

MIM Notes



June 1, 2002, Nº 259

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Uncle \$am favors democracy -- unless he loses

Venezuela in 2002

The U.S. Government backed another coup against an elected government in April—this time in Venezuela. After the military moved against a president elected in bourgeois democratic elections, the U.S. Government sang the praises of the coup-leaders of April 12th and blamed the elected President Hugo Chavez for his own fall. The message is the same as always: Uncle \$am is always for democracy unless his candidate loses the election.

Rather than call the event a “coup,” the Bush administration referred to it as a “change of government.” In addition the reactionary think-tank the Heritage Foundation said no one in the United

States was shedding any tears. This is despite the fact that just the day before the coup, Bush had said democracy was the birthright of every persyn in the Americas.(1)

Obviously in this context, the word “democracy” simply means “rule by Uncle \$am that Amerikkkans are damn proud of.” In this cynical imperialist usage “democracy” doesn’t mean majority rule, because President Chavez won the elections in 1998 in Venezuela and Uncle \$am doesn’t like it.

Hugo Chavez battles back

The happy ending to this story so far is that Uncle \$am did not get exactly what he wanted. A day after Bush’s praise, the military-propped government of a businessman fell in Venezuela and President Hugo Chavez returned to power. This greatly embarrassed the u.\$ imperialists on two scores: 1) Uncle \$cam had already gone out on a limb to oppose democracy to get rid of Chavez. 2) Failure proved the weakness of the u.\$ government to deliver what it was saying.

MIM has to note that the Chavez strategy is not the most stupid one to take. This is not a case of a social-democrat kissing the butts of military leaders, as is common in the social-fascism in Peru. Chavez was a military leader who had tried to achieve power by force before. He gained power in 1998 by the power of the ballot, but he also had widespread ties in the military.

MIM disagrees with Chavez ideologically. We believe Comrade Gonzalo in Peru has shown the road forward for Latin America. Nonetheless we realize that Uncle \$am considered Chavez to be a “bad” lackey of Uncle \$am in need of punishment. The struggle

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San Francisco tries to stop anti-imperialist protestors

The Golden Gate Bridge District authorities tried to stop an anti-war demonstration planned for Saturday, May 25, 2002 on the Golden Gate Bridge. The mobilization was organized by the All Peoples Coalition to Stop US Terror and Occupation. Their press release stated:

“According to the Golden Gate Bridge District Manager Kary Witt, the anti-war mobilization can not happen on Saturday, May 25th after 12 noon due to traffic concerns although the march organizers submitted the proposal for a permit weeks ago proposing the mobilization would be at 2pm. Witt also stated that this anti-war mobilization can not have any signs whatsoever. This is the Bridge District’s position even though American flag-wavers are allowed access to the bridge every day. This is an attack on free speech and our right to oppose this U.S. government’s war on the peoples of the planet.

“The organizers of Take it to the Bridge understand that activities protected by the First Amendment such as marching should not even require a permit. A permit was sought for this mobilization weeks ago out of our concern for the safety and security of the march participants in a time when the U.S.

government can use any resistance to its policies to attack people under the so-called “war on terrorism.” Our attempts to meet with the Bridge Manager to discuss their concerns have been put off until today, when a meeting was scheduled for this Friday. This is the first time that the Bridge Manager has raised the inflexibility regarding the time and the nature of the event.

“It is clear that the bridge authorities are terrified at the idea that the ‘Golden Gate’ would be used as a forum to express dissent at U.S. foreign and domestic policy. They tell us (essentially): Our Golden Bridge is for tourists, Marines with assault rifles, and American flag-wavers only. We tell them: on May 25th thousands of outraged people will converge on your bridge to show you otherwise. We need to mobilize for free speech on the Golden Gate Bridge as the peoples’ right to stand against the U.S. government’s trajectory of war and terror on the world and send a message to the international community!!”

A MIM comrade wrote the following letter of protest to the Golden Gate bridge administrator Kary Witt:

“I understand that you are responsible for denying the Take it to the Bridge anti-

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‘stand against the U.\$ trajectory of war and terror on the world...’

Advances for the Campaign to

Divest the UC from Israel!

LOS ANGELES and SANTA BARBARA

MIM and RAIL activists drew loud criticism and counter protests from supporters of Israel on several occasions during the first two weeks of May. The MIM and RAIL activists were collecting signatures on a petition demanding that the University of California (UC) divest from companies doing business in Israel (for more on this campaign, see pages 4-6). Some Zionist hecklers also showed up at an educational event hosted by MIM and RAIL on the campus of the UC at Santa Barbara.

MIM files this under the slogan “to be attacked by the enemy is a good thing.” Clearly we must be doing something right if defenders of the status quo—or promoters of an even more genocidal policy in Palestine—organize against us. Furthermore, the attacks gave MIM and RAIL activists a better understanding of the enemy’s tactics—some of which are so boneheaded they have to be seen to be believed (e.g. their open praise for 19th century colonialism; see p. 4).

Some of the typical criticisms (and MIM’s responses):

* “You are anti-Semitic.” (No, *you* seem to be the one saying Jews are intrinsically driven to brutally occupy and exploit other nations.)

* “You’re only picking on Israel.” (Hello, read our paper. We criticize all imperialists and their lackeys. What Israel is doing now to the Palestinians Amerika did 150 years ago to the First Nations a.k.a. Native Americans. And in the Middle East our beef is fundamentally with Amerikan imperialism—the power that props up Israeli occupation.)

* “Israel has to defend itself.” (Get real. Israel has the largest standing army and the only nuclear arsenal in the region. If Israel wants security, it can withdraw from the occupied territories and

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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.

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement

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**MIM
P.O. Box 29670
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670**

**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.

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!

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What is MIM?

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

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

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

RAIL mixes it up at Santa Barbara 'living wage' rally

A group of Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) activists attended this year's "Santa Barbara People's March" and passed out the flyer reprinted below. The flyer explained that RAIL did not endorse the march because it lacked an internationalist perspective. MIM later spoke with an organizer for the United Farm Workers who attended the rally. He thought that RAIL said something that needed to be said and raised some interesting points. The RAIL activists also said that the flyer was a hit and provoked honest debate.

A speaker from Asian Sisters and Brothers for Ideas in Action Now (ASIAN!) spoke from the podium about u.s. militarism around the world, which was good. The other speakers addressed strictly local concerns. Certainly when talking about a "living wage" they did not talk about "living wages" for the majority of the world's workers, who

often make less than 10% of u.s. minimum wage.

The RAIL activists produced this flyer on their own initiative from materials available on MIM's website.

Last year on May 12 over 1,500 people marched in Santa Barbara to demand a "living wage" and "economic justice." This year thousands more will join this rapidly growing campaign. Similar to the widely publicized rally and sit-in for a "living wage" for Harvard University employees, organizers for the People's March consciously refused to the idea of a "living wage" in an international perspective, thereby confusing the class demands of the imperialist-country proletariat and the international proletariat, the detriment of the latter.

At the same time, the march's organizers consciously decided not to include a discussion of Third World

workers' economic struggles, instead raising vague slogans like "stand up for a fair economy where you live." The People's March's website (www.peoplesmarch.org) demonstrates just how easily such slogans are stolen by privileged classes. One of the reasons given to march was that median family income in Santa Barbara has dropped from \$54,000 in 1990 to "only" \$49,000. Evidently, income in Santa Barbara has not kept up with the rest of California, which has increased from \$48,000 in 1990 to \$51,000.

Unfortunately, the organizing materials for the People's March do not acknowledge that u.s. residents benefit from the exploitation of workers in oppressed nations. Indeed, they did not even discuss the possibility that \$16-an-hour wages (about \$34,000 per year) were only possible because the imperialists pay workers in the Third World on average

48¢. According to recent Bureau of Labor statistics (published in January 1998), average hourly wages for apparel workers in the Third World are nothing short of appalling: 4 cents in Burma, 23 cents in China, 30 cents in Haiti, 10 cents in Indonesia, 24 cents in Romania, etc.

RAIL supports a campaign for an international minimum, living wage. We simply cannot allow imperialist-country middle classes' backwards ideas about "economic justice" — which amount to redistributing stolen booty more "fairly" — to take precedence over the struggle against imperialist exploitation worldwide.

There are many reasons people take up slogans about "struggling where you live" to the detriment of internationalism. Some are class-conscious. They've chosen the imperialist country middle-classes over the international proletariat.

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MIM debates Seattle Buddhist on 'freedom,' Tibet

Seattle Buddhist: Recently I received two back issues of MIM Notes. I read them both over and was struck by their hypocrisy. There were complaints about U.S. imperialism. The Maoists invaded Tibet and continue to occupy it. Monasteries have been destroyed. Unarmed monks and nuns have been raped and murdered. An attempt is being made at genocide and the destruction of an entire culture and civilization. I think that certainly qualifies as imperialism.

Then there are complaints about censorship and repression. In Maoist China, dissent was regarded as counter revolutionary and punished by torture, imprisonment and death. Capitalism is only as good as the people who practice it. Greed and corruption can infect Maoism just as it can infect capitalism. As for prisoners being denied your publication, consider that people need to be integrated back into society. They can not be a productive member of a society they are taught to despise. The result is likely to be more crime and violence.

bosmim@mim.org for MIM replies: What a load of propaganda you have bought.

Is that your justification for standing on the imperialist side? Monasteries have been destroyed—by whom? Any idea? Try Tibetan slaves, some of which were owned by the Dalai Lama.

Genocide? Boy, that's loose, real loose thinking. The genocide was by the system that would have kept the Tibetans starving as they were as is recorded in any number of history books written before the communist revolution.(1)

[Also, we Maoists are the ones saying greed can infect communist parties. That's why there was a Cultural Revolution. It is the capitalist propagandists who think that by making the profit-motive legal humyn nature will somehow be improved instead of just bringing out its worst side.]

