

MIM Notes



April 15, 2002, N° 256

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Thousands support Palestinian self-determination

LOS ANGELES

Around three thousand people marched here on March 30 to celebrate the Palestinian day of the land and protest the current Israeli offensive into Palestinian territory. The boisterous crowd waved hundreds of Palestinian flags and chanted slogans, such as "Israel out of Palestine now!" and "Sharon, Bush, you will see; Palestine will soon be free."

On the same day, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called on Palestinian President Arafat to "do more to combat terrorism"— even though Israeli troops had invaded and destroyed most of his office compound the day before, cutting off electricity and phone services. As Powell well knew, Arafat couldn't have ordered a pizza, let alone carried out a complex political and military campaign against so-called "terrorists." Powell was just playing his role in a very old piece of political theater: Claim the Palestinians and/or Arab states are unwilling to negotiate in order to cover up the fact that the United States and



Palestinian flags blanket Westwood as the march passes near UCLA.

Israel are unwilling to make peace — by ending Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.(1)

[President Bush and Powell initially openly supported Israel's recent bloody

invasion of Palestinian territories. By the end of the first week in April they called the invasion "understandable" but "ill-advised" — without actually calling for Israel to withdraw. This is another

hackneyed piece of theater. The United States maintains the high ground calling for peace negotiations while Israel makes the outcome of those "negotiations" *a fait accompli* by taking what it wants or smashing any practical opposition.

Sharon said as much publicly, several weeks before the most recent offensive, on March 4. "If the Palestinians are not being beaten, there will be no negotiations." He went on, "The aim is to increase the number of losses on the other side. Only after they've been battered will we be able to conduct talks."

Or, as the New York Times put it: "Israeli officials were openly taking Secretary of State Colin L. Powell's schedule for his emergency Middle East trip as giving them a grace period of at least a week to finish what they began..."

"We are finishing the operation we started," said Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.(4)]

There was a strong international presence at the rally. Several MIM supporters talked at length with an

Troops deployed across Philippines in name of "war on terror" USA and puppet regime attack Philippine sovereignty

As we celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the New People's Army, U.S. imperialism is expanding its presence in the Philippines, aided by the toady Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regime. 1,000 U.S. troops arrived in January for the Balikatan joint exercises; another 1,700 are now on their way, under the rubric of "Operation Enduring Freedom."

The original excuse for sending U.S. troops to the Philippines was to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) root out the Abu Sayyaf gang. Yet Balikatan exercises are taking place in at least ten different locations throughout the Philippines while Abu Sayyaf exists only on the small island of Basilan. This is not to mention that 6,000 Philippine troops have so far been sent out against the 300 of the Abu Sayyaf. The problem is not a lack of personnel, guns or know-how, but of will on the part of the armed forces. As the Kilusang Mayo Uno writes: "the primordial issue of collusion among military officials, local politicians, self-styled negotiators and the Abu Sayyaf has yet to be resolved." Corruption within the AFP makes it ripe for payoffs and utterly incompetent at fighting even the smallest of enemies.

Philippine Air Force pilots have as much as admitted that their own presence on so-called training flights with the Americans is a cover for Amerikan operations. One official called joint flights in the Amerikan planes "joy rides," while a pilot complained that he is not being trained but is only a passenger in the operations. A representative from the progressive electoral party Bayan Muna was more direct. He pointed out that if the Filipinos never get trained, the two governments can continue to claim that there is a need for training and use this as an excuse to keep U.S. troops in the country indefinitely.

The Philippine constitution states that foreign troops cannot fight on Philippine soil, so the GMA regime called the Balikatan ("shoulder-to-shoulder") exercises a "training program" and U.S. troops "advisors."

In an effort to distract attention from her own illegal activities and the military's disregard for law, Macapagal-Arroyo has made much to-do over a string of bombings throughout the urban areas of the Philippines. The government



Amerikkka, the wise warrior: not! Pornography creates Dumbocracy

Bourgeois media analysis by PIRAO chief

Going to the newstands, we noticed that "Maxim" hit it big recently and that womyn's magazine "Mademoiselle" folded to be replaced by other manifestations of the same monopoly capitalist corporation. Social scientists will have to examine it, but we suspect that since September 11, 2001, the faces on the magazine covers have been even more Aryan than usual and magazine covers that did not have to have female models on them, now do.

Our readers may think MIM is out of touch with what Amerikkkans want. Quite the contrary, MIM knows very well what Amerikkkans want, and what they want is the problem. That's why MIM has kept a careful eye on the magazine stands everywhere — at the 7/11, the supermarket, the CVS, the Osco Drug, Walmarts etc.

"Good Housekeeping" magazine has to have a model on the cover to compete with the other magazine covers sporting the typical breasts-and-up head shot. Moreover, we noticed that the magazine about men's fashion "GQ" even seems to run wimmin on the cover sometimes.

What "Maxim" has done seems to be a business coup — fill a new niche with old material. For a long time we have known that the

Letters

Turning a bad thing into a good thing

CAUSE expands anti-imperialist work after 9/11

MIM comrades,
 Revolutionary greetings! A CAUSE [Coalition to Abolish the U\$. Empire] comrade here. Wanted to send you a letter after reading the most recent MIM Notes.

First, let me sum up our experiences with anti-war organizing since 9-11... We hit the streets the weekend after 9-11 with anti-war leaflets in hand. The only other group in town with as much rapid response was the Catholic Worker community. We then leafleted a different neighborhood every other weekend until a lot of our student members left town on winter break. We never picked that practice back up again when they came back because we went into other projects.

People were not as hostile-and a lot more willing to take our leaflets than we expected. Yes, we'd say a majority were

pro-war, but not nearly as high as corporate news polls were reporting; we'd say 75-25% in favor rather than 95-5%. Also, when we began to kick some facts about U\$ intervention in Arab, Muslim and South Asian nations, a lot of people were like "Oh, well, I didn't know that. Maybe there's some basis to people wanting to attack us." Of course, there were those who said we should be executed for treason and others who said the U\$ got what it deserved.

We were invited to send speakers to forums on three different college campuses. People responded so well to the first forum we attended that our numbers have doubled, and all those who jumped on are very consistent in their practices. It is so good to have more comrades to bear the work that so few were doing before.

Most of the new members are university students. Our focus on U\$ imperialism as the world's greatest evil and national oppression as the principal contradiction (as opposed to the notion that 1st & 3rd world workers are in the same class) is what drew them to us,

which is a testament to MIM's line on labor aristocracy. [CAUSE is not officially affiliated with MIM like RAIL or SLALA, but CAUSE leaders are openly influenced by MIM and help with MIM projects, such as distributing MIM Notes.]

It the new year, we've focused on doing solidarity actions with the Palestinian intifadah and against extending this war into new countries, especially Somalia.

We've been leafleting outside of "Black Hawk Down" (with our own flyer). There has been no hostile reaction, most people will accept a flyer, and people read most of it while they're waiting for their tickets or the show to start. We've been trying to get the Somali community involved in the leafleting, but with no success. However, a few Somalis have agreed to go with us to senators and reps offices to tell their staff why our so-called representatives should not support the U\$ going to war with Somalia again. If the reps disagree, then they give us a good place to picket.

That's all on the anti-war front. There is a question we want to pose to you: how come we haven't seen any of the left papers (MIM RCP, WWP, Natibn, Progressive, and others) talk about all the evidence of an "inside job" (U\$ intelligence agencies involvement) on 9-11?

We'd assume that you're as familiar with the evidence as we are, and it keeps piling up. If you're not familiar with it, tell us so by e-mail and we'll send you the web links.

The CAUSE line on this since day 1 has been: 1) it's just as or even more plausible than the official explanation,, 2) you don't have to accept the "inside job/conspiracy" theory to be anti-war, but 3) accepting it as hypothesis: a) answers

a whole lot of unanswerable questions about the official explanation and b) will eventually create more anti-Americans within AmeriKKKa because it shows that the ruling class of this nation is so consumed with power and greed that it has no loyalty to this nation, so neither should the masses (even if they are labor aristocrats). In other words, the conspiracy theory could radicalize a good portion of the otherwise complacent white majority like Vietnam did. Not to suggest by any means that this theory is a "silver bullet."

Anyway, there are a lot of other things we could tell you about, too. One is that the local ACLU is fighting the local cops on our behalf to uphold our right to distribute anti-militarist lit in front of military recruiters at the big July 4th military-industrial, entertainment state spectacle. We got threatened with arrest last year (we left rather than be arrested), and one of us was arrested the year before on bogus charges (they actually charged h. with violation of a national parks code regulation even though we were on city property, something we didn't realize until after h plead guilty just to get the fucking mess over with)

Unite all who can be united to smash imperialism!

— a CAUSE comrade

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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eMail: <mim@mim.org>
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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM is looking for distributors and sponsors to step forward. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support:

Distribute	Cost per year
12 (Priority Mail)	\$120
25 (Priority Mail)	\$150
50 (Priority Mail)	\$280
100	\$380
200	\$750
900 (Express Mail!)	\$3,840
900 (8-10 days)	\$2,200

If you know you have some good places to distribute, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up. If you are not willing to distribute, just send money. If you are not willing to pay, then request papers after somehow proving to the party that you are serious (words won't count). You who will cough up/raise the money to distribute 900 papers each issue and then do the distribution -- you are what drives this party forward.

Make anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Or write mim3@mim.org.

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\$. 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.

Dodging prison condition questions Candidates: answer the questions!

by bosmim@mim.org
March 30, 2002

Massachusetts spends \$1.3 billion a year on “public safety,” which means incarceration. That excludes money for the judiciary branch of government and child protective services and other aspects of “criminal law enforcement.” Yet, MIM attempted to interview 8 candidates for Massachusetts governor, and none had anything to say about censorship and literacy in Massachusetts prisons.

Often times people ask MIM why we do not just use our knowledge of politics to lobby the government or run for office ourselves. Although thousands of people

in Massachusetts read MIM Notes every week, all the candidates felt they could dodge the questions we asked. That in itself is an important lesson in power and politics to absorb.

Roughly half the budget goes to health— tobacco and other sources of money that goes to stopping smoking and addressing various health ills. Not all states have such a huge medical complex in their state budget. There is money for Medicaid, AIDS and the like. Then another quarter of the budget goes to education. Finally, in Massachusetts, prisons are the third largest item overall. However, not a single candidate for governor includes prison conditions in

his or her in-depth web page discussions of “issues,” with the exception of the sensational “death penalty.”

