “they adopted U.S. and Western values.”(1) In a way, MIM cannot disagree: Enslaving a continent and stealing another continent from indigenous peoples does make a people “better off” economically, if twisted spiritually. Of course, if every country tried to do the same thing, we would be in a perpetual state of war, so by that measure of the “golden rule,” the united States is no model for the world.

The USA Today article about the polls was typical in covering pro-U.S. views and a pair of token Arab assimilationists who love the West. There were no quotes from the Islamic peoples radically opposed to U.S. values in the USA Today article.

Instead, we heard the usual false propaganda from Americans: “‘They resent our freedom,’ says Kim Schuyler, 35, of West Allis, Wis.” Schuyler merely parroted what Bush said. Earth to Schuyler: The United States leads the world in imprisonment per capita. Therefore, it is not a “free country.” See the statistics printed on our prison page.

“‘They don’t like our ways, but if they get a chance to come here, they come,’ says Charles Plumley, an operating room technician in Glen White, W.Va.” is another typical statement in USA Today, not mere propaganda but a common view heard in the USA. Well Mr. Plumley, bombing countries certainly does persuade the people in those countries to leave and seek shelter elsewhere. Try not to pat yourself on the back for that. Again it’s not something that all countries can do to make their own country more attractive: bomb others. When a country acts like it owns another one, as the united States does all over the world, it is not surprising for a minority of people to want to become overseers for the slavemaster or simply to move around within the same conglomerate.

The “Amerikkkan” model is a prison-state that bombs countries for oil and other resources.

Note: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/washdc/2002/03/05/poll.htm>

Global Exchange to tour Afghanistan

We saw an ad in the “Sojourner: The Women’s Forum” that made us worry that after bombing Afghanistan and feeding the Northern Alliance troops with

parachute food drops, now the United States is going to drop pseudo-feminists on Afghanistan. “Meet the women, learn the facts, make a difference” the tour ad says. Furthermore, it says, “help Afghan women reclaim their basic human rights and establish their role as equal citizens by participating in rebuilding their nation.” A tour of the Global Exchange web site shows that its posture is petty-bourgeois internationalism. Like the typical petty-bourgeois, Global Exchange throws around the term “democracy.” However, to its credit Global Exchange also admits that the united States is not the model democracy and like us points out that the united States is the world’s number one prison-state.

Global Exchange’s internationalism of the wavering sort makes it an organization MIM would like to work with. We agree with its efforts on “fair trade” in some contexts while we do not share their strategy of opposing the NAFTA, WTO etc. We too want to see higher prices for Third World exports to the imperialist countries, and less influence by the military dictatorships set up in those countries by the united States. However, Global Exchange puts forward a vague sort of radicalism denouncing a lack of democracy in today’s WTO, NAFTA etc. while cheerleading for the Zapatistas above all. People who are aware as Global Exchange is that Leonard Peltier is in prison and that the united States is the world’s prison leader with extensive “human rights” violations should come to communist conclusions and not dodge them. There is a reason “democracy” does not “work” or occur in a country where it is so often preached and the reason for that is found nowhere other than Marxism.

Note: <http://www.globalexchange.org/>

Afghanistan: Russophiles still don’t get it

Hard as it may be to believe, those calling themselves “communist” are least likely to understand that Afghanistan did not make forward progress in the last 23 years and is now in a mess. The hatred of Islamic backwardness often seen in the West by the common labor aristocrat expresses itself well in two organizations that loved Brezhnev Russia and do not demarcate against the labor aristocracy in the imperialist countries—“Northstar Compass” and “Internationalist Group.”

The Russophiles abroad have a publication to restore the Soviet Union in its Brezhnev era glory—“Northstar Compass.” The “Northstar Compass” has started publishing some Maoist material, but it has also published the following: “The Taliban: Product of Imperialism. . .

Maoism.”

This sort of cheerleader for the Brezhnev invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 still exists despite the collapse of the Soviet Union and despite the now obvious fact that the invasion accomplished less than nothing. Within Russia, advanced political forces have already realized that the social-imperialist U.S.S.R. was inherently incapable of advancing the situation in Afghanistan and hence Brezhnev’s invasion was a waste of toiler blood.

What Mao knew was how to advance the class struggle including in its manifestations involving national struggle against foreign exploiters. He succeeded in ending semi-feudalism in eastern Asia and kicking out imperialists. He did this by prioritizing the national struggle against Japan first and then the struggle against landlords afterwards. In contrast, Trotskyists and Brezhnevites ended semi-feudalism and imperialist occupations nowhere.

What should have been a technologically superior Soviet army operating in a smaller place than China — Afghanistan — was not able to advance Afghanistan. The only conclusion consistent with the Marxist idea that change was possible in Afghanistan is that the invading “Red Army” was not politically advanced enough to carry out the change needed. Instead of pissing on Mao, those seeking progress in Afghanistan should have learned from Mao instead of inflaming the national contradiction in Afghanistan without resolving it favorably.