Seattle Buddhist: I appreciate your reply.

I am a lay member of Sakya monastery. Our lama is related to the Dalai Lama. Due to his prominence in the Sakya lineage, the monastery is visited by many eminent lamas, including the Dalai Lama.

What I have been told by eye witnesses conflicts with what you say about Tibet. I am not siding with the U.S. government. The U.S. government regards Tibet as part of China, a view which I do not share.

I also think the U.S. government is on the wrong side in the Israeli-Palestinian issue. In my view, it is the IDF and Sharon that are the terrorists. Hamas is the resistance. The settlers are war criminals and are not civilians but armed military reservists.

As to terrorism, I regard the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as acts of terrorism as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The U.S. government was also on the wrong side in Viet Nam. We were fighting the government that most of the Vietnamese wanted. There was no Viet Cong. That was a name made up by the CIA and the State Department to refer to the Viet Minh who saved the life of many a downed U.S. airman in WWII, while the Diem family was part of the faction that sided with the Vichy government.

More recently, the last election showed that the U.S. does not have a democracy. The election was decided by the Supreme Court halting the democratic process. I find Bush, Ashcroft and Cheney scarier than bin Laden. They are the leaders of the American version of the Taliban. We probably agree about more than you might think and I sincerely appreciate your bothering to reply to me.

MIM replies: The pity of it is that you

seem to have seen through much propaganda. Do you think the Dalai Lama's movement represents the best forward movement in the world? Hopefully you do not criticize real world movements from the vantage point of an implicit afterlife the way Christians tend to.

As for supporting the Dalai Lama, for us, the Chinese regime is state-capitalist since the death of Mao and the arrest of his followers. It's not that we have any love of the regime, but the Dalai Lama owned slaves and we do not find any clear-cut admission of this fact in his statements. Yes, there are those who say they want to go beyond the Old Society in Tibet, but we find most people attaching themselves to your movement/religion in denial about what the past was, so how can we imagine they will recognize injustice when they come to power? Buddhism becomes so much mumbo-jumbo supporting slavery—tolerating slavery for instance because the slave believes he is serving some divine purpose.

We are on record as saying we are all for a socialist revolution and national independence of Tibet, but right now, that's not on the agenda. The Dalai Lama is in fact more reactionary than the regime in Beijing, and in any case, not worth dying for (not that he has asked for it, since he himself has an ambiguous stance on independence and the people he calls "hotheads" in his own ranks.)

Seattle Buddhist: What is your evidence to support your allegation that the Dalai Lama owned slaves? In your most recent email and the previous one you write about conditions in Tibet prior to his going into exile but you do not state your sources.

My understanding is that there were few visitors to Tibet prior to the exile and that one had to have written permission from Lhasa or one was sent back to the

border. Some people who did visit, whose books I have read are Alexandra David-Neal, Lowell Tomas and Heinrich Harrar. None of these persons mention any of the conditions you mention.

As far as movements are concerned, they are not something that I have much personal interest in. What makes Buddhism different from most religions or movements is there are no dogmas or doctrines to which one is required to give his consent. The essence of what the Buddha taught is that suffering exists, that it has a cause and that it can be eliminated. The Buddha took a position whereupon the question of the existence or non existence of God is irrelevant. One is not asked to believe but is invited to try things and see if they work. The Dalai Lama has talked about the need for reforms. Were the Chinese to leave and the exile to end some things would be like they were but others would be different. I think that the Dalai Lama would be better for Tibet than the Chinese—as they are now or as they were under Mao.

Western capitalism has its problems however I think that the combination of capitalism and democracy (or a republic) allow for more individual liberty than does Maoism. Remember, your publication expresses quite a bit of dissent with our current system. Would that level of dissent be tolerated under Maoism?

MIM replies: The United States has the highest imprisonment rate in the world. To say it allows more liberty is class prejudice. It may give more liberty to middle-class and intellectual people [to discuss inconsequential questions], the world's minority, but it is U.S. weapons, intelligence and military training behind most of the repression in the world today.(2)

[We just added a page on Tibet to our

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Zionists justify themselves with colonialism

A quick review of editorials published by Zionist propagandists reveals that the Zionist side of the conflict relies on colonial reasoning. For this reason, while in Boston in April, Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu in Azania condemned the apartheid system set up by the Zionists.(1)

In the apartheid system, whites occupied African land but did not give Africans the right to vote in the political system the whites used. Today the Zionists occupy the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the West Bank but they do not allow self-rule. Their constant justification for this state of affairs going on since 1967 is "terrorism"—which is blaming the victim for his/her war of national liberation.

On May 2nd, the Jerusalem Post printed an editorial defending the existence of "Israel" in colonial terms. While reading the Arab bourgeoisie is also useful, there is no need to to understand the root of the problem—colonialism.

Caroline Glick's column of May 3rd in the Jerusalem Post is openly neo-colonial: after calling for the elimination

of Arafat and his Palestinian Authority, Glick says, "Just as in Afghanistan today and hopefully in Iraq in the near future, the US has and will set up friendly, quasi-democratic governments, so Israel, or the US, would set up a new Palestinian government, committed to coexistence with Israel and the provision of political and economic freedom to the Palestinian people. Although sovereignty would not be promised, the chances of sovereignty being achieved, naturally and peacefully, would be greatly enhanced if the Palestinian people is allowed to develop democratic institutions and economic prosperity."(1) Glick then has the gall to say that there is nothing "imperialistic" about saying this. It's not surprising that Zionists are dying at the hands of Palestinian revolutionary nationalists when Zionists do not recognize Palestinian sovereignty.

The Glick quote above explains much of how Uncle Sam and I\$rael believe they have the right to prevent Palestine from achieving statehood. Then when the oppressed people fight their revolutionary nationalist war, the Amerikkans call it "terrorism." Behind

Sharon's recent statement to Bush that it's "premature" to declare statehood for Palestine or set a timetable for it is the view that Palestine must have a lackey government loyal to U.\$ and Zionist interests.

Another article that the Jerusalem Post ran is even more openly colonial. The article starts by accepting British colonization of Palestine. Instead of arguing that the British colonization process created artificial political dynamics in Palestine, Daniel Doron makes British colonialism's legitimacy a centerpiece of I\$rael's legitimacy: "The lands that are disputed were therefore never 'Palestinian lands,' either as national patrimony or private property. They belonged to the Turkish Sultan and then to the British Mandate, in trust for the Jewish National Home, not a Palestinian home."(2)

Even elementary school pupils from Amerikkka who know the first thing about U.\$ history should know what is wrong with what Doron is saying. There is no need to read the "Palestinian side." Reading the Zionist side makes it evident

that colonialism is the root of the problem. Since Doron has to uphold British colonialism in an argument meant to organize public opinion in Amerikkka, it's obvious that Doron's position must be desperate.

It turns out that Doron is desperate and sees Amerikkkan public opinion as the final court of appeal for I\$rael's existence: "It is sad that Jews still must defend their basic right to have an independent state in their ancestral homeland, but it is a comfort that the question is to be decided in the court of American public opinion."(3)

That makes it pretty clear that I\$rael would not exist except for the support of the United States.

Notes:

1. "Apartheid in the Holy Land," by Desmond Tutu, <http://www.counterpunch.org/tutu0430.html>
2. <http://www.jpost.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle/Full&cid=1020337084248>
3. <http://www.jpost.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle/Full&cid=1020146455710>

San Francisco State leads the way on Mideast

SAN FRANCISCO, April 10

Media attention focused on Berkeley, California, but 500 people also attended a demonstration for Palestine at San Francisco State the same day that police arrested 79 in Berkeley. Chanting "Israel out of Palestine," "Israel out of Jenin" and "Israel out of Jerusalem" among others with that theme, the demonstrators also listened to speeches that targeted the united States's ignorance, militarism and chauvinism in its "war on terrorism."

"Stop U.\$ aid to Israel" was another slogan. Various speakers pointed out that the United States and Israel were carrying out terrorism and the crowd showed that it is not taken in by the U.S. Government's rhetoric on terrorism.

The same day and in the same place at San Francisco State a few Jewish students handed out flyers on the Holocaust. A flyer from San Francisco Hillel said in a run-on sentence, "The Holocaust occurred between 1933 and 1945, during this period 12,000,000 people were systematically murdered by the Nazi regime."

According to Hillel, "target groups included gays, Romanis, Blacks, Jews and mentally and physically challenged and political opponents of the regime." This sort of statement which mentions Blacks but not the various Slavic peoples will no doubt anger many people, because Hitler slated many more for complete annihilation than those listed by the Hillel, which appears to have made its listing more palatable for U.\$ consumption.

In any case at least two speakers said

it was the Zionists today carrying out genocide. In 2002 on "Holocaust Remembrance Day," Zionists were killing Palestinians throughout the West Bank. Speakers rightly chanted that Bush, Sharon and Hitler were all of the same cloth.

Some very young Jews started a controversy by saying that the demonstration for Palestine was intentionally organized to block "Holocaust Remembrance Day." Actually, "Holocaust Remembrance Day" probably received more front-page media coverage than usual thanks to the "two sides" appeal of conflict in the Middle East that paid dailies like to boost circulation. In any case, the specific outrages occurring with Zionist troops in the West Bank were more important than remembering historical oppression either in the Holocaust or the Deir Yassin massacre of Palestinians by Zionists. Berkeley and San Francisco State showed all of California and the united States the proper way to remember "Holocaust Remembrance Day" and how to regard the situation in the Mideast.

On the other hand, we hope that no one in the Bay Area or other pockets of resistance mistake themselves for the mainstream in Amerikkka. The Amerikkkan majority supports the "War on Terror" and increases its support for I\$rael the more Palestinians that I\$rael kills in the West Bank. More importantly, it is not Amerikkka supporting the wrong side: Amerikkka is the wrong side.