On March 20th, we sent the Democrats and Republicans the following questions and asked for answers by March 28th. By the end of the 29th, none had answered.

Our letter

March 20, 2002

Dear Mitt Romney, Robert Reich, Shannon O’Brien, Tom Birmingham, Warren Tolman & Steve Grossman:

Hello, we seek to interview you about prison conditions in Massachusetts. We are MIM Notes, a newspaper of a communist party that does not endorse

candidates or run for state or national office. We have an especially strong readership in Massachusetts in the thousands.

We will be interviewing the candidates for governor in three parts. This part is about censorship in prisons. We guarantee to print in MIM Notes each candidate up to 2000 characters (possibly more at our discretion) verbatim and unedited. We guarantee to run all comments written in full on our website—verbatim. Unlike the Boston Globe and other major papers, we prefer unfiltered and uncut quotes. We regularly print and run unfiltered denunciations of

Continued on page 7...

Turkish prison death fast continues

The grueling and brutal death fast in Turkish prisons continues in order to protest changes in F-type prisons that prisoners see as isolating prisoners in order to arrange their assassination. MIM received the following report:

“The DHKP-C prisoner Dogan Tokmak was martyred this evening (March 15, 2002) at 2100. Dogan Tokmak had been removed to Sisli Etfal Hospital (in Istanbul) two days previously for forcible medical intervention when his condition worsened. A member of the 5th Death Fast Team, Dogan Tokmak was

imprisoned in Kandira F-Type. Dogan Tokmak is the 88th martyr of the resistance which started on October 20, 2000. (Translated from a report on the website of Halkin Sesi (Voice of the People) television)”

The Turkish people face a semi-feudal and semi-colonial regime that serves as the U.S. imperialists willing lackey and which represses the Kurdish people’s national aspirations. Real Maoists conducting People’s War exist in Turkey and support the Cultural Revolution in China (1966 to 1976) just like MIM does.

PIRAO campaigns move forward

New PIRAO campaigns on several fronts are in motion. MIM Notes circulation and web readership are still up since September 11th. Current experiments are aimed at figuring out how much money and in what places it is best to spend money to increase MIM readership on a regular basis.

MIM studies what works and does not work without sacrificing radicalism. However, MIM would like to stress to those who think they are more “moderate” that it benefits all progressive causes to have a large MIM presence. A movement can only seem “moderate” next to something that is not.

One thing for sure: MIM is more effective than most organizations. Ross Perot proved that if you want to change public opinion in Amerikkka, you have to pay for it, but the question is how much.

The environmental movement spends \$9 billion a year with little result because of its apolitical and cross-cancelling nature. MIM is much more directed and if you manage to send \$9 billion to MIM, you can be sure a whole lot of earth-shaking and change is on the way.

If you or anyone you know would like to fund a MIM advertisement in your favorite place, contact, mim3@mim.org, the Web Minister. Instructions on how to send secret messages appear at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/security.html>

If you have an ad in mind send it along, or if you just want to send money, and let MIM spend it, send anonymous money orders to MIM, PO Box 290670, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Keep the money order stub for yourself.

A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

MIM Notes has seen a big spike in circulation since the “war on terrorism” began. It’s not surprising: MIM Notes is a free and independent newspaper. Yes, there are especially now knee-jerk patriots who believe everything Bush says and pass by a chance to read MIM Notes. There are other patriots and internationalists who realize that at this time papers like MIM Notes can undo the huge spectacle that Uncle Sam is creating for its own benefit.

Sure, you have seen MIM Notes around, but MIM Notes needs people to do two simple things: 1) Pay for it (postage and printing), 2) Distribute it!

MIM is looking for sponsors, distributors and officers. Sponsors pay for papers; distributors get them onto the streets and officers do both distribution and financial support.

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MIM Theory calls for articles, testimonials

MIM’s theory magazine is preparing for future issues. We are looking for well-researched articles on Nazi Germany and eastern Germany, especially in the 1945 to 1953 period. Please follow some footnote format.

Another area we are working on is research on psychics. If you stopped paying psychics, please send us a letter telling us how you did so and give us your permission to use your statement as a testimonial. We also would appreciate any statistical research or articles on the subject of the effectiveness of psychics.

UNITED FRONT

Get the new issue of MIM Theory, #14, and read the latest theory on building the movement to overthrow imperialism once and for all, in 174 pages. Articles include MIM congress resolutions, history from the Spanish Civil War to Puerto Rico, Kenya, and Stalin -- plus international documents, reviews, and much more. Send \$7.50 to the address on page 2.

MIM statement on the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) hails the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army. On March 29, 1969 the Communist Party of the Philippines organized the NPA with 60 Red fighters and scarcely enough guns for all. Now the NPA has grown to thousands of full-time guerrilla fighters with automatic rifles. Its efforts are also supported by the more numerous forces of local guerrillas, militia and self-defense units.

Under the leadership of the CPP and the general line of New Democratic Revolution, the NPA is waging a protracted People's War to expel imperialism from the Philippines. The NPA is a model of revolutionary self-sufficiency. Comrade Jose Maria Sison

has called the NPA the "mainstay of the people's democratic state system" and describes its tasks as turning "the most backward areas in the countryside into the most advanced political, military, economic and cultural bastions of the revolution." This people's army builds its strength and influence by pursuing a program of genuine land reform and undertaking mass health and educational work. The Filipino people have come to cherish the NPA and to learn through its work the continuing relevance of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism as a weapon for their own liberation.

For comrades in the semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries, the NPA is an example that their own national conditions are ripe for the development

of armed struggle under the leadership of a Maoist party. These comrades share the confidence that when foreign imperialism is vanquished, the people can rally to the cause of the proletariat and eradicate the remaining twin oppressors of domestic feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. For comrades in the imperialist countries, where armed struggle is not feasible at this time and will not be until the imperialists are truly helpless, the armed struggle led by the CPP is a reminder that the seizure of power by armed force is the highest form of revolution - a reminder which keeps us from straying into the swamp of opportunism.

We look to the victories won by the CPP-led revolutionary movement as

heroic blows landed against our common enemy: Amerikan imperialism. MIM takes this occasion to renew its commitment to aiding the revolutionary movement in the Philippines the best way it can: By hastening the day when the oppressed masses in North America overthrow Amerikan imperialism and enter into a dictatorship of the international proletariat to ensure that imperialism does not rise again.

**Long live the New People's Army!
Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!
Long live Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!**

NDFP CONDEMNS GRP FOR DETAINING NDFP OFFICIAL SACAMAY AND FOR FILING CHARGES OF COMMON CRIMES AGAINST HIM

The following is a statement from our comrades in the Philippines regarding negotiations for a peace settlement between the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) on the one side and the comprador Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) on the other.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is trampling upon bilateral peace agreements it said it would honor. By arresting and detaining NDFP official Edgardo Sacamay, it is violating the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The JASIG stipulates that someone who is in transit for consultations with a duly accredited person is covered with safety guarantees; he must be granted free and unhindered passage (JASIG, Part I, No. 3). By

arresting and detaining Mr. Sacamay, who was in transit for consultation with NDFP Negotiating Panel Member, Mr. Fidel Agcaoili, the military agents of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime violated the JASIG. Therefore, the demand of the NDFP for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Sacamay is well-founded in the JASIG.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is also violating the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). Part III, Article 6 of this agreement states: The GRP shall abide by its doctrine laid down in People vs. Hernandez (July 18, 1956), as further elaborated in People vs. Geronimo (October 13, 1956), and shall forthwith

review the cases of all prisoners or detainees who have been charged, detained, or convicted contrary to this doctrine, and shall immediately release them. By filing charges of common crimes of arson, murder, and robbery in band against Mr. Sacamay, the Manila government violates both the letter and the spirit of this provision of CARHRIHL.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime declared on 27 March 2001 its adherence to the JASIG, the CARHRIHL and other bilateral agreements with the NDFP. The question now is what worth does it give to its word.

Luis G. Jalandoni
Chairperson, NDFP Negotiating Panel
15 March 2002

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

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Troops deployed across Philippines in name of "war on terror" U\$A and puppet regime attack Philippine sovereignty

Continued from page 1...

has drummed up the idea that these bombings are making the climate unsafe for the corruption trial of ex-President Joseph Estrada, and is talking of moving the trial, possibly out of the country. There has even been an effort to create an anthrax-esque hysteria, publicizing that some "imported blue powder" was found in some of the bombs. The story is that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People's Army, or the previously-unheard-of Federal Indigenous Army is responsible for the bombings. This publicity is only part of the government's campaign to discredit the revolutionary elements by associating them with questionable organizations and accusing them of random acts of violence.

On March 28, the body of a regional Bayan Muna leader was found dead near a Philippine Army camp. This was the leader for Isabela province, the fourth largest in the Philippines. There is a clear attack on the legal national democratic movement. Nor can there be any confusion about the true fascist tendencies of the Macapagal-Arroyo government and its eagerness to subvert the will of the Filipino people at the behest of Amerikan imperialism. Just as the U.S.-Macapagal-Arroyo regime is violating the terms of its peace talks with the National Democratic Front (see accompanying statement, "NDFP Condemns GRP"), it is betraying every democratic principle that it claims to uphold.

Under the ideals of a bourgeois democracy the rights of such a party's

leaders to organize, raise money and agitate would be vigorously defended. Indeed President Bush's claim that the September 11 bombings were an attack on Amerikan freedoms has become the battle cry for all-out war in Afghanistan, and any other country whose leaders will not uphold the neo-colonial line. The united snakes and its allies are supposed to be fighting to spread basic civil liberties around the world, right? But Amerikan liberties are nestled closely beside their opposite: poverty and repression in the Philippines and throughout the Third World. The freedoms we enjoy here — like eating fresh pineapples in January — are purchased with the blood of the oppressed.

The National Democratic Front of the

Philippines and its member and allied organizations have been leading a vigorous protest movement against the illegal incursion of U.S. troops. Patriotic groups in the Philippines "view the arrival of American troops and Balikatan as direct assaults on the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Filipino people." MIM calls on all people in this country who uphold genuine freedom and democracy to join us in opposition to this latest attack on the right to self-determination for the people of the Philippines.

U.S. troops out of the Philippines!