The Russophiles of various kinds including Amerikkkan chauvinists

identifying with the projection of European influence into Afghanistan still do not get it: Mao accomplished in China what the Russophiles shouted about but did not accomplish.

Here is what a hard-line Trotskyist group has to say to this day about Afghanistan: “Revolutionaries hailed the Red Army intervention in Afghanistan, one of the few progressive acts by the Stalinists, and one that went sharply against their strategy of “peaceful coexistence” with imperialism. The Soviets did not lose that war on the battlefield, but instead the Kremlin bureaucracy abandoned the effort in vain hopes of reaching a deal with Washington. The ignominious Soviet withdrawal in 1989 set the stage for the collapse of the multinational degenerated workers state.”(2) We will ignore for now that these Trotskyists are calling “Stalinist” people who had denounced Stalin and that those same people who denounced Stalin came up with the “three peacefuls” including “peaceful coexistence” as the general line of the CPSU.

Again, the Trotskyists do not seem to realize that to advance a political situation, one must be advanced oneself in political thinking. Neither the Trotskyists nor Russophile “Stalinists” fit this bill. They seek to drag Marxism and hence the humyn species to a premature death.

Notes:

1. Northstar Compass, December 2001 issue, p. 34.
2. “Internationalist Group,” / www.internationalist.org/defendafghanistan1101.html

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.

S.F. turns blind eye to police brutality

Continued from page 3...

hospitalized with a concussion, teeth shoved up into his gums, requiring stitches both inside and outside his mouth.

Parents and community members stressed over and over that if they had beaten their kids they would be in jail, but when the cops do it, it takes community outcry to even start an investigation.

The father of the boy who was badly beaten spoke of his many years living in the community befriending and supporting the police force. He said "my son was maliciously beaten for asking 'why have you pulled guns on my cousin.'" The police had to go around

people to get to him, he didn't attack, threaten or even approach them but one of the cops gave the order to take him down. The father continued "I taught my three children to trust the SFPD. I have now rescinded my trust. I told my son that if you have trouble just deal with it because you'll be better off in the long run."

The father of the beaten boy expressed the belief that this was an isolated problem saying that "we have a few bad apples in the barrel." Many members of the Hunters Point community echoed this view. But they were clear that there was no trust in the police force as a whole which does not respond to their problems when called, yet is quick to harass their

community.

The mother of a young Black man, Idriss Stelley, who was murdered by the SFPD last year (see MIM Notes 241, September 1, 2001), spoke out as a resident of the Bay View/Hunters Point community. She noted the connection between the police brutality against these kids and the killing of her son and said "I see it happen under my window all the time." As a French citizen she is organizing an international protest against the SFPD.

One community member represented the view that the police are an occupying army in the oppressed nations. "Whips and chains have been replaced with guns and cuffs. The police are running through

our neighborhoods like overseers were running through plantations." MIM agrees with this speaker and we know that removing a few bad cops from the police force won't make for a better system. But we unite with the community and activists in calling for the prosecution of these cops who brutalized the Hunters Point kids. We must demand that they be held to their own rules and use the legal system to our advantage whenever possible. Prosecuting these pigs will both punish these criminals and help further expose the criminal injustice system for what it is, educating and mobilizing more people in the ongoing struggle against police brutality serving imperialism.

'Drug warrior' denounces drug policies

Continued from page 3...

the people being smuggled.(2) Judge Gray told the story of a former federal judge who quit his job to become a drug smuggler — and was caught. Rather than argue that this persyn was morally flawed, Judge Gray correctly pointed out that the temptation of an immense, quick profit is going to lure somebody to take the risks involved in the illegal drug business.

■The "war on drugs" has international implications. Drug money can corrupt entire Third World governments — just like oil, fruit or coffee money can. Judge Gray correctly decried the arrogance of the United States government drug certification procedures as a case of the pot calling the kettle black. The inability of the United States government to shut down the drug economy inside its own borders — to say nothing of government officials own involvement in that trade — make drug production in Third World countries deliriously profitable and funds

all kinds warlords. Of course, that's often what the United States wants, c.f. Chiang Kai Chek's involvement in the heroin trade, or the Nicaraguan contras supporting themselves by running cocaine.

Aside from these particular scientific and political points, MIM found much to admire in Judge Gray's tone and approach. He didn't try to present "both sides" and ponder them dispassionately — in part because he correctly recognized that any meaningful criticism of the "war on drugs" is banned from bourgeois mass media. He didn't speak in technical or academic jargon. He spoke bluntly and forcefully. He called Amerikan politicians' refusal to implement needle exchange programs "criminal." (The viruses responsible for AIDS and hepatitis C can be transmitted by dirty needles. Perhaps 30% of intravenous drug users are infected with the AIDS virus — a proportion much higher than the general population.) He

talked about wanting to grab people on the street by the shoulders and shake them, to get them to realize what it means that 2,000,000 people are in jail in the United States — and do something about it.