Divest UC

Continued from page 1...

allow the Palestinians real self-determination. Furthermore, upon close inspection, the recent incursions which Israel justified as attacks on "terrorist infrastructure" were really aimed at basic societal infrastructure—from roads to aqueducts to houses to records and data. Palestinians are to be kept dependent on Israeli goods and jobs.)

And so on.

The good news is not just that MIM and RAIL were attacked by the enemy, but many people stepped up to support our work as well. MIM and RAIL collected scores of signatures on the divestment petition. As one student told the local newspaper after attending the event in Santa Barbara: "My fees are supporting the Zionist State of Israel. By pressuring the UC to divest from companies doing business with Israel, students would make a statement. Israel needs to look at its policies and not treat people as secondary citizens, as dogs."

A local radio show—"Voices for Global Justice," 6 p.m. Mondays on 91.9 in Santa Barbara—sought us out and has already had us on the radio several times to talk about the campaign. Groups like Student Action Forum on the Middle East at UC Santa Barbara want to get involved in the campaign.

Already Student Action Forum on the Middle East, MIM, RAIL and concerned individuals were able to mobilize students and faculty to condemn and defeat a student government bill which called for the UC to ban courses critical of Israel (see story page 6).

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

What's New @ MIM's Homepage



'University of California (UC) divest from Israel!' Q & A

What is Divestment?

Divestment is a political strategy devised by anti-apartheid student activists in the late 70's and throughout the 80's. Students found out that their universities were investing in companies that supported the racist South African government. They organized to pressure their universities into removing financial support of companies that financed the oppressive South African regime and that drew profits from exploitation. Divestment was a way for students to fight a truly winnable battle in the struggle against the exploitation and oppression of the people of Azania (occupied South Africa). MIM and RAIL demand that the UC withdraw financial support from another barbaric apartheid regime in Israel.

How is the UC linked to Israel?

The UC currently has 40 billion dollars invested in bonds, equity funds, money market and common stock portfolios. At least 3.4% or \$1.4 billion is invested in technological and military companies contributing to Israeli apartheid. (1)

What does UC money do in Israel?

The UC funnels money into companies like General Dynamics Corp., General Electric Capital Corp., Honeywell Corp., Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and United Tech Corp., each of which provide Israel with helicopters, jet engines, F-16 fighters, M1-A2 tanks, avionics control systems, rocket launchers, aircraft missiles, launch systems, other missiles and more. (2)

Why Should the UC Divest?

*UC Stake in the Bloodshed.

Israeli settlers and storm troopers alike are armed to the teeth with the latest killing technology provided by the U.S. government and companies doing business in Israel - companies that the UC supports financially.

By withdrawing its financial stake in the Israeli killing machine the UC will take a stand against the uneven distribution of power and resources in the Middle East and contribute to the genuine struggle for peace.

*UC Support for an international outlaw.

The UC should not financially support a regime that is internationally recognized as one of the most brutal, annexationist regimes in history. From its genocidal inception to the present day, 70 U.N. resolutions have condemned the state of Israel for unparalleled human rights abuses, legalized torture and land theft. (3)

*The UC pays lip service to diversity.

In addition to its wavering stance on moderate reforms like Affirmative Action, the UC comes out directly against diversity and equality by financially supporting, checkpoints, concentration camps and occupation. This includes bogus housing permits for Palestinians, racist ID cards and work permits, curfews and storm trooper enforced "Israeli Only" access to land, water, roads, schools and hospitals.

*Pure and simple chauvinism.

On the one hand the UC invests to finance the education of people living in the U.S. and supports business in Israel. On the other hand the UC directly supports the destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure necessary to maintain national businesses, industry,

agriculture, waterways, roads, hospitals and schools. By supporting the Israeli occupation the UC sends the message that the people living in the U.S. and Israel are entitled to education, housing, and water while the people of Palestine are not.

Doesn't Israel need to defend itself from terrorists?

Arguments like this are usually about "Israeli defense" and rest on imperialist racist propaganda about "aggressive Arab neighbors". Get real. With the largest standing army and the only nuclear arsenal in the region, the apartheid state of Israel is a leading aggressor, instigator of national conflict and the scourge of the Middle East. (4) Israel should not enjoy UC investment to continue its terror. Already U.S. foreign aid to the apartheid state of Israel is \$18 million per day, or \$750,000 per hour. In 1997 alone U.S. aid to Israel was 6 times as much as the U.S. spent on "famine relief" for the entire world. (5)

Continued on next page...

What does UC money do in Israel?

Much of the UC's \$40 billion of investments in Israel goes directly to arming the Israeli military. The UC has 40 billion dollar endowment, at least 3.4% or \$1.4 billion of which is invested in technological and military companies contributing to Israeli apartheid. (1) Other sources put U.C. investment in Israel at \$6.2 billion. (2) The UC feeds money into companies like General Dynamics Corp., General Electric Capital Corp., Honeywell Corp., Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and United Tech Corp., each of which provide Israel with helicopters, jet engines, F-16 fighters, M1-A2 tanks, avionics control systems, rocket launchers, aircraft missiles, launch systems, other missiles and more. (3)

Specifically, teamed up with General Electric (4) who provides the turbines, United Tech. puts the infamous UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters into the hands of Israeli aggressors. (5) Raytheon (owner of Chrysler Technologies' tank business, Texas Instrument's Military Electronics Unit and Hughes Helicopter -formerly of General Motors) supplies Israeli terrorists with Firefinder counter battery radars, AN/TSQ-73 Hawk anti-aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, missile launchers, Phalanx close-in weapons systems, TOW-2A/B antitank missiles and Patriot Missiles. (6) Lockheed Martin contributes to Israeli terrorism with Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) tactical rocket pods and related support, Hellfire II anti-tank missiles and Martin Marietta Walleye missile tubes. (7)

Israel also guarantees that other

companies like Intel Corp., Citigroup Inc., Hewlett-Packard and Sun Microsystems enjoy storm trooper-enforced Apartheid hiring practices that discriminate against Palestinians and other non-Israelis. This includes things like different work permits for Israelis, Arabs and foreigners that limit the employment options of non-Israelis to day-labor and other exploitative jobs.

Due to the Israeli occupation "Palestinian laborers still have nowhere else to turn to but to Israel's low-paying jobs...many of those eager workers are well educated. But it's the pressing need for survival alone that forces a Palestinian engineer, a chemist or a psychologist to clean Tel Aviv's streets, or scrub dirty dishes in an Alafolah restaurant." (8)

This is a brain drain of sorts, where Palestinians who could be contributing to the scientific and cultural development of their nation are prevented from doing so. As in any occupied nation, the creativity of the Palestinian national bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie is stifled. These would-be professionals and intellectuals must attend the pressing need for survival instead, and rely on Israeli and other foreign sources for their basic needs (like flour) and national infrastructure (like roads). Noam Chomsky notes that in the occupied territories "Israeli policy...has clearly been designed to remove [Palestinian elites] either by direct expulsion ("moderates" have been a particular target) or by eliminating the possibility of meaningful employment." (9)

"For the greater bulk of Palestinian workers, Israel is the only alternative

available for their families to be fed...'The humiliating journey' is how many Palestinians perceive their daily quest for work in Israel. Many of those who succeed in obtaining permits to cross "the safe passage" to Israel, gather before dawn near Israeli military check-points, and wait for an Israeli..."boss" to come, looking for a few cheap Palestinian laborers, for a day or two of work. Day-to-day jobs are how many Palestinian workers spend their lives. And with this kind of work, as one may expect, there is no security, no health insurance, and clearly no dignity." (8)

Petition the UC to stop its support of the Israeli apartheid state!

We call on the University of California to investigate the companies it invests in and does business with for ties to the Israeli apartheid state. It should divest from those companies with large investments in Israel - especially those involved with the Israeli military. This divestment should continue at least as long as Israel refuses to withdraw from the territory it occupied in 1967 (Gaza Strip, West Bank). For petitions make sure to attend one of our upcoming events or go to:

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/cal/DivestIsrael.htm>

MIM & RAIL hold regular meetings around UC campuses. To organize an event, co-sponsor or to find out more you can reach us at slala12@mim.org.

UC Divest from Israel! No UC Support For Israeli Apartheid!

UC Stake in Companies Providing Services and Doing Business with Israeli Apartheid:

GE Capital Corp	\$48,982,500
General Electric	\$555,021,387
General Dynamics	\$1,097,839
Lockheed Martin	\$41,784,100
Raytheon	\$19,970,640
Citygroup Inc.	\$243,136,611
United Tech. Corp.	\$8,564,040
Honeywell Intl.	\$45,093,795
Sun Microsystems Inc.	\$55,464,390
Hewlett-Packard	\$189,272,875
Intel Corp.	\$173,245,470

Total Endowment to Israel:
\$1,381,633,647

Notes:

1. Source: UC Office of the Treasurer, <http://www.ucop.edu/treasurer/>
2. Students for Justice in Palestine Pamphlet. July 2001
3. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms>
4. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/ge.html>
5. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/utc.html>
6. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/raytheon.html>
7. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/lockheed.html>
8. <http://www.palestinechronicle.com/old/linked%20pages/Editorial%20Archives/laborers.html>
9. Chomsky, Noam. The Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel and the Palestinians. Updated Edition. South End Press. Cambridge, 1999. p. 135.

Students win against anti-Palestinian resolution

Two notoriously conservative members of the student government at the University of Santa Barbara recently proposed a resolution “to support the state of Israel and oppose anti-Semitism in the University of California.” Concretely, the resolution called for the elimination of the UC Berkeley course “The Politics and Poetics of Palestinian Resistance” and demanded “similar course[s]” at the UC Santa Barbara be banned. Apparently the UC Berkeley course “teaches that Israel has terrorized Palestinians for years.”