Sources: "Protests welcome US troops,"

Correspondence (publication of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)), November 2001-February 2002; "Grumblings surface during 'Balikatan'," Inquirer News Service 3 Feb. 2002 http://www.inq7.net/nat/2002/feb/04/nat_2-1.htm

Israel invades West Bank, commits summary executions; Palestinians destroy Israeli tank

by mousnonya@yahoo.com

The Israeli invasion of the West Bank and Gaza [this refers to events before the launch of "Operation Protective Wall" and the siege of Ramallah -*ed.*], purportedly to root out "terrorists," is in fact but one element of the orchestrated Israeli plan of annexation of the West

Bank for new settlement. The invaders have made no secret about assassinating "terrorists". In fact they have even been caught on film executing an unarmed dissident.(1)

In a great feat of courage the next day the Palestinian resistance destroyed another Israeli tank.(2) MIM salutes the bravery of the Palestinians in their armed struggle: ambushing and destroying a tank on foot takes great courage.

Tactically the Israeli invasion of the

West Bank is just the latest in imperialist mis-adventures. As Marx taught, the international proletariat has nothing to lose [but its chains. The Palestinians fight with the spirit of a revolutionary people.]

MIM is skeptical about the prospects of peace in the Middle East. Recent U.S. proposals, backed by the U.N., to create a puppet Palestine(3) belie the fact of insecurity and violence which the Israelis have perpetrated on the Palestinians for the last decade. They also ignore the fact

that the Israeli government wants to evict the Palestinians and seize their land. Real peace can only come when the system of profit and exploitation of war and misery ends. Real lasting peace will only be achieved when the international proletariat chokes imperialism to death.

Notes:

1. BBC, 12 March, 2002
2. BBC, 14 March, 2002
3. The Economist 14 March, 2002

Amerikkka, the wise warrior: not!

Continued from page 1...

"swimsuit" issue of "Sports Illustrated" sold best. "Maxim" took men's interest in 90% naked wimmin and managed to create a flourishing business with ads from all the same companies that support wimmin's magazines galore. As we go to press, the opening ad in "Maxim" is the same as in any womyn's publication, but it features a young man sprawled in jeans.

We are pretty certain that social scientists will figure out that "Maxim" discovered that men wanted not completely naked wimmin who are busty but not heavy. If the womyn were completely naked, too many men would be embarrassed (and too many sales outlets closed) we take it— else there'd be no reason to distinguish "Maxim" from Playboy. Furthermore, unlike the other magazines which show wimmin usually standing as stiff as cardboard all the better to cut out the picture to frame the face, "Maxim" like "Sports Illustrated," shows wimmin more in their entirety kneeling or sitting with clothing that emphasizes the breasts and not photo cropping that emphasizes the face or the hair.

From MIM's perspective, "Playboy" magazine looks better and better all the time. After getting to the point quickly with 100% nudity, "Playboy" has pages and pages of time to present serious interviews on serious topics. Meanwhile, countless "Cosmo" imitations are nothing but soft pornography and smutty talk of the most inane sort, fun for a little while but no reason to go on and on for issue after magazine issue. We cannot help thinking if Amerikkkans of both sexes could take care of their sexual fantasies quicker, the magazines they read could be better. Instead, the magazines seem to flourish precisely to the extent that there is a difference between 90% "respectable" nudity and 100% nudity.

All of this is very important to MIM, because we consider it our "principal task to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed." The naive questioner of MIM would ask why MIM cannot just set up a newspaper and take subscriptions and hit it big.

An examination of who hits it big and why is important. Even imperialists fail in their business ventures sometimes and

it turns out that MIM's intuition about "Maxim" finds validation in circulation statistics. Out of the top 100 magazines in 2000, "Maxim" had shown the fastest growth of any, with 63.9% annual growth in circulation, ahead of next-closest competitor, the Internet-related magazine Yahoo! which grew at a 35.1% clip but only squeaked in at 100th place.(1) Meanwhile, in the first six months of 2001 for which the latest data is available, "Maxim" sustained its surge up the charts getting 26th place up from 27th place, about 20% ahead of "U.S. News & World Report." Of course both lag behind "Newsweek" and "Playboy" which are almost exactly equal in circulation at 16th and 17th place.(2)

So if you want to succeed in media in Amerikkka, MIM has already told you how in this story. Picking models and photographers is the most important thing to do. Sending reporters all over the world and keeping tabs on news 24 hours a day can only get so far—thanks to the tastes of the majority here, the gender aristocracy and labor aristocracy. In theory, a magazine should be able to cover topics and news in more depth and with more perspectives than a newspaper or TV news outlet, but reality is not so favorable to serious thought and politics.

MIM is not going to say anything bad about the top three magazines which are for specialized audiences and often delivered by mail through membership—two for senior citizens and "Reader's Digest." However, places 4 through 100 are filled with self-damnation to such an extent, that it is tempting to view "U.S. News & World Report" with considerable sympathy. Fourth place goes to "TV Guide." In the first six months of 2001, "Time Magazine" is up in circulation, at 10th place with a circulation of just over 4 million, more than 2 million less than the direct users of "nakednews.com"—and "Time Magazine" is the biggest selling of the news/politics magazines excluding the newsletters for the elderly.

Now if "Time" merged with 36th place "National Enquirer" and its circulation over 2 million it could almost equal nakednews.com, provided there was not too much previous overlap of subscribers. Another good merger would be soft porno wimmin's magazines of the gender aristocracy— "Cosmopolitan" (23rd),

"Seventeen,"(28) "Redbook,"(29) "YM,"(30), "Glamour"(31), "Mademoiselle" (still 75th as of first-half 2001 statistics), "Vogue"(76), "Allure,"(96) and "Marie Claire"(98). Such a giant might only be hampered in charging \$30 a magazine to those customers who used to buy all nine separately.

At this point our reader might ask, "I thought you said the masses were not asses, MIM?" Not even MIM can make the facts go away. Just as study of pre-industrial tribes reveals something about humyn nature, study of well-fed Amerikkkans entertaining themselves reveals something as well. Here it must be admitted that people who have reached a certain economic level who focus on entertaining themselves so narrowly as evidenced by the sales of these trashy magazines become ignorant. It's a calculated ignorance of people happy with the political status quo. They have the option not to be ignorant; they have the money and the time, but they choose to live a trashy existence. We have spoken to many not living in imperialist countries who find this depressing to contemplate, but contemplate it we must.

Recently MIM spoke with an immigrant distributing MIM Notes who said she does not know if she would distribute a similar paper in the home country, "but if you don't give them 'MIM Notes' what will they [Amerikkkans] read instead?" The answer is appalling.

Looking at the numbers, MIM's web site has 18,000 users a month compared with nakednews.com's 6 million plus. Many aspects of PIRAO's job are to get MIM's circulation numbers up.

Judging from the circulation numbers, the good news is that the bourgeoisie rules more by the narrowness and calculated ignorance of the gender aristocracy and labor aristocracy than by conscious explanation. At 500,000 users a month MIM's website circulation would be as respectable as any mainstream outlet's. At a circulation of 1 million, anything connected to MIM would have to be considered a wild success; even though the country has 280 million people. Only Associated Press, Knight-Ridder and the like have any possibility of reaching a large portion of the population—through their repeated

syndication.

The most shocking thing about these circulation statistics just prior to September 11th, 2001 is that they reveal how little the Amerikkkan public knows about anything. Yet, it is that calculated ignorance that allowed the public to pretend it was blindsided by an act of war, instead of realizing that the "chickens came home to roost" for support for U.S. war against civilians all over the world, including the Middle East. According to the calculated ignorance of the majority and its "plausible deniability," September 11th appears as an isolated act of war, not one battle in the midst of a war it has fought for decades in a massive terrorist undertaking throughout the Third World.

Most of the people calling themselves "communist" and "scientists" have yet to admit that the culture of the Amerikkkan people does not show the vaguest hint of proletarian class underpinnings. It is not a matter that the majority of the population has vague proletarian strivings that require class-conscious leadership. Rather Amerikkkans are an unhappy proof about humyn nature and its inclination to rest, self-entertainment, narrowness and yet militarism. Nothing about prosperity guarantees great advances in civilization.

"Majority" rule only works in the place of rule of the enlightened scientist if the majority raises its own consciousness and believes it is important to do so. Any examination of the magazines that Amerikkkans read should prove why "majority rule" in Amerika is "dumbocracy"—of a self-satisfied, arrogant, chauvinist and militarist sort thanks to the imperialists elected by dumbocracy. More importantly it is a dumbocracy with the will to rule the majority of the whole world by the will of the majority of white people of North Amerika.

Amerikkka, you "Cosmopolitan"-reading, nakednews.com-watching, savage "people," you have no right to be righteous about 911. You didn't know anything before September 11th, and after September 11th, you are not suddenly the world's global "Batman" setting wrongs to right. As passive supporters of a racist war-machine, you are too busy with Nintendo to know that your terrorist government attacked first.

Notes:

1. http://www.magazine.org/resources/fact_sheets/cs2_9_01.html
2. http://www.magazine.org/resources/fact_sheets/cs9_14_01.html

Petition demands review of errors in *The Black Book of Communism*

When MIM reviewed *The Black Book of Communism* last year,(1) we found that besides the expected ideological and methodological differences it contained numerous boneheaded mathematical errors that over-estimated death rates in communist-led countries by at least a factor of ten. We won a small victory after we sent a letter to the book's publisher, Harvard University Press, asking for a public correction of these errors as a matter of academic integrity and intellectual honesty. Editor Mark Kramer conceded that the death rates were erroneously multiplied by ten.(2)

However, numerous other errors of a factual nature persist. For example, the authors underestimate the current imprisonment rate in the United States when comparing it to China's. One chapter also makes the sweeping claim that land reform was carried out in Taiwan, south Korea, and Japan without loss of life and adequate compensation. This claim is horribly misinformed and contradicts numerous academic accounts without reference.(2,3)

MIM still demands that Harvard University Press print an erratum to the first edition. We recently gathered over

three dozen signatures on a petition demanding that an academic committee be appointed to review these errors (see letter below). We seek tenured faculty, student organizations and others to sign on to this call. For more information, contact mim3@mim.org.

April 3, 2002

Dear Harvard University Press and Mark Kramer:

We have not heard from you in a while about the "Black Book of Communism." Through the regular mail we are sending you 35 signatures on a petition concerning that book asking you to

appoint an academic committee to review it. Another three people wrote us by email to be included on the petition.

Also, in casual review, we would point out another error: on page 492 you say Anhui is in north-central China. Actually, it should be counted as southeastern China.