Of course, MIM doesn't have complete unity with Judge Gray, a Republican from Orange County, California. For example, he repeats discredited slander that the Communist Party of Peru funds itself by selling drugs, without mentioning the CIA-Contra-cocaine connection or the U.S.-backed Peruvian military's involvement in the drug trade.(3) But the truth is the truth, no matter who says it, and MIM agrees with Judge Gray on the particular issues of the "Amerikkkan lockdown" — mass incarceration — and the "war on drugs."

Judge Gray's alternative to the "war on drugs" involves decriminalization — not throwing people in jail for possession of small amounts of drugs for persynal use — and deprofitization. These are sensible

reforms which MIM would fight for under capitalism. In fact, the latter plays to our strengths; deprofitization can only be thoroughly implemented under socialism. This will help increase the prestige of communism among imperialist-country middle classes.

Judge Gray's talk was sponsored by Health Science Students for Social Responsibility, a student group at USC. They collected signatures on petitions opposing proposed restrictions on California prisoners visitation rights (4) and demanding a repeal of a federal ban on financial aid for students convicted of a drug offense.

Notes:

1. James Gray, *Why our drug laws have failed and what we can do about it: A judicial indictment of the "war on drugs,"* Temple University Press, 2001.
2. MIM Notes 251, 1 Feb 2002.
3. www.judgejimgray.com.
4. MIM Notes 254, 15 Mar 2002.

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Amerika: The real nuclear rogue state

United States is planning to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear countries. After all, the United States remains the only country ever to use nuclear weapons in cold blood, killing hundreds of thousands in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has also regularly threatened to use nuclear weapons since. The U.S. military drew up plans during the Korean war to use nuclear weapons and radioactive fallout to turn north Korea into an uninhabitable wasteland.(4) It also offered to give the French two atomic bombs — “Neither one nor three: Two,” recalled George Bidault, French Prime Minister from 1949 to 1950 — when the French were fighting a communist-led national liberation movement in Vietnam.(5)

The U.S. nuclear arsenal has always been an offensive weapon, something some reformist lobbyists do not recognize. “[The NPR] clearly makes nuclear weapons a tool for fighting war, rather than deterring them,” according to Joseph Cirincione at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Similarly, John Isaacs, the president of the Council for a Livable World said, “They’re desperately trying to find new uses for their nuclear weapons, when their uses should be limited to deterrence.”(1) The imperialists’ drive

for new sources of raw materials, cheap labor and markets forces them into conflict with each other and the oppressed nations they exploit. By their own admission, they must compete or die, and hence will use any advantage they have to win. They could never use nuclear weapons just as a deterrent.

Not that we completely disagree with Mr. Isaacs. The military sector of the Amerikan economy — which includes nuclear weapons research and development, and with which the Bush administration has close ties — is one of its most profitable. Again, this is a consequence of monopoly capitalism and the crisis of overproduction. To maintain their profits, the monopoly capitalists are occasionally forced to destroy the means of production by letting plants sit idle, through “planned obsolescence,” or literally destroying them with bombs. Imperialists like the military sector because “planned obsolescence” is built into it — to say nothing of the chance to blow shit up. They are eager to justify its continued expansion.

The anti-militarist movement in the imperialist countries needs to connect with the masses on how the system is irrational for them. Even if capitalism were as efficient in making people work as the capitalists say, it is not worth the

war that comes with it. The people with a self-interest in having wars are the people who do not fight the wars and the elderly rich who are willing to compromise with the devil to live a few years of luxurious life. We must think more of future generations.

Many Euro-Amerikans spend thousands of dollars on suburban homes and burglar alarms and commute many miles to avoid just a small probability of street crime. George Bush beat Michael Dukakis in 1988 elections just by mentioning a Black rapist. Yet when it comes to war risks, Euro-Amerikans hardly raise a peep that cost them nothing but maybe an hour of their time at a demonstration.

If there is a five percent chance of nuclear annihilation each year, there is only a 7.7% chance of surviving 50 years from now. (That is .95 raised to the 50th power.)

If it is only a two percent chance we face each year, then after 50 years the probability of surviving is 36.4%. (That is .98 raised to the 50th power.)

Socialism is outlawing production for profit. If socialism could reduce the causes of war just one percent each year, it could prove to buy us the time we need as a species to learn to cooperate.

If socialism got us from a two percent

chance of annihilation to a one percent chance each year, our probability of survival after 50 years would rise from 36.4% to 60.5%.

By the standards of the Iroquois people who do not do anything that would have negative implications for people seven generations from now, a one percent chance of nuclear war would mean only a 17.2% chance of humyn survival 175 years from now.

The fact that even a mere 1% chance of nuclear annihilation each year spells doom is something known to engineers who design systems and to people who study processes involving entropy. It is actually very difficult to design a system that fails only 1% of the year.

The proletariat and oppressed masses are being far too generous in withholding violence against this system that threatens humyn existence.

Notes:

1. Los Angeles Times, 10 Mar 2002.
2. Los Angeles Times, 13 Mar 2002.
3. New York Times, 14 Mar 2002.
4. Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1997. pp. 290-293.
5. Peter Davis, dir., *Hearts and Minds*, 1974.