The resolution also parroted the ardent Zionists in the U.S. State Department, claiming “Arab terrorists have committed grisly and cowardly homicide bombings, killing innocent men women and children” and “Yasser Arafat has done nothing to curtail the violence in Israel.”

MIM called on UC Santa Barbara students to speak out against the resolution at the student government’s regular open forum. Our appeal read in part:

“Despite its denials, this resolution

would (further) restrict free speech at the University of California — and a particular kind of speech, namely, speaking the truth. It is not ‘anti-Jewish’ or ‘hate speech’ to say that ‘Israel has terrorized Palestinians for years’: it is the truth.

“But don’t take our word for it. A recently declassified Israeli intelligence report considered the following three factors the most important contributing to the emigration of 700,000 Palestinians during and after the 1948 war:

“1. ‘Direct hostile Jewish operations against Arab settlements.’

“2. ‘The effects of our hostile operations on nearby Arab settlements ...’

“3. ‘Operation of [Jewish right-wing] dissidents.’

“The report listed ‘Jewish whispering operations [psychological warfare]’ as the fifth most important factors.(1)

“All of these actions should be considered terrorism, as should e.g. the attacks on the Sabra and Shatilah refugee camps in Lebanon coordinated by now

Prime Minister Sharon, which Israeli journalist Ze’ev Schiff describes as ‘a premeditated attack which was designed to cause a mass flight of Palestinians from Beirut and the whole of Lebanon.’(2)

“The list goes on and on . . . and is getting longer, thanks to operation ‘Defensive Wall’ and the systematic destruction of Palestinian lives, homes and infrastructure as at Jenin.

“There is a lot more crap in the resolution—e.g. placing the blame for the recent intifadeh on Yasser Arafat (who couldn’t stop it anyway) instead of the brutal military occupation and colonial economic policies that ensured Palestinians in the occupied territories have ‘nothing to lose but their chains’—but we hope the above suffices to get you to come out and speak out against this resolution.

“Academic freedom ain’t shit if professors and students can’t speak truth to power.”

Other organizations like Student Action Forum on the Middle East and

campus radio programs also encouraged students to attend the open forum and oppose the resolution.

And all that work on short notice paid off. MIM received this report from a RAIL comrade who attended the meeting:

“Last night’s [student government] meeting went well actually. Tons of people showed up to support the Palestinian struggle and oppose the resolution, even some TAs who were angry that they were trying to censor what goes into our course catalog. At about 9 p.m., the author of the resolution finally withdrew it and it never even got voted on. He claims that he only wrote it to get a discussion about the situation going ... I don’t think he expected so much opposition.”

Notes:

1. Farsoun SK and Zacharia CE, “Palestine and the Palestinians,” Boulder:Westview Press, 1997, p. 132.

2. Chomsky, N, “The Fateful Triangle,” Cambridge:South End Press, 1999, p. 370.

‘University of California (UC) divest from Israel!’ Q & A

Continued from previous page...

What makes you think the UC will divest?

In 1986 one of the biggest victories in the South Africa divestment movement came when the UC divested itself of all \$3.1 billion of its stock in companies active in South Africa. (6) There is no reason why well-organized students and faculty at the UC cannot lead a successful divestment campaign against a similar regime today.

Will divestment mean higher fees?

While any increase in fees for domestic education costs is a small price to pay for helping to end the cycle of violence in the Middle East, several studies on divestment from South Africa discovered that “over a five to ten year span, South Africa-free funds... consistently outperformed the Standard & Poors Index of 500 large companies.” (7)

What exactly are your demands?

Our demands are simple:

* We demand that the UC publicly state its policy regarding investment in the apartheid state of Israel and in companies doing business with apartheid.

* We demand that the UC publicly make a statement condemning the brutality of the Israeli occupation.

* We demand that the UC withdraw all of its investments in the apartheid state of Israel and in companies doing business with apartheid and that divestment should continue at least as long as Israel refuses to withdraw from the territory it occupied in 1967 (West Bank, Gaza Strip).

What does the UC think

about all this?

So far UC Berkeley has followed the U.S. government’s lead in support of Israeli apartheid and terror and has moved to stop peaceful sit-ins and teach-ins sponsored by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), an influential divestment group at UC Berkeley led by the social democratic International Socialist Organization (ISO).

On April 9th UCPD arrested 79 peaceful demonstrators at Berkeley. All of them face bogus criminal charges and students will face student conduct charges. Some students may face a 1-year suspension.

UC Berkeley briefly suspended SJP from organizing on campus while it “investigated.” The group could hold events, table, distribute literature or organize on the campus. The suspension was lifted, but individual students still face punishment.

These exceptional and unjustified attacks against pro-Palestinian students and activists can be used to further sanctions against student groups. While we are not associated with SJP we are for the democratic right of students to peacefully organize and protest UC and government policy. We continue to stand by our demands.

How can I get involved?

The best way to help out is to circulate our petition and organize events around campus or the campus community to expose the fact of the Israeli occupation and UC investment in it.

We have a petition campaign demanding UC divestment from Israel and have a post-card campaign to send our demands directly to the regents.

Make sure to sign a petition and fill out and mail a postcard. Send requests for blank petitions or post-cards to the address below.

MIM & RAIL hold regular meetings around the UCLA, UCSB and UCB campuses. To organize an event, co-sponsor or to find out more you can reach us at slala12@mim.org or through the web at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>.

Notes:

1. <http://www.ucop.edu/treasurer>
2. <http://www.motherjones.com/arms/>
3. Zionism: the Forgotten Apartheid, 2nd ed. p. 2.
4. Students for Justice in Palestine pamphlet
5. Zionism: the Forgotten Apartheid, 2nd ed. p. 13.
6. Qtd. In Jonathan Feldman, Universities in the Business of Repression. The Academic-Military-Industrial Complex in Central America. South End Press, Boston p. 99.
7. Ibid. p. 104.

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.

Uncle Sam favors democracy -- unless he loses

Continued from page 1...

is on to see if Chavez will change his line to be more exactly what Uncle Sam wants. Without the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the influence of "Gonzalo Thought," Chavez will eventually end up as just another lackey [or kicked out on his ass].

Justifications for overturning election results

One reason Uncle Sam thinks that Chavez is not a good lackey is that he has close ties to Fidel Castro in Cuba. Chavez also said the U.S. war since September 11th has been "fighting terrorism with terrorism." (2) [He also took a more nationalist stance regarding Venezuela's oil industry. Venezuela is the third-biggest supplier of oil to the United States.]

Typical of the anti-communist neo-colonial thinking going on is one critic of Boston Indymedia who argued on April 13th that the Venezuelan people do not support Chavez and that his ideology is "Marxist." (3) It did not occur to the idiot that Marxists (and Chavez is not one) do not claim to be for majority rule and elections. Amerikkans do. Yet it is the Amerikkans who time and again fail to respect election results in the Third World, as in the case of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela.

We Marxists believe the strength of our message lies elsewhere. We do not claim to be for majority rule or relying on elections for political participation processes. Venezuela is purely a case of hypocrisy by those claiming to uphold "democracy" and "elections."

Long history of U.S. subversion of elections

After every coup supported by the united States against an elected

government, Uncle Sam denies the truth for 40 or 50 years and then releases it through declassification of CIA documents. The April case of Venezuela is no different.

[Initially much of the Venezuelan media—at least the media cited in the united States—claimed that there was popular support for the coup. Apparently, however, some of the media were in on the coup, and consciously did not report on large anti-coup protests. (5)] Already it has come to light that the coup leaders did meet with the U.S. ambassador before the coup—which in any country is the easiest way to get in touch with the CIA, as a portion of any embassy's employees will actually be intelligence officers. [Even before the coup essayist John Pilger called Venezuela "the next Chile," noting that the State Department,

Pentagon and National Security Agency held a two-day meeting in November 2001 to discuss "the problem of Venezuela." (6)]

The history of CIA involvement in overthrowing elected governments is available on videotape by the CIA officers who did it themselves. We recommend "On Company Business: Inside the CIA: Part III, Subversion." In that videotape, we learn that the U.S. Government denied to the press involvement in prior coups exactly when it was directing all the events.

In any case, the denials are not very credible, because the Bush administration came out in the open to justify the coup the day after it happened—instead of defending officials elected through "democracy." The list of elected governments overthrown or attacked with overt or covert military operations gets longer all the time:

*1954 elected leader overthrown in Guatemala

*1954 elected leader replaced with a king in Iran

*1964 elected Brazilian leader resigns complaining of U.S. pressure

*1965 elected leader replaced in Dominican Republic with Marine invasion

*1973 elected socialist in Chile killed in coup with U.S. backing; Green Berets later brag of killing Allende

*1980s contra thugs armed by Uncle Sam against overwhelmingly elected government in Nicaragua

The difference between social-democrats and democratic-socialists on the one hand and scientific socialists on the other hand is that we scientific socialists learn the lessons of history. We do not take U.S. claims of "democracy" seriously and we have a theory of the U.S. state that accounts for these Yankee actions against elected leaders. People who refer to the united States as "democratic" are ignoring and thus whitewashing the above history. While it is fine to believe in democratic principles ideologically it becomes foolish to replace the truth with mere ardor for principles: the truth is that democracy cannot be implemented. It does not work within capitalism except in a limited way amongst the minority of imperialist countries where there is democracy of the exploiters, "bourgeois democracy."

Comparisons among lackeys

Those who claim that elections are sacrosanct should have supported Chavez regardless of any difference in opinion

with him. Those Latin American leaders who opposed majority rule because of a difference of opinion with Chavez prove that elections are only sacrosanct when they verify Uncle Sam's choice.