Sincerely,

The Maoist Internationalist Movement

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/commie.html>
2. MIM Notes 230, 15 Mar 2001.
3. MIM Notes 229, 1 Mar 2001.

'Pastor to presidents' exposed as an anti-Semitic, genocidal prick

But hey, he said he's sorry

He is only the most popular Christian preacher of all time, an evangelist before Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, but Billy Graham has been uncovered as a vicious anti-Semite. Now that the remarks from a tape with President Nixon have been played, Billy Graham has asked Jews for forgiveness.

Graham has spawned no fewer than 175 articles in the newspaper USA Today, and the USA Today did not even exist when Graham was most popular. For some reason though, USA Today did not do a story on the details of the 1972 tape between Nixon and Graham. Only a columnist mentioned it and compared Billy Graham's treatment with the treatment the media gives Louis Farrakhan who the British government is trying to prevent from entering England;(1) although we would point out that Billy Graham immediately apologized when confronted in public.

Although Graham is 83 now, and his

real heyday was in the 1970s when he was the unchallenged leader of his niche, today he still commands high poll ratings. In 2002, he comes in fifth amongst men mentioned as the one to look up to most, right behind the Pope and ahead of Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, Michael Jordan, Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela. However, since 1955, Graham has been named in the top 10 39 times—more than anyone else.

It turns out that not only is Graham anti-Semitic but he lied in the past to cover up his remarks when confronted that he made them. While defending Graham, ultra-reactionary William F. Buckley Jr. nonetheless pointed out that his previous denials were unbelievable.(3)

The same Billy Graham has now turned out to recommend to Nixon that he take an action that Nixon's military brass was telling him would kill one million Vietnamese — bombing dikes. Graham did this in 1969. It's significant because Billy Graham was the pastor of

presidents, their moral advisor.

Many have quoted the relevant passages of the 1972 tapes on Jews. Here we will use Alexander Cockburn's edition, starting where Graham replies to Nixon who just said that 95% of the media is Jewish:

"This stranglehold has got to be broken or the country's going down the drain," the nation's best-known preacher declares "You believe that?" Nixon says. "Yes, sir," Graham says. "Oh, boy," replies Nixon. "So do I. I can't ever say that but I believe it." "No, but if you get elected a second time, then we might be able to do something," Graham replies. Magnanimously Nixon concedes that this does not mean "that all the Jews are bad" but that most are left-wing radicals who want "peace at any price except where support for Israel is concerned. The best Jews are actually the Israeli Jews." "That's right," agrees Graham, who later concurs with a Nixon assertion that a "powerful bloc" of Jews confronts Nixon in the media. "And they're the ones putting out the pornographic stuff," Graham adds.(4)

There was someone else who believed

that Jews controlled the media and were responsible for the spread of pornography: "And I now began to examine my beloved 'world press' from this point of view. . . the objectivity of exposition now seemed to me more akin to lies than honest truth; and the writers were Jews."(5) There are at least 26 pages in *Mein Kampf* where Hitler refers to the press as owned or run by Jews.

Notes:

1. <http://www.usatoday.com/news/comment/columnists/wickham/2002-03-19-wickham.htm>
2. <http://www.usatoday.com/news/washdc/dec01/2001-12-27-bush-poll.htm> ; <http://www.angelfire.com/zine/baptistsurfer/BillyGraham.html> which also has Billy Graham's full press release on the subject.
3. <http://www.nationalreview.com/buckley/buckley031902.shtml>
4. <http://www.counterpunch.org/alexgraham.html> ; <http://www.suntimes.com/output/steinberg/cst-nws-stein221.html> ; see also <http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1997/9612/09/briefs/index.shtml> for another conflict involving Jews, Nixon and Graham
5. Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1971), p. 58.

Thousands support Palestinian self-determination

Continued from page 1...

Egyptian lawyer and an Indian student. Both of these men interrupted and correctly criticized a diatribe from member of the Trotskyist Spartacist League, who claimed that the Palestinian national struggle was bankrupt. What was really needed, according to the Spart, was a joint struggle by the Israeli and Palestinian proletariats for a socialist federation.

The Egyptian pointed out that this was pure idealism, as long as Israel occupied lands in the West bank and Gaza, and completely out of touch with the reality that 46% of Israeli Jews favor "transfer" — that is, the ethnic cleansing of Palestine of all Arabs.(2) The Indian also correctly observed that the Israeli proletariat is mostly Palestinian. Palestinian workers face all kinds of legal and extra-legal restrictions which drive down their wages and make it difficult for them organize.(3)

What Trotskyists and other so-called Marxists fail to understand is that under imperialism, the class struggle

principally manifests itself as a national struggle. The Communist Party of China led the Chinese people in a war to kick out the Japanese occupiers, for example. Of course, it welcomed the support Japanese anti-imperialists and treated Japanese prisoners of war humanely, so as to show them that support for Japanese imperialism was not in their best long-term interests. But it did not put the struggle against the Japanese occupiers on the back burner in favor of joint action between the Chinese and Japanese proletariat. In fact, it grasped the war of liberation as the key link pushing forward the struggle for socialism in China *and in Japan*. Similarly, today, MIM recognizes that the struggles of oppressed nations for liberation from imperialism pushes forward the struggle for socialism in those countries and in the imperialist countries.

In further discussion, the Egyptian lawyer argued that international intervention via the United Nations was the best hope for Palestinians. While

MIM recognizes the importance of mobilizing international public opinion and demonstrating how isolated the United States and Israel are, we think the United Nations' ineffective track record speaks for itself. Resolution after resolution has been passed against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, yet the United States has repeatedly scuttled any practical efforts to censure Israel. And the United States has also used the United Nations to take advantage of short memories and cast itself as a "peacemaker": Witness the recent U.S.-sponsored "land for peace" resolution which simply reiterated a principle the UN passed 30 years ago — a principle the United States has sabotaged in practice.

Rather than rely on the United Nations or other outside help, the Palestinian people need to rely on their own strength in their struggle for self-determination. The job of proletarian revolutionaries, anti-imperialists, and peace-loving people in the United States is to support that struggle by opposing U.S. militarism

in the Middle East — and prepare for the day when we can offer the greatest service to the oppressed peoples of the world: The complete overthrow of U.S. imperialism.

Notes:

1. See the Chapter 'Rejectionism and Accommodation' in Noam Chomsky's *Fateful Triangle* (Cambridge: South End Press, 1999, pp. 39-88). Chomsky argues that the United States and Israel's refrain that Arab states and major Palestinian groups refuse to recognize Israel — they are 'rejectionist' — has long been a myth, whereas the United States and Israel have long been the real 'rejectionists,' in the sense of denying Palestinian right to national self-determination.
2. Fresh Air With Terry Gross, 2 Apr 2002.
3. Chomsky, pp. 140-141. See also pp. 118-123 which describe how the Jewish "working class" in Israel is fertile soil for fascism. "[Their] primary hatred is directed against Arabs, their competitors in the job market who agree to accept work for very low wages or that Jews do not want..."
4. New York Times, 7 Apr 2002.

Dodging prison condition questions Candidates: answer the questions!

Continued from page 3...

our party as well, if you find it necessary.

1. Are you aware of the censorship of prisoners and Massachusetts citizens writing to prisoners?

2. Do you believe there is any possible just cause for withholding books, magazines or newspapers from prisoners? For instance, a very occasional prisoner will use a book as a weapon. Do you think that can be sufficient reason to allow regulations to deny prisoners books, magazines or newspapers?

3. Do you believe there are any regulations that prison officials should be able to make or have concerning prisoner receipt of magazines, books and newspapers? If so, what would they be?

4. Where do you stand on prisoner literacy and upgrading skills for the Massachusetts workforce? Do you agree with us that the content of what is being read should be up to prisoners: The important thing is literacy? Do you agree with us that withholding reading materials should never be a form of punishment?

5. What will you do to end censorship of prisoners and those publications censored by state authorities? The deadline for replies for the newspaper is March 28th. There is no deadline for unfiltered comments to be placed on our web page.

Sincerely,
bosmim@mim.org for MIM Notes

Replies

Mitt Romney: On March 27th, Romney's office provided the most calculated answer of all candidates: "Thank you for your interest in the Romney 2002 campaign. Please visit www.romney2002.com for additional information and updates on current events. We would also encourage you to sign up to receive our email newsletter, which will provide information on the latest campaign developments. Again, thank you for your letter; we look forward to hearing from you in the future. Sincerely, The Office of Mitt Romney, Elisabeth Calvert Smith "

Shannon O'Brien: No reply.

Robert Reich: No reply.

Tom Birmingham: No reply.

Warren Tolman: Warren Tolman's campaign mailbox is effectively down. After one week, the mail server bounced the message completely. Yes, ineptitude does play a role in politics, but it is not the excuse for all candidates. Humyn error is maybe 30% of the problem.

Steve Grossman: No reply.

Jill Stein: The Green Party candidate's web address was also effectively down and other Greens were unwilling or unable to help. Thus, at least 2 out of 8 candidates had the pure humyn breakdown thing going on.

Carla Howell: The Libertarian Party's refusal to answer (after being asked March 25th) is the most embarrassing to

both MIM and the Libertarian Party. These questions should have been right up their alley.

With the Libertarians not answering and the five Democrats not answering, it is pretty safe to say that there is a political calculation that goes on why it is not possible to answer MIM's questions in public.

Although a big part of the governor's job is prisons, the candidates do not like to talk about them. None of them have any real clue how to advance rehabilitation in the event of prisoners who really did commit a crime. None of them care, because prisoners generally do not have money to pose a threat to gubernatorial candidates. Moreover, the petty-bourgeois majority of Amerikkka including in Massachusetts is generally hostile in an emotional and distorted way to the prison population, large as that population may be.

To blame these politicians as individuals for not answering the question when all of them refused is like trying to blame water when it flows downhill. These politicians have all calculated that they cannot afford to ruffle any labor aristocracy feathers.

To talk about prison censorship is too unpleasant. We the public have to understand that politicians in a dumbocracy only say what they find the public wants to hear. Those candidates who do not know what the public wants

to hear will fail in electoral politics, unless of course they have sufficient money to run a powerful campaign themselves, and even then it is only possible to push so far. Ross Perot is the best example of what is possible with money. If a question is unpredictable, difficult to comprehend or would involve a difficult struggle of principle, experienced politicians will not involve themselves. That is up to others. It's one of the reasons that there has to be a vanguard party to speak unvarnished truth no matter how unpopular.