Argentina: So what comes after the pot-banging?

Continued from page 4...

from organizations that confuse fiction with politics and which hold that by way of “pot-banging,” and that by simply “broadening” the spontaneous mass movement it is possible to achieve substantial changes in the concrete political situation of this country. So we must become alarmed when they demand the establishment of a “national government of popular unity” at the same time as a “sovereign constitutional assembly” without signaling the path of struggle necessary to reach these goals. We have to pinch ourselves to wake up when the PCR (in its communique of December 20-30, 2001) announces that in Argentina, a situation is germinating similar to the one antecedent to the revolution of October 1917 when the Communist Party of Russia conquered

power and established a proletarian-peasant government. This comparison is an absurd, mechanical comparison of history and does nothing to elevate the consciousness of the masses; and on the contrary, it sows confusion in the spontaneous movement in Argentina. And its worse still when the PCR, that wants to pull a fast one, deduces that in Argentina it’s impossible to talk about a “successful insurrection” without winning over the “patriotic and popular sector” of the armed forces while “neutralizing the other half”. This proclamation (see the PCR’s communique, December 20-30, 2001), which stands on the opposite end of the latest popular rebellion in Argentina, is in essence the negation of revolution and armed struggle for power, that in Argentina, Peru, Ecuador or in whatever

other country will necessarily lead to a violent and decisive confrontation with the military and other state repressive forces. You cannot speak of liquidating the exploitative state and much less about establishing a “popular government” without first violently destroying the military institution, which, as everybody knows, is the fundamental military pillar of the State. Without the armed forces, the big bourgeoisie and the landlords would be unable to keep themselves in power for a minute. Saying that in Argentina it is impossible to have a “successful insurrection” without the favorable intervention of the military is an old story that leads, amongst other things, to covering up the reactionary character of the armed forces and to seeking reconciliation with them.

Finally, we must affirm that a movement of the magnitude of the events in Argentina, whatever its previous results, leaves the people a rich

experience in struggle and in the conviction amongst the workers that the strength of the oppressed resides in a direct mass struggle against the representatives of the State. This struggle, on condition that it surpasses its spontaneity, has a great perspective and broad horizon in the struggle for a better world.

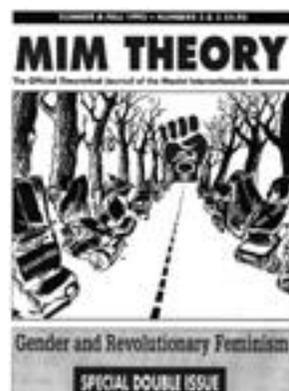
**February 14, 2002,
Brussels**

MIM disagrees with the term “left” used in this context. We prefer to use the term as a relative one, not one denoting a political unity of forces that does not exist. It is correct to speak of a left within a party or a position more left than another. The article here seems to use the term “left” to refer to everyone who is claiming to be socialist except for the people actually in favor of People’s War. It could be that the term “left” refers to a swampy mass that Maoists are completely apart from. Such a usage would be correct.

MIM Theory 2 and 3

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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.

Censorship crackdown on Islam

I received the scribe on the censoring of the prisons - that literature hit dead on. I myself an going through the same ordeal here at the plantation - so is my brovah down at his plantation. When you spoke of "threatening security" I couldn't agree more. Get this, I am not able to contact my brovah, nor is he allowed to contact or write me, because this fucked up Texas Prison System is shook!

By the September 11th drama they feel everyone who shows love toward Islam is a threat or a terrorist. I received a "truck mail envelope," which states:

*Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Programs and Services: Directors Review
Committee Decision*

*Form for Outgoing Correspondence
Offender: [my brovah]*

The Director's Review Committee has rendered the following decision regarding your appeal:

The Unit decision not to allow you to mail the correspondence not in accordance with the rules for the following reasons:

#1(e) - "Security Threat Group related letter"

To: [me] has been upheld. You will not be allowed to mail the above referenced correspondence.

This is what was sent to me. Me and my brovah are supporters or MIM. Forward in the struggle! Before this I was contacted by my brovah. His cell was searched and all his Islamic and other literature was taken and not given back. There was nothing threatening in any of the letters we sent me of I sent him. All letters were motivating, uplifting, to succeed in the everyday struggle, based on Islamic beliefs, the 5 pillars of Islam. That is why I believe we were censored.

-A Texas Prisoner January 2002

IL prisoners' anti-censor suit heard in court

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to give you an update on my pending litigation against the Illinois Department of Corrections in which we challenged the overly restrictive rules relating to inmate possession and retention of reading materials.

After numerous delays, a hearing was finally held in Chicago's Federal District Court before Judge Charles P. Kocoras from November 13-21, 2001. At this time, we were able to set forth before the court numerous infringements upon our ability to receive literature through the mail from visitors. Several inmates provided documented proof that they were denied the right to have family members drop off books and magazines on visits, although this is clearly authorized by departmental rule. Called as adverse witnesses, the wardens from the Tamms and Stateville prisons were forced to acknowledge that they had in fact allowed this to occur at their facilities.