While Mexico refused to recognize the new government until new elections and Cuba had the courage not to recognize the "coup," one of the worst U.S. lackeys was in Peru. Alejandro Toledo spoke at Harvard the day after the coup: "In blunt remarks diverging from the cautious comments of many Latin American leaders since Venezuelan generals pressured Chavez to resign, Toledo called Chavez a dictator dressed in democratic clothing. 'He was never my cup of tea; he discredited democracy,' said Toledo, who spoke at a conference on international aid at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government before Chavez's successor, Pedro Carmona, quit amid heavy protests." (4)

Toledo was one of those who made a big stink for elections in Peru and claimed that Fujimori's vote totals before him were a fraud. Yet as soon as a Latin American leader gets slightly out of line with Yankee imperialism, Toledo dumps all his rhetoric about elections.

Notes:

1. Washington Post 13 April 2002, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A41210-2002Apr12¬Found=true>
2. William Blum, <http://www.counterpunch.org/blum0414.html>
3. http://boston.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=5734&group=webcast
4. <http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/104/nation/>
5. Associated Press, 14 Apr 2002.
6. www.johnpilger.com

RAIL at 'living wage' rally

Continued from page 3...

Others are hampered by populism or vulgar democracy. Perhaps they feel that by definition a majority in every community is exploited and oppressed. Perhaps they think they have to appeal to a local majority out of principle or pragmatism.

For internationalists working in imperialist countries, such ideas are a drawback. We could win a lot of votes right by promising cheaper gas for Amerika's SUVs, but we know that this is not the right thing to do. Aside from encouraging continued environmental destruction, it would preserve the

imbalance in global resource control.

Part of being an anti-imperialist "behind enemy lines" in the "belly of the beast" is having the courage and stamina to go against the tide. Globally, we have a majority. Locally, we do not. But there is much we can do here so long as we do not forget who our friends and enemies are. But there is much that we can do here so long as we do not forget who our friends and enemies are. RAIL can only hope that the People's March organizers will return to the issues of the international proletariat and organize from the bottom up.

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.

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 debates Seattle Buddhist on 'freedom,' Tibet

Continued from page 3...

frequently asked questions website.(3)] As for the Dalai Lama's slaves, he himself has admitted to having "servants" under religious conditions. He simply uses euphemisms whenever speaking of serfdom or slavery. There is also plenty of testimony from former slaves.

Seattle Buddhist replies: Most of the people imprisoned in the U.S. are there for crimes related to drug and/or alcohol abuse. I favor the decriminalization of drug use. More people die every year from prescription drug abuse than from controlled substance abuse.

Drug treatment needs to be available for those who wish it. Addicts should be under the care of a physician. If addicted to cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, etc., they should be able to get them, by prescription, from that physician. Such an approach would put the drug dealers out of business.

Maoists do not share this view. Even religion is seen as the opiate of the people.

You evade my question about dissent.

MIM replies: Maoists are widely credited with eliminating China's drug problem.

You also said, "MIM Notes openly advocates the replacement of the U.S. form of government with another and by revolution. What would have happened to people in Maoist China who openly advocated Communism being by capitalist democracy by a revolution?" It's a fine line. Some people were left alone and some were treated as active counter-revolutionaries—depending on if it was stupid expression or active work. I have no problem saying people who do not recognize survival rights above profit need to be repressed. Abe Lincoln got that right too. Some things ARE just beyond the pale. Tolerating serfdom, slavery etc. is also a kind of "liberty"—liberty of exploiters. The difference is that I tell you openly that slave-owners have historically had to be repressed. The "capitalist democracies" claim to be one thing while doing another.

Seattle Buddhist continues: As for the business about slavery, what you are writing is pure spin. In slavery there is ownership of one human being by

another, there is a bill of sale, there are slave markets. Work done by the slave for the owner is not voluntary. Slavery and serfdom are not comparable. A serf is a tenant farmer and is not owned by another person.

bosmim@mim.org replies: I agree slavery and serfdom are different and that many confuse them especially in regard to Tibet. I'm sure it's a language and culture problem partly. [Serfdom is somewhat milder but it can be almost as bad as slavery. To say a serf is a tenant farmer is whitewashing serfdom. Serfdom means that people do not have the choice to leave a landlord, and that was the case in Tibet.]

Seattle Buddhist continues: A serf voluntarily works for the landowner in exchange for protection, shelter and a portion of the harvest. Slave and servant are also completely different. A servant is not owned by someone else. He works voluntarily for another in return for housing and wages.

MIM replies: Correct—wages. Also, slaves are not allowed to change exploiters. Regular wage-slaves can choose Kinkos or McDonalds.[Tibetan serfs were not allowed to leave unless they managed to escape pretty much like a slave. The word "voluntarily" used above is whitewashing serfdom. No one volunteers to be born into a system where a handful of families own all the land and can determine where you live and the conditions you work for. Given the choice people would ask the stork to drop them in an egalitarian world of communist dreams, so it is not "voluntary" to live as a serf. And even if some people are mentally retarded and unable to oppose their own serfdom, we still oppose serfdom as part of supporting universal humyn rights—something Amnesty International has yet to do for instance.]

Seattle Buddhist continues: We are not talking about euphemism, either. We are not about words and what they mean. The only proof that the Dalai Lama owned slaves would be a bill of sale.

MIM replies: That would be ignoring slaves born in captivity and handed down

as property.

Seattle Buddhist continues: The head of any monastery has monks for whom a portion of their duties is looking after the needs of the abbot or high lama. Nothing unusual there. You will find parallel situations in monasteries around the world, Christian as well as Buddhist.

MIM replies: Again I don't see you dealing with any references from the Tibetan slaves themselves. You are debating some important points, but these people exist.

Buddhist continues: At Sakya Monastery in Seattle, Saturdays are a voluntary work days. People who wish to do so volunteer their time in service of the monastery and our lama in return for lunch and the privilege of personal contact with our lama. They are not his slaves. Buddhists also believe that such voluntary work gives them the opportunity to acquire merit or 'good karma.'

MIM replies: This is far from what we are talking about. [In Tibet, the monks bought land for coppers, made millions in silver in loaning out money, loaned out food grain for interest and charged for rituals. House servants were slaves while farmers were generally serfs. The top lamas were very wealthy.]

Back on the prison question, if the united States legalized drugs, it would still be the #2 prison-state in the world. I don't think you have an idea how far off you are quantitatively speaking. Once in prison—for drugs or not—they are denied our publications—in the tens of thousands (and it would be more if more prisoners were allowed to see them as states are content to deny them across-the-board.) What started as a racial and economic problem quickly becomes political and it was from the beginning given that laws and enforcement are politically formed.

Seattle Buddhist: More spin. I am not saying that most people in prison are there for drug use but that most are there for crimes related to drugs and/or alcohol. This includes people who steal (embezzlers, forgers, burglars, robbers) money and use some or all of it to buy drugs are in prison for those crimes.

If you add this total to the total that are in prison for drug use and or sales and add that to the total who committed crimes while under the influence of drugs, you will get numbers quite different from what you suggest.

As to people in prison being denied your publication, there was a time when they were denied for more publications than yours but people worked from within the system to get those laws changed. When people are released from prison, it is desirable for them not to commit more crimes and returned. It is difficult to see how a publication which

would increase the hostility already felt toward the system and society they need to be reintegrated into upon release serves that purpose.

MIM replies: This is called having it both ways. You said the capitalist democracies have "individual liberty." Your Dalai Lama also calls the United States a "free country." Above you are writing justifications for the highest imprisonment rate in the world. It does not occur to you that whether the problem is drugs, a poor jury and eyewitness system or outright racist frame-ups, no matter what the underlying truth is, the system stands condemned and you should not refer to it as indicative of a "free country" until after you legalize drugs and eliminate the problem—if that is your theory about what is wrong. Instead you brag you are advocating legalization before you have achieved it.

Your theory is wrong about why there are so many prisoners, but what is more important is that confronted with the facts you go on saying the same things, just with ad hoc excuses. As for the censorship problem, plenty of prisoners have testified that they have been rehabilitated by MIM Notes, but again, that is almost a detail compared with your having it both ways. If you want to be concerned that MIM Notes is not rehabilitative, then be so concerned. As you know, the words of George Bush who you rightly consider scarier than bin Laden are not denied to prisoners. MIM's words are censored. That is basically the majority of Amerikkans telling the communist but tax-paying and law-abiding minority that it does not have the right to speak with prisoners while the George Bush/Al Gore-loving majority does get to speak with prisoners, end of story. However, what is more important even than that is the fact that you change to the rehabilitation subject after raising the "liberty" subject. The honest answer you should give is: "OK, I favor censoring MIM Notes and I recognize that the system has censored MIM Notes and hence it's not really a 'free' country." You should say "I oppose freedom, because only some publications prevent crime." You should not say it's a free country and then go on to give justifications for censorship.

To be continued...

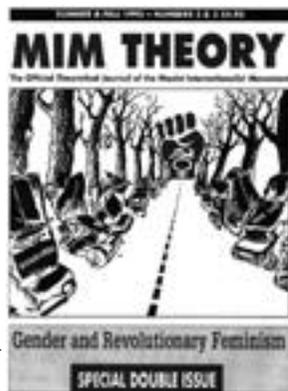
Notes:

1. MIM Theory 8. See also: Anna Louise Strong, When Serfs Stood up in Tibet (Red Sun Publishers, 1976).
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freecoun.html>
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/tibet.html>
4. Martin K. Whyte & William L. Parish, Urban Life in Contemporary China (University of Chicago Press, 1984), p. 247. See also p. 3.

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California prison visitation battle continues

In May MIM sent several petitions filled with signatures to the California DOC as a part of our campaign against the new repressive visitation regulations that the DOC is trying to implement. After vocal protests against these new rules, both at the public hearing on March 8 and though a fax, phone and mail campaign, the CA DOC postponed implementation of the policies indefinitely. We need to keep the pressure on and let them know that we won't sit by and allow this regulation to pass unnoticed. MIM sent the following letter with the petitions.