Nonetheless, we urge our Massachusetts readers to speak out, to write the Boston Phoenix and the candidates to make them answer the questions:

Libertarians: media@carlahowell.org
mitt@romney2002.com — Republican Party

Republocrats:

campaign@RobertReich.org,
shannon@shannonobrien.com,
tom@tombirmingham.org,
warren@warrentolman.org,
steve@grossman2002.com

Green Party: adam@jillwill.org,
info@jillwill.org

Boston Phoenix: letters@phx.com

Ask the candidates to answer the questions and forward answers to bosmim@mim.org.

Letters

Continued from page 2...

MIM Responds: Actually, in our first issue after September 11, we included a discussion of the possibility that U.S. or Israeli spy agencies might be behind the attacks. It wouldn't be the first time they committed a terrorist crime incognito or incited another group to commit one. They admit as much.

Former Prime Minister of Israel Moshe Sharett wrote in his diary: "I have been meditating on the long chain of false incidents and hostilities we have invented, and on the many clashes we have provoked which cost us so much blood, and on the violations of the law by our men—all of which brought grave disasters and determined the whole course of events and contributed to the security crisis."(1)

A recent Pentagon study evaluating threats to a possible U.S. "peacekeeping force" in Palestine had this to say about the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service: "Wildcard. Ruthless and cunning. Has capability to target U.S. forces and make it look like a Palestinian/Arab act."(2) Back in the day, Sharett admitted that Western intelligence believed Israel was staging incidents to destabilize the Middle East and create

pretexts for war that Israel was prepared to win. In other shadowy incidents, Israel hired Arab agents to do its dirty work, some of whom may have turned around and killed Israelis.

Regardless of what happened in any particular terrorist incident, the fact is that state agencies do carry out terrorist incidents and the ordinary public cannot usually know who is to blame. The solution for this can only be the abolition of governments in the distant future of communism, when people cooperate economically, culturally and politically, so that no nation has secret services like the CIA. These secret services are themselves an irritant in relations amongst nations and must be eradicated for a completely secure world.

MIM has also regularly updated readers on U.S. involvement with the purported bombers in Al-Queda right up to the attacks. The FBI complained that the Bush administration's negotiations over oil pipeline rights with the Taliban hampered their investigation of Osama bin Laden; the CIA met with bin Laden in August. Whatever the U.S. government's direct involvement in the September attacks, it clearly tolerated an atmosphere conducive to terrorism while pursuing its own selfish goals: Profit and political hegemony.

Congratulations your energetic anti-war work and promoting your anti-

imperialist perspective.

Notes:

1. Livia Rokach, Israel's Sacred Terrorism (Belmont, MA: Association of

Arab- American University Graduates, 1986), p. 4.

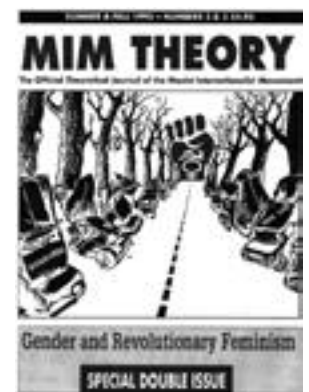
2. Washington Times, 5 Apr 2002.

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.

Award-winning film on typical Amerikan police corruption deserves wider distribution

Murder on a Sunday Morning (2001)

Directed by Jean-Xavier Lestrade

This film won the 2002 Academy Award for best documentary — despite having no distribution contract in the United States. It follows the trial of a fifteen-year-old, Jacksonville, Florida Black man, who police falsely accuse of murder. While police interrogate this young man, they take him deep into the woods at dusk and beat him. He then signs a confession which they write for him.

‘Murder...’ does a passable job telling this story in an entertaining manner, making use of conventions of the courtroom drama. It’s helped in this regard by an arrogant public defender — we use the term ‘arrogant’ in its positive sense — who relishes the idea of ‘screwing’ and publicly humiliating corrupt cops.

And these typical Amerikan cops are certainly corrupt. Faced with a difficult crime to solve, they simply round up the ‘usual suspects,’ settling for a Black man who didn’t even fit the sole eyewitness’ original description. Leaving aside the possibility that the eyewitness was a racist cracker, the police present this young man to him under suggestive circumstances and then ignore inconsistencies in his testimony. The police also do not seriously follow up on the young man’s alibi. Nor do they even try to find other witnesses to place the suspect on the scene or back up their case — they are content to rely on their eyewitness and forced confession. There is nothing here viewers haven’t seen on ‘NYPD Blue’ — except ‘Murder’ correctly criticizes these underhanded tactics as reprehensible attacks on the liberties of innocent individuals.

In her closing arguments, the

prosecutor tells the jury that if they believe the cops were as corrupt and inept as the defense claimed, they should not only find the defendant not guilty, but in essence they should find the whole Amerikan system guilty and corrupt. Well, who are we to disagree with the honorable prosecutor. Especially since the problems highlighted in this one case are endemic to the Amerikan (in)justice system. For example, academic studies have shown that eyewitness testimony is notoriously unreliable and subject to suggestion by cops and prosecutors whose careers depend on a ‘tough on crime’ image. Yet eyewitness testimony is often enough to convict somebody ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’; in the mid-90s over 80,000 trials relied on eyewitness testimony.(1)

And we haven’t even touched on the bass-ackwards definition of crime in this country, which throws young mothers in

prison for decades for possessing illegal drugs, while mass murderers and mega-thieves in the top ranks of the government and industry live in luxurious peace — or are held up as heroes.

Our biggest complaint with ‘Murder’ is that it doesn’t make the explicit connection between this case and the broader problems with the Amerikan (in)justice system. In fact, the film closes with the stereotypical line that ‘the system worked in the end.’ There are subtle hints that the filmmakers don’t believe this — but too subtle for our taste. We recommend the film as an eye-opener. Viewers need to follow up and investigate all aspects of the Amerikan (in)justice system — not just take this as an isolated incident.

Notes:

1. MIM Notes 99, April 1995.

Not all public defenders are public pretenders But system works against them and their clients

Presumed Guilty

**World Premiere, March 10, 2002
San Francisco International Asian
American Film Festival**

Directed by Pamela Yates

Presumed Guilty is a documentary about the San Francisco Public Defenders office. This topic, in and of itself, is an important subject for activists fighting the Criminal Injustice System. But the film was made all the more timely by the hotly contested San Francisco race for the office of Public Defender which was won by Jeff Adachi, who is featured prominently in the film, just days before the world premiere of the movie.

Public defenders are assigned as lawyers to people who can not afford to hire private attorneys. They receive low pay and deal with some of the most difficult cases, frequently burdened with heavy caseloads and little assistance, facing pro-prosecution judges and a system slanted firmly against their clients. Based on the public defenders featured in Presumed Guilty MIM concludes that San Francisco enjoys a very dedicated office of lawyers working on behalf of the people.

The movie does not attempt to present statistics or even rhetoric about the criminal injustice system and it’s clear bias in favor of the prosecution, particularly of Blacks, Latinos and Asians, but the title of the film reveals the message the filmmakers expect to convey to the audience. And by following several cases defended by various lawyers in the public defenders office, the message comes through loud and clear. One judge who upheld ridiculous motions on behalf of the prosecution and illegally held one defendant in contempt

without a hearing was actually removed from his criminal bench and moved to civil cases after the public defenders office challenged him in court. But victories like this are few and far between.

During filmed trials the audience sees cops admitting to lying while trying to coerce confessions, prosecutors making it clear that they believe everyone arrested is guilty (and with the slip of the tongue encourage the jury to presume guilt as well) and witnesses being paid thousands of dollars to testify against someone. Racial profiling is highlighted with the arrest and prosecution of a Black man whose crime was being out on the streets early in the morning looking sleepy. This was the basis for prosecuting him for the crime of being on crack. Even the highlighted cases in which the defendants are found guilty leave the audience with more than small doubt about the correctness of their conviction.

The film also presents background on the motivations of some of the public defenders. Jeff Adachi’s parents and grandparents were put in internment camps during the war with Japan. Phoenix Streets’ uncle was killed for being Black and out on the streets after dark in the south. These are men who have seen injustice personally and were motivated to fight it in a more systemic way.

Certainly not a revolutionary film, this movie still serves the anti-imperialist struggle well by presenting the inherent failures of the criminal injustice system. And it does not fool the audience into thinking that there is some easy reform to fix the system. The public defenders are up against a system they can not beat

from within, but they do an important job until the day that this system can be changed. And this is where MIM steps in and offers a revolutionary alternative and we argue that the entire system has to be dismantled so that we can build a system of real justice for the people of the world.

During the filming of the movie the elected head of the Public Defenders office, Jeff Brown, resigned in January 2001. Mayor Willie Brown appointed his goddaughter Kimiko Burton as interim Public Defender, explaining in his speech that it was almost like appointing family to the position. Brown didn’t even ask for Jeff Adachi’s (second in command to Jeff Brown) resume or consider him for the position. In an interview Brown stated that he didn’t consider any other candidates, he had always thought Kim Burton should be in that position. Adachi had announced his candidacy for the office of Public Defender a few years prior so his aspirations were no secret. And as a 15 year veteran of the office, clearly devoted to his work and supported by his colleagues, his experience was not in question. Burton’s first act was to fire Jeff Adachi as a part of a “reorganization” of the office.

Adachi responded to his firing by waging a strong battle for the office of Public Defender. He demonstrated his devotion to defending the people most in need of his services by attending numerous radical political events throughout the city. From anti-war rallies where he collected signatures to get on the ballot to public meetings to fight police brutality in Hunters Point, Adachi was truly out amongst the people working for his campaign.

Kimiko Burton raised more than \$1 million to defend her appointed post. Adachi raised less than \$250,000. Burton’s family has been a long time force in San Francisco politics. According to the San Francisco Chronicle “Burton’s father turned to Sacramento lobbyists, political committees and interest groups that often have business before the state Senate to raise more than \$566,000 for his daughter’s race. Another \$500,000-plus came from soft money — donations exempt from the city’s \$500 limit on individual donations.”