During the course of the hearing, it was discovered that a preliminary study had been undertaken to potentially eliminate our ability

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

to receive packages of literature through the mail. When confronted with this evidence, the defendants attempted to disassociate themselves from the plan by attributing it to a prior administration.

One of the main focal points of the hearing was the issue that the DOC has written rules pertaining to publications that they simply don't follow. For example: they withheld two issues of MIM Notes for ten months, for being "gang-related." The newspapers were supposed to be promptly examined by the Publication Screening Committee, but they never were. Only by continuous complaints by our attorneys were they finally released.

The court has now taken the case under advisement and a final ruling could be issued at any time. When it is, I'll let you know where we stand.

In solidarity,
—an Illinois prisoner, December, 2001

Censorship in Oregon

Revolutionary Greetings,

Thank you for sending me some material. I am sending you some information on what's happening here. I realize that prison escapes can turn ugly, but nowhere have they proven that escape was due to any magazine. [His "Stuff" magazine was denied because of an article about prison escapes.] I wrote "Stuff" and told them about my problem. Also I talked to our mailroom. Just the steps I took to get to the bottom of this.

We were locked down due to attempted escape. So these people think everyone will try to escape because of an article in "Stuff."
—a prisoner in Oregon, January 2002

Censorship stops (for now) in North Carolina

Just writing to let you know that I have received the November 1 and 15 MIM Notes [as of mid-December]. I guess they see some prisoners will stand together and fight and also I guess they know they are in the wrong. Maybe they just do not like the accuracy of MIM Notes, you know the truth hurts pigs. They did not get back with me on my appeal statement or the grievance. They just let the MIM Notes back in.

—A North Carolina prisoner, December 2001

Censorship in Colorado

As a revolutionary who is committed to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism ideology, I have often read in MIM Notes, and other materials, about censorship in capitalist amerikkka, particularly in the calaboose, but I never even imagined I'd be a victim of censorship.

I was informed through party members that material that was forward to me was returned

to sender. If our strong comrades had not informed me, I would have never known, as these prison officials never informed me that my mail was returned. The counter-revolutionaries in capitalist amerikkka will always try to neutralize a true voice of the people!

I am proud to say that MIM is a true servant of the people. I am proud to be with people who are for the people. The U.S. imperialist and neo-colonialist are afraid of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism! How do we know? Why the censorship?

To all of the naysayers who say Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is a thing of the past, why then do we see thousands protesting imperialism? Scientific socialism is mathematical in nature. If the people are against globalization (international capitalism or imperialism) then mathematically they must be for communism. Make no mistake about it!

The penal colony is a breeding ground for consciousness and political education. To all of the revolutionary brothers and sisters! Comrades! Keep movin' forward! All Power to the people!

—A federal prisoner in Colorado

Long sentences, low pay in Klan's Angola

I'm trapped here at the Louisiana State Penitentiary (plantation) along with other brothers who have a lot of potential to truly make a difference within the Afrikan communities. But the raw facts are that these snakes who oversee this plantation are unconcerned about the brothers and sisters down here. It's all about the might dollar bill...

I have a life sentence, plus 90 years and here in Louisiana, there are more brothers here who are serving more time than anywhere else on the face of this earth. See the real-life documentary "The Farm" for proof.

I read an article in your MIM Notes where a brother mentioned that the inmates were getting \$85 a month? Here at Angola, we receive 4 cents an hour. The most possible is 20 cents an hour. All field workers are getting 4 cents an hour!!! Can you picture this shit?

Pardons are unheard of in Louisiana. The Klan runs this plantation with an iron fist. Anyone who attempts to organize a study with regards to implementing a program that will convert the unconscious brothers to revolutionary souljahs, these devils would immediately close in on the head organizer!

I've been down since 1994 and have been understanding nothing but positive material that keeps me in check with the real struggle. "The old pork chop in front of the wolf's eyes" won't entrap me ever again in the event I return to society again. To hell with their materialism and capitalist concepts!

Written in my blood,
—Comrade Vicious

Washington prisoners pay

Dear MIM,

Here in Washington the tax payers are paying for us to be in prisons, yet we pay for everything here. They won't deny medical, hygiene or dental, they will just charge you and if you don't have any money then they will charge it as a debt to be paid off the first time you get any money on your account. We have to pay 50 cents a month for TV/cable even if we don't have TVs. We have to pay the cost of incarceration, crime victim compensation (that does not go to the victim, and if there is no victim you still pay.) All money being sent in besides native american checks and refund checks they take 35% out of before they put it on your account. This is a statewide thing.