The recently proposed changes in the Department of Corrections visiting rules in California will make it very difficult for people to visit their relatives and friends in prison, cutting off visitation entirely for inmates with more severe sentences. Already there have been demonstrations and fax and phone calling

campaigns expressing strong disagreement with these new rules. We are enclosing petition signatures to add more names to the voices of those who see clearly that the new California DOC visitation rules will do nothing more than expand the oppression of prisoners while actually increasing recidivism.

Among the changes being proposed which we are opposing include requirements that:

(1) All inmate visitors, including minors, must provide a completed CDC Form 106 and obtain institution/facility approval before they may be permitted to visit with an inmate.

(2) All minors over the age of 7 must present picture proof of identity before being permitted to visit (only legal Id's, as with adult visitors)

(3) Family visits will not be permitted for higher custody and life sentence inmates, those in segregation or secure

housing units, or who have been found guilty of violating certain regulations.

These restrictions are counter to any notion of rehabilitation as studies have shown that regular visits reduce recidivism among prisoners. These rules will only help expand what is already a huge growth industry across the country: the criminal injustice system. In fact the changes to the regulation make clear the new position towards visitation. While the old regulation opens with the sentence: "The value of visiting as a means to establish and maintain meaningful family and community relationship is recognized and encouraged." The new regulation starts with: "Visiting is a privilege." This is a dangerous shift to a focus on using visitation rights for punishment. The rules for prisoners in restrictive custody will specifically punish the politically

active behind bars because they are the ones who get locked up in SHU and segregation as punishment for demanding their legal rights.

Prisons in this country are used as a tool of social control. MIM and RAIL fight for reforms to the conditions in prisons while working to dismantle the criminal injustice system and replace it with a system of real justice run by and for the people. To join the fight to oppose these new prison regulations, write, fax, or e-mail the California Department of Corrections:

Department of Corrections
Regulation and Policy Management
Branch
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001
fax: (916)322-3842
e-mail:
pmchenry@executive.corr.ca.gov

UCLA professor defends 'Black Book of Communism' lies

Richard Sklar, a University of California at Los Angeles professor, refused to distribute a list of factual errors in the "Black Book of Communism" (1) to his undergraduate class "Ideology and Development in World Politics." Mr. Sklar placed the "Black Book" on the syllabus as supplementary reading and cited from it without comment in his lecture.

The "Black Book" is filled with factual and boneheaded mathematical errors. For example, "The Black Book" states that "in 1960 the death rate soared to 68 percent from its normal level at around 15 percent" (p. 492, 1999 Hardback edition). No doubt China would be a very small country by now if this sort of thing were true—a 68% death rate in one year!—instead of the correct rate of 68.58 per thousand. The editor of "The Black Book" has admitted that an editorial error inflated death rates by a factor of ten (2), but publisher Harvard University Press has not published a correction.

Furthermore, the academic integrity of "The Black Book" is tarnished, as it does not even acknowledge well-established positions among mainstream scholars.

"The Black Book" claims, "[a]s far as we know, there was not a single death associated with [land reform in south Korea, Japan and Taiwan], and people were compensated more or less satisfactorily for their losses" (p.480). We have found a half-dozen scholarly works—and a publication by the World Bank—which strongly contradict these assertions (3). "The Black Book" does not mention them.

Mr. Sklar repeated some of the exaggerated claims of the "Black Book" in his lecture and refused to pass out corrections of its purely factual errors. He also forbade MIM from distributing corrections in class, after we politely asked to via e-mail and in persyn. Never fear—MIM simply stepped outside and passed out corrections as students walked in.

This shows that out Mr. Sklar is willing to accept mathematical illiteracy and slovenly standards for scholarly debate while sweeping the truth under the rug. University students and the public at large—the "Black Book's" many mainstream reviews did not question its obvious errors—deserve better.

Of course, aside from these purely factual errors, we at the Maoist Internationalist Movement have methodological differences with the books authors. Here is an excerpt from our review (4):

"Our fascist critics trumpeted this book against us all over the Internet as if something new were said. They cited the [inflated] 100 million death toll [which is even criticized by some of the "Black Book's" authors] in the introduction as the main message. Yet it remains that it is an 856 page book and there are no statistical comparisons of premature deaths between capitalist and socialist countries anywhere in the book, just as MIM charged all along. The reason is simple: the Communists doubled the life expectancies of the people of the Soviet Union and China. That is the overall picture. It does not mean there were not civil wars or executions, including some unjust ones, but overall, the violence of communism is less than that of capitalism, by far."

Notes:

1. Stephane Courtois, Mark Kramer

(Translator), Jonathan Murphy (Translator), Karel Bartosek, Andrzej Paczkowski, Jean-Louis Panne, Jean-Louis Margolin, "The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression," Cambridge:Harvard University Press, 1999.

2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn229/BlackBook.txt>

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn230/BlackBook.txt>

4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/text.php?mimfile=mn229/BlackBookReview.txt>



San Francisco tries to stop anti-imperialist protestors

war demonstration permission to hold a peaceful demonstration after noon on the Golden Gate Bridge on May 25. Further you have stated that the demonstrators can not hold any signs. You lost the chance to hide behind the guise of 'traffic concerns' with this latter restriction. What possible reason could there be for denying demonstrators the right to hold signs except a restriction on people's right to free speech because you (the responsible city administrators) do not like what this demonstration is saying. There are people walking across the bridge daily carrying Amerikan flags and there is no restriction on them, or on

others who walk across with signs.

"In this country we enjoy relative freedom, compared to many countries around the world. But this freedom, like our wealth, comes at the expense of the majority of the world's people. And this freedom is denied, even illegally in contradiction to the First Amendment, when people within u.\$ borders attempt to exercise it to demand equality. It is denied inside the prisons, which are used as tools of social control. And it is denied when any people with in u.\$ borders try to speak out against u.\$ imperialism. But we, as activists, know that we can sometimes win battles within the

imperialist legal system, even though that legal system is not set up to serve us. And we know that the power of public outcry and protest can help us win these battles which are all about politics and power.

"The administration of the Golden Gate bridge can try to deny people their right to free speech, but this will only strengthen their resolve to speak out more loudly. People around the world are dying at the hands of the united states military or other militaries armed and funded by the U.\$ We in this country have a responsibility (and supposedly a right) to speak out against this terror.

"I, along with others from my

organization, will be at the demonstration May 25, demanding that the United States end its imperialist terror against the people of the world. We will be holding signs that will educate others by proclaiming our support for the just struggles for self-determination of peoples of the Third World, the real victims of terrorism.

"We hope you will reconsider your position denying the people access to the Golden Gate Bridge just because you oppose their political message.

"Sincerely,
"[a comrade] for the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)"

Punished for speaking out on bad conditions

If I thought the pigs were bad in CDC [the California Department of Corrections], here in CYA [the California Youth Authority] one can feel the blunt force of oppression i.e. people doing months of administrative segregation at a time with pitiful portions of food that barely sustains life and to top it off no canteen. It is not uncommon to see the wards looking like harshly treated Afghan prisoners, weighing 140-150 pounds, sometimes less.

As soon as I arrived, administration for no reason whatsoever slammed me down in lock up and refused to give me my mainline status. I figured I would start pushing paperwork against [the] administration, but I was informed of another comrade who had also come from prison and attempted to accomplish our goals by that manner but his attempts were futile because the paperwork had fallen on deaf ears, so to paraphrase Machiavelli, "when no legal means exist to provide relief to the people's problems, then the only alternative is to resort to illegal ones."

So after a little enlightenment of what we deserve and have a right to we compiled a list of demands to be met for us to continue to comply with institutional policies. When they refused to hear our demands on April 15th, we all shut the institution down. Since it affected us all the Crips, Bloods, some whites and even an Asian assisted. We refused to come off the rec yard, all rooms were boarded up, so they had to extract every one cell by cell. Out of the 50 cells in my building 43 joined the rebellion.

Even though I was not the spokesman they labeled me as the "ringleader" and extracted me first, placed me in a mental problems building and attempted to negotiate with me. I stated we would not compromise on certain issues like the right to have food on canteen, and to remove all sensory deprivation window shutters, the right to have/wear shoes in our cells and on the yard, the right to subscribe to publications, newspapers, magazines etc.

Instead of meeting all our demands or even the basic few they chose to continue cell extractions. The first day and night we cost [the administration] about \$20,000 in overtime, new blankets, sheets, extraction equipment, etc. Still, administration is keeping me segregated from the other northern Mexicans, so we know they are trying to suppress the spread of knowledge. But any literature you can send to me here like Black Panther literature I know will be embraced by many future comrades and revolutionaries.

—A California prisoner, 2 May 2002

Censorship in Washington

MIM received the letter below from the Washington Department of Corrections in response to our appeal of their censorship of an issue of MIM Notes we sent to a prisoner at the McNeil Island Corrections Center.

The letter states that the publication is being allowed in, but the cover letter is being rejected because of its call for a USW leader in every prison, and its closing with the

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

statement "Arms up, fists high!"

MIM contends that our work organizing prisoners for their legal rights does not constitute a valid or legal reason to censor our letters. And certainly a statement about raising arms in the air is not a threat to the prison. However, we do recognize that the true "penological objectives" encompass social control of the oppressed nations within u.s. borders. To do this the prisons need to suppress and censor speech that attempts to organize and educate prisoners, even if this work is legally permissible.

We will continue to fight this censorship in the state of Washington. To support this battle, send letters of protest to the address below and send a copy to MIM.

Letter from Washington State DOC:

Dear MIM:

Your publication was sent to DOC Headquarters for review. After review, it was decided the publication would be sent to the addressed offender.

Your cover letter is cause for concern in that you mention establishing a USW leader to coordinate your work in every prison in the state, and it closes with the statement, "Arms up, fists high!" Therefore, your cover letter was deemed a threat to legitimate penological objectives and rejected.