One important political difference between Adachi and Burton relates to the issue of taking cases to trial. Burton is in favor of plea bargains while Adachi favors taking cases to trial. This may sound like a small disagreement, but from MIM’s experience with the criminal injustice system it is actually very significant. Public defenders are pushed to take plea bargains (and often push their clients to accept a plea) to cut down on their case work and the burden of the courts. But MIM hears many stories from prisoners who were pushed into a plea bargain even though they were innocent of charges or when going to court would have likely resulted in a lower sentence. Taking cases to trial is often the only way to fight a biased criminal injustice system. But it requires much more work on the part of the public defenders. Adachi’s support for this demonstrates a commitment to his clients rather than an investment in the political injustice system.

MIM is under no illusions that with Adachi in the office of Public Defender

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'He who controls the spice...': Dune saga retains contemporary relevance

"Dune"
Directed by David Lynch
137 minutes, 1984

"Dune"
Directed by John Harrison
288 minutes, 2000

There are two adaptations of the science-fiction book by Frank Herbert called "Dune." The Harrison version is much longer with more special effects.

The two versions reflect the politics of the time. In 1984, the United States was supporting Osama bin Laden, but by 2000 the American love of Islamic freedom-fighters had died down with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

That is why the first version actually has more fanatic religious overtones than the second version. In Lynch's version, the last words are mouthed in a surrealistic way and point to the religious powers of the main character Paul Atreides. In a scene missing from the second version, Paul Atreides splits the solid rock ground beneath him after winning a fight, thus proving that his powers go beyond merely mortal combat.

In the Harrison version, Paul Atreides criticizes his own religion at various points, has more dialogues about using religion for his own ends and completes the movie merely as someone retaking the throne in family tradition. The last scene is not about his great powers splitting the earth and causing rain as in

the Lynch version but about tension in his polygamous life regarding wimmin characters.

In the first version, the bad guys are homosexual blood-suckers, literally. The second version tones down the homophobia so that the two factions seeking control of the planets seem closer to being merely imperialist rivals. In the second version the fighting ends with a marriage between rival families. In any case, the rulers come from outside the planet. The political intrigues are more like those of feudalism, with barons, princes and house of this versus house of that fighting. In both versions, Paul Atreides turns to the indigenous peoples for an alliance to oust the rival imperialist—a perfect explanation for how the United States aided Osama bin Laden to overthrow Soviet influence in Afghanistan.

MIM encourages readers to hear "Iraq," when thinking of the planet where the fighting happens— "Arrakis." The fighting over "spice" is fighting over oil and "desert power" has to do with the military strength of Mideast peoples. In both films, there is no mistaking that the power of the throne on Arrakis stems from the control of oil and the potential ability to blow it up and starve the whole universe of this irreplaceable commodity. [The book and both movies emphasize the saying, "He who controls the spice, controls the universe."]



Even containing a discussion of suicide bombers, "Dune" is very contemporary in its overtones. The political differences in the two versions reflect approximately the strategic differences in outlook of U.S. imperialism in 1984 and 2000. The U.S. rulers fancy themselves the rightful rulers of the Mideast, bringing progress

to the oppressed people there who rose up to put them on the throne. Such is the interpretation of Afghanistan today. MIM says the Amerikkans should learn that they are dreaming and such dreams do not even belong in science-fiction movies.

The potential for a progressive thrust in the movie is there, because not only do the desert peoples fight for their destiny, but also Paul Atreides has some possibility to turn traitor to his own imperialist culture by taking up the desert people's ways. It does not take much to see Paul Atreides helping to break the back of the whole empire but whether or not he will truly serve the interests of the oppressed people is still left in the open at the end of both films. The first film trails off into religious fog, thus leaving us in doubt and the second version ends with the mere victory of one imperialist rival over another. Despite these ambiguities, we mildly recommend both films. They are quite entertaining and the imagination should be exercised enough by both films to provide a more suitable ending for both films.

REVIEW: Brotherhood of the Wolf (2002)
a.k.a. *Le Pacte des Loups* (2001)
Directed by Christophe Gans

This fast-paced mix of French costume drama, Western, horror and Hong Kong martial arts flick met many of the expectations we had for *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*. We had hoped the latter would emphasize the progressive aspects of martial arts films: Sympathy with the oppressed, self-sacrifice in the struggle to right wrongs, a recognition of the need for armed struggle, etc. While 'Crouching Tiger' was technically impressive and its fight scenes great fun, the motivation for the fights was individualistic and metaphorical. The violence in 'Brotherhood' on the other hand is not rooted in ideas about honor, rather the hard-nosed reality that reactionary classes seek to cling to power by even the most horrific means. And although it's not quite at *Crouching*

Tiger's technical level, *Brotherhood* has a nice look and some decent fight scenes.

Brotherhood also scores points for giving wimmin fighting roles — and not apologizing for those wimmin who fight on the wrong side. One of the protagonists pays a heavy price for hesitating to strike a womyn — perhaps out of feudal/pseudo-feminist chivalry, desire, or a mistaken assessment of her allegiance. Several plot twists like this illustrate the importance of the principle 'know your enemy.'

And for viewers who think that the clerico-fascist scheme in *Brotherhood* is pure fantasy, we suggest you check out the real life events behind the movie *Z* or the *tad tad* (literally, 'chop chop') sect in the Philippines. As we said in our review of *Tales from the HOOD*, "What could make for better horror than the real-life monsters created by imperialism, capitalism and patriarchy?"

overthrow of imperialism. Adachi is an ally in this battle.

MIM recommends the movie *Presumed Guilty*, along with a heavy dose of revolutionary politics to offer the audience an alternative to the public defenders and criminal injustice system highlighted in the film.

From last page...

the criminal injustice system will be fundamentally changed. But it is very much in the interests of anti-imperialists to have public defenders working on the side of the people as we fight battles within the system while building for the

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.

Oregon Intensive Management Unit is corrupt

I am an inmate at the Oregon State Penitentiary and am housed in the Intensive Management Unit (IMU). I have a few things to bring to the attention of MIM Notes readers.

1. In IMU there is a group of corrupt employees called the Inmate Program Committee (IPC). IPC meets once a week and reviews certain inmates. I was the subject of review in October 2001 for reasons I will explain.

On September 29, 2001, I was demoted to program level 1 for disrespect. According to IMU procedure, I only had to be on level 1 for 30 days before I could be promoted to level 2, but only if I don't have any misconduct reports. On October 3, I was written up for refusing to wear dirty clothes. At my hearing it was dismissed because the officers were wrong. On 10-30-01 I was supposed to be promoted, but the IPC refused to promote me based on the misconduct report I beat. I was told it doesn't matter if I beat it or not because the formal disciplinary process is separate from program levels. I was punished for a write-up I beat! I wrote numerous kites to all levels of OSP hierarchy, and also to the director of the ODOC. Nothing I did got me promoted. I ended up doing 39 days on level 1.

2. While on level 1, IMU inmates are not given any exercise periods. The ODOC calls exercise/recreation a "privilege" when it is actually a right. Also, inmates on level 1 are not allowed to have any hygiene items or property, except ongoing legal work.

3. IMU is supposed to only be a six month "program," but the IPC extends a lot of people because they don't want them in general population. Some people stay in IMU for years at a time, even though they have completed the program and are staying out of trouble. Another way they keep people in IMU for a long time is to write them up for something minor or petty. It could only be a minor charge, yet the inmate will have to start the whole program over.

These are just a few examples of the corrupt acts going on in here.

— a prisoner in Oregon, February 2002

Punished for distributing MIM Theory

Dear MIM,

I would like to thank you once again, for sending the MIM Notes. I took the MIM Theory you provided me with and made a large amount of copies to provide those that struggle from within. I just received a misconduct report for contraband III, and disobedience of an order III, for sending other inmates copies of MIM Theory. I was given 3 days lap and a \$25 fine, and was told if I did it again I would be written up for

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

unauthorized organization I. The one thing I can't understand is how the mail room let it come into the prison and then once it went to the segregation unit the Sergeant wrote me up. This place is so fucked up, TRCI officials are constantly implementing rules not authorized by the director. They fail to post such rules but expect inmates to comply, well I'm going to continue to send MIM Theory to those that support what we stand for.

— a prisoner in Oregon, March 2002

U.S. prison officials Use torture, biological Weapons

By a New York Prisoner

State Prison officials [in New York] are using food torture and chemical and biological weapons on U.S. citizens and foreign nationals currently confined in solitary confinement units in this country, which violates international human rights treaties and promotes suicide.

The food torture, which prison officials call a "restricted diet" or "loaf," consists of only bread three times a day. The bread is a solid form of gruel. Prison officials use intervals of seven days torture and two days regular food. Therefore, a 28-day torture restricted food diet will take 34 days for a prisoner to complete.

This method of food torture is used as punishment by prison officials and can be used for days, weeks, months, years, decades, until death sentence or sentence of the state prisoner expires. The prisoners who are subjected to this food torture suffer from the following:

1. Starvation rage, severe mood swings, despair, inability to concentrate or focus, nightmares, hopelessness, headaches, severe stomach pain, dehydration, severe loss of body weight, light headedness, loss of balance, extremely low sugar in your blood count that can be lethal in a week or less, delusion, immense stress, assault on your immune system, all kinds of medical complications whether you are or are not on medications can occur. All of the above can be extremely lethal.

2. It is also lethal when used on prisoners who are currently on psychotropic medications such as Hadol, Merrielil, etc. due to severe fluctuations of body temperature or delicate state of mind of a prisoner. It can be lethal on prisoners who suffer from AIDS, Diabetes, heart conditions, pneumonia, lactose intolerance, old age, those taking medications or prisoners who have recently lost a loved one.

3. Biological/chemical weapons — in addition to food torture, state prison officials bombard prisoners in solitary confinement with all sorts of chemical

spray weapons, gas grenades, stunguns, stuns and rubber bullets in small enclosed cells. Any of the above can be lethal in itself or in combination.

4. Chemical weapons can be lethal when used on prisoners who suffer from asthma, any form of respiratory distress or illness, heart condition, or a host of other conditions or medical complications.

5. The use of torture violates state, federal and international laws, so does the use of chemical weapons in small, enclosed prison cells. And a prolonged pattern of practice can be duly prosecuted through state, federal or international laws, for it promotes torture and death.

Steps that a prisoner must take in hopes of stopping said practice:

1. File a grievance complaint at your prison of confinement and appeal it at every step, and explain what you have been subjected to. 2. All state prisoners can write to the following: Bill Lann Lee, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division, Washington DC 20530. As well as to your U.S. Senators, the UN and appropriate consulates for foreign nationals 3. Summarize your experience for Under Lock & Key to help keep other prisoners and activists on the outside informed on what's going on.