I work in the kitchen and everything is being cut back because of "budget cuts." We as a prison system are 90% self reliant. We make our own clothes, mattresses, towels, blankets, socks, even most of our food is made by us (made in one prison and shipped to the rest.) The kitchen is filthy due to two things,

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.

we are not governed by the health department and because of this "budget cut" the kitchen manager refuses to buy anything new as far as cleaning supplies go. They are about to dye all white cloths, sheets, towels and pillow cases gray so that they don't have to use bleach. They are also going to stop washing in hot water. Another health issue. This is all due to "budget cuts."

Someone is getting all this money they are extorting out of us and the tax payers. Now don't get me wrong, I know I have it better than a lot of other prisoners, but I fail to see the difference between me robbing someone and them robbing me and the tax payers. I am also including an account statement so you can see how we are taxed.

—a prisoner in Washington, February 2002

MIM responds: The issue of financing prisons is an important one. As we see the growth of the private prison industry we can see profits driving the building of new prisons, a frightening prospect in an already prison-crazy growth country. But currently prisons do not make a profit: they are subsidized by the government. So this prisoner is correct that tax payers are covering the cost of imprisonment in Washington.

However, we disagree that the tax payers are being robbed. In imperialist Amerika prisons serve as a tool of social control. The united states is the number one imprisoning country in the world (we have a higher per capita imprisonment rate than any other country). This does not mean that the u.s. is not made up of genetically flawed people who are more likely to be criminals, it is about the government using prisons to control the people. The population being controlled is principally the oppressed nations: the incarceration rate for Blacks and Latinos is dramatically higher than for whites. And political activists are also targeted for imprisonment regardless of nationality. This benefits the white nation as a whole which as a group lives as parasites off the profits stolen from the Third World and brought home to Amerika. This white nation has an interest in the use of prisons as a tool of social control: this helps preserve their parasitic way of life as much as it helps keep the imperialist government stable. So these tax payers are actually contributing to a system that supports them.

When that system charges prisoners for services, making it even more impossible for anyone to make it out and back into society, this also serves the white nation. In addition to keeping the oppressed nations behind bars and controlled, any money that the prisons can take from the oppressed can be used to hire more guards and other workers. These jobs are very much in demand among many white communities.

So while we agree that prisoners are having both their lives and their money stolen by the criminal injustice system, we see the tax

paying Americans profiting from this system.

Brutality in Colorado

While in yard one day, I got into an argument with a guard about my way of dressing. He promised me that I "would regret" my actions! Later that day, at evening yard, I was approached by three so-called convicts and told that they were there to do the bidding of the guard I had argued with. At that time, I was brutally attacked and left unconscious in the corner of the yard. I believe that they meant to kill me and failed their mission.

Today, after extensive tests and rehabilitation, I am permanently crippled. I have talked with lawyers and they are afraid of the DOC. I have a wife and two lovely girls and now they have a broken-down, crippled husband and father at the age of 26. Since I was transferred to this prison, one nurse has lost her job for trying to help me walk again. I have been put in segregation for being a management problem. They are now sending me to a Maximum security prison.

I have guards come to my cell and threaten me and my family. And I have no one who will listen. I fear for my life!

A fellow prisoner receives your paper and let me see a copy. I would like to also receive your publication. We need to stop the "Reich" type of system that the DOC is running and the only way to do so is by taking and eye for an eye.

Stand up brothers and sisters and make yourself heard among the throngs of injustices that are running you into the ground!

Down with Imperialism! Power to the People!

—a Colorado prisoner.

More medical abuse in Texas

I really enjoy your publication very much but there are times when I can't write you when the prisonrats retaliate against me. Last time I went on a medical to Montford Unit for complaining of my hepatitis C virus infection and I end up in the crazy ward in a strip cell without any clothes. They took my false teeth, I could not eat. They took my hearing aid, I could not communicate for my medical needs. They took my prescription glasses, I had no control over the light. At Montford nut ward no newspapers or magazines are allowed. They refused to give me my legal papers. When I complained they told me that that was my problem. At Montford Unit you are allowed a toothbrush and toothpaste, no more. I know you are busy so I will let you go and I remain.

-A Texas Prisoner January 2002

MIM adds: The medical abuse of Texas prisoners continues. Once they make a diagnosis - or refuse to make a diagnosis -

there is no recourse for prisoners, and the medical system is subject to no accountability. This is why we have focuses the Texas prison labor campaign on the issue of medical abuse of prisoner workers. Write to MIM for a copy of the petition we are circulating inside and outside of prisons.

Lockdown at CSATF

They locked down the whole prison to find out who beat on or attacked a couple of pigs. They determined who it was and have checked that out, but other people [who were not involved] are still on lockdown. They came and searched everyone's cells and let me add the searches were very disrespectfully done. This incident [the beating] happened December 10th and we are still on lockdown. I would understand if it was my group involved, but we weren't. For them to keep us on lockdown is not right.

They tell us to keep out of trouble and follow the prison rules. If we do this we will get what's coming to us which is phone calls, showers, canteen, quarterly packages and yard time. We have followed the rules but continue to be on lockdown. Even prior to December 10th we were on lockdown for two weeks and the day we came off, this happened. It seems they want to fuck us every time something goes on, even the slightest thing. And they wonder why we don't respect them!