The mailroom has been directed to continue to review each MIM publication, as is the practice with all other publications received by this facility, per Washington State Department of Corrections policy.

Sincerely,

Scott Frakes

Associated Superintendent

April 27, 3003

Letters of protest can be addressed to:

Scott Frakes

State of Washintgon DOC

PO Box 900

Steilacoom, WA 98388

More censorship in Washington

I just received what you sent me, I think is called "What is MIM" and it was rejected in the mail here at this institution. I am not going to send it out yet. I am going to appeal it because I know it ain't no threat to why it was rejected for. Also I noticed that these stupid, dumb dogs that work here are rejecting unnecessary stuff I get in the mail and I appeal every single one of my rejections until I can't appeal no more. But, being on this side of the wall, it's kind of hard because mail always gets denied and those idiots all work together and lie so I won't get my newsletter. MIM Notes was rejected too. You can see that these idiots that work here are out to get people and are rejecting whatever they can.

— a prisoner in Washington, April 2002

MIM Responds: We need all of our comrades behind bars to fight censorship with the vigilance of this prisoner. It is possible to

beat censorship, in some cases, but only with appeals and sometimes lawsuits. If you are having a problem with censorship in prison, write to us for a copy of our censorship packet which helps explain how to fight back. And if you are on the outside and want to help fight censorship, we need people to write letters of protest. Current lists of censorship campaigns and addresses can be found on our web page at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>.

Maximum security units abused by prison

Here in Washington retaliation is common against any and all prisoners for attempting to exercise 'given' constitutional or civil rights — mostly through the grievance program. This is most especially true of the supermax 'IMU' (Intensive Management Units), both here at the SCCC and at the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP), and in actuality, in all IMUs (statewide).

Prisoners grieving here at the SCCC for almost any reason (in and out of the IMU) are not even sent a response of any kind from anywhere to ten days (earliest) to 30 or 40 days! Responses are supposed to be within 24-48 hours maximum. And then, even when finally responded to, responses are evasive, non-responsive to the actual policy, practice, or 'incident' grieved, necessitating a re-submission of self-same complaint, though presented in different words (otherwise it would be disregarded altogether with a "this issue has already been addressed" even when it really has not been). Grievance coordinators are deliberately evasive in giving timely, accurate and to the point responses. The obvious goal being to vexate, frustrate, antagonize, and annoy prisoners, with the further goal being (of course) to get prisoners to simply give up and abandon pursuing their grievances altogether.

An even greater arbitrary practice here at SCCC is the posting of prisoner's full names, DOC numbers and IMU level status in bold letters on sheets tacked onto their cells doors, this results in ever further retaliatory actions against prisoners. Certain C/Os (Corrections officers) most definitely have an out and out hatred for any/all prisoners. The result is prisoners repeatedly losing their levels due most often times to the prisoners being tricked into 'feeding in' to some (unexpected) antagonism or retaliatory action(s), e.g. being provoked by self-same 'hate freak' C/Os into violent and unacceptable behaviors. What makes this even worse than retaliatory, overtly antagonistic grievance coordinator's garbage is the fact that, in the case of prisoners being provoked into unacceptable and violent behaviors by C/Os, they're being retaliated against for even 'being', period.

The levels system is what each and every prisoner must progress upwards through to

earn their way out of the IMU units (through good and acceptable behaviors). At a level 3 prisoners are allowed a radio in their cell, after 60 days of this, they are allowed (on promotion to level 4) a television, and, after 30 days at level 4 can be considered for release from the hyper-petty and restrictive IMU unit. Paradoxically, it's the IMU levels "rewards" (radio at level 3, television at level) that seems to spur hate freak C/Os on to provoking, harassing, etc., prisoners into violent, unacceptable behaviors that result in prisoners being demoted to lower IMU levels. They're all really hot to keep all of their IMU units to capacity (100 beds). They'll take ridiculously minor incidents that shouldn't ever result in much more than 30-60 days in the hole (segregation unit) and blow them out of all proportion with the end result being anywhere from a six month long program to a 2-3 year long program in their IMUs.

— a prisoner in WA, May 2002

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.

Repression in Tennessee

I'm at a maximum security prison in Tennessee. There are a few things that I would like to shine light on that go down in these parts of town. Just about whenever these dawg's demons can think of one, there is a new in house policy made up. For instance, we are not allowed hair grease, lotion that was taken off the commissary list. They also quit selling real bars of soap and real toothpaste and the good deodorant. The real soap was replaced with some watered down body wash which is too expensive and no good. The toothpaste and deodorant I wouldn't give to my worse enemy to use. All the items replaced are too expensive and serve no purpose at all.

We are not allowed winter hats, caps or gloves, jogging suits or shorts. When it gets cold in this hold you got to wrap up the best way you can. In the winter they turn the air on full blast and in the summer they cut the air off. We can't have typewriters for legal work or anything else. The so-called counselors and other officials that are supposed to help us get off maximum security don't do anything but lie to us. The game plan is to hold you on max because they get paid more money for max inmates. A lot of the fellows have been on seven and eight years or more. If you're not snitching you're not going to get off, unless you can get your family or some outside help involved.

The problem is getting someone from the outside to help you. Talk is cheap, talking alone has never got anything done, we have to expose these demon dawgs. I know the media can play a good role in taking care of the business, but we have to stay on them and make sure they keep the facts straight because if you don't keep an eye on them, they will flip the whole story and tell how they want it told and then you have a problem. Lawsuits and violence are the only things these people seem to understand. One is not going to give them what they want: No one in their right mind wants to stay here an extra second more than he has to and they will give you new charges for violence. I'm fixing to go home next year, I can do more for the brothers in here from the streets. I can get them the type of help they need.

Another thing is that a lot of these guys, including myself, don't have jobs. It's 96 inmates in a unit and 24 in a pod, 3 people out of each pod has a job. The rest are jobless. However a lot of us have no money coming in from the streets. We used to receive six dollars a month which was called state draw.

The warden and his helpers took that money from us and put it in their pockets. So now we receive no money and one has to make ends meet the best way he can.

We had a GED program on max, it was a good thing because we could make good use of our time and do something positive. The Warden cut that program short. Everything that would help a brother out they took and started cutting back so it would be more money in their pockets.

The Warden Jay Dukes is in the news (April 19, 2002), for sexual harassment and a whole bunch of other things.

— a prisoner in TN, April 2002

More repression in Tennessee

The politics around here are real nasty at WTSP. I know 75% of the staff are corrupt, just recently 4-17-02 the head warden was arrested for sexual harassment and misuse of funds. Just because s/he wears a badge that don't mean that s/he honors it.

The staff here is real hard on the inmate incentive. In my opinion if 75% of this population at WTSP were politically educated there would be lots of riots and massive violence at WTSP alone. Most of the inmates at WTSP are scared to file a grievance — their favorite saying is don't pick with them folks. But when something happens to them directly then they wanna be down for it.

There's nothing to do here as far as educational and other rehabilitative programs. So how is a man suppose to re-enter into society reformed? If you're Black it's hard for you, because you already have three strikes against you: (1) you're Black (2) you have a prison record (3) you don't have an education, and to top that off the parole board requires you to have a job before they release you. They don't even allow furloughs so you can go look for one, and them three strikes alone will make it difficult for the average man.

Lots of inmates over the last 6 years that have been convicted of crimes in TN were juveniles with no work experience or education, and have spent the last 6 to 8 years in prison, they don't have a fighting chance. Now here's my opinion, the bible and education that you get in Amerika is to train you to fit into a society so you won't give them any trouble. To me the so-called powerful and political ones in Amerika are great (actors). I'm not political or educated, but I would like for you to guide me and teach me. The papers you wrote, and I've only read a few of them here lately, and what I've read makes me wanna know more and bring

everybody else around me on the same level. thank you for your time, but what I need is your education and guidance. I wanna be a part of this.

—A second prisoner in TN, April 2002

Medical care denied in New Jersey

I am confined in a New Jersey state prison at Northern State Prison. In Newark, New Jersey I am going through a lot of torture and pain. They accuse me of spitting on a nurse, which I didn't do. I am innocent. The only thing I am guilty of is breaking a radio in the nurses station because this prison guard broke the prongs off my power cord on my TV set. Now they have me chained to the fence, like an animal., with my hands cuffed behind my back and the leg chains on.

In order to get my insulin injection I need to go to the nurses station, like the diabetic prisoners. They are denying me medical care, refusing to put me on the sick call list. And then the same nurse, the racist one they accuse me of spitting on, sometimes gives me my insulin injection. I requested another nurse because she tampered with my insulin injection and my blood sugar got very low and my blood pressure got very high. But they marked me down as a refusal, and I do need my insulin injection.

— a prisoner in New Jersey, April 2002

A call to action in N.J.

I come to you from the confines of Trenton state hostage kamp in the "police state" of No Justice (New Jersey). This kamp being the "last stop" in the state, housing the capital punishment unit (Death Row). A majority of the prisoners here have excessive sentences. I wish to elaborate on 3 issues going on at this prison.

Though the majority here is serving from 20-100 years, the administration has successfully implemented an "its o.k. to tell" policy and not much regulation or resistance is put up by he masses here. It is sad the lack of unity that exists here. Those entering this and other kamps in the state are younger and younger, for the most part people of color with extraordinary sentences. Their concerns lie with who's the best rapper, sex books, drugs and what they did and had, not their conditions, education or their case (not all, but the majority). They're laying down too quick and too easy which brings me to my second issue.