Staff shortage and crackdown in Texas

In this Texas Department of Criminal Justice system the pigs are now being faced with a dilemma - no one wants to be a pig. On this plantation alone they are over 30 pigs short; throughout the system the number is over 2,000. I recently read in a newspaper that they've begun a recruitment campaign in Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. In these states the pigs don't make near as much as the pigs here do, yet they do not have the shortage problem. The majority of this new pig strata is either very young (18-23) or over retirement age. Here they have totally dropped physical and mental requirements.

As the slave plantation we receive much of the backlash. We get outside "recreation" once a week if we're lucky. We get to go to the gym in the morning usually about four days a week - that is if we don't have work or school; if you do you're stuck. We "rack up" (have to go to our cells) three times a day for count (the other two counts during the day are done wherever we are). Thus we rarely get dayroom. Many times it takes so long to clear count that as soon as they clear it, it is time to count again. During count time there is "no movement" meaning you stay where you are until count clears.

Every day more pigs quit. We go on "lockdown" frequently due to the shortage of staff.

It is quite a spectacle to see this ridiculously decadent system decay more and more to the point that it can't even efficiently maintain itself internally.

Power to the People!

—A Texas Prisoner

Repression and resistance in New Jersey

I come to you with a strong revolutionary salute. I'm writing in regards to an article in MIM Theory #11, page 41 "modern slavery in full effect" by comrade Prince Zakia.

I was mos deff feeling what the comrade was talking about in the article on how rehabilitation is a code word for turning young Black and Hispanics into old men before they are released from

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.

the US\$ koncentration kamps (prisons). I feel what he said cause I'm a young comrade but a lot of the things I have faced as a modern day slave have stolen my youth from me as well as a lot of other young comrades that are forced to come thru these kamps. The funny part is since I've been in these kamps I have not received any of their so-called rehabilitation. What I have seen is lack of education, slaves fighting and killing other slaves, or the Uncle Tom who turns on all the other slaves (fucking snitches) or the slave master (C.Os pigs, etc.) brutally beating on the modern day slave.

But the United Snakes says they have stopped slavery with the 13th amendment. What a bunch of bullshit because if you're locked in the Belly of the beast and refuse to work they will lock you away from all the other slaves, beat you, take your property, lack of food and whatever else they feel like doing to the rebel slave. And if they really see you as a threat they have made control units and STG units. And they will place you in these units with no real proof that you are a 5%, Latin King, Blood, Crip, etc.

But I see it as a way to separate the rebel slaves away from the slaves that obey every law of their slave master. I'm not saying all slaves in these kamps should fight against these slave masters (pigs) because not all of them have it in their hearts. But what a lot of them law obeying slaves need to know is how the slave masters and the US\$ are getting rich off their slave labor and they never even lift a hand. All they lift is the whip (that pen and blue sheet) and the good slave goes right back to work. But to them good slaves I say keep working for that 13 cents an hour and keep getting fucked. But to all my Nat Turners of 2002, stand for what you believe because if you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything.

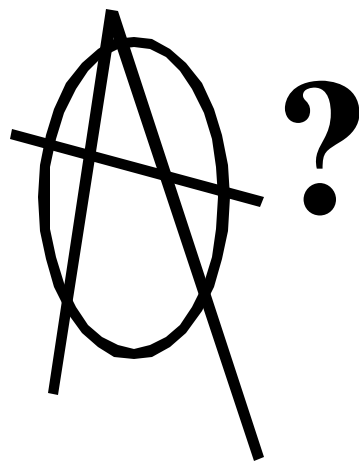
Power to All People,

Virtuous, STG prisoner, Newark NJ, March 2002

MIM responds: While we strongly condemn the use of prisoners as slave labor, prisons are not yet getting rich off this scam. Prisons still cost the state more than they make back using prison labor. But spending money on prisons, which are used as a tool of social control, is a good investment from the perspective of the imperialists. This "expense" not only keeps the oppressed nations under lock and key, it is really just a redistribution

of wealth to the labor aristocracy pigs who work in the prisons.

Prison threatened by Anarchy symbol



I hope all is going well with you and with all of the comrades who help make this possible. I would like to thank you for helping me out with one of my problems here at the Snakepit. You requested an administrative review with Kathy Stevens from our mailroom, regarding them denying me a MIM Theory you sent to me. I guess they felt that the Anarchy symbol was threatening to the security of this imperialistic institution. For some reason they didn't find the literature threatening, they only found the symbol to be a threat. Yet they do not deny a Rolling Stone music magazine, which happens to feature musical groups wearing t-shirts or pants with the anarchy symbol. You and I both know that this institution as well as many others, does not agree with MIM's political beliefs. Therefore we will continue to be discriminated against.

Now there is another issue here in the ODOC. They are making everyone one of us submit to a DNA collections. If we do not comply with these demands we will be sent straight to segregation for an undisclosed amount of time. Plus there are a variety of other disciplinary actions they will also take against us. So if you have any advice on this matter please let me know what my rights are.

—a prisoner in Oregon, March 2002

Corruption in Oregon DOC

Corruption within the department of corrections is rampant. Oregon people

are very gullible when it comes to the newspaper and TV, they will believe what they see or hear and that's that. DOC wouldn't lie or steal from them, their respectful peace officers. But then who stole all those millions? Now its all about DNA being taken from inmates no matter what crimes committed. Oregon already has over 41, 357 people on parole and over 10,000 in prison and now they try to give you more time for anything they can. More money for them and to heck with any rights you have, you're just a criminal.

I know I did the crimes, I never denied that and never will, but there is such a thing as giving someone too much time and Oregon is doing just that and all the money made by inmates working in industries goes to only a few people and almost none goes to the inmate workers. And if you get hurt on the job, well you just weren't paying attention to the safety rules, so you get fired and end up with a medical bill to boot. I used to work in the canteen at one of the prisons here and when items came up missing they would fire the crews. But one of the officer workers had been investigated for letting the inmates eat, buy at a discount and buy damaged or discontinued items plus it was said he also took items. I was on a crew that got fired and by keeping my mouth shut I got screwed over pretty good. But others told the investigator that the officers took items all the time. Nothing came about it one way or another but when I seen one of the officers with a pair of the so called missing shoes on I made the mistake of saying "nice shoes" and off I was sent to the new supermax.

—a prisoner in Oregon, March 2002

Freedom for all oppressed

Loyal Greetings,

All our comrades need to know that President George W. Bush has declared war on all those that are "terrorists." With this statement I find it very important that our comrades be aware that all those who do not comply with the conditions of this oppressive government are considered terrorists.

Comrade Huey P. Newton (RIP) once stated: Politics is war without bloodshed. War is politics with bloodshed. Politics has its particular characteristics, which differentiate it from war. When the peaceful means of politics are exhausted

and the people do not get what they want, politics are continued. We as a people (Black & oppressed) lack political power, because we are not free. Black reconstruction failed because we did not have political and military power.

Comrade Huey P. Newton (RIP) also stated: When one operates in the political arena, it is assumed that he has power or represents power; he is symbolic of a powerful force. There are approximately three areas of power in the political arena: economic power, land power (feudal power) and military power.

Comrade, my question to you is, when will us oppressed people be free? Mentally and spiritually we know our end goal. But, physically we are still prisoners fighting for a revolution that will eventually lead us to liberation. The conditions we are subjected to live in of course are against our will. Why I say this is because, when we (oppressed) start to organize and stand against those that seek to continue to prey on the weak to enslave, we are labeled as demonstrators and arrested for applying our first amendment for a cause that our oppressors are against. I seek liberation with all my heart even if it takes me to my grave, I have strong confidence that my goal will be reached through my loyal comrades who as well seek liberation. I look very forward for the day that all oppressed bond as one and join hands in unity to fight those that oppress the people. We must be free.

Power to the people,

—A New York prisoner

What is internationalism?

From the MIM "Frequently Asked Questions" page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>.

Internationalism is the ethical belief or scientific approach in which peoples of different nations are held to be or assumed to be equal. Internationalism is opposed to racism and national chauvinism.

We Maoists believe the nationalism of nations experiencing oppression of imperialism is "applied internationalism." We oppose nationalism of oppressed nations directed at other oppressed nations, because the economic content of such nationalism is intra-proletarian conflict. We seek a united front of oppressed nations led by the international proletariat against imperialism.

"I must argue, not from the point of view of 'my' country (for that is the argument of a wretched, stupid, petty-bourgeois nationalist who does not realize that he is only a plaything in the hands of the imperialist bourgeoisie), but from the point of view of my share in the preparation, in the propaganda, and in the acceleration of the world proletarian revolution. That is what internationalism means, and that is the duty of the internationalist, of the revolutionary worker, of the genuine Socialist."

V. I. Lenin, "What Is Internationalism?" *The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1965), p. 80.

Facts on US\$ 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.



Argentina: el capitalismo fracasa de nuevo

Por el MIM. Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina. Enero 2002.

Continúan las estrechas manifestaciones en Argentina mientras que el pueblo demuestra su ira hacia el sistema político que no promete nada más que la misma porquería de siempre bajo un nuevo disfraz y que ha dado turno a 5 presidentes en el mes pasado. Al ser impreso este artículo (el día 15 de Febrero, 2002), el Presidente Eduardo Duhalde anunció nuevas medidas económicas que él espera rescaten al país del caos económico. Pero hasta ahora dichas medidas sólo han resultado en que un mayor número de personas se encuentran en apuros.

Los manifestantes han atacado bancos, han protestado frente a edificios gubernamentales y se han topado con la policía. En Buenos Aires miles de personas golpeaban cacerolas y cerraron las carreteras principales pidiendo la devolución de dinero en cuentas de ahorro congeladas. Los pelotones de asalto dispersaron a las multitudes con gas lacrimógeno y balas cubiertas de goma. (3) Semejantes bloqueos de carreteras se llevaron a cabo por todo el país donde la policía dispersó a los manifestantes de una forma violenta. Muchos de los que bloquearon las carreteras exigían empleo o pago de sueldos debidos. (4)

Tanto los pobres como la clase media salieron a manifestar porque ambas clases sufrieron el golpe de la austera política económica nacional. El 18% de la población argentina se encuentra desempleada. En las empresas privadas los sueldos han sido rebajados por un 20% mientras que los sueldos y pensiones federales de más de 500 dólares han bajado un 13%. (3) Un tercio de la población de 36 millones enfrenta la pobreza. (2) La pequeña burguesía está inquieta porque el gobierno ha congelado sus cuentas de ahorro y ha impuesto límites sobre los fondos en efectivo que pueden ser retirados. La crisis de Argentina es resultado de las contradicciones del capitalismo y no se puede resolver dentro de los límites del capitalismo. Por ejemplo, si las restricciones bancarias fueran eliminadas, todo el mundo sacaría su dinero y el sistema financiero se vendría abajo. Pero si se mantienen las restricciones la economía carecerá de dinero en efectivo y los empleados no recibirán sus sueldos.