— a Corcoran, CA prisoner 24 January, 2002

STG restrictions and medical co-pay at Menard

They banned The Source magazine [on hip-hop music, culture and politics] here. There is now a \$2.00 co-payment for sick call. And in segregation we can't come out of our cells with our hair braided. Not for the shower, doctor or anything.

— a Menard, IL prisoner 25 January, 2002

MIM adds: Opposing national interests continue to duke it out within u.s. borders, and the burden of proof is on anyone who believes otherwise. Prisons use braided hair, baggy pants, magazine subscriptions and ghetto slang to identify so-called Security Threat Groups or STGs. In MIM's book, an STG is a fancy word for oppressed nationals who enjoy their own cultures.

More Jails, More Money

For the past 10 years jail overcrowding have been a hot issue in Memphis, TN. and Shelby County. This overcrowding problem stems from inmates who are being detained and denied speedy trials. Most of these

inmates belong to the "Major Violators" courtroom, where the most violent cases are preassigned to Judge Dailey. Between 1995-2001, 65% of the inmates who were in this courtroom waited at least 14 months and up to a total of 5 years before having a trial. As a result, this one courtroom alone stays backlogged with hundreds of cases and thus you have an overcrowded jail.

Shelby County has had an annex built next to the old Memphis Jail. To the public, the reasoning of the new jail is to ease overcrowding, curb violence, and improve the conditions. The true motive is more tax dollars. In Tenn., the cost per inmate in county jails is somewhere in between \$55 and \$65 each day. Considering the poor conditions of the old ail, along with the inmate capacity being way overboard, it's easy to see that the tax dollars allotted for the housing of inmates are purposefully being misused.

In 2000, the Tenn. Criminal Court of Appeals denounced the major violators courtroom, which the Shelby County Justice system adopted, as unconstitutional but still voted in favor of it. Since the state had already appropriated tax dollars for the courtroom to persist, they decided to let it continue though they openly professed it unconstitutional. So while an annex will be for the easing of the overcrowded jail, what is the remedy for the new jail when it inevitably overcrowds? Another jail, more tax dollars.

The real issue is why are inmates being denied speedy trails, which is a violation of the 5th amendment? A record high, 35% of the convictions made in the Shelby County Criminal Courts over a 6 year period, were overturned by the criminal courts of appeals, which means hundreds of convicts were retried and released. While this may seem appalling, it actually coincides with the whole capitalist spectrum. What we have in Shelby County is a judicial system which preys upon tax dollars through the facade of criminal justice.

National stocks dealing with the jails reap immense profits. In fact, it's one of the few guaranteed stocks that will never fall short of stability. so who profits more from crime? The criminals or the government who reaps massive amounts from prison industrial labor and easily accessible tax dollars? If crime were to take a dramatic decline in the u.s., the economy would undoubtedly suffer a great deal. Jails are an asset to the capitalist structure of this country.

—a prisoner in TN, February 2002

MIM responds: We have much unity with this prisoner but MIM would not say that a decline in crime would hurt the economy of the u.s. because the criminal injustice system is not about punishing crime. The biggest criminals are running the government. The u.s. does not have the largest per capita prison population in the world because it has more crime. People are locked up for reasons like those described above: by a system designed to imprison large numbers of people. This serves a purpose and it is not (yet) to enrich the government. The criminal injustice system is used as a tool for social control. Those who profit from it are not so much the government officials, who are just spending tax dollars on one imperialist project or another, but all those employees of the criminal injustice system in general from pigs on the streets to guards in the prisons. The huge criminal injustice system ends up serving two purposes: social control for the oppressed nations and parasitic jobs for the labor aristocracy.

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.

Notas Rojas



avril 1, 2002, Nº 255 Fragmento del Periodico Oficial del Movimiento Internacionalista Maoista **Gratis**

EE.UU. le envía un montón de ayuda militar al gobierno de las Filipinas

Docenas de tropas yanquis aterrizan en Mindanao; se esperan 1000 más

Los ataques del 11 de septiembre en Nueva York y Virginia han servido como una señal para que los yanquis y el régimen EE.UU.-Macapagal-Arroyo de las Filipinas avancen la guerra contra las masas filipinas. Inmediatamente después de los ataques, la presidenta de las Filipinas, Gloria Macapagal-Arrollo prometió el apoyo de su gobierno a favor de la tal llamada “guerra contra el terrorismo”. Ahora los yanquis han regalado un montón de ayuda militar a las Filipinas.