This kamp also houses an administrative segregation unit (which is in a condemned

wing). The pigs that kontrol this unit are mostly white racists who form wolf packs and carry out beatings on prisoners of color. When the complaints of the racist attacks could no longer go unheard, a white prisoner was attacked in a futile attempt to shield the blatant racism. It has gotten so bad that it caught the attention of those on the outside, but this is not enough! This kamp's history is known for the prisoners' resistance, but it seems this is no longer the case. Pacification is widespread. We have lost food packages, clothing packages restricted to purchase only what the state provides at extreme prices. Our visits and phone have been restricted, a gang unit has been created, phase program was implemented, all in the past six years and it continues. I will be the first to stay that the battle exists out there, not here. While here, especially those with the extensive terms, unity, education and struggle are essential. We can not continue laying down, for the time will come when we can no longer get up.

In this:

1. Education — is a must to open the eyes of those who have been brainwashed with the self-destructive doctrine.

2. Unity — to first clean the ranks of the informers and pig pacifiers and those who in a bind will break.

3. Structure — once the ranks are cleaned, strengthened, unified and educated. Form cells and chains of communication to honestly and securely transfer information throughout the kamps regarding strikes, information or actions, by any means necessary to bring about the goal. It is sad when a man serving 60 years tells another he can't relay a verbal message because he's afraid to catch a disciplinary charge. Change is possible!

My third and final issue is regarding the settlement reached in the courts regarding treatment and care of mentally ill prisoners, which was long overdue. But knowing how wicked the oppressor is, he's using it as a weapon against those in the struggle. They have taken several komrades who have fought against the system, either verbally or physically, labeled them "special needs" and through this label have put them on forced psychotropic medication in an attempt to break their spirit and pacify them. When will we realize that this is not a game and stop coping out with the statement "they can't do that." This is war and until we realize that we will continue being the casualty.

Until all are free from the chains of oppression. — a New Jersey hostage, April 2002

MIM responds: It is true that there are those behind bars who are passive, or worse who snitch and help the pigs. But there are many who are eager to join the revolutionary struggle and just lack the leadership and/or education to do so. We encourage our comrades behind bars like this one to take up this leadership by working with United Struggle from Within (USW — the MIM-led prisoner anti-imperialist organization) and help us to build education and agitation state-wide behind the bars.

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

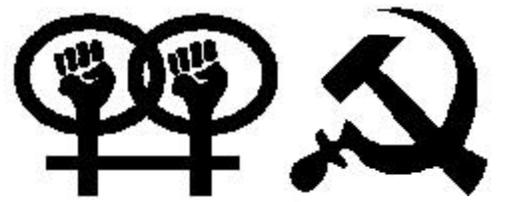
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Universidad de California, Santa Cruz: el evento cultural tiene éxito

**Santa Cruz
6 de abril**

Traducido por CELAAL

El evento cultural de oposición a la intervención yanqui en las Filipinas denominado "Cultura en contra de la guerra" llevado a cabo en Santa Cruz bajo liderazgo proletario obtuvo una respuesta emocionante. Tanto los discursos como la actividad cultural del día representaron un fuerte contraste con la retórica en torno a la "guerra contra el terrorismo" por parte de Washington, DC.

Aquella tarde soleada trescientas personas asistieron al picnic en un césped con vista al Océano Pacífico, presenciando bandas, bailes, teatro político y oradores. La mayoría de la gente se llevó una copia del periódico MIM Notes del 1 de abril, y un comité de Santa Cruz que trata el caso de Mumia Abu-Jamal ayudó a distribuir algunas de las ediciones anteriores de MIM Notes sobre la acción militar de EE.UU. en las Filipinas.

El MIM entrevistó a varias personas saliendo del picnic para ver su reacción. Los oradores habían condenado la intervención de EE.UU. en asuntos internos de otros países del mundo, poniendo de relieve el chovinismo contra la Corea del Norte, Irac e Irán que el presidente Bush y otros muchos han venido fomentando recientemente. El público se enteró de los detalles de la

renovada presencia militar y las actividades de EE.UU. en las Filipinas.

"¿Qué significa el militarismo yanquipara la gente indígena. [Significa] tierra robada....[Significa] desplazamiento del pueblo indígena de Mindanao", -dijo Terry Valen.

Los organizadores del evento habían puesto mucho esfuerzo consiguiendo atraer a gente ajena a la política. Unos activistas jóvenes no sólo asistieron al evento, sino que también pusieron mesas para explicar sus causas. En un local, el MIM entrevistó a unos participantes de la campana Fiesta Nacional en el nombre de Cesar E. Chavez- un líder laboral que había organizado a trabajadores agrícolas superexplotados, en su mayoría procedentes de México.

El MIM les preguntó a los participantes de la campaña Fiesta Nacional en el nombre de Cesar E. Chavez cuál era la conexión entre su causa y los puntos abordados en los discursos aquel día. Las tres mujeres estuvieron de acuerdo con que "no había ninguna conexión". La siguiente pregunta del MIM fue "¿Y por qué entonces están aquí?" Un activista respondió: "Soy Sargento de Armas". El MIM preguntó a su vez: "¿y por qué ha decidido venir hoy?" recibiendo la misma respuesta- "creo que no hay ninguna conexión".

La Coalición de Asia e Islas Pacíficas

Contra la Guerra circuló un folleto que decía "en solidaridad con el pueblo de Palestina". El folleto atacó al "genocidio patrocinado por el estado de Israel respaldado por EE.UU. "

Un profesor visitante hizo el siguiente comentario respecto al evento: "Está genial. Es la primera vez que asisto a un evento de enseñanza aquí".

Una muchacha blanca dijo que no sabía que decir pero al ser preguntada sobre la parodia que acababa de ver respondió: "No se si estoy de acuerdo con ellos [los actores de la parodia sobre el 11 de septiembre] pero la cosa me ha abierto los ojos hacia distintos puntos de vista".

Tanto el contenido como la diversidad de los discursos del día recibieron una buena acogida por parte del público. Una persona que estaba a punto de irse mencionó "una buena onda" y "una excelente información". Según un estudiante: "Pienso que ha sido una buena introducción básica al [contexto] histórico. Es emocionante ver a toda esa gente aquí educándose".

Una de las mujeres procedentes de Los Ángeles que estaban de paso en Santa Cruz, hizo el siguiente comentario respecto a la parodia sobre las tropas yanquis en las Filipinas: "Estuvo genial...bien gracioso...me lo pasé muy bien." Otra mujer que vino de Berkeley para asistir al evento dijo: "Me pareció bien. Fue interesante, con mucha información".

La representación nacional que se obtuvo en el evento fue muy diversa; de hecho, la gente blanca estuvo en minoría. Según una persona, "fue increíble, verdaderamente increíble...la participación de varias etnicidades." Solamente una persona entrevistada por el MIM se mostró indisputada para dar sus comentarios sobre el evento, de lo cual deducimos que su reacción pudo haber sido negativa.

La banda Diskarte Namin condenó "la avaricia de corporaciones blancas" que buscan sacar provecho de la guerra en "vez de tratar nuestros asuntos internos como reconocimiento para los veteranos, la educación, los niños." Sin embargo, ninguno de los oradores supo apartarse del parasitismo yanqui ni tampoco indagar sobre el porqué del tremendo respaldo de "la guerra contra el terrorismo" en EE.UU.

El MIM advierte a todos los participantes que en el Área de Bahía, Manhattan, ciertas partes de Los Angeles y algunas de las pequeñas ciudades alrededor de campus universitarios tipo Cambridge, es posible unirse para llevar a cabo eventos "integrados"; en ciertas

ocasiones en California hasta es posible que dichos eventos sean liderados por el proletariado. Sin embargo, hay que reconocer que a la luz del contexto general prevalente en EE.UU., semejantes situaciones no son más que insignificantes bolsillos de resistencia. Hay que contrastar estos eventos con el jurado blanco de Simi Valley, según el cual los atacantes de Rodney King eran inocentes, así como el jurado de Cincinatti que dejó que se escaparan los atacantes de Vincent Chin. El número del tipo de gente que compone los jurados es mucho mayor que el de demócratas radicales pequenoburgueses del Área de la Bahía.

El MIM ha entrevistado tanto a camaradas internacionales como a los que están dentro de EE.UU. y que adoptan un punto de vista local dentro de las fronteras yanquis. En Nueva York existen estados de asistencia social dentro de otros estados de asistencia social y existe una coalición multiracial que defiende un estado de asistencia social específico, lo cual le da a los camaradas de Nueva York una falsa impresión basada en un sistema particular de parasitismo. Como resultado, la social democracia "CP-USA" (Partido Comunista de EE.UU.) domina mucha actividad política en la ciudad de Nueva York.

De semejante forma, no cada ciudad yanqui es un paraíso democrático-radical de pequenoburgueses como lo es el Área de la Bahía, donde la gente sí lee una docena de varios periódicos y logra mantener a flote cualquier número de librerías y cafeterías. El Área de la Bahía es uno de los pocos lugares donde la democracia no es una "tontocracia". Los que piensan que el Área de la Bahía es algo típico se pierden el contexto más amplio.

Hay que reconocer la contribución de varias organizaciones al evento del 6 de abril "Cultura en contra de la guerra: las Filipinas en el Eje del Imperio"- "Coalición Filipina de Acción Afirmativa" (FAA), "Comunidad de Stanford por la Paz y Justicia" (SCPJ), Coalición de Asia e Islas Pacíficas Contra la Guerra (APICAW), Musulmanes Americanos por la Paz y Justicia Mundial (AMGPJ), Comité de los Derechos Humanos de las Filipinas (CHRP), Coalición de los Pueblos Contra la Guerra (APCAW), Asociación de Trabajadores Filipinos, Ad Hoc Comité del Profesorado sobre Eventos Actuales, Centro de Estudios Culturales, Asociación de Estudiantes Filipinos, Alianza de Estudiantes de Asia e Islas Pacíficas, Alianza de Estudiantes Graduados, Grupo de Investigación de las Islas Pacíficas, y Criminales en Acción (CIA).

¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existiera aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

MIM • P.O. Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670