¿A qué se debe el fracaso económico?

Los comentaristas políticos procapitalistas dicen que la caída de Argentina que, habiendo sido el décimo país más rico del mundo en 1913, bajó a la posición 36 en 1998, se debe a "malas decisiones económicas y la inquietud política." (1) Dichas aserciones están en lo correcto si quieren decir que las malas decisiones económicas las tomaron los lacayos bajo la dirección del imperialismo. La deuda de 132 mil millones de dólares contraída por Argentina (que constituye una séptima parte de la deuda total de los países del tercer mundo), es resultado de su dependencia del capital imperialista en forma de préstamos por parte del FMI y otros capitalistas financieros internacionales. (1) De hecho este financiamiento lleva a los

países del tercer mundo hacia una dependencia económica y la pobreza -una situación beneficiosa para los imperialistas y sus lacayos que mandan en el tercer mundo y que castigan a la mayoría de la gente en estos países. A partir de los años 80, muchos países del tercer mundo han conseguido gigantescos préstamos a través de EE.UU., Inglaterra, Japón y otros países imperialistas, así como por medio del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) y el Banco Mundial (BM) que funcionan esencialmente como bancos operados por los imperialistas. Los préstamos imperialistas sobrepasan la capacidad de pago de estos países. El MIM sostiene que los países imperialistas que han robado a todo el mundo son los que deben pagar reparaciones y no al revés: que todo el mundo esté adeudado a los imperialistas por préstamos para recuperarse del pillage imperialista. Los acreedores directos de la mitad de la deuda de los países del tercer mundo son los gobiernos imperialistas de EE.UU., Gran Bretaña, Canadá, Francia, Alemania e Italia (los G7). Los otros acreedores son el FMI y el Banco Mundial. Un 10% se les debe a bancos particulares. (5) Las sugerencias que hacen los investigadores financieros capitalistas para que Argentina supere la crisis económica resultan contradictorias. Pero para cualquier estudiante de la historia está bien claro que las crisis como esta se repiten una y otra vez bajo el capitalismo. La verdadera solución para todos estos problemas es el comunismo. Durante la década de los años '20, cuando una gran crisis económica destrozaba la economía de los países imperialistas por todo el mundo, fue notable que en la URSS la economía socialista seguía estable y próspera. Esto se debe a que la economía socialista se planifica sin someterse a la anarquía de la producción capitalista ni a la sobreproducción. Los granjeros capitalistas echan comida al mar para proteger sus ganancias aun cuando es posible fijar la cantidad exacta de comida que se debe producir. Está claro que este sistema ilógico resultará en crisis de sobreproducción y derrumbes económicos.

El gobierno de Argentina y los Peronistas

Muchas veces los peronistas se pintan de líderes populares y muchos investigadores imperialistas hablan del estado benefactor como si fuera el socialismo. Algunos investigadores de la economía culpan al tal llamado estado benefactor por el fracaso económico en Argentina y dicen que la riqueza desapareció porque "una gran parte del dinero se invirtió en salarios y el estado benefactor." (1) El pueblo debe reconocer que los peronistas no son más que lacayos imperialistas pintados de otro color y que no representan los intereses de la mayoría de gente argentina. El mero hecho de que parecen menos represivos que algunos otros dictadores militares que han controlado el país en los últimos 50 años, no implica que son campeones populares. En 1943, un régimen militar se apoderó de Argentina e instaló un gobierno profascista que apoyó al Japón y Alemania. El coronel Juan Perón fue uno de los líderes de este golpe de estado. Más tarde el gobierno cortó las relaciones con

el Japón y con Alemania declarándoles guerra en 1945. En 1946, Perón ganó las elecciones presidenciales a base de la promesa de aumentar los salarios y ofrecer un seguro social a los trabajadores. Pero para el año 1949 su gobierno había implementado leyes para encarcelar a toda la oposición. El resultado fue la represión de los medios de comunicación independientes y los activistas. En el año 1955, un golpe de estado acabó con el régimen de Perón. Y en 1973, los peronistas ganaron las elecciones y Perón volvió a asumir el cargo presidencial. En 1976, otro golpe de estado instaló un gobierno más represivo resultando en una "guerra sucia" que causó muerte o desaparición de un incalculable número de personas. En 1989, el peronista Ménem de nuevo fue elegido presidente. Él realizó una política austera que resultó en más del 900% de inflación. En 1992, se estableció un sistema de cambio fijo del peso atado al dólar estadounidense. (6) Entre los años 1974 y 1997, los ingresos del 30% de los más pobres del país bajaron en un 25%, mientras que los ingresos del 10% de los más ricos aumentaron en un 31.5%. (7) El FMI supervisó una gran cantidad de la política económica del país durante la última década. No cabe duda que el imperialismo internacional, los peronistas y los lacayos del gobierno militar son responsables del fracaso económico de Argentina.

El derrumbe estatal

En Argentina la recesión estalló en el año 1998. Para el año 1999 el país había acumulado 114 mil millones de dólares en deuda pública. Después, en el año 2000, hubo una huelga así como estrechas manifestaciones en contra de los impuestos sobre el precio del combustible. El FMI prestó a Argentina 40 mil millones de dólares en forma de 'ayuda'. En el mes de marzo del 2001, De La Rúa asumió presidencia escogiendo en el transcurso de 3 semanas a tres distintos ministros financieros a causa de que las renuncias oficiales y las protestas en contra de la política económica de la austeridad azotaron a todo el país. En el mes de julio del mismo año, se llevó a cabo una huelga general a nivel nacional en contra de nuevos límites sobre el desembolso federal. Para el mes de octubre, de nuevo ganaron los peronistas y se apoderaron de ambas cámaras del parlamento. (6)

En diciembre del 2001, el gobierno anunció nuevas restricciones para prohibir el retiro de dinero de los bancos. Al mismo tiempo el FMI anunció que no soltaría los \$1.3 mil millones en ayuda para el mes. El día 13 de diciembre, la huelga general de los empleados públicos protestó las restricciones bancarias y los atrasos de pagos de pensiones y otras medidas económicas. Para el día 20 de diciembre, Fernando de la Rúa se vio forzado a renunciar el puesto después de estrechas manifestaciones y un tumulto social en el cual murieron 25 personas. El presidente del senado, Ramón Puerta, fue presidente suplente durante dos días hasta el 23 de diciembre, cuando Adolfo Rodríguez Saa fue nombrado presidente interino. Él instaló a corruptos oficiales en el gobierno y mantuvo las restricciones bancarias hasta que también se vio forzado a resignar el día 30 de diciembre. Al rechazar Puerta el segundo plazo presidencial, Eduardo Camaño asumió el poder como presidente interino manteniendo presidencia hasta el día 1 de

enero cuando el Congreso eligió al peronista Eduardo Duhalde, quien fue derrotado por de la Rúa en las elecciones del 1999, para terminar los últimos dos años del plazo presidencial de de la Rúa. (6) Duhalde devaluó el peso y acabó con diez años de tipo de cambio fijo atado al dólar estadounidense. Además Duhalde cambió a pesos devaluados todas las deudas calculadas en dólares- un cambio que, según se calcula, costará a los bancos y servicios extranjeros \$6.2 mil millones de dólares. (8)

El pueblo vencerá

El pueblo de Argentina está luchando por un gobierno que verdaderamente lo represente, pero lo único que se ha conseguido hasta el momento ha sido ponerle una nueva cara al mismo gobierno al servicio de los imperialistas. Según el Partido Comunista Revolucionario de Argentina que se declara marxista-leninista-maoísta (pero que sigue desorientado respecto a la cuestión sobre la restauración del capitalismo en China):

"Un puñado de dirigentes que fueron parte y cómplices de los gobiernos de Menem y De la Rúa- Cavallo, impusieron a Eduardo Duhalde en la Presidencia de la Nación. Ocultan que son ellos los que llevaron el país a la quiebra sirviendo a minúsculos intereses imperialistas y oligárquicos. Pretenden preparar el terreno para aplicar 'nuevas' recetas para que el pueblo siga pagando la crisis. Hablan de 'unidad nacional', pero trabajan para dividir al pueblo; y estudian medidas represivas para acallar la rebeldía obrera y popular."(9)

"Se ha abierto un nuevo round. En él, las clases dominantes tratarán de revertir lo avanzado por el pueblo; y éste, con sus luchas, pugnará por avanzar hacia una resolución popular y antiimperialista de la crisis, multiplicando las multisectoriales, cabildos abiertos, comités de crisis, asambleas populares y demás organizaciones en los que se va plasmando la unidad combativa, en la lucha por imponer un gobierno de unidad popular."(9)

Por medio de protestas espontáneas y sin dirección es imposible lograr un gobierno al servicio de los oprimidos. El ejemplo de Argentina demuestra claramente que la clase dominante no pierde el tiempo explotando al pueblo y utilizando su descontento para justificar el cambio del nombre de explotador sin tener que acabar con la explotación. Este hecho demuestra la necesidad de un partido de vanguardia popular que dirija al pueblo en su lucha contra el imperialismo. Un frente unico de las clases en contra del imperialismo bajo el liderazgo de un partido maoísta puede sobrepasar la democracia burguesa e iniciar un gobierno que verdaderamente esté al servicio de los oprimidos y los explotados.

Notas:

1. BBC News, 15 de Enero, 2002.
2. New York Times, 14 de Enero, 2002.
3. Los Angeles Times, 11 de Enero, 2002.
4. Weekly News Update on the Americas No. 624, 13 de Enero, 2002.
5. Para mayor información sobre el FMI y la deuda del tercer mundo véase los archivos del MIM sobre el tema: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/#debt>.
6. News.bbc.co.uk.
7. MIM Notes 141, 1o de Julio, 1997.
8. New York Times, 14 de Enero 2002.
9. Declaración del PCR 2/1/2002, <http://www.pcr-arg.com.ar/>.