Ambos gobiernos han aumentado sus esfuerzos para apoderarse de la isla de Mindanao como propiedad comercial y militar. El día 10 de enero llegaron veinticinco “asesores” militares yanquis al oriente de Mindanao para acompañar a otros ocho oficiales. Las fuerzas armadas yanquis ofrecieron mandar todo un batallón -de 500 a 1000 soldados. Oficialmente los soldados yanquis sólo deben entrenar a los soldados del gobierno. (8)

Sin embargo, las experiencias de Vietnam y El Salvador (dos ejemplos entre muchos otros) nos enseñan que se desdibuja la distinción entre “asesores” y participantes. En estos dos países los asesores yanquis acompañaron a sus ‘aprendices’ en operaciones militares. El paquete yanqui ya incluye un avión de carga tipo C-130, una colección indefinida de 16,000 libras de equipo militar pesado, rifles especializados para tiradores escondidos, morteros, lanzagranadas y más. Todavía se esperan 100 camiones militares y “aproximadamente” ocho helicópteros tipo Huey, y más dinero para fortalecer las fuerzas armadas nacionales. (3) El gobierno de las Filipinas además se ha reunido con funcionarios de

Indonesia y Malasia para planificar la tal llamada “fuerza de reacción rápida” para “combatir el terrorismo” con la ayuda de EE.UU. (2) La amenaza popular reiterada por en todos los encabezados proviene de la pandilla Abu-Sayaaf que se ha dado a conocer por todo el mundo por secuestrar a extranjeros. Pero hasta Macapagal-Arroyo dice que más le preocupa permitir que los yanquis permanezcan en las Filipinas que la amenaza inmediata de la pandilla Abu-Sayaaf. Dijo: “lo importante es que se ha reafirmado y redefinido la alianza estratégica ... y la amistad como en los viejos tiempos cuando éramos aliados inequívocos.” (1)

Mindanao es un territorio que se ha debatido por mucho tiempo. Cuando el gobierno anterior de EE.UU.-Estrada lanzó una ofensiva en contra del Frente Moro Internacional de Liberación (MILF) y el Nuevo Ejército Popular (NPA) el MIM dijo “ está claro que el régimen de Estrada está usando la atención alrededor del Abu-Sayaaf desacreditar a MILF y NPA y para justificar la ley marcial. Quizás no sea una coincidencia el hecho de que EE.UU. está fijando su atención sobre Mindanao como un sitio para bases militares bajo el Acuerdo de Fuerzas Visitantes.” (7)

Además, la compañía estadounidense multinacional Dole opera una enorme plantación de piña en Mindanao. Los reaccionarios en las Filipinas han dicho abiertamente que la presencia de tropas yanquis fortalecerá la guerra contra la guerrilla popular del NPA, liderada por el Partido Comunista de las Filipinas (CPP). (4). La estrategia militar del gobierno reaccionario

de las Filipinas en contra de la pandilla Abu-Sayaaf principalmente consiste de ataques de bombardeo a larga distancia. La gente ha huido de sus aldeas porque temen ser aniquilados. Aproximadamente 10.000 civiles fueron evacuados en el mes de octubre del año pasado. (5) Las fuerzas armadas se han apropiado de varias parcelas y las aldeas se han convertido en bases militares de vanguardia para los soldados. “Las Fuerzas Armadas de las Filipinas han confesado que mataron a 4 ciudadanos. Los refugiados que huyen de la operación dicen que cientos de ciudadanos han sido aniquilados, y que 10 de ellos fueron bombardeados mientras participaban en una boda.” (5) EE.UU. busca justificar su apoyo del régimen adulator de Macapagal-Arroyo por medio de colocar al NPA en una lista de organizaciones terroristas internacionales originada por la nueva “Ley Patriota”. José María Sisón ha señalado que no es la primera vez que EE.UU. busca defamar al NPA con fin de descarrilar la lucha del pueblo filipino. (6) La gente en este país no debe tragarse la mentira. Los yanquis deben abrir los ojos y reconocer que los filipinos tienen sus propias aspiraciones nacionales. Las masas filipinas (el pueblo filipino) podrán realizar el deseo de acabar

con el terrorismo y los reaccionarios desalmados sólo cuando los imperialistas hayan sido ahuyentados. A fin de cuentas, lo mejor que puede hacer la gente de EE.UU. es organizar un movimiento antiimperialista doméstico. Debemos rechazar determinadamente las transas de aquellos que buscan convertir la guerra internacional yanqui en una guerra de ‘autodefensa’. Pónganse en comunicación con el MIM para unir nuestras voces y ponerle fin a esta locura. Notas:

1. “U.S. Use of bases in Philippines renewed,” Los Angeles Times, 18 diciembre, 2001.
2. “3 Southeast Asian nations draft anti-terrorism accord,” LA Times, 29 diciembre, 2001.
3. “U.S. Arms arrive for Philippine army,” LA Times, 20 diciembre, 2001.
4. “Wimmin’s movement leader from the Philippines speaks out against the Visiting Forces Agreement,” MIM Notes 185, 1 de mayo, 1999.
5. MIM Notes 220, octubre 15, 2000.
6. The U.S. and its puppets cannot terrorize the NDFP, 10 de diciembre, 2001. <http://inps-sison.freewebspace.com/US%20and%20Its%20Puppets.htm>
7. MN 216, agosto 15, 2000.
8. CNN, 11 de enero, 2002.

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¿Que es el MIM?

El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